

From the Woods...

Kentucky Woodlands Magazine interviewed Dr. Cliff Taylor to learn about his experiences with woodland recreation on his Tree Farm.



Dr. Cliff Taylor (second from right) and family members take a break during hike in their woodland.

KWM: *What are some of the types of recreation that take place in your woodland?*

Dr. Taylor: We do the usual kind of woodland recreational activities such as: cook-outs, camping, socials with family, walking in woods in winter and fall, hunting turkey and deer as well as rock hunting.

KWM: *What are some of the challenges you have faced related to conducting woodland recreational activities on your woodland?*

Dr. Taylor: Our shelter house is in a remote location and lacks running water, electricity, and at first did not have a restroom. Females in our family were not impressed until we could get a portable restroom installed.

KWM: *What advice do you have for other woodland owners considering woodland recreational activities on their property?*

Dr. Taylor: If a family wants to use their woodland for recreation and if it is to be passed to the next generations, parents can build a shelter house with a fireplace to create a gathering place for the family. The fireplace can be used for cooking and heat when it is cold. If older family members want the next generation to inherit or own the present woodland, then getting the younger generations involved in recreation and management is very important.

KWM: *Tell us a little about your woodlands:*

Dr. Taylor: The timber tract we have used for recreation consists of 280 acres. We have owned it since before some of our children were born. We built a shelter house with a large fireplace that serves as a gathering place. We last harvested this tract in 1964. In 1959, we planted 5,000 pine trees seedlings but even though some pine trees were planted this is a hardwood tract with mature trees. In addition, we own some other tracts that adjoin this tract.



The shelter house built by the Taylors has greatly enhanced their use and enjoyment of their woodlands.



The Taylor family has a long history of managing their woodlands and incorporating woodland recreational opportunities into their family activities. They are widely recognized as outstanding stewards of the land.