

# WOODS & WATERS NEWS



\$7,500 Grant | Bald Eagles | Restoration Service

## WWLT Receives \$7,500 Grant for Accreditation

Woods & Waters Land Trust thanks the Land Trust Alliance for the generous grant to assist WWLT as it begins the process of seeking accreditation.

Accredited land trusts meet the highest professional standards of fiscal and organizational responsibility. Accreditation by the Land Trust Alliance signifies the highest seal of approval that a land trust can receive.

There are currently two land trusts in Kentucky which are accredited by the LTA; two more are in the process of seeking accreditation. The accreditation process typically takes about three years. WWLT hopes to receive accreditation in 2017.

## Bald Eagles are Back in Central Kentucky

*Just 25 years ago, Kentuckians celebrated the first successful bald eagle nest confirmed in the state in 40 years.* That was a benchmark event. Kentucky had been devoid of nesting eagles for nearly half of a century before the pair at Land Between the Lakes fledged two young in 1989. In just 25 years, the bald eagle population in Kentucky and elsewhere has experienced a phenomenal recovery, growing faster than most predicted. This year, an impressive 131 bald eagle nests were recorded statewide by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR).

In fact, the bald eagle's recovery has been so successful that the species was removed from the federal list of threatened and endangered species in August of 2007. The comeback of our national bird can be attributed mostly to the banning of DDT in 1972 (US) and a nationwide re-introduction effort in the 1970s and 1980s. KDFWR continues to track bald eagle nesting locations and success as part of the post-delisting monitoring effort. Each year, more nests are found.

Even though they are no longer considered an endangered species, bald eagles still remain protected by the Migratory



## Contribute to Conservation While You Shop

Kroger will donate funds to WWLT for every purchase you make with your Kroger card. This doesn't affect your use of points or other card benefits. Two easy steps to sign up online!

1. At [www.kroger.com](http://www.kroger.com) sign up your card by creating an account - we realize this can be a pain but really it is a minute.
2. At the bottom there is a community organization - our number is 69835 but you can search by the last three letters of Woods and Waters Land Trust (which is UST) - and we will pop up on the list. Click Woods and Waters Land Trust - you're done.

That's it - you have supported land conservation in your community.

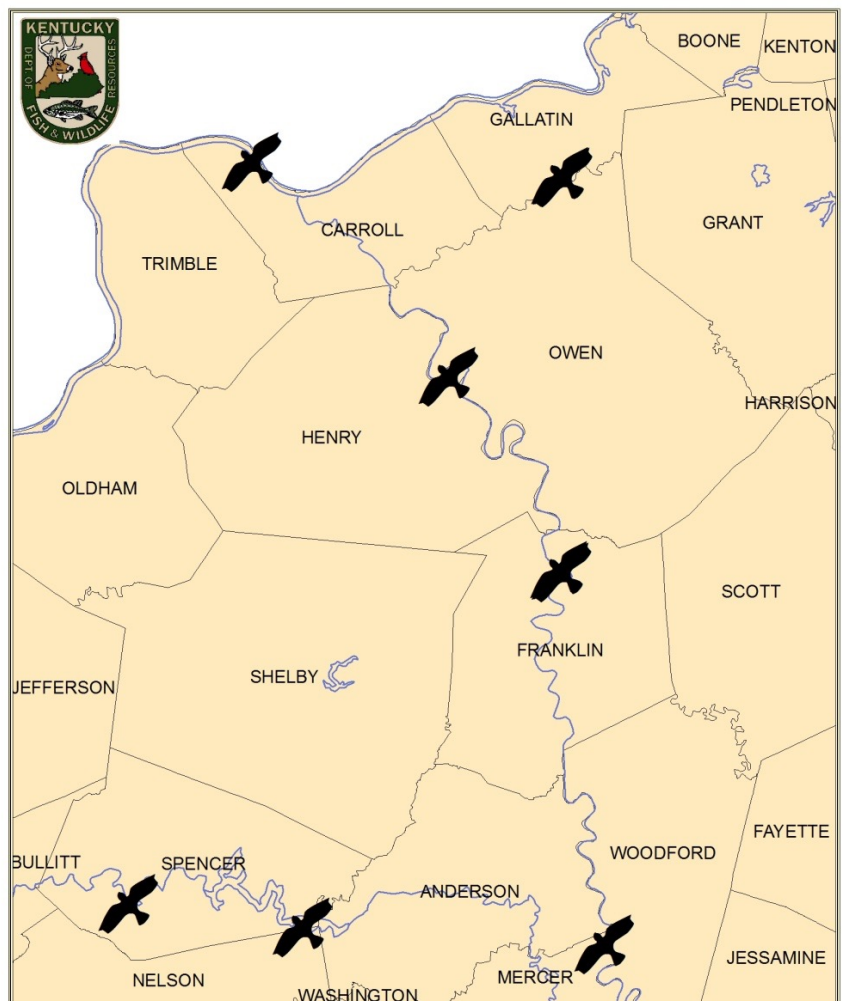
### Welcome, Mackenzie Jones!

WWLT is thrilled to welcome MacKenzie Jones to the board as high school board member for 2014-2015! MacKenzie is a senior at Western Hills High School. She plays soccer and is active in FFA and other organizations. She will be attending Murray State University next year with a focus on agriculture. We look forward to working with MacKenzie this year.

Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA). The BGEPA provides protections to bald eagles that are more restrictive than those that apply to other migratory birds.

The first bald eagle nest to appear in this part of the state was near the Kentucky River in Henry County. This nest was first observed in 2005 and has been reliably producing young ever since. The next nest appeared on the Ohio River in Carroll County, which has been fledging young from the same tree since 2008. Subsequently, in 2010, a nest near the Kentucky River in Franklin County was documented, followed by a nest on Eagle Creek on the Owen-Gallatin County line in 2012. Finally, in 2014 a nest was observed on the Kentucky River in Woodford County. Gradually, the bald eagle seems to be taking back Central Kentucky. *Full article on our web site.*

By Kate Hayden, Avian Biologist KDFWR



## Profiles in Conservation

**Don and Sylvia Coffey** are busy - retired and busy. You may know them from their work on local plays, most recently "Two Loves and a River" about Paul Sawyer. Don wrote the play and they both appeared as actors. Or you may dance with the Coffeys at Thornhill Education Center or participate in one of the many other programs they host for the community.

As busy as they are, they also own and manage 40 acres in western Shelby County. Their objective for the land is to provide habitat for wildlife and native plants and a spiritual oasis for people to connect with nature. Dancing Meadows Wilderness Farm features trails throughout the forest, large mature trees, and an open meadow with a labyrinth, a pattern used for meditative walking. Their land also boasts *Astronomy Height* for star-gazing on the highest hill; elves in the woods to delight children; and several wooded ponds.

The Coffeys are currently working with Woods and Waters Land Trust to establish an easement on their land.

Rivercliffs is a property with lush ravines and steep cliffs fronting the Kentucky River in Franklin County--one of the northernmost of the Kentucky River "Palisades." It's no surprise that **Donald Gates** loved it "on sight." A fisheries biologist, Donald knew forests were important to wildlife and the general health of the river. What is remarkable about the story of Rivercliffs is Donald's generosity. In order to ensure that his property was always cared for he dedicated 110 acres of this exceptional river frontage to Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, a state agency. Donald was especially impressed with the discovery of Braun's rockcress, a federally endangered plant, on the property. He has continued to manage the wildlife and forest resources on the uplands outside the preserve.

To read a profile of **Scott and Mary Pat Hankla**, visit our website.

## Land Restoration Service for Landowners Announced

Woods and Waters Land Trust is pleased to announce a new project serving landowners in the lower Kentucky River watershed. Funded by a donation from WWLT board members, the Land Restoration Project will offer one day of free pest plant removal for landholding members of WWLT.

Invasive species displace native species, disrupting ecological functions and causing economic losses totaling nearly \$120 billion year

## Workshops

We love our members! To show our appreciation, WWLT is hosting the following workshops. Registration is required. 502-229-1427

### January 25, 2015, 2:00-4:40: Homebrew Workshop

Brewmaster Justin McDaniel will be on hand to talk you through the basics of brewing your own batch of beer in the comfort of your own home. Location: 2141 Mills Lane (off Ninevah Road).

### March, 2015: Bicycle Repair Workshop

Tentative: We are exploring the possibility of a workshop that will guide you through basic bicycle repair and maintenance. Bring your own set of wheels in for a tune-up!

### April, 2015: Ultralight Backpacking Workshop

Appalachian Trail and Sheltowee Trace section hiker Lee Colten will lay out some basic tips and equipment advice to make your next backpacking trip lighter and more enjoyable. Bring in your own gear to compare and seek advice.

### July, 2015: Home Energy Audit Workshop

KY Home Performance home energy auditor and home builder Matt Fiscus will demonstrate a whole house energy audit, ending with a set of recommendations for making the host's home more energy efficient.



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nationally. There are approximately 50,000 foreign species in the United States. About 42% of the species on the Threatened or Endangered species lists are at risk primarily because of alien-invasive species. Locally, garlic mustard, bush honeysuckle, and other plants threaten native biodiversity and productive forest and farmland. Bush honeysuckle, for example, creates a monoculture midstory layer that suppresses tree regeneration and the development of a healthy forest understory. Bush honeysuckle and garlic mustard are spreading in our region, but persistent treatments can make a difference.

This spring we will launch the project with 2-3 weeks of work focused on removing garlic mustard and bush honeysuckle. We will serve landowners based on several factors, including the ecological attributes of an area. For more information and to sign up visit our website at [www.woodsandwaterstrust.org](http://www.woodsandwaterstrust.org).

The front page features this year's winner of the WWLT photo contest. Taken on North Elkhorn Creek near the covered bridge in Switzer by Mary Quinan.

Woods and Waters Land Trust is a nonprofit, tax-exempt charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

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**Join WWLT**, a non-profit organization protecting the forested lands and riparian areas in the lower Kentucky River watershed and promoting sustainable land use in the region for the benefit of present and future generations. To join, complete and mail this form, along with your check to the above address.

\_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_ \$250

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