



KANSAS FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

Kansans for healthy woodlands.

www.KSForestryAssociation.org



Winter 2020 • Issue XIII

Jason Hartman Announced as Next State Forester of Kansas

The Kansas Forest Service announces Jason Hartman as its next state forester. Hartman began his role on Dec. 29.

Hartman will provide leadership to all programs of the Kansas Forest Service and employees of the agency through his expertise and education in resource management, forestry and fire management.

"Larry Biles, our current state forester, leaves behind a legacy of service that will be a challenge to live up to," Hartman said. "I am confident that in partnership with the talented cadre of staff at the Kansas Forest Service, we will continue and expand our legacy of service to the people of Kansas."

Hartman brings a vision of cross-programmatic relations to the Kansas Forest Service focused on collaboration between program leaders within the agency and with external partners. His vision will continue to position the service as a leader in forestry and wildland fire management services.

Please join us in welcoming Hartman as he begins his new role as state forester.

- Cassie Wandersee, KFS Communications Coordinator



Membership Renewals for 2020

It is that time again for the annual renewal of memberships. You will receive a letter in the mail for renewal by the end of January. The Board of Directors is seeking to simplify membership and will provide recommended changes to be voted upon at an upcoming field day. Until then, options include a standard membership for \$20, becoming a certified Tree Farmer, and/or becoming a member of the Kansas Chapter of the Walnut Council. Cottonwood, Pecan, Oak, and Walnut donation levels are still available and your donations and support are always appreciated. You may renew your membership by mailing the form and fees to 2610 Claflin Road, Manhattan, KS or renew on the website at www.ksforestryassociation.org. If you have any questions, please contact Shane Neel at shane@ksu.edu or 785.617.0717.

Upcoming Events

- *December 2 – May 1* – Spring Conservation Seedlings Online at kansasforests.org or call 888.740.8733
- *February 13 – 9:00-3:00* – Kansas Forestry Association Board Meeting– Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism Region 2 Office, Topeka
- *Spring 2020* – Agroforestry Field Day at the Roger Wells Family Farm near Americus, KS – Details coming
- *June 16-18, 2020* – Managing Carbon with Healthy Forests and Forest Products in the Southern Great Plains Workshop, Wichita – More info at kansasforests.org/CarbonSequestration.html

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Larry Biles Retires after 11 years as Kansas State Forester

Biles has served in many roles throughout his career, including two years with the U.S. Army, eight years as a district forester for Kansas State University; seven years as the urban forestry coordinator for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service in Atlanta; five years as a real estate property manager in Lawrenceville, Georgia; 13 years as forestry program leader for USDA Extension Service in Washington, D.C.; and five years as director for the Southern Forestry Research Partnership in Athens, Georgia. Biles was named state forester for the Kansas Forest Service in July 2008.

Biles received his bachelor's degree in forestry from the University of Missouri and a master's degree in ornamental horticulture from Kansas State University.

According to employees at the Kansas Forest Service, it is difficult, if not impossible, to sum up his achievements over the duration of his dedicated service. "Larry has been an integral part of our agency and his contributions will always be valued and remembered," said Aimee Hawkes, budget/fiscal coordinator and office manager. "His hard work, commitment and dedication have been incredibly admirable. Larry will be greatly missed." - Cassie Wandersee, KFS Communications Coordinator

Support Pollinators in Kansas with Native Trees & Shrubs

**** New in 2020 **** For the first time, bundles designed specifically for pollinating insects are available from the Conservation Tree and Shrub Program Sale. A bundle has been designed for the eastern and western halves of Kansas.

Eastern Pollinator Bundle - \$40

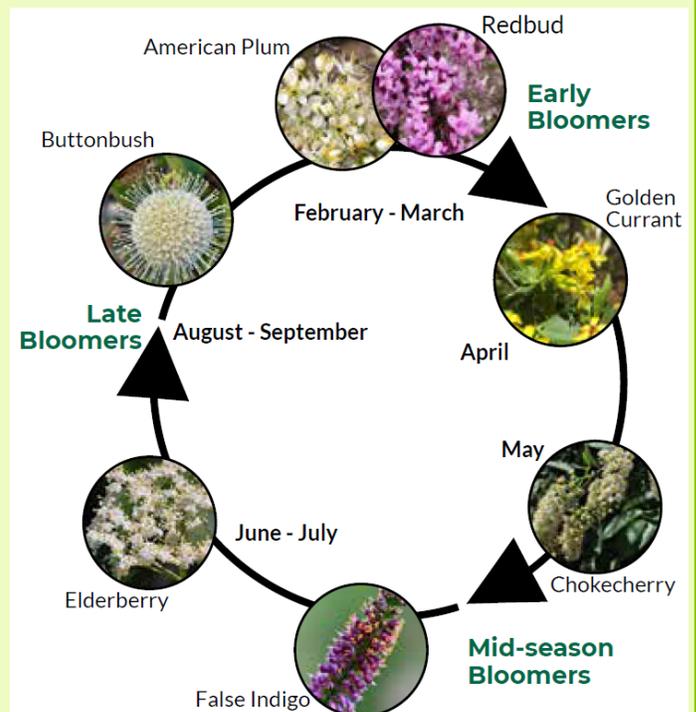
- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| 5 American Plum | 5 Chokecherry |
| 5 Golden Currant | 3 False Indigo |
| 5 Elderberry | 3 Button Bush |
| 4 Eastern Redbud | |

This bundle contains seven species that are suited to eastern Kansas, including species that are suited to lowland areas.

Western Pollinator Bundle - \$35

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| 5 Sandhill Plum | 5 Chokecherry |
| 5 Golden Currant | 5 False Indigo |
| 5 Fragrant Sumac | |

This bundle contains five species suitable for planting in western Kansas. The species in this bundle have exceptional drought tolerance and can handle the dry conditions in the western part of the state.



There is more information about these bundles and many other species of conservation trees and shrubs at the KFS website. – Eva Peterson, KFS Conservation Tree Associate

Order Online at www.kansasforests.org or by phone 1-888-740-8733

Ragnar Original Innovation Carbonator 500 Demonstration for Biochar Production

There was a demonstration of the ROI Carbonator 500 held near Haven on November 20. This was a free come-and-go event to provide an opportunity to see how woody debris from Kansas can be converted into biochar. "Finding cost effective and practical means for utilizing high volumes of wood waste derived from storm damage, windbreak renovation, timber stand improvement practices, community forest management, and primary and secondary wood manufacturing processes is a challenge," said Dave Bruton, marketing and utilization forester with the Kansas Forest Service.



The Carbonator 500 is a mobile biochar production system that converts trees, brush, stumps and other wood debris into a high-quality biochar. At nearly forty feet long, the immense Carbonator 500 is capable of burning 15-20 tons of wood waster per hour, with five to ten percent of the material converted into biochar.

Unlike burning waste wood in piles for disposal, biochar production uses a process called pyrolysis which captures carbon in the wood instead of releasing it into the atmosphere.

Beyond the sequestration of carbon, biochar can be used to amend soil, filter water, odor control in animal bedding and waste systems, erosion control and much more.

"We are constantly on the lookout for ways to improve efficiencies and utilize 'waste' materials and this equipment is one more tool available to consider," said Bruton. For any questions or more information, contact Dave Bruton at 785.313.2295 or dburton@ksu.edu.

Welcome to all our New Members

Thomas Buller – Lawrence

Tim Caffrey – Frankfurt

Greg Gathers – Topeka

Shannon Kidombo – Salina

Andy Siebert – Baldwin City

The Kansas Forestry Association is always striving to better serve its current members and seeking to invite new members who have an affinity for woodlands. Please join us in welcoming our new members for 2019 and help us encourage others who might have an interest in joining.

KFA is Grateful for the Generosity of 2019

Throughout the 2019 year, we took in \$1745 in general donations and an additional \$1075 in donations from the Larry Biles retirement fund for a total of \$3120. The Kansas Forestry Association would like to sincerely thank all of those who contributed time, materials, energy and supported us financially both publicly and anonymously. KFA is able to serve its people and the woodlands of Kansas through your generosity. Listed below are the donations for 2019 and their giving levels. Thank you!

Cottonwood - \$21-99

Ray Aslin; Robert Atchison; Tim Caffrey; Greg Gathers; William Kennedy; Wilfred Schuler

Pecan - \$100-\$499

Barrow Logging; Jerry Botts; Custom Forestry Applications; Ecotone Forestry;

Debra McDaniels; Tom the Sawyer Portable Sawmill Services;

Floyd & Sue Schmidt; Wayne White

Walnut - \$1000+

Roy & Carolyn Turney





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**Special thanks to contributing authors:
Cassie Wandersee, Dave Bruton, and Eva Peterson
Pictures by: Cassie Wandersee and Eva Peterson**

**How can you become more involved as a KFA member?
What can KFA do better to serve you?**

If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically, please contact
Shane Neel, Program Director with your email address at: shane@ksu.edu



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