2018 Forest Stewardship Tree Farmer and Kansas Agroforestry Award Winners

The Kansas Forestry Association is pleased to announce the winners of the 2018 landowners recognition program. This year the Forest Stewardship Tree Farmer of the year is Ted Cambern, and his River Farms. Our 2018 Kansas Agroforestry Award winner is Jim Reitz, and the Kickapoo Tribe of Kansas.

Cambern’s River Farms in Southeast Kansas near Erie, is over 200 acres of woodlands that have been certified by the American Tree Farm System for over 29 years. During the last three decades, nearly 300,000 board feet of timber have been sustainably harvested from the property, timber stand improvement has been performed on 114 acres, and 61 acres of trees have been planted, including an 11-acre pecan plantation. Jim Reitz has been working with the Kickpoo Tribe of Kansas for several years, and is accepting the 2018 Kansas Agroforestry Award on behalf of the Tribe. Reitz has helped the Tribe establish three streambank stabilization projects and riparian forest buffers on the Delaware River, along with cedar tree revetments, alternative livestock watering, terraces, water sediment control basins, grass filter strips, and windbreaks, all contributing to the excellent stewardship and conservation of these woodlands.

Each award recipient will receive a $200 gift certificate, along with an award sign. Awards will be presented at the Fall Forestry Field Day, tentatively scheduled for October 16th at the Kickapoo Reservation near Horton, KS. Thanks to Andy Klein and Ashley Stiffarm, both of the Kansas Forest Service, for nominating the 2018 award winners!

Upcoming Events

- **June 16** – Walnut Council Field Day – K-State Pecan Experimental Field, Chetopa, KS
- **July 12, 9am** – KFA Board of Directors Meeting – KDWPT Office, 300 SW Wanamaker Rd, Topeka, KS
KFA Welcomes New President and Vice-President

January 2018 ushered in our new KFA Board President, Tom Hogard, and Vice-President, Floyd Schmidt. Tom and Floyd will hold these positions for the next three years. Exiting president, Carolyn Turney, had served as head of the KFA since the organization was incorporated by the state in 2012. Carolyn will remain very present in the KFA, continuing to serve as the Kansas Tree Farm Committee Chair, as well as on the KFA Board of Directors, and Executive Committee.

Please Welcome Our Newest KFA Board Members!

As the District 1 forester for seven counties in Northeast Kansas, Ryan Rastok works with rural landowners assisting with forest management, NRCS cost share programs, forest health, and outreach. Ryan graduated from the University of Kansas with a double major in Environmental Science and Geography, and holds an MS in entomology with a forestry emphasis from the University of Arkansas. Ryan has worked as a forest entomology researcher, invasive forest insect survey specialist, environmental consultant, a city forester, climbing arborist, and municipal arborist. Ryan is eager to work with Kansas landowners to promote the health and productivity of their forested areas.

Eric Sheets, of the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas, presently serves as the Environmental Director for his Tribe where he manages an array of programs designed to protect environmental health on the Kickapoo Reservation. Eric is a graduate of Lewis & Clark Law School in Portland, Oregon, the country’s top environmental law program, where he specialized in both environmental and federal Indian law. His present focus is aimed at assessing and improving water quality within the Kickapoo watershed through Clean Water Act-funded water quality monitoring and implementation of projects that address nonpoint source pollution.
Women Owning Woodlands Network for Kansas?

Are you a woman who owns and manages woodlands in Kansas? Sometimes stewarding your woods can be daunting. Where to start? What programs exist? Who do you contact? Many women have a woodland ownership context that differs from that of men. In the male-dominated field of forestry, women may lack experience, knowledge, and confidence with woodland ownership and management. Forestry outreach education has been a vehicle for aiding all landowners, regardless of gender. One of these tools is the Women Owning Woodlands (WOW) network. WOW is a joint venture with the National Woodland Owners Association (NWOA) and the USDA Forest Service Cooperative Forestry Office. On the local level, WOW partners with other organizations, such as land trusts, research centers, district foresters, and state-level woodland organizations (e.g., KFA). Also, a local network helps to build personal relationships between members. A local WOW would be developed into whatever the members want and need.

*Does a WOW Network for Kansas interest you? Be on the lookout for an email survey in the near future!* 

New KFA Members for 2018 - Thank you for your support!

Jim Crawford
Patrick Finney, Prairie Wood Ranch
Kris Kahler
Dennis Kaufman, Walnut Woods LLC
Tim Lyons
Ford Maurer
Richard Paz
Michael Pfanku

Drew & Jeanne Reese
Douglas Schulz
Cheri Schwinn
Marvin & Twylia SeKavec
Loren & Teresa Sprouse, Pleasant Hill Land LLC
Michael Uhl
David Wessler
Garret Wilson

Walnut Council Field Day Set for June 16th

This year’s Walnut Council Field Day will be held in conjunction with the Oklahoma Pecan Growers Annual Meeting at the K-State Pecan Experiment Field near near Chetopa, Kansas. The field day, scheduled for Saturday, June 16th, features pecan harvesting equipment demonstrations and instructions from experts on successful pecan orchard establishment and management. Lunch will be provided at no cost to participants. In addition to pecan management, the Walnut Council will also hold its annual business meeting to discuss hosting the 2019 National Walnut Council Meeting here in Kansas. The Walnut Council Field Day is our last opportunity to benefit from Dr. Bill Reid’s extensive knowledge of pecan growth and culture, as he is retiring from K-State in July. To register for this event, please call the Kansas Forest Service at 785-532-3300, or e-mail Bob Atchison at atchison@ksu.edu.
Special thanks to contributing authors:
Bob Atchison and Debra McDaniels

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 Julie Sharp with your email address at: jsharp.kfa@gmail.com