



Kentucky Tree Farm Committee Newsletter

Meet Some of the Newest Kentucky Tree Farmers

The Kentucky Tree Farm Committee asked some recent Tree Farmers how they got involved in the program and to share a little information about their Tree Farm.

Burchell Blevins, Knox County

The Blevins family decided to take part in the Tree Farm program for a couple of different reasons. Their family is active in the outdoors and woods. Sustaining their forest for future generations is a major priority for them. The Tree Farm program allows them to do just that. Their Tree Farm is in the hills of Knox County and consists of 200 acres, extending from the creek bottom to the top of the ridges. Assorted hardwoods along with ponds and streams provide all that is needed for native wildlife. It gives them great pride and satisfaction to see the change that occurs in the woods year after year. Mr. Blevins strongly recommends the program for anyone who is passionate about their woodlands.



Roger Weber, Pendleton County

Mr. Weber retired in 2000 and built a house on his 102-acre property, located in Pendleton County. Mr. Weber heats with wood, which prompted him to contact the Kentucky Division of Forestry (KDF) to find out which trees he should utilize for firewood. During the KDF on-site inspection, Mr. Weber learned that programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program are available through the Natural Resource Conservation Service to assist in the management of his woodlands.



He also is interested in planting trees on an annual basis. Although he is a new Tree Farmer and is just getting started in the management of his woodlands, Mr. Weber is most proud of the large trees on his property. He considers the control of invasive species his biggest challenge. He encourages woodland owners to get involved as soon as possible, because he would have been in the program a long time ago had he known about it.

Robert Volk, Franklin County

Mr. Volk joined the Tree Farm Program because he wanted to demonstrate that the management of his forestland is being conducted using sound and proven principles with professional assistance. His original 20 acres were purchased in 2010 to provide a place for his horses, but it only had forestland present in small strips along the road borders on his farm. In 2012, he purchased an additional 10 acres of forestland that borders the property along the east boundary. This area really lends itself to management and includes some mature timber. The general configuration of the forest borders creates a serene sanctuary for abundant wildlife, and large mature oaks in the pastures, along with two ponds, greatly amplify the wildlife habitat. Although the property is only two miles by road from Interstate 64 (one mile as a crow flies), the quiet seclusion is what makes him so proud to own his property. His best advice for woodland owners is to seek professional assistance from the Kentucky Division of Forestry and get started with a Forest Stewardship Plan.



Broyles Heirs, Pulaski County

It all began in 1955 with two brothers Glenn and Boyd Broyles, who believed in “conservation and doing the right thing” by their land. Their Tree Farm started with 235 acres and now has grown to 475 acres. The Broyles heirs continue to maintain the Tree Farm and are proud to continue their brothers’ legacy by seeking the advice and utilizing the services of the Kentucky Division of Forestry and the Natural Resource Conservation Service. Being active/proactive in the management of the forestland is key to the continuation of conservation and doing the right thing.



In the next issue of the Kentucky Tree Farm Committee newsletter you will meet Kentucky Tree Farmers Bill and Chris Lagermann of Metcalf County and learn how they got started as Tree Farmers and how they are working hard to involve their children and grandchildren. For more information about the Kentucky Tree Farm program please visit www.kyreefarm.org or call 502.695.3979.