

Woodlot Wisdom



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TFA

Annual Meeting Dates

September 5-7, 2007
Marriott Hotel
Chattanooga, TN



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

By: Tom Kain, Area Procurement Forester, Huber Engineered Woods



From The Chair:

My name is Thomas Kain and I will be the 2007 Chairman for the Tennessee Tree Farm committee. I have an MS and a BS in forestry from Humboldt State University in Arcata, California. My first forestry job was as a timber sale prep forester with the U.S. Forest Service in Idaho. I spent 9 years as a consulting forester and have worked all over the Southern United States. My current position is as a procurement forester for Huber Engineered Woods in Spring City, Tennessee. I have been active with the Tree Farm program as an inspector and as a committee member.

2006 under John Woods' leadership was a good year for Tennessee Tree Farmers and inspectors. As of the annual retreat we had only one uncompleted required Tree Farm inspection (these are the inspections required by the National office for the PEFC third party sustainable forestry audit), we completed 73 reinspections, and signed up seven new Tree Farmers. The educational trailer is coming closer to completion. Over the last few years we have received grants from the Sustainable Forestry Initiative and the American Forest Foundation and are waiting to hear on our most current AFF grant application. With these grants we will have all the necessary capitol to finish outfitting the trailer with desks, computers, monitors, and a variety of software programs. A great deal of thanks is owed to the Tennessee Forestry Association, Tree Farm Inspectors, Tree Farmers, the Tennessee Division of Forestry, and others for helping to make the trailer a reality.

If you are a Tree Farm inspector I want to thank you for giving time and energy to the program last year and encourage you to continue those efforts in 2007. To the Tree Farmers I want to say thanks for continuing to be tree farmers. Tennessee is a better place because you have chosen to have a tree farm. Your farms provide Tennessee with sustainable forests, jobs, incredible views, clean water, and clean air. I hope all of you will take time, during the New Year, to review your Tree Farm management plan and update it where necessary. If you are planning activities on your farm during 2007 contact your local Tennessee Division of Forestry office and see what Federal, State, or private cost share assistance may be available for you.

To everyone, I want to encourage you to be activist for forestry and Tree Farming. A few of the ways you can do that are: get to know your elected State representatives, sponsor a field day at your Tree Farm, follow the forestry news through the Tennessee Forestry Association newsletter, join a county forestry association, create a web site about your Tree Farm, or support forestry 4H.

I wish you all prosperity in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Thomas Kain



105th General Assembly Convenes

Candace Dinwiddie, Executive Director, TN Forestry Association

The members of the 105th General Assembly have convened in Nashville. Members of the Senate have elected Senator Ron Ramsey to the Lieutenant Governor position replacing John Wilder. Wilder had served as Tennessee's Lieutenant Governor since 1971. Newly elected Lieutenant Governor Ron Ramsey is a Republican from Blountville and is a former Legislator of the Year for the Tennessee Forestry Association.

Jimmy Naifeh (D) Covington, will remain Speaker of the House of Representatives. TFA has worked well with Speaker Naifeh in

the past and look forward to a continued strong relationship.

Legislative committee appointments, office assignments and staffing can be accessed at www.legislature.state.tn.us. TFA is planning our Tree Day at the Legislature on March 7. Seedlings, factual forestry information and other items will be hand delivered to each legislator and staff. A reception will be held at the Downtown Sheraton across Union Street from Legislative Plaza during the evening. For more information or details regarding participation, please contact the TFA office at

615-883-3832 or email cdinwiddie@tnforestry.com.

At this point, there is no word on legislation affecting forest landowners and industry that has been filed. TFA should have knowledge of any pertinent legislation filed by mid-February. Tree Farmers are welcome to contact TFA for more information regarding legislation or other initiatives of interest. TFA thanks Tennessee Tree Farmers for their high regard for conservation as well as production of our timber resource.

Exciting News from the National Office of the American Tree Farm System

John Wood, Tree Farm Committee, Retired

If you have been following the controversy over the Canadian export of softwood lumber into the United States, you will be interested in the following. At issue was the United States claim that Canada was subsidizing its lumber producers by not charging them market interest rates to cut lumber on government land. In retaliation, the United States has been collecting tariffs on Canadian exports.

As part of the seven year Softwood Lumber Agreement (SLA), the US and Canada will end all litigation over trade in softwood lumber and unrestricted trade will occur in favorable market conditions.

A provision of the SLA requires that \$450 million of the \$5.3 billion in deposits collected under the anti-dumping order on Canadian softwood lumber be used to advance meritorious initiatives in the US. These funds will be dedicated to assistance

for timber-reliant communities, low-income housing and disaster relief, and the promotion of sustainable forest management practices.

This led to the selection of the American Forest Foundation (AFF) to receive an endowment of \$150 million to promote sustainable forestry, to support education and outreach and enhance timber-reliant communities. The American Tree Farm System is a part of AFF. "The opportunities are enormous", said Larry Wiseman, President and CEO of AFF. "This grant represents an historic opportunity – not just for AFF but for all of us – to change the climate for forestry in the US. But we can't get ahead of ourselves. Without an imaginative and broadly-embraced strategic vision to guide us, we won't accomplish nearly as much as we could, or should", said Wiseman.

AFF established a Strategic Planning Committee to get this initiative off the ground. Tom Kain, our Tennessee Tree Farm chair is attending the national Tree Farm conference in February to provide Tennessee input as well as learn about this new initiative. He will give us more information in upcoming newsletters.

AFF wants to hear from all the stakeholders, particularly the forest landowners. So you will be hearing more about this over the coming months. You can check the website www.treefarmssystem.org for updates. However a more timely method is sending email to bjohnson@forestfoundation.org to get on the list for regular updates.

To rephrase what Larry Wiseman said, "To make the most of this historic opportunity, we'll all need to talk – candidly, early and often".

Attending National Tree Farm Convention

Tommy & Mary Bryson, TN Tree Farmers of The Year

The National Tree Farm Convention held in Mobile, AL in October was a new experience for us, but as we were labeled "first timers" everyone was very friendly and helpful. We attended several sessions: Living in Hurricane Alley, When Something Good Goes Bad, Identifying Special Places on Your Tree Farm, and Babes in the Woods (Women Foresters). It was very informative.

The key note speaker was Kristen Stevens,

Project Manager for Wal-Mart. She explained what we as Tree Farmers should expect from Wal-Mart's decisions as they interact with suppliers, conservation groups and technical experts to spread sustainable practices throughout their organization.

One of the highlights was the introduction of the four Regional Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year. Each made presentations about what they had done and hope to do in order to maintain their forest lands.

Overall the meetings were very well presented, interesting and educational. We enjoyed the convention so much that we are planning to attend the 2007 National Convention in Madison, Wisconsin in October.

Editor's Note: Tommy & Mary Bryson are Tennessee's 2006 Tree Farmers of the Year.



Sustaining Forests

Wayne K Clatterbuck, Associate Professor, Forest Management and Silviculture

The following article is adapted from an essay in the *Sacramento Bee* on July 11, 2006 by Jack Ward Thomas, former Chief of the USDA Forest Service. wood products, we export not only environmental consequences, but jobs and dollars.

<http://www.sacbee.com/content/opinion/story/1427666p-15085993c.html>

Recent dramatic declines in forest management have brought some undesirable consequences for forest health and wildlife. Public concerns over retention of biodiversity have thrust concerns for wildlife front and center in forest management debates.

A total preservationist approach to management --- standing back and letting nature take its course --- has become increasingly prevalent. While appealing on the surface, this is not tenable in the long term because it will not protect forests, retain biodiversity and provide some wood products over time.

A return to a totally economic-driven forestry is also not viable. Public reaction to past forest management practices, e.g., the visual impacts of clearcutting, precludes harvesting at "economic maturity" from being the dominant factor in forest management decisions.

Today, most old-growth stands on public lands are protected and provisions exist for recruiting additional old growth over the next decades and centuries. Many stands are in or moving into mid-successional forest condition --- the least productive stage for enhancing biodiversity. The key to overall biodiversity, therefore, will be creating and maintaining both younger early successional and late-successional forest stands.

Adding to the challenge of establishing the full spectrum of forest conditions essential to supporting the full spectrum of biodiversity is unprecedented wood consumption in the United States. Our per-capita wood consumption is the highest in the world and rising. Increasingly, we depend on places beyond our borders to provide our wood --- places with far less resources and knowledge as how to manage forests responsibly. When we import

The idea of "letting nature take its course" is seductive in its simplicity but has significant downsides. First, the timing, extent and results of stand-replacing events are only marginally under human control. With human populations increasing in forested areas, forest health already degraded, and the ability to use controlled burns limited, "hands off" management --- even for public lands --- seems untenable in the long run. Additionally, depending on "elsewhere" for our wood is morally bankrupt, economically unfeasible and wasteful.

Clearly there is work to be done in our forests. However, using taxpayer dollars for habitat alterations to provide for biodiversity associated with early successional forests and protect structures in the wild land/urban interface against large-scale fires will prove cost prohibitive. Once such actions are begun, they must be maintained with ever mounting costs and not offsetting returns.

Forest management must focus on the private lands and their influence on the landscape and accept the need to provide myriad values including biodiversity, wood products, clean air and water, and recreation. By doing so, and harvesting more trees, our nation can enhance biodiversity and lessen the impact of our consumption on forests around the world. If the most fertile lands (usually in private ownership) were intelligently managed more intensely for wood production, pressure could be relieved on less productive lands. Those lands then could be managed with more emphasis on such things as biodiversity, scenic values and watershed integrity.

We have the know-how, technology and trained professionals to do the job. The basis of forest management is sustainability. Then the question becomes how it will be accomplished in a sustainable, yet socially acceptable fashion.

For more information contact Wayne Clatterbuck at 865.974.7990 or wclatterbuck@utk.edu

Yes, I want to Support the Tennessee Tree Farm Program!

(to be used for newsletter and mailings)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

I would like to donate:

\$10.00 _____ \$20.00 _____ \$25.00 _____ Other \$ _____

Please return this form / and make check payable to:

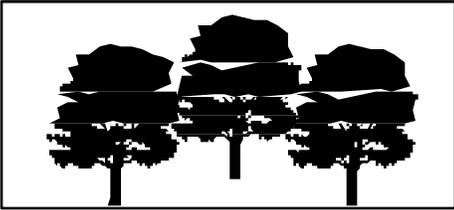
C/O Tennessee Forestry Association/Tree Farm,

PO Box 290693, Nashville, TN 37229

Tree Farmers...

if you want to receive the very timely UT Forestry, Forestry Fisheries & Wildlife newsletters by email, do this: send email to mwright@utk.edu and request to be put on their land-owner email list.





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Soil Test Now for Spring Wildlife Plantings

Craig Harper, UT Associate Professor, Wildlife Management

Craig Harper, Associate Professor, Wildlife Management It's not too early to think about spring planting. Getting soil samples tested now and applying amendments as necessary will pay dividends come spring.

Most sites need liming to adjust soil pH. However, it is not until 5 – 6 months after liming before the full effect is realized. Therefore, if you plan to plant food plots or native warm-season grasses (nws) for livestock next spring, you should apply lime as recommended by your soil test soon.

Most food plot plantings do best when the pH is 6.0 – 7.0. At this range, nutrients are most available to plant and bacterial activity is high. This allows rapid

decomposition of organic matter for nutrient cycling and increased nitrogen fixation for legumes. Nws grow relatively well even when the pH is 5.0 – 6.0, especially when managed for wildlife habitat. However, when nws are grown for livestock, pH should be adjusted to 6.0 – 6.5 to promote additional growth and nutrient availability.

Lime applications are most effective when incorporated into the soil by plowing and/or disking, especially when liming relatively acid soil that has not received lime in many years. This ensures adjustment through a greater portion of the root zone. Surface applications may not improve soil pH several inches down into the soil column. If the site requires

a heavy lime application (3 tons or more per acre), it is best accomplished with a split application, up to 2 tons initially and the remainder 6 months to 1 year later.

Existing cool-season forage plots containing oats, wheat, and rye will benefit from a winter application of nitrogen (30 – 60 pounds per acre). Nitrogen is very short-lived and the effects of fall fertilization are gone by mid-winter. Phosphorus and potassium remain in the soil longer and their application should follow recommendations from a soil test.

For more information contact:
Craig Harper @ 865-974-7992 or charper@utk.edu.

New Teaching Classroom

AgriCenter International in Memphis, TN has a new educational opportunity for schools and students. They have constructed an Outdoor Classroom and Amphitheater in the middle of a pine forest. The amphitheater seats approximately 100 students. This allows students of all ages to learn about Forestry and Wildlife. The students learn about ecosystems in schools and how better to learn when you are standing in the middle of the ecosystem. The opportunities for learning are endless. This is the first Phase of the project. Special thanks to AgriCenter and the Lumberman's Club of Memphis for funding this Phase of the project. For more information about the classroom, contact Tim Roberts, UT Extension Agent and AgriCenter Educator at (901) 757-7777 extension 7109.

