

February 2026

KWOA Wood Post

## News Items of Interest

### Kentucky Leopold Conservation Award Seeks Applicants

Applications are now being accepted for the 2026 Kentucky Leopold Conservation Award. The deadline to apply is Tuesday, March 31.

[Learn More & Nominate](#)



### Kentucky Natural Resources Conservation Service Releases Cut-off Dates for ACEP - ALE

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Kentucky reminds property owners of funding available for conservation easements to protect working ag lands, through the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program – Agricultural Land Easements (ACEP-ALE).

Applications for ACEP-ALE that meet eligibility and ranking criteria and that are received by **March 31**, will be considered for the second round of fiscal year 2026 funding.

[Read More](#)

### Support HB 552

*An Update from the Kentucky Resources Council*

This bill undoes the harm of last session's SB 89, which stripped away the long-standing definition of "waters of the Commonwealth," limiting state protections against pollution to only those waters that are defined as "navigable waters," or "waters of the United States," under the federal Clean Water Act. Although the final version of SB 89 clawed back protection for a small subset of state waters – sinkholes with open throat drains, certain springs, and wellhead protection areas – the law removed protections for critical groundwater sources and headwater streams that sustain our communities, farms, and ecosystems.

**Leave a message for House leadership to support HB 552 and restore protections for all of Kentucky's waters, including the groundwater sources and headwater streams that sustain our communities, farms, and ecosystems.**



### **A Message from Ashley Hoffman on HB 496**

What kind of childhood do we want for Kentucky's children?

In a recent op-ed, Ashley Hoffman, Executive Director of KAEE, reflects on the outdoor experiences many of us remember and what today's children may be missing. With increased screen time and fewer opportunities for unstructured outdoor play, families across the Commonwealth are seeking learning environments that foster curiosity, resilience, and connection to the natural world.

Nature based and forest schools are growing in interest across Kentucky. However, many of these programs face barriers to licensure, limiting access for working families who need full-day care options.

[House Bill 496](#) would create a clear and appropriate pathway for nature-based early childhood programs to pursue childcare licensure. [Read more.](#)

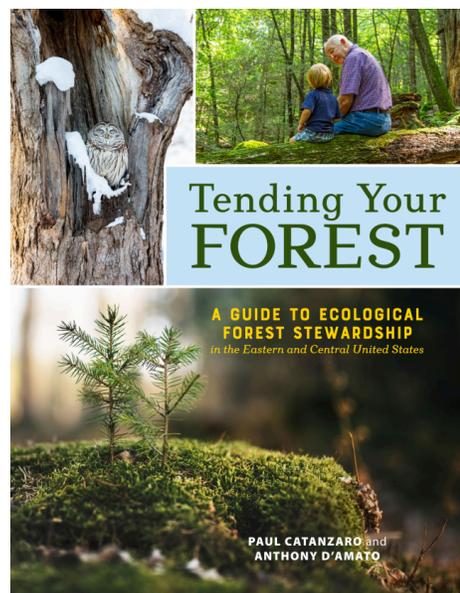
### **Tending Your Forest**

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

Available March 17, *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 & Pre-Order](#)



## Harlan County Farm Bureau Program Earns National Spotlight

The American Farm Bureau Federation will honor 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](#)

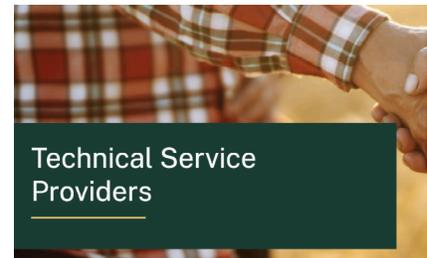
---

## Upcoming Events & Learning Opportunities

### The Regenerative Pilot Program and Technical Service Providers Webinar

Thursday, March 5 | 2:00 PM – 3:15 PM ET

[Join Here](#) next Thursday for a one-hour presentation on the USDA NRCS Regenerative Pilot Program (RPP) and Technical Service Providers (TSPs), aimed at providing an overview on how technical professionals may assist with RPP as an NRCS-Certified TSP, helping farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners help the land.



For more information on the USDA NRCS Technical Service Provider Program, please visit the [TSP page](#).

---

### Kentucky Prescribed Fire Council: Controlled Burn Workshops

For the spring of 2026, the KPFC currently has 2 Crew Member Training planned:

- March 7: [Christian County UK Extension Office](#)
- April 10: [Rockcastle County UK Extension Office](#)

[Learn More](#)

## CONTROLLED BURN WORKSHOP



# Kentucky's 130th Celebration of Kentucky Arbor Day

Kentucky State Capitol | April 3 | 10 AM

Join the Kentucky Division of Forestry in celebrating the role and importance of trees in our communities across the Commonwealth with the reading of the governor's Arbor Day Proclamation, a ceremonial tree planting, and tree distribution. This event is open to the public and will be held rain or shine. For more information, contact Chris Wiedamann at [cwiedamann@ky.gov](mailto:cwiedamann@ky.gov).

Kentucky Division of Forestry

invite you to celebrate the

## 130th Kentucky Arbor Day

at

The Kentucky State Capitol  
700 Capital Ave  
Frankfort, KY 40601

Friday, April 3, 2026  
Arbor Day Ceremony at 10:00 am  
Tree planting to follow

This event is open to the community.  
Please join us, rain or shine.



**\*"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](http://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://home_page_at_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](https://eec.ky.gov/Natural-Resources/Forestry/Documents/Statewide_Vendor_List_2-8-17.pdf)
- **Kentucky Association of Consulting Foresters lists** at [KYACE.org](http://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](http://masterlogger.ca.uky.edu)
- Kentucky Division of Forestry: [forestry.ky.gov](http://forestry.ky.gov)
- Bad Actor Information & List: [masterlogger.ca.uky.edu/bad-actor-information](http://masterlogger.ca.uky.edu/bad-actor-information)
- Kentucky Association of Consulting Foresters: [KYACE.org](http://KYACE.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](mailto: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.

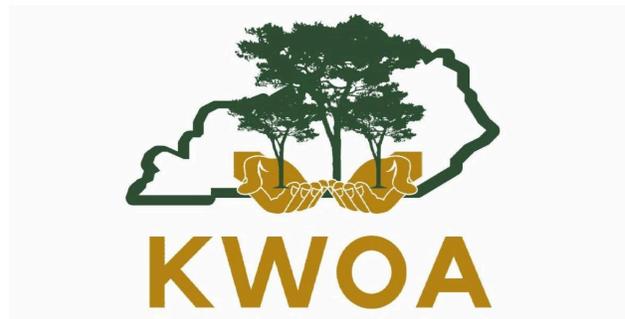
### KWOA Mission

*“Bringing people and woodland sustainability together”*

### Contact Us

#### Kentucky Woodland Owners Association

P.O.Box 1201  
Frankfort, KY 40602  
[info@kwoa.net](mailto:info@kwoa.net)  
[www.kwoa.net](http://www.kwoa.net)



Share This Email



Share This Email



Share This Email



Share This Email

Kentucky Woodland Owners Association/Foundation | P.O.Box 1201 | Frankfort, KY 40602 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!