



Kentucky
Woodland
Owners
Association

KENTUCKY WOODLANDS NEWSLETTER

www.kwoa.net

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Spring 2020

KWOA/F Annual Meeting **RESCHEDULED** to September 22-23, 2020



Out of concern for the risks posed by the COVID-19 virus to the health and safety of KWOA members and the many entities involved in its annual meeting presentation and logistics, KWOA leadership has rescheduled the event for September 22-23, 2020 at Lake Cumberland State Resort Park. We are pleased that, at this time, the guests and speakers who were on the agenda for the March 24-25 meeting have agreed to participate in the September event.

▼ In This Issue ▼

- ▶ President's Message
- ▶ Annual Meeting Agenda
- ▶ February Board Meeting Highlights
- ▶ In Their Own Woods – Michael Rich
- ▶ Family Corner – The Wildlife Habitat Education Program
- ▶ Forest Fire Hazard Season
- ▶ Book Review – Always a River

Folks who have registered for the meeting may choose to:

1. Have us hold the registration fee. **If you wish KWOA to hold your registration funds you need to take no further action.**
2. Request a refund. **If you are requesting a refund please email Info@kwoa.net.** Please allow 30 days to receive your refund check. Requests for refunds made later than 30 days prior to September 22 will be charged a 10% handling fee.

The state park has graciously agreed to honor the room rate that was negotiated for the March meeting.

If you had not planned to attend the meeting in March, you have a second chance to participate in this event. **See the full agenda on page 3.** Meeting updates will be posted to the KWOA website (kwoa.net) over the summer as they become available.

A Message From Your President

The Times They Are a Changin'

The Kentucky Woodland Owners Association began the task of preparing this newsletter in the middle of March during the early stages of the COVID-19 situation. The corona virus has created for all of us, around the world, a "new normal" which we do not at this time fully understand where it will take us.

Over the past years KWOA, at all of our meetings and gatherings, prided ourselves on being a community, a team, and working within close proximity to one another - either as individuals or as the association, or with various cooperators. Presently we are being asked by governments, health providers and friends to restrain and provide adequate "social distancing". It is difficult but hopefully this distancing will be adjusted and relinquished as time continues. At present we do not totally understand the parameters that are formulating the "new normal".

I would like to also take space in this section of the newsletter to applaud Steve Perry, board member of KWOA and program

chair, who sent the initial text to the Executive Board of KWOA and questioned if we should have the annual meeting in late March. He initiated his text long before the domino effect of canceling or closing meetings, schools, and eating establishments began. He also suggested that we not cancel but simply postpone the timing of the meeting from March to September. This communication was long before you as members of KWOA heard that we were canceling. Steve investigated and negotiated with the state park to move without losing or jeopardizing our contract. He spent a long and eventful weekend talking to all the presenters and state park officials. Thanks Steve for your early suggestion and work on this project so that we could communicate with our members early in this situation.

One of KWOA's "now normal's" that is being celebrated by all of the health and government officials is "taking time for yourselves" to be outside away from all of your electronic devices that continue to provide you minute to minute updates on this health issue. As a woodland owner, the opportunity to be away from these devices is a daily routine

for most of us. With spring here the desire to be outside grows and provides all of us an opportunity to "renew our life" until the new normal becomes routine. Until then, make the best of your woodlands even if it is simply looking out the window and watching nature at it's best.

Hope to see you all in September at Lake Cumberland State Park at the postponed KWOA meeting (September 22 and 23, 2020). KWOA will continue to stay in touch with you all with needed updates.

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



2020 Calendar of Events



May 14
KWOA/F Quarterly Board Meeting
KFIA Office, Frankfort

May 30
Kentucky Resources Council Annual Meeting
Woodland Center at Natural Bridge State
Resort Park
<https://www.kyrc.org/get-involved/events>

June 10
Kentucky Ag Council
During the State FFA Convention in Lexington
<http://www.kyagcouncil.net/meeting.html>

August 25-27 (rescheduled)
**Kentucky Forest Industries Association
Annual Meeting**
The Brown Hotel, Louisville
<http://kfia.org/AnnualMeeting.aspx>

September 22-23 (rescheduled)
KWOA/F Annual meeting
Lake Cumberland State Resort Park

Tentative 2020 KWOA Annual Meeting Agenda

Woodland Recreation

(All times are Central Daylight Time)

Monday September 21, 2020

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Tour of the Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery
Kentucky Master Woodland Stewards Reunion

Tuesday September 22, 2020

8:30 am – 9:30 am

9:30 am – 10:00 am

10:00 am – 10:15 am

10:15 am – 10:45 am

10:45 am – 11:45 am

11:45 am – 1:00 pm

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

4:00 pm – 4:15 pm

4:30 pm – 6:00 pm

6:30 pm – 9:00 pm

6:30 – 7:30

7:30 – 8:00

8:00 – 8:45

8:45 – 9:00

Registration at the Park
Welcome, Comments, Crowd Sourcing
Welcome to Lake Cumberland State Resort Park
Sporting Clays
Trail Construction and Maintenance
Lunch (Provided)
Wilderness Safety and Survival
Edible and Medicinal Plants
Healthy Woods
Timber Trespass
Social Hour and Silent Auction
Banquet
Dinner
Keynote Address:
Hardwood and Silviculture Operations
Jacob Muller, UK Forestry and Natural Resources
Presentation of Awards
Closing Remarks

Wednesday September 23, 2020

7:00 am – 9:00 am

9:00 am – 9:10 am

9:10 am – 9:30 am

9:30 am – 9:45 am

9:45 am – 11:15 am

Breakfast (on your own)
Welcome, Comments
What's happening in your Basin
Kentucky Forest Health
Cooperators Report:
American Chestnut Association
Kentucky Agriculture Council
Kentucky Association of Consulting Foresters
Kentucky Conservation Committee
Kentucky Division of Conservation
Kentucky Division of Forestry
Kentucky Division of Water
Kentucky Farm Bureau
Kentucky Forest Industries Association
Kentucky Tree Farm
UK Department. of Forestry
UK Water Quality Extension
US Department of the Interior
US Department of Agriculture – NRCS
KWOA / KWOA Business Meeting
Meeting Adjourned

11:15 am – 12:00 pm

12:00 pm

February 13 Quarterly Board Meeting Highlights

Editor's note: updates are provided for items that still have pending deadlines as of newsletter press time.

Cooperator Reports

Kentucky Conservation Committee

KCC is monitoring HB 352 (House version of the Governor's budget bill) as it impacts the Heritage Land Conservation Fund. As of March 17 the bill was in the Senate Appropriations and Revenue Committee. KWOA board approve the drafting of a letter to appropriate legislative committees supporting the continuation of full funding for HLCF.

Kentucky Division of Conservation

Jim Roe informed members of the availability of cost share assistance for soil and water quality practices. For more info go to: <https://kwoa.net/2020/02/18/applications-are-currently-being-accepted-for-soil-and-water-quality-cost-share-programs/>.

KDC's Environmental Grants program has funded four forest land related projects. For more info on the grants program go to: <https://eec.ky.gov/Natural-Resources/Conservation/Pages/Environmental-Grants.aspx>.

Kentucky Division of Forestry

Steve Kull reminded members that the spring forest fire hazard season commenced February 15 and extends to April 30.

Funding for the Forest Stewardship Program has been reduced. The program wants to see more on-the-ground implementation of management options. For more info go to: <https://eec.ky.gov/Natural-Resources/Forestry/forest-stewardship-program-and-landowner-services/Pages/default.aspx>.

The White Oak Initiative will be holding regional meetings for landowners (schedule forthcoming).

Kentucky Farm Bureau

Don Miniard, Harlan County Farm Bureau President, described a new program – Ag in the Mountains – that is forming in KFB's district 11 (southeast Kentucky). It's first meeting will convene March 3. A website and brochure for the program are under development.

Ed McQueen, Director of Market Information, that the Bureau's top priority in its policy development rankings is rural broadband.

Kentucky Forest Industries Association

Bob Bauer, KFIA Executive Director, informed members that red oak prices are down, in part due to the trade war with China. Chestnut oak is being processed as a substitute for white oak in flooring and furniture.

The KFIA Annual Meeting, scheduled for April 7-9 in Louisville has been POSTPONED until August 26-27 due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

University of Kentucky, Department of Forestry

Billy Thomas, UK Extension, reported that the 2020 Woodland Owners Short Course events will convene in mid-July through August. Planning meetings for the WOSC are in the works. Board members were encouraged to attend.

Billy reported on the culminating report from the new Forestry 400 class – Human Dimensions of Forestry and Natural Resources. A group of students from the class developed a video and Powerpoint for the semester entitled Members Are Our Mission and what their forest lands legacy will be as well as younger generations and getting them interested and involved in family forests.

Kentucky Association of Consulting Foresters

Ron Meyer, KACF President, commented that while the timber markets are down, consulting foresters are taking advantage of the time to conduct timber stand improvement guidance with landowners.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Jared Calvert announced that a focal concentration area has been initiated around watershed issues in the Daniel Boone National Forest. The focus includes a pay-for-performance pilot for the white oak initiative. Projects are needed in eastern Kentucky.

In other business the board decided to take down the association's Facebook page and discussed consolidating KWOA and KWOA. The next regular board meeting on May 14 will include a short "training" concerning board member responsibilities by staff with the Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development.

In Their Own Woods Sketch – Michael Rich

Michael Rich pursues change in academic career focus from Asian studies to how forests work.

The third installment in our new series – In Their Own Woods: Sketches of Kentucky Woodland Owners – presents a little different profile of family forestry. Dr. Christopher Michael Rich, currently an Associate Professor of Chinese and Japanese at Eastern Kentucky University, is pursuing a forestry degree at the University of Kentucky and a possible career change in that direction. The complexity of forest systems and the community of like-minded people with whom he is now involved is fulfilling a missing aspect of his knowledge in caring for the planet and the many services a forest provides. Michael also serves on the KWOA board of directors.

Feeling like an overgrown idiot surrounded by eager 18 year olds, I waited in the lobby of the Ag North building for my advising session with Dr. John Lhotka to begin an undergraduate degree in Forestry at University of Kentucky. The decision to begin a forestry degree was gradual, beginning with me telling everyone I talked to that I was going to do it. But unable to take the leap in quitting my job as an Associate Professor of Chinese and Japanese at EKU to become a full-time student, I merely told people of my plans to do it “someday.” I had good conversations with Dr. Keiko Tanaka, Dr. Laura Lhotka, Dr. Mary Arthur, NRES Academic coordinator Geri Philpott, Billy Thomas, and Dr. Mark Williams, trying to see if this was really a feasible path. Everyone I spoke with was encouraging, and seemed more convinced than me that this was a realistic plan. So, suppressing a sense of ridiculousness, I went ahead with the process of applying to UK and ordering transcripts for transfer credits from my now 35 year old previous undergraduate degree in Asian Studies. Fortunately, Dr. John Lhotka came up with a plan whereby I could study part-time, and make use of an upcoming sabbatical to put in a full-time year as a student, and make gradual progress in getting the degree without jumping straight off the 10m diving board. Still, I could hardly believe it when UK actually issued me a student id.

My first real course at UK was in wildland fire, a blended course of online assignments, class meetings, and field days. I enjoyed getting to know the students in class, and the highlight was a field day near Cave Run Lake hand digging a fire line, practicing jumping into fire shelters, laying out hoses and learning the names of connectors, and learning how to use a fire torch on a frigid March day. This began the process of getting to know the many other non-traditional students in the program, and gaining confidence in a new role as a student rather than professor. Being accepted into the Fire Cats, a UK program where students worked as actual wildland firefighters, added a sense of reality to the process of embarking on a new path in my career.

I began full-time coursework at UK in Fall 2019 and was relieved at how friendly and helpful the faculty and fellow students were. Some of the students had long careers in the military and were similarly trying to change career directions. Even many of the younger students had started their college studies in different fields, but then changed to forestry. Everyone had a personal story about what propelled them to decide on forestry, and our common interest and commitment to forestry created a real feeling of solidarity, especially in our more challenging classes. One of the most famous and difficult classes in the forestry program is dendrology, and spending four hours every Friday afternoon in the blistering heat of last fall learning about trees, and doing tree id quizzes and exams led to wonderful conversations and cooperation on learning strategies. Working in groups to measure trees in the arboretum for stats class reminded me of rowing crew in college – the combination of physical endurance and attempting to gain new skills created a wonderful group bonding experience.

This spring I had the opportunity to participate in the field semester, much of which took place in Robinson Forest. Three grueling days in pouring rain measuring trees up and down the steep slopes of Eastern Kentucky were relieved by delicious meals prepared by Neva and Erwin Williams, and time around the campfire singing along to guitar accompaniment of faculty and students. Unfortunately, Covid-19 has put a (temporary?) hiatus on our field semester, although we will try to continue with online studies to complete our semester. A tour of wood industries from saw mills, barrel makers, kiln driers, chip makers, and creators of precision custom cabinetry components also exposed me to the depth and importance of the wood industry in Kentucky.

Although I have enjoyed backpacking, farm work and other outdoor activities my entire life, I had never considered forestry as a career. My academic career focused on languages, cultures and literature. I have been amazed at the complexity of soil science, silviculture, forest measurement, and carbon and nitrogen cycles in forest systems. I feel like I am filling in a missing aspect of my knowledge in trying to care for this planet, not just as a teacher trying to help students, but as a student of the forest trying to help it continue to provide us with all the services a forest provides. Belonging to organizations like the KWOA and attending Woodland Owner Short Courses have also introduced me to a community of like-minded people interested in doing the best for our woodlands. While I still have no idea of when I will be able to graduate, and indeed what career this may lead to, I am grateful to have had the opportunity to deepen my knowledge about how forests work, and about the people who have dedicated their lives and careers to caring for forests.

In Their Own Woods shares woodland owner sketches about their properties, experiences and plans for the next generation of family forests. We would like to hear about your experience as a woodland owner. Contact us at info@kwoa.net to begin your sketch for the next installment.

The Wildlife Habitat Education Program

A New 4-H and FFA Program for Kentucky's Youth



The U.K. Department of Forestry and Natural Resources and the State 4-H Office held a Wildlife Habitat Education Program (WHEP) training for more than 25, 4-H Agents and FFA teachers at Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest in early March. Our plan is to help the participating agents and teachers implement this national program in Kentucky. Jarred Brooks a Wildlife Extension Specialist from Purdue University and Chair of the National WHEP committee led the hands-on, day-long training.

The WHEP is a hands-on conservation education program designed to teach youth aged 9 – 18 about wildlife and fisheries conservation. In the program youth learn wildlife habitat concepts and terminology to solve real-world wildlife and fisheries conservation scenarios. They will learn how to identify a variety of wildlife species by sight and sound and answer general ecology questions about those species. School FFA programs and county 4-H groups can

form teams to compete in a state or national WHEP competition where the youth will get to test their knowledge and skills of wildlife habitat management against other teams. Currently there are more than 20 states that participate in this program. For more information about the program visit the WHEP website <https://www.whep.org/>.

The basic premise of 4-H and FFA programs is to teach valuable skills and knowledge to young people, who, in turn, teach their parents. Today's students are our future land stewards. Students in the Wildlife Habitat Education Program (WHEP) have a greater understanding of the value of land and how it can be managed to benefit many wildlife and fish species. When they join the work force, former WHEP participants can apply their WHEP skills and knowledge to create better habitat for wildlife and fish, no matter what professional field they have chosen.

Kentucky will be hosting the National WHEP Contest July 2021 at the U.K. 4-H Leadership Center in Jabez, Kentucky. For more information about the program or how to get involved please contact Laurie Thomas (UK Forestry and Natural Resources) Laurie.Thomas@uky.edu or Ashley Osborne (State 4-H Office) Ashley.Osborne@uky.edu.

Licking River Basin Coordinator Offers Encouragement and Resources in a Difficult Time

Mahtaab Bagherzadeh, is Coordinator for the Licking River Basin's watershed management team in northeastern Kentucky (between Florence and Morehead). She sent a special message of encouragement to individuals and organizations active in the protection of the basin. An excerpt from her March 2020 In the Flow March newsletter is below.

"... this spring we find ourselves living in unprecedented times. Navigating our personal and professional obligations during a pandemic can be difficult, tiring, and overwhelming. However, the Licking River Basin, and the greater Kentucky community, is resilient. I firmly believe that we will get through this virus outbreak and while we ride it out, we will adapt to work with each other remotely. I encourage you all to reach out to your networks to see how you can help your local watershed groups or reach out to me if you need help. You are all on my mind - I'm working on ways for us to stay in contact during this time and figuring out how to be a Basin Coordinator remotely. Let's figure this out together."

As an Iranian-American, Mahtaab also shares that the Iranian New Year falls on the first day of spring (March 19th), which she thinks is quite fitting given the themes of rebirth and renewal that follow in the footsteps of spring. While many of us are spending more time at home and on-line, why not welcome

the new season and year by checking out a few of the educational resources Mahtaab suggests and sharing them with fellow woodland owners?

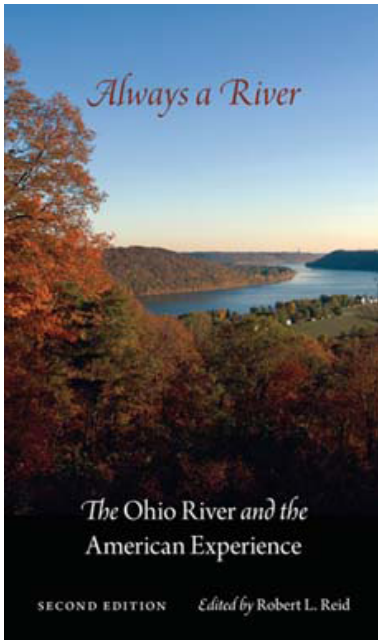
Soil Sessions from the Soil Health Partnership (SHP) - Soil Sessions cover a range of topics such as data insights, how SHP manages and integrates data, their connection to and work with their partners, as well as providing technical information on topics like cover crops, scouting and grazing. <https://www.soilhealthpartnership.org/soil-sessions/>

Cyanobacteria Monitoring Training from Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation's Watershed Management Division. <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLLXVJCF6LbmXvR42ohYLCppXnHZU9WvdP>

Citizen Science at the Environmental Protection Agency Webinar: https://epawebconferencing-events.acms.com/content/connect/c1/7/en/events/event/private/141480700/172905431/event_landing.html?sco-id=202009436

Environmental Protection Agency's Water Topics - some light reading if you are working at home and stumble across some downtime. <https://www.epa.gov/environmental-topics/water-topics>

Suggested Reading - Always a River: The Ohio River and the American Experience



Robert Reid, editor.
Indiana University
Press, Second Edition,
2010.
260 pages (many
maps and photos-
drawings included).

Book review by Doug McLaren, KWOA President

We all live in a watershed. No matter where we live in the state of Kentucky we are in a watershed, large or small, that affects the integrity of the Ohio River. This is a hard concept to understand but all of Kentucky's waters end up in the Ohio River. Some would find it

hard to believe that those waters that originate in the southeastern corner of Kentucky that drain into the Lake Cumberland watershed would be Ohio River bound, but yes, they are. After waters pass through the Wolfe Creek Dam of Lake Cumberland near Jamestown, Kentucky, the Cumberland River travels the length of Tennessee to once again reappear in Kentucky forming the eastern boundary of the area known as Land Between the Lakes before entering the Ohio River.

Reid has taken the insights of seven scholars who have evaluated and studied the Ohio River from various angles and degrees of study. The writers of the book provide a "multidimensional study of the

characteristics" that define the Ohio River. There are a host of environmental and ecological issues that formulate how the river was first observed and how it has become one of the major arteries that supply waters influencing the lower Mississippi River.

The Ohio River is nearly 1000 miles long but if stretched out in a straight line directly from its origin at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to its entry point into the Mississippi River at Cairo, Illinois, it is only a 500 mile path. The other 500 miles are found making up all the meanders that are found formulating the path through Pennsylvania and creating the state boundaries of Ohio, West Virginia, Indiana, Illinois and of course, Kentucky.

Kentucky's entire northern state boundary is designed and created by the path and course that the Ohio River has developed over the eons of time. Again, the seven scholars have explained the Ohio River in their own words and beautiful descriptions. Mixing the works of those with backgrounds in English, history, geography, political science, engineering, and economics provides the reader of *Always a River* a very insightful explanation of the extreme importance of the Ohio River and Ohio River Valley. The book begins with the first explorers from Europe and continues the description and value of the river to the present days uses and value.

The Ohio River is greatly affected by those that live and work in Kentucky. As woodland owners in Kentucky, after reading *Always a River* you can better understand the value that we, woodland managers of Kentucky, have on the waters that flow from our woodlands into the tributaries, streams and rivers that eventually flow into the Ohio River on it's journey to the Mississippi River and eventually the Gulf of Mexico.

Spring Forest Fire Hazard Season

Although it's hard to imagine forest fires during the current plenitude of rain, forest floors can dry out surprisingly quickly according to Steve Kull, Kentucky Division of Forestry. The spring forest fire hazard season commenced February 15 and extends to April 30. During this period it is illegal to burn between the hours of 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. within 150 feet of any woodland or brushland.

Burn bans generally prohibit the following:

1. Burning of forest, grass, crops, woodlands, marshes or other similar areas.
2. Burning leaves or debris.
3. Campfires, bonfires and warming fires.
4. Open pit cooking and charcoal grilling.
5. Use of fireworks and welding may also be prohibited or regulated.



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May 14

KWOA/F Quarterly Board Meeting
KFIA Office, Frankfort

Kentucky Woodlands is published quarterly. We welcome submission of articles and information for inclusion in the newsletter subject to review and approval by the executive committee. Please submit copy to the address below. Editor reserves the right to edit all material for content and length.

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