

Kentucky Woodland Owners Association Assists Private Forest Landowners with Woodland Management

For adults who have long forgotten their scouting badge for tree identification and now wonder just exactly what all those trees are in their back forty and whether those bugs are a cause for concern, help is on the way. The Kentucky Woodland Owners Association (KWOA) promotes economically and environmentally sound forest management and provides technical assistance to its members to improve their forest holdings.

Since 1994, KWOA has provided a forum for Kentucky's 423,000 private woodland owners to consult with forestry experts, the logging and wood products industry, and professionals in related fields such as wildlife and agriculture. Whether a farmer, an ab-

sentee landowner, or a rural resident, all owners of forested land have questions from time to time on how to manage their woodlands. KWOA ensures that the latest information from national and state level research is made available to its members through its reports, newsletter, Web site, field days, conferences, and business meetings.

KWOA's primary goal is to help Kentucky forest landowners attain the best long-range dollar return from their forestry operations while at the same time maintaining a healthy, beautiful forest. The association provides marketing information, educational programs, and technical assistance on managing forest holdings to support forest

health, economy, and outreach. Its officers and regionally based board of directors brief the state legislature and coordinate with local businesses and government agencies to ensure that woodland owners' interests are represented in fiscal, economic development, and environmental policies affecting them.

As a sustainable industry, timber production must address long-term issues of forest health and landowner education regarding the status and value of their holdings. KWOA approaches these concerns on several fronts:

- KWOA informs the public about the importance of woodland management and what it contributes to the state's economy, recreation, natural lands preservation, wildlife habitat, water quality, and the environment.
- KWOA puts woodland owners in direct contact with experienced local timber owners who have proven they know how to get the best long-range dollar return from their forestry operations while maintaining a healthy, beautiful forest.
- KWOA negotiates for better markets and prices for Kentucky forest products and organizes support for bringing modern wood processing industry to Kentucky.

Photo by Doug McLaren



- KWOA assisted the Revenue Cabinet in changing the way forest land is assessed;
- lobbied the state legislature to enact a special Classified Forest Act granting favorable assessments to forests under certified management programs;
- helped develop a “one pass” management practice with cost share to combine tree planting, timber stand improvement, fire lanes, erosion control measures for roads, and wildlife habitat improvement;
- expanded the forest health task force to address invasive vegetation, insects and disease problems threatening Kentucky’s forests;
- created a new model program with the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board to help woodland owners develop production profit potential, forest management and stewardship in their woods; and
- built solidarity among its members and the 27 state woodland owners associations across the United States to bring forest landowner issues to the attention of Washington, DC lawmakers.

Whether a property owner has ten acres or a thousand acres of woodlands, KWOA can assist in all aspects of maintaining and improving forest health. For information on how to become a member of KWOA and participate in its numerous events during 2006 visit its website at www.kentuckywoodlandownersassociation.com.

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2006 Woodland Owners Short Course

The 2006 Woodland Owners Short Course is scheduled for the 2nd Thursday of June through September. The Woodland Owners Short Course consists of four segments spread out across Kentucky and each segment covers a variety of woodland related topics.

There are a wide range of management possibilities available to woodland owners in Kentucky including generating income from timber harvests and forest crops, recreational use, and wildlife management to name a few. Regardless of the management objective, basic information about forest management is vitally important to help ensure the future sustainability of your woodlands. To get the most out of their woodlands, owners need a basic knowledge of all aspects of sustainable forest management. The 2006 Woodland Owners Short Course will provide that information through experts from around the state.

This is a great opportunity for woodland owners to learn more about woodland management, sources of assistance, harvesting and marketing, invasive species, and woodland recreation. It is also a great opportunity to make beneficial contacts with natural resource professionals and other woodland owners. Space is limited so if you are interested please register early.

The Woodland Owners Short Course is sponsored by the University of Kentucky Department of Forestry, the Kentucky Division of Forestry, and the Kentucky Woodland Owners Association. Participants are encouraged to attend as many of the segments as possible. The final segment will include a presentation of a certificate of participation to those landowners that attend at least three of the four scheduled segments.

For additional details and to view the brochure, which includes the registration form, go to www.ukforestry.org or call (859) 257-7597.

Photo by Thomas G. Barnes