

# COUNTY FORESTRY ASSOCIATION OF THE YEAR



Article by: James F. Harwell DVM, President

## Elk Valley Forestry Association

As president of the Elk Valley Forestry Association (EVFA), I want to thank you for selecting our association as the best County Forestry Association in the state in 2017. I am particularly proud to accept this award for the second time since EVFA was selected the first time in 2006.

The formation of the Elk Valley Forestry Association (EVFA) was begun on April 13, 2004 as a County Forestry Association (CFA) under the Tennessee Forestry Association (TFA). The Association was organized in Lincoln County with the intent of including coordinators in Bedford, Marshall, and Moore Counties. Twenty persons were recruited as members of EVFA initially and that number has grown to an average of approximately fifty regular participating members each year up to 2017.

The goal of the EVFA board of directors has been to rely on professionals in the field of forestry and agriculture to assist us in help-

ing educate local landowners and other interested participants to enjoy and manage their forest lands. Our thought was to try to organize at least two field days each year to enable the members to see how a variety of land management techniques could be used to reach desired outcomes. EVFA has held a field day each spring and fall over the years in one of our four counties. Attendance has varied from around thirty to forty-five participants. The field days have usually lasted half a day and included lunch on site. Board members and their families staffed the activities and program presenters were recruited from land owners, and professionals in the fields of agriculture, forestry, wildlife management, and other appropriately related fields of interests. The field days also provided educational opportunities for high school classes and for certain governmental employees whose organizations accepted the activity as continuing education. Sites and subjects for the field days have been chosen to appeal to broad interests of association members and guests. Annual meetings

of the general membership have been held at the end of each year. New members to the Board of Directors were elected and speakers discussed a wide variety of subjects.

The success of our association has been based on dedicated boards of directors, guidance from personnel in the University of Tennessee Agriculture Extension Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, our Area Forester and Fire Technician, Healthy Hardwoods seminars Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Nature Conservancy, sawmill owners, wood product producers, and occasional financial support from TFA.

**Pictured in photo 1st :** Attached is a group picture of the Elk Valley Forestry Association board of directors. Left to right, Mitchell Aman, Wayve Dennison, President Jim Harwell, Jack Shutt, Secretary/Treasurer Phil Bird, Jon Freeman, Chris Carney, David Warren and Wayne Glenn. Not present were Jarrett (Peanut) Ashley, Logan Cox, and Alvis Wheatley.