

In Honor



Tim McClure

Editors Note: It is with great sadness that we communicate the news of the passing of Tim McClure forest health specialist for the Kentucky Division of Forestry and Dr. Dave Maehr conservation biology professor at the Department of Forestry at the University of Kentucky. Our world has been turned on its side, as reflected by the cover of this magazine, by these tragic and unexpected losses to the forestry and natural resource communities.

-- Jeff Stringer and Diana Olszowy, Editors



David Maehr

by Diana Olszowy

The 10th of May was a dark day for the Division of Forestry as well as the entire forest health community. Thomas “Tim” McClure passed away unexpectedly causing a gaping hole in the fight against insect and disease threats to Kentucky’s forests.

Tim was the Forest Health Specialist for the Kentucky Division of Forestry and was instrumental in the detection and treatment of hemlock woolly adelgid. Tim took great strides in making sure that all partners (public and private) were aware of the threat that the adelgids were to Kentucky’s hemlock. He provided training to local officials and legislators in southeastern and eastern Kentucky, public agencies (parks, fish and wildlife, nature preserves, forestry, US Forest Service, etc.), and recruited “spotters” from local boy scout troops, ATV clubs, hiking clubs and mountain biking clubs. Tim was part of the group that founded “Save Kentucky’s Hemlocks”, which is a coalition of individuals and organizations that had just received more than a \$100,000 in funds to help eradicate the adelgids threatening our hemlocks.

Tim not only battled hemlock woolly adelgid, he monitored for the incoming emerald ash borer, sudden oak death pathogen, beech bark disease, exotic bark beetle surveys, invasive exotic plants and was an active member of the southern group of state forester’s forest health task force and the Kentucky Forest Health Task Force. He also provided training to division of forestry foresters and

ranger technicians on insect/disease and invasive plant threats.

His delightful sense of humor and his respectful, professional integrity made him a truly valuable employee and an honored coworker. The loss of Tim has turned our world on its side (just like the cover of this magazine). He will be and is already greatly missed by his coworkers and those who knew him.



by Wendell Berry

David Maehr died on June 20 while carrying on the work that was his lifelong commitment: the effort to save the remnants of wildlife and wild habitat from destruction by an economy that respects no limits. Dave was a professor of wildlife and conservation biology in the Department of Forestry at the University of Kentucky. His death, at the age of 52, is a tragedy for his family, his students and colleagues, and his other friends. It is also a grievous loss to the conservation movements of our state and nation.

Dave was noted for his work with elk and black bears in Kentucky and with black bears and panthers in Florida. His book, *The Florida Panther*, is compounded of disciplined science, valuable insight into conservation problems, and good stories. He understood that there is no such thing as single-species conservation. He wrote of the “complex interactions whereby individual species are considered just one of many natural functions of the landscape.” He knew, as he wrote to me, that “ecology and beauty [are] important elements of a definition of forest sustainability.”

My own trips into the woods with Dave are among my finest memories. For five years he and I, with two or three of his students and my friend Harold Tipton, gathered for what Dave had begun to call the “Annual Henry County Bird Count,” which were productive equally of knowledge and fun.

David Maehr was dedicated, intelligent, learned, curious, adventurous, humorous, and a great companion.

