



KWOA benefits Kentucky Woodland Owners

www.kwoa.net

by Henry Duncan, KWOA President

Economically stressed times create undue pressures on the wood industry. Slow-downs in home building and decreases in sales of timber products depress the market for timber ready for sale. The Kentucky Woodland Owners Association (KWOA) lists timber pricing as a key issue of concern.

The KWOA 15-member board of directors represents woodland owners across the state. One of 36 state affiliates of the National Woodland Owners Association, KWOA is also associated with the American Tree Farm System and coordinates with agencies and organizations regarding the latest woodland issues for the benefit of woodland owners.

KWOA's primary goal is to help Kentucky woodland owners attain the best dollar return from their forestry operations while maintaining healthy, well managed forestlands. Overall issues center on promoting economically and environmentally sound forest management, advancing skills of Kentucky woodland owners, serving as an advocate for woodland owners in legislative activities and keeping the public and lawmakers informed about the importance of woodlands to Kentucky.

Current discussions include: developing a timber market informational system, changing the unfair timberland tax procedures, promoting youth interest in forestry and revising KWOA's long range strategic plan.

The KWOA board meets at 10:30 a.m. on the third Thursday of August, November, February and May at the Kentucky Forest Industry Association Building in Frankfort. All KWOA members are invited to attend and participate in these meetings. Woodland owners are encouraged to stay in contact by joining KWOA and the National Woodland Owners Association.

KWOA membership is kept up to date on forestry issues via newsletters, our website, and electronic mailings.

Photo courtesy: Renee' Williams



Absentee owners, urban residents and a new generation of woodland owners

by Karen Marshall, KWOA Newsletter Editor and Web Manager

Many Kentucky woodland owners, including today's generation, are absentee owners living in urban areas. Many of these urban woodland owners may have had only an occasional opportunity to visit the woodland home place; they may have had little experience with farming practices and few opportunities to walk through a well-managed woodland forest. They also may have limited understanding of silviculture practices such as timber stand improvement, eradication of invasive species and sustainable harvests. This generational and geographic divide increases the importance of educating a new and different generation of woodland owners about the management of their woodland properties.

KWOA, the Kentucky Division of Forestry and the University of Kentucky's Forestry Extension Department offer information, training, demonstrations and professional advice. These offerings can equip the woodland owners and their successors with the skills that were once passed down in rural communities from one generation to another.

Kentucky is also fortunate to have a Center for Forest and Wood Certification that will provide group certification, allowing several small woodland owners to acquire cost effective certification, including advanced woodland management opportunities.

Woodland owners are encouraged to join KWOA and register for various trainings, field work and conferences to acquire the proficiency necessary to regenerate and sustain thriving woodlands for future generations.

For more information log on to www.kwoa.net