



Kentucky Tree Farm Committee Newsletter

National Leadership Conference

The Kentucky Tree Farm Committee sent four committee members to the National Leadership Conference (NLC) in late February in New Mexico. NLC provides an opportunity for the American Tree Farm Leaders from all over the country to discuss issues and ways to improve and expand the American Tree Farm System (ATFS). A wide range of topics were discussed and committee members provided roundtable input on how to do innovative landowner outreach-education, committee administration, training for inspecting foresters, certification program and financial costs.

The main theme for the meeting revolved around collecting information on the issues being faced in the field and how to make the ATFS system work efficiently. Also, it was revealed that Louisville, Kentucky, has been selected as the site for the Leadership meeting on February 26–28, 2019, which will offer an opportunity to showcase our program and state.

Certification and Tree Farm Assessment

The Kentucky Tree Farm Program continues to maintain certification for all woodland owners in the ATFS program. In late 2017, it was announced that financial assistance will not be required from the state program over the next couple of years, which has put on hold plans to charge Tree Farmers in the program. Certification is maintained by assessments to ensure that performance measures and standards are being met to manage the private woodlands in the program.

The Tree Farm system has recently undergone an assessment in Kentucky to review randomly selected Tree Farms to show that all standards are being followed. The assessment was conducted by an independent firm and 17 properties were selected for field visits. The visits typically last a little over an hour on site and includes reviewing the management plan, discussing management interests and looking at the objectives of the owner. The assessment is conducted every four years and ensure the products from the Tree Farms are being produced in a sustainable manner. Any issues or concerns that come from the assessment are shared with the Kentucky Tree Farm Committee to assist woodland owners in Kentucky to maintain certification standards.

Clifton Taylor Named Kentucky Tree Farmer of the Year

Clifton Taylor from Danville, Kentucky, was recently honored as the 2017 Kentucky Tree Farmer of the Year at the Kentucky Forest Industries Association's 53rd Annual Meeting. In addition to a plaque recognizing his achievement, Taylor was presented a Stihl chainsaw donated by Bryan Equipment Sales from Loveland, Ohio, who is the regional distributor for Stihl Incorporated.



Clifton Taylor and family received the Kentucky Tree Farmer of the Year Award at the 53rd Annual Meeting of the Kentucky Forest Industries Association.

The 1,100-acre Taylor Tree Farm in Casey and Boyle counties is managed for a wide range of benefits, including timber production, wildlife and recreation. The farm has been certified since 1972 and improvements on the farm have included harvesting white oak logs for the Irish Distiller's "American Oak Project" and extensive work on 150 acres to maintain future availability of oak. There has also been work completed on miles of forest roads to maintain access for forest management, fire control, and recreational purposes.

Clifton is a past winner of the 2016 Kentucky/Tennessee Society of American Foresters Baggenstoss Award that honored him for his lifetime commitment to forest management. He takes an active role in all forest management on the property and is very active with a number of organizations that support forest management and conservation.



**Interested in becoming a
Kentucky Tree Farmer?**

**Ask your forester or call 502.695.3979
to learn how you can become an
official Kentucky Tree Farmer.**

