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KENTUCKY WOODLANDS NEWSLETTER

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Summer 2025

New Directors Elected at KWOA Annual Meeting

by Portia Brown

2025 has been a year of firsts for us. As members may recall, KWOA's in-person annual meeting and conference had to be postponed, because the park facilities we planned to use had become inundated with relocated individuals as a result of flooding earlier this year.

We adapted by developing a digital ballot that provided an anonymous online voting process. For the first time in recent memory, we had more candidates than vacant seats; results were very close.

The KWOA annual business meeting was held via Zoom on March 28, and that's when election results were announced. The full board is listed on the second page of this newsletter, as well as on our website (kwoa.net/board-of-directors).

There was also a discussion of orphaned oil wells, and we subsequently posted a list of Kentucky inspectors to our website. We learned that, while emergency situations may be addressed quickly, federal funding for environmental impact assessments had been frozen.

We were excited to welcome two new directors to the board: Jeff Stringer, recently retired from a long and illustrious career in forestry; and Genia Toma, with a background in economics and relatively new to forest management. Both are retired from the University of Kentucky.



Genia Toma



Jeff Stringer

Jeff expresses his interest in KWOA as centered "...around being able to provide my technical knowledge of forestry and prowess in science delivery to aid landowners in the state, much as I have done for the majority of my career."

Genia sees serving as a director as "a way to share interests in policy and economics as it relates to the woodlands, and to learn from the KWOA network about forest management."

We are excited to welcome our new KWOA-F directors. We especially appreciate the perspectives they bring to our work in serving member interests, and in carrying out our mission of connecting people with woodland sustainability.

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Officers

President: Portia Brown, Grayson and Shelby
Vice President: Scott Taylor, Casey
Treasurer: Jerry Brown, Shelby and Grayson
Secretary: Jack Rentz, Lewis
Assistant Secretary: Jerry Schneider, Kenton
Immediate Past President: Doug McLaren, Breathitt

Board of Directors

North

Jerry Schneider, Kenton
Preston Lacy, Scott
Rodney Bruce, Greenup

East

Doug McLaren, Breathitt
Jack Stickney, Estill
Jimmie Sizemore, Clay

Central

Dr. Lanny Copeland, Warren
Harry Pelle, Taylor
Dr. James "Greg" Kuhns, Bullitt

West

James Vincent, Henderson and Webster
Henry Duncan, Logan
Mike Smith, Ohio

Board Members at Large

Frank Hicks, Greenup
Jack Rentz, Lewis
Jeff Stringer, Fayette
David Wise, Trimble
Portia Brown, Grayson
Gail Lincoln, Greenup, Fleming, Carter, and Rowan
Jerry Brown, Shelby
Scott Taylor, Casey
Genia Toma, Nelson

Emeritus

Dr. Jim Corum Bell and Harlan Counties
Karen Marshall, Owen

Kentucky Woodlands Newsletter

Founding Editor: Don Girton (1993-2005)
Past Editor: Karen Marshall (2006-2024)
Current Editor: Bill Furbee

Kentucky Woodlands Newsletter is published quarterly. We welcome submission of articles and information for the newsletter. It is subject to review and approval by the executive committee. Editor reserves the right to edit all material for content and length.

Submit copy to:
Bill Furbee, Editor, editor@kwoa.net

A Message From Your President



At a time when people seem to hold disparate values on so much, we can come together in valuing our woodland resources. Summer 2025 offers a new season of opportunities for woodland owners to work on their land and participate in opportunities through KWOA. In this issue you will learn about just some of the work KWOA and our partners are doing on several fronts to help sustain our lands for future generations of people and forests.

This summer the Woodland Owner Short Courses (WOSC) will again offer a premier opportunity for landowner education. Ongoing networking with Kentucky Farmland Transition Initiative (KFTI) is addressing the loss of land to non-agricultural/silvicultural purposes; this is raising the prospects for rural landowners to keep their lands in active production, providing both local economic benefits as well as a long-term legacy of resource management. KWOA continues to support educational programs through the Pete Kovalic Scholarship Fund, as well as financial contributions to the work of our partners in education and conservation.

We are also seeing strategies emerge that encourage development of a market for products such as mass timber and bio-char. These products use wood that is a byproduct, so to speak, of longer-term woodland management to encourage regeneration of valuable hardwood species, ultimately providing higher-grade timber products while sustaining our natural resources for people and wildlife. As Ethan Tapper says in his excellent book "How to Love a Forest: The Bittersweet Work of Tending a Changing World," "We cannot choose if we will impact an ecosystem, if we will impact people across the globe, if we will impact the lives of future generations. We can only choose what that impact will be."

There is no question that the challenges facing woodland owners are not going away anytime soon, but there are also significant reasons to be encouraged. Landowner engagement is a crucial factor that always makes a difference in outcomes. KWOA will continue to work with our partners in ways that leverage our ability to provide expert guidance for you, and to grow awareness of the value of our woodland resources.



Portia Brown

-Portia Brown,
KWOA President

Kentucky Forest Industries Association Annual Meeting Announces New Executive Director

For its 60th annual meeting, KFIA reported the attendance of over 350 people and 38 exhibitors. The KFIA annual meeting continues to serve as the premier event for the hardwood industry in Kentucky. Numerous industry updates were provided during the two-day event — including KFIA history, state and federal legislative updates, and Master Logger educational initiatives. Dr. Jeff Stringer, University of Kentucky (retired), gave an update on the state of the wood industry, and how KFIA leadership and partnerships have made tremendous progress in the growth of the wood products industry in Kentucky.

KFIA also recently announced that Bob Bauer will be stepping down as its executive director, and that James Wright has been named as his successor. Bauer has been in the forest products industry for 46 years. After obtaining his forestry degree at the University of Kentucky, he took his first job offer and went to work as a Forest Products Utilization Forester with the Kentucky Division of Forestry. He then went on to work as a Service Forester, working with landowners to provide advice on forest management activities and timber sales. He also worked at Morehead State University in Eastern Kentucky on all types of issues related to improving efficiency, and expanding the forest products industry through economic development projects and expansion among existing industries.



*Dr. Jeff Stringer and
past KFIA Executive Director Bob Bauer*



*Kentucky Tree Farm Committee and KWOA Past
President Doug McLaren, presenting award to Mark and
Mary Lee.*

Two KWOA members were recognized for their contributions to forestry and the association in Kentucky:

Mark and Mary Lee

Frenchburg, KY – 2024 Tree Farmer of the Year

Dr. Jeff Stringer

University of Kentucky Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, Lexington, KY – 2024 KFIA Member of the Year

KFIA is a trade association dedicated to serving and promoting the forest products industry of Kentucky. Founded in 1965, it has over 950 members in the areas of primary and secondary wood industry, supplier and service industries, wholesale, loggers, and landowners.

For more information, call 502-695-3979, email James@kfia.org, or visit KFIA.org.

NACD Honors Award Winners



Stephan A. Coleman

In February, the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) recognized winners of national service awards at its 79th Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The NACD Distinguished Service Award recognizes an individual within the association, a conservation district, or a state association which has made significant contributions to the conservation and proper management of our nation's natural resources.

This year, the Distinguished Service Award was presented to Stephen A. Coleman of Frankfort, Kentucky. Coleman has devoted his life and career to conserving natural resources and continues to work diligently for the cause. He began his conservation career as assistant director, and then director, of the Kentucky State Division of Conservation for 30 years.

Coleman has been an irreplaceable advisor, supervisor, and member of various committees, working groups, boards, and other organizations across all levels of governance. He is a Lifetime NACD member and was inducted into the regional NACD Hall of Fame in 2013. Coleman is a leader, mentor, and, most importantly, a friend to so many people in conservation, including KWOA.

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Owners Foundation



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to the Kentucky Woodland
Owners Association

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JOIN KWOA

or Renew Your Membership by visiting:

www.kwoa.net/joinrenew-kwoa



SCAN ME

Kentucky Farmland Transition Initiative Kicks Off

by Aleta Botts

In April 2024, the Kentucky Farm Bureau launched the Kentucky Farmland Transition Initiative (KFTI) to focus on the problem of agricultural land loss in the Commonwealth. With Kentucky losing 1.4 million acres of farmland in the past 20 years, the initiative comes at a critical time. By highlighting the challenges, providing resources to landowners, and considering policy, the initiative aims to keep more land in agricultural use and in the hands of active farmers.

The KFTI network of 28 organizations is key to the initiative's success. These organizations have hosted educational sessions, shared information with their members, and offered suggestions. KWOA members have provided valuable input on issues associated with fragmented property ownership on forest land, and how to ensure that woodlands are part of these discussions.

Since its launch, the initiative has reached over 7,000 individuals through its website, workshops, and meetings. State legislation related to the Kentucky Selling Farmers Tax Credit was passed, and federal legislation relating to the capital gains treatment of farmland has been introduced. The best outcomes of the past year have been hearing from farm families with ideas for keeping land in production or who have been prompted by the initiative to work on the best path forward for their own farmland.

This year we will be developing more resources and continuing to spread the word to help farm families. If you have questions or suggestions, reach out to us via the kyfarmlandtransition.com website, email info@kyfarmlandtransition.com, or call 502-653-2787.

Register Now for the 2025 Woodland Owner Short Course

by Billy Thomas, UK Extension Forester

As stewards of Kentucky's rich and diverse woodlands, you play a crucial role in preserving and enhancing our natural resources. We are excited to announce the 2025 Woodland Owners Short Course (WOSC; <https://wosc.ca.uky.edu/2025-WOSC>), organized by the University of Kentucky's Department of Forestry & Natural Resources Extension in close collaboration with more than 10 partner organizations and agencies, including KWOA. The WOSC is designed to assist woodland owners in caring for and managing their woodland resources effectively.

Why attend the 2025 WOSC? There are many reasons why woodland owners should participate in this program, including:

- **Expert Guidance:** The course features presentations and workshops led by forestry professionals, wildlife biologists, and experienced woodland owners. You will gain insights into best practices for woodland management, including sustainable timber harvesting, wildlife habitat improvement, and pest control.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Connect with fellow woodland owners, industry experts, and resource professionals. Sharing experiences and knowledge with others who share your passion for woodlands can be incredibly enriching and beneficial.
- **Flexible Learning Options:** This offers both virtual and in-person sessions to accommodate your preferences and schedule. Whether you choose to participate online or attend in person, you will receive the same high-quality education and support.
- **Resource Access:** Participants will have access to a wealth of resources, including educational materials and contacts for ongoing support. These resources are designed to help you make informed decisions and implement effective woodland management strategies.

Your participation can benefit you and your woodland! You will learn techniques to improve the health and productivity of your woodlands, ensuring they remain a valuable asset for generations to come. Proper woodland management can significantly enhance the value of your property, making it more attractive for various uses, including wildlife, timber production and recreational activities. The program provides the opportunity to become part of a community of woodland owners dedicated to sustainable practices and conservation. Your participation helps strengthen the collective effort to preserve Kentucky's natural heritage.

The 2025 Woodland Owners Short Course is an exceptional opportunity to advance your woodland management skills and connect with a supportive community of like-minded individuals. We encourage you to take advantage of this program and register today. Together, we can ensure that Kentucky's woodlands continue to thrive and provide benefits for all. Thank you for your commitment to woodland stewardship.

Registration for the 2025 WOSC is online at: <https://wosc.ca.uky.edu/2025-WOSC>.

KENTUCKY WOODLAND OWNERS SHORT COURSE

SIX WEBINARS & A FIELD SESSION WITH RESOURCE EXTRAVAGANZA

This program aids Kentucky woodland owners in forest resource management, offering online and in-person options. Live session recordings will be available, with participants able to choose between online-only or a field session, each featuring a regional Woodland Owner Resource Extravaganza.



Online

JUNE 10 – 26

7 PM – 8:30 PM ET



Field Session and Extravaganza

JULY 19 – WHITLEY CO.

AUGUST 16 – PENDLETON CO.

Online only: \$10/person
Online & 1 Field: \$30/single \$45/couple


www.KYWOSC.org

Meet the WOSC Partners
<https://wosc.ca.uky.edu/partners>

Kentucky
Woodland
Owners
Short Course

Each
Field Session
showcases a
Woodland
Owner Resource
Extravaganza!



 Cooperative
Extension Service
FORESTRY AND NATURAL
RESOURCES - EXTENSION



2025 Fall KWOA Conference and Membership Meeting

Natural Bridge State Resort Park – October 6 - 8, 2025

Registration Form – PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____

Spouse/Guest Name(s): _____

Tree Farm Business Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State & Zip: _____

Phone number(s): _____

E-mail: _____

Woodland acres owned/managed by County: _____

REGISTRATION INCLUDES ALL PROGRAMS and all Meals on October 7 (Does not include meals Oct. 6 & 8)

| | FEE | X | # of People | = | Total Amount |
|-------------------------|-----------------|---|-------------|---|--------------|
| *Member Registration | @ \$100.00 each | X | _____ | = | \$_____ |
| Non-Member Registration | @ \$140.00 each | X | _____ | = | \$_____ |

*MEMBERSHIPS CAN BE PAID or RENEWED AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION

*Recognized Partners Qualify for the Member Rate

Registration and payment can be made by: Credit Card on KWOA website: WWW.KWOA.NET
or mail this registration form and a check for payment to: KWOA - PO BOX 1201 – Frankfort, KY 40602

A block of rooms has been reserved for KWOA at Natural Bridge State Resort Park. Lodge rooms with one king bed are available for \$140.95/night or rooms with 2 queen beds are available at \$130.95/night + fees. One or Two-bedroom cottages are also available at \$170.95 or 190.95/night + fees.

Call Natural Bridge State Resort Park at 606-663-2214 to confirm your lodging reservations.

Please remember to mention that you are attending the Kentucky Woodlands Owners Annual Meeting Conference and reference the **Group Code 3436** to receive our Group Rate.

Please make your room reservations NO LATER THAN 5:00 pm EDT on September 6, 2025:

KENTUCKY WOODLAND OWNERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 1201

Frankfort, KY 40602

Fall KWOA Conference and Membership Meeting

Natural Bridge State Resort Park



October 6

Visit Morgan County Nursery



October 7-8

Conference & Annual Membership Meeting at the Woodland Center

A block of rooms is reserved at Natural Bridge