

*-Thoughts from Jim Corum, President KWOA*

## You Should Manage Your Woods... SAY WHAT?!

“Let me see if I understand this, you are asking me to manage my woodland and spend my own money to grow more Grade 1 logs. Is that it? Well, you know I’m now providing tree cover to enhance tourism, recreation, hunting, and adventure tourism. Along with that, I’m providing free to the public cleaner air, water, and carbon sequestration. Wait there’s more; I also provide a place for ATV trespass, garbage, theft of ginseng, cohosh, goldenseal, and even my timber. Now, for all that, I get to subsidize the property tax of urban residents by paying an unfair, unconstitutional property tax that creates a major competitive disadvantage for me, when compared to timber growers in other states. Anyhow, it’s hard to find out what my good logs are worth AND some so-and-so burned most of my woods three years ago and, because of that, most of the young trees in the area that burned are dead or damaged at best.”

### *Now for the Rest of the Story...*

While I have all of these issues, and as you can tell, get frustrated with them, I still own my woodlands, love to live and work in them, and will continue. However, some of my frustrations may be common to you, and I believe our frustrations point to where we need to come together as a group and make changes to help woodland owners in Kentucky.

If you face some of the issues that I do, or just love your woodlands, I strongly urge that you become a member of the Kentucky Woodland Owners Association (KWOA) and help all of us deal with the problems and challenges of woodland ownership.

As a KWOA member I have seen the organization deal with issues such as: woodland arson, log price reporting, woodland taxes, and timber theft. KWOA has a history of activism to help woodland owners and the more of us there are the better our chances of making changes. Members of the KWOA can tell you that woodland ownership can be very rewarding and the use of simple woodland management practices can benefit you significantly.

If you are interested in improving your enjoyment of your woods we strongly urge that you become a member of KWOA and be provided with pertinent information on woodland ownership, opportunities to support meaningful legislative efforts to improve woodland ownership, and develop ties with other woodland owners through the formation of Local Forestry Organizations.

For more information about KWOA contact Betty Williamson at 270.821.8657 or e-mail at [willdan@bellsouth.net](mailto:willdan@bellsouth.net).

Photo courtesy: David S. Maehr