Kentucky Tree Farm Committee Newsletter

Kentucky Tree Farm Committee Annual Awards Announced

The Kentucky Tree Farm Committee solicits and receives nominations for Tree Farmer of the Year, Logger of the Year, and Tree Farm Inspector of the Year annually. We would like to congratulate all the winners and finalists and thank all those who took the time to assemble the nomination packets. The award winners were announced in April at the Kentucky Forest Industries Association 49th Annual Meeting in Louisville.

Tree Farmer of the Year

Harry and Karen Pelle of Bradfordsville, Ky., were selected as the 2013 Kentucky Tree Farmer of the Year. James McDaniel, a forester with the Kentucky Division of Forestry, nominated the Pelles for the award. The Pelles' 1,330-acre Tree Farm is managed for a wide range of benefits, including timber production, wildlife, and recreation. They consistently have improved the woodland through a number of active manage-

James McDaniel nominated (L) Harry & Karen Pelle (4th & 5th from Left) for the Kentucky Tree Farmer of the Year award along with their son-in-law Shane Dozier (2nd from Left). Jim Spangler (3rd from Left) and Kentucky Tree Farm Chairman Lloyd Foe (R) presented the award.

ment practices, including harvesting dead and damaged trees for firewood and thinning more than 300 acres of forestland to allow room for the best trees to grow. The Tree Farm is also used for numerous family outings and for educational purposes for Boy Scouts and adult programs designed to teach leadership skills through interaction with the outdoors. The Pelles are also active in a number of organizations, including the Kentucky Woodland Owners Association, American Chestnut Foundation, and the Quality Deer Management Association. They take an active role in all forest management on the property and have encouraged others to practice good forest management and stewardship.

Logger of the Year

Allen's Logging LLC of Shepherdsville, Ky., owned by Gussy Allen, was selected as the 2013 Kentucky Logger of the Year. Mark Spalding, with the Kentucky Division of Forestry Central Region office, nominated Allen for the award. Allen operates with a four-person crew, with two of them trained as Kentucky Master Loggers.

Allen's operation is family owned—son Josh is a part of his crew—and has an excellent professional relationship with landowners and the forest industry. He is committed to serving the landowner and often increases property value by seeding and improving access roads after logging. Allen and his crew take tremendous pride in protecting the trees that they leave after the harvest for regeneration and making sure that water quality is protected on the harvest site. They take every opportu-

Gussy and Josh Allen along with family and crew were presented the Logger of the Year award by Jim Spangler (L), Bryan Equipment Sales, and Kentucky Tree Farm Committee Chair Lloyd Foe (3rd from Left).

nity to promote the importance of the logging industry and sell logs to a wide range of markets to maximize financial returns to the landowner while serving industry demands.

Tree Farm Inspector of the Year

Connie Woodcock, a service forester working out of the Central Region office of the Kentucky Division of Forestry, was honored as the 2013 Kentucky Tree Farm Inspector of the Year. Woodcock has helped to promote the Tree Farm Program by developing forest-management plans for woodland owners. In addition to completing inspections and bringing new Tree Farms into the program, Woodcock also has been involved with

Connie Woodcock, Kentucky Division of Forestry, was presented the Inspector of the Year award by Kentucky Tree Farm Committee Chair Lloyd Foe.

a wide range of activities to promote the benefits of Tree Farms and sustainable forestry to private landowners. She was selected from a large number of foresters who are employed by the Division of Forestry, wood industry, and consulting foresters throughout the state, and it is her third time winning the prestigious award.