



Kentucky
Woodland
Owners
Association

www.kwoa.net

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KENTUCKY WOODLANDS NEWSLETTER

Spring 2021



Mark Your Calendar for the KWOA 2021 Annual Meeting: September 28-29

As of press time the KWOA 2021 annual meeting is still scheduled to convene at Lake Cumberland State Park in south central Kentucky September 28-29. If you have not done so, you can make lodging accommodations with the park by calling 270-343-3111.

Programs in planning include a tour of the Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery, trail construction and maintenance, wilderness safety and survival, edible and medicinal plants, timber trespass and river basin activities.

Updates and registration information will be posted to the kwoa.net website as available.

Kentucky Woodland Owners Short Course

The 2021 Woodland Owners Short Course plans a flexible hybrid approach to accommodate Covid-19 protocols. This year's tentative schedule will be presented over four evening online sessions and three different woodland on-site field visits.

Kentucky's woodland owners own their properties for a wide variety of reasons. With proper planning and the right assistance, interests such as timber production, wildlife, and recreational opportunities can complement one another.

Evening online sessions:

- July 27
- July 29
- Aug 3
- Aug 9

Woodland field visits
dates (locations TBD):

- August 14
- August 21
- August 28

For more information and updates as they become available go to: <https://wosc.ca.uky.edu/>

In This Issue

President's Message

Service Forester Award

Carbon Credit Programs

Suggested Reading - Braiding Sweetgrass

Habitat Management Symposium

4-H Virtual Forestry Field Day

In Their Own Woods Sketch:

Mark Roberts and Betty Beshoar

*Photograph by Portia Brown, Spring Wildflowers in
the Great Smoky Mountain National Park*



A Message From Your President

How Many Days in a Year?

How many days in a year? At least a million. Well, at least the past year seemed that way!

It has been just over a year now that the quarantine began. Just recently we have begun to see that proverbial "light at the end of the tunnel". We are all hoping for better opportunities as we get closer to summer activities, maybe not our regular routines, but more engaged activities.

I would like to take a moment for a personal reflection. I am a "closet journalist". None of the entries in my journal will be those read in the future reveling deep mysteries or thoughts of mine. The entries are simple notations of the events and weather of any one specific day. Recently, with some extra time on my hands, I have been comparing multiple year journal entries I have made for specific days. Simply comparing one year to the next, I quickly recognize I am a creature of habit. I usually end up doing the same activities from one year to the next (like when I begin summer mowing season and making the final clean out of the wood stove). I also noted quickly of mother nature's cycles repeating themselves. I have noted in my journals from one year to the next that on nearly the same day the same flowers bloom (example - daffodils) and trees begin leafing out (example - buckeye). Nothing earth shaking here. Just

that it has been interesting for the confirmation in my annual journal entries.

More evidence of these cycles appear on camera images on my cell phone. I enjoy taking photos of natures splendor and my cell phone subscription sends me reminders daily of previous photos I have taken one, two, even three years ago on the same day. Remarkably these previous annual photos will appear within days of when I had taken a similar photo from this year's events such as trees and flowers blooming.

With regards to KWOA, I think this is what we have missed the most in the past year, those cycles of meeting opportunities with friends and colleagues of KWOA. "So Dear Journal, the annual cycles of nature, and the growth and rebirth of our woodlands, can be seen as a "renewal" not only in cycles of life but for the renewal of our own well being".

As spring began this year I think that all of us were looking for a sign, a sign that this year would be different than last year. I am anxious to soon be able to see again, not through a zoom meeting, but face-to-face the membership of KWOA and the stakeholders of woodland management from across the state of Kentucky. We are all longing for a chance to come together to share the countless stories that we have experienced during this past long year of quarantine. Possibly many

of those photos found on our cell phones will help rekindle some of those missed conversations.

I close with a note saying "thank you" to all the folks that have kept KWOA membership involved and informed for the past unique fourteen or more months. It has been a challenge. We have had to learn how to communicate in a very new way. "Zooming" has taken on a whole new definition. Our 2021 opportunities of seeing spring budding, blooming and leafing is being viewed as a very important aspect of our ever changing and appreciated annual cycle of nature and life.

**Thanks to all,
-- Doug McLaren,
KWOA/KWOF President**



2021 Calendar of Events



White Oak, Whiskey and Wine Webinar

7-8:30pm | April 27, May 4, May 11

<https://extension.missouri.edu/events/woodland-steward-webinars-white-oak-whiskey-and-wine>

KWOA Annual Meeting

September 28-29

Lake Cumberland State Park

KWOA Quarterly Board Meetings

May 13, September 29

Woodland Owners Short Course

August 14, 21, 28 (locations TBD)

Evening online sessions - July 27, July 29,

Aug 3, Aug 9

<https://wosc.ca.uky.edu/>



Yes, I want to join KWOA!

KENTUCKY WOODLAND OWNERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 1201, Frankfort, KY 40602

| info@KWOA.net

www.kwoa.net

Date Paid: _____ **Membership:** ____New ____Renewal

Check one: ____Forest/Woodland Owner ____Non-owner Supporter ____Business or Organization

Woodland Acreage by County: ____acres _____county, ____acres _____county

Name(s) Primary: _____

Spouse/ co-owner, contact person: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Primary - E-mail Address: _____ **Phone:** _____

Second - E-Mail Address: _____ **Phone:** _____

You can join in person at an event, pay online at www.kwoa.net, or you may mail this form with your check.

Annual Membership and Donation Options	Dues	Amount Enclosed
KWOA Basic 1-year Membership: Woodland owner household, business, organization, or supporter includes full color email delivery Newsletter PDF	\$35.00	\$ _____
KWOA & NWOA (National Woodland Owners Association) 1-year Membership (optional add on). By adding NWOA you will receive the <i>National Woodland</i> quarterly newsletter & woodland report in addition to the Basic KWOA membership	\$65.00	\$ _____
KWOA Basic 3-year Membership: Woodland owner household, business, organization, or supporter includes full color email delivery Newsletter PDF	\$100.00	\$ _____
KWOA & NWOA Basic 3-year \$190.00: Includes the optional NWOA membership in addition to the Basic KWOA membership	\$190.00	\$ _____
KWOF Contribution: Voluntary (much appreciated) contribution to the Kentucky Woodland Owners Foundation deductible as a charitable donation. KWOF provides scholarships, service forestry awards, and contributes to other related charitable / educational work.	Any Amount	\$ _____
KWOA Contribution: Voluntary (much appreciated) contribution to help with operating expenses, such as bookkeeping, communication, programming, advocacy, and educational expenses.	Any Amount	\$ _____
Black & White Hard-copy Newsletter: Upcharge to cover expenses. \$5.00 for one year or \$15.00 for 3 years.	\$5.00 or \$15.00	\$ _____
TOTAL		\$ _____

GENERAL INFO

- Dues Run Jan 1 - Dec 31 and apply to the entire household or business entity.
- **KWOA:** Kentucky Woodland Owners Association (KWOA) dues are not a charitable contribution; however, dues might be considered a business expense in some circumstances (ask your accountant).
- **KWOF:** Kentucky Woodland Owners Foundation (KWOF) is a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization. Support of KWOF is fully deductible as a charitable contribution. As indicated, part of your dues support KWOF
- **NWOA:** National Woodland Owners Association (NWOA), a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization <http://woodlandowners.org/>
- KWOA needs you and your family to be actively involved in the organization | Please consider volunteering to serve on a committee or letting us know how you can help us realize our mission. Email us at info@kwoa.net to get involved.

Nominate Your Service Forester for KWOA Recognition

We are looking for nominations from KWOA Members for your Outstanding KDF Service Forester

Kentucky Woodland Owners Association will recognize a KDF Service Forester for his/her outstanding achievements. Nominations may be made by any **KWOA member and are due no later than July 31, 2021.**

Purpose:

To recognize outstanding accomplishments of KDF Service Foresters employed with the Kentucky Division of Forestry. The applicant should have not received this award for the past three years. Nominations may be submitted by any KWOA Member.

Suggested format and guidelines for nominations:

1. Entries may be typed or handwritten. Limit the award entry to 2 pages, one side only, plus 1-2 pages, one side only, of supportive information, i.e., letter(s) of support, news articles, pictures, etc. Additional pages beyond this description will not be considered. The nomination may be submitted in an electronically word file prepared format if desired.
2. Consideration for the service

award will be the demonstrated overall professionalism, the volume of work, the relationship with the woodland owner, the responsiveness to requests and the sustained excellence over a period of time.

3. Include in the application:
 - Full name, current address and title plus email address of nominee
 - Name, contact information of the one preparing the nomination
4. Other considerations, if available. Work history, achievements that particularly relate to success in working with Kentucky woodland owners: who benefited and what were the impacts. Additional contributions made to forestry including work on committees, task forces, and leadership positions.
5. Summary Statements of Support: Concise, well-written, easy-to-read narrative summary statement (50-75 words).
6. TIME PERIOD: Entries are due by July 31, 2021. Although forestry programs require more than one year completing, the major accomplishments being considered should have been realized during the past three years.
7. Submit applications by July

31 to Karen Marshall, KWOA editor: editor@kwoa.net or mail hardcopy to KWOA at PO Box 1201, Frankfort, KY 40602.

Kentucky Division of Forestry Service Foresters are the first line of support for Kentucky woodland owners who have a desire and need to manage their woodlands. 160,000+ woodland ownerships have 10 acres or more located throughout the state. The service forester's workload is demanding and important to woodland owners.

KDF will review the top three applications for accuracy and notify the KWOA awards committee for the selection. This recognition will not automatically be awarded each year if applicants do not meet KWOA selection standards.

The winning recipient and a guest will be invited to the KWOA annual meeting where the recognition and a plaque will be presented.

Previous award recipients were: James Morris (2010), Steve Gray (2011), Kevin Galloway (2012), Robert Bean (2013), Michael C. Froelich (2014), Lisa Armstrong (2015), William Knott (2016), Josh Frazier (2017), Floyd Willis (2018), Rick Harrell (2019) and Stephen Gabbard (2020).

New and Improved Carbon Credit Programs Could Generate Income for Kentucky Woodland Owners

KWOA has appointed a board committee to investigate and report back on new national carbon offset programs that enable woodland owners to generate income by engaging in sustainable forestry practices. Part I on this topic describes some of these programs and the status of their implementation in the states.

The Family Forest Carbon Program (www.familyforestcarbon.org) created by the American Forest Foundation and the Nature Conservancy, provides payments to landowners based on completion of projects. It requires 10-20 year contracts. It is being tested and implemented in Pennsylvania.

A second program with potential for woodland owners is Finite Carbon. Learn more: <http://corecarbon.com/>

A third program, the SilviaTerra Natural Capital Exchange (www.silviaterra.com/ncapx/landowners) uses one-year renewable contracts and provides payments of \$1 to \$10 per carbon credit per year based on an analysis of the woodlands in return for an agreement to not harvest timber on the property during the one year period of the contract. Kentucky woodland owners should be able to participate later in 2021.

But, according to the Silviaterra white paper you can still go to their web site and register your farm. Then you map out your boundaries based on PVA maps on their site. They will register your farm and then get back with you on your resulting carbon credits once someone reviews the data and runs the numbers. There is no obligation to you at that point. There may be some issues with

discrepancies between landowners PVA maps and their surveyed deeds.

A fourth program, The Nature Conservancy's Working Woodlands program (<https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/united-states/working-woodlands/>) is for landowners with 2,000+ acres and is open in Kentucky. The program includes a 10-year customized woodland management plan and certification through the Forest Stewardship Council. Enrolled landowners will have the opportunity to sell carbon credits. Stay tuned for more information about these programs.

The KWOA carbon offset committee had concerns as to whether landowners who participate in NRCS cost sharing projects would be eligible for carbon programs. KY-NRCS responded with the following general guidance for woodland owners interested in NRCS programs and carbon programs

- If you are interested in signing up for both a NRCS program and a carbon program you should contact

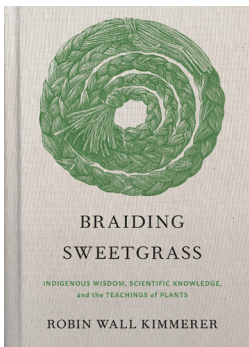
your local NRCS office to discuss the situation in advance of entering into any agreements.

- If you are currently enrolled in a NRCS program you should contact your local NRCS office to discuss if the carbon program you are considering will interfere with your NRCS program requirements.

Danna Baxley, Kentucky Nature Conservancy Director, responded in the context of the NRCS Healthy Forests Reserve Program which includes easements and the compatibility of using both a voluntary carbon program and NRCS programs.

"Nothing in a voluntary standard carbon project would generally prevent a landowner from seeking other funding to implement habitat management work. To interfere with the carbon project, the habitat management would need to result in a volume removal of timber in excess of annual growth (likely hard to do with NRCS programs but easy to do with commercial harvests)."

Braiding Sweetgrass - Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teaching of Plants



2013, Text by Robin Wall Kimmerer and 2020, Introduction by Robin Wall Kimmerer. 382 pages, Milkweed Editions. Submitted by Karen Marshall, KWOA editor.

Center for Native Peoples and the Environment.

The re-release of Kimmerer's 2013 book is timely for many reasons. It falls in step with the renewed demands by minorities for reforms of approaches and institutions from law enforcement, LGBT recognition and the treatment of immigrants to the loneliness and vulnerability felt by almost everyone during the pandemic. At the same time there is exasperation with yet more protests and demonstrations that achieve few concrete results while perpetuating negative public images of these various sectors. Kimmerer includes environmentalists as one of those sectors that has garnered a public persona of negativism and often elitism. Her accounts of the history and present-day practices of many Native Americans acknowledge the environmental destruction and grief caused by capitalist values but poses a more hopeful alternative based on kinship, gratitude and reciprocity with nature.

In her Introduction for the 2020 re-release of her book, Kimmerer reminds us of the "lack of public awareness of the significance of plants to ecosystem function and the attendant deficiency in policy, scientific knowledge, and

conservation funding that follows." The cycle should flow "from attention, to gift, to gratitude, to reciprocity. It starts with seeing." (p. xii) Her resulting vision questions the concept of land as property ownership and thus valued only for its natural resources and ecosystem services. Instead, she acknowledges the contribution of ecological restoration while extends beyond it to an ecological reciprocity of giving. "The universe is a communion of subjects, not a collection of objects." (p. 55)

For woodland 'owners' (I now almost cringe at that word), if you read only one chapter, make it *Old-Growth Children* about the history and relationship of American natives to rain forests of the Pacific northwest. Indigenous peoples didn't just subsist but thrived with harvesting methods of the Western Red Cedar for the many uses of its bark and even boards without killing the trees. Kimmerer acknowledges this focus in her own life in her introduction to the new release: "...I take my guidance from forests, who teach us something about change... *Braiding Sweetgrass*, I hope, is part of that understory... so that when the canopy falls, as it surely will, a new world is already rising." (p. xv)

Robin Wall Kimmerer draws on her personal, community, academic and professional experiences to braid indigenous teachings with scientific theory and practice that sometimes confirm each other, at other times conflict. Kimmerer is a mother, a scientist, decorated professor, and enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. She has served on the faculty of Transylvania College in Lexington and Centre College in Danville, Kentucky. Readers may note the common last name with the author of a previous Suggested Reading title in this series, *Venerable Trees*, The University Press of Kentucky, 2015. Robin has two daughters from an earlier marriage to Tom Kimmerer. Robin is currently a distinguished professor of environmental biology at the State University of New York, and the founder and director of the

The Habitat Management Symposium Re-cap

Conservation alone is no longer sufficient - Restoration will be required

The March 2021 Habitat Management Symposium stepped landowners through a series of solutions to preserve and restore wildlife habitat at various levels of skill, time and expense. Now in its sixth year, this three-part webinar series took advantage of slides and videos to fast-track virtual participants through all types of terrain to repair or reconstruct damaged fields, forests, streams and woodland pools for the survival or reintroduction of native plants, animals, insects and amphibians. Time-lapse photos and aerial maps exposed the gradual disappearance of edge habitat and oak forests,

the increase in invasives and the pressure on native species from increasingly intense agricultural practices.

The Habitat Management Symposium is a training conference for those performing on-the-ground habitat improvement practices. It is designed for the professional and landowner improving and planning wildlife, forest, stream and pollinator habitat. It is organized by Woods and Waters Land Trust, Kentucky State University Extension and University of Kentucky Forestry Extension.

The techniques developed through years of experience by wildlife and biology professionals are designed to tolerate all four seasons as well as flood, fire and wind events.

The instructors understand how the required procedures and equipment can intimidate even the most motivated landowners. They recommend setting goals and priorities, even if those need to be revised as projects roll out, develop a plan and identify fiscal and human assets that can be engaged in the practices. But, most importantly, **START NOW**. Habitat damage and loss from invasive and nuisance species, erosion and climate change will only increase with time. Address the most serious threats first, realize that many of these practices will never end and get going!

For more information about the program presentations go to <https://www.kwoa.net/events/habitat-management-symposium>.

Kentucky 4-H Virtual Forestry Field Day



By Laurie Thomas, UK Forestry and Natural Resources Extension and Ashley Osborne, 4-H Youth Development, Natural Resources

The Kentucky 4-H Forestry Field Days look a little different this year but we did not want to miss the chance to share with the youth of Kentucky the importance and enjoyment of our trees and forests so we created the Kentucky 4-H Virtual Forestry Field Day. The purpose of the Virtual Forestry Field Day is the same as the in-person field days we traditionally hold across the state each September. Both are designed to develop an appreciation of trees and their roles in our environment, whether in a yard, park or forest. We also want youth to understand the need and importance of conserving woodlands as a source of products

and services necessary for quality living and acquire information and knowledge of practical forestry skills that real-life foresters utilize everyday while on the job. The Kentucky 4-H Virtual Forestry Field Day consists of seven units with each unit providing educational information in video format.

The units include:

- Kentucky's Forests
- What is Forestry?
- History of Forestry
- Tree Identification
- Tree Measurement
- Why Trees Are Important - Their Ecosystem Services
- Careers in Forestry

Each unit has a youth challenge associated with it. For example, in the Tree Identification Challenge, 4-Hers must find five different trees, correctly identify each tree using a dichotomous key, and make a leaf print of their identified trees. The Kentucky 4-H Virtual Forestry Field Day can be done in a Saturday afternoon or over the course of several weeks; the 4-Hers can learn and complete the challenges at their own pace. Upon completion of all the units and challenges the youth will submit their required materials and be given a certificate

as well as the tree identification book "Identifying Kentucky's Forest Trees".

While we miss the in-person, face to face field day we are excited about the ability to provide this opportunity that just is not possible with 100+ youth at the field day site. In addition, this Virtual Forestry Field Day will allow us to supplement our in-person field days in the future and help youth learn more about trees and the benefits they provide which will help them grow into future decision-makers who are knowledgeable about, and appreciative of, our environment.



To participate in the Kentucky 4-H Virtual Forestry Field Day visit: <https://4-h.ca.uky.edu/forestryfieldday>

Wrens, Trees and Endangered Species Have Rights Too on Roberts and Beshoar Farm in Franklin County, Kentucky



Submitted by Mark Roberts

Our land is located on the Elkhorn Creek in northern Franklin County. It is about 70 acres, mostly hill that slopes down to the creek. It is primarily wooded.

We purchased the land in 1985. It had in the past been cleared for cattle and tobacco. It hadn't had cattle in some years at time of purchase, but tobacco was still being farmed.

We were interested in encouraging reforestation. A neighbor who happened to be an ecologist, discovered Braun's Rock Cress on our property, which is a federally endangered plant that lives mostly in Franklin County. So our plans expanded to include protection of this tiny plant.



Our main focus has been letting the forest evolve naturally, but with an emphasis on battling invasive species and gradually planting native trees. In the beginning, we planted hundreds of bareroot seedlings, but found the survival rate to be so small as to be a waste of time. In recent years we have shifted to planting more mature trees (2-3 foot) that have been container grown. So far we have seen success with this method—every

tree planted has survived. It is a much slower process with higher initial outlay, but it clearly is much more satisfying.

We have worked with Woods and Waters Land Trust to place a conservation easement on about 57 acres. The easement prohibits future logging or development of the property. Our purpose in doing so is to protect some part of the forest along the creek.

I like to tell this little story about our relationship to the land. One day I was standing outside enjoying my property, property I had paid for and held a deed on, and paid taxes on. A Carolina wren landed on a fence post while I stood there, and loudly proclaimed his ownership of all he could see.

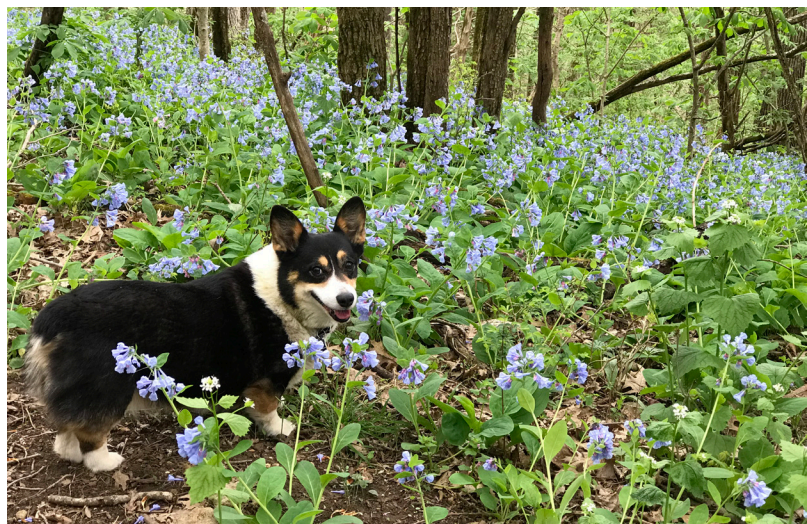
That's when I realized I did not own the land in total. I only owned the human rights to it. The wren owned the wren rights, the trees the tree rights, and every other creature owned its own rights to this place. It forced me to see the disconnectedness of everything on this small bit of land. And that my part was only one small piece of it.

But I had the power to alter the environment in ways that could damage the rights of the creatures and trees I shared this land with. That's a heavy responsibility.

Today it seems that exploitation of the land—mining, logging, building—takes precedence over any other value. As individuals, we can feel powerless. But there is one thing we can control and that is the future of this one small piece of the natural world.

We can create a place where nature gets to rule. A place where trees can live to maturity; where the Braun's Rockcress can exist. We can set aside one hill in Peaks Mill that will always have wildflowers in the spring, be green in summer, colorful in the fall and quietly sheltering wildlife in the winter. That will take carbon dioxide from the air and filter water as it wends its way to the Elkhorn on to the Kentucky River.

We can leave one small piece of nature for future generations.



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