



# KENTUCKY HEARTWOOD

Protecting the Beauty and Wellbeing of Kentucky's Native Forests

August 5, 2018

Dear friend of the forest,

Whether you're a new member, or have been with us since the beginning, I want to thank you for your support of Kentucky Heartwood and our efforts to preserve Kentucky's native forests and biodiversity. It is your support that provides the financial means for us to continue in our work, and the encouragement to carry forward. And I'm proud to say that our membership has now reached over 800 people – more than doubling since 2012! Over that same time, we've grown from two part-time staff to four staff employed for a total of 2.5 full-time equivalents. We've come a long way since I started with Kentucky Heartwood in 2008 under a 10 hour per week contract!

While we're on good footing as an organization, we do need your help to continue with the current level and quality of our work. Our recent, Summer 2018 newsletter describes some of the current projects we're working on, but it really just scratches the surface. So I'd like to take this opportunity to tell you about what's keeping us busy in 2018.

- ~ **Our work to save Kentucky's eastern hemlock trees** from extinction has been challenging, but still moves forward. We've been coordinating with the Daniel Boone National Forest and Kentucky Division of Forestry on hemlock treatments. We worked to bring extra resources in to the state, directly supported the rearing of predator beetles for release in Kentucky, and inventoried forests in desperate need of treatment. We'll soon be going live with a new website to provide information about hemlock woolly adelgid and how Kentucky landowners can save their hemlocks.
- ~ **We are very active in regional and national efforts to track and respond to the ongoing legislative and regulatory attacks on our public lands.** Whether it's the Resilient Federal Forest Act, the Omnibus Appropriations Bill, or the 2018 Farm Bill, we've been working with partners and communicating with legislators about the impacts of the various forestry titles on public lands in Kentucky. And we're continuing to follow and engage in the ongoing processes to reshape the rules that the Forest Service follows to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act, changes that would further limit public input and environmental analysis.
- ~ **We're coordinating a gathering of national forest activists to take place at the 2018 Appalachian Public Interest Environmental Law Conference (APIEL)** in Knoxville in October. We're doing this so that our small community of eastern public lands activists can have some much needed face-time to discuss tools and strategies aimed at defending our national forests. It will also give us an opportunity to give presentations and panels to allies and interested individuals to grow the circle of forest defenders.
- ~ **Our challenge of Kinder Morgan's Tennessee Gas Pipeline continues.** We are working through an administrative challenge and litigation with partners Allegheny Defense Project and Kentucky Resources Council, while staying in close communication with ally, Kentucky Environmental Foundation, on local political strategies to stop the project.

- ~ We've been engaging in dialogue with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U.S. Forest Service, and local biologists concerned about the potential impacts of rock climbing on the federally-endangered Virginia big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii virginianus*). We helped secure permission for the USFWS to survey a new private climbing area for potential summer roosting habitat in the cliffline, and are in discussions about opportunities for public education and outreach to the climbing community.
- ~ Our efforts to stem the decline of the beautiful wood lily (*Lilium philadelphicum*) through site protection, propagation, and reintroduction has continued, with 250 seedlings now growing in a nursery. We hope that they will be ready for introduction to new sites next year. This has been a joint effort with the Kentucky Native Plant Society and Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission.
- ~ We're developing a cooperative proposal with the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission and Daniel Boone National Forest to design and implement an intensive restoration plan for a rare plant hotspot in Pulaski county that was first identified in 1988. The collaborative effort stems from our objections raised during the design and approval of the Greenwood project last year.
- ~ We've been continuing in our work to protect the federally-threatened Kentucky arrow darter (*Etheostoma spilotum*) and endangered snuffbox mussel (*Epioblasma triquetra*) from the massive logging proposed in the Redbird District as part of the South Redbird project.
- ~ We remain heavily engaged in the Pine Creek project, where we're working to support science-based restoration of fire-adapted uplands, shortleaf pine communities, and rare plants sites while also protecting thousands of acres of important older, intact forests from intensive timber harvesting.
- ~ We've opposed changes to the Daniel Boone Forest Plan that would lift logging restrictions put in place to protect endangered Indiana bats (*Myotis sodalis*). We raised broad public awareness of the proposal by the Forest Service in early spring, and are awaiting the next phase of the proposal.
- ~ Our Cumberland Ecoforestry pilot program continues to move forward. We've provided consultation and assessments to several landowners interested in preserving native biodiversity on their property. And we are near to implementing our first timber harvest under a restorative forestry paradigm, using mules to remove timber to better protect forest soils and flora.
- ~ At Land Between the Lakes we've continued to hold off new logging projects, and are coordinating a ground-breaking collaboration to support the protection and restoration of high-quality botanical sites and historical sites important to the Between the Rivers community of former residents while advancing tourism and environmental education. We hosted a full-day field trip and meeting just last week, and now have participation from the Between the Rivers group, the Southeastern Grasslands Initiative, the U.S. Forest Service, National Wild Turkey Federation, Kentucky Division of Fish and Wildlife, Lyon County government, The Nature Conservancy, and others. The collaboration stems from a proposal developed by Kentucky Heartwood, and we look forward to writing a lot more on it as we move forward.
- ~ We're working on a new youth-focused, environmental education program, the Rise and Root Re-wilding Project. Under the guidance of Council member and long-time volunteer Xyara Asplen, the project will begin with a series of immersive nature connection experiences for children and youth and develop in to an ongoing "Forest School" program.

And then of course there are our events, like the Kentucky Heartwood Music Festival, the Stuart Butler Memorial Dinner, the Dance for the Forest, and our annual Member Potluck, as well as all of the time-consuming odd-and-ends that go with running a small organization.

We hope that you'll find this growing list of projects, programs, and campaigns something worth supporting. There's so much to do, and we really try to stretch every resource as far as we can. Whether you can donate an extra \$5 or \$500, your donation makes you an integral part of this work. We really can't do it without you.



Sincerely,

Jim Scheff, Director  
Kentucky Heartwood

We also want to take this opportunity to invite you to send in your nominations for the Stu Butler Memorial Award. Many of us cherish the memory of Stuart Butler, who was a dear friend and loyal champion of so many causes. To honor Stu and his legacy, Kentucky Heartwood is hosting the **12th Annual Stuart Butler Memorial Dinner in November at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Lexington**. Date to be announced (late November/early December). Anyone who knew Stu or wants to honor his legacy is invited to attend. The event will feature dinner, music, a ceremony and presentation of the Stuart Butler Memorial Award. Please use the form below, adding as many additional pages as you need to make your nomination. The more details the better. Nominations must be received by 5 pm August 21, 2018. The nomination form is also available on our website. Mail completed form to: Kentucky Heartwood PO Box 1486 Berea, KY 40403, or feel free to email your nomination to [kentuckyheartwood@gmail.com](mailto:kentuckyheartwood@gmail.com).

## Stuart Butler Memorial Award Nomination Form

**Qualities Stu possessed that we are seeking to award:** *Determination, Loyalty, Dedication to Many Causes, Encouraging to Others, and Love of the Outdoors*

Name of nominee:

Nominee's contact information:

Name of Person/Organization submitting nomination:

Nominator contact information:

Description of Nominee and why this person deserves the award: (Please attach additional pages)