

Kentucky Woodland Owners Short Course

Making the “Most” of Your Woodlands

by Billy Thomas

Kentucky’s woodland owners are the caretakers of a significant resource that is critical to the state’s environment and economy as well as every citizen of Kentucky. These privately-owned woodlands support abundant wildlife and our state’s rich biodiversity, help filter our water and air, contribute to our state’s beauty and tourism industry, and support a wood industry in Kentucky valued from \$6 to \$8 billion annually.

Woodland owners control 78 percent of Kentucky’s woodlands and have many available management options to consider, based on their property and objectives. Making sense of these options and knowing where to get assistance are some of the biggest obstacles woodland owners face when it comes to getting the most out of their woodlands. Fortunately, an abundance of assistance is available to every woodland owner through the Woodland Owners Short Course (WOSC).

In order to assist Kentucky’s woodland owners in sustainably managing their woodlands, a number of forestry and natural resource groups are partnering to hold the WOSCs on a regional basis for the second year in a row. There will be an east, central, and west WOSC, with each tailored to that particular region of Kentucky. Each region will have three educational field-based programs: woodland management, wildlife management, and wood industry and your woodland. Participants are encouraged to attend all three programs in their region to graduate from the 2008 WOSC. However, everyone is welcome to attend as many programs as they want.

A couple of major changes for the 2008 WOSCs include holding the wildlife management programs on Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) that are managed by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) and the addition of the wood industry and your woodland program. We believe that wildlife management programs will be enhanced by having increased involvement with professionals of the KDFWR. We also believe that the wood industry and your woodland program will provide important insights to woodland owners related to what happens to their trees once they leave their property as well as the opportunity to visit wood-processing facilities. Since the majority of the raw material for Kentucky’s tremendous wood industry is derived from Kentucky’s private woodlands, this program can be valuable to woodland owners in managing and marketing their woodlands. One constant principle of all WOSCs is a sustainable woodland management thread throughout all programs and this year’s series is no different.

The WOSCs are a partnership effort by the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service Department of Forestry, Kentucky Division of Forestry, Kentucky Woodland Owners Association, Kentucky Sustainable Forestry Initiative Implementation Committee, Kentucky Forest Industries Association, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Kentucky Tree Farm Committee, Kentucky Association of Consulting Foresters, and local county Cooperative Extension offices.

Mark your calendar now, and submit the registration form included in this issue of the Kentucky Woodlands Magazine for the 2008 Woodland Owners Short Course. Additional information regarding the program is available at www.ukforestry.org or contact UK Forestry Extension at 859.257.7597.

Location maps will be mailed to all registrants.

The WOSC is the largest woodland owner educational program offering in Kentucky and is a partnership effort of numerous forestry and natural resource organizations in Kentucky. This program will help Kentucky woodland owners better manage their property regardless of management objectives.

Photos courtesy:
Billy Thomas



2008 Woodland Owners Short Course

| Locations: | Woodland Management | Wildlife Management | Wood Industry and Your Woodland |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| <i>East Region WOSC</i> | | | |
| Rockcastle County | July 10 | | |
| Johnson County (Paintsville Lake WMA) | | August 7 | |
| Rowan County | | | September 4 |
| <i>Central Region WOSC</i> | | | |
| Scott County | July 17 | | |
| Adair County (Green River WMA) | | August 21 | |
| Marion County | | | September 23 |
| <i>West Region WOSC</i> | | | |
| Ohio County | June 12 | | |
| Graves County (Kaler Bottoms WMA) | | August 28 | |
| Hopkins County | | | September 11 |

About the Author:

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