



Local Forestry Organizations

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Articles in this publication and others have emphasized the importance of woodlands in Kentucky. However, a portion of this story not discussed often is the wide variation in woodlands throughout Kentucky. Differences in climate, elevation, soil types, and dominant tree species mean that a woodland owner in the Appalachian Region, for example, may have a different approach to woodland management than an owner in Western Kentucky.

One approach to dealing with these differences is the establishment of a local or regional woodland group that would address the specific interests and requirements of that area. This approach has been used successfully in other states. No fixed template exists for this type of group; it can be as formal or informal as the members wish, with issues such as frequency of meetings and topics discussed controlled by the members. Experience indicates that this type of organization is most successful when the impetus for the formation and continuation of the group comes from woodland owners.

The woodland group could focus on issues unique to its geographic area that may not be of interest in other parts of the Commonwealth. These issues could be of a political or regulatory nature, or could involve woodland management issues such as invasive species. The program may include presentations from organizations such as the Cooperative Extension Service of the University of Kentucky Department of Forestry, Kentucky Division of Forestry, or the Natural Resource Conservation Service. It may be more efficient to engage these organizations as a group rather than meeting individually. Other speakers may be consulting foresters, loggers, or representatives of local mills. Field trips to members' farms could be part of the programming.

If you have an interest in organizing a local woodland group and think other woodland owners in your area might be interested, assistance and support can be provided by organizations such as the University of Kentucky Forestry Extension, Kentucky Division of Forestry, local Farm Service Agency, County Agricultural Agent, or the Kentucky Woodland Owners Association.

Jack Rentz,
President
Kentucky Woodland Owners Association



A number of publications have been developed to assist those interested in establishing local forestry organizations in Kentucky. These publications and contact information for those that can assist can be found at www2.ca.uky.edu/forestryextension/LFO.php

Make plans to attend the
2014 KWOA Annual Meeting
March 31 - April 1, 2014
Pine Mountain State Resort Park
Pineville, Kentucky

For more information:
606.876.3423 or www.KWOA.net

For more information log on to www.kwoa.net