

INTRODUCTION

R. C. Schureman, Director
Kentucky Division of Forestry

In going through the rolls, we find some 20 states represented here. This speaks well of a nursery conference. I understand that these conferences started in 1935--I'm not sure how many meetings we have had because during the war years we had to miss a few.

We, of the Division of Forestry, are most happy to have you here. Jack Rhody, I'm sure, has clued you in on some of the tours including one of our nurseries. I'm not going to take much of your time this morning because we have two gentlemen here that I'm sure you had rather listen to than me.

I'm going to introduce our Commissioner, Mr. James Shropshire, Department of Natural Resources and he will introduce the next speaker, "Mr. Parks".

WELCOMING ADDRESS

James Shropshire, Commissioner
Kentucky Dept. of Natural Resources

Mr. Shropshire stated that it was a pleasure and privilege not only to be called upon to give the invocation but also to have the opportunity to welcome the group to Kentucky. As Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources, in which the Parks Division of the State is located, he welcomed the group in behalf of the Governor, and the citizens of the State. He was delighted that Lake Barkley was chosen for the meeting spot and invited all to return to Kentucky often.

An invitation to visit one of the State nurseries was extended, either as planned for Tuesday afternoon or at a later time if more convenient for the attendee.

He then introduced Mr. James Host, Commissioner of Parks for the State of Kentucky.

James Host, Commissioner
Kentucky Division of Parks

Mr. Host began by telling the group the humorous story of how he became known as "Mr. Parks." He, too, warmly welcomed the group to Kentucky, especially to their newest facility, Lake Barkley Resort Park, which is one of the State's 38 parks and shrines.

Lake Barkley Lodge is one of the largest wood structures built anywhere within the last 40 years. It consists of 124 rooms and four suites (120 rooms). Without the land, the building alone cost approximately \$5.5 million.

Kentucky is proud of it's parks and the tourists attracted to the State. Mr. Host stated that the tourist business is Kentucky's second largest trade and that within the next 5 years, it is expected to be the State's leading business. In fact, Kentucky rates number one in the country in it's parks and shrines.