

In times of economic hardship and recession, we all think about how we are spending our hard-earned money. Many people ask, “exactly what am I getting for my membership dues to KWOA?” The only “tangible goods” that you receive with a membership in KWOA is a copy of our quarterly newsletter; but the “intangible goods” are priceless.

The Kentucky Woodland Owners Association (KWOA) was founded in 1994 and is one of the 36 state affiliates of the National Woodland Owners Association (NWOA). It is truly designed to be a statewide organization for woodland owners in Kentucky. KWOA has 15 members on the board of directors representing the northern, eastern, central, and western zones of Kentucky and three directors-at-large. Our board members are quite diverse. Some own large tree farms and actively manage their timber for harvesting (some even do the harvesting themselves); while others own smaller farms and are more interested in the aesthetics of woodland ownership and/or recreational uses of the land. We all may have different management plans and goals for our woodlands, but everyone shares one common goal: to improve the privately-owned forestland in Kentucky. We try to achieve this goal by:

- Promoting economically and environmental-sound forest management practices.
- Advancing the skills of Kentucky woodland owners.
- Providing communications and networking among Kentucky woodland owners.
- Lobbying for Kentucky woodland owners in legislative activities.
- Keeping the general public informed about the importance of woodland management and how it contributes to Kentucky.

To keep current and provide input on forestry-related issues in Kentucky, KWOA has representation on the Kentucky Best Management Practices Board, Kentucky Tree Farm Committee, Kentucky Forest Health Task Force, Kentucky Conservation Committee, Kentucky Farm Bureau, Kentucky Forest Industries Association, the Legislative Commission Task Force on Land Stewardship and Conservation, Kentucky Agriculture Council and the NWOA. We also attend every forestry-related seminar/meeting/workshop that is offered in the state and report any useful information to our members.

No officer or board member of KWOA receives any form of monetary remuneration. We donate

our time, our phones, our computers, and our gasoline because we have a genuine interest in the woodlands of Kentucky. We do employ the services of a bookkeeper and a professional Web site developer on a limited “as needed” hourly basis. So where does the money collected for membership dues go? The biggest expense in the operation of KWOA is postage. Another ongoing expense is the maintenance fees for our Web site (www.kwoa.net). Every spring, KWOA sponsors a two-day annual membership meeting and field demonstration. KWOA also provides sponsorship for many of the woodland owner short courses, educational forestry field days and educational forestry-related seminars that are offered around the state.

KWOA strives to serve as a source of information for Kentucky landowners. Since the newsletter is only published quarterly, announcements of upcoming seminars, meetings, and other important forestry-related issues are continually updated on the Web site. KWOA provides a forum for landowners to ask questions concerning their woodlands, and experienced landowners and forestry professionals provide the answers.

In his inaugural address on January 20, 1961, President John F. Kennedy made this famous quote: “Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country.” KWOA is a nonprofit organization comprised of independent woodland owners. What can you as a member do for KWOA? You can SPEAK OUT! When forestry-related issues come before our national and state legislators, contact your legislators and let them know how you feel about the issues. It is unfortunate, but in politics the squeakiest wheel gets the most oil.

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www.kwoa.net