



KANSAS FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

Kansans for healthy woodlands.

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KFA Returns to in Person Events with the 2021 Fall Forestry Field Day near Erie



Ted Cambern & family and Ashley Belt, Kansas Forest Service, district forester are hosting the field day.

This year's Fall Forestry Field Day will be held October 13th at River Farms, Inc. Ted Cambern and family are recipients of the 2018 Forest Stewardship Tree Farmer of the Year award. The award recognizes over 32 years of certification in the American Tree Farm System for practicing sustainable forestry.

Since 1987 the Camberns have harvested over 319,421 board feet of timber, established an 11 acre pecan plantation and planted an additional 40 acres of mixed hardwoods. They have completed forest stand improvement practices on 114 acres of woodland. The Camberns also process their own pecans which can be seen at the field day. In 2018, they were awarded the Neosho County Conservation District Wildlife Award for native grass and forb establishment. These practices represent the legacy of the Cambern Family and a long-term commitment to conservation, stewardship, and forest management practices.

Highlights of the day include field presentations on Forest Stand Improvement, Tree Plantings & Shelters, Improving Wildlife Habitat, Emerald Ash Borer & Other Invasives, Managing Pecan Plantations, a Historic Barn Tour, a Hog Roast lunch with a Sawmill Demonstration, as well as celebrating the successes of River Farms, Inc. Ashley Belt summarized these successes by stating "the Cambern family have great pride in their tree farm and their work shows that they are great stewards of the land."

You can register for \$12, which includes lunch, by the deadline of October 6th at fallfieldday21.eventbrite.com. Additional information and updates can be found at the KFA website ksforestryassociation.org/ffd21. We look forward to seeing you all there! - Robert Atchison, KFS Rural Forestry Coordinator



Dr. Bill Reid will provide a session on pecan plantation management and care at the 2021 Fall Forestry Field Day.

Upcoming Events

- *September 7-October 15* – Fall Conservation Trees & Shrubs: Online at kansasforests.org or call 888.740.8733
- *October 13, 2021* – Fall Forestry Field Day at River Farms, Inc. near Erie, Kansas – See the article for more details
- *November 16, 2021* – Kansas Forestry Association Board Meeting – Kansas Department of Wildlife, and Parks Region 2 Office, Topeka or online via Zoom
- *Spring 2022* - Agroforestry Field Day at the Roger Wells' Family Farm near Americus, KS – Spring 2022
- *Summer 2022* - Managing Carbon with Healthy Forests and Forest Products in the Southern Great Plains Workshop in Wichita, Kansas

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Prescribed Fire and Oak Regeneration

A great example of cooperation between the research and Extension function of K-State and the technical assistance mission of the Kansas Forest Service can be seen at the Howe Natural Resources Education tract, located a few miles north of Manhattan. The 145 acre tract was donated in 1994 to the department of Horticulture and Natural Resources by George and Jo Howe. Skip ahead to 2012, and District Forester Thad Rhodes had several landowner clients with upland oak stands of high wildlife value but lower timber value which were declining and failing to regenerate. Thad was looking for a location to develop some prescribed burning demonstration plots, that could be used to show people the positive effect fire could have on oak regeneration. Dr. Charles Barden, K-State Research and Extension Forestry professor offered to put in replicated research plots across the 90 acres of oak woodland. With some seed funding from the Kansas Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, treatments were installed beginning in 2015, with a series of permanent plots to collect data.



The prescribed burning was done under the direction of Jason Hartman, then the Fire Protection Specialist with the KFS, in 2015 and 2018. Overall 3 replications of 4 treatments were installed, including thinned plots, burned plots, thin and burned plots and an untreated control.

Positive results included that any burning resulted in the initial elimination of Eastern redcedar seedlings across the stands. However, after a couple of years without fire, the ERC seedlings showed back up again! The best treatment to encourage oaks was the combination thin and burn treatment. The thinning prescription was to reduce basal area to B-level stocking (by girdling about 25% of the trees and cut 50 saplings of low value species like redbud, hackberry, and elm. While burning controlled the redcedar seedlings, other competitive hardwood species also sprouted back, and the thinning treatment, along with fire, was necessary to reduce their numbers. While the number of oaks



Burn boss Jason Hartman instructing the crew with the plan for the day.

saplings per acre was approximately equal to the main competitors in thinned plots, the competitors outnumbered oak saplings in no-thin plots. Of particular concern is the density of redbud saplings on some plots, which seems to be a unique problem in this region. Also of note was the second burning in 2018 also significantly reduced the total number of seedlings per acre, oaks included. Further data needs to be collected to determine which species re-established themselves after the fire.

If you are interested in the full journal article, I would be glad to email it to you, or find it on the web at

Galgamuwa, G.A.P., C.J. Barden, J. Hartman, T. Rhodes, N. Bloedow, R.J. Osorio. 2019. Ecological Restoration of an Oak Woodland within the Forest-Prairie Ecotone of Kansas.

<https://doi.org/10.1093/forsci/fxy034>. For. Sci. 65(1): 48-58.

- Dr. Charles Barden, Kansas State Extension Forester



Laura Simoes, grad student collecting data at the same location, before and after the second burn.

Burn treatment – April 2015



- Mild in most places with 6-12 in. flame length and 5-10 ft./min. spread rate
- Pockets of cut ERC: 5-20 ft. flame height

Photo from the first burn, note previously felled cedar added volatile fuel.

American Forest Foundation National Leadership Conference held virtually in February 2021

Excellent, informative, and educational would describe this National meeting. The AFF staff have been working over the last year to help all landowners have access to the knowledge and experience of their staff. And the ability to have a three day virtual meeting also speaks highly of the ability of AFF. They have an amazing group of people that care for the land and trees as much as all of us, as landowners.



Welcome & Fireside Chat with Tom Martin, AFF President & CEO, and Katie Fernholz, Chair of AFF Board of Trustees

It was interesting to find some statistical information. There are over 18 million acres in the ATFS (American Tree Farm System). Since 1940 there has been over 90,000 tree farms, of which the majority are privately owned. During this period there have been 232 Certified tree farms.

AFF employees are concerned about the sustainability of the forests. The fact that privately owned forests are most likely to be a family operation and looking at trees for future generation for either harvesting or habitat for wildlife. Much of the discussion related to biodiversity and the planting of trees in the forest to create help with habitat to support wildlife.

When it comes to the love and concern for our trees, the presentation by Dr. J. Drew Lanham was a presentation I will never forget. Dr. Lanham is a Distinguished Alumni Professor of Wildlife Ecology at Clemson University. He read from the book he had written entitled: "The Home Place: Memories of a Colored Man's Love Affair with Nature". As a man and his 30 year old son, return to look at his property that he hadn't seen in 10 years. The father was tracing the legacy of this land. As they spent the afternoon looking at this property and looking at the presence of nature in this land, the son began to realize the beauty of this land and the future it holds. By the end of this very "powerful" presentation, there were tears in the eyes and many of us who have that amazing love of our trees and our land.

The AFF is committed to helping to create sustainable forests in a world that seems to not see the forest for the trees or lack of them. – *Floyd Schmidt, KFA Vice President and Kansas Tree Farmer*

Leadership Changes at the Kansas Forestry Association

Shane Neel, Program Director of the Kansas Forestry Association has informed the board of his intention to resign from his role as Program Director. Shane joined us in July of 2018. His position was a cooperative role with his duties as Outreach Coordinator at the Kansas Forest Service, along with other duties. Shane has resigned from the Forest Service to return to his love of public education and teaching.

In his role as Program Director, Shane was extremely efficient and the board will certainly miss all of the duties he performed on behalf of KFA. We wish him well in his new endeavors, it will be a challenge to replace him.

The Water Quality Advocate Network will continue to function within the structure of volunteers for KFA. Advocates who continue to have interest in promoting best practices in woodland management should reach out to KFA for additional information in how to be involved. - *Tom Hogard, KFA President*

Kansas is Featured in the Woodland Magazine

In the Spring 2021 American Forest Foundation Woodland Magazine, there is a featured article titled *Kansas: A focus on Riparian Zones*. The article highlights the stewardship and woodland management work here in Kansas between the Kansas Forestry Association and its' partners. It goes onto compare and contrast these efforts with initiatives in other states. A focus is on the unique work we do in promoting best practices with the diversity in landscapes across the state and working with mostly private landowners.

We are grateful to our ATFS Western Regional Manager, Parks Brigman for the recommendation to include Kansas in the Woodland magazine article. KFA is proud of our stewardship work, collaborative partnerships, and strong efforts in association with our missions of promoting healthy woodlands for Kansas. If you have not read the article, you can read it at the American Forest Foundation website at www.forestfoundation.org/atfs-in-Kansas.



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**Special thanks to contributing authors: Robert Atchison, Charlie Barden, and
Floyd Schmidt**

**Pictures by: Ashley Belt, Charlie Barden, American Forest Foundation, and
Cassie Wandersee**

**Nominate a deserving landowner or property for one of our
annual awards that has been innovative in their stewardship
practices and active in their woodland management.**

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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