

Woods & Waters
Land Trust
protects forests
and streams in the
lower Kentucky
River watershed.



Kentucky warblers are insect eating birds found in forests throughout our focus area. Photo by Lana Hays.



Thanks to all of the volunteers who have been working hard at Vaughn Branch Nature Preserve this spring.



Six-spotted tiger beetles are commonly found in sunlit patches of bare ground in wooded areas. Photo by TheYeti on iNaturalist.

WOODS & WATERS NEWS



Another Forest Conserved

This April Loren Curtis and Connie May protected a beautiful forest in southern Owen County forever by establishing a conservation easement with WWLT. We welcome their gift to the community – and what a wonderful way to celebrate the 50th Earth Day anniversary! Their roughly 80 acres of land is part of a large continuous forest in the Kentucky River watershed that provides interior forest habitat. Acadian flycatcher and scarlet tanager are a few of the species that depend on interior forest habitat and are found on this beautiful property. Spring wildflowers carpet the slopes along Bowen Branch. Wildflowers and other native plants support pollinators that in turn support birds and other animals. This conservation agreement protects these forest connections.

Beckham Bird Club Grant

Many thanks to the Beckham Bird Club for awarding WWLT a grant to continue to protect forestland, offer bird-focused hikes, and remove invasive species that degrade natural areas! This group supports conservation of bird habitat across Kentucky. We welcome people who want to begin to learn bird identification at the upcoming bird walks. Look for our birding events coming soon – tentatively the first one in early June!

Board Member Spotlight—Andrew Cammack

WWLT was built by people who love the land. Andrew Cammack is a founding member of Woods and Waters Land Trust. He is an Owen County native and manages his family's farm and home and also lives in Frankfort. Andrew has worked at both the Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission and Legislative Research Commission focusing on agriculture and conservation issues. He was Frankfort's first arborist. Cove Spring Park was Andrew's idea originally and he followed through in getting funding to establish it. He has continued to work on the health and maintenance of this natural area that has become an important park in the region. His passion for the land and his experience in conservation issues has been instrumental to WWLT's success!

Priority Areas

WWLT has identified seven large continuous forests similar to the Curtis/May easement area in our focus area—the Lower Kentucky River watershed. Last year we began work in the Long Branch and Sulphur Lick Priority Areas to learn more about the history and biology of these areas and reach out to landowners. We will continue to focus conservation efforts on protecting and connecting these large forests!

Executive Director, Deborah White, Retires

Woods & Waters Land Trust was extraordinarily fortunate to have Deb White as our first Executive Director. During her six years with the land trust, she has worked with landowners in four counties to protect over 600 acres of land; negotiated with the city of Frankfort to establish our first nature preserve; and spent countless hours doing the myriad tasks required to run a land trust. We are going to miss her passion for conservation, her love of all things that photosynthesize, and her seemingly unlimited patience.



A Little About Foxes

We have 2 fox species in our area, red and grey. They eat mice, voles, moles and other little mammals as well as insects and worms. The grey fox eats a good amount of fruit. Also unusual about the grey fox is its unique ability in this canine family to climb trees! And, they are native to our area; red fox were introduced by Europeans and spread south from Canada. Grey fox have a black tip on their tail and, yes, are greyer and little smaller than red fox.

Fox cubs are born in the spring, and are supported by both parents and sometimes sisters and aunts. They take about a month to leave the den and are independent by fall. Both foxes generally like “edge” habitats, areas with some brush and trees – even near people. These fox pups were photographed near Elkhorn Creek.

Photo by Ellis Laudermilk.