



WINTER 2025

# Newsletter

KACDE

## Kentucky Association of Conservation District Employees

*Welcome to our newsletter! We are excited to share with you the latest happenings and upcoming events.*

### A Note From the President

PENNY WARWICK

Dear KACDE Members,

As we move into 2025, I encourage each of you to stay engaged and connected. I hope that you will take advantage of the many opportunities that KACDE has in store for you. I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming events and hearing more about the great work happening in your districts. Wishing you and your families a joyful and prosperous New Year!

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KACDE

[www.kacde.org](http://www.kacde.org)

# LEADING THE WAY AT SECDEA

NOVEMBER | PIGEON FORGE, TN



KACDE was proudly and actively represented at this year's SECDEA conference, where our dedicated members took center stage to share their expertise, engage attendees, and contribute to the ongoing development of the field.

Lesia Birchfield delivered a compelling presentation on junior boards, focusing on the importance of fostering leadership among younger generations and offering strategies for creating meaningful and effective board experiences for youth.

Penny Warwick led an informative session on Envirothon, an environmental education program that challenges students to apply their knowledge of natural sciences. Her session provided practical tools and insights for organizing Envirothon teams.

Marsha Butterworth captivated attendees with an innovative and interactive soils lesson, utilizing 'soil babies' to demonstrate the vital role soil health plays in our ecosystems, while encouraging hands-on learning.

SECDEA, as always, proved to be an exceptional conference, providing a unique platform for professionals to network, exchange ideas, and collaborate. It was a fantastic opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals and strengthen the bonds that drive our shared commitment to education and community development.



## ART & WRITING SHIRT ORDER

Last day to order: January 31

KACDE utilizes the proceeds from the sale of art and writing-themed T-shirts to help offset the costs associated with attending training sessions and conferences. You can ask your field rep for the link or find it here:

<https://forms.gle/QUwnRBkuw8yWQ3Hs7>

Shirts will be hunter green and are \$12 each for YS – adult XL, and \$13 each for 2XL – 4XL. Orders will be ready to ship by March 1 (subject to change). All other orders will be picked up by your Area Rep or a KACDE board member at the KACDE mid-year meeting (date TBD), unless alternate arrangements are made.



## Jot it down!

**Deadlines, upcoming events, changes, FYIs**

### DOC Field Rep Surveys

Don't forget to complete this anonymous survey!

### Upcoming DOC Meetings

Jay will be visiting each DOC field rep area to gather feedback on their performance and discuss district needs. Supervisors are welcome to attend, and while the focus will be on field reps, the session will be an open forum for any questions.

### Legislative Reception

Join Us at the Legislative Reception in Frankfort at The Elizabeth from 6-8 PM on February 4. This is an opportunity to showcase your district and connect with key legislators. Additionally, feel free to stick around for the SWCC meeting on February 5.

### NACD

Mark your calendars for the NACD (National Association of Conservation Districts) Annual Meeting, taking place from February 8-13 in Salt Lake City. This is a fun chance to collaborate with counterparts across the country.



Don't forget to order Master Conservationist signs as spring banquets are around the corner! Contact a KACDE board member for an order form. Signs are \$25 each or 5 for \$115.