



# WOODLOT WISDOM

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## TENNESSEE'S 2010 OUTSTANDING TREE FARMER OF THE YEAR

By: Tom Kain, Tennessee Tree Farm Committee

The Tennessee Tree Farm Committee received four nominations for the state Tree Farmer of the Year. A sub-committee was established to pare that list down to two. The sub-committee members included representatives of Tennessee Division of Forestry, a landowner/Tree Farmer, University of Tennessee Extension Agent, and an Industry Forester. The finalists were the Qualman and the Benjamin tree farms, which are both located in West Tennessee. The committee toured the two farms on August 4th and were impressed with both properties. In the end, Bob and Laura Qualman were selected as the recipient of the Outstanding Tree Farm award for this year.

They are involved in many natural resource organizations including the Tennessee Forestry Association, American Tree Farm System, Houston/Humphreys County Forestry Association (where Bob is chairman), Wild Turkey Federation and Quail Unlimited.

The Qualmans have owned their 289 acre Tree Farm since 1992. Bob and Laura longed to own a piece of land for hunting and recreation, but were having difficulty locating the right property. They intended to go to a land auction one Saturday in 1992, but Bob had to work overtime and Laura could not go with small chil-

dren at home. Bob was surprised when he got home from work and learned that Laura had bid on a few parcels at the auction. Bob was confused and asked how did you do that? Laura replied I bid using the internet! The purchase quickly led to many questions, mainly: "What do we do now?"

To answer those questions the Qualmans actively sought and received professional advice from a number of sources: industrial foresters, Tennessee Division of Forestry, Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency and the American Tree Farm System. This diverse group of professionals has helped the Qualmans craft a management plan that includes creating wildlife openings, planting wildlife crops, pre-commercial hardwood thinning, pine tree planting, and erosion control.

Some upcoming activities on their Tree Farm include a pine first thinning, a hardwood patch clearcut and an understory prescribe burning. By following their Tree Farm plan, their woodland investment will soon provide income to offset past and future investments, while providing an enjoyable get-away.

The Tennessee Tree Farm Committee is proud of all of Tennessee's Tree Farmers and their efforts to get more good forestry on more acres and keep it there.

## COMPLIANCE: DOES YOUR MANAGEMENT PLAN MEET THE 2010 STANDARDS?

Dr. David Mercker, University of Tennessee, Extension Forestry Specialist

I can still hear the words now. My college professors (in well-rehearsed chorus) would say again, ". . . the forest is not a static system. It's dynamic, ever-changing and that as professional foresters you must be willing to adapt management strategy. Be flexible." And so it is with foresters, every so often we trundle back into the woods to collect new data, observe what's happened lately - a hole in the canopy here, another invasive there, heaven forbid, even a tiny beetle . . . and then we move forward with an amended plan for the future.

Tree Farmers understand this too. You must be flexible. As woods people, you stay current, side-by-side with other Tree Farmers, managing to high standards and carrying the **American Tree Farm** banner high. It's what you do. You manage your woods for a continuous and abundant supply of wood, water, wildlife and recreation. You do it not with expectation of recognition, but because, well, it's the right thing to do.

Change is upon us. As you are aware, the American Tree Farm System, specifically YOUR FOREST, now has international recognition as having been third-party certified. That's a big deal, sure to become an even bigger deal as markets continue to develop for certified wood. This means that as your trees are harvested, they can enter a chain that tracks wood from the stump to finished product, a *certified* product. For the most part, at least for private landowners, this certification process is painless. You work with your forester to develop a woodland stewardship plan then

periodically update it.

From time to time the standards by which Tree Farms are measured change. Such is the case with the release of the new 2010-15 standards. For you to remain certified, some minor updates are **required by December 31, 2010**. The national office has developed a **management plan addendum** that helps landowners and their forester to simplify and expedite the process of meeting the new requirements. The addendum is included in the Newsletter. The new standards and the addendum can also be found at:

<http://treefarmssystem.org/2010standards/>

In addition this site as a link titled "Woodland Resources." Once inside, click on Tennessee to reveal sources of information for identifying rare fish and wildlife, special sites, and best management practices. These must be addressed in your plan.

My professors had another saying that I have repeated to our children as they thrashed over a pending book report, term paper or science project . . . , "The fastest way to get something done . . . is to . . . start!" Personally, these are words that ring each time I am given another task too (such as preparing this article). Let that be your mantra, to "start!" By updating your plan, your forest is sure to retain the title of an **American Tree Farm**.



# American Tree Farm System's 2010 Standards Management Plan Addendum

## Introduction

The American Tree Farm System has developed this management plan addendum for Tree Farmers whose management plans **already meet the current requirements** and are looking to update their plans to be in conformance with the newly released 2010 – 2015 American Forest Foundation Standards of Sustainability. All lands certified by the American Tree Farm System must meet the requirements of the 2010 AFF Standards by December 31, 2010.

The Management Plan Addendum covers **only** the new items required in the 2010 Standards that were **not previously** addressed under the 2004 Standards (which you would have been certified under if you were certified before 2010).

For more information on the AFF Standards, please visit [www.treefarmssystem.org/certification](http://www.treefarmssystem.org/certification) or call Victoria Lockhart at 202.463.2738.

## Instructions

Management plans for properties certified by the American Tree Farm System are required to be active, adaptive, embody the landowner's current objectives, remain appropriate for the land certified and reflect the current state of knowledge about forestry and natural resource management. An active management plan is

updated on a frequent basis with handwritten notes, plan revisions and informal plan amendments such as this document. Please consider contacting a professional forester (consulting forester, landowner assistance forester, state agency forester) to assist you with your addendum or if your plans needs a more complete update.

1. Read through your current management plan. If you see any items that you would like to update, please consider including handwritten notes. Please consider reviewing your management plan annually and update informally with any pertinent information.
2. Please review each **new** required plan element (new under the 2010 Standards) and evaluate whether or not your current management plan meets the **new** requirements. If your current plan meets these **new** requirements, please make note of where in your plan this information can be found.
3. Where there are updates needed, please follow the guidance under each required resource elements.
  - a. For any check box sections, please add comments if appropriate.
4. Once you have completed the addendum, please attach to your current management plan. Please be sure to **initial and date** the addendum.

Where present and relevant to the property, your management plan must address the following resource elements: **Please include only those items not already addressed adequately in your current management plan. Download official form on <http://www.treefarmssystem.org/2010standards/>**

**1** Review your management plan to determine if it states a desired forest condition, management activities aimed at reaching that condition, and a general schedule of activity implementation.

**2** **Forest Health:** The previous standards addressed environment quality generally. The 2010 standards now separate out forest health, soil and water.

**What is the condition of your forest?** Are you conducting any activities to improve the health of your forest?

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**3** **Soil:** The previous standards addressed environmental quality generally. The 2010 standards now separate out forest health, soil and water.

**Do you have any general information on your forest soils?** To conduct some preliminary research on your soils, visit the National Resource Conservation Service's (NRCS) website: <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/> or contact your local office of the USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service

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**4** **Water:** The previous standards addressed environmental quality generally. The 2010 standards now separate out forest health, soil and water. For more information on your state's Forestry BMPs, visit [www.treefarmssystem.org/woodlandresources](http://www.treefarmssystem.org/woodlandresources).

**Do you have any water on your property (e.g. streams, ponds, vernal pools, etc.)?** If relevant, indicate water resources on your tract map? Are you planning any activities (new or continued) to protect these water resources?

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All Tree Farmers must adhere to current State Forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs) even in those states where BMPs are voluntary. I commit to implementing applicable BMPs on my Tree Farm.

YES       NO

**COMMENTS:**  

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**Threatened or Endangered Species:**

Are you aware of any occurrences of any threatened or endangered species (listed by your state or the Federal government?) on your property?

COMMENTS:

What sources of information have you consulted to determine occurrences of threatened or endangered species on your property? The following are examples of research you may have conducted (please check those you have completed):

Walk the property with a knowledgeable natural resources professional

DATE:

COMMENTS:

Consulted the state natural resource agency

DATE:

COMMENTS:

Researched sites provided on the ATFS Woodland Owners' Resource ([www.trefarmsystem.org/woodlandresources](http://www.trefarmsystem.org/woodlandresources))

DATE:

COMMENTS:

Other

DATE:

COMMENTS:

Please include management activities related to the protection of any special sites found on the property:



**Special Sites:** *Although this is not a new requirement under the AFF Standards, it has been included in the addendum as results of ATFS inspections and third-party certification assessments have shown this management plan component could be improved.*

Do you have any special sites on your property? (e.g. historical burial ruins, old cemeteries, cave entrances, rare mineral outcroppings, unique ecological communities). Special sites can be identified by the landowner or by outside credible organizations such as a state forestry agency.

COMMENTS:

How have you made an effort to locate any special sites on your property? The following are examples of efforts you may have made to locate special sites (Please check those you have completed):

Walk the property with a knowledgeable natural resources professional

DATE:

COMMENTS:

Researched sites provided on the ATFS Woodland Owners' Resource ([www.trefarmsystem.org/woodlandresources](http://www.trefarmsystem.org/woodlandresources))

DATE:

COMMENTS:

Review old property maps

DATE:

COMMENTS:

Contact local cultural heritage organization

DATE:

COMMENTS:

Other

DATE:

COMMENTS:

Please include management activities related to the protection of any special sites found on the property



**Integrated Pest Management and Invasive Species:**

What have you done to monitor your forest for the possible presence of any pests and/or invasive species?

Do you have any pest problems or invasive species on your property? If yes, please list.

YES  NO

All Tree Farmers must consider integrated pest management to control pests, pathogens and unwanted vegetation (including invasive species). I commit to considering a variety of available pest management options when dealing with pest problems on my property. (Remember, integrated pest management techniques may include mechanical devices, physical devices, genetic, biological or chemical management techniques)

YES  NO

COMMENTS:



**High Conservation Value Forests:**

Are you aware of any forests of exceptional conservation value on your property? (Definition: Forests of outstanding and critical importance due to their environmental, social, biodiversity, or landscape values)

COMMENTS:

Landowner Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_





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**2010 TENNESSEE FORESTRY ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL MEETING**

October 13-15, 2010 at Edgewater Hotel, Gatlinburg, TN  
Room Rate: \$70.00 ~ Make Reservations at 800-423-9582  
<http://www.edgewater-hotel.com/> or visit  
TFA's website at [www.tnforestry.com](http://www.tnforestry.com) for more information

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**WALNUT TREE QUARANTINE EXPANDED DUE TO THOUSAND CANKERS DISEASE**

*- Plans underway to survey and restrict movement of walnut material in Tennessee -*

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** – The Tennessee Department of Agriculture today announced the discovery of a walnut tree killing disease, called Thousand Cankers Disease (TCD), in Anderson, Blount and Union Counties. The disease was discovered in Knox County in August. The se counties are now under an emergency quarantine. Adjacent counties to the quarantined areas are also restricted for movement of w alnut products and hardwood firewood. These counties include Campbell, Claiborne, Grainger, Jefferson, Loudon, Monroe, Morgan, Roane, Scott and Sevier counties.

"We will continue to survey our forests and work to help slow the spread of the disease." said TDA Plant Certification Administrator Gray Haun. "We are working with stakeholders to help educate citizens on the symptoms of TCD and how they can help."

TCD is a progressive disease that kills a tree within two to three years after initial symptoms are detected. The disease -causing fungus, *Geosmithia*, is transmitted by a small twig beetle. Branches and trunk tissue are killed by multiple infections of the fungus, as the beet les carry the fungus from one area to the next.

TDA plant inspectors and foresters will continue to conduct a thorough survey of trees in these areas to assess the extent of th e infestation and to see if more areas need to be quarantined. The Tennessee Department of Agriculture Division of Forestry estimates that 1.3 8 million black walnut trees in Tennessee's urban areas are potentially at risk from TCD. The risk represents an estimated value loss of \$ 1.37 billion. There are an estimated 26 million black walnut trees on Tennessee public and private timberland potentially valued as high as \$1 .47 billion.

TDA officials urge area residents and visitors to help prevent the spread of TCD:

- **Don't transport firewood, even within Tennessee.** Don't bring firewood along for camping trips. Buy the wood you need from a local source. Don't bring wood home with you.
- **Don't buy or move firewood from outside the state.** If someone comes to your door selling firewood, ask them about the source, and don't buy wood from outside the state.
- **Watch for signs of infestation in your black walnut trees.** If you suspect your black walnut tree could be infested with TCD, visit [www.TN.gov/agriculture/tcd](http://www.TN.gov/agriculture/tcd) for an online symptoms checklist and report form or call TDA's Regulatory Services Division at 1 -800-628-2631.

For more information about other programs and services of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture visit [www.tn.gov/agriculture](http://www.tn.gov/agriculture) .

