



KWOA

Kentucky Woodland
Owners Association

www.kwoa.net

Resolutions

by Doug McLaren, KWOA President

How are your new year's resolutions progressing? Statistics show that 23% of folks quit their resolutions within two weeks. Only 19% actually complete resolutions. I fall somewhere in between. Failing to continue or complete resolutions happen for a wide variety of reasons. I am sure that our good intentions fail because our habits need to change to accomplish these lofty goals.

Being a woodland owner has similar results. We tend to set some impressive goals for our woodlands as well as for ourselves. Achievement to accomplishment takes continuous efforts on our part as a woodland owner. As I travel the state with the responsibility of president of the Kentucky Woodland Owners Association (KWOA) as well as a professional forester, I have seen many remarkable accomplishments by woodland owners.

My travels take me to some of the most enthusiastic owners who have resolved to bring their woodlands into compliance with their management plans. It is amazing how many individuals have made this resolution and how many have seen it through. Each of these owners of properties—some small, some rather large—have set goals to manage their properties for a wide variety of end uses. Each began with a resolution, a management plan, and a desire to accomplish.

I believe the difference between a traditional new year's resolution and this woodland management resolution is the connection that each of us have with our woodlands. Every woodland owner that I have met has a deep connection with the property. Woodland owners always are eager to discuss the struggles and hard work it takes to complete the individual management requirements. The discussions made by these hardworking woodland owners are quickly followed up with statements, "I would do it again. I enjoy the work. I love being in the woods."

The organization of KWOA, too, has made resolutions in recent years to help the well-seasoned owner and those who are new to managing woodlands. KWOA has been making New Year's resolutions throughout its existence: to make the connection between KWOA, the woodland owner, and related organizations to support the owner more effectively.

It is much easier to accomplish any task or resolution when you feel that you have a support system. KWOA has continued to help achieve that support. During COVID, KWOA quickly adapted from face-to-face experiences to videos to continue supporting woodland owners' need for information. The recently introduced Wood Post of KWOA brings timely pieces of information that are then linked to more extensive information. Our newsletter brings future notices of information relevant to the owners of woodlands. The website updates our members and partners to what is important. KWOA is working to bring relevant management concerns to woodland owners.

We do hope that if you are a woodland owner, you are a KWOA member. By joining you are quickly involved with a wide range of very enthusiastic owners of woodlands. All have a strong desire to share their ideas for a well-designed woodland that meet their goals. Belonging to KWOA does make the journey of woodland management "resolutions" a much more meaningful and exciting experience. If you are a member, thank you. If you are not, please consider joining to investigate the excitement and motivation of being a woodland owner making what is good better.

For more information visit www.kwoa.net