



# KANSAS FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

Kansans for healthy woodlands

[www.KSForestryAssociation.org](http://www.KSForestryAssociation.org)



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## Growing Learning through Tree Farms

*"The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit." - Nelson Henderson*

On July 12<sup>th</sup>, 24 tree farmers gathered in Topeka to learn how to provide environmental education about forestry and natural resources to PreK-12 students and families at the their tree farms, in classrooms and at community events. "Teaching young people about forestry, especially when they can be on a tree farm and see forestry in practice is a powerful method for ensuring that our Kansas future honors the important role that forestry plays in the economy, the ecology and the aesthetics of our state" said Laura Downey, Executive Director for the Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE). "I was thrilled to have more environmental education

ambassadors join our ranks!" The three hour workshop took participants through a number of hands-on activities related to everything from measuring trees, leaf classification and identification, tree cookies, what trees need to grow and thrive and more. Tree farmers also received the award winning Project Learning Tree PreK-12 curriculum guide as well as family friendly activities. Further, they got a quick course on how to manage larger groups of students as they engage in learning outdoors.

As a part of the workshop, tree

farmers became the students and saw what the activities looked like from the student's perspective. Participants commented repeatedly that the best part of the workshop was the hands-on activities and one participant noted, "The workshop was very helpful and informative. I am looking forward to employing these methods for youth education." Watch for great educational opportunities coming to a tree farm near you!

The workshop was sponsored by the Kansas Forestry Association, the Kansas Forest Service, Kansas Tree Farm System and the Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education with financial support from the American Forest Foundation. For more information about forestry education and Project Learning Tree, contact Laura Downey at 785-532-3322 or [ldowney@kacee.org](mailto:ldowney@kacee.org).

-- Laura Downey, KACEE



## Upcoming Events

- **October**– Order fall conservation seedlings online at [kansasforests.org](http://kansasforests.org) or call 888.740.8733
- **October 6, 9 am-2:30 pm** – The Cross Timbers – Coyville Kansas Community Center, 21386 Decatur Road – Contact the Wilson County Conservation District for more info 620.378.2866
- **October 16, 8:30 am-4 pm** – Fall Forestry Field Day – Kickapoo Community Building, Brown County – More info in the article on page 2
- **October 23-25** – Biochar Workshops – Chadron, NE, Norton and Pratt – For more info, contact Dave Bruton 785.945.6147 or [dbruton@ksu.edu](mailto:dbruton@ksu.edu)
- **November 15, 9:00-3:00** – Kansas Forestry Association Board Meeting – Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks Region 2 Office, Topeka

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## 2018 Fall Forestry Field Day



This year's Fall Forestry Field Day will be held on October 16th at the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas reservation. The Kansas Forest Service is currently assisting the Kickapoo Tribe with a comprehensive forest assessment and management initiative

and several stream stabilization projects. While conducting these assessments, we found that the forests on the Kickapoo reservation include stands of high ecological value in terms wildlife habitat and regionally unique stand composition and structure. Our hope is that holding a field day at this site will highlight to the public what healthy forests in Kansas have to offer. This year, field day participants can look forward to visiting a high-quality bottomland forest site where they will learn about wildlife habitat, forest ecology, stream processes, plant ID, forest assessment, and timber management. We will be meeting at the Kickapoo Community Building, located 0.3 miles south of Highway 20 on Falcon Road in Brown County. Field Day signs will be placed at the intersection of Highway 20 and Falcon Road, which is 3 miles east of Highway 75 and 8 miles west of Horton.



-- Jarran Tindle,  
KFS Watershed Forester

There is a \$12 registration to cover the cost of a catered lunch. Please register by October 9<sup>th</sup> by brochure, at the KFS website or online on the KFS Facebook page.

For more information please contact Jarran Tindle by email [tindlej@ksu.edu](mailto:tindlej@ksu.edu) or phone 785-532-3340.



**Walnut Council**  
Growing Walnut and Other Fine Hardwoods

## Kansas to host 2019 National Walnut Council Annual Meeting

Plan to attend "Walnuts in Indian Country" National Walnut Council annual meeting on June 16-19, 2019. This event will take place starting Sunday evening with the opening reception at the Kansas Museum of History. The following days, there will be field tours to local sites, presentations by regional and national experts and the annual awards banquet all centered at the Prairie Band Casino and Resort, 15 minutes north of Topeka. There will be more information available as the date approaches. -- *Charles Barden, Walnut Council President*

## New Outreach Coordinator for KFS



As the Outreach Coordinator, Shane Neel is in charge of coordinating the Water Quality Advocate Network. The network is a peer-to-peer outreach initiative to promote best management practices to improve water quality and stabilize streambanks in priority watersheds in Kansas.

Advocates will be trained and extend conservation efforts to their local watersheds by mentoring peer farmers and ranchers. Neel has an MS in Education, a BS in Biology and Education from K-State and a variety of experiences with community outreach and natural resource management. He is excited to work with landowners at the grassroots level to promote successful conservation efforts already being implemented on advocate farms, while connecting them with programs and services that are available for assistance. His priority is to bring together stakeholders to create a collaborative network and he is actively seeking landowners who have interest in serving as advocates.

## National Walnut Council Meeting July 29-August 1, 2018 (Dubuque, Iowa)



Most of the Kansas delegation at the National Walnut Council Meeting

This national meeting was co-hosted by the Iowa and Wisconsin Chapters. There were 140 plus woodland owners or managers at the conference from 10 different states. With the varying topics and discussions, there was always something for everyone in attendance.

On Sunday there was preconference tour dealing with Agroforestry Practices for Profit and Wildlife Habitat. The evening continued with a Meet and Greet Dessert, followed by preview of the next day's tour, and a presentation on the Future of forestry and the Land ethic.

The majority of Monday was spent at the Dan Bohlin property. This property consisted of 240 acres, which he took over from

his father 20 years ago and the land had not been managed. The area is now a stand of amazing native walnut trees (good and bad), restored prairie, and a wild flower section for pollinators. There was an area referred to as an Oak Savanna that had been an area of invasive Buckthorn. We learned about the invasive nature of Buckthorn and it is definitely an item that we hope to control here in Kansas. Other issues presented or discussed dealt with Dan's use of many resources through EQIP, NRCS, and other programs to make such a positive change. These changes included best management practices for runoff and riparian buffers. Monday's tour concluded with a stop at the Potosi Brewery and National Brewery museum, with beer enjoyed by most.

Tuesday consisted of indoor programs of numerous subjects on management, soil, forest practices, and invasive plants. In the afternoon we viewed the movie *Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for our Time*.

During the Spouses tour on Tuesday, which I attended, we visited the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium, with lunch at the Stonecliff Winery. The Museum and Aquarium were recommended by many when visiting Dubuque and it was a highlight of the trip that we were grateful not to miss. It is an amazing facility showing the history of the Mississippi River thru the years, as well as many exhibits dealing with effect of the river on travel and expansion to the West. Tuesday evening was the Annual Awards Banquet with the drawing from the raffle for the Stihl chain saws.

Wednesday morning presentations on Chainsaw safety and SAWW training, forest industry topics, and what landowners are doing for bats and why it matters. The meeting closed with state chapter reports, door prizes, and closing remarks.

In conclusion: Attend a national meeting if you can, you will be glad you did.

-- Floyd Schmidt, KFA Vice President

## A Peer-to-Peer approach to improve Kansas Water Quality and Forestry Practices

The Kansas Forest Service hosted the first Water Quality Advocate Network training on August 22. With an initial group of twenty-eight committed advocates and multiple presenters, the network came together to discuss effective ways to promote best management practices to improve Kansas water quality. Training included topics on the current state of Kansas water, best management practices for farming, ranching, wildlife, forests, riparian buffers, streambank stabilization, waterways, strategies for communication and outreach, and programs available to provide cost-share benefits from several agencies. This will be the first step in a peer-to-peer outreach model to inform, educate, and promote methods that improve water quality.



Advocates and Presenters at the Water Quality Advocate Network Training



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**Special thanks to contributing authors: Laura Downey  
Jarran Tindle, Charlie Barden, and Floyd Schmidt**

**The KFA would love to hear from you!**

**What have you been doing with your land?**

**What would you like to see KFA doing for you?**

**Help KFA to save money and trees, go paperless!**

If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically in the future,  
please contact Shane Neel with your email address at: [shane@ksu.edu](mailto:shane@ksu.edu)



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