



Kentucky
Woodland
Owners
Association

www.kwoa.net

KENTUCKY WOODLANDS NEWSLETTER

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Fall 2014

KWOA 2015 Annual Meeting set for Mammoth Cave National Park

Your Woodlands: Timber and Non-Timber Perspectives

Plans are well under way for the KWOA/KWOF Annual Meeting at Mammoth Cave National park in south central Kentucky.

Informative sessions on timber and non-timber products marketing and other topics will begin

at 10 a.m. (CST) on Friday, April 10, 2015 followed by field site visits in the afternoon. The evening will host the ever-popular Woodland Quiz, dinner speakers and awards.

Saturday morning, April 11, will feature cooperator reports, presentations, business meeting and elections.

Don't forget the return of last year's popular silent auction. Clean out those closets and plan to contribute an item for the auction. Stay posted for more information on that event. In addition to the park's world-famous underground treasures, the park boasts some top-notch forests that members will have the opportunity to investigate with professional foresters. Plan to stay an extra day to enjoy the many venues the park offers.

Mark your calendar and look for further details on the agenda, registration and accommodations in the winter newsletter and on the kwoa.net website.



Photo by: National Park Service

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Photo by: National Park Service

Informative sessions on timber and non-timber products marketing and other topics will be presented at the Annual Meeting held April 10-11, 2015.

Highlights from Quarterly Board Meetings

May 15, 2014 Meeting

SOAR initiative

Daniel Wolfe, Extension Agent for Wolfe County, spoke to the board on the SOAR (Shaping Our Appalachian Region) initiative in eastern Kentucky. He asked board members for comments regarding forest-related opportunities and challenges in the region. Members raised the following issues:

1. There is large forestry acreage in eastern Kentucky but few acres are managed.
2. The state needs to enhance the number of state professional foresters.
3. There is no value placed on forests for the contribution they make to recreation, water quality and air quality.

Wolfe thought there was an opening on the SOAR Natural Resources and Agricultural Committee if KWOA wanted to select someone to fill it. Frank Hicks, KWOA Vice President, was nominated to represent KWOA on the committee. Wolfe also encouraged KWOA to submit formal recommendations in a white paper and position statement. Karen Marshall will draft those documents.

Making forestry a Farm Bureau priority issue

Attendees discussed KFB's resolutions process as a way to advance forestry as a bureau priority. Members were provided two draft resolutions and encouraged to present them to their county farm bureaus for inclusion in the resolutions considered at the bureau's annual meeting. Submission of forestry-related resolutions from several counties would increase the likelihood of their being passed at the state level.

Property assessment tax appeal

Jim Corum informed members that his property assessment tax appeal would be heard in Frankfort on July 22.

(Editor's note – the hearing has been postponed to November 18.)

August 21, 2014 Meeting

SOAR update

Karen Marshall submitted draft documents to Frank Hicks, Jack Rentz and Yancey Clark for KWOA's white paper and position statement to SOAR (Shaping Our Appalachian Future).

WOSC follow-up

KWOA will obtain the mailing/email list of attendees to the 3 regional meetings of the 2014 Woodland Owners Short Course to use for its future mailings about KWOA events. KWOA should also cultivate tree farmers as local contacts for new woodland owners and those interested in better management of their properties.

2015 annual meeting

Portia Brown presented the draft agenda for the annual meeting and preliminary arrangements with Mammoth Cave National Park for the meeting.

Frank Hicks and Henry Duncan will contact gubernatorial candidates about the opportunity to speak at the annual meeting.

Portia will solicit questions from attendees about timber sales for responses from experts at those sessions.

Credits:

Newsletter editor – Karen Marshall

Mailing – Kentucky Forest Industries Association

KWOA website – Karen Marshall

KWOA 2015 Outstanding Forester Award

Kentucky Division of Forestry Service Foresters are stationed in five regions across Kentucky. These 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 owners have 10 acres or more located throughout the state. The service forester's workload is demanding and important to woodland owners.

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 February 1st of each year.

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: Steve Gray (2011), Kevin Galloway (2012), Robert Bean (2013) and Michael Froelich (2014).

Please take a look at the application guidelines and consider nominating your service forester for the 2015 award!

Purpose:

To recognize outstanding accomplishments of 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

request 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 February 1, 2015. 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 February 1 to Karen Marshall, KWOA editor: kmarshallkwoa@kih.net; 3740 KKY 330, Owenton, KY 40359; 502-484-0332.

Calendar of Events

October 2, 2014

Tree Farmer of the Year field day

Harry and Karen Pelle Tree Farm
Bradfordsville – Taylor County
INFO: 270.465.4511

November 18, 2014

Hearing on Jim Corum property tax assessment

Board of Tax Appeals
128 Brighton Park Boulevard, Frankfort
INFO: 502.573.4316

November 18, 2014

KWOA Board Meeting

KFIA Office, 106 Progress Drive, Frankfort
The meeting will follow the Board of Tax Appeals hearing.

April 10-11, 2015

KWOA 2015 Annual Meeting

Mammoth Cave National Park
INFO: www.ukforestry.org

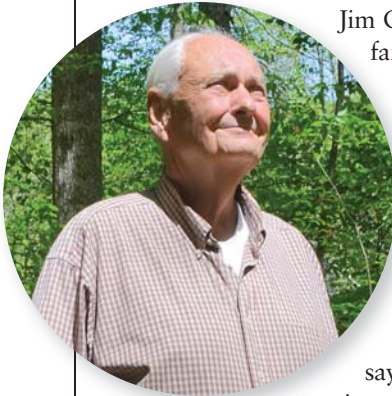


*Jim Corum Tree Farm featured in The Progressive Farmer Magazine
The July 2014 issue of Progressive Farmer describes the history and process of maintaining a
tree farm by KWOA past president, Jim Corum.*

Gift for The Next Generation

Kentucky tree farmer unlocks the value of a forest for those who will come after him.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY DAN MILLER



Jim Corum recalls a walk with a family friend through the woods of his youth. It was 1975, and Frank Couch, a saw miller, logger and valued family friend, was talking to him about the trees growing on the steep Appalachian Mountain slopes of his southeast Kentucky tree farm. “He took me aside,” Corum says, “and said, ‘You have some nice, young timber over on your place. But it needs some work.’”

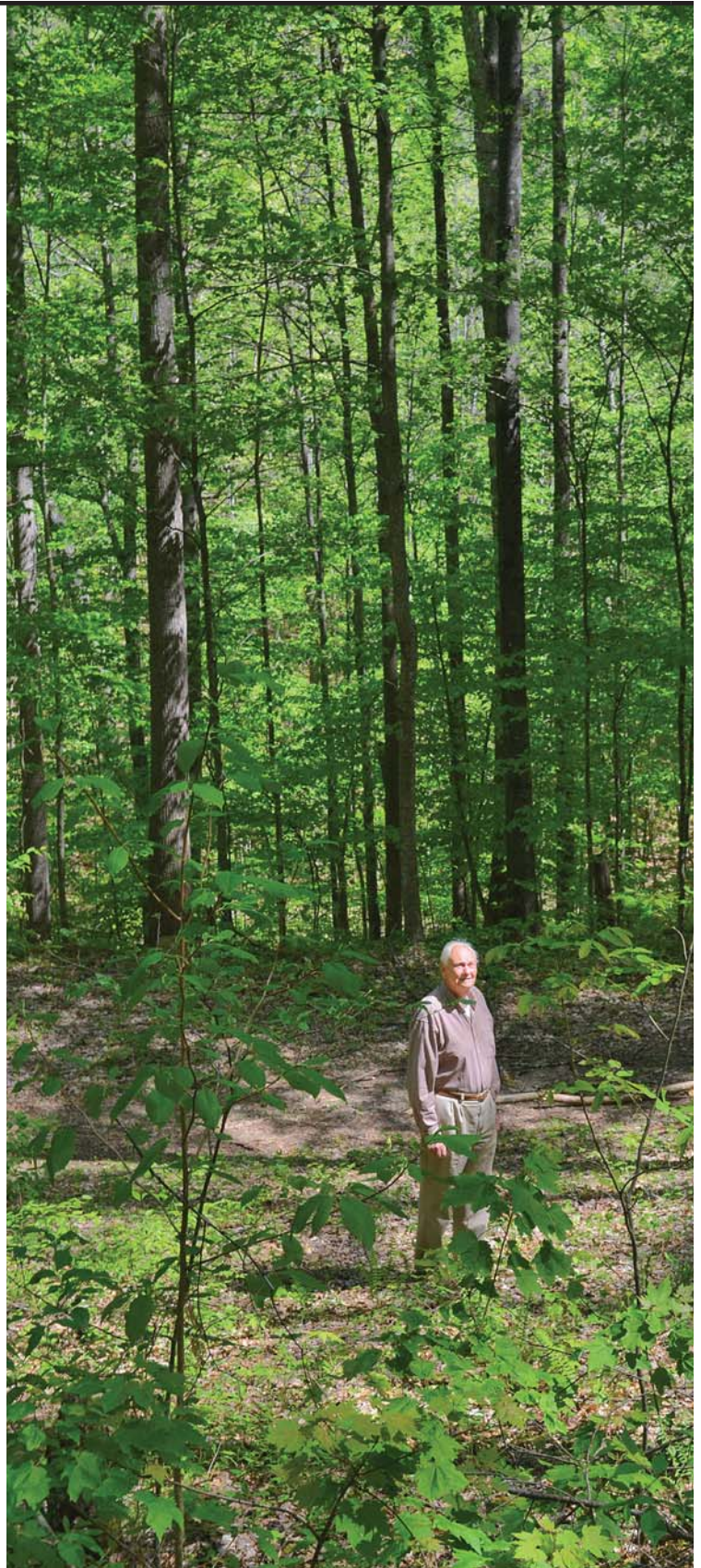
There was indeed potential value in the thousand acres of woods Corum had inherited, land that had passed through generations of his family since the 1850s.

“I walked through those woods as a boy hunting squirrel,” says Corum, born in 1938 in these, the southern Appalachian Mountains of Harlan County, Ky. “As [Couch and I] walked through the woods, I was getting a tutorial [on tree farming].”

Corum saw the advice for what it was, a unique opportunity to restore productivity and value to the family’s heritage. But years of back-breaking thinning would be needed first to “release the crop trees,” giving the high-value trees the space and sunlight to produce valuable logs when they are harvested.

UNMATCHED DIVERSITY. Situated within a broad area generally known as the Kentucky Ridges, Corum’s land borders Pine Mountain. It’s a mostly impenetrable 125-mile-long up-thrust of ridges rising 3,300 feet on its way through Kentucky and Tennessee. This is rugged coal country. Three-hundred-pound black bears share the slopes and bottoms with elk and deer, and families with long histories in these hills.

The diversity of the forest vegetation here is unsurpassed in the northern hemisphere. Walnut, hickory, white, red and black oak, hard maple, cherry,



Gift for the Next Generation: Kentucky tree farmer unlocks the value of a forest for those who will come after him, by Dan Miller, Progressive Farmer Senior Editor. The on-line magazine article can be read at <http://dtnpf-digital.com/publication/?i=215967>. It is re-printed below with permission from The Progressive Farmer.

Jim Corum has spent a generation tending to a thousand acres of what has become a valuable and diverse stand of highly managed timber. The beech tree (photo below, at right) was cut down to give the higher value black oaks behind it the sunlight and space they need to produce valuable logs at harvest.

poplar, soft maple, basswood and American beech grow here. Populations of Eastern hemlock, durable trees threatened today by the sap-sucking hemlock woolly adelgid, give shade to streams running in deep valleys, cooling the water for all manner of aquatic wildlife.

Among the ridges, different times require different practices. The axe, the gun and the plow were implements of high value and survival in the 1800s. It was common practice to carve “gardens,” fields really, from the rich soils of tree-covered coves. Field corn and half-runner beans were planted there. Gardens dotted the hillsides. When one field wore out, another was carved from the trees. Corum remembers spending his youngest days with his grandparents as they hoed the crops on those slopes.

But with Couch’s advice striking his imagination, Corum made it his life’s defining work to pass on another legacy to future generations. His commitment is to healthy and diverse forests, managed sustainably for the production of high-value wood products. It’s his gift to his children and to generations yet to come. The Corums, Jim and his wife, Joanne, have two adult children. Jimmy is a physical therapist. Jaime is a professional artist, producing paintings of champion-caliber horses.

BEGINNING AT THE START. It has been no easy task. Much of the land was clear-cut in the 1800s. It was heavily harvested in the 1940s. Three decades after that, the hills were populated by thick stands of poplars—a tree with fair market value but not demanding the same high dollar as more desirable walnuts and oaks.

So, where do you start?

“You start with what you have,” Corum says. He began to thin the poplars and other less-valuable trees, 20 to 25 acres a year, to

release the hidden value of the best trees. He built a network of access roads 10 miles long to make thinning more efficient and fire control more effective.

Corum focused his most intensive management work on the most productive slopes. In the geology of a mountain there is a term—aspect. An aspect is the horizontal direction to which a slope faces. A slope facing the west has a westerly aspect. Aspect is a feature critical to tree production.

PROFITABLE ASPECT. The least-productive side of a mountain is its southerly aspect. Catching most of the sun, the southerly aspect of the mountain is often too warm and too dry, and has soils too poor to produce healthy stands of trees. Westerly aspects support good stands of trees. Easterly aspects are less productive but better than southern slopes.

A northerly aspect has intrinsic value in the productivity of a tree farm. It’s generally cooler, catches more rain and has soils that evolved favorably for plant life. Tree production can be profitably maximized on north slopes. Because Corum’s property is large, he has a goodly number of northerly aspects.

Over the years, Corum has tapped into the tree-management expertise offered by the Kentucky Division of Forestry and into the conservation programs managed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). His 1,000 acres is a certified tree farm, a designation given to woodland owners recognized for their sustainable practices.

Timber management for Corum is a small bit of a compromise. While his tree stand improvement work aims for high-quality ►



logs, the forest also is prime wildlife habitat. That means leaving lower quality trees, American beech and buckeye among them, that will create the snags and tree dens important to woodland creatures.

In 2012, the Corums put their 1,000-acre forest, plus the woods at their homeplace in nearby Bell County, into the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). The contract covers 1,319 acres and commits the Corums to an ongoing program of wildlife enhancement and timber stand improvement.

PAY FOR PERFORMANCE. The CSP is one of the NRCS's larger programs. The five-year CSP contracts (with a potential five-year extension) help producers maintain and improve their conservation practices and adopt new practices that address local resources priorities.

There are CSP payments for performance—the higher the conservation performance, the higher the payment. The CSP supports conservation work on more than 50 million acres in the U.S. The 2014 Farm Act allows USDA to sign up an additional 10 million acres per year between now and 2018. Congress in the 2002 Farm Bill authorized the earliest version of the program.

The average cost to USDA for the implementation of

timber stand improvement practices typically ranges from about \$160 to \$220 per acre.

Corum has employed NRCS's Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program to improve timber production and habitat. He also has used the Environmental Quality Incentives Program to improve his timber and control erosion. In all, the work has covered several hundred acres.

"Jim Corum is really like a pioneer in this area [of Kentucky]," says Brian Jones, supervisory natural resources manager for the NRCS in Kentucky. It's pretty unusual to see this kind of management."

Many woodland owners cut trees when they need the income. They will sell pulp trees by the ton and continually harvest high-value trees until none remain. "But there is amazing potential in the land when it is managed correctly," Jones says.

TIMBER AND A BAT. "Jim has been doing a lot more work than most people do," says Mike Froelich, service forester for the Kentucky Division of Forestry. He has worked with Corum to identify his most valuable trees during the past seven years. "Jim knows how to do it and how to form the projects."

In contrast, the Division of Forestry finds that nine out of 10 timberland owners in Kentucky have no written management plan. Less than 20% have sought advice for managing their forested lands.

The CSP contract has Corum creating habitat for the Indiana bat. That means Froelich marks a half-dozen trees per acre and has them girdled (a cut made around the circumference of the tree, followed by a herbicide treatment). As the tree dies, the bark flakes up and provides cover for the bats and their newborn pups.

For his work, Corum has been named Kentucky Tree Farmer of the Year (1983), Kentucky Soil Conservationist of the Year (1983) and Kentucky Outstanding Forest Steward of the Year (2006), among other honors.

Corum has yet to conduct a major harvest. The trees are close to their prime, he says, but not quite yet. It's like a boy becoming a man, Couch explained to Corum about his woodlands. He grows up and he gets into his prime. Then as he gets old, he starts to deteriorate. "You need to harvest the timber in its prime," Corum says.

"I enjoy working in the woods, and I'm trying hard to improve it and make it productive," says Corum, who served from 2007 to 2009 as president of the Kentucky Woodland Owners Association. "If I make it better, it will be of benefit for my children,

my community and, perhaps, my grandchildren."

For the generations yet to come. ●



Undesirable trees that can't be felled for fear of damaging nearby trees are girdled—cut fully around the trunk—and treated with a herbicide.

Strength in Numbers

A message from your president...

"There is strength in numbers." That's a phrase all of us have heard, and in a way it applies to our organization, the Kentucky Woodland Owners Association. More members mean more revenue for more programs and improved programs. It also means that we can extend our mission to more people. Another benefit of more members that cannot be over-emphasized is the ability to speak with more voices. This is very important when we are dealing with public officials on issues such as

funding for programs and services that benefit woodland owners. More voices for KWOA also help our efforts to emphasize forestry as an integral part of the Kentucky economy. In order to help spread our mission, please consider recommending KWOA membership to at least one woodland owner friend. In doing so you will be helping KWOA, yourself, and your friend.

-- Jack Rentz

Woodlands property assessment appeal

The hearing for Jim Corum's property assessment tax appeal has been re-scheduled for 9:30 AM on 11/18, at the Kentucky Board of Tax Appeals Building at 128 Brighton Park Blvd, Frankfort, 502-573-4316. Brighton Park is on Hwy 60 (Versailles Road). The office is at the end of the strip mall, facing the Kroger parking lot.

Members can review the Prehearing Compliance Statements for the Corum property and the Harlan County Property Valuation Administrator on the kwoa.net website.

To accommodate people who want to attend the hearing and the quarterly KWOA board meeting, the latter will convene at the KFIA Office after the Board of Tax Appeals hearing.

2014 WOSC Recap

KWOA board members who attended the 2014 Woodland Owners Short Course regional training days reported that they were well- and enthusiastically attended.

According to UK Forestry Extension, approximately 165 attended with a large number of those representing first time attendees. Overall, the number of attendees was comparable to past WOSCs. The WOSC attendees owned more than 22,000 woodland acres and came from all parts of the Commonwealth.

Many of the WOSC attendees did not have management plans and were exposed to the large variety of organizations and agencies available to assist woodland owners. Ten forestry, wildlife, and natural resource organizations were partners in putting on the 2014 WOSC.

KWOA representatives did an outstanding job representing the organization and UK Forestry Extension appreciates the support KWOA provides to the WOSC.



KENTUCKY WOODLAND OWNERS ASSOCIATION

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Next Board Meeting: November 18, 2014 - KFIA

Members are encouraged to attend.

Kentucky Woodlands is published quarterly. We welcome articles and information for inclusion in the newsletter. Please submit copy to the address below. Editor reserves the right to edit all material for content and length.

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