

# NEWSLETTER

www.KSForestryAssociation.org

Fall 2023 • Issue 3

## Traditional Logging in Eastern Kansas

By: Tim Lyons

On a recent beautiful, crisp morning in October, I traveled to Osage County, to the growing Amish community. I was welcomed into the home of Paul Yoder and his family. Warmed by the heat of their wood burning kitchen stove, he shared his thoughts on traditional logging methods that his community has been doing for generations.

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### [!KFA T-Shirts!](#)

NEW KFA T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE NOW!! Show your love for forestry and the woods by sporting the KFA Logo on your shirt front. Order by December 23rd at <https://riverratsk.printavo.com/merch/kfa23>. Or call Mike at 785.371.1660. Available in long or short sleeve, \$20/\$25 in medium grey.

### [Educator Scholarships](#)

Don't forget, KFA is offering a limited number of member scholarships specifically for educators. If you know an educator who has a passion for teaching the next generation about care of our natural resources then they might benefit from KFA membership. Contact for the program is Tim Lyons at [Lyonstygers@yahoo.com](mailto:Lyonstygers@yahoo.com)

## KFS “Seed to Saw” Open House: A brief summary



The day started with a KFS open house at their headquarters in Manhattan. There were stations and demonstrations including the stream trailer, KFA, conservation seedlings, portable sawmill, forest health, state office tours, and fire program. It was a come and go affair but altogether a little over a hundred people were in attendance at one time or another. There were a lot of Manhattan residents, some university leaders, KS landowners, and others who came out. The afternoon sessions, while less than comfortable temperature-wise, were quite informative for attendees. A big yellow school bus took around 30 people out to three field sites. The first stop was Anneberg Park on the west side of Manhattan. Matt Norville, community forestry program coordinator for KFS led the group through some native woodlands along Wildcat Creek, pointed out the many different trees planted in the park, and discussed the parks bush honeysuckle management efforts. The next stop was the KS Veterans Cemetery where participants, led by Adam Hastert, learned about Fort Riley's use of prescribed fire. Their use of mulching equipment and cover cropping to maintain firebreaks was highlighted for the group. The last stop was the farm of Bob and Gloria Cox. The Cox's shared their experience with planting and growing trees, using prescribed fire for land management and fuel reduction, and working with youth in the community to give them hands-on experience in forestry and natural resources through mentorship. Overall, it was a hot but educational experience.

## Traditional Logging in Eastern Kansas

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Mechanized harvesting with heavy equipment like log skidders has the advantage in speed and efficiency. With that advantage though, there are some trade-offs. A certain amount of unavoidable effects are a natural part of mechanized harvesting. And while many landowners are unbothered by those effects, others may seek a different direction. The traditional harvesting method fills this gap.

Paul chooses only the more mature trees, leaving younger ones for the next harvest a few years away. He can fell, then move choice logs in very tight spots with his team. These horses are amazingly strong and yet nimble, working in very dense forest and on difficult terrain.



Horse-drawn log skidding in action. (Photo is not of Mr. Yoder or his team.)



Paul's family is from a heavily forested area of New York State. He has been in Kansas doing this for four years. Kansas is abundant in walnut which he likes working with and it is very profitable. Kansas also has more chiggers in the summer which he does not like! No chiggers in New York but less ticks here.

He markets the logs at the highest price. The landowner receives 60% of the profit for walnut, and generally around 50% for non-walnut. Paul can cut and haul up to 10 to 12 logs per day, and with help from his brother can do as many as 20. They prefer to take only trees at least 16-18 inches in diameter.

They do not use vehicles themselves, but have friends and coworkers who move the horses and equipment to the forest each day. They prefer to travel no more than two hours distance, and work primarily in the winter months. He can be booked out a year in advance. Several other members of his community do traditional logging, too. There are also sawmills, builders, equipment, and furniture makers in the Amish community. Paul works a lot in the Eight Mile Creek Valley in Douglas County because of the age, abundance, and quality of trees. This leads to the next part of the story...what are the results?



One of Paul's skidding carts

My neighbor, Lester Edgecomb, had Paul and his team complete a significant harvest about ten months ago. Les has 150 acres in the valley with about half in old growth timber. About 80 logs were harvested and he was very happy with the results.

I toured the site, and apart from the remaining crowns and mostly low-cut stumps, there was little evidence that there had been a harvest at all. I saw only two non-walnut trees that were cut out of the way. I could not see any trails left by the horse team. What I found most remarkable was that the team was able to easily cross the creek and move through the steep embankments and hills.

I observed that many good walnuts were left standing, as they were not of sufficient size but they stood near or next to, harvested trees. Only the most valuable ones were taken. Some of the remaining crowns and larger branches will be used for smaller stock and firewood.

I have not yet watched a traditional harvest but I am looking forward to seeing one this winter. This has special significance to me in that this is how my dad cut timber as a teenager with axe, bucksaw and heavy draft horses. I will let you know, when and where, if you want to watch too. Paul is fine with having company watch as they work but they prefer no pictures. Stay tuned to the KFA Newsletter!



The Amish do not use telephones but Paul can be reached by contacting his friend Russell Cowan at 785 221 7813, or by mail: Paul Yoder. Yoder Logging. 4739 W 165<sup>th</sup> St., Scranton, KS 66532.

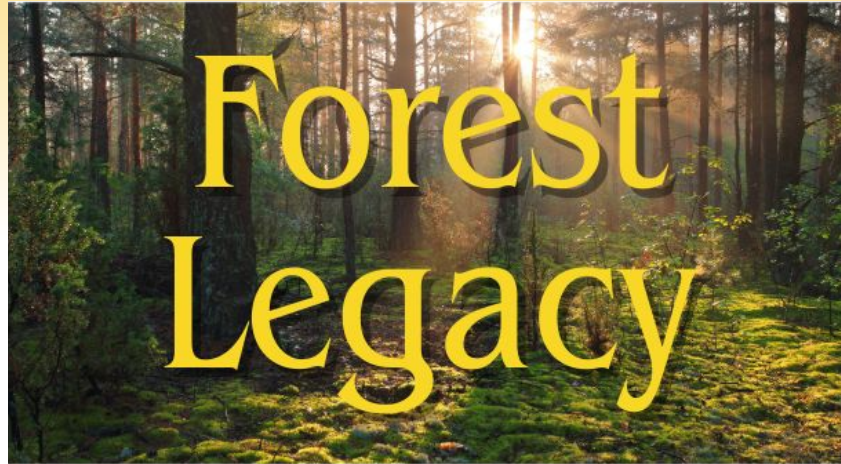
If you are looking for a low impact method for a timber harvest on your land, traditional horse teams can be a good option. There are a number of Amish communities in Kansas that do this work. We are just beginning to compile a list and will keep you informed.

See you in the woods!

*\*To see a list of KS timber buyers visit the KFS website at [www.kansasforests.org](http://www.kansasforests.org) and click on the forest products tab.*

## USFS Forest Legacy

By: Ryan Armbrust



Dating back to 1990, the Forest Legacy program is a conservation program administered by the US Forest Service

in partnership with state agencies specifically to “encourage the protection of privately owned forest lands through conservation easements or land purchases.” The focus is especially on important forest lands that may be at risk of conversion to non-forest use.

In short, this program has successfully conserved over 3 million acres, ensuring that the long-term stewardship of private landowners is sustained in perpetuity – hence the “forest legacy” in the name. While the conservation easements, or fee-simple land purchases, must be held by a state entity, the landowner’s objectives and wishes are taken into account throughout the process. It is not a “federal land transfer program” aimed at reducing private forestland ownership or implying that private landowners do anything other than an admirable job as land stewards.

Willing participation from all parties to achieve shared long-term conservation goals is at the heart of the Forest Legacy program.

While this tool is not right for every situation, and other strategies such as local conservation easements, land trusts, or simply having confidence that future generations of family ownership will maintain a healthy forest on the landscape, the Forest Legacy program does offer some unique benefits that could be the right fit for some.

As many landowners in Kansas are aware, there is sometimes a disconnect between the name of a public program and the actual work it’s focused on. These are most difficult to decipher when acronyms come into play – such as the mouthful “USDA NRCS EQIP CIG” program which provides competitive funding for on-farm innovations.

I won’t waste newsletter space here defining that acronym in full...

It is refreshing, therefore, to consider the Forest Legacy program from the US Forest Service, which helpfully has a non-acronym name that aligns perfectly with what the program actually does.

Kansans may have heard of this program due to its association with the famed “Baldwin Woods” located just north of Baldwin City, KS, cooperatively managed by the KU Biological Survey Field Station. Consisting of several tracts, this area began with a core woodland conserved in 1980 as a National Natural Landmark. Through many years of cooperation and hard work, a 202-acre tract was added in 2016 when local landowners transferred their forest land to the KU Field Station in return for funding from the Forest Legacy program.

## USFS Forest Legacy

Lands in the Forest Legacy program do not necessarily become off-limits “reserves” bereft of active management, nor do they become public lands susceptible to overuse, transfer, and development. Instead, the program takes context into account as it addresses the risk of forest loss, conserving “working forests that protect water quality and provide wildlife habitat, forest products, opportunities for recreation and other public benefits.”

Due to increased funding from the Inflation Reduction Act, there is significantly more funding available in the next few years for the Forest Legacy program, offering an opportunity for states like Kansas to more easily assist landowners in successfully participating in the program.

Beginning this year, there are three major focus areas; Large Landscape Projects, State-Tribal Partnership Projects, and Strategic Small-Tract Projects. Of these three, the small tracts are likely most applicable to the types of forested tracts that Kansas forest landowners may want to consider.

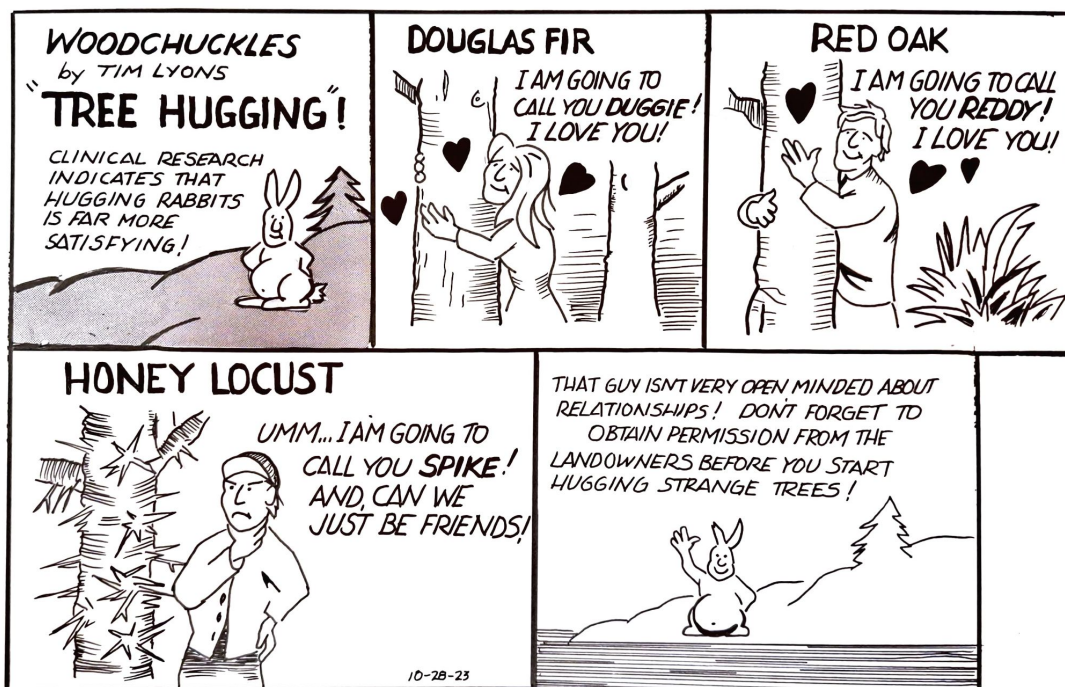
As we all know, Kansas is home to many thousands of acres of incredible and unique forest lands, which deserve conservation by various means to ensure future generations continue to benefit from it.

Participation in the program takes considerable time, and is a competitive process, but is well-supported by state and federal resources along the way. There are many more details available on the Forest Legacy website at [www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/private-land/forest-legacy](http://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/private-land/forest-legacy), and as the state partner, the Kansas Forest Service is ready to help any interested landowners learn more about the program and how it may be a good fit for the landowner’s long-term goals.

If you would like to know more, or have any questions, please get in touch with Ryan Armbrust, Rural Forestry Program Coordinator at the Kansas Forest Service, at [rambrust@ksu.edu](mailto:rambrust@ksu.edu) or 785-477-6413.



## Woodchuckles





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**This 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?**

**Do you have a story you would like to submit to be  
featured in a future newsletter?**

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