



April 2026

KWOA Wood Post

News Items of Interest

Spring 2026 Kentucky Woodlands Newsletter Now Available

In this issue:

- White Oak Restoration efforts
- President's Letter
- Letter to Gatton Academy
- KWOA Annual Scholarship
- KWOA History Corner
- In Their Own Woods

[Read the Spring 2026 Newsletter](#)

Vol. 05 No. 2
KENTUCKY WOODLANDS NEWSLETTER
Spring 2026
www.kwoa.net
KWOA
"BRINGING PEOPLE AND WOODLAND SUSTAINABILITY TOGETHER"

White oak seedlings appear in forest
restored but before harvest of maturity

Young white oaks generally
waiting for mature canopy

KWOA White Oak Restoration Efforts

by Scott Taylor

IN THIS ISSUE:

- President's Letter
- Letter to Gatton Academy
- KWOA Annual Scholarship
- White Oak Restoration Efforts cont.
- KWOA History Corner
- In Their Own Woods

If you've been paying attention over the last few years, you've probably noticed a lot of talk about white oak in Kentucky, and other states as well. That buzz is for good reason: We have a real problem with our white oak populations all across the eastern United States. The problem is not that we don't have plenty of mature, marketable white oak trees in our forests today; the problem is that we don't have enough young white oak trees in our forests to continuously replace those mature white oaks that are being harvested. So, in the near future, we'll start seeing less mature white oaks to meet the needs of society, to meet the ecological needs of our wildlife, and to maintain the integrity of our forest stand diversity. The old buzz word of "sustainability" is what the issue is. Our white oak stands are not sustainable today.

Why are we in this situation? Lots of reasons have led us to this point. But, the main reason is that we are not managing our oak stands. Let me say this again: We simply aren't managing our oak stands. But the good news is that we can change that. We have science-based knowledge that shows us how to manage those stands effectively so they will regenerate naturally. How do we do that? The answer has two parts. First, we have to understand the technical reasons that prevent that natural regeneration. Second, we have to understand how to create the right conditions to allow that natural regeneration to occur.

Why don't we have young white oaks growing in our forest? The understory and mid-story of our white oak stands have been taken over by shade-tolerant species such as beech, red maple, and others. These shade-tolerant species prevent the young white oaks from growing and thriving, so they can't replace those mature trees when a disturbance occurs (such as a harvest, a natural disaster, or just an old white oak tree dying). Following the disturbance, those shade-tolerant species take over and now we have a new stand created, which is primarily beech, soft maple, and others.

Kentucky Woodlands Newsletter

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2025 Tree Farmers of the Year: Portia and Jerry Brown

Congratulations to KWOA Officers Portia and Jerry Brown for being recognized as 2025 Tree Farmers of the Year at the Kentucky Forest Industries Association Annual Meeting!



FIA Tech Transfer Sessions

The USFS has made several new improvements to the National Woodland Owner Survey dashboard, making it more user-friendly. It now contains data from 2013, 2018, and 2023 for comparison at the same time. Please take some time and review the webinar put on by Brett Butler.

[Learn More](#)



University of Kentucky taps Steven Price to lead Forestry and Natural Resources Department

Dr. Steven Price is the new Department Chair of the Forestry and Natural Resources Department at the UK Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment.

[Learn More](#)



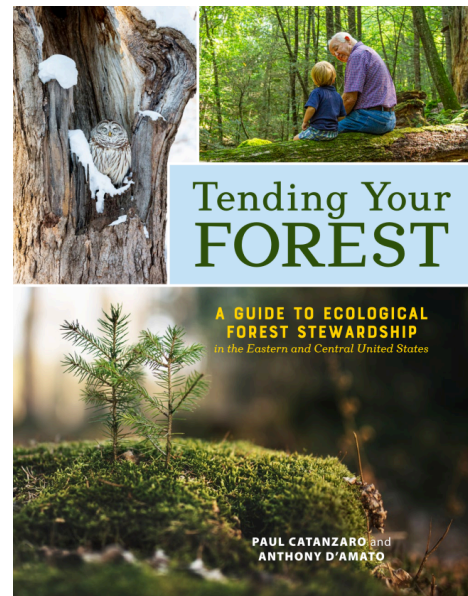
Tending Your Forest

A Guide to Ecological Forest Stewardship in the Eastern and Central United States

Now available, *Tending Your Forest* focuses on helping landowners reach their goals and sustain public benefits using the principles of ecological forestry.

The book also includes case studies of forest landowners across the region that demonstrate the practice of ecological forestry.

[Learn More About Tending Your Forest & Order Your Copy](#)



Harlan County Farm Bureau Program Earns National Spotlight

The American Farm Bureau Federation honored 24 counties at its 107th Convention in Anaheim, California, Jan. 9-14. From Kentucky, [Harlan County Farm Bureau's County-Wide Ag and Forestry Field Week](#) has earned the spotlight by promoting ag and forestry careers by hosting a field day showcasing educational opportunities in these fields. Congratulations to Harlan County Farm Bureau!



[Read More](#)

Upcoming Events & Learning Opportunities

From Timber to Tomorrow: Old Challenges, New Pressures, Changing Paradigms

Tuesdays, through April 28
12:00-1:00 p.m. U.S. EDT

Join the final webinars in the Spring 2026 YFF speaker series, which is the third and final installment in our forest history series. With a focus on the last 50 years and the future of forests, the remaining webinar themes include adaptation, applying silviculture, evolving field technology, the future of #landback, and more.

[Register for this free webinar series](#)



Do you advise land managers, and have an interest in learning more about forest farming? The increasing interest in agroforestry among land managers has produced a growing need for technical assistance. Join us to learn more about this popular agroforestry practice, so you can be well-equipped to provide technical assistance to your clients the next time they ask about forest farming!

Title: 200-Level Forest Farming Design Intensive

Date: May 20-21, 2026

Location: Berea College Forestry Outreach Center, 2047 Big Hill Rd, Berea, KY 40403

Registration (free but required): <https://events.humanitix.com/200-level-forest-farming-design-intensive>

Pre-requisite requirements include completion of the [forest farming online course](#). The online course is FREE and a coupon code will be provided after registration in a confirmation email.

Landowner Field Day - Clay WMA

June 10 | 9 am - 4 pm EST

Clay WMA - Carlisle, KY

Kentucky State University's Forestry and Natural Resources Extension Program is excited to co-host a field day for landowners at Clay Wildlife Management Area (WMA)! Landowners and other natural area managers are invited to spend the day in the field learning about the value of Central Kentucky's forests and observing management practices the WMA team has implemented.



Landowner Field Day - Clay WMA

[Learn More & Sign Up](#)



*****From the Woods Today***: Wednesdays at 11 a.m. ET.** You can watch via Zoom or Facebook Live Links to live shows are posted just before the show. **Join live or watch recorded shows later at the website at www.fromthewoodstoday.com**

Yale Forestry Forum online series returns Tuesdays, 12:00-1:00 p.m. U.S. EST, January 13 – April 26 with From Timber to Tomorrow: Old Challenges, New Pressures, Changing Paradigms **Register**. More information is available on the **YFF website**.

Need Help in the Woods?

Bookmark the [Quick Reference Links](#) on KWOA website[[home page at kwoa.net](http://www.kwoa.net)]

- **Kentucky Division of Forestry (KDF) Vendors List:** [HERE](#) and https://eec.ky.gov/Natural-Resources/Forestry/Documents/Statewide_Vendor_List_2-8-17.pdf
- **Kentucky Association of Consulting Foresters lists** at KYACE.org
- **Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)** and **Farm Service Agency (FSA)** are the primary source of information on programs to help you carry out management practices on your land. Use this link to find your local office [Local USDA Service Centerr](#)
- **UK Forestry and Natural Resources Cooperative Extension** offers a wealth of helpful publications and programming; learn more <https://forestry.ca.uky.edu/extension>. Also find [your county office](#) and then know you are interested in forestry related programs.

Planning a Harvest?

A Kentucky Master Logger must be on-site and in charge of every commercial logging operation (excluding horse loggers). Kentucky's best management practices must be used in every commercial logging operation (including horse loggers). Best to Check Out These Resources:

- Kentucky Master Logger Program: masterlogger.ca.uky.edu
- Kentucky Division of Forestry: forestry.ky.gov
- Bad Actor Information & List: masterlogger.ca.uky.edu/bad-actor-information

- Kentucky Association of Consulting Foresters: KYACF.org

Just so you know...

- If you haven't already joined the KWOA network, [click here to join](#).
- KWOA members receive a 10% discount at **Forestry Suppliers**. Get the *code* when you *join!* Note the code is on your emailed receipt when you join or renew online.
- You can share our news! See the links at the bottom of this message.
- You can always contact us; send a message to info@kwoa.net with questions, suggestions, news, or to volunteer.

Growing Forests for Our Future! KWOA volunteers work year-round providing opportunities that benefit Kentucky's woodland owners and contribute to sustainable forestry.

KWOA Mission

“Bringing people and woodland sustainability together”

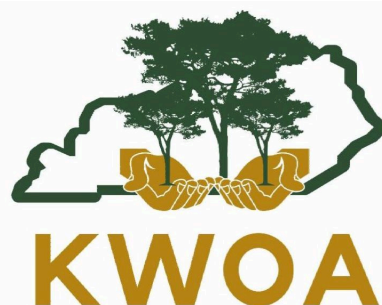
Contact Us

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