

NEWSLETTER

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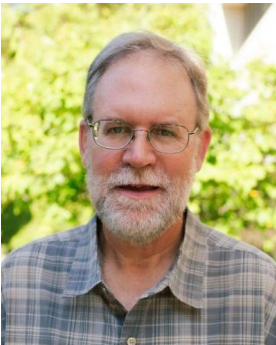
The Dumping Problem in Rural Kansas

If you have ever been working on your land and discover that someone has dumped a load of garbage, junk, or even appliances on your property, you know how frustrating it is. The following is an outline of the history, frequency, process and prevention of illegal dumping in rural Kansas. History: Reading from Raymond Schott's fine book, "This Was the Eight Mile Creek" about his growing up in the forests of Douglas County in the 1920's-30's, he talks a lot about "junk piles". Rural trash hauling didn't exist or become even common until the 60's and 70's.

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Retirement Announcement

Dr. Charles Barden, Professor of Forestry and Director of the Geyer Forestry Center at K-State has announced his retirement, effective at the end of May. Dr. Barden has also worked with and served on the board for KFA for many years. His list of accolades and accomplishments is long and he has had a big impact in his career on advancing the science of forestry. His research includes topics such as the expansion of eastern red cedar into deciduous forests, the effects of windbreaks on crop yields, oak woodland restoration in our Kansas ecotone, and more. We would like to thank Dr. Barden for his dedication to forestry and forest ecology and wish him the best of luck in retirement.



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- The Dumping Problem from "artefacts" to old tires, there is a lot of dumped material in our Kansas woodlands
- Retirement Announcement- Dr. Charles Barden has announced his well-earned retirement from K-State
- "Want"- A poem to tug at the sentimentality of our connection to the land
- Woodchuckles- a cartoon by Tim Lyons
- Shout Outs - Photo Contest and Sponsorships
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Dumping in Kansas (Continued)

By Tim Lyons

These early rural families used everything out of necessity and didn't have a lot of organic trash, paper or packaging. They did however accumulate, lots of used or broken farm implements, tractors and old cars that went into Raymond's "junk piles". These piles were full of parts that were used and reused and an actual source of material for the inventive farmer. I refer to these as "legacy dumps". I have several of these on my land which I purchased in 1993. Attitudes about dumping have changed greatly over the years. Rural dumping was common in my youth in the 1960's and 70's. Landowners would often dump on their own land. The dumping in this era contained far more organic material, packaging, bottles and cans. I have several of these latter dumps on my land as well. This period was the cradle of modern environmentalism, marked by President Nixon's approval of the Environmental Protection Agency in 1970.

Dumping is much less common today and it is illegal! The Kansas State Laws and Statutes chapter 21/article 58/15 state that littering on public or private land is a misdemeanor and punishable with fines of \$250-\$1000 for the first offense. Offenders also will serve public time in cleaning up litter and trash. Repeat offenders will see increasing penalties.



According to the Douglas County Sheriff's Department, they average about 15 complaints a year, but state that most landowners do not report smaller scale dumping and handle it themselves. It is more common as you increase distance from towns and cities into deeply rural areas. The most common things contained in these sites today are heavy junk like appliances, tires, auto parts and garbage. Interestingly, stolen mail is also found often.

Arrests are frequent from the clues left behind in the litter: addresses, deposit slips, receipts, etc.

Process: If you find a dumpsite on your property, report it to your Sheriff's Department. Depending on workload and staffing, response is variable depending on your county.

They will examine the materials and look for clues. If the site is on public land like the road right of way or ditch adjacent to your land the county or township will generally clean it up. If it is directly on your land, in some counties you might have to clean it up unless the offenders are apprehended, in which case, they will be subject to removing it. Your local conservation district might be able to help depending on current budget availability through cost share programs to remove trash and restore your land.

Prevention: The Douglas County Sheriff's Department suggests placing game or security cameras in areas that would be prime for dumping like unfenced, ungated and easy to access areas. Doing this would have other security benefits for poaching, vandalism, timber theft and other crimes to your property. Posting "No Trespassing" signage and improving fences in sensitive areas are recommended. They also recommend frequent conversations with your neighbors to let people know and be watchful for these and all suspicious or illegal activities. If you find persons in the act of dumping on your property, you should not directly intervene. For your own safety, call the sheriff.

Dump or archaeological site? One person's junk is another person's treasure! I have two eras of dump sites on my land in the Eight Mile Creek Valley of Douglas County. Old legacy sites from as far back as 1920's to mid legacy sites dating from the 50's to the early 70's.

These dumps are a historic window to the past of everyday life. Falstaff must have been a popular beer in the 50's. I found a wrinkled but otherwise well preserved can in one pile. Horlick's Malted Milk, Nujol Mineral oil, Yacht Club Salad Dressing, Castoria and so many other long forgotten products and brands. Many of these discoveries can be valuable if you are interested in researching them. Most of the ones mentioned above in good shape are bringing anywhere from \$5.00 to \$80.00 (the beer can is worth about \$8 bucks and I would gladly sell it as Falstaff was a horrible beer!).

If you find items that you believe might be of archaeological or historical significance, you can contact the Kansas Historical Society or the KU Department of Archeology/Anthropology. Some of our KFA members have archaeological sites on their land which have been studied.

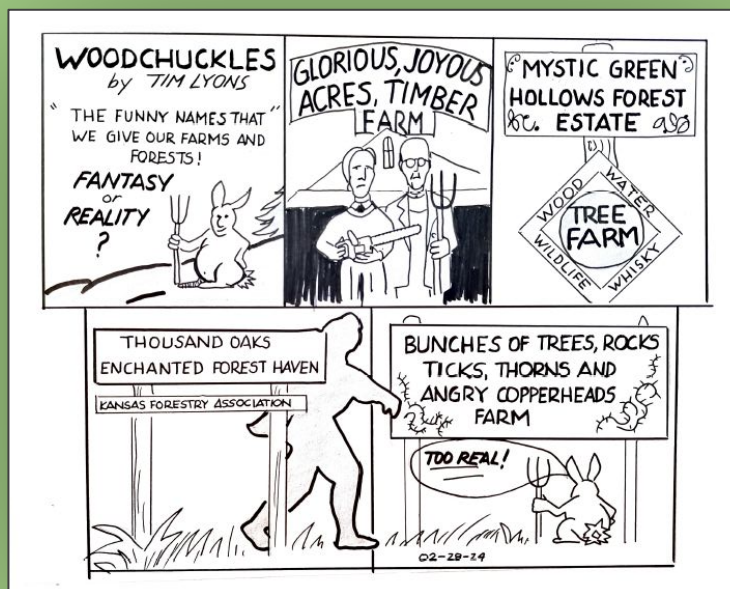
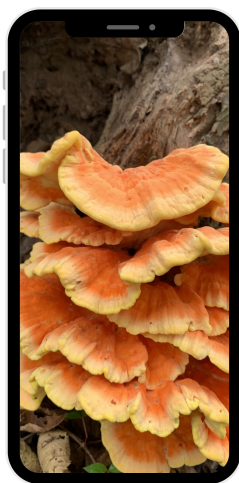


Photo Contest

Share the beauty and uniqueness of your forests and farms! We all love our woodlands and have seen some amazing things...Share them with your KFA friends! That amazing tree, mushroom, flowers, wildlife, hunting trophy, waterfall, you name it.

Send your favorite pictures to me, we will post some in the newsletter and share them all at the next KFA/KFS Field Day. We will let you judge them and choose your favorite for a nice prize. This will be fun!

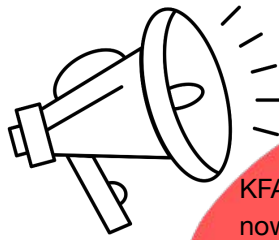
As always, we thank you for your contributions! See some examples from my farm and others....



Want

A poem by: Emily Tuszynska

The owl came because he wants
this scrap of woodland, wants
the beeches and their hollow hearts,
their cavities. He came because
so long ago the farmer left his fields
alone to grow their latent crop
of trees that no one came to cut.
The owl wants this wooded hilltop,
its ancient oaks that stand among
heaped quartz the farmer or his father
or his father's father cleared.
The owl wants the hilltop's crown of hollies,
wants the deep-shade roost
they've made; he wants this open branch
that ends a wing-wide tunnel
through the hollies' shelter,
wants this place to watch, to rest
and cast his pelets, wadded clumps
of fur and bone the rain dissolves
to show he wanted squirrels,
and voles, and frogs, and once
a huge black beetle. If you knew
a wood would call an owl back,
if you knew the owl's calls
would fill the winter wood
until another owl answered,
wouldn't you want
to leave the land alone
to grow its woodland, wouldn't you want
to grant the owls what they wanted?



Shout Outs

Sponsorships

KFA has some exciting news, we are now accepting sponsorships and advertisements! Be a sponsor and have your name in the newsletter and at our field days and events. Contact Tim Lyons at lyonstygers@yahoo.com

T-Shirts

We had some good interest in our first T-shirt order and want to know if our members would like another chance to place an order.

Let us know if you missed the first chance but would like another ordering opportunity.

Contact Tim Lyons at lyonstygers@yahoo.com

Upcoming Events

March 24 - Science Sundays at the KU Field Station: Bats

2pm at the Armitage Education Center

March 21 - Miami County Conservation District Non Trad AG Coffee Talk

Managing Farm Labor Needs. 8:30-10am at Casa Somerset in Miami County

April 27 - Beginning Birding | Burroughs Audubon Society

A 30 minute presentation at the Louisburg library followed by a walk led by JC Cowden, a Johnson County Master Naturalist. 10-11:30am



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**Newsletter is a partnership between Kansas Forestry Association
and Kansas Forest Service**

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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!

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