



# Woodland Owners Short Course

by Billy Thomas

Kentucky woodlands are primarily family owned—nearly 80 percent of Kentucky’s woodlands are privately owned by individual families or trusts. It is these family woodlands that provide the vast majority of wildlife habitat, water filtering, erosion control, biodiversity, recreational opportunities, and the raw materials for a wood industry that generates more than \$8 billion annually in Kentucky.

Unfortunately, most family woodlands are unmanaged, and their potential is not being realized. In fact, some experts believe that the “average” Kentucky woodland is worth only 25 percent of its potential value because of past practices and lack of management—and that is purely from a timber perspective. When you factor in the non-timber benefits our woodlands also provide, then it is easy to see that many family woodland owners are missing a tremendous amount of potential by not managing their woodlands.

How can family woodland owners realize their woodlands full potential? The saying “information is power” is very applicable in this situation, and fortunately there is a great deal of information and expertise to assist woodland owners in the management of their property. To support woodland owners in getting the most from their woodlands, the Woodland Owners Short Course (WOSC) partners are pleased to announce the 2009 offering of the program. We have made changes to make the program more family friendly, and for the first time, the WOSC will be conducted on Saturdays. It will feature three programming tracks including one for youth ages 5 to 17, one for new or inexperienced woodland owners, and one for experienced woodland owners who have been managing their woodlands for a while. If you have not attended a previous WOSC because it was held during the week or there was nothing for your children to do, we hope the new format will be more accommodating to you and your family. Even if you have attended a WOSC in the past, there will be lots of valuable information to help you get the most from your woodlands.

Woodland owners participating in the program will self-select into one of two programming tracks when they register. Placement into a track will be based on which category most closely reflects your experience and interest levels.

*I don't know my options as it relates to managing my woodlands.*

*I am not sure of the services and assistance available to help me manage my woodlands.*

*I am fairly new to woodland ownership.*

**Consider registering for the Green Track.**

*I have identified objectives for my woodlands and have a management plan.*

*I have worked with forestry and other natural resource professionals in managing my woodlands.*

*I have owned my woodlands for some time and am looking to become more active in its management.*

**Consider registering for the Gold Track.**

Follow the arrows and select the track with two or more statements in which you most relate.

**Registration begins at 9 a.m. (local times) with lunch served at noon.  
The WOSC will end around 4:30 p.m.**

**Bring your kids! Environmental educational programming will be offered at each location for youth ages 5 - 17.**

**There will be plenty of fun activities to keep the kids engaged throughout the day.**

# Supporting Kentucky's Family Woodlands



Couples are strongly encouraged to attend—this will allow one of you to be at each of the classes. And there will plenty of fun activities to keep the kids engaged throughout the day.

In 2009, the WOSC will be held at the following locations:

- Central Region: Grant County, June 13 (Lloyds Wildlife Management Area)
- East Region: Boyd County, August 29 (Boyd County Fairgrounds)
- West Region: Breckinridge County, September 26 (Breckinridge County Extension Office)

Regardless of your woodland interests or experience level, the 2009 WOSC will have something for you. Plan to bring

the family and join us for an educational experience that will have lasting benefits for you and your family. We look forward to working with you this summer!

For a listing of partners and specific course topics, see the registration form in this issue or visit [www.ukforestry.org](http://www.ukforestry.org) to register online.



Photos courtesy: Billy Thomas

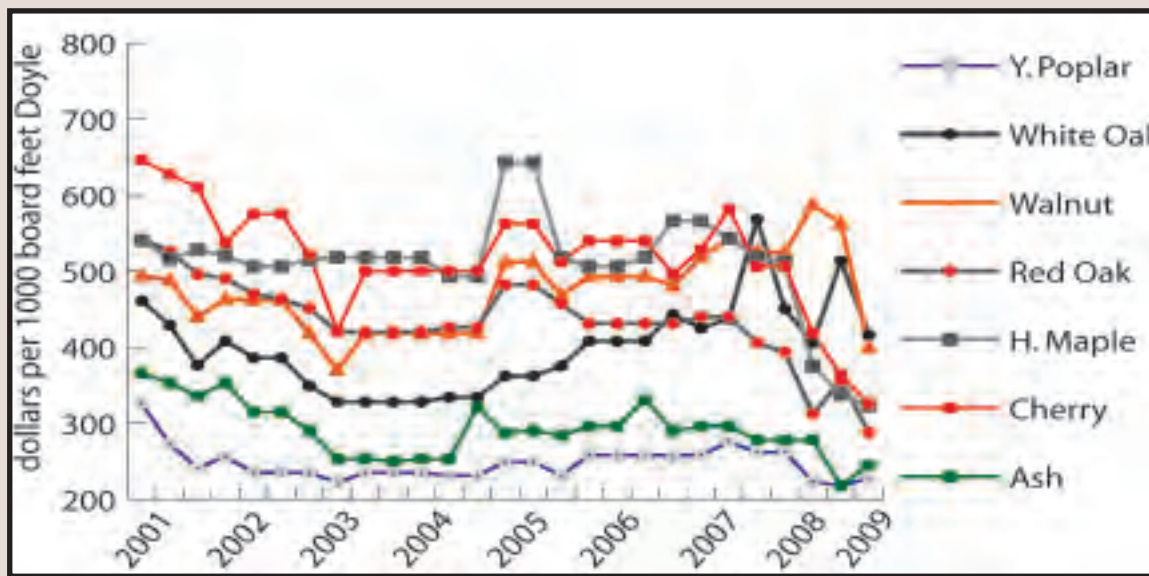
## About the Author:

**Billy Thomas** is a Extension Forester with the University of Kentucky Department of Forestry. He works primarily on non-industrial private forest issues and is the associate editor for the Kentucky Woodlands Magazine.

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## Kentucky Delivered Log Prices Statewide Average – 2001 to 1st Quarter 2009

Prices reported are averages for medium quality (grade 2) logs delivered to sawmills across Kentucky through the first quarter of 2009\*. Values are dollars per thousand board feet (Doyle scale). Stumpage values (the value of the logs in the tree) are typically one-half to one-third of log values.



\*Data collected by Chris Nevins, Kentucky Division of Forestry Timber Harvest Compliance and Forest Resource Utilization Section and summarized by Jeff Stringer, University of Kentucky Department of Forestry Extension. In-depth log price reporting can be found in "Growing Gold" by the Kentucky Division of Forestry at [www.forestry.ky.gov](http://www.forestry.ky.gov).