



# KANSAS FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

Kansans for healthy woodlands

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

Spring 2017 • Issue III

## American Tree Farm System 2017 National Leadership Conference

Beautiful Greenville, South Carolina was the setting for the 2017 ATFS National Leadership Conference at the end of February. Roy and I represented the Kansas Tree Farm Committee at the meeting, and KFA Board member Jeanna Leurck of the United States Forest Service also attended. This year's conference set a record, with over 225 individuals in attendance from 40 states, Washington D.C., and Canada.

The opening general session provided an overview of the progress of the State Voice/State Choice pathways. Concerns were heard from states using the certification pathway, which the ATFS national employees and board of trustees continue to address. Surveys from three of the four regions have been completed, the results of which will help develop

visions for the regions. Water is a primary concern in the western United States, while in the southeast and northeast regions protection of wildlife and habitat diversity emerged as top priorities. The north central region will be surveyed later this year.

The four concurrent break-out sessions centered on the themes of 1) tools to ensure credibility; 2) partnerships on the ground; 3) fundraising and capacity development; and 4) tools for reaching landowners.

A session garnering much interest dealt with a cross-generational volunteer force. Discussion centered around preferences toward work type, and the importance of purpose in driving meaningful volunteer engagement. For landowners, volunteers, and forestry related occupations, generational differences can impact how fundraising, mentoring, and communication methods are used for optimal results. The four groups

[Traditionalists (ages 72 and up), Baby Boomers (ages 53-71), Generation X (ages 37-52), and Millennials (ages 22- 36)] were broken into eight themes for discussion of the characteristics they share. The overriding theme was that all groups need to feel valued, which can be accomplished simply through recognition and thank yous.

*(continued on page 2)*



## Upcoming Events

- **June 1** – Oak Woodland Restoration Field Tour – Marais des Cygnes National Wildlife Refuge, Pleasanton, KS – Register at: [OakFireScience.com](http://OakFireScience.com)
- **June 2** – Walnut Council Field Day – Overland Park Arboretum, Overland, KS – Registration information available at: [KansasForests.org](http://KansasForests.org)
- **June 8** – Agroforestry Field – Downard Farm, Washington County, KS – Registration information available at: [KansasForests.org](http://KansasForests.org)
- **August 3, 9:00am** – KFA Board Meeting – KDWP Office, 300 SW Wanamaker Road, Topeka, KS

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

## American Tree Farm System – 2017 National Leadership Conference

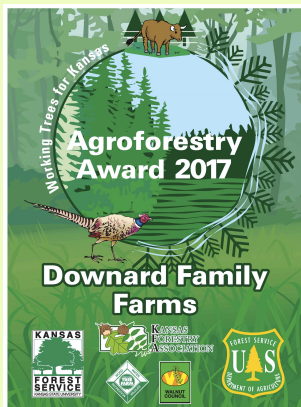
*(continued from page 1)*

Another session of interest involved engaging minority landowners, and expanding their voices. Much of the discussion was relevant and applicable to our development of peer-to-peer mentoring in Kansas. Gaining landowners' trust, helping them achieve their goals, and walking them through the concerns for their land, will help them to become more engaged in actively managing their woodlands.

The north central regional break-out session consisted of a panel of representatives from each state in the region. The states of IL, IN, IA, KS, MN, and NE participate in the recognition pathway under the State Voice/State Choice option, while KY, MI, MO, OH, and WI chose the certification pathway. It became clear from the discussions that most states in the region see few reasons to use the certification pathway. States that have chosen this path are now concentrating a good deal of their time on how to raise funds to pay for the third-party inspections. Another common theme was that many of the states are not pushing as hard for new tree farms, but rather focusing more on landowners to manage their woodlands with stewardship plans.

The National Leadership Conference allows program administrators, chairs, inspectors, first-timers, foresters, and tree farmers an opportunity to come together to share experiences, concerns, and successes from their states to strengthen the American Tree Farm System. The conference is an informative and valuable learning experience for its participants. The 2018 ATFS National Leadership Conference will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, at the end of January.

– Carolyn Turney, KFA President



### Agroforestry Field Day

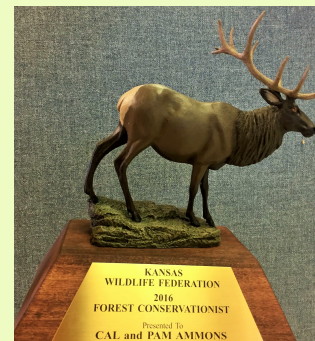
Join us at the Downard Family Farm in southeast Washington County for the 2017 Spring Agroforestry Field Day!

The purpose of the Agroforestry Field Day is to provide landowners, farmers, ranchers, and natural resource professionals the opportunity to learn science-based information regarding design, function, management, and benefits of trees and shrubs within contemporary agricultural systems for a variety of purposes.

This year features the Downard Family Farms, 2017 Kansas Agroforestry Award winners for their streambank stabilization and riparian forest buffer plantings on the Little Blue River.

For brochure and registration, please visit:

[www.kansasforests.org/events](http://www.kansasforests.org/events)



### Kansas Wildlife Federation 2016 Forest Conservationist Award

Congratulations to KFA members Cal and Pam Ammons, winners of the 2016 Kansas Wildlife Federation Forest Conservationist Award! For 25 years Cal and Pam have been invested in improving the productivity, wildlife habitat, and ecology of the woodlands and grasslands on their 155-acre Butler County Tree Farm. In 2007 they developed a comprehensive long-term Forest Stewardship Management plan to improve the quality of their woodlands and related natural resources. The implementation of this plan resulted in their recognition as a certified Tree Farm in 2011, which required them to meet the American Tree Farm's Standards of Sustainability for forest certification. You may recognize the Ammons' name as being the winners of the 2015 Kansas Forest Stewardship Tree Farmers of the Year. The 2016 Fall Forestry Field Day was also held at the Ammons' property in Towanda this past October.

## Kansans for Healthy Woodlands

The Kansas Forestry Association has a new slogan! A slogan is meant to sum up what an organization does in just a few words. So how do you do that with an association whose members' interests are nuts, fruits, timber, milling and sawing, furniture building, Christmas trees, bio-mass fuel, wood products, clean water, healthy soils...and on and on...?

While debate was friendly, it was definitely spirited. All agree that no matter what our individual preferences, be they esthetic, economic, or environmental, none of our goals can be achieved if Kansas woodlands are not healthy. This health includes managing Kansas woodlands to produce the maximum benefit for their intended purpose. When woodlands do this, it benefits Kansans economically, as well as environmentally.

None of these natural resource conservation benefits of good forestry practices are possible unless Kansans have healthy woodlands.

*Kansas Forestry Association: Kansans for healthy woodlands*

Wayne Lukert

KFA Board of Directors member representing Kansas Conservation Districts



## Walnut Council Field Day – June 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Overland Park Arboretum



The Walnut Council is a non-profit, nation-wide and international organization that represents over 1,000 woodland owners, foresters, ecologists, scientists and wood-producing industries. The mission focuses on transferring the best science and research available in the growth and care of black walnut, other fine quality trees, and related natural resources that provide wildlife habitat, recreation, water quality and forest products. This year's location, the Overland Park Arboretum ([artsandrec-op.org/arboretum](http://artsandrec-op.org/arboretum)), offers an excellent variety of opportunities to connect with nature.

The 300-acre arboretum and botanical garden offers 13 gardens with more than 1,700 species of plants. There are miles of hiking trails that traverse rocky bluffs and bottomland paths along Wolf Creek. The native woodlands and prairie provide a variety of wildlife viewing opportunities.

This event will feature woodland wildflower and tree identification hikes by experts from the Kansas Native Plant Society, sawmill demonstrations from Kansas Forest Service and private mill operators, wildlife management and deer damage control from K-State Research and Extension, sessions on improving woodland health and productivity, diagnosing and controlling tree health issues and streambank and water quality management.

Participants will be divided into groups of 15 to 20 people. Each group will have a designated leader who will guide participants to session locations. Everyone will have the opportunity to participate in all educational sessions offered at the field day. This all day-long event will offer morning refreshments and a lunch as part of the registration fee.

A \$15 registration covers the cost of lunch and other field day expenses. A registration brochure is available on the web at [www.kansasforests.org](http://www.kansasforests.org) by clicking on News & Events. Information may also be obtained by contacting the Kansas Forest Service at 785-532-3310 or by e-mail at [atchison@ksu.edu](mailto:atchison@ksu.edu).

### **Member Benefits Reminder!**

As a member of KFA, you are eligible for a 7% discount from Forestry Suppliers, Inc. Use code KKS when placing an order online or over the phone – [www.forestry-suppliers.com](http://www.forestry-suppliers.com) – 800.752.8461



2610 Claflin Road  
Manhattan, KS. 66503

***Save the date! 2017 Fall Forestry Field Day is scheduled for October 4<sup>th</sup>***

**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](mailto:jsharp.kfa@gmail.com)

Visit us online! [www.KSForestryAssociation.org](http://www.KSForestryAssociation.org)

 @KSForestryAssociation

 @KSForestry

 @ksforestry