



WOSC attendees participated in a crop tree release exercise. Crop tree management can double the growth rate of individual crop trees. Photo courtesy: Billy Thomas

Nearly half of Kentucky is covered in woodlands, with the majority owned by more than 423,000 private individuals. Unfortunately, our woodlands have experienced numerous abuses and attacks over the years. These include exploitive timber harvests, forest fires, insects, diseases, and invasive plants, to name a few. If Kentucky's woodland owners are to better address these critical issues, they need to have access to information about forest management and its vital role in ensuring the future sustainability of our woodlands and protection of natural resources.

The Kentucky Woodland Owners Short Course (WOSC) has been developed to provide educational opportunities for the woodland owners of Kentucky. For several years, the WOSC has consisted of four separate field events spread out across the state. Since 2004, more than 400 woodland owners representing more than 100,000 acres have attended. Most attendees have said that the WOSC has given them the knowledge and confidence to better manage their woodlands and meet their overall objectives.

We are making a big change to the WOSC in 2007 to further enhance your woodland educational opportunities. This year's WOSC will be offered on a regional format, significantly reducing travel time for participants and allowing the course to be tailored to forestry issues in a particular area.

Woodland Owners Short Course

Helping You Manage Your Woodlands

by Billy Thomas

The 2007 WOSC will have West, Central, and East region sessions. Each regional segment will consist of three field events emphasizing woodland management practices, woodland economics, and wildlife and recreation. These sessions are tailored to the individual regions. The regional format features four state forests, a UK experimental farm, a county park, a county Extension office and two private properties.

Participants are encouraged to attend all three sessions in their region to graduate. WOSC graduates will be awarded a certificate of participation as well as a forestry-related item to assist their management efforts. However, everyone is welcome to attend as many field events as they wish. Participants will also have the option of receiving a reference binder on a CD or in hard copy format.

The sponsors of the 2007 WOSC are the UK Department of Forestry Extension, the Kentucky Division of Forestry, and the Kentucky Woodland Owners Association. Supporting organizations include the Kentucky Association of Consulting Foresters, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Kentucky Forest Industries Association, Kentucky Division of Conservation, and local county Extension offices.



Amanda Abney Gumbert, UK College of Agriculture's new Water Quality Liaison with the KY Division of Conservation, demonstrates indicators of water quality at the 2006 Woodland Owners Short Course. Photo courtesy: Billy Thomas

Location	2007 WOSC Program Sessions		
	Woodland Management	Woodland Economics	Wildlife and Recreation
West Region WOSC			
Green River State Forest (Henderson Co.)	May 31		
Pennyrite State Forest (Christian Co.)		June 28	
Bandana Hunt Club (Ballard Co.)			August 2
Central Region WOSC			
Eden Shale Farm (Owen Co.)	June 7		
Pittman Creek Wood Products (Pulaski Co.)		July 19	
Knobs State Forest (Bullitt Co.)			August 23
East Region WOSC			
Kentucky Ridge State Forest (Bell Co.)	July 10		
Lee County Extension Office (Lee Co.)		August 7	
Elk Horn Park (Floyd Co.)			September 11

Below is a sample of the topics to be covered in the 2007 WOSC:

• **Woodland Management Practices**

- evaluating your woodlands
- intermediate treatments
- regeneration treatments
- tree planting
- harvesting
- sources of assistance

• **Woodland Economics**

- timber evaluation
- woodland products and marketing
- selling strategies
- during and after harvest valuation
- contracts and taxes
- laws and regulations (KFCA and timber trespass)
- sources of assistance

• **Wildlife and Recreation**

- compatibility of woodland, wildlife, and recreation management
- hunting leases
- trails
- water resources
- game species
- non-game species
- nuisance wildlife
- sources of assistance

For more information about the 2007 WOSC, call 859.257.7597, or log on to www.ukforestry.org
Why wait, when you can register now? A registration form is in the middle of this magazine!!

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