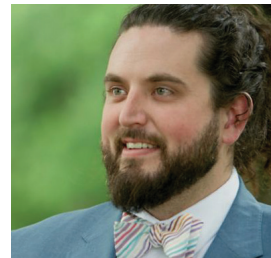


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Clockwise from top, left: Sally Brown © Ashbourne Farms, Green River Lock & Dam © Mike Wilkinson, Mayor Boone Bowling © Wilkinson Visual, Stuart Brown © Stuart Brown.



The people who make it happen

During 2025, The Nature Conservancy proudly celebrated 50 years of conservation in Kentucky. As the end of the year draws close, we are acknowledging the generosity and dedication of supporters like you: the visionaries and vanguards who have powered our conservation success across five decades.

Community leader and outdoor enthusiast Sally Brown was one of the founders of our work in Kentucky. In 1997, she made a \$1 million contribution that catalyzed our efforts to protect the Kentucky River Palisades. Her grandson, Stuart Brown, now serves on TNC's global board of directors. The incredible partners at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service worked with us for 10 years to remove dams and restore natural flows on the Green River. And Boone Bowling, mayor and lifelong

resident of Middlesboro, remains a champion of our work to bring solar power to small communities in the Appalachians because that transition provides new economic opportunities to his community.

These are just a few of the leaders among the many other donors, partners, elected officials and advocates who have given their time, talents and trust to care for nature across the Bluegrass State. We have ambitious plans to secure a livable climate, healthy communities and thriving nature in Kentucky and around the world—and we are confident that together we can secure that future.

Visit nature.org/kentucky50 to read more about past and present conservation heroes—and get inspired to follow their lead!



© Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Progress, Continued

There is always more to celebrate: TNC recently acquired 1,075 acres in eastern Kentucky. The property includes 6.2 river miles, provides habitat for elk and other wildlife, and represents another critical link in a connected and resilient conservation corridor through the entire Appalachian Mountain range.

Sign up today!

Be sure you receive our monthly Nature News emails for updates on this acquisition. Sign up at nature.org/kentucky.



Forest adjacent to Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area © Ben Childers

Small forests, big impacts

Sixty-seven acres—the average size of forest properties owned by families and individuals across the United States—might seem like a modest amount of land. But together, these small tracts add up to 40 percent of the nation’s forests, or a total of 290 million acres, making family forest owners a critical piece of the puzzle in protecting these important habitats—and the planet.

To do just that, the American Forest Foundation and The Nature Conservancy created the Family Forest Carbon Program to help landowners implement climate-smart forestry practices that improve forest health and increase carbon sequestration.

The program provides forest owners access to professional foresters to develop a management plan tailored to their property. When these practices increase a forest’s carbon storage potential, carbon credits can be sold to companies interested in addressing their carbon footprints. Revenue from credit sales supports the program—most especially payments to landowners for their participation and proper forest management.

The Family Forest Carbon Program began in 2021, and has since sequestered more than 1 million tons of carbon dioxide from forests in Pennsylvania, Delaware and beyond. The program launched in Kentucky in 2024, and 90-plus landowners representing more than 13,000 acres of forested land have enrolled.

Resource and knowledge-sharing across borders is a hallmark of how TNC works, and that holds true for this program. “A regional approach maximizes our impact,” says Sean Bowers, who leads the Family Forest Carbon Program in Kentucky, Virginia and Tennessee. “We learn something new with every property we enroll, which allows us to continuously improve our ability to meet the needs of landowners and nature.”

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1,000

In 2025, the Family Forest Carbon Program enrolled its 1,000th landowner, a milestone that demonstrates the potential of conservation that benefits culture and livelihoods.



Donovan Furr and his son © Furr family

“As a steward of family-owned woodlands, I deeply value how the Family Forest Carbon Program empowers landowners like me to enhance forest health while generating income. Before enrolling, I had never heard of a Forest Management Plan. Now, I have a clear, actionable roadmap that helps me manage my land sustainably, protect wildlife habitat and positively impact the local environment.”

—Donovan Furr, family forest owner who has 369 acres in Wolfe County, Kentucky, enrolled in the Family Forest Carbon Program

If you are interested in learning more about enrolling a property in the program, email sean.bowers@tnc.org.