



July 2026

KWOA Wood Post

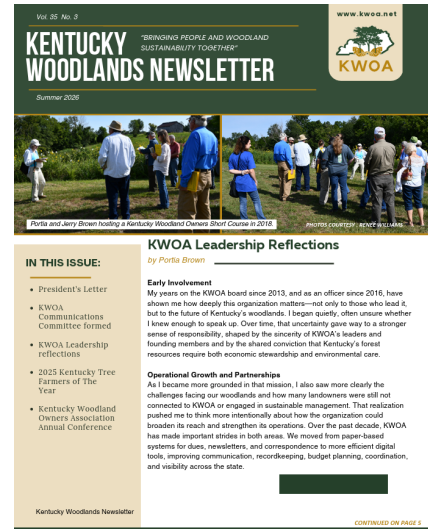
News Items of Interest

Summer 2026 Kentucky Woodlands Newsletter Now Available!

In this issue:

- President's Letter
- KWOA Communications Committee Formed
- KWOA Leadership Reflections
- 2025 Kentucky Tree Farmers of the Year
- KWOA Annual Conference

[Read the 2026 Summer Newsletter](#)



Save The Date for the 2026 KWOA Annual Conference!

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for the upcoming KWOA Annual Conference to be held **October 19–21, 2026**, in Berea, Kentucky.

Learn more at kwoa.net/post/2026-kwoa-annual-conference.



Oak Strong: A Kentucky Spotlight

From the White Oak Initiative

This spring, the Kentucky Forest Industries Association (KFIA) delivered its Oak Strong training series to nearly 100 participants across three Kentucky communities: Morehead, London, and Elizabethtown. The program brought together loggers, mill professionals, foresters, and conservation partners for hands-on instruction in white oak biology, regeneration needs, stand assessment, and harvest planning that supports long-term upland oak forest health. KFIA Executive Director James Wright emphasized the importance of this work, noting that the future of Kentucky's white oak - a species vital to the state's forest



economy - depends on today's management decisions. By strengthening workforce knowledge and improving communication among industry and landowners, the Oak Strong series is helping ensure Kentucky's white oak resource remains resilient for generations. Visit [KFIA's website](#) to learn more about ongoing activities and upcoming events.



Maple Syrup Producer and Woodland Owner Survey

If you are a maple syrup producer and/or a woodland owner, please take a few minutes to complete a survey to help support maple syrup production in the region. This research project is part of the ongoing support to the Kentucky maple syrup industry from the University of KY Dept. of Forestry and Natural Resources, led by Dr. Thomas Ochuodho, thomas.ochuodho@uky.edu.

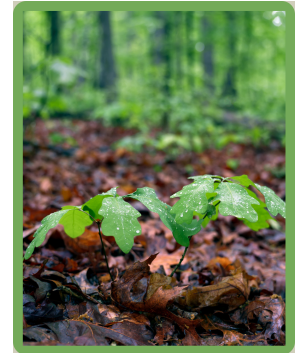
Below is one survey link for landowners and one for current maple syrup producers. Take a couple of minutes to complete the appropriate survey for you.

[Maple Syrup Producer SURVEY](#) | [Woodland Owner SURVEY](#)

Celebrating Our National Tree for America's 250th

From the White Oak Initiative

The white oak is known to provide a range of ecological and economic benefits, but it has struggled, especially in the past century of the United States. Oak-hickory hardwoods have traditionally dominated eastern America for thousands of years, supported by a variety of natural and human-led disturbances (including indigenous fire management) that reduced competitor species and created the moderate sunlight conditions white oak saplings need to thrive. In the past couple of centuries, wildfires and harvesting have increasingly been suppressed, which in turn suppresses white oak regeneration. Species including beech and maple have grown well, with their high tolerance for shaded environments. Their rising populations increase shade and cool forests previously dominated by white oak, making these forests better at collecting water in the soil. This is known as mesophication and it is a significant challenge to white oak, which struggles in excess shade and damp soil.



Trees and the Founding of the United States

From the Indiana Forestry & Woodland Owners Association

This year we celebrate the 250th anniversary of our nation. When people think about the causes of the American Revolution, they often think of taxes, the Stamp Act, or the Boston Tea party. However, the eastern white pine also played an important role in the growing conflict between the American Colonies and Great Britain.

Large sailing ships were essential to maintaining the British Empire, and these ships required tall, strong masts. Large white pines were common in New England and these were ideal for ship masts. The British Crown declared that the largest white pines were reserved for the Royal Navy, even if they stood on private property. These trees were marked with the "King's Broad Arrow" to signify royal ownership.

In 1772, several New Hampshire sawmills were caught with some of these trees. When royal officials attempted to enforce fines, local residents reacted angrily. A group of men, with blacked



faces as disguises, confronted them and drove them out of town. This event, known as the Pine Tree Riot, is considered by some historians to be a precursor to and possible inspiration for the Boston Tea Party the following year.

The white pine also became a symbol of American independence during the Revolution. It appeared on a flag featuring a single pine tree and the words "An Appeal to Heaven." These flags were flown by some of the first vessels of the American naval forces.

As we continue to celebrate the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding, we can remember the important role that trees played in shaping the events that led to American independence.

A Note on Wood Products Sustainability from Green Leaf Paper

You've heard a lot about paper recycling. Some of it's garbage. Some of it's not. If you really want to save the planet, you'd better get the straight facts on recycled paper. And make sure that the recycled paper you're buying is made with 100% post-consumer waste. Otherwise, you're doing very little to help our environment. Here's why.

Post-consumer waste is garbage. It's "used" paper, like newspaper and computer paper. It's paper that would normally go in your garbage and end up in a landfill.

- For every ton of post-consumer waste paper used, 17 trees are left standing.
- One ton of post-consumer recycled paper saves enough energy to run the average home for six months.
- Paper takes up 40% of our landfills.

Manufactured waste is not garbage. It comes from the scraps of paper left over after products like envelopes and tablets are made. These scraps have always been reused by paper manufacturers. They've never been dumped in our landfills. A lot of "100% recycled" papers are made from 100% manufactured waste.

- U.S. landfills are closing at a rate of about one per day.
- One ton of post-consumer recycled paper saves 7,000 gallons of water.

Turn it around. Buying and using recycled paper made with 100% post-consumer waste is only part of the solution. You should also be recycling the paper you use every day. GreenLeaf 100% Recycled Paper is recyclable. Complete the cycle. And together, let's turn it around.

Upcoming Events & Learning Opportunities

Kentucky WOODLAND OWNERS SHORT COURSE

The Kentucky Woodland Owners Short Course (WOSC) was designed to assist Kentucky's woodland owners in the care and management of their woodland resources! The 2026 WOSC consists of 7 online sessions followed by a field session (two options to choose from). The online sessions will provide a solid foundation for woodland owners on key woodland and wildlife management-related topics in Kentucky.

Remaining Attendee Option: Seven online sessions and one field session, \$30 per person / \$45 per couple (9:30-3:30 PM Local)

Remaining Field Session:

- August 8: Caldwell County

Field sessions will showcase the field hosts woodland and wildlife management approaches and activities. These sessions are designed to provide the opportunity to see woodland and wildlife management practices on the ground and interact with the natural resource professionals who can help you with your woodland, and reinforce what was learned in the online sessions, and how it translates to your woodland.



Field Session and
Extravaganza

JULY 18 OR AUG. 8

1 FIELD SESSION

JULY 18 - FLEMING CO.

AUGUST 8 - CALDWELL CO.

Learn more and register at wosc.mgcafe.uky.edu/2026-wosc.



*****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](#)]

- **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 [KYACF.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 Center](#)
- **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

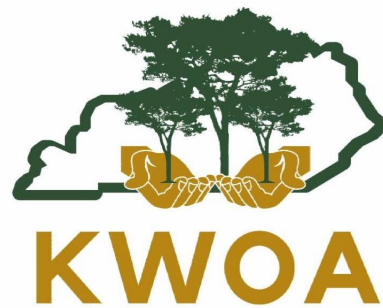
Bringing people and woodland sustainability together

Contact Us

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