



BERT T. COMBS
FORESTRY BUILDING



Bert T. Combs

What's New for KWM? Kentucky Division of Forestry's (KDF) Corner

by Pam Snyder

Professionally speaking, there is always something exciting about being a co-editor of the Kentucky Woodlands Magazine. Whether it is writing an article myself, proofreading other professional colleagues' articles or reviewing the layout content. A lot of time goes into the production of the magazine because of the need for forest management statewide. Our small group sat down to talk about this issue and its content and the Kentucky Division of Forestry (KDF) was offered a page within the magazine to highlight the division's accomplishments and activities. The new section will be called the KDF Corner. The re-opening of a Division of Forestry office in Pineville, Kentucky is the focus of the first KDF Corner.

The Pineville KDF office had been closed due to a reorganization in 2013. The Kentucky Division of Forestry went through a second reorganizational process early in November 2018. During the second reorganizational process, the Southeast (SE) regional office in Hazard, Kentucky, was divided into two new geographical areas. This was due to the SE regional office having one of the state's heaviest wildland fire loads. The management decision was made to locate the new branch offices in Hazard and Pineville. This reduced response times to fires and has employees more strategically located in Eastern Kentucky counties. Officially, the Bert T. Combs building was re-opened on January 1, 2019. The Bert T. Combs building has significant history for the division and Pine Mountain State Park. This building was built in 1958 and was named after Kentucky's 50th governor. It was not the easiest task to re-open a building that had been sitting empty and idle for over five years.

According to Deano Carmicle, the regional environmental control manager:

- The first task was pressure washing the inside and outside of the building.
- The second task was replacing the heating and air conditioning unit.

- The third task was getting new infrastructure like phone and computer lines installed by the Kentucky Commonwealth Office of Technology.

Currently, this facility houses:

- 1 regional environmental control manager
- 2 environmental control supervisors
- 2 foresters
- 6 rangers

KDF is proud to once again have the Bert T. Combs building open and assisting the citizens of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. This KDF office serves a ten-county area (Rockcastle, Jackson, Owsley, Laurel, Clay, McCreary, Whitley, Knox, Bell, and Harlan). Thanks again to all division staff who assisted with getting this office back in operation.

About the Author:

Pam Snyder, is the Forest Management Chief with the Kentucky Division of Forestry and works on a variety of forest management needs for private landowners, farmers, and governmental agencies. She is one of the editors of the Kentucky Woodlands Magazine.

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The mission of the Kentucky Division of Forestry (KDF) is "to protect, conserve and enhance the forest resources of the Commonwealth through a public informed of the environmental, social, and economic importance of these resources." As a means of meeting this mission, the division offers a variety of programs and services ranging from landowner assistance and master logger training to forest health protection and wildland-fire management. The division is also involved in the operation of tree seedling nurseries, urban and community forestry assistance, forest resource utilization and forestry education. The division operates six branch offices across the state. <https://eec.ky.gov/Natural-Resources/Forestry/Pages/default.aspx>