

# White Oak in West Virginia—Opportunities and Challenges

AGENDA for February 2, 2021; 9am-12:00pm

SAF CFEs—3.0 CAT 1; WVDA Pesticide credits: 6cr—Cat 3, 4a, 7, 11, PA; ISA CEUs—Available.

ONLINE meeting via Zoom—Links will be furnished to those who RSVP

To register, go to:

<https://wvu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUod-ivrTgtHtdTz2xPmGgTbgKYBCVyJvLD>

## AGENDA

9:00 am -----

### Welcome/Introduction—

*Dr. Dave McGill, WVU Extension Forest Resource Specialist*

*Chuck Copeland, Assistant State Forester for Management, WV Division of Forestry*

*Amy Hill, Forest Stewardship Coordinator, USDA Forest Service*

Our ever-changing forests seem present new surprises more and more rapidly in today's global economy. This forum will feature viewpoints of one of those surprises, the increasing demand for white oak, the key ingredient for bourbon cooperage. This introduction will summarize a few of the events and activities that have led to this demand.

9:10 am -----

### WV Forest Policy Update

*Eric Carlson, Executive Director, West Virginia Forestry Association*

Eric will discuss some current and expected policy issues impacting forests and forest products in West Virginia.

9:20 am -----

### Update on White Oak Prices

*Dr. Ben Spong, Forest Operations Extension Specialist, WVU*

The WVU Extension Service/Appalachian Hardwood Center monitors stumpage values of various species in West Virginia. Dr. Spong will review trends in white oak stumpage prices and give overview of white oak prices across the region.

9:35 am -----

### Spatiotemporal Trends of White Oak in West Virginia

*Randall Morin, Forest Inventory and Analysis, USDA Forest Service*

Randy will describe the importance of white oak in eastern forests relative to other oaks and to general species composition. Forest inventory data from the last few decades will be used to illustrate trends in white oak volume, growth, removals, mortality, and regeneration. The goal of the presentation is to highlight the distribution of white oak in West Virginia relative to its geographic range and what trends in the inventory data may portend for its future.

10:00 am -----

### Ecology and regeneration of white oak

*Dr. Melissa Thomas VanGundy, Research Forester, USFS*

Melissa will share the general silvics and ecology of white oak and compare white oak to other oaks in the region. Links will be made from the ecology and site requirements for white oak to the basics of white oak management with a focus on regeneration. As with other oak species, regeneration is a process and not an event and the need for competitive stems in the regeneration layer in advance of a regeneration harvest will be stressed. Several management

tools will be briefly presented – Oak SILVAH and REGEN3/FVS – and the management options given in the SILVAH guide presented and discussed.

10:30 am -----

**WV Great Barrel Company**

***Phil Cornett, Founding Partner and Timber/Stave Manager***

The WV Great Barrel Company in Caldwell, WV uses white oak in their barrel factory. In this presentation Phil Cornett, company Founding Partner and Timber/Stave Manager, will talk about the WV GBC, its current status and outlook for the future.

11:00 am -----

**White Oak Initiative – Assessment and Plan for Long-term Sustainability**

***Melissa Moeller and Taylor Tibbals, American Forest Foundation***

Currently, there are enough American white oak trees in forests across the eastern United States. However, we know populations of young trees are declining and we must think, plan, and act now to prevent a crisis situation in the future. Learn about the White Oak Initiative and the Initiative’s Assessment and Conservation plan which outlines the group’s commitment and strategy to attain long-term sustainability of white oak forests – and their economic, social, and environmental benefits – for centuries, not just decades.

11:30 am -----

**What should we in West Virginia be thinking about? Discussion/Q&A –**

***Moderators: Speakers/Participants/Copeland/Hill/McGill***

Panel speakers and the audience will engage in a discussion about white oak and what opportunities there might be for West Virginia landowners, forestry and conservation professionals, and industry.

12:00 pm

**Depart**