



# Kentucky Tree Farm Committee Newsletter

## *Perspectives of One Kentucky Tree Farm Inspector*

by Kevin Galloway

Kentucky Tree Farms are visited by qualified inspectors who have completed the required training from the American Tree Farm System. These foresters can be one of the following: a consultant forester, an industry forester, or a service forester with the Kentucky Division of Forestry. An inspector's task is to visit and verify that Kentucky's Tree Farms are meeting the American Forest Foundation Standards of Sustainability, to record any recent forest management activities that have been implemented on the Tree Farm; and to keep abreast of the goals and concerns that the Tree Farmer may have about his or her property and its forest health. It is during the process of completing these tasks that this inspecting forester has experienced many enjoyable sights, sounds, and lessons.

As a Tree Farm inspector for 18 years, I have visited some of the most beautiful landscapes and working

Tree Farms in Kentucky. I have seen amazing cliff-line views, magnificent watersheds with vibrant streams and waterways, well-manicured rows of Christmas trees and hardwood plantations, quality stands of young crop trees and mature timber, abundant wildlife and top-notch wildlife habitat, and beautiful home sites

including an impressive pioneer village with nearly a dozen reconstructed log cabins on one property. Many folks would pay vacation prices to see what I have had the privilege of experiencing while inspecting some of Kentucky's Tree Farms.

During these visits and inspections, I have been rewarded with building lasting friendships and with obtaining useful tidbits of knowledge and wisdom. Seasoned Tree Farmers have taught me more about Ken-

tucky's history and heritage than any textbooks ever did. For example, I have learned more about life in our state during the '30s, '40s, and '50s and how these three decades greatly influenced many of the forest stands that we work, manage, and recreate in today. I have witnessed time and time again how active Tree Farmers have proven to me that **initiative** is one of the greatest attributes one can possess. The key to seeing a result **is starting**, which may entail putting a dibble bar in the soil or sinking a chainsaw or an ax into the bark of a tree.

Other lessons and principles learned include **paying attention to detail** and **using proper timing** to implement management work. These two principles apply even when managing trees that have the potential to live a hundred years or more. When planting trees, the most important steps that usually determines success are not what you plant or how you plant (although both are very important) but what one kills during that first planting year (site preparation). In regards to wildlife, a Tree Farm's bees, birds, and game species are far greater assets than nuisances; thus, conserve them or at least tolerate them. The final and most important principle learned is that the next generation needs to **learn the truth** about how forests develop, including how they originated, how they grow, and how they can be utilized. This has been best demonstrated to me not from textbooks rather from those who **do management**. Thank you, Tree Farmers for being true conservationists and for sharing your wisdom, workmanship, and properties with this Kentucky Tree Farm inspector.



Photo courtesy: Kentucky Division of Forestry

Tree Farm inspector and Kentucky Division of Forestry service forester Kevin Galloway presenting Mr. Woodrow McClurg of Morgan County with his Tree Farm sign and designation in 1996.

## *New Kentucky Tree Farm Brochure Available*

Visit [www.kytreefarm.org](http://www.kytreefarm.org) to download the latest brochure. This revised brochure provides current and future Tree Farmers a good overview of the Tree Farm program in Kentucky. Check it out, and pass it along to a prospective Tree Farmer!

