



Kentucky
Woodland
Owners
Association

New Leaders, Old Friends, and Moving Forward Together

www.kwoa.net

I feel humbled and yet proud that the Kentucky Woodland Owners Association (KWOA) membership has given me the honor as serving as KWOA/Kentucky Woodland Owners Foundation (KWOFF) president for 2011. I will try to uphold the tradition and reputation that Past President Betty Williamson and other leaders with and before her have established. Other officers for 2011 include Felix Taylor, vice president; Doug McLaren, secretary; Pete McNeill, treasurer; Jack Rentz, assistant treasurer; and Betty Williamson, past president.

This year's annual KWOA/KWOFF meeting at Carter Caves State Park was just great. The Kentucky Division of Forestry went out of its way in directing us through a variety of educational opportunities in the woods, fields, and caves in and around the park. The cool weather just added to the setting, and the bat cave demonstration was unique and educational.

Our in-house sessions included recognition of the Service Forester of the Year, Steve Gray, Elizabethtown, and Pete McNeill, Fleming County, who is one of the KWOA/KWOFF founders and former National Tree Farmer of the Year. Dr Terrell "Red" Baker, UK Forestry Department chair, brought a refreshed interest in woodlands from the UK Forestry Department. His presentation led to in-depth discussion and questions that brought many woodland concerns and opportunities to the forefront for our direction and efforts.

The advancement in woodland certification opportunities, presented by Ken Negray, New Page Corporation, pointed toward a new day in managing and marketing timber; USDA support for woodland farmers was presented by Jerry Adams, Natural Resources Conservation Service; and the latest on invasive species was covered by Carl Harper, UK Entomology Department. The unraveling of the com-

plex timber tax concerns by Dr. Andrew Stainback, UK Forestry Department, resulted in a Timberland Tax Task Force being formed to study the opportunities for woodland owners to achieve an equitable tax structure.

But to me, the most appealing aspect about the KWOA/KWOFF annual meetings is getting to meet and associate with fellow woodland enthusiasts from across the state and share our common interests. One woodland owner in attendance was an 80-year-old retired minister who owns 400 acres of woodland in Lewis County and 20 acres in Jessamine County and has hand-planted trees for decades. He reports that his greatest return is that his granddaughter

is interested in the trees and plans to move to the farm to continue his legacy in the woods. Another woodland owner, now living in Florida, who was so enamored of the opportunities offered by KWOFF that his family has agreed to fund the balance of the KWOFF forestry scholarship fund!

There also were commercial timber farmers with 2,000 - 3,000 acres to smaller 10-acre plot farm-

ers in attendance; there was even a couple from Holland, across the seas, in attendance! We all had a common interest...the value of trees in so many ways.

These are just some of the good reasons to become a member of KWOA/KWOFF and participate in the quarterly board meetings, when possible. And, for sure, attend the annual membership meetings. These annual meetings are usually held at a state park in the springtime and offer something for all woodland enthusiasts. Please access our website, www.KWOA.com for information about joining.

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*Board members and officers of the Kentucky Woodland Owners Association.
From left: Perry Sebaugh, Bob Bauer, J. Henry Duncan (president), Doug McLaren (secretary),
Karen Marshall, Jack Rentz (asst. treasurer), Felix Taylor (vice-president),
J.R. Roth, Cliff Taylor, Joe Ball, Pat Cleary, Tim Freibert, and Greg Kuhns.*