



KANSAS FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

Kansans for healthy woodlands.

www.KSForestryAssociation.org



Fall 2020 • Issue XV

KFA is Planning for 2021 with COVID

As KFA has been planning for the coming year and like all of us have experienced, COVID makes everything difficult for many reasons. We want our membership to know that we are doing our best to balance the tough circumstances of the pandemic, while still attempting to provide the best programming. Due to safety concerns there have already been discussions about modified field days and creative formats to limit exposure and crowd sizes. We will always try to keep you informed and are updating the website with virtual options as they become available.

One of the plans for 2021 is to have smaller groups for field events that are hosted regionally. This offers us the flexibility to develop regional programming as well as meet the need for social distancing. The small groups will consist of technical professionals, advocates from the Water Quality Advocate Network, and peer landowners. With the small groups, there will be a greater chance for more individualized training and networking with people and resources in the area. Contact Shane at 785-617-0717 if you have ideas or want to be involved with these small group field events.



KFA is Seeking New Board Members

KFA is looking for members to serve on the board of directors for a two year term commitment. The board of directors is a diverse group of elected and appointed landowners and natural resources technical service representatives who have a common interest in improving and maintaining healthy woodlands across the Kansas landscape. Meetings are three times a year in February, July, and November and have a virtual option, especially during the COVID pandemic.

This is a great opportunity to be involved in the decision making process in planning educational events, creating opportunities to improve Kansas woodlands, and connect with people who share interests in woodlands and woodland products. Please consider serving in this capacity to continue to improve our organization.

KFA would also like to express our gratitude to our current and former board members for your years of service. Thank you!

Upcoming Events

- *November-December 2020* – KFA Elections & Bylaws Voting – DUE December 1, 2020
- *December 2 - May 1* – Spring Conservation Seedlings Online at kansasforests.org or call 888.740.8733
- Subscribe to the Kansas Forest Service Podcast – Recordings found at kansasforests.service.libsyn.com – Questions can be directed to Cassie Wandersee at 785.532.3308 or wande@ksu.edu
- Virtual Events – Listed at www.kansasforestryassociation.org

www.KSForestryAssociation.org

Timber Cruising on Tree Farms

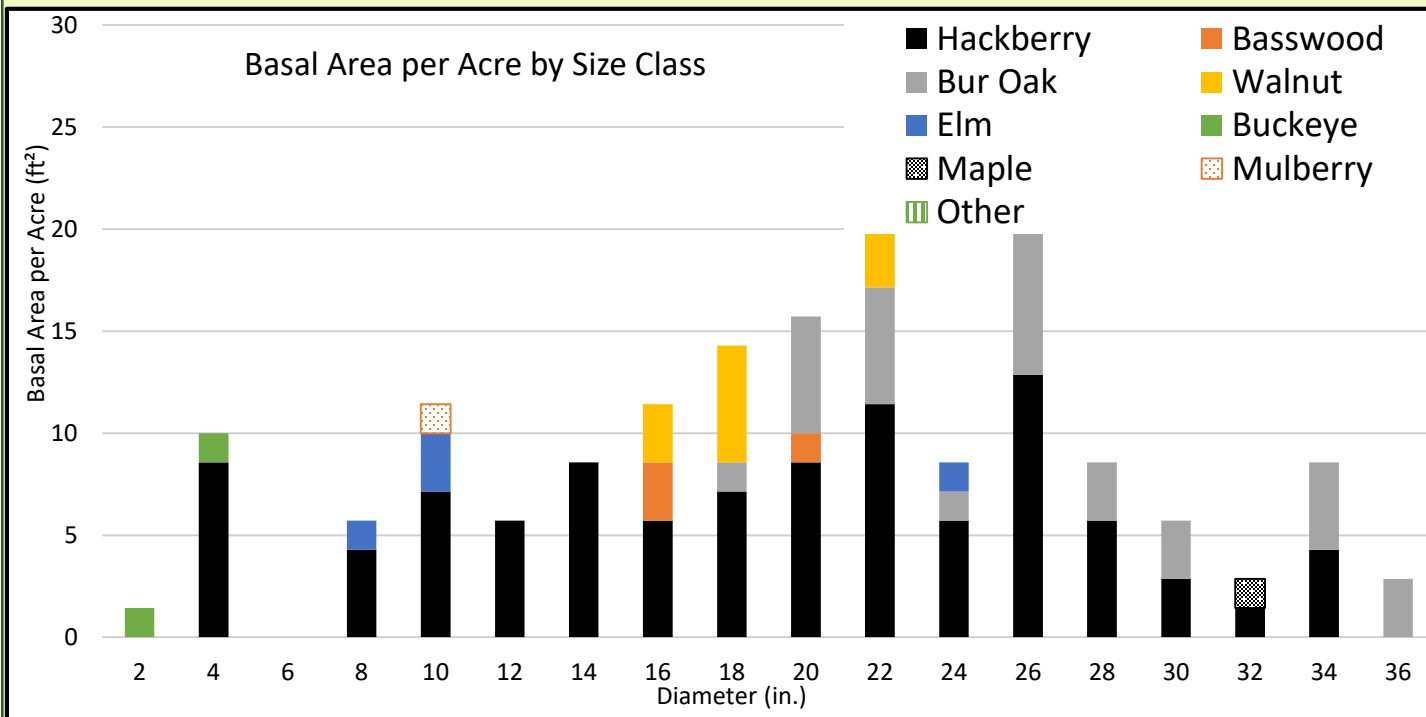
The Kansas Forest Service (KFS) is exploring ways to collect long-term data on projects to determine the effectiveness of the various treatments that are administered through programs for Timber Stand Improvement (TSI). Recommendations on TSI projects generally include active management of less desirable species to release best quality trees by opening the canopy and allowing sunlight to seedlings. Currently there are programs and monitoring immediately following the applications, but there has not been a system for monitoring progress for long-term success. Jarran



Tindle, KFS Water Quality Forester has developed a program to begin collecting this data on sites that we can access for a period of time. The best sites are on state Wildlife and Parks Areas and through the American Tree Farm System. A sample of the data from a timber cruise can be seen below in the graph to illustrate a comparison of basal area by species and size class.

There have also been discussion by the board of directors and with KFA members about the need for more regular support for tree farmers in completing work addressed in Forest Stewardship Plans. The combination of these two needs has prompted KFA to develop a grants committee in an effort to hopefully contract with a certified forester to complete this work and better serve our membership. With the required tree farm inspections, we can begin data collection needed to monitor long-term effects of management and provide the support to complete the work for sustainable woodland management. This is still in its early phases and there will be trainings provided in 2021 for timber cruising practices.

If you would like to serve on the grant committee or have interest in providing input into the process, please contact Shane at 785-617-0717 or shane@ksu.edu. We are continually looking for ways to better serve the membership of KFA and always welcome your active involvement.



Data collected on a "typical" Kansas woodland. At initial glance of the graph and when walking in the woods it seems healthy with large oaks, walnuts, and diversity. The regeneration is the concern with most of the understory comprised of hackberry and few desirable species in the smaller size class.

Bylaws and Board of Directors Elections

Kansas Forestry Association By-Laws Proposed Changes		
Current Bylaws	Proposed Bylaws	Explanation of Changes
ARTICLE II - OBJECTIVES:	No Proposed Changes	
ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP:	ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP:	
A. "Association" members must be:	A. "Association" members must be:	
1. A member/owner of a Kansas certified tree farm through the American Tree Farm System and/or	1. An Affiliate Member	
2. A member in good standing of the "Chapter", or	i. An owner of a Kansas certified tree farm through the American Tree Farm System or	
3. A member in good standing of the "Association"	ii. A member in good standing of the "Chapter"	
	iii. An appointed organizational representative	
	2. A Full Member	
	i. A member in good standing of the "Association"	
	ii. A member of the "Committee" and the "Chapter"	
	iii. An Affiliate member who has upgraded their membership	
	3. A Lifetime Member	
	i. "Association" members who have donated at least \$1000 for one year during their membership	

The Kansas Forestry Association is an umbrella organization for the Kansas Chapter of the Walnut Council and the Kansas Tree Farm System. With this membership can be confusing as members can belong to 1 organization or all 3 organizations together.

By now, you should have received a copy of the current bylaws, proposed changes, and an election of board members. This is an important process to update with needed changes as the direction of our organization changes. Most of the changes include improving some of the language to more accurately reflect current practices. The other important segment is with regards to better defining our membership. KFA and the board of directors want to best represent the membership and Kansas landowners by providing an organization that supports the efforts of effectively managing woodlands across the state. Please return the postcard by **December 1, 2020** to help us meet those goals and let your voice be heard.

November Board Meeting

KFA held a board meeting on November 18 via Zoom. Thirteen board members were in present at the meeting, where topics from traditional officers, committee, and agency reports to having a greater presence at the Kansas Department of Agriculture Ag Growth Summit in 2021 were discussed. These meetings serve many purposes and allow us to try to meet the needs of our members, partners, and the overall Kansas woodland community. If you ever have interest in the meetings and the discussions that are happening, feel free to attend either virtually or in person (post COVID) to express your ideas and become more involved. The agendas are shared with the board members and are posted at the website. Reach out to a board member to attend the next meeting that will be on February 17, 2021 and join in the discussions.

Membership Renewals and Donations

The timeline of the Fall and Winter Newsletter has caused your membership reminder to be included in this edition. Each year dues are to be paid to remain in good standing with the organization. These membership dues and donations are an important aspect of the work we do here in Kansas. They can be renewed online at www.ksforestryassociation.org or look for the mailing that will come early next year to return them by mail. Thank you for all your contributions in 2020 and we hope to do even more in 2021, even with the restrictions in place.



The KFA website, where dues, donations, and updates can be found.

AFF and ATFS 2021 National Leadership Conference

The American Forest Foundation and American Tree Farm System team will hold the 2021 National Leadership Conference on **February 23rd through the 25th**. Due to current and evolving social distancing guidelines the conference will be moved to a virtual format. This decision was not made lightly, as we feel that there is no replacement for the in-person, face-to-face interactions between leaders in our network, partners, and AFF staff that this event has historically provided. However, with this new conference format comes many new opportunities. Only a few Kansas delegates normally attend and this offers the chance for more participation. An update will be provided on the website and through email to attend this event and learn more about the ATFS and AFF.



2021 National
Leadership Conference

Feb. 23-25, 2021





2610 Claflin Road
Manhattan, KS. 66503

Special thanks to contributing authors: Jarran Tindle, Carolyn Turney, and Tom Hogard

Pictures by: Cassie Wandersee, Jarran Tindle, and the American Forest Foundation

Let us know how you want to be involved in 2021 for field days and whether you will consider becoming a board member.

If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically, please contact Shane Neel, Program Director with your email address at: shane@ksu.edu



Visit us online! www.KSForestryAssociation.org



@KSForestryAssociation



@KSForestry



@ksforestry

