The Department of Forestry is "making a difference". Every day, our faculty dedicate themselves to helping students improve their understanding of forestry, wildlife, and natural resource management; these students go on to make a difference in their profession and their communities (p. 5). Many of our students don’t wait until graduation to start giving back; in the following pages you will see numerous examples of our students getting involved and already making a difference.

On any given day, you will also find Forestry Extension faculty and staff spread across the Commonwealth assisting landowners, professionals, wood industry facilities, and the general public to become more educated, productive, profitable, and/or sustainable in their variety of pursuits (p. 10-11). With nearly one-half of the state covered in trees, almost every county in Kentucky is supporting some form of forest industry, and with thousands of contacts annually, Forestry Extension undoubtedly makes a difference.

Consider also the many different types of research that our faculty, staff, and graduate students conduct (p. 12-13); these projects advance our understanding of responsible forest management, wildlife species and habitat relationships, and frequently provide context for natural resource policy and management decisions throughout the region. None of this would be possible without the commitment and hard work of faculty, staff, students, alumni, and many partners who dedicate themselves to making a difference everyday – this is what it means to be a part of a Land Grant University.

Terrell T. “Red” Baker
Chair and Professor

Welcome New Forestry Faculty: Cox and Yang

We would like to welcome two outstanding individuals to our forestry faculty – Dr. John Cox, Assistant Professor of Wildlife and Conservation Biology, and Dr. Jian Yang, Assistant Professor of Forest Landscape Ecology.

Dr. Cox joined us in a regular faculty position in July 2013. Dr. Cox earned his Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in Biology from Morehead State University and his Ph.D. from University of Kentucky in Animal Sciences. His research primarily focuses on the ecology, conservation, and management of terrestrial vertebrates. Dr. Cox’s immediate research goals include (1) completing major long-term projects on elk and black bear ecology in Kentucky that will foster science-based management of these species, (2) characterizing population level impacts of forest fragmentation on pit vipers, and (3) quantifying the impacts of herbivory on native Bluegrass hardwoods.

Dr. Yang joined us in October 2014 from the Chinese Academy of Sciences. He has a Ph.D. in Forestry from University of Missouri and a Master of Science degree in Ecology from Chinese Academy of Sciences. Dr. Yang’s research mainly involves broad-scale environmental and ecological questions that are closely related with forest landscape ecology, ecosystem modeling, wildland fire science, and climate change. He is particularly interested in understanding the role of disturbance and spatial structure on the flow of nutrients and energy and the movement of species within and among diverse ecosystems on a landscape. Ultimately, his research focus is to seek the fundamental relationships among forest, climate, and disturbance across different scales. He hopes his research can provide new insights to complex issues in environmental management under the context of global change.
Spring Field Semester 2014 and 2015

Spring of 2014 and 2015 marked the third and fourth times our junior class experienced the field semester. Although we have been making annual evaluations and adjustments to this relatively new component of our curriculum, some traditions are already emerging. The juniors begin the semester by experiencing the Asbury University Challenge Course in Wilmore, Kentucky. This day-long event puts the students in situations where they have to rely on each other and work as a team to overcome physical challenges and obstacles. The day ends with students negotiating a series of challenges situated 30 feet in the air. Other emerging traditions are attendance at the Kentucky-Tennessee Society of American Foresters winter meeting to foster professional development. In addition to fieldwork in the Lexington area, Robinson Forest, and western Kentucky, the field semester class spends a week visiting the Nantahala and Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests and the Coweeta Hydrologic Lab. Special thanks to alumni Dick Rightmyer, Sally Browning, and Ron Stephens for helping make this possible.

Unique challenges always arise. Alumni may remember being flooded in or out of Robinson Forest during the old summer camp. The 2014 field semester got snowed in (a first!) and the 2015 field semester was flooded out. One thing has not changed. The field experience (be it the old summer camp or the new field semester) continues to be a bonding mechanism for our students and helps foster the sense of a class within a big university. These field semester students will not just be 2015 and 2016 UK graduates – they are the UK Forestry Class of 2015 and 2016. - Jim Ringe, Professor
The UK Department of Forestry, in cooperation with the Kentucky Division of Forestry (KDF) and the U.S. Forest Service, recently started a new program known as the UK Fire Cats. This program allows students in the Forestry and Natural Resources and Environmental Science (NRES) curriculums to receive training as wildland firefighters. Through this cooperation, the U.S. Forest Service provides the training while KDF provides the employment opportunity.

Over the last year, KDF employed and equipped 16 students as emergency firefighters. The student crews reported for duty on weekends during the 2014 fire season to help fight the wildland fires in eastern Kentucky. Unfortunately, due to a very wet 2015 spring fire season, students saw no action – though we are happy the woods were spared. The response from the students was incredibly positive.

Students were provided an employment opportunity while simultaneously gaining knowledge of wildland fires and suppression tactics. - Chris Osborne, Management Forester
Undergraduate Student News

Forestry seniors receive replica wood diplomas at the Department of Forestry’s annual Spring Recognition Dinner held after presenting their management plans for the FOR 480 capstone course.

Doug McLaren, Extension Specialist, presents the Kentucky Woodland Owners Foundation Scholarship award to the 2013-2014 recipient, Kristian Elswick (left), and the 2014-2015 recipient, Rachel Landham (right).

Rachel Landham, Sam Cox, Olivia Saylor and MacKenzie Schaeffer received Department of Forestry Travel Awards to attend the 2014 Society of American Foresters National Convention in Salt Lake City. Students attended career fairs, met professional experts and participated in field tours.

Forestry students participated in the 2014 Southern Forestry Conclave. UK placed first in Photogrammetry, Axe Throw, and Knife Throw; second in Pole Climb and Wood Identification; 7th in overall Technical Events and 9th in overall Physical Events.

left: Bob Bauer, Executive Director of the Kentucky Forest Industries Association (KFIA), congratulates Dennis Keown on receiving the 2013-2014 KFIA William H. Steele Memorial Forestry Scholarship. right: Bob Bauer and Rick Goodin present the 2014-2015 KFIA William H. Steele Memorial Forestry Scholarship to Dennis Keown, Rachel Landham, and Kristian Elswick.
The University of Kentucky Bachelors of Science in Forestry program has provided me with expertise that has taken me to southeast Alaska to work on a timber sale preparation crew on the Tongass National Forest, our nation’s largest National Forest. This experience, along with my education from the University of Kentucky, has provided me with a unique experience and irreplaceable knowledge that I know will carry throughout my career.

- Rachel Landham, Class of 2015

I worked as a Wildland Firefighter on a Type 2 crew in the Idaho Panhandle National Forest for the U.S. Forest Service. This picture was taken during the Carlton Complex fire. It was exciting to work on the largest wildland fire in Washington State history.

- Kristian Elswick, Class of 2015

I chose to pursue a degree in forestry because of my love of being outdoors. Forestry isn’t just about cutting down trees for wood products, but what I have learned is how to utilize our resources responsibly today, so that the generations of tomorrow may also enjoy those same resources. The curriculum in the Department of Forestry has provided me with a foundation to build a career in production forestry. The smaller classes in the Department of Forestry create a more welcoming learning atmosphere. I have utilized the skills which I learned during my first year in the program at my internship with Weyerhaeuser Company in Bellefontaine, Mississippi. I have gained a vast amount of field experience in road engineering, early-rotation silviculture, mid-rotation silviculture, harvest management, and ArcMap systems. I look forward to taking back what I have learned during my time at Weyerhaeuser and applying it in the classroom, just as I have applied what I learned in the University of Kentucky forestry program here.

- Jesse Hunter, Class of 2016

While interning at Molpus Timberlands Management in south Alabama, I attended multiple forest industry conferences, aided in field mensurations and data collection, and received wide-ranging exposure to the inter-departmental operations that continue to propel Molpus forward.

I chose forestry as a major because I am inherently drawn to nature, and I felt as if the passion I harbored for wilderness would be best utilized pursuing a career that embraces an innate appreciation of nature, its processes, and intrinsic self-worth to humanity.

- John Davis, Class of 2014
Forestry encompasses a wide variety of social and natural science disciplines and addresses issues that range from molecular to landscape and societal levels. This broad scope creates a stimulating atmosphere for graduate education and research, leading to innovative approaches in the sustainable management of forest and other natural resources. Graduate study can be conducted in a variety of disciplines and interdisciplinary topic areas including plant physiology, genetics, forest management, forest soils, economics, invasive species, natural resource policy, wood utilization, wildlife biology and management, conservation biology, forest ecology, silviculture, hydrology, natural resource policy, restoration ecology, and watershed management.

Here are just a few of the exciting adventures our graduate students pursued while working on their degrees.

Kenton Sena traveled to Brisbane, Australia last summer, funded by a National Science Foundation East Asia and Pacific Summer Institutes Fellowship. His initially proposed project was reforestation work on a surface mine in New South Wales. However, due to extenuating circumstances, he ended up in a very different place doing very different work. His host advisor, Dr. Paul Bertsch, set him up to work with Dr. Simon Toze and Dr. Jatinder Sidhu, who study microbiology in urban watersheds. He has no background in microbiology, but Dr. Sidhu and Dr. Toze were excellent and gracious teachers. Looking ahead, he is excited to use his new skills in Kentucky. His first goal is to develop an improved technique for detecting Phytophthora cinnamomii, an introduced plant pathogen, in Appalachian forest soils and streams.

Kel Rayens is interested in the integration of social science and physical science to improve conservation policy and programs. With her advisor, Dr. G. Andrew Stainback, and in collaboration with the Wildlife Conservation Society, she conducted research in the Central-East African country of Rwanda. Her research included adoption of improved wood-burning cookstoves, which can decrease pressure on protected forests and reduce household costs associated with fuel consumption. She also researched the viability and design of payments for ecosystem services in the region, and how market-based conservation approaches can improve regional environment and economy while benefiting local farmers and other stakeholders equitably.

Caleb Haymes and Joe McDermott are capturing does (winter) and fawns (summer) and fitting them with radio-telemetry collars to describe the mortality factors influencing deer population dynamics in southeast Kentucky. Here, Caleb and Joe are beginning the work-up process on the first adult doe captured during the 2014 field season.

Kentucky
Wes Staats has been working extensively on remote sensing and Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) related projects with his major professor, Dr. Marco Contreras. Remote sensing is a term for data collected about an object or phenomena without actually visiting it, while LiDAR is a form of remote sensing involving flying an airplane over an area to collect mainly elevation data of the ground and objects on the ground. Last summer, Wes collected terrestrial salamander abundance data from University of Kentucky’s Robinson Forest, with guidance from Dr. Steven Price. The goal was to relate the salamander abundance data to LiDAR-derived forest characteristics in order to estimate terrestrial salamander abundance for a large section of the forest. In October, he presented this research at the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) conference in Utah.

Clint Patterson was hired as the new Berea College Forester in October 2010 and became responsible for the management of the historic 9,000 acre Berea College Forest. This management involves a multiple-use approach which includes timber production, water protection, recreation and research. Through previous work experience and his undergraduate degree in Forestry from Southern Illinois University, Clint felt like he had a good handle on all of these areas except for research. He was curious about what research Drs. John Lhotka and Jeff Stringer and their graduate students were working with on the Berea College Forest.

The Expanding Gap regeneration study examines the effect of forest edge on light availability and oak reproduction development in silvicultural gaps with and without the application of shelterwood preparatory cutting around the gaps. Findings provide additional detail on the role of forest edge as locale for enhancing oak regeneration. The study also documents whether manipulation of vertical canopy profiles around gap perimeters altered spatial light and regeneration patterns associated with the silvicultural gaps and if the resulting effects were beneficial to the size or density of advance oak reproduction. The study will provide the first long-term look at this practice as a means for addressing the region’s oak regeneration issues and will serve as a platform for other investigations that address interdisciplinary questions.

The majority of the data collected for the project has not yet been entered or analyzed, and he still must complete a couple of statistics classes to finish the project…and do his thesis. He hopes to accomplish this and earn a Master’s degree in the Spring 2016.

Meanwhile, some exciting things have been happening which further enhance the relationship and synergy between Berea College and the University of Kentucky. For instance, Berea College has created a Forestry minor, and utilizes UK graduate (Dr. Sarah Hall) to teach classes in this program. One of our student laborers in the Berea College Forestry Department will become the first student to graduate with the forestry minor this upcoming semester. The Berea College Forest has also become FSC certified through the UK Forest Certification Center.
Alumni News

First Forestry Alumni Scholarship Awarded

The Alumni Scholarship Committee awarded the first annual Forestry Alumni Scholarship at the Department’s Spring Recognition Dinner on April 30, 2015. It was awarded to Josh Robinson, a rising senior from Elizabethtown, Kentucky. Josh was selected from a field of six excellent candidates.

Special message to alumni: While we were delighted to award $1,000 this year, we still have a ways to go to reach our goal of $25,000 to become an endowed (perpetual) scholarship. If you haven’t contributed yet, or if you can make a follow-up donation, won’t you please do so now? Don’t be shy if your gift must be small – all donations add up! It’s easy to donate using the enclosed form.

I would like to thank the founding Alumni Scholarship Committee members:

- Sally Browning (’75)
- Al Freeland (’75)
- John Redmon (’76)
- Jim Ringe (’77)
- Mike Shearer (’74)
- Gary Wilmhoff (’76)

I’d like to welcome new members Dr. Don Graves, Chris Reeves (’05) and Doug Stephan (’77). If you would like to join the Forestry Alumni Scholarship Committee, please let me know (kate.robie@gmail.com). This is a great way to serve your alma mater and to enjoy reconnecting with the Department!

Kate (Hutcherson) Robie (’76)

Percent Total Alumni Contributions (to date) to the Forestry Alumni Scholarship

- 75% 1971-1980
- 17% Non-Alumni
- 3% 2001-2015
- 1% 1991-2000
- 4% 1981-1990
Since 1970, the UK Department of Forestry has provided management oversight of Robinson Forest. Having joined their team in 2011, I consider myself incredibly fortunate to call the approximately 15,000 acre Robinson Forest my “office”. While our management of the forest proper continues, the camp facilities are now managed by the Robinson Center for Appalachian Resource Sustainability (RCARS). This management cooperation has resulted in many exciting updates and activities.

For many UK Forestry alumni, Robinson Forest holds a special place in their hearts. As a 2007 UK Forestry graduate, I would argue the experiences associated with forestry camp at Robinson Forest are some of the greatest college experiences of a student’s academic career. I’m pleased to report these incredible experiences continue today. As I write this, camp is a buzz with bright young faces that are the future of forestry.

For those that have been to Robinson Forest, much of “camp” would look just like you remember it. However, there have been some noteworthy changes. In 2011, new caretakers were hired including a new camp chef. The same 1934 American chestnut cabins are still in use, but now include modern upgrades like improvements to the heating and cooling systems, city water, and new mattresses. The sawmill was sold so that it could be better utilized, yet the structure which housed the mill still stands.

Our classroom now has an overhead LCD projector and flat screen television. Wireless internet connectivity is available throughout camp. Lastly, efforts are underway to increase our networking and communication capacity and we hope to have these improvements in place in the near future.

Much of the landscape surrounding Robinson Forest has changed over the past couple decades, yet the main 10,000 acre block is still intact. Our isolation and location in an otherwise fragmented ecosystem is just one reason that Robinson Forest is unique.

The UK Department of Forestry began research at Robinson Forest in 1972. This paramount research has proven vital to establishing a long-term hydrologic data set. This data collection continues today as we now have nearly 45 years of water data! In 1999, continuous forest inventory plots were established on the main block to measure a variety of woody vegetation parameters. Last year, we completed a re-inventory of these plots and will now re-inventory on ten-year cycles.

Aside from these long-term projects, Robinson Forest is flourishing with active research. Presently, there are nearly 20 on-going research projects! From invasive species to vipers, surface mine reforestation to salamanders (just to name a few), research at Robinson Forest covers a wide range of topics and the opportunities are limitless.

From college courses to extension programming, school groups to researchers, Robinson Forest sees thousands of visitors each year. I ask you, “Have you been to Robinson Forest lately?” If not, it’s time to make the trip and take advantage of all that Robinson Forest has to offer!

To schedule a visit, please contact me at 606-666-9995 or chris.osborne@uky.edu. - Chris Osborne, Management Forester
The Forestry Extension team diligently works to extend the reach of the Department of Forestry across Kentucky and the U.S. Their activities and programs reach a wide variety of audiences including woodland owners, loggers and forest industry, forestry and natural resource professionals, youth, and the general public. Their work builds and maintains partnerships among industry, organizations and agencies to deliver knowledge, insight, and solutions that address challenges facing the forest, its owners and forest industry.

For more information, visit www.ukforestry.org.

For the third year, the Extension program developed the Kentucky Forestry Economic Impact Report which analyzes the forest and wood industries in the Commonwealth. Kentucky again was a leading producer of hardwood logs and lumber in the U.S. harvested by over 1,200 logging firms and processed in 703 facilities located in 109 out of 120 counties. This activity resulted in a total forestry sector economic impact of $12.8 billion and 57,700 jobs in 2014. Visit www.ukforestry.org to see the full report.

The Center for Forest and Wood Certification is a partnership venture between forest industry, non-profits, consulting foresters, and UK Department of Forestry Extension. The Center provides education and training on certification and conducts programs to break down barriers that are currently impeding forest owners, loggers, and forest industry from becoming certified in the eastern U.S. The Center’s programs are operating in eight states. Two programs are large in scope developing alternatives for certifying hundreds of thousands of acres of private family owned forests. The Center currently has 60 businesses and 67,000 acres of land enrolled in its programs. For more information visit www.forestcertificationcenter.org.
Kentucky Master Logger Program

In 2014, 251 new loggers and 701 Master Loggers were provided with continuing education in water quality protection, safety, and logging operations. In total, the 2,720 Kentucky Master Loggers provide rural economies with $432 million through timber purchases and harvests and a total of $1.84 billion from the processing of timber by industry.

Program assessment indicated 75 to 98 percent use of the information provided resulting in protection for 993 perennial and 2,737 intermittent streams as well as a host of other environmental and safety practices.

Youth and the General Public

Forestry Extension continues to provide youth programs for students of all ages. In 2014, more than 1,000 students participated in programs from tree and wood identification to wood technology skills, enabling those students to learn the important aspects of trees in their daily lives.

One of the flagship youth programs is the Kentucky Forest Leadership Program with over 1,500 students participating in the week-long program since it began in 1964. The program is dedicated to helping students explore the many facets of forestry and related fields.

The “Win With Wood” competition was again held in eastern Kentucky bringing together east Kentucky junior and senior high youth, forest and wood industries owners, Extension agents, and UK specialists. Over 300 4-H youth at five locations showed their proficiency at compass and pacing, tree measurements, and tree identification. All come away with a better understanding of the basic concepts practiced by foresters.

Providing Solutions and Support for Forest Industry

Forestry Extension faculty and associates provided significant support for the forest industry including logging. Technical training programs for forest industry were conducted and entrepreneurs were assisted in establishing wood based industries at the Wood Utilization Center in Quicksand, Kentucky. In total these programs resulted in $2,708,449 saved/earned for the forest and wood industry primarily in Kentucky.

Forestry Extension worked with our forest industry partners including the Kentucky Forest Industries Association (KFIA) to present the 30th Kentucky Wood Expo held in Lexington for the first time. Over 80 exhibitors demonstrated equipment and products to over 5,000 attendees. Forestry Extension also worked with KFIA and the Kentucky Distillers Association to conduct the first White Oak Sustainability Meeting in Lexington with over 105 industry representatives in attendance. Forestry Extension continued to assist the Ohio Valley Lumber Drying Association and its members to help provide over $20 million in dollars saved/earned for this important industry.

Bob Bauer, Executive Director, KFIA, with the medallion winners of the Win With Wood Senior Division: Cody Pryor (Scholarship winner), McCreary Central FFA, Michael Ammerman, Lee County FFA, Johnathan Boyatt, McCreary Central FFA, and Dylan Jones, McCreary Central FFA.
Forest resources and natural landscapes are critical components of local communities. However, they face mounting threats from a variety of invasive insects and pathogens. These pests have the potential to decimate our foundational tree species and degrade the ecosystems that depend on them.

**Trees and forests currently under attack – affecting people, communities, and the environment**

Forest-based economies throughout Kentucky, and the eastern hardwood region in general, largely depend on a handful of foundational tree species and the disappearance of these trees would have catastrophic socio-economic impacts, hurting the communities and people who depend on them.

One of the most worrisome threats is that an invasive insect or pathogen could decimate populations of key oak species. Oaks comprise nearly 50% of hardwood sawtimber volume in Kentucky and are the cornerstone of local forest-based economies, which contribute more than $12 billion to the Commonwealth’s economy. For example, Kentucky’s hallmark distilling industry, which has grown from $1.8 to $3 billion in the last two years, is dependent on white oak for bourbon barrels.

Current threats to our oaks include the disease sudden oak death, which has killed millions of oaks on the west coast over the past 20 years and has been repeatedly introduced to the area through the nursery industry. Although it has yet to establish in the east, the eventual arrival of sudden oak death seems imminent and its impact could be severe.

**Threats on our door step – and the potential for catastrophic economic loss**

Experts believe that the invasive insects emerald ash borer and hemlock woolly adelgid will continue to spread, killing most ash and hemlock trees across the eastern U.S. These follow in the wake of the invasive pathogens chestnut blight and dutch elm disease, which have effectively eliminated chestnut and elm trees from our landscapes.

If these and other invasives continue to spread, the resulting losses to woodland owners, wood manufacturers, homeowners and municipalities will be devastating. In addition, such losses will forever change forest and streamside ecosystems, including the habitat of aquatic and terrestrial wildlife that depend on these key tree species.

**Regaining the initiative – a proactive approach to solving tree and forest health challenges**

Scientists across the region, country and world have turned a keen eye to these forest threats and are developing new strategies to address their impacts. However, so far these efforts have failed to produce strategic and comprehensive initiatives to protect our imperiled trees and the forests they support.

**The Forest Health Research and Education Center – a collaborative center, combining biological and social sciences and education**

To address this challenge, the University of Kentucky (UK), the USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station (USFS), and the Kentucky Division of Forestry (KDF) have partnered to form the “Forest Health Research and Education Center” (FHC). Through regional, national, and international collaborations, the FHC will conduct:

1. **biological research** to understand and enhance genetically-based tree resistance and thus improve forest ecosystem responses to biotic and abiotic stressors;

2. **social research** on the economic and cultural impacts of tree, forest, and ecosystem loss, as well as the factors affecting the adoption of new approaches to improve forest resilience; and

3. **education and outreach programs** to inform stakeholders, researchers, and the general public about forest health issues and to connect them through participatory research networks.

A USFS grant ($350,000), UK and KDF institutional resources ($210,000) and private gifts ($300,000), are currently funding the FHC for an initial two-year period. However, to put the FHC on a financial foundation necessary for accomplishing the objectives outlined above, the FHC will be requesting modest additional recurring federal support.
Research Update

Ecological Restoration Project

Through a grant from America Rivers, UK Forestry partnered with the Monongahela National Forest, Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative, West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, Natural Resources Conservation Service Plant Materials Center, and the Central Appalachian Spruce Restoration Initiative to continue an ecological restoration project on 2,600 acres of the Lambert watershed in Randolph County, West Virginia. This site required a holistic suite of restoration activities including soil decompaction, wetland restoration, woody debris loading, and planting of native trees and shrubs. The partners are working to restore habitat for the federally protected Northern flying squirrel, native brook trout, and numerous species that inhabit wetlands.

Site preparation on Cheat Mountain included cross ripping the compacted land with two D-8 Bulldozers, as well as using the heavy equipment to remove nonnative tree species. The bulldozers pushed the trees over with relative ease because the soil was so compacted that the roots had been unable to penetrate deep within the soil. Felled Norway spruce were left on the ground to provide woody debris for the site. The red spruce, which is being returned to this site, will now have the space and sun needed to thrive in this area.

Wetlands were created on the site to intercept and retain groundwater, and trap sediment. They also provide habitat for amphibians and other wildlife species such as the woodcock.

Two planting events occurred on May 9-10, 2014. Green Forests Work and partners used the event for education and outreach. A local middle school volunteered and learned the importance of red spruce to the ecosystem, why wetlands matter, and the role restoration plays in protecting ecosystems from climate change. - Chris Barton, Professor
We regret to report that Dr. Tom Barnes passed away on October 12, 2014. Dr. Barnes was the first permanent Extension Wildlife Specialist in the Department of Forestry at the University of Kentucky – a position he held since 1988. Initially he developed a program to assist private landowners in wildlife habitat development and damage control, filling a long-standing need in Kentucky and greatly enhancing the Department’s reputation. In later years, he combined his passion for the natural world and his conservation ethic with his excellent photography – for which he was well known throughout the country.

Tom was a prolific writer who published numerous scientific articles and six books including: Gardening for the Birds, How to Find and Photograph Kentucky Wildflowers, Kentucky’s Last Great Places, Wildflowers and Ferns of Kentucky (with S. Wilson Francis), The Gift of Creation: Images from Scripture and Earth (with Norman Wirzba) and Kentucky Naturally: The Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund at Work. At the time of his death, Tom was working on another book, this one a comprehensive collection of photographs and descriptions of Kentucky’s waterfalls.

Up until his death, and despite his health challenges, Tom was as tenacious as ever and continued to hike Kentucky’s woods in search of wildlife, waterfalls, and wildflowers. His deep faith and unwavering desire to be in the woods carried him through those difficult moments, and earned him the respect of friends, students, Extension clientele, and colleagues alike. There is no doubt that Tom left a deep and lasting mark on the forestry and wildlife community, not just in Kentucky but throughout the country.

We miss you Tom.
Carroll Fackler and Doug McLaren have retired after several decades of work with the Department of Forestry. Carroll and Doug will certainly be missed by the university and the communities they have served all these years. We wish all the best to both Carroll and Doug in their well-deserved retirements.

Last June, Carroll Fackler retired from the Department of Forestry. Carroll is a graduate of the Forestry and Wood Technology Program, Hazard Community College and later graduated from UK with a degree in Agriculture Education. He began his dedicated career in 1970 as a technician at the UK Wood Utilization Center in Quicksand, Kentucky. Within a short period of time, he became the superintendent of the Wood Center and held that position for many years.

His name has become synonymous with the wood industry throughout Kentucky and the region because of the skills and expertise that he was able to provide to the region, particularly in the area of drying lumber. He was instrumental in the development and success of the Ohio Valley Lumber Drying Association and held the office of secretary-treasurer for over 30 years. His extensive work with the forest industry earned him the title of “Communicator of the Year” in 2007 by the Kentucky Forest Industries Association.

Carroll has been held in high esteem by UK Extension personnel due to his immense knowledge of forestry and impact results he created from his extension activities.

Doug McLaren retired after 43 years working with the Department of Forestry. Doug began his career with the University as an instructor with the Forestry and Wood Technician Program, an associate degree program, located in Quicksand, Kentucky. In this capacity, he taught basic forestry courses including silviculture, forest measurements, surveying, and forest health. He also assisted with four weeks of the professional forestry summer camp, which was held annually at Robinson Forest. In 1987, Doug moved to Lexington to become involved in the Cooperative Extension Service. This involved working with agents throughout Extension and landowners, professional foresters, and forestry cooperators. Doug serves on the boards of the Kentucky Tree Farm System and the Kentucky Woodland Owners Association.

For the past 30 years, Doug has coordinated and taught at the Kentucky Forestry Leadership Program, a summer camp program designed for high school students interested in forestry and natural resources. Many of the students that have attended this program have found their way into the professional forestry program at the University of Kentucky. Doug has enjoyed the opportunity of serving as an ambassador for forestry on all levels by being involved in a wide variety of programs throughout his career.

The problem with wooden ships is that wood isn’t permanent, and the ships need continual upkeep to stay sea-worthy. One example of a ship currently undergoing repairs is the Mayflower II, berthed in Plymouth, Massachusetts. The Mayflower II is a replica of the ship that brought the Pilgrims to America in 1620, and it was built to commemorate the cooperation between Great Britain and the U.S. during World War II.

In 2012, however, during a scheduled inspection by the Coast Guard, it was found that many of the white oak planks and structural members had deteriorated to the point where they needed replacement. There was just one problem: where would the wood come from? Where could the shipwrights find white oak planks that were 30’ long and almost free of knots? Most white oak trees in the U.S. forests are too small to have clear wood of the needed dimensions, or they grow in locations where there aren’t enough large trees to economically cut for a project like this.

Fortunately, Associate Extension Professor Terry Conners (who hails from Plymouth) was able to help. He was searching all over the country for white oak that met specifications when he had a chance conversation about the project with UK Forestry graduate student Clint Patterson. Clint is the forester at nearby Berea College, and some time later Clint found a number of white oak trees that fit the requirements perfectly! In the following months, Clint and his crew cut about a dozen trees and Ernie Tebeau, a sawyer from Toledo, Ohio, sawed them with his Lucas sawmill. If you’d like to read more about this fascinating and complicated story, follow this link: http://www.kentucky.com/2014/12/25/3611291/special-wood-from-berea-college.html.

- Carol Spence, Agricultural Communications Specialist
Forestry Department Alumni-Student Fall Picnic

Friday, October 2, 2015

Front lawn of the T.P. Cooper (Forestry) Building

Festivities begin at 4:30 p.m. with dinner around 5:30 p.m.

RSVP to forestry.department@uky.edu or 859-257-7596 before Sept. 23 if you plan to attend this free event.

UK Forestry Alumni ’00-’15

Prior to the fall picnic, join us for an informal social for UK Forestry alumni that graduated from ’00-’15.

Light snacks at 3:00 pm in room 217 of the forestry building with an update from the department chair at 4:00 pm.

RSVP to forestry.department@uky.edu or 859-257-7596 before Sept. 23, if you plan to attend this free event.