

# THE KENTUCKY COLONELS 'KERNEL'

“Scion” of the Kentucky Nut Growers Association  
Kirk W. Pomper – Editor/Publisher  
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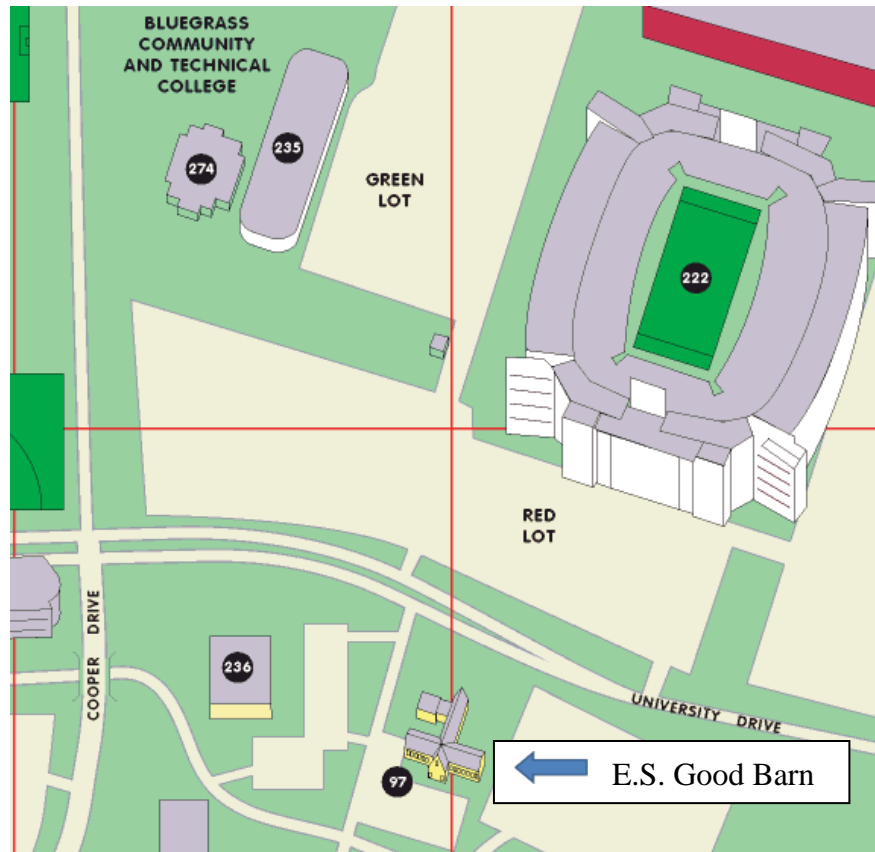
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## KNGA SUMMER MEETING TO BE HELD SATURDAY, JULY 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010

**A Date to Remember:** The Summer meeting of the Kentucky Nut Growers Association will be hosted by Dr. John Strang and be held at the University of Kentucky E.S. Good Barn on Saturday, **July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010**. The address for the E.S. Good Barn is: 1451 University Dr., Lexington, KY, 40506 and a map of the location of the facility can be found on page 2 of this newsletter. The Good Barn is located between Nicholasville Rd. and University Dr. off of Farm Rd. You may park in any of the lots as our meeting is on Saturday. The meeting will be held between 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m and will include grafting and budding demonstrations, as well as a tour of the nut, persimmon, and pawpaw plantings at the UK Arboretum. The luncheon will be potluck. If you bring something that will need to be heated or warmed, there is a well-equipped kitchen that can be used for that purpose. For additional information, please contact Dr. John Strang at (859) 257-5685 or email [jstrang@uky.edu](mailto:jstrang@uky.edu). Please bring a friend to the spring meeting and introduce them to KNGA!  
**Please bring nuts for people to taste and items, such as plants and trees, which can be used as door prizes for an auction.**

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**LOCATION OF E.S. GOOD BARN ON THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY CAMPUS:  
SITE OF THE JULY 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2010 SUMMER KNGA MEETING**



Address: E.S. Good Barn, 1451 University Dr., Lexington, KY, 40506

**LESLIE WILMOTH PASSES**

Leslie Hicks Wilmoth, Lt. Colonel, U.S. Army retired, 92 of Elizabethtown, died Wednesday, April 14, 2010 at his home. A native and life long resident of Hardin County, he was a member of Memorial United Methodist Church for over 50 years. He was a graduate of Lynnvale High School and received a certificate in Business Administration and Accounting from Bowling Green Business College, and was working on a degree in secondary education at Bowling Green College of Commerce when he joined the Army in January, 1942. He was assigned to General McArthur's headquarters in Australia in May, 1942 where he served as Administrative Assistant until December, 1945 achieving the rank of Warrant Officer. During WWII, he was also stationed in New Guinea and the Philippines. He was a Chief Warrant Officer in the Army Reserve from 1945 to 1948. He accepted a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the Kentucky National Guard in 1949. Although he never personally led troops in combat, his expertise in military administration, logistics and intelligence services provided the necessary support for the troops. He served in the Korean War from 1951 to 1953



and was stationed in Japan. He was a graduate of the Army Supply Management School, Ft. Lee, VA, the Computer School at Ft. Mammoth, NJ, the Advanced Field Artillery School, Ft. Sill, OK and the Financial Supply Accounting School, Ft. Benjamin Harrison, IN. His military decorations include the Bronze Star and several campaign ribbons. He retired from military service after 29 years of service. While in Australia in WWII, he met and married his wife of 65 years, Eileen O'Doherty of Southport, Queensland, Australia.

Following retirement from federal civil service after 32 years of service at Ft. Knox as a supply management analyst, he founded the Wilmoth Nursery in 1973 and operated it until 2003. He was the editor and publisher of the Kentucky Kernel, journal of the Kentucky Nut Growers Association from 1976 to 2006 and was elected Dean of the Kentucky Nut Growers Association in 2006. He was also a past president of the Ohio Nut Growers Association, an editor-in-chief of the Pomona fruit tree magazine, contributor to the book, Nut Tree Culture of North America, and wrote articles for the American Fruit Grower magazine. He was a self-taught, practicing horticulturalist specializing in nut tree propagation and was a consultant to the U. K. College of Agriculture for many years. He was a pioneer in developing new procedures for budding and grafting nut trees. Some of his grafted nut trees are in the National Arboretum in Washington, DC. He conducted a field day at his nursery to train others on nut tree propagation for 20 years. He is remembered for his stewardship of trees and the environment, and for promoting the education of his children, grandchildren, step-grandchildren, nephews and others. He was made a Kentucky Colonel in 1972. He was an outdoors enthusiast. His hobbies included boating, camping, fishing, hunting and hiking. He and his wife traveled widely including Hawaii, Tahiti, Fiji, New Zealand, Australia, Germany, Switzerland and England.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Evan Wilmoth and Donnie Hicks Wilmoth; and three brothers, Clarence, George and Richard Wilmoth. Survivors include his wife of 65 years, Eileen O'Doherty Wilmoth of Elizabethtown; a sister, Frances Wilmoth Poteet of Elizabethtown; three children, Dr. Gregory (Cynthia) Wilmoth of Silver Spring, MD, Dr. Deborah Wilmoth of Perth, Australia and Catherine (Ronnie) Basham of Cecilia; four grandchildren, Cheryl Phelps (Carter) Christopher of Burke, VA, Channon Phelps (Brian) Minton of Elizabethtown, Ashley Basham of Cecilia and Rebecca Wilmoth (Mark) Uziel of Silver Spring, MD, three great grandchildren, Ian Chase Minton, William Uziel and Henry Christopher, 4 step grandsons, Jody, Jamie, Jason and Jeremy Basham, 10 step great grandchildren and 2 step great great grandchildren.

### **EULOGY FOR LES WILMOTH**

**Submitted by Greg Wilmoth**

Acts of creation are ordinarily reserved for gods and artists, but humbler folk may circumvent this restriction if they know how.

To plant a tree, for example, one need be neither god nor artist; one need only own a good shovel. By virtue of this curious loophole in the rules, anyone may say:

Let there be a tree--and there will be one.

But the seed is not true to the parent tree. If you have a prize tree that you want to perpetuate past its lifetime, you need an artist to skillfully graft a bud from the prized tree to the stock of a strong seedling.

An artist observes how changing light and changing perspective affect the image.

The tree grafting artist observes how different buds and different seedlings mature and matches the right bud and seedling to create a masterpiece - a tree of distinction.

My father was an artist of distinction and his masterpieces grow around this great country he loved and defended.

*Adapted from: Acts of creation are ordinarily reserved for gods and poets, but humbler folk may circumvent this restriction if they know how. To plant a pine, for example, one need be neither god nor poet; one need only own a good shovel. By virtue of this curious loophole in the rules, any clodhopper may say: Let there be a tree--and there will be one." From A Sand County Almanac, 1948, p. 81 Aldo Leopold, conservationist (1887-1948).*

## **RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF LESLIE WILMOTH TO KNGA AND TO NUT GROWING IN KENTUCKY**

**By Kirk W. Pomper  
Principal Investigator of Horticulture-Kentucky State University**

I arrived in Kentucky in April 1998 and one of my first Kentucky memories was attending the spring meeting of the Kentucky Nut Growers Association (KNGA) and being introduced to Les Wilmoth. Les was always extremely enthusiastic about KNGA and in nut growing in Kentucky. He was instrumental in the formation of KNGA and in the Association's survival and growth. It is important that we remember the history of KNGA and Les's important contributions.

In 1960, Kentuckians interested in forming a nut growers association were invited to the spring meeting of the Indiana Nut Growers at Ford Wilkinson's place. At this meeting the Kentucky Nut Growers Association was formed. Mr. Henry Converse was elected President and Boynton Merrill Vice President. This organization was active until about 1966 meeting in Princeton and once in the Baptist Church in Henderson, until the group suspended activities.

In the fall of 1973, Les Wilmoth attended the Northern Nut Growers Association meeting in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, as a guest speaker on the subject of Bench Grafting Nut Trees. There he met Henry Converse and learned of KNGA. He and Henry decided to call a meeting to discuss re-activation of the KNGA. A few known members of the old KNGA were invited to a spring meeting at Wilmoth's place in Elizabethtown, Kentucky, about 1975 to discuss the re-activation endeavor. At this meeting it was decided that a meeting would be held at Princeton, Kentucky for the purpose of electing officers and directors to re-establish the Kentucky Nut Growers Association. W. D. Armstrong wrote a letter to all last known members of the old KNGA and a meeting was held on April 10, 1976 at Princeton, Kentucky. For the first few years, meetings were held in the basement of the Bank of Glendale. When the group got too large they moved to the Extension Service building in Elizabethtown.

For over 30 years, Les also served as the editor of the KNGA newsletter. Les realized the importance of the KNGA newsletter as not only an educational tool, but a way to connect with and remind members about KNGA meetings. He also organized an extensive nut exhibit each year at the Kentucky State Fair. This nut exhibit required many hours to assemble each year and helped educate the public about the many types and varieties of nuts that can be grown in

Kentucky. He founded the Wilmoth Nursery in 1973 and operated it until 2003. Les grew up gathering nuts from an outstanding thin-shelled shagbark hickory in Glendale, Kentucky, and released this variety as ‘Wilmoth’; the kernel is large, light colored, and good tasting and it was a Kentucky State Fair winner. Les also selected a Persian walnut cultivar named ‘Wilmoth’ that has a large excellent tasting nut. Les will be missed greatly by all of us at future KNGA meetings and in our hearts, but his efforts to promote nut growing in Kentucky will live on!

### **KSU AND KNGA EASTERN FILBERT BLIGHT RESISTANT HAZELNUT TRIAL**

**By Kirk W. Pomper  
Principal Investigator of Horticulture-Kentucky State University**



**European hazelnuts ‘Yamhill’ and ‘Theta’ in the KSU greenhouses. Photo by Kirk Pomper in June, 2010.**

European hazelnut is a potential new high-value crop for Kentuckiana’s small farmers for in-shell nut sales at farmers’ markets and shelled nuts as a food ingredient in value-added products. Hazelnuts are heart healthy, containing nearly 75 percent mono-unsaturated fat, and contain anti-cancer antioxidants. European hazelnuts, which have larger nuts than American hazelnuts, have been difficult to grow in this region due to the presence of Eastern Filbert Blight (EFB) which kills susceptible varieties. Kentucky State University (KSU) will be testing recently released hazelnut varieties from Oregon State University that are immune to EFB as a potential new crop for the region. This trial will consist of five EFB resistant hazelnut cultivars: ‘Jefferson’, ‘Yamhill’, ‘Gamma’, ‘Eta’, and ‘Theta’. The selections ‘Jefferson’ and ‘Yamhill’ are main crop cultivars, whereas the other selections are mainly considered pollinizers; however, they will also

produced harvestable crops. The cultivars 'Jefferson', 'Eta', and 'Theta' bloom late and may avoid late season frosts/freeze events in our region. Data will be collected for tree vigor, winter injury (both to trunk and flowers), pests and diseases, bloom dates, nut weight, harvest date, and yield. These trees were selected in the Willamette Valley in Oregon and were not specifically selected for winter hardiness in the Kentuckiana region; therefore, the critical winter temperatures for tree damage are not known. Additionally, it is not known if these varieties will flower early in the spring and be damaged by frost events. Trees that were produced via tissue culture by a nursery in Oregon were shipped to KSU in May, 2010 and transplanted into one gallon tree pots in the greenhouse to increase tree size for planting next spring. If you are a KNGA member who is interested in receiving trees and being a grower cooperator in this trial, please contact Kirk Pomper at 502-597-5942 of [kirk.pomper@kysu.edu](mailto:kirk.pomper@kysu.edu).

### **A CALL FOR AMERICAN HAZELNUTS**

A new collaborative project between Rutgers University, Oregon State University, University of Nebraska, and the Arbor Day Foundation is requesting help in collecting wild American hazelnuts (*Corylus americana*) for use in breeding efforts. These nuts will be used to generate trees that will serve as new sources of Eastern filbert Blight (EFB) resistance, cold hardiness, and other traits for their breeding program. They are requesting that you send between 25 and 50 nuts from three or four productive wild bushes in your area. If you have American hazelnut bushes and would like to send some nuts to help with this breeding effort, please contact Dr. Thomas Molnar, Plant Biology and Pathology Department, Rutgers University, 59 Dudley Road, New Brunswick, NJ 08901. Email [molnar@aesop.rutgers.edu](mailto:molnar@aesop.rutgers.edu) or call 732-932-9711 ext 117 if you have any questions.



Photograph by Steve C. Garske, Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission, @ Robert W. Freckmann Herbarium University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point web site (<http://wisplants.uwsp.edu>).

## KNGA SPRING MEETING MINUTES AND ATTENDEES

The April 17, 2010, Spring KNGA Meeting in Elizabethtown, Kentucky, was well attended. At the board meeting prior to the business meeting, there was a motion to hold the fall meeting at the Daviess County Extension Office either on Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup>. The motion carried. Dr. John Strang offered the use of E.S. Good Barn for a summer KNGA meeting on July 10<sup>th</sup>, and the motion carried. President Carl Ray has been approached by several companies about advertising in the KNGA newsletter. He made a motion to offer free advertising in the newsletter for one advertisement each year per company and further advertisements for one quarter of a page would be sold at \$5 per issue, subject to availability of space. The motion carried. There was discussion to add a profile sheet for members to the newsletter and add a list of names of people who have nuts to sell in the winter issue of the newsletter. Kirk Pomper, newsletter editor, agreed to add these items. David Leeper asked if KNGA could purchase him paper and ink to assist with his treasurer duties. The board agreed. Kirk Pomper discussed the new KSU/KNGA hazelnut trial and that trees had been ordered (see article in this same newsletter). There were discussions concerning contacting Black's Pecans in Fulton County, Kentucky, about having a KNGA meeting there in the future. The Northern Nut Growers Association is considering having a meeting in Kentucky in 2011. The spring KNGA auction generated \$644.00.

### A Partial List of Spring Meeting Attendees:

Danny L. Ganno, Dorsey M. Ganno, Joe Rogers, Bob Baldwin, Peggy Raddle, Vince Raddle, Carl Ray, Pat Ray, Larry D. Daulton, Thomas Hammett, Monica Hammett, Sean Hammett, Fred Blankenship, Ed Canty, Lucky Pittman, Ed Fackler, Lee Brumley, John Strang, Kirk Pomper, Charlie Martin, Harold Veton, Kate Elder, David H. Leeper, Doug Hines, Bill Scott, Wanda Scott, Yun Orann Lushbrook, John Brittain, Danny Vessels, Joan Vessels, Larry Childress, Herbert F. Childress, Cole Hamilton, Donald O. Lindsey, Don Compton, Norma Compton, Clifford England, Gerald Hartmann, Charles U. Kissel, Gary Herrmann, Larry D. Cook, Lisa Brittain, Kenny Berard, Scotty Hedgespeth, Peter Bodnar, Lida Gordoi, Tim Watkins, Stanley Seipel, Arthur McLaughlin, Charles Clemens, Carolyn Mouny, Joan Seipel, Ann Hudgins, Billy Wingate, and others who did not sign in.

## ANNUAL DUES INFORMATION

**NOTICE: the year listed immediately after your address label indicates the year through which your membership dues are paid. Please note that dates highlighted in pink indicate that your KNGA membership is past due. Please renew your membership. Thanks!**

KENTUCKY NUT GROWERS ASSOCIATION  
David Leeper, Treasure  
2209 Middleground Dr.  
Owensboro, KY 42301

**FIRST CLASS**

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION  
KENTUCKY NUT GROWERS ASSOCIATION**

**TO: David Leeper  
2209 Middleground Dr.  
Owensboro, KY 42301**

**DATE \_\_\_\_\_**

**NEW MEMBER**

**RENEWAL**

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

**NAME \_\_\_\_\_**

**ST OR RFD \_\_\_\_\_**

**CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_**

**OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_**

**AMT. ENCLOSED FOR DUES \$ \_\_\_\_\_ FOR YEAR(S) \_\_\_\_\_**

**Dues are \$5.00 for one year. Annual membership begins January 1<sup>st</sup>. New members joining after July 1<sup>st</sup> shall be credited as paid in full for the next calendar year.) For additional information about joining KNGA, please contact Mr. David Leeper at (270) 929-2968.**