

A Tribute to Pete McNeill

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Pete McNeill and his wife, Anna Lou.

Peter Thurman McNeill Jr., 85, of Flemingsburg, a Kentucky woodlands giant, has passed away. Pete was well-known around the world for his consulting work with agricultural and electrical development and was a great steward of the land; he is the only Kentuckian to have won the National Tree Farmer of the Year award. Among his many accomplishments, he was a founding member of the

Kentucky Woodland Owners Association (KWOA). Pete had such a positive influence on so many people, and we wanted to share a few tributes to Pete from just a small sample from the Kentucky forestry community:

Greg Kuhns, KWOA Board Member, Bullitt County

"Pete McNeill was Mr. Forestry to many of us, especially those new to the practices of good forestry. His kind gentle ways and legendary contributions will be sorely missed."

Karen Marshall, KWOA Board Member, Owen County

"I appreciate his advice, his example, and his dedication to not just his wonderful family Tree Farm, but to the betterment of family forests in Kentucky and elsewhere."

Henry Duncan, KWOA President, Logan County

"I personally was blessed to have an opportunity to travel to Costa Rica on a two-week Methodist mission trip with Pete and his wife, Anna Lou. The highlight of that trip was to accompany Pete to meet with Costa Rica's forestry advisors to share woodland management and planting advice for that region of the country. It was amazing to witness Pete's ability to share forestry details through interpreters. On another recent trip, Pete, my son, and I drove to Washington, D.C., for the National Tree Farmer Conference. He proved to be well-known and respected among the national foresters and the politicians in Washington. Pete McNeill's influence has spread across the continents, but his devotion has been to strengthen woodland owners and their status throughout Kentucky."

Jerry and Portia Brown, KWOA Board Members, Grayson/Shelby Counties

"Pete has been an inspiration for many people, near and far, and especially in the of woodland-owners community. We feel honored to have known him and, like so many others, will hold his memory as a bright light of caring and consideration to carry forward in our lives."

Leah MacSwords, KDF Director, Frankfort
"Pete was a delightful person, and I enjoyed working with him on the Tree Farm Committee and the Kentucky Woodland Owners Association board of directors. He was a true advocate for Kentucky's forests and set an example of forest stewardship. I will miss him."

Cliff and Barbara Taylor, KWOA Members, Boyle/Casey Counties

"I asked for Pete's counsel on carbon credits as well as other timber-related topics. Pete made a great contribution to KWOA and to humanity over the world. I am glad I knew Pete, and all of his family members should be proud he was a part of their family."

Editors Note: Efforts are underway to establish a memorial forestry endowment for Pete McNeill and other Kentucky forestry leaders. See Kentucky Woodlands News To Use in this issue for more information.

KWOA Working for You...

KWOA offers sharing and networking opportunities for fellow woodland owners, forestry agencies, consultants, loggers, and others in the forestry community. KWOA was founded in 1994 with directors elected from the four regions of Kentucky. The KWOA board meetings are held the third Thursdays of February, May, August, and November. Any KWOA member is cordially invited to attend the board's meetings and participate in the business of the organization. We are excited about the many educational programs and issues initiated and supported by KWOA. Please view our website www.kwoa.net for more details. If you are not already a KWOA member, please join us and become part of an organization that is dedicated to improving the woodlands of Kentucky and assisting those who own and care for them.

For more information log on to www.kwoa.net