

Woodlot Wisdom



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TFA Annual Meeting Dates

October 1-3, 2008
Music City Sheraton
Nashville, TN



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

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



April 22nd was Earth Day, a day when our Nation celebrated clean air, clean water and being "green". It was also a day when we must give thanks to our Tree Farmers, foresters, and people who work in the woods. As a group, these individuals, families and companies, are the big reason we have clean air, water, and healthy forests. The dedication they have shown on environmental issues is an under appreciated fact. The volunteer inspectors, who are the heart of the Tree Farm program in Tennessee, dedicate countless hours to ensure that the Tree Farm Program retains its "green" leadership identity.

During 2008 the Tennessee Tree Farm committee is working with our partners to sponsor the Healthy Hardwood Field Days across the state. Our Committee is also sponsoring local field days, county forestry association meals and events, supporting our UT Extension staff, and improving our web site. Please check out the Tennessee Tree Farm website at www.tnforestry.com/treefarm.html. As you visit the Tree Farm website, please check out other areas of interest on the TFA website. Our committee hopes that you are taking the time to review your Tree Farm plan yearly and that you are taking advantage of the forestry related educational opportunities that are being presented by Tree Farm, TFA and other related organizations across the state.

On a national level Tree Farm is working toward gaining independent third party wood certification, a green stamp, through PEFC (Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification). PEFC auditors will be in the United States within the next twelve months to inspect Tree Farms across the country and certify not only the national standards but also the land practices. The National Tree Farm Program is also working on the carbon credits issue, and looking at ways to improve communications with Tree Farmers. National is also looking at options on how to best provide online educational materials, bio-diesel initiatives, Farm Bill language that helps Tree Farmers and row crop farmers, and promoting "Green" building codes that include PEFC certified wood. The leading "green" building standard in the United States, LEED, recognizes only FSC wood as green certified.

Tree Farm will continue to evolve and improve both at the national and state level so that we can all be proud on every Earth Day. There is an old Society of American Foresters bumper sticker that says "For Foresters Every Day Is Earth Day". Please take a moment, the next time an inspector comes by and let him, or her, know how much you appreciate their involvement with Tree Farm and their commitment to the environment.

Planting Trees and Shrubs

Wayne K. Clatterbuck, Professor, Forest Management and Silviculture

Trees and shrubs enhance the aesthetic, environmental and economic value of your property. A few tips to ensure planting success of trees and shrubs are outlined below. Pick the right tree for the right purpose. What is the tree's purpose? If for shade, the tree should grow to be large and sturdy. For aesthetics, the tree should feature a graceful form and showy foliage or flowers. For wildlife, berry-producing shrubs are useful. A wide variety of species and sizes are available for planting.

Avoid fast-growing, weak-wooded species. Trees such as silver maple, lombardy poplar, Bradford pear or Siberian elm are susceptible to breakage from wind and ice.

(Continued on page 4)



Why Tree Farm Inspections are Important; the 3 Types of Inspections

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

I email an excel sheet to the district chairs, with multiple tabs, several times a year. The sheet is broken down into three main components relating to inspection types. I thought it might be informative for everyone to know what each district has been able to complete. From time to time there is confusion as to what each category means. The most important type of inspection to get completed is the National Required Inspection, which is stamped on the 004 form, under the landowners printed name and address.

Why are the required inspections so critical? Our independent third party certification (PEFC) relies on these inspections 100% completed for each state, each year. If we do not get these done then we are risking our PEFC status. As Tree Farm grows and begins to move into the carbon trading market and "Green Marketing" we must have the PEFC stamp of approval to give our carbon credits trading value, green marketing value and for international recognition. At the National level, Tree Farm has started several regional programs to begin defining regional processes for how carbon credits can be earned, banked, and spent i.e. payments to Tree Farmers. National has committed over 1 million dollars over several years to this task.

So what are the different inspection types?

- 1. Required 2008 inspections tab.** These are the inspections we are required by National to complete during 2008 (18 total for our state). Our independent third party certification through PEFC depends on each state completing these required inspections.
- 2. Optional 2008 inspections tab,** refers to what used to be the five year re-inspection properties. Your state leadership committee believes that these are important inspections to complete. Since the required inspections are pulled at random yearly for each state we saw that potentially a Tree Farmer would not have contact with an inspector for a long time if we relied on just the Required National sample each year. National does not even send the inspections unless we specifically request the inspections.
- 7 to 10 year inspection tab, also referred to as membership status.** These are landowners who have not been inspected nor certified to the new standard. If these Tree Farmers would like to stay in the program they will have to meet the new standard. On that subject, to be a certified Tree Farm the inspector must verify that they have a management plan for the property, the 004 inspection form must be completed, and both sides of the performance measure/indicator auditor verification form must be completed. Any inspector who is not sure what the new standards are for Tree Farm can take an online refresher course by going to www.treefarmssystem.org, click on tree farming in your state, click inspector's corner, and click on online refresher course. A copy of the standards is also available for download or to review on the same page.

So how are we doing as of 5/14/2008?

	National Sample		5 Year inspections		7-10 Year Inspections	
	Assigned	Completed	Assigned	Completed	Assigned	Completed
D istrict 1	2	2	4	0	1	0
D istrict 2	0	0	18	0	1	0
D istrict 3	4	0	27	0	10	0
D istrict 4	2	0	17	4	37	0
D istrict 5	2	1	18	1	3	0
D istrict 6	8	0	47	0	16	0
Totals	18	3	131	5	68	0

In Tennessee, we are also looking for ways we can give more credit, recognition and awards to our volunteer inspectors and committee members. Without these dedicated individuals, companies, and state sponsors we would not have a Tree Farm program. As a state committee we need your involvement and energy to create these rewards.

Thanks for all your efforts,

Tom Kain
Chair Tennessee Tree Farm Committee
Area Procurement Forester, Huber Engineered Woods LLC
Spring City, TN.
423-452-7104 Office



T in Tennessee Stands for "Trees"

David Mercker, Extension Forester, Forest Management

Tennessee owes much of its identity to trees. Some even say that the "T" in Tennessee stands for "trees." Our land, with its rolling hills, striking mountains, and impervious swamps, is well suited for the growth of trees. It's what we do in Tennessee; we grow trees, harvest and convert them into products, then we grow more. We have done this for centuries and because trees are remarkably renewable, we'll continue doing it.

Over one-half (55 percent) of our landscape is covered with trees. That's even more -much more - than covered the state in 1900. It was in that year that the Society of American Foresters formed, birthing the new profession of forestry. Since then approximately five million acres of highly erodible farm and pasture land have been restored to forest in Tennessee, bringing the state-wide total to 13.9 million acres. Most of these new forests have been harvested numerous times and are still growing trees for tomorrow.

Through efforts of professional foresters, harmful forest practices have been reduced or eliminated. Forest health has been improved by controlling fires, fencing out livestock, eliminating non-native exotic plants, deadening residual culls, thinning to encourage more rapid growth, and administering timber harvests in ways that encourages forest renewal. Professional foresters are required to obtain continued education in a range of subjects, including: soil and water protection, wildlife management, ethics and more.

While traditional uses of the forest continue, future demands on

the forest will increase. The role and focus of foresters will change too as the 21 century brings innovative and exciting opportunities. Two of the most prominent are: (1) wood as a source of biofuel, and (2) forests as a carbon sink. With the first, foresters must become expert in growing short-rotation trees to produce ethanol to fuel automobiles. With the second, as part of mitigating global warming, forest landowners will be paid by outside sources to sequester (or absorb) carbon. Foresters will participate by auditing the amount of carbon forests sequester from the atmosphere. Subjects such as tree genetics, chemistry, and physiology will gain in importance as demand for cleaner, healthier, renewable fuel rises.

For Tennessee, trees are the answer, not the problem. A large portion of commerce activity in Tennessee centers on forests and the forest products industry. This industry directly and indirectly employs 184,300 people and has a total annual economic contribution of \$21.8 billion. It will be vital to continue supporting and improving this industry. Foresters will be very important in this process and will focus on techniques for planting, growing, marketing, harvesting and processing trees. All this will ensure that the "T" in Tennessee continues to stand for "trees."

For a list of professional foresters operating in Tennessee, contact your local County Extension Office or the Tennessee Division of Forestry. For more information contact David Mercker at 731-425-4703 or dcmrcker@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

Wood Products Can Prevent Deforestation

*Adam Taylor,
Assistant Professor,
Wood Products Specialist*

Most of us enjoy forests and see them as valuable assets that provide wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities and beauty for society as a whole. Many people instinctively dislike cutting trees, fearing that these benefits will be lost. However, it is important to remember that cutting one tree provides the opportunity to grow another. Harvesting trees as a part of forestry is not the same as deforestation. In fact, the money made from wood products can help to ensure the continued existence of the forest by providing the landowner with an incentive not to convert forestland to another use.

The link between financial reward for forest products and the conservation of forest resources exists around the world. An article in the journal *International Trade Forum*

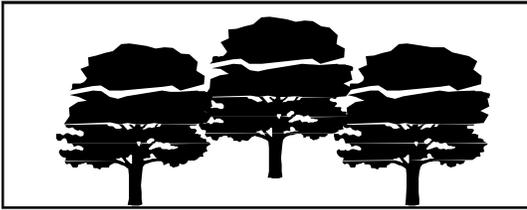
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Tree Farmers...

If you would like to become involved with the Tree Farm Committee please attend one of the scheduled meetings. A list of the upcoming meeting can be found on the Tree Farm Web

site at www.tnforestry.com/treefarm.htm





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Program



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Wood Products Can Prevent Deforestation Continued....

Adam Taylor, Assistant Professor, Wood Products Specialist

discusses an example from Africa where the production of high-value carved wooden items is encouraging forest protection. In this case, the people are receiving a greater benefit from harvesting trees for forest products than they would from clearing the land for agriculture, so they have a clear incentive to protect their forest resources.

This link also exists here at home. The forest products industry is one of the biggest components of our economy. This industry depends on – and pays for - raw material (logs) from many small landowners. However, the market for forest products is currently quite weak and the prices paid for logs is low compared to other possible uses for the land, e.g. conversion for development for new housing and shopping centers. The population of Tennessee is growing rapidly and this is providing an incentive for many landowners to sell their forestland for development. This is likely to be the biggest threat to our forests in the future.

The forests of Tennessee are abundant and provide society with many benefits. Continuing to value wood products and support our local forest products industry may be one of the best ways to save the trees. For more information, contact Adam Taylor at 865-946-1125 or AdamTaylor@utk.edu

Planting Trees and Shrubs Continued....

Wayne K. Clatterbuck, Professor, Forest Management and Silviculture

Pick the right tree for the available space. Avoid planting large forest and shade tree species in areas with limited space for root or crown growth (next to homes, under power lines, near sewer or water lines, driveways). If space is limited, select a smaller tree species.

Pick the right tree for the environmental conditions. Many species require full sunlight and well-drained soils and will not survive in shady or wet sites. Match the species requirements with the site conditions. Plant your tree right. Take the extra time to dig a planting hole that will be large enough to accommodate all the roots and to allow them to grow and expand. Use the natural soil to fill the planting hole. Do not add soil amendments or fertilizer.

Give your new tree a helping hand. Water twice a week during

the growing season to maintain soil in a moist condition, but do not over water. Mulch the area around newly planted shade trees. Mulch helps to control weeds, conserves moisture, adds nutrients as mulch breaks down and protects trees from lawnmowers and string trimmers.

A series of UT Extension publications entitled “Trees for Tennessee Landscapes” have been developed on tree selection, tree care and landscaping. The publications may be accessed online at the following address:

<http://www.utextension.utk.edu/publications/forestry/default.asp>

Contact your local University of Tennessee Extension Office for more information about species selection, tree planting and tree care. For more information contact Wayne Clatterbuck at 865-974-7346 or wclatterbuck@utk.edu

