



Tennessee's 2008 Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year

The Tennessee Tree Farm Committee is pleased to introduce you to Kenneth Tidwell, Tennessee's 2008 Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year. This annual award recognizes Tree

Farmers who are doing an outstanding job of forest and resource management as well as promoting the Tree Farm Program through action and example. The Tidwell Tree Farm is a working example of one person's dedication and love of trees and forestry.

Kenneth served with the US Navy in Okinawa during 1945 and spent many years after that in the US Army Reserve. He attended Austin Peay State University and George Peabody College of Vanderbilt University earning bachelor and doctoral degrees. Much of his career was spent with the State education associations of Georgia and Tennessee. Upon retirement, Kenneth decided to continue his efforts in education by turning his father's farm into a forestry classroom for anybody willing to visit. After talking to Mr. Tidwell on the phone, I knew visiting his Tree Farm was going to be a pleasant experience. However, there was no way I could have imagined the extent of the treat that awaited us and the passion that one person could have for trees.

The 40-acre farm in Joelton has been in the family for 60 years. Kenneth began his new quest in 1999, acquiring a written forest management plan. The planting of old fields started in 2000. Just as is

the case in natural Tennessee forests, the planting consisted of mixed species. Yellow poplar, several species of oaks, pine, maple, hickory, sweet gum, cherry, even cedar and, especially, walnut can be found in Kenneth's young forest. In addition to the native species, he set aside an area to create a small scale arboretum for some species that are rare or non-native. But, young seedlings are not the only story. A natural hardwood stand that borders the largest stream on the farm has recently had a select harvest. And a small stand of pine that Kenneth helped his dad plant in 1948 has been growing for the past 60 years. The farm was certified as a Tennessee Tree Farm in 2003 and was runner up in this contest in 2004.

Two spring-fed lakes help to protect water quality but, also, help create a small oasis for wildlife just a few miles from the hustle and bustle of Nashville. The diversity of tree plantings, in addition to the natural forests, and even some test patches of bamboo make an inviting refuge for game and non-game animals. The many walking trails throughout the farm provide ample opportunity to see a variety of wildlife. Further water quality protection practices include innovative culvert installations and a permanent bridge to allow access during wet weather. His stream bank stabilization project earned him an award and recognition from the Soil Conservation Service.

Mr. Tidwell has done a large portion of the work to establish the Tree Farm himself with the help of a couple of good friends. And, his son and grandson are actively involved in the on-going project;

assuring at least four generations on the farm. Kenneth has quite a library of forestry books but has welcomed the advice from the state Division of Forestry as well as consulting forester, Ted Melton. As a member of the Montgomery County Forest Association, Kenneth looks for any opportunity to share his passion with trees. From school groups to church groups, from new acquaintances to old friends, the door to his classroom is always open. It seems like he knows each tree on the farm and wants to introduce you to every one. It's that commitment to sound forestry and his desire to show it to others that make the Tennessee Forestry Association pleased to recognize Mr. Kenneth Tidwell as the 2008 Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year.

On May 4, 2009, the Tennessee General Assembly honored Mr. Kenneth Tidwell for his commitment to sustainable forestry in Tennessee. The resolution, filed by Rep. Gary Moore of Joelton, passed unanimously.

The resolution states, " The House of Representatives of the 106th General Assembly congratulate Kenneth Tidwell upon being named the 2008 Outstanding Tennessee Tree Farmer and thank him for his dedicated and thorough understanding of our State's precious renewable resources-our forestland and wildlife habitat."

The members of the Tennessee Forestry Association join the General Assembly in congratulating Mr. Tidwell on his dedication to his Tree Farm and his family and forestry friends.



American Tree Farm and Tennessee Forestry Association Proudly Endorse Outdoor Underwriters, Inc. to provide Hunting Lease Liability Insurance

American Tree Farm and the Tennessee Forestry Association are proud to be partnering with Outdoor Underwriters, Inc. to provide their members Hunting Club and Timberland Liability insurance. The liability insurance programs were

designed and have been backed for over 20 years by the Lloyd's of London market to help manage and increase the financial return on Timber Investments. Managed by Ed Wilson, a Ph.D Forester, the Team at Outdoor Underwriters has over 20 years of experience with this program and is recognized as an industry leader.

Outdoor Underwriters also offers liability insurance products such as Consulting Foresters, Wildlife Consultants, Standing Timber and Prescribed Burn. Please visit the TFA website at www.tnforestry.com. to download applications for the Hunt Club and Timberland Liability insurance programs; if you have questions or want further information about Outdoor Underwriters, please call 866-961-4101, or visit our web site at www.outdoorund.com.



Tennessee Forestry Association Supports Biomass Definition in General Assembly

By Candace Dinwiddie, Tennessee Forestry Association, Executive Director

The Tennessee Forestry Association, along with the Tennessee Dept. of Agriculture, filed a resolution supporting the definition of "renewable biomass" as written in the Farm Bill passed by Congress in 2008. The House Joint Resolution (HJR413) was sponsored by Rep. Stratton Bone (D) of Lebanon. Rep. Bone also serves as Chairman of the Agriculture Committee of the Tennessee General Assembly.

The need for this resolution was prompted by the very restrictive definition of biomass included in the Clean Air Act as amended by the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. TFA, the TN Dept. of Agriculture, Farm Bureau and other groups believed that

the Tennessee General Assembly needed to make a significant statement to the Tennessee Congressional delegation that there should no attempt to control forest management practices on private lands by defining "renewable biomass" in such a restrictive manner that much of Tennessee's forests owned by private, non-industrial landowners would not be eligible to be sold as biomass.

HJR413 passed the House of Representatives 93-0 on Wednesday, May 20. The resolution has now been sent to the Senate for approval. Progress on this resolution, or any other legislation filed in the Tennessee General Assembly can be tracked at www.tn.legislature.com.

2007 Best Management Practices Implementation Survey Released

The Tennessee Dept. of Agriculture, Division of Forestry has released the 2007 Best Management Practices Implementation Survey results. The average overall rate of BMP implementation was 89.2%. This is an improvement of 7.3% over the 2004 survey. The survey included random samples from 208 harvest sites. The Tennessee Forestry Association congratulates our loggers, Tree Farmers, landowners and industry members on the hard work it took to make this significant improvement on BMP implementation. Our members should also be commended for the efforts towards reducing the already minimal effects by logging on non-point pollution. Obviously, programs like Tennessee Master Logger and educational programs through our Tree Farm Committee, County Forestry Associations and SFI have made a difference.

A copy of the survey results can be accessed on the TFA website: www.tnforestry.com.

"Conducting a Simple Timber Inventory" Publication Available

Copies of the new publication, "Conducting a Simple Timber Inventory" are available from the University of Tennessee. The publications are free on-line or \$5.00 each.

To access on-line, check out the UT Extension website;

<http://www.thextension.utk.edu/publications/pbfiles/PB1780.pdf> or order copies for \$5.00 each by calling 865-974-7300 or email utiapubs@tennessee.edu.

Tennessee Tree Farm Committee Partners to Build Habitat for Humanity House

The Tennessee Tree Farm Committee has partnered with the Tennessee Sustainable Forestry Initiative Committee to support building a Habitat for Humanity house to aid a deserving family in need. The home will be built in Nashville at the Timberwood Habitat Community. Tree Farm volunteers are needed for the construction date of Monday, September 21.

For more information or to help with this worthwhile project, please contact the TFA office.

Tennessee Forestry Association

2009 West Tennessee Regional Meeting

Thursday, June 18, 2009, 5PM (CDT) Social Time & 6PM (CDT) Dinner Time
Catfish Cabin, 1290 S. Highland Avenue, Jackson, Tennessee
\$15.00 Please Pay at Door.

Program & Speakers:

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Landowner Assistance Programs & WMA Management Strategy, Ed Harsson & David Uldrich, TWRA Staff

Also representatives from Outdoor Underwriters, Inc. will be available to speak on TFA's landowner / hunting club liability insurance program.

Representatives from Forestry Mutual will discuss TFA's logger workers compensation program and its benefit to our members.

TO REGISTER CALL TFA AT 615-883-3832 OR EMAIL US AT INFO@TNFORESTRY.COM

