



KWOA
Kentucky Woodland
Owners Association
www.kwoa.net

KWOA and Kentucky Woodlands

by Portia Brown, President of Kentucky Woodland Owners Association (KWOA)

You are reading this article in the Kentucky Woodlands Magazine, which is published collaboratively by the UK Department of Forestry and Natural Resources Extension and the Kentucky Division of Forestry. Many people tell us they are members of the Kentucky Woodlands Owners Association (KWOA) because they receive the Kentucky Woodlands publication. That is not necessarily so. KWOA publishes a quarterly newsletter called the Kentucky Woodlands Newsletter. The operative word is "Newsletter" versus "Magazine." You may very well receive both publications.

So, what's the difference? In a nutshell one is private, and the other is public. KWOA is an all-volunteer organization for private woodland owners funded by membership dues and donations. Our mission is, "Bringing people and woodland sustainability together." KWOA partners with terrific organizations and public agencies, such as those who produce this magazine. Our partners represent a wide range of professional agencies and organizations sharing in the health and productivity of Kentucky's woodlands. Together we work to provide educational information, field days, and opportunities to help owners manage their woods.

So why do you need a private organization? A private organization can do things a public one often cannot. Without constituents to speak up, public and private business leaders lack guidance from those most impacted by their decisions. Individuals can reach out, but having an organization (organized constituency) is a far more effective way to be heard. A legislator may read proposed legislation, but if they do not hear from the people affected they may not understand the full impact of the proposal. Similarly, a business leader may be presented with a project that seems good without being aware of the actual effects. As a membership-based not-for-profit organization, we can and do advocate with legislators, public institutions, and businesses to promote the interest of private, often family-owned, woodlands. A public agency cannot advocate the way we can.

We provide a voice for the collective interest of woodland owners on topics including support for state nurseries, favorable taxation, the farm bill, and other government programs influencing our ability to sustainably manage our woodlands. KWOA has a seat on the Best Management Practices (BMP) Board that sets standards for logging operations to protect water quality for everyone. KWOA strives to stay abreast of relevant legislation, programs, and policies as well as wood industry trends. We share information through various media. Check out some of the events and resources we offer at <https://www.kwoa.net/> which are our monthly E-news: <https://www.kwoa.net/wood-post> and our quarterly Kentucky Woodlands Newsletter: <https://www.kwoa.net/newsletter>

Private woodland owners have the honor and responsibility of caring for this precious resource at a time of increasing threats to the health, productivity, and even the very existence of our forests. We can wait until our resources are depleted, or we can step up now and get involved with KWOA and our partners in making the connections to sustain our woodlands for future generations. Contact us by email at info@kwoa.net, and an officer will get back with you. Scan this code to join us now!



For more information visit www.kwoa.net

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