

Kentucky Woodland Owners Association

KENTUCKY WOODLANDS

Newsletter

vol. 16 no. 4 Winter 2008

KWOA Addresses Legislative Task Force on Woodlands Economy and Management

KWOA and partners conducted a two-hour presentation and discussion on the economic potential of Kentucky's woodlands with a select group of attentive and thoughtful Kentucky legislators. Representative Rick Nelson chaired the November 20th meeting at the Capitol. Nelson commented at its conclusion that the session was one of the better presentations with accompanying handouts he has seen in his eight years as a legislator. This meeting followed an abbreviated presentation to the Interim Joint Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources on October 8th (see related article). Although state senators were invited to attend the November 20 meeting, only House members were assigned to the task force (see

box for list of Representatives on page 3.) KWOA provided an overview of the economic potential of Kentucky's timber industry and the most pressing issues that block its path to achieving that potential. KWOA President Jim Corum led the presentation that included remarks by more than a dozen KWOA members, partners and invited experts. Corum proposed to the task force that Kentucky's \$8.7 billion forest industry has the potential to generate a \$34 billion economic impact with proper management of its timber. Key to the management of its nonindustrial woodlands are 467,000 private woodland owners. Although many woodland owners have good intentions to maintain and improve their property, there are a number of reasons why they don't do so.



In This Issue



- Overview of '09 WOSC
- Western WOSCs (Williamson)
- October 8 KWOA presentation to Interim Committee
- Annual meeting announcement
- Annual meeting registration form
- 2009 KWOA membership form
- November 20 Forest Economic Development Task Force meeting
- Board meeting highlights
- Indiana Certified Forest program
- Tree Farmer award
- Certification Seminar

KWOA presented five major issues that threaten the health and productivity of Kentucky's woodlands with accompanying recommendations to solve each problem. The issues and recommendations are briefly provided as follows:

Issue 1: Forest Health

Unprecedented threats to our forests in the form of invasive insects, diseases and plants are currently present in the state or looming directly beyond our borders. Some of these will change the face of our woodlands and depress recreation and timber industry revenues.

KWOA Recommendation: Legislatively establish the forest health task force (chaired by the state entomologist) attached to the Kentucky Division of Forestry with funding if possible.

KWOA Addresses Legislative Task Force

(continued from page 1)

Issue 2: Timber Theft

The theft of timber is a problem that has plagued Kentucky woodland owners and has garnered significant publicity. Current enforcement of existing laws has been shown to be ineffective in stopping this theft resulting in significant risk for woodland owners and their valuable timber.

KWOA Recommendation:

- Strengthen criminal prosecution of timber
- If legislation is enacted include all stake holders (e.g. KWOA, KFIA, Loggers)
- Strengthen fine collection and enforcement of repeat Bad Actors
- Establish a law enforcement unit of the Kentucky Division of Forestry to increase criminal prosecution of Timber Theft and Arson

Issue 3: Competitive Disadvantage

Kentucky lacks appropriate incentives for private woodland owners to help them keep their woods in woodlands. Further our industry lacks significant and important sources of high quality certified timber that can help maintain national and global market share. Indiana is in the process of developing a system that provides incentives to promote good management by woodland owners and provide a source of certified wood for their primary and secondary forest industry.

KWOA Recommendation: Establish incentive program for woodland owners to enhance the production of CERTIFIED WOOD using Indiana's Classified Forest System as a model

Issue 4: Wildfire

Wildfire represents a continued threat to woodlands resulting in significant reduction in timber values. Individual woodland owners are often powerless to stop aggressive wildfires and the Kentucky Division of Forestry devotes millions of dollars to fire suppression therefore deterring or preventing fires is paramount.

KWOA Recommendation:

- Establish a law enforcement unit of the Kentucky Division of Forestry to increase criminal prosecution of Timber Theft and Arson
- Provide funding for the development of fire lanes on private woodlands
- Provide reward for information leading to the conviction of wildfire arson

• Adopt recommendations of the Governor's Task Force on Wildfire and Arson (2006)

Issue 5: Limited Markets for Abundant Low Grade Trees

Kentucky forests are currently worth 1/4 of their potential due to historical mistreatment and markets must be made available for the harvesting of low-quality trees that are a hindrance to high value tree growth.

KWOA Recommendation: Request that LRC Investigate the Potential to Develop Incentives Package for the Utilization of Low Quality Trees. Provide Stimulus to Encourage Co-Generation using Woody Biomass.

The nearly perfect attendance of legislators asked thoughtful questions and provided a number of useful observations during the meeting. These included log measurement and grading discrepancies between sellers and sawmills, absentee landowners, the role of county extension agents in forestry education, training for mill owners, coordination with carbon sequestration/credits initiatives, collaboration with the UKY Center for Applied Energy Research and utilizing incentives for biofuels provided by Kentucky House Bill 2 (enacted).

Final Recommendation:

KWOA and its partners recognize that while some issues such as forest health and timber theft can be addressed in the upcoming session many issues will take more time to develop. To deal with these significant issues KWOA requests that both the House and the Senate convene a joint task force in 2009 to further discuss legislative initiatives.

In closing the task force meeting, Rep. Nelson stated that he hopes to meet again with KWOA in December and is receptive to sponsoring legislation to address any or all of its recommendations.

State representatives on the **Woodland Owners and Forest Management Task Force:**

Royce Adams Leslie Combs Jamie Comer Tim Couch Mike Denham Tom McKee Rick Nelson (Chair)

Fred Nessler Tom Rhiner Jim Stewart

CB Embry

Land Stewardship and Conservation Task

The Kentucky Land Stewardship and Conservation Task Force was created by the General Assembly in 2006 to study the Commonwealth's strategy for the protection of natural areas, farmlands, habitats, and forests and produce recommendations for a comprehensive land stewardship and conservation program.

KWOA President Jim Corum and Board Member Hugh Archer serve on the Task Force. The Task Force's first recommendation was that more study be given to the development of legislation over the long term to create a comprehensive land stewardship program similar to those existing in North Carolina, Florida and other states. The task force is attempting to mold the best aspects of these other states' programs into one that will be best for Kentucky's needs. It will also provide a clearly defined procedure for receiving funds and dispersing them in a systematic manner in order to make the most of the state's resources.

The Task Force was recently re-authorized for two years to continue its study of issues related to conservation, recreation and preservation of property. For more information go to: www.kyconservation.org/conserveky.htm

KWOA is dedicated to promoting economically and environmentally sound forest management.

KWOA Presentation to the 2008 Interim Joint Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

by Betty Williamson

On October 8, 2008 KWOA appeared before the 2008 Interim Joint Committee on Agriculture and Natural



KWOA President Jim Corum debriefs at the Capitol with officers, board and partners after October 8th presentation to joint committee. Photo by Jamie Corum.

Resources. The points stressed during the presentation were the great economic impact that our forests have in Kentucky and things that are blocking the increase of this economic impact. Jim Corum, KWOA President, and Bob Bauer, Kentucky Forest Industries Association Executive Director/KWOA Board Member gave our presentation with power point assistance from Doug McLaren, UK/KWOA Board Member. The forest industry has a 4.6 billion dollar direct impact on the

state of Kentucky. KWOA presented a set of blockers to increasing the economic impact of Kentucky's forests as well as recommendations to eliminate them.

There was a period for questions and answers after the presentation. Representatives Nessler and Collins had questions concerning logging citations and the collection of fines from those citations. Rep. Pullin had questions concerning losses from wildfire. Leah MacSwords, KDF Director, was present to answer these questions.

Rep. Webb was very complimentary concerning the Forest Conservation Act. She had received concerns from her constituents when the Act was being written, but has received no complaints since it was enacted. She also acknowledged the hits that KDF has taken in the current budget and that more money is sorely needed for forestry. Rep. Rick Nelson was instrumental in getting KWOA concerns on the session's agenda and for securing travel funding for legislators to attend the Forest Economic Task force meeting.

2008 Woodland Owners Short Courses Added New Focus on Wood Industries

The UK Forestry Extension, conducted with many partners, another season of on-site classes across the state for woodland owners. The 2008 Woodland Owners Short Course, a partnership effort between extension and Kentucky forestry and natural resource organizations, introduced landowners to woodland management techniques, managing for wildlife and the state's wood industry. The last topic is a new addition this year.

The introduction to Kentucky's wood industries entailed visits to Harold White Lumber and Millworks in Morehead, B&K Wood Products and Sebree Fence Company in Madisonville, and Lebanon Oak Flooring and Ames True Temper, which manufactures tool

handles, in Lebanon. The Kentucky Forest Industries Association assisted with this new segment.

This year there was 216 in total attendance by woodland owners; 161 unique woodland owners attended at least one session with 27,771 woodland acres impacted.

KWOA contributed financial support for the short courses for a third year thanks to a grant from the Bradley/Murphy Forestry & Natural Resources Extension Trust. The objective of the Trust is to encourage and promote the stewardship of forests and natural resources through education and the free market system.

Woodland Owner Short Courses in Western Kentucky

by Betty Williamson, KWOA Secretary and woodland owner in western Kentucky

The University of Kentucky Forestry Extension Office again offered three woodland owner short courses each in western, central and eastern Kentucky in 2008. I was fortunate to be able to attend all three courses that were offered in western Kentucky.

The first course was conducted on June 12 in Ohio County at the Scott Young Tree Farm. The Young family have been tree farmers for several generations. We were able to see the results of reforestation of fields. Foresters from the Green River District discussed and demonstrated timber stand improvement work, crop tree management and types of timber stand thinning. A representative from Kentucky State University updated us concerning agricultural research being conducted at KSU. A special thanks goes out to the Ohio County 4-H'ers who prepared our BBQ lunch.

The second course was offered at the Kaler Bottoms Wildlife Management Area in Graves County on August 12. At this course we were shown bottomland reforestation sites, the effects of stream channelization and management techniques to move areas of monoculture forest toward a more mixed hardwood forest. Representatives from the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Division of Forestry were present and advised our group on the different government cost share programs that are still actively funded and available. A special thanks is offered to the Clear Springs Volunteer Fire Department who allowed us to use their building for the indoor portions of the program.

The third course was conducted at the Hopkins County Extension Office on September 11. At this course we actually got to see what happens to our trees when they are harvested. We toured the Sebree Fence Company in Webster County and B&K Wood Products who have two facilities in Hopkins County. It was fascinating to see the mills in operation and to see the ways that these companies utilize the "waste" from their primary products into marketable secondary products. There is no "waste product" at either of

these mills. Presentations were made concerning woody biomass and wood product markets. The Green River Logging Council gave a presentation on what a land owner



Woodland owners observe what happens to trees after leaving their properties. Photo by: Billy Thomas

should look for when choosing a logger.

If you have never attended a Woodland Owner Short Course, I would encourage you to try to attend one next summer. I have been married for over 30 years to a forester who has tried to educate me in woodland management. Yet, I learn something new at every short course that I attend. To Billy Thomas at UK Forestry Extension, Tad Norris with KDF, and all the personnel from the Division of Forestry, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, UK Forestry Extension and the County Extension agents who work to put on the short course program......THANK YOU!!!!!

KWOA Board Member Tim Freibert Selected as 2007 Tree Farmer of the Year

Tim Freibert Photo by: Greg Kuhns

Tim Freibert, a new KWOA board member and owner of tree farms in Kentucky and Indiana, was selected by the Kentucky Tree Farm Committee as 2007 Tree Farmer of the Year. The Kentucky Tree Farm Committee promotes actions that sustain forests, watersheds and wildlife habitat through the power of private stewardship.

Freibert was honored at the Kentucky Forest Industries Association annual meeting in April and during a Tree Farmer of the Year field day at his Nel-

son County farm on November 13th. Tim has continually improved his 115-acre certified tree farm through timber harvests, stand improvements, planting trees and maintaining roads

and boundaries. According to a KFIA press release, the farm has produced over a half million board feet of logs in a series of timber sales on the property that were conducted as part of a sustainable management process. Tree harvesting and natural regeneration also improve wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities on the farm.

The Kentucky Tree Farm Committee is sponsored by KFIA and is part of the National Tree Farm Program that promotes sound forest management through sustainable forestry.



Greg Kuhns, KWOA board member, presents a KWOA honorary certificate to Tim Freibert, a 2007 Kentucky Tree Farmer of the Year, during field day at his farm. Photo by: Doug McLaren

KWOA Directors/members Receive KDF Outstanding Forest Stewardship Awards

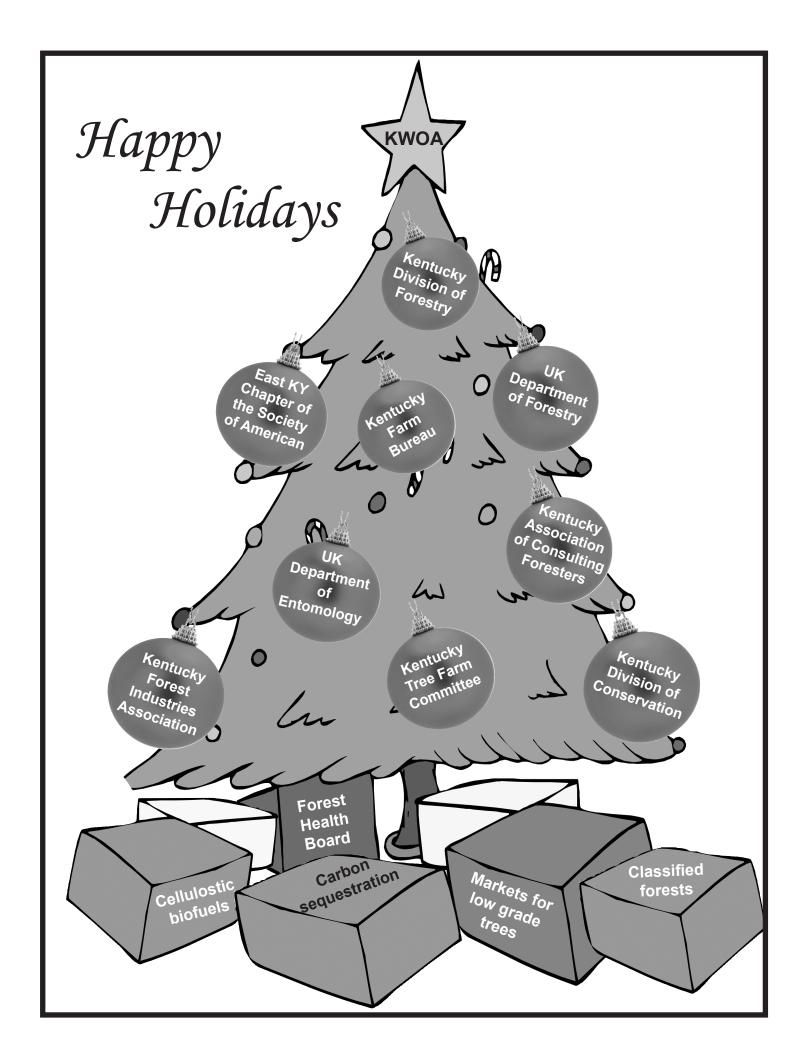
The Kentucky Division of Forestry presented its 2008 Outstanding Forest Steward Award to KWOA board member Felix Taylor (Jackson County). KDF also recognized another KWOA board member – Tim Freibert – and Frank Hicks – KWOA member – as finalists. According to an Energy and Environment Cabinet press release, KDF Director Leah MacSwords described stewardship as embodiying "cooperative planning and management of natural resources in an effort to prevent loss of habitat and promote sustainability."

Felix Taylor, a field presenter at KWOA's 2008 annual meeting, has improved timber stands on 45 acres of his 200-acre farm, planted wildlife

food plots and built nesting boxes, constructed and stocked a pond and maintained more than 100 acres for hunting and horseback riding. He has also sustainably harvested timber totaling 233,000 board feet.

Frank Hicks (Greenup County) has been a certified state forest steward since 1996 and active in the American Tree Farm System. Tim Freibert (see article above) was recognized for his property in Nelson County. He has been a certified forest steward since 1994.

Landowners with ten or more acres of woodlands are eligible to participate in the KDF Forest Stewardship Program.



Certification matters: KWOA co-sponsors seminar "Certification for Kentucky Forests and Products"

KFIA and a number of co-sponsors are convening an extensive seminar on forest and wood products certification to examine every aspect of this complex and sometimes controversial subject. The January 27 seminar topics include: reasons, options and recognition for certification for an array of stakeholders. The dozen or so segments will also consider market opportunities and other benefits as well as costs and potential pitfalls.

The seminar will be held from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. on January 27 at the Fayette County Cooperative Extension Office, 1140 Red Mile Place, Lexington. Advance registration fee is \$25 (due January 19); day of program fee is \$35.

For directions visit:

http://ces.ca.uky.edu/fayette/directions/ For more information or to register: call KFIA at 502.695.3979.

Topics and Speakers include:

Certification: What it means to a Forest Products Customer

Jerry Koetter, Koetter Woodworking

- Why customers want "certified products"
- Impact of certification on secondary wood industry
- Viewpoint of certification experience

Global & Economic Ramifications of Certification-Bobby Ammerman, UK Forest Products Extension associate

- What certification means
- Why organizations need it
- The origin of certification
- Costs involved
- Private Landowner guide to forest certification in the south
- What it will help
- Problems it will cure (illegal logging)

Kentucky's Forests

Leah MacSwords, KY State Forester & Director

- Shape & significance of KY forests (brief update on FIA data)
- How this information correlates to certificaion systems
- Development of memorandum of understand

between USFS forest stewardship program and American Tree Farm management plans

- Kentucky's position on certification efforts
- KDF involvement in certification

Certified Master Logger Program Jeff Stringer, UK Professor, Hardwood Silviculture & Forest Operations

- Certified Logger program development
- Implementation & status of program

Loggers Perspective on Certified Master Logger

Bobby Gary, Owner/President of Gary, Inc

- "Why I became certified"
- Viewpoints, benefits of certification

Classified Forest in Indiana

John Seifert, Indiana State Forester

- Legislation to establish certified forest for tax breaks through certification
- Certification and auditing process

American Tree Farm & Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification

Speaker to be determined

- Certification updates on PEFC & Tree Farm
- Certification of individual tree farms
- How Tree Farm Certification relates to NIPL, sawmills, papermills, etc,
- Best use state/industry involvement on Tree Farm Certification

SFI (*Sustainable Forest Initiative*) *Certification* **Rick Cantrell**, V.P. Sustainable Forestry Initiative

- SFI Certification
- procedures to gain certification
- SFI label; what it means to organization and to customer
- Costs involved for individual and group organizations

FSC Chain of Custody Certification; Group Tree Farm Certification; Process for organizations to achieve certification

John Godbee, F&W Forestry

- FSC CoC what it is, what it means, how you get certified, what it costs
- Importance/Significance of FSC CoC certification
- Group tree Farms; description / implementation / costs involved
- How Sawmills, organizations become certified
- Time Frame for certification

Kentucky Woodland Owners Foundation

1483 Big Run Road • Wallingford, KY 41093 • 606-876-3423

2009 MEMBERSHIP INVOICE / APPLICATION Jan 1-Dec 31,2009

riease print			
Name			
Address			
City			
State & zip code			
Telephone numbers			
Email address; county; number of acres owned			
KWOA Basic Membership		\$30.00	
Membership Plus Additional \$30.00 — Includes membership in the National Woodlands Owners Association. You will receive the National Woodlands quarterly newsletter and eight issues of Woodland Report.		\$30.00	
Voluntary (much appreciated) contribution to <u>Kentucky Woodland</u> <u>Owners Foundation</u> — a 501 (C) (3) tax-exempt organizationdeductible as a charitable organization			
TOTAL			
		<u> </u>	

Mail check to:

Kentucky Woodland Owners Association

1483 Big Run Road • Wallingford, KY 41093 • 606-876-3423

If you have paid your dues, thank you and please forgive this second notice.

Membership dues are deductible as a business expense.

National Woodland Owners Association

www.kentuckywoodlandownersassociation.com

Annual Meeting: General Butler STATE RESORT PARK, March 20-21, 2009 502 732 4384/ 866 462 8853

(A block of rooms with a special rate has been reserved for a limited time. Please state that you are attending the KWOA MEETING when you make your reservations.)

2009 KENTUCKY WOODLAND OWNERS ASSOCIATION and FOUNDATION ANNUAL MEETING

General Butler State Resort Park PO Box 325 - Carrollton, Ky 41006 Phone: 866.462.8853 / 502.732.4384 Fax: 502.732.5402 March 20-21, 2009

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT			
LAST NAMEFIRS	Γ NAME/NICKNAME		
SPOUSE/GUEST NAME:			
OPTIONAL: YOUR TREE FARM NAME			
MAILING ADDRESS:			
CITY:			
DAYTIME PHONE ()	FAX ()		
E-MAIL			
Registration package includes: Friday, March 20: field trips, log grading & pricing, reception, and dinner Saturday, March 21: program presentations, with topics of great interest to woodland owners.			
Registration)\$35.00 per person includes Friday dinner #X \$35.00 = \$ Total \$			
Make check or money order payable to the "KENTUCKY WOODLAND OWNERS ASSOCIATION" Send registration and check to: KWOA & KWOF Hutton & Loyd Tree Farm 1483 Big Run Road Wallingford, Ky 41093			
Please make your room reservations separately with:			
General Butler State Resort Park PO Box 325 Carrollton, Ky 41008 Phone: 866.462.8853 / 502.732.4384 Fax: 502.732.5402			

(A block of rooms with a special rate has been reserved until February 18, 2009. Please state that you are attending the KWOA MEETING when making your reservations).

Highlights from KWOA Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting

November 20, 2008

Presentation to legislative task force on forestry

The November KWOA board meeting was dedicated to viewing and commenting on the Powerpoint presentation and accompanying handouts, prepared by Jeff Stringer, UK Forestry Extension, to be given to legislators immediately following the board meeting. The board approved the slides and "Five Issues Hindering Woodland Management and Industry Development" for presentation to the legislators.

Sustainable forestry certification seminar

Ken Negray, Certification Manager for NewPage Corporation Coated Paper, informed the board about a seminar on January 27th that will address reasons, options, recognition, cost, benefits and pitfalls regarding sustainable forestry certification. Mr. Negray provided a run-down of speakers for the seminar that will be held from 9A-4P at the Fayette County Extension Office in Lexington. Advance registration for the seminar is \$25; day-of registration is \$35. Ken announced that the seminar is seeking sponsors. The board moved to sponsor the seminar at the rate of \$500. For more information contact Ken at 270-388-2504 or visit the NewPage website at www. newpagecorp.com.

Credits:

Newsletter editor – Karen Marshall Mailing – Kentucky Forest Industries Association KWOA website – Robert Tindall

KWOA Considers Indiana Classified Forest Program for Kentucky Woodland Owners

KWOA has been searching for incentives to woodland owners to improve their timber. Personal satisfaction, ideology, awareness and even public recognition can only accomplish so much. For many landowners the time, training, focus and/or expense that a fully-executed forest stewardship plan would require is too burdensome. Kentucky may want to consider adopting elements of an Indiana program that provides significant tax reductions, management advice and professional assistance to landowners whose property qualifies for inclusion in the program.

The Indiana Classified Forest and Wildlands Program encourages timber production, wildlife habitat protection and water quality protection on private lands by providing a property tax incentive in return for landowners managing their land according to a professionally written management plan. Landowners whose acreage is enrolled in the program still control their property but inappropriate activities that threaten natural resource sustainability are prohibited. Those activities include development, livestock grazing, fires that are not part of a management plan and destructive timber harvesting practices. Each

land parcel in the program has a management and action plan that is periodically reviewed with an accompanying annual report by the owner and a no-cost land inspection.

Designated lands are eligible for property tax assessment of \$1 per acre as long as they comply with program requirements and remain enrolled in the program. The program's standards automatically qualify owners for American Tree Farm System certification benefits that include marketing their timber and wood products as "green certified."

Owners or the state forester can withdraw (declassify) property from the program but this will incur penalties in the form of back taxes and other fees. As of September 30, 2008 the Indiana program has enrolled 12,658 tracts totaling 616,326 acres. KWOA is working with Indiana Division of Forestry Director Jack Seifert regarding such a program for Kentucky.

For more information go to: www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/13332.htm

E-MAIL NOTIFICATIONS

Rep. Rick Nelson suggested that we set up a system similar to the one in place by Farm Bureau where we could immediately contact our membership when we need them to contact their legislators about pending legislation. As secretary of the KWOA, I went through our mailing list and found that 114 of our members had e-mail addresses listed. I entered these addresses in my address book and with the click of a button I can contact quite a few of our members with important notices. Since our newsletter is only published quarterly, this is an excellent way to contact our members about issues and meetings concerning woodland owners and to keep our membership abreast of our progress with our Kentucky Legislature.

If you haven't been receiving these notices, then it is because we do not have an e-mail address listed for you or the e-mail address that we have on file for you has changed or is invalid. If you would like to receive these up-to-date notices about forestry concerns, then please make sure that you include a current e-mail address when you renew your membership or feel free to contact me directly and I will add you to my address book. I promise you that I will not send you chain letters, offers to check your credit scores, or offers to sell you Viagra, Cialis, or Levitra. All I will ever send are notices about current woodland owner issues.

Betty Williamson, secretary KWOA 10 Camelot Court Madisonville, KY 42431 willdan@bellsouth.net home 270-821-8657 cell 270-871-6528



Calendar of Events

January 27, 2009
Certification for Kentucky
Forests & Products
Fayette County Extension, Lexington
http://ces.ca.uky.edu/fayette/

March 20-21, 2009

KWOA Annual Meeting

General Butler State Park,

Carrollton

www.kentuckywoodlandownersassociation.com

KENTUCKY WOODLAND OWNERS ASSOCIATION

c/o KFIA 106 Progress Drive Frankfort, KY 40601 Presorted Standard US Postage PAID Frankfort, KY Permit 602

DIRECTORS

North Zone

Peter McNeill, Flemingsburg (08) Fred Kirchhoff, Frankfort (09) Karen Marshall, Owenton (10)

East Zone

Felix Taylor, Annville (08) Mark Lee, Frenchburg (09) Pat Cleary, Prestonsburg (10)

Central Zone

Dr. James "Greg" Kuhns, Louisville (08) David Henderman, Louisville (09) Hugh Archer, Lawrenceburg (10)

West Zone

Bill Green, Mayfield (08)
J. Henry Duncan, Versailles (09)
Tim Freibert, Louisville (10)

Directors at Large

Bob Bauer, Frankfort (08) Robert Tindall, Perryville (09) Doug McLaren, Lexington (10)

Emeritus Director

Don Girton, Alexandria

OFFICERS

President - Jim Corum, Stoney Fork Vice President - J. Henry Duncan, Versailles Secretary - Betty Williamson, Madisonville Treasurer - Pete McNeill, Flemingsburg

Next Board Meeting: February 19, 2009 Members are encouraged to attend.

Kentucky Woodlands is published quarterly. We welcome articles and information for inclusion in the newsletter. Please submit copy to the address below. Editor reserves the right to edit all material for content and length.

Karen Marshall, Editor

Kentucky Woodlands Newsletter

3740 Hwy 330 Owenton, KY 40359

 $\underline{newsletter@kentuckywoodlandowners association.com}$