



## Lenexa's Vision Becomes 'Rain To Recreation'

Lenexa's Rain to Recreation Program is nationally recognized for its attention to storm water management, natural resource conservation and restoration, and citizen engagement in natural resource management. The city is a rapidly developing suburban community in the Kansas City metro area and home to nearly 50,000 residents. The City encompasses a 34 square mile area including the upper reaches of four main watersheds that ultimately flow to the Kansas and Missouri Rivers.

To accommodate rapid growth, the city initiated a citizen-driven, long-range community plan in 1996, Lenexa Vision 2020, in which citizens showed strong interest in a watershed management program. Statements from the Vision 2020 task force that are foundational for the Program are:

- Maintain a balance between Lenexa's natural resources and manmade environments, while preserving key natural features and promoting quality growth and development.
- Adopt a philosophy of land conservation as the central organizing principle around which house lots and streets are designed, and in which a sense of "nature" is maintained.
- Conserve urban forests.

- Investigate a regional approach to drainage in the central and western portions of the city, including regional retention facilities for storm water management.
- Provide for generous stream setbacks with appropriate buffers. Design

stream buffers to accommodate the complementary goals of open space preservation.

In 1999, Lenexa then surveyed its citizens and found that nearly 80 percent had interest in a program that would reduce flooding, improve environmental and water quality, and provide for

new recreational opportunities in the undeveloped portion of Lenexa. These elements are the foundation of the Rain to Recreation Program's mission.

Through the commitment to the vision, the Rain to Recreation Program ensures compliance with state and federal water quality regulations (i.e., NPDES Phase II). With the

creation of new policies, practices and projects, the city is able to view storm water as an amenity to community and not a liability.

Lenexa was the first city in the Kansas City metro area to adopt (March 2002) an aggressive stream setback (buffer)



*Manchester Park stream restoration environmental project.*



*Lake Lenexa dam.*

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## Comments from the State Forester

### Newsletter Publication Information:

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It is an honor for me to write the State Forester's comments for the Fall 2008 edition of the Kansas Canopy Newsletter. I was fortunate to spend the early part of my forestry career in two locations with Kansas State University, Hiawatha and Manhattan. As I write this message my wife, Sarah, and I are in the midst of packing for our move back to Manhattan, a community we proudly called home.

As you read this message, my tenure as State Forester spans approximately 30 days. Consequently, I do not have many on-site observations and/or personal experiences to report. I do however have many expectations. First, is that the Kansas Forest Service will remain a first-class operation. To the credit of my predecessor, Ray Aslin, and many of his predecessors, the Kansas Forest Service and its forefather, the Department of State and Extension Forestry, is nationally recognized as a "can do" organization. Moreover, the staff of the Kansas Forest Service is recognized as dedicated and visionary and they epitomize the word "service."

Secondly, the Kansas Forest Service will remain dedicated to its programs and its constituencies – private forest landowners; landowners interested in creating micro environments through the planting and care of farmstead windbreaks and shelterbelts; rural fire districts and rural fire district volunteers; town and city governments and their tree board volunteers; rural and urban forest industries – traditional and new; and youth.

Thirdly, the Kansas Forest Service will remain an exemplary service division of Kansas State University and the Department of Horticulture, Forestry and Recreation Resources. Also, the Kansas Forest Service will retain its exemplary relationship with its federal, state, and local government partners as well as nongovernmental organizations. For the federal component, much of the early focus will revolve around an in-depth understanding of programs extended and/or created in the 2008 Farm Bill. In addition, it is my desire for the Kansas Forest Service to be actively involved in the Western Forestry Leadership Coalition, the Council of Western State Foresters, and the National Association of State Foresters.

Lastly, as the budget allows, the Kansas Forest Service will recruit and hire quality persons for the existing and pending vacancies. As Ray Aslin stated in the summer 2008 issue of the Kansas Canopy Newsletter, I will be looking for competent, dedicated persons who are willing to support the agency's and the university's missions and who aspire to work in a relatively free and independent environment.

It is a great honor for me to assume the role of Kansas State Forester. I look forward to working with you on Kansas forestry and Kansas Forest Service issues. Should you have questions or comments about the agency and or its programs please feel free to contact my office.

**Larry Biles**, State Forester, oversees all operations of the Kansas Forest Service.

## One More award



Ray Aslin receiving an award from Glenn Snyder.

All though he is officially retired, Ray Aslin, former State Forester, came back one more time to receive a much-deserved award. The award for exemplary leadership and support of the Rocky Mountain Region Cooperative Fire Protection and Federal Excess Property Program was presented by Glenn Snyder, Fire

Program Manager from the regional office in Lakewood, Colorado on July 24, 2008.

In accepting the award, Ray said his connection with the Cooperative Fire Protection program spanned more than 20 years, all for the Kansas Forest Service.

Ray, from all of us in the Co-op Fire Program, both state and federal, "best wishes," your guidance and council will be missed, but fondly remembered.

**Ross Hauck** Fire Management Coordinator, directs fire management activities for the Kansas Forest Service.

## An Underused Planting Tool

Site prep is one of the most neglected aspects of planting tree and shrub seedlings. Of all practices done, mowing is probably the most common site prep, followed by disking. However, little is done below the “disk line.” While both of these practices are recommended and do reduce the weed competition for seedlings, they do little to aid the seedlings in terms of enhancing root development. However, a practice that is simple to do but is rarely done is the use of a root plow.

Root plows were originally designed to sever tree roots as they began to encroach into areas that are sensitive to moisture loss, such as into row-crop fields or in areas where a new planting was going to be established, but already had other trees in existence.

While using a root plow in this fashion is still encouraged, many of the root plows in Kansas are not large enough to do the job adequately and damage to equipment results. Because of this, most root plows go largely unused even though about one-third of the counties in Kansas have them accessible to landowners. What I encourage landowners to try is a “new” use of root plows. Use the root plow to create a deep furrow to plant seedlings.

Root plows are often a single shank that has a replaceable shoe on the end of the shank. They are designed to be pulled in the ground by a tractor using a three-point hitch and reach a depth of about 2 to 3 feet. They do not lay the soil over like a conventional plow; but rather they cut through the ground like a knife.

If done several months before planting, the soil will settle enough to remove any air pockets, yet will remain soft enough to make planting a breeze. Even mechanical tree planters have

a difficult time getting down to the proper planting depth without proper site prep, let alone the difficulty of doing it by hand. But when a root plow is used before planting, the planter, whether it is a machine or you, will find the soil much easier to plant in.

In order to work the root plow correctly, I recommend that three passes per seedling row be made. Start by placing the plow only 1 foot in the ground. Then on the following two passes, again lower the plow 1 foot each time. Therefore, by the third pass, you are 3 feet in the ground. By doing this, there is little strain on the plow or tractor, and you will be able to maintain a decent speed.

When it is time to plant the seedlings, simply plant directly in the plow line. You may need to flag the plow line in order to be able to follow it when planting your seedlings. Disking before planting is still advised to remove vegetation, especially if a weed barrier machine is going to be used, but does not necessarily have to be

done if chemical weed control will be used. Using the root plow, allows the seedling to more easily send its roots deeper into the soil and reduce wear and tear on both your equipment and you. They are easy to pull if used correctly, most do not require the use of a large tractor, and the ease of planting will certainly be noticed later.

**Joshua Pease**, Conservation Forester, manages the Conservation Tree Planting Program and related activities for the Kansas Forest Service.



*This plow comes with its own trailer for easy transport.*



*The plow rotates vertically and is lifted off the trailer using the three-point hitch.*



*This is another version of a root plow on a trailer.*

## 2008 Fire Season

The 2008 fire season was a little late getting out of the gate in Kansas.

Much of the prescribed burning did not get done until the middle of May. However, we did have some good days for burning, and we had some fire that got away.

There are always two sides to every story. One side of the fire season of '08 in Kansas was the producers had enough moisture in much of the state they felt they could burn. The other side was the fuel load allowed for some large smoke plumes that traveled many miles.

As we become a more urbanized society, prescribed burning is coming under the watchful eye of people who do not have a connection to the need for fire in the plains ecosystem. Thus, when the smoke monitors are set off in large metropolitan areas, they are offended by the haze that rural Kansans take in stride.

To maintain equilibrium, Kansas Forest Service and producers are working with our urban neighbors. Prescribed Fire Councils and Burning Coalitions are being developed to address the smoke issues, prescribed fire escapes, and personnel and equipment concerns. We encourage anyone that needs to do a prescribed burn to remove agriculture residue or tree debris to look for a time of the year that will not effect the spring burning season, thus keeping that window open for grassland and production agriculture burning.

As the Kansas fire season was slowing, Kansas Forest Service personnel were asked to go to Texas. One person was able to schedule a two-week tour on a Texas State Type 4 Engine in May.

On June 11, an EF-4 tornado ripped through the cities of Chapman and Manhattan, destroying many homes and business in both. The K-State campus was hit as well, suffering \$20 to \$25 million and loss of many trees. Kansas Forest Service personnel spent 3 days on campus felling trees.

Soon after that the Mid-Plains Type 2 IA Handcrew was requested in California and by the next week the Kansas Forest

Service Type 6 Engine and one overhead person were also in California. We were stationed from Los Angeles to Redding, CA.

Deploying Kansas Forest Service personnel has several tangible and intangible benefits. By allowing personnel to participate in federal incidents, those people are off the Kansas Forest Service

payroll the entire time they are gone. One of the requirements of taking a 2-week deployment is that you have to have cleared your schedule at the office and once you return you must be in the office 2 work days before you go out again. Normally, each person can only go out two times a year.

The intangible benefits are the networking that gets done by every person that participates. We feel we learn something to bring back to Kansas firefighters each time we are on an incident. Currently, Kansas Department of Emergency Management is developing Incident Management Teams for Kansas and Kansas Forest Service personnel are bringing our experience to those teams.

As I write this it is mid-July and we have a lot of western fire season ahead of us. I will bring you up to date in the winter edition of the Kansas Canopy.



*A truck of hose that was hauled back to be rolled, inspected and reused on the Mad Complex fires near Redding, California.*

**Ross Hauck** Fire Management Coordinator, directs fire management activities for the Kansas Forest Service.

ordinance. A tenth of the city is protected in stream buffers and linear streamway parks protecting floodplains and providing for wonderful recreational experiences. Similarly, the city has adopted innovative, watershed based, comprehensive plan amendments addressing typical land use and infrastructure needs respecting the communities natural resources. The city has been active in stabilization and restoration of riparian corridors in both the developed and developing parts of the community. Award-winning projects to date include:

- Parkhurst Stream Restoration Environmental Project of the Year (KC AWWA 2008)
- Manchester Park Stream Restoration Environmental Project of the Year (KC AWWA 2007)
- Rock Creek Environmental Project of the Year (KC AWWA 2003)

Flood reduction and water quality management activities include:

- Lake construction
- Wetland creation
- Riparian corridor protection
- Rain Garden implementation
- Bioretention cell integration



*Lake Lenexa dam.*

### **Lenexa's Sustainable Watershed Projects Has Provided Many Dividends And Awards Along The Way.**

Over the course of the last 5 years, the city of Lenexa's forward thinking about managing their watershed has gleaned them numerous awards. Their 'Rain to Recreation' and numerous watershed projects should serve as a model to Kansas, the region and even the nation.

The latest award was the NADF Project Award, which they received this spring. Also in 2008, they received the ASLA Central States Award for their 'Interpretive Sign Program' on their projects.

The National League of Cities presented Lenexa with the Gold Medal for Municipal Excellence for the Program in 2007.

In 2006, Lenexa was one of six Crown Communities from the American City and County Magazine.

Lake Lenexa and the Manchester Park Stream Stabilization/Wetland Creation projects won the 2007 KC APWA Environmental Project of the Year Award.

The Parkhurst Stream Stabilization Project won the KC APWA Environmental Project of the Year in 2008.

The Rock Creek Project won the KC APWA Environmental Project of the Year in 2003.

All of the projects include the use of native grasses and forbes as well as tree planting versus the use of rock and other artificial means for watershed management. Congratulations, Lenexa on a job well done.

- Pervious pavement applications
- Chemical and biological lake and stream monitoring
- Outreach and Educational programs

Lenexa's premier Rain to Recreation Program project, Lake Lenexa at Black Hoof Park, opened to the public on July 7, 2008. This project incorporates many of the elements of watershed management noted above. The 35-acre lake is nestled in more than 300 acres of upland forest. The park is accessible by more than 5 miles of trail and boardwalks. The highlight of the trip is the dam and spillway, an extraordinary structure melding form and function. North of K-10 on K-7, exit onto Prairie Star Parkway east to Monticello Road roundabout and go north across the newly constructed bridge that spans a portion of Lake Lenexa.

To learn more, visit [www.raintorecreation.org](http://www.raintorecreation.org).

**Mike Beezhold**, Lenexa Watershed Manager  
and

**Tim McDonnell**,  
Community Forestry Coordinator/District Community Forester, coordinates community forestry activities and provides educational and technical services for communities and green industries in southeast and south central Kansas

# District Highlight: Northwest Jim Strine

## Pine Wilt Arrives in Northwest Kansas

Pine trees are a valuable resource in the communities and windbreaks in northwest Kansas. Pines provide beauty and reduce the winds that are

common in this area. This group of trees has not had any major insect or disease problems. However, this is about to change.

Pine wilt, a disease fatal

to introduced pine species, was reported in Kansas in the southeastern county of Cherokee in 1979. The disease caused by the pine wood nematode spreads by the feeding and egg laying of the pine sawyer beetle. Since 1979, pine wilt has moved through eastern and central Kansas killing thousands of Austrian, Scotch, and mugo pines. Pine species native to the United States seem to be resistant to this disease, as they have evolved over the years with the nematode and beetle.

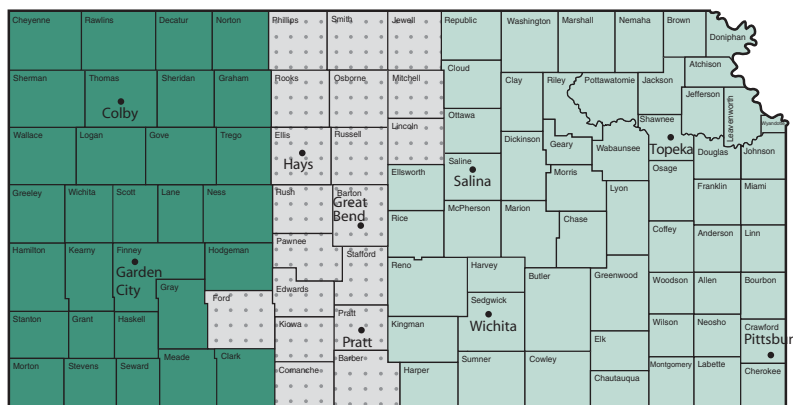
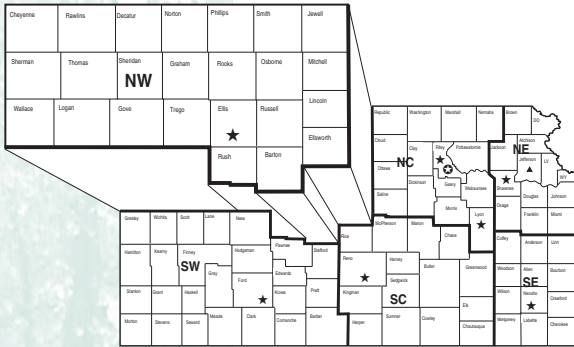
Pine wilt was first confirmed in my district in 2006. Since then it has been found in Barton, Ellis, Ellsworth, Jewell, Lincoln, Mitchell, Russell, and Thomas counties. The Thomas County find was linked to pine firewood brought from eastern Kansas that was infected

with the pine sawyer beetle. The infected tree was destroyed and no new infections have been discovered in Thomas County. The infections in the other counties are the result primarily of the westward movement of the disease vectored by the beetle. It is possible that a few of these finds were introductions by man through movement of fire wood or infested nursery stock.

In response to the threat of pine wilt disease, state and local agencies have teamed together to form what is called the Pine Wilt Initiative. The objective of this initiative is to minimize the impact of pine wilt in western Kansas. Cooperating agencies include, Kansas Department of Agriculture, Kansas Forest Service, K-State Research and Extension, and local city governments. It is going to take the cooperation of the agencies involved and the general public for this initiative to be successful.

The components of the initiative include education and awareness, detection, and proper disposal of infected trees. To get the initiative going, a meeting on pine wilt was held in Hays in 2006. More than 40 people from 13 communities attended the meeting. K-State Research and Extension personnel, people involved in the tree care business, and concerned homeowners attended the meeting. Presenters from K-State Research and Extension, Kansas Department of Agriculture, and the city of Hays provided information on the status of

pine wilt, how to recognize the disease, best



**Risk for Pine Wilt Establishment 2008**

Low to moderate risk High risk Established

management practices for pine trees,

*continued on page 7*

and action plans for combating pine wilt. Recently, I conducted a meeting in Goodland to alert the residents of far western Kansas about the potential threat of this disease. The awareness level of pine wilt has been raised because of these meetings.

Early detection of a pine wilt infection is critical to minimize its impact in a community or a windbreak. Landowners and city personnel need to contact me or their local extension office if they have an Austrian, Scotch, or mugo pine that dies rapidly during the summer through early winter. Samples from suspected trees will be taken and tested for the pine wood nematode. If a tree is tested positive, it should be removed and chipped, burned or buried as soon as possible. The disease will spread to surrounding trees if no action is taken. Because both the vector and beetle overwinter inside the tree, removal of infected trees in a timely manner eradicates or destroys the infestation. In circumstances where detection and destruction of the tree were applied, control has been achieved.

Maintaining the health of pine trees can help reduce the chances of getting pine wilt. The pine sawyer beetle is attracted to trees that are under stress from drought or other disease problems. When a pine sawyer beetle emerges from a tree infected with the pine wood nematode and feeds on another tree it can transmit the nematodes. Pine trees should be watered during the summer during dry periods and again in the fall. If we have a mild winter

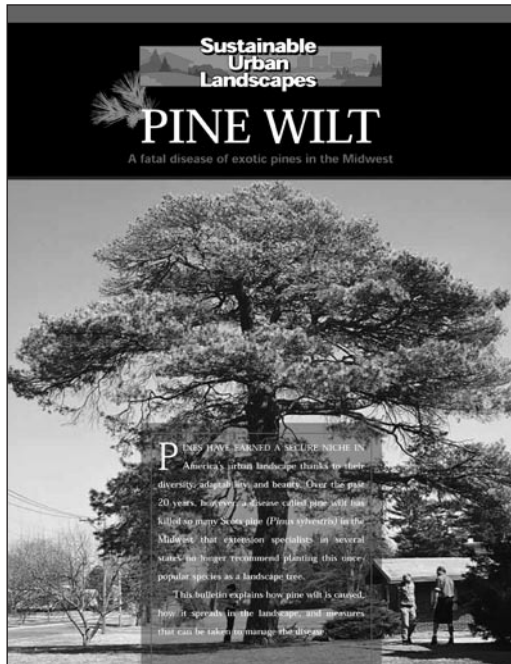
and the soil is not frozen watering would be beneficial. In windbreaks, grass and weed competition should be reduced. If weed barrier was installed, check the base of the tree to make sure the fabric is not girdling the tree. In landscapes, pines can be mulched with wood or bark chips. Diplodia tip blight, another disease that is causing problems in northwest Kansas, can stress trees making them more susceptible to the pine sawyer beetle. Trees heavily infected with Diplodia tip blight should be removed. Also, people should consider planting other pine species instead of Austrian or Scotch pine. Ponderosa, limber, and southwestern

white pine could be a good alternative to Austrian or Scotch pine.

Pine wilt will continue to be a problem in the counties where it is now located and will probably continue to spread westward. I think that we need to admit to ourselves that we will lose pine trees to pine wilt, but do not give up hope. With early detection and proper disposal, we can minimize the effect of pine wilt. Pines can continue to be an important part of our urban tree population and valuable windbreak species.

For more information on pine wilt in Kansas including the Pine Wilt Initiative and Community Action Plans for central and western Kansas, please go the following web site: [www.ksda.gov/plant\\_protection/content/184/cid/1276](http://www.ksda.gov/plant_protection/content/184/cid/1276)

**Jim Strine**, District Forester, provides direct technical assistance to Kansans in 24 northwestern Kansas counties for the Kansas Forest Service.



*Pine wilt is not easily identifiable in a black and white photo. For full-color photos of pine wilt, see the publication "Pine Wilt: A Fatal Disease of Exotic Pines in the Midwest." It is available from local K-State Research and Extension offices or on the Web at [www.oznet.ksu.edu/library/plant2/MF2425.pdf](http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/library/plant2/MF2425.pdf)*

## Fire Fighter's Unforgettable Experience

This past summer, several fire fighters from Kansas were called west, to California, to help assist with controlling wildfires that burned throughout much of that state. Upon arrival, the seriousness of the fires was evident.

Our fire assignment began on the Piute Fire, located near Lake Isabella, CA. We were on this fire for 4 days until torrential rains began over much of the area, resulting in flash floods and mud slides.

Our last day working on Piute Mountain was a bit exciting, not from a fire fighting standpoint, but rather for the fact that a large rainstorm moved in and we found ourselves racing water and mud to the bottom.

The day before this, several people working on another part of the fire found themselves stranded, by washed out roads and mud slides, and had to spend the night away from base camp. We, fortunately, were able to make it down safely.

With the rains helping contain the Piute Fire, fewer resources were needed on this fire so we were released and eventually made it up to the Butte (BTU) Lightning Complex with our base camp in Chico, CA. This "complex" was a result of several lightning strike caused fires. We remained in this area for the balance of our 14-day, fire assignment duty.

The level of appreciation expressed by those impacted was uplifting. "Thank You" signs and posters were common throughout the roadsides, communities, and fire camps.

Conversations with locals would most certainly turn to their appreciation for fire fighters' efforts. The level of appreciation and respect shown made the long hours of fighting fires in the hot, dusty, and smoky conditions more bearable.

Late one evening, as the engine crew I was a part of neared the entrance gate to camp, a young girl, accompanied by, who I later became to know her as, Grandma Charlie, came running to greet us with a big smile and holding a piece of paper in her hand. As I rolled the window down, the piece of paper was handed to me, revealing a picture that the young girl had drawn throughout the day. A line of vehicles behind only allowed us to express our thanks and gratitude for a brief moment before having to move on.

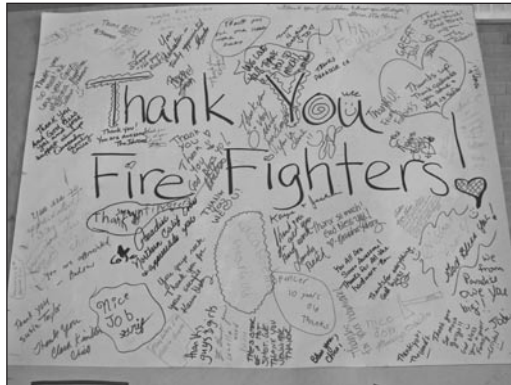
In order to provide proper thanks, the next day we sought out the young girl who had brightened our night. We found her and learned that her name was Madelyne "Maddy" Weldon, the bright-eyed, 5 year old daughter of Karrie Sanders of Fresno, California. The simple, innocent act of kindness expressed by Maddy through her art and the gratitude extended by others throughout California will be

something that I know will stick with me and the rest of the crew for years to come.

**David Bruton**, Utilization and Marketing Forester, provides direct technical assistance to individuals and companies harvesting, using and/or making wood products.



Maddy Weldon, 5-year-old daughter of Karrie Sanders, Fresno, CA, holds her artwork that was presented to Kansas Forest Service Fire Fighters (left to right) Mark Neely, Dave Bruton, and Eric Ward.



Communities and groups express gratitude to firefighters by hanging signed posters at camp.



One of many signs of thanks placed along California's roadways by community members.



## 2008 Fall Field Day

“Land is a blessing.” These are the words of Greg Ellis, 2008 Forest Stewardship Tree Farmer of the Year and host of the Fall Forestry Field Day scheduled for Thursday, October 16. His 80-acre certified Tree Farm includes a 20-acre stand of native grass and is located south of Lawrence and a couple miles west of Baldwin City.

Ellis’s goals for his land are to restore, improve, and maintain the natural resources for future generations. To begin accomplishing these goals, Ellis first met with Connie Robinson-Clemons, Kansas Forest Service District Forester, who inventoried tree types, condition, and sizes and developed a management plan for his forest.

The inventory revealed that around 180 trees needed to be harvested and some high quality black walnut was sold to Steve Harness, a local timber buyer. The harvest also removed less desirable trees increasing sunlight on tree canopies and the forest floor. Additional sunlight has the potential to improve acorn production for wildlife as a food source, help new oak seedlings get started, and other species like black walnut. The harvest also “released” pole-sized trees adjacent to Tauy Creek, improving their growth vigor. The variety of habitat for deer, turkey and other forest-dependent wildlife was increased by the timber harvest. Following the timber harvest, additional undesirable trees were removed through a timber stand improvement practice leaving the best quality crop trees to grow.

Ryan Neises, Lake Region RC & D Forester, has also been assisting Ellis with his forestry

projects and specifically with establishing 3 to 4 acres of black walnut, bur oak, and red oak, which will be planted during the Fall Forestry Field Day using seed.

The Field Day also will feature a session on tree identification taught by Keith Lynch, Forestry Professor. Being able to correctly identify trees is the first step toward effective management of forestland.

Megan Kennelly, Plant Pathologist from Kansas State University will also be presenting information on the top 10 tree diseases forest landowners should be aware of, including diagnosis and treatments.

A representative from the forest industry will discuss the timber

harvest, the market for black walnut, and how to determine the commercial value of a tree. Connie Robinson-Clemons, Kansas Forest Service District Forester, will suggest

techniques that landowners can use following a timber sale to improve forestland by “thinning out” poorer quality trees and how to replant new seedlings.

Several equipment demonstrations with portable sawmills will provide participants a good idea of the type of products that can be produced from a healthy forest. Perhaps most valuable of all will be the overview Greg Ellis will provide of his accomplishments. Ellis has a passion for caring for the land, and encouraging other people to do likewise. He has already

hosted several forestry-related workshops to give other landowners the opportunity to learn how to manage their forestland.

“Greg has done an exceptional job managing his forestland,” according to Marty Hewins, chair of the Kansas



*Dave Bruton, Kansas Forest Service Utilization Marketing Specialist, explains why one of Greg Ellis’s walnut trees is so valuable to timber buyers.*



*Greg Ellis, 2008 Forest Stewardship Landowner of the Year.*

## Historic Monster Walnut

Larry Rutter, who serves on both the Walnut Council Board and Kansas Tree Farm Committee, recently uncovered an article that was published in the Oskaloosa Independent newspaper on March 25, 1893.

The newspaper story described a black walnut tree harvested on the farm of P. W. Gowell whose log measured 18.3 feet in circumference at the small end and 21.9 feet at the large end. According to the article the log was 15 feet long and contained an estimated 3,000 board feet of lumber. The article indicated that by counting the annual growth rings the tree was estimated to be 572 years old. The current champion black walnut in Kansas, located in Desoto (Johnson County), measures 16.8 feet in circumference (at 4.5 feet from the ground), is 81 feet tall, and has a crown spread of 76 feet.



*Kansas has a history of producing and exporting large high-quality walnut logs.*

Two photos were taken of the 1893 walnut log and were featured in the Kansas exhibit that was part of the Columbian Exposition (Chicago World's Fair). The newspaper article indicated that the log was "regarded by experts as the largest and most perfect walnut log" in the United States at that

time. The article also reference Mr. J. H. Rudrow of Oskaloosa, the log buyer, who estimated that 20 million board feet of Kansas walnut had been shipped out-of-state between 1873 and 1893. The USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station's *Kansas Timber Industry - An Assessment of Timber Product and*

*Use*, 2003 report suggests that about 1.4 million board feet of black walnut sawtimber was harvested in Kansas in 2003.

**Bob Atchison**, Rural Forestry Coordinator, coordinates rural forestry activities for the Kansas Forest Service.

### **Land is a blessing ... , continued from page 10**

Tree Farm Committee, "and he has also done a great job educating others about sustainable forestry and the importance of caring for the land." For these reasons the Kansas Tree Farm Committee selected Ellis as the 2008 Forest Stewardship Tree Farmer of the Year. As part of the award Ellis will receive a \$350 gift certificate from STIHL, a walnut engraved plaque, and an award-winner sign to post on his property.



*Greg Ellis has improved the health of his forest by thinning out less desirable trees on 20 acres of his forestland.*

The award will be presented to Ellis at the Fall Forestry Field Day by Larry Biles, the State Forester of Kansas. The field day will also provide a catered lunch. A \$10 registration fee will be charged to help

cover the cost of lunch. To register, checks should be made out to the Kansas Forest Service and mailed to 2610 Claflin RD, Manhattan, KS 66502.

Additional information about the field day may be obtained by contacting Bob Atchison at (785) 532-3310 or by e-mail at [atatchison@ksu.edu](mailto:atatchison@ksu.edu). A brochure and registration can be found on the Web at [www.kansasforests.org](http://www.kansasforests.org) by clicking on "Calendar of Events."

**Bob Atchison**, Rural Forestry Coordinator, coordinates rural forestry activities for the Kansas Forest Service.

## Links of Interest:

Kansas Forest Service  
[www.kansasforests.org](http://www.kansasforests.org)

K-State Research  
and Extension  
[www.oznet.ksu.edu](http://www.oznet.ksu.edu)

State of Kansas  
[www.accesskansas.org](http://www.accesskansas.org)

Kansas Department  
of Wildlife and Parks  
[www.kdwp.state.ks.us/](http://www.kdwp.state.ks.us/)

Natural Resources  
Conservation Service-  
Kansas  
[www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/](http://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/)

Farm Service Agency-  
Kansas  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/ks/](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ks/)

## Calendar of Events

**September 8 – October 10** – Fall seedlings sales.  
Contact 1 (888) 740-8733 for more information.

**September 9 – 11** – Great Plains Riparian Forest  
Management Summit, Sioux Falls, SD. Contact Rich  
Straight, (402) 437-5178, Ext 4024. [www.unl.edu/nac/  
Riparian\\_Summit.htm](http://www.unl.edu/nac/Riparian_Summit.htm).

**September 15** – Kansas Prescribed Fire Council  
meeting, Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita.

**October 6 – 10** – KAA Arborist Training  
Course, Manhattan. Contact Tim McDonnell at  
[tmcdonne@ksu.edu](mailto:tmcdonne@ksu.edu).

**October 7 – November 18** – Tree Keepers:  
Volunteer Training for a Healthy Community Forest.  
Kansas City, Mo. For more course information,  
contact Angela Schreffler at (816) 561-1061 ext 110  
or [angela.schreffler@bridgingthegap.org](mailto:angela.schreffler@bridgingthegap.org)

**October 13 – 15** – SMA Conference, San Diego, CA.  
Contact Tim McDonnell at [tmcdonne@ksu.edu](mailto:tmcdonne@ksu.edu).

**October 16** – Fall Forestry Field Day. Baldwin,  
Douglas County, Greg Ellis Tree Farm. Contact Bob  
Atchison at (785) 532-3310 or [atchison@ksu.edu](mailto:atchison@ksu.edu).

**October 29 – 30** – Forest Management for  
Wildlife Professionals. Emporia, Camp Alexander.  
Contact Bob Atchison, at (785)-532-3310 or  
[atchison@ksu.edu](mailto:atchison@ksu.edu).

**December 9** – Urban Trees, El Dorado. Contact Tim  
McDonnell at [tmcdonne@ksu.edu](mailto:tmcdonne@ksu.edu).

**December 13 – 14** – Kansas Wildfire Conference,  
Salina.

**January 4 – 6** – WESTERN Trade Show, Overland  
Park. Contact Tim McDonnell at [tmcdonne@ksu.edu](mailto:tmcdonne@ksu.edu).

**January 14 – 16** – KAA Shade Tree  
Conference, Topeka. Contact Tim McDonnell at  
[tmcdonne@ksu.edu](mailto:tmcdonne@ksu.edu).

**January 28 – 29** – Kansas Natural Resource  
Conference. Wichita. Contact Charles Barden (785)  
532-1444 or [cbarden@ksu.edu](mailto:cbarden@ksu.edu).

For a current listing of events, check our Web site: [www.kansasforests.org/calendar](http://www.kansasforests.org/calendar)

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