



We all have differing visions and goals for our woodlands, but share one common goal—we want to see the Commonwealth of Kentucky preserve healthy and sustainable forests. The primary goal of the Kentucky Woodland Owners Association (KWOA) is to help Kentucky woodland owners attain the best long-range dollar return from their forestry operations while maintaining healthy, beautiful forests. These goals are achieved by:

- Promoting economically and environmentally sound forest management
- Advancing the skills of Kentucky woodland owners
- Serving as an advocate for Kentucky woodland owners in legislative activities
- Keeping the public (and lawmakers) informed about the importance of woodland management and the contributions that woodlands make to Kentucky



Throughout the year, our membership is kept up to date on forestry issues in Kentucky via our newsletter, our Web site (www.kwoa.net), and Internet mailings. Every spring KWOA hosts an annual meeting. The annual meeting provides members with educational opportunities to improve their knowledge and skills in order to better manage their particular “patch of heaven.” It also provides a time of fellowship with fellow woodland owners and a chance to find out how other people are working their lands.

During the outdoor/field day portion of our recent annual meeting, personnel from the Kentucky Division of Forestry (KDF) Central, Green River, and Frankfort offices were on hand to guide a walk through the woods. Members were instructed in timber measurements, how to decide which trees need to be harvested and/or thinned for optimal growth and future forest composition, and identification of local exotic invasives. Woodstock Mills of Scottsville, Kentucky, provided logs that Bob Bauer, Kentucky Forest Industries Association (KFIA) executive director and KWOA board member, used to show how logs are graded by mills. Felix Taylor, KWOA board member, brought his portable WoodMizer sawmill for a demonstration.



At our banquet we honored James Morris, service forester from the Green River district, with the KWOA Service Forester award (top image). Leah MacSwords, director of KDF, was our keynote speaker. She presented an update of the Kentucky Forest Assessment project. Doug McLaren, KWOA board member and part of UK Forestry Extension, ended the banquet with his ever-popular “Forestry Bowl” game.



Our annual meeting ended with a morning of updates and information. Pam Snyder from KDF and the Kentucky Tree Farm Committee presented the latest Standards of Sustainability for Forest Certification from the American Forest Foundation. Billy Thomas, UK Forestry Extension, provided information concerning results of the local forestry organization survey. Andrew Stainback, Ph.D., with the UK Department of Forestry, discussed the Woodlands Tax Project. John Obrycki, Ph.D., UK Department of Entomology and state entomologist, provided an update on the status of the emerald ash borer in Kentucky. Jerry Adams with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service provided information on the USDA 2008 Farm Bill programs that are available for forest owners. Bob Bauer and Ken Negray with KFIA provided an update on the 2010 legislative session and forest certification options in Kentucky. An opportunity was provided at the end of the presentations for attendees to ask questions. We would like to thank J. Henry Duncan, KWOA vice-president, for organizing and conducting another successful and informative annual meeting.

We invite everyone with an interest in Kentucky’s woodlands to join KWOA. Together we can make a difference!

Images from the 2010 KWOA Annual Meeting

Photos courtesy: Greg Kuhns, (top); Stewart West (2nd and 4th); and Henry Duncan, (3rd image).