



From the Woods...

Kentucky Woodlands Magazine interviewed Lyndle Barnes to learn about his experiences with storm damage on his Tree Farm.

KWM: *Tell us about your Tree Farm and how you are managing it?*

Lyndle Barnes: Our family Tree Farm is managed with long-term forest health in mind. The farm has been in our family since the late 1800s, except for about 25 years in the 1930s-1950s. The farm consists of about 410 acres, with 325 acres in forest. In the early 1950s, when the farm was out of the family, there was an extreme timber harvest. We have been working with that the last 60 years, and the forest is looking very good. We have been working with the Kentucky Division of Forestry since 1966. That is the earliest report I can find. As we talk about the damage, you will see I refer back to what they reported to me and it matches what happens. So I requested a stewardship plan update. It was completed in 2011, and we have been using that as reference for our projects.

KWM: *To what extent did storm damage impact your woodlands?*

Lyndle Barnes: The ice storm of 2009 did a lot of damage to our woodlands. All 325 acres of woodland had some damage. There were two areas—one of 20 acres and the other of about 10—that had a poor stand of trees. These are on north-facing slopes with no protection from the north and in a valley preventing the sun from reaching it long term. These areas were devastated. Crowns stripped on most trees and many were down or leaning. There were not enough viable trees to reforest. This area we are clear cutting and will work with the appropriate agency to reforest 20 acres and convert 10 acres to native grasses for the best long-term use.

KWM: *What have you done to address the storm damage, and how has it altered the management of your Tree Farm?*

Lyndle Barnes: Overall, we are addressing the storm damage by reforesting the 20 acres we talked about. We had 10 acres of white pines planted in the 1960s on a field that was highly erodible. These pines had damage and were in need of harvest, so we are clear cutting them and replacing them with native grasses, which is the best use of this field. I remember as a kid in the 1960s—before we planted trees disking that field—I called it the rock field. The disk clanged all the time as it hit the rocks in the thin soil. We hope to provide habitat for birds, rabbits, and other wildlife as well as a good value hay product. The ice storm forced me into changing the plan and doing these projects about 10 years early. We had a limited tree harvest in 1987 and are looking at another harvest, according to our long-term plan, in the 2020s.

KWM: *What advice do you have for woodland owners who have experienced storm damage?*

Lyndle Barnes: Get in your forest, I know with the canopy opened you have lots of briars, I do, but that's the only way to know what's going on in your forest. It has been five years, and in my better areas the canopy is closing again. The trees look better. I know where my problem areas are, and we are working on correcting and improving those areas. Open your trails and fire roads. I still have standing dead trees and some hangers. They can be dangerous on windy days. Be watchful as you enjoy your woodlands.



Lyndle Barnes, Caldwell County woodland owner and KWOA Board member.