Forest Roads
EPA is accepting comments in response to the request for information on forest roads published in the Federal Register on November 10. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit approved the schedule by which EPA will comply with the court’s 2003 decision on the treatment of forest roads in the Stormwater 2 program. The schedule requires EPA to issue a decision whether to adopt regulations under the program for forest roads by May 26, 2016. Comments are due by January 11, 2016, however, word is there will be a 30 day extension. Industry groups and others are preparing comments to forward to EPA.

Carbon
Industry organizations continue to track efforts to develop implementation plans under the EPA Clean Power plans. Forestry related groups and others are working to determine the complexities that EPA has placed on biomass under the Clean Power Plan, with the goal of being able to provide a more detailed response and comments by January 21 on the federal implementation plan as proposed by the EPA.

Waters of the United States (WOTUS)
The regulation defining “waters of the United States (WOTUS)” issued by EPA and the Corps of Engineers last June remains subject to a confusing web of lawsuits at both federal district court and court of appeals levels. The lead court of appeals, the Sixth Circuit, did enjoin the rule nationwide while it considers whether to keep the case or to declare that challenges to the rule are properly considered by district courts. Challenges are currently pending in twelve district courts around the country. The Sixth Circuit will hear argument on this issue on December 8.

Northern Long Eared Bat (NLEB)
The U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia granted intervention as defendants to NAFO and other forestry related groups in the Center for Biological Diversity’s challenge to the USF&WS interim 4(d) rule for the northern long-eared bat. The court has now suspended the briefing schedule to allow USF&WS to issue the final rule, which is expected in December. Forestry related and other groups are intervenors to support FWS to defend the interim rule in a lawsuit filed by the Center for Biological Diversity.

TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load)
Several state and national organizations have joined an
Taiwanese wood industry representatives along with an official from the Taiwan government’s trade office visited several Tennessee forest industries on September 16-18. TFA hosted lunch for the group on September 16. The visitors from Taiwan learned about Tennessee hardwood and the sustainability of our state’s forests. Tim Phelps, Kerry Livengood, David Todd and other Tennessee Division of Forestry representatives helped organize the tour and spent time with our Taiwan visitors while they traveled across Tennessee.

Tennessee wood industries visited during the three day tour included:

- Atlanta Hardwood Corporation
- Clarksville
- Middle TN Lumber Company
- Burns
- White County Lumber Company
- Sparta
- Mayfield Lumber Company
- McMinnville
- Cardin Forest Products
- South Pittsburg
- Thompson Appalachian Hardwoods
- Huntland
- Hassell & Hughes Lumber Company
- Collinwood
- LP Headquarters
- Nashville

TFA appreciates the opportunity to be involved with furthering our members’ ability to learn more about and participate in the strong export market. Tours such as this provide our members the ability to showcase Tennessee wood products and the value they bring to the economy and health of our forests throughout the Volunteer State.

For more information on the export market for Tennessee wood products contact:

- Tim Phelps, Tennessee Division of Forestry
  Forest Communications & Outreach Unit Leader 615 837-5543
- Kerry Livengood, Tennessee Division of Forestry
  Forest & Business Analytical Services Unit Leader 615 837-5437
- David Todd, Tennessee Division of Forestry,
  Assistant State Forester 615 837-5539
- Adam Taylor, University of Tennessee
  Wood Products Extension 865 385-8588

LOOKING TO JANUARY...GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMES TO TOWN

By: Candace Dinwiddie, TFA, Executive Director

TFA asks you to make a New Year’s Resolution…..please contact your legislator and voice support for HB850/SB412. This legislation was filed in response to an issue on a county road in Franklin County and the low weight limits posted on this road by County Highway Officials. Once the road was posted at 18 tons, no timber harvest could take place due to legally loaded log trucks could not travel on this road. The Senate version of the legislation, SB412, has passed unanimously through the Senate. The House version, HB850, passed through House Transportation and other committees, but was not heard on the House Chamber floor since several legislators were looking to “exempt” their counties from the legislation.

TFA realizes that though this road was posted in Franklin County, the low weight limits are a statewide issue. Many issues can be addressed in a local manner, but TFA believes the low weight limit posting on county roads can truly be a threat to the right to sell timber and the ability to transport the wood to our markets throughout Tennessee.

The legislation allows for County Superintendents to post county roads at lower weight limits, however, forestry and agriculture haulers would not be affected by the lower weight posting.

TFA sees this issue as a personal property rights issue. Landowners should be able to sell their timber on any county road without the concern that the weight limit would be lowered to such a limit that would not allow for log trucks to travel at the legal weight limit of 80,000 lbs with 10% tolerance. We need your help! Please watch the Friday afternoon News & Notes for updates on this legislation and/or contact Candace for more information. She will be in contact in early January requesting your help in passing this legislation on the House Chamber floor.

Also, TFA is likely looking at filing legislation that would clarify personal property taxes charged to loggers by local county governments. TFA realizes that many TN counties are not charging loggers this tax, but some are, and our organization believes that no logger should be paying this tax. More information will be forthcoming on this proposed legislation. Please contact Candace for more details.

TFA is also in the planning stage for the 2016 Tree Day & Legislative Reception in March. Please watch Friday News and Notes for date, location, etc. This is always a great day to visit legislators, and ensure that forest industry and landowners are recognized by legislators for the assets provided our state. TFA will be addressing several major issues this session and we need your help and presence more than ever! Contact Candace if you would like to learn more about this important TFA event.
As Forestry Mutual has expanded to several states in the southeast over the last 15 years, our understanding of the forest products industry has grown. One thing that continues to jump out at me is how the forest industry continues to be influenced by the culture of the people involved. I believe the biggest challenge we have is to define what elements of our culture are detrimental and what elements are valuable to our success in an ever changing business landscape. “This is how my father did it” was not my business model when I was logging, but I must admit had I have figured out how to balance “how my father did it” with new innovative ideas and technology I would likely have been much more successful. I strongly believe that “culture” is a major factor in regards to many of the issues we face today within the logging and trucking segment of the forest products industry.

So what is “culture”? Culture can be defined as the characteristics and knowledge of a particular group of people that has been influenced by patterns of behavior, interactions and understanding learned by socialization. Remember “This is how my father did it”. We often purchased trucks to haul wood that were formerly Pepsi, Coke or Coble milk delivery trucks. After all we didn’t care how they looked since we were likely going to dent the fenders anyway. Often, a “dead tandem” was added to carry heavier loads than the truck was designed for. The driver was usually an uncle, cousin or family friend whose experience was normally obtained from driving an old flatbed 6 wheeler on the farm or at least some farm tractor experience. No CDL, DOT, SMS, FMCSA, drug testing, medical card or any other concern. Just take that load to the mill and “watch out for the weigh man”. We don’t live in that world anymore.

Before I move on let me be clear, there are a lot of very well run logging and log/chip hauling operations in the forest products industry. Unfortunately the ones who have not reached this level are having an adverse effect on the entire industry. Insurance rates, public perception, governmental compliance and legal responsibility are all based on events that occur within the industry as a whole.

So what is at the core of our problems? First of all, a nationwide truck driver shortage may be our biggest problem. Secondly, freight rates are generally too low for the transportation of raw forest products from woods to the mill. Average load hauls are 2 to 3 times longer, far more traffic on the highways and longer mill turnaround time. Trucks are often traveling longer distances on woods roads and secondary roads. Weather conditions are out of anyone’s control but do have a major impact on the truck and driver being profitable. I could go on about driver distraction and lack of drivers that can pass drug test or insurance/government requirements.

How do we change our culture? I don’t have all the answers, but let me suggest a couple. Seek new ideas to blend with “this is how my dad did it” and consider new technology, such as, GPS and cameras for accountability. Finally, we have to train our drivers for the unique and challenging job they face when transporting logs and chips from the woods to the mill. TEAM Log/Chip Truck (TLCT) has begun the task of identifying issues and developing solutions. Join us on Facebook at TEAM Log/Chip Truck or email me at jlocklear@forestrymutual.com for additional information.
Protecting Your Most Valuable Assets

Tennessee Forestry Association
Selective Workers' Compensation Group

Providing affordable workers' compensation insurance for more than 20 years

The Self-Insurance trust has helped hundreds in the forestry manufacturing industry by providing stable, reliable, and more importantly, affordable workers’ compensation coverage. We’ve dedicated ourselves to Excellence in providing cost effective ways for our members to manage their workers’ compensation costs.

- Responsive & Effective Claims Handling
- Personalized Loss Prevention
- State Certified Drug Free Workplace Program
- Safety Education & Training Services
- Affordable Premium Payment Plans

Call us for a Competitive Quote!

Phone: 615-883-3832
Fax: 615-883-0414
Email: mwhitley@tnforestry.com

Mike Whitley, Director
PAUL BUNYAN
TAX SERVICES

- Income Tax
- Timber Sale Reporting
- Xero software specialists
- Bookkeeping
- Equipment Tracking
- Payroll

Serving the Southeast and Midwest
www.paulbunyantax.com
A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR ANNUAL MEETING CONTRIBUTORS

Our Exhibitors and Sponsors enable our members to attend the TFA Annual Meeting at a reasonable cost. Please visit the displays in the exhibit area to view the many services and products our exhibitors provide. A special thanks to the companies and individuals who work hard to support TFA and promote “The Voice of Forestry”. Enjoy the conference!

SPONSORS
DINNER & TOUR AT COKER TIRE MUSEUM
Charles R. Page, Jr. & Associates
F&W Forestry Services
Middle Tennessee Lumber
Straight Fork Timber Co.
The Forestland Group
The Sawmill
White County Lumber Co.

GENERAL SESSION
Evergreen Packaging
ForesTech Resource Solutions
International Forest Co.
J.V. Averitt Lumber Co.
Miller Lumber Co.
Packaging Corp. of America
Savage Lumber Co.
Steve Collie Consulting
Thompson Appalachian Hardwoods
Timber Mart–South
Vanleer Hardwoods, Inc.

5:00 SOMEWHERE RECEPTION
B&G Equipment
Cole Pallet Co., LLC
Jack Daniels Distillery
Stephens Hardware

SPONSORS
DINNER & TOUR AT COKER TIRE MUSEUM
Charles R. Page, Jr. & Associates
F&W Forestry Services
Middle Tennessee Lumber
Straight Fork Timber Co.
The Forestland Group
The Sawmill
White County Lumber Co.

GENERAL SESSION
Evergreen Packaging
ForesTech Resource Solutions
International Forest Co.
J.V. Averitt Lumber Co.
Miller Lumber Co.
Packaging Corp. of America
Savage Lumber Co.
Steve Collie Consulting
Thompson Appalachian Hardwoods
Timber Mart–South
Vanleer Hardwoods, Inc.

5:00 SOMEWHERE RECEPTION
B&G Equipment
Cole Pallet Co., LLC
Jack Daniels Distillery
Stephens Hardware

EXHIBITORS
American Forest Management, Inc.
ArborGen SuperTree Seedlings
B&G Equipment
BB&T-Legge Insurance
Blue Source
Brewco
Corley Manufacturing Co.
ForesTech Resource Solutions
Forestry Mutual Insurance Company
Log-A-Load for Kids
Nelson Paint Co. of AL
Power Equipment Co.
Red River Specialties, Inc.
Rodan & Fields Dermatologists
Taylor Machine Works
Thompson Machinery Company

TN Highway Patrol
TN Wood Products-TDF
U.S. Blades
USDA APHIS
UT Center for Renewable Carbon
Van Meter Insurance

TFA’S AWARDS & OTHER RECOGNITIONS

TREE FARMER OF THE YEAR:
Briarpatch Family Farms, LLC
Humphreys County

LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR:
Rep. Kent Calfee
Kingsport

TFA AWARD OF MERIT:
Terry Porter
ForesTech Resource Solutions

FOREST RESOURCE AWARD:
Comm. Julius Johnson
TN Dept. of Agriculture

MASTER LOGGER OF THE YEAR:
Michael Redfern
Robertson County

CFA OF THE YEAR:
Hardin County
Forestry Association
Billy Penick, President

EXTENSION AGENT OF THE YEAR:
Jerry Lamb
Rhea County

GOLF:
TO BE ANNOUNCED
### Directors: Term Expiring 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Company/Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mike Barnes</td>
<td>The Sawmill, Hohenwald</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenneth Lin</td>
<td>International Paper, Raleigh, NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Bond</td>
<td>Forest Management, Savannah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Daugherty</td>
<td>Charlin Hollow Tree Farm, Crossville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ed Clark</td>
<td>Georgia-Pacific, Knoxville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nordeck Thompson</td>
<td>Thompson Appalachian Hardwoods, Huntland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rob Kidd</td>
<td>Huber Engineered Woods, LLC, Spring City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tommy Graham</td>
<td>Graham Holdings Company, Linden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George McClary</td>
<td>Thompson Machinery, Camden</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Directors: Term Expiring 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Company/Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kim Rohr</td>
<td>NewPage Corporation, Dover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larry Pitts</td>
<td>Cunningham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neal Carson</td>
<td>Packaging Corp. of America, Counce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terry Porter</td>
<td>ForesTech Resource. Solutions., LLC, Castalian Springs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Williams</td>
<td>Quercus Forest Products, Hohenwald</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Joyce</td>
<td>Middle Tennessee Lumber Co., Burns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wayne Anthony</td>
<td>Timberland Investment Resources, Chattanooga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don Page</td>
<td>Charles R. Page &amp; Assoc., Chattanooga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jay Wolfe</td>
<td>Hankins Forest Products, Savannah</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Directors: Term Expiring 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Company/Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Ross</td>
<td>American Forest Management, Kingston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Owen</td>
<td>Resolute Forest Products, Calhoun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keith Price</td>
<td>Price Sawmill, Selmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adam Taylor</td>
<td>University of Tennessee, Knoxville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Keziah</td>
<td>Oak Ridge Hardwoods, Oak Ridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dwight King</td>
<td>Volunteer Logging, Piney Flats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe Pulley</td>
<td>Pulley Logging, Erin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom Frost</td>
<td>Hood Container, New Johnsonville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnny Heard</td>
<td>Hassell &amp; Hughes Lumber, Collinwood</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### County Forestry Association Representatives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization/Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paul Pickens-West</td>
<td>McNairy County Forestry Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Robertson-Middle</td>
<td>Southern Middle TN Co. Forestry Assn., Lawrenceburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Cardin-East</td>
<td>Marion County Forestry Association</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Ex-Officios

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization/Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Michael Morris-Imd. Past President</td>
<td>Domtar, Kingston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ed Carter</td>
<td>TN Wildlife Resources Agency, Nashville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathan Wilson-Domain Manager</td>
<td>University of the South, Sewanee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comm. Julius Johnson</td>
<td>TN Dept of Agriculture, Nashville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhedona Rose</td>
<td>TN Farm Bureau Federation, Columbia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. JaSal Morris-Supervisor</td>
<td>Cherokee National Forest Cleveland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comm. Robert Martineau, Jr.</td>
<td>TN Dept of Environment &amp; Conservation, Nashville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Keith Belli</td>
<td>UT Dept. of Forestry, Wildlife &amp; Fisheries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jere Jeter-State Forester</td>
<td>Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Nashville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom Midyett-President</td>
<td>TN Paper Council, Knoxville</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

Volume 11, Issue 3

TREELINE, PAGE 7
Honesty, Integrity, Reliability, Family Values in the 21st Century. These are all the hallmark words of the Redfern family, Master Loggers residing in Cedar Hill, a rural community in Robertson County.

Mention the Redfern name north of Nashville and immediately folks think of Michael, and sons Justin and Jonathan but also grandfathers, uncles and fathers who also made their livelihood in the woods. The logging family tradition has been kept alive through generations of Redfers. Justin and Jonathan have helped out their father for years and plan to continue the family tradition in the future generations of Redfers. Tina Redfern, Michael’s wife, handles the bookkeeping, takes part in the community activities and always makes sure there is a home cooked meal on the stove for the family coming in every evening from the woods.

Michael follows safety and transportation regulations appropriately. Safety meetings are conducted regularly and emphasis is placed on safe and thoughtful practices in the woods.

Timber harvesting methods are implemented according to management plans written by consulting foresters in conjunction with the involved landowners. Michael works with several consulting foresters in Northern Middle Tennessee. Generally, selective cutting is recommended, but clear cutting is done when prescribed in the management plan. Best Management practices are top priority with the Redfens. Exceptional water quality standards are always met at each harvest site. Michael also considers each landowner’s specific goals for wildlife management and scenic beauty as well as economic benefits.

The Redfens mostly log in upland hardwood stands, harvesting high quality hardwoods which include white oak veneer and walnut.

They always make sure the harvest area is clean at the end of each day. At the conclusion of the harvest, the sites are checked again for litter and any additional problems. The Redfens use timber contracts with landowners. Also, property maps are reviewed for boundary lines to ensure that all involved in the timber tract management are aware of the trees to be harvested.

Michael and his sons prioritize keeping their equipment maintained and safe. Also, equipment is kept clean. Michael is the truck driver. Justin drives the skidder and cuts up logs in the loading area. Jonathan is the timber cutter and helps out as needed.

Michael is a Master Mason in Red River Masonic Lodge #537 and two time Past Master. The family is very active members of Cedar Hill Baptist Church where Michael serves as a Deacon. He and Tina are known for their generosity throughout the community. He helps out with firewood, food donations, and other ways he can help support less fortunate folks in the community. They are advocates in helping the homeless by donating time and money to the Nashville Rescue Mission. They also support St. Jude’s Children Hospital and Open Door Pregnancy Center in Springfield. Justin and Jonathan have traveled to and been a major part of disaster relief efforts in several locations across the country. Redfern Logging also sponsors a local Robertson County softball team each year.

Michael has been an active member of the National Rifle Association for over 25 years. Hatton Brown Publications has recognized the Redfern family for their logging tradition and featured an article in the March, 2014 edition of “Southern Logging Times” on the family. Also, National Public Radio (NPR) featured a Radio Broadcast on Michael Redfern Logging discussing the challenges of keeping the younger generation as a part of the logging family business.

Senator Kerry Roberts, Springfield states “I am so happy to recommend Michael and his family to be chosen as Tennessee Master Loggers of the Year. Michael and his sons have such a great reputation for their work in the woods, their dedication to the community and for their commitment to church and family. I am honored to support the selection of the Redfens as Tennessee Master Loggers of the Year.”

Michael, his sons, his uncles and cousins have been long time members of Tennessee Forestry Association (TFA). The Redfern family were some of the first loggers to complete the Master Logger Program. The family is politically active and keep up with issues and events affecting the logging industry. Michael also served as Commissioner in Cedar Hill until the family moved outside of the city limits.

Michael says the family “works hard and plays hard too” Michael say he is a Christian and not ashamed of it. Michael and Tina have raised their boys to believe in “faith and fun,” an attitude that has served the family well and keeps life in perspective. Michael and the boys love to hunt and fish and attend truck pulls throughout the state. The Redfens sponsor a “pulling truck” and are known as the “Bad Boy Pullers”

Since 1940, four generations have exemplified the family commitment to being good stewards of the land and working hard. Today, the younger generation of those forest landowner families who made the call to the Redfens in 1940 to harvest timber are calling Michael and his sons to harvest those same tracts in 2015. Tina and Justin’s wife, Lauren, are vital components in making the logging business successful. The love of the family is strong... and their love for the logging family tradition is as well. It is with honor and pleasure to declare that TFA has awarded the Redfern family as 2015 Master Loggers of the Year.
CFA OF THE YEAR
Sammy Woodfin, with Evergreen Packaging was honored for his Service to the American Tree Farm System.

Legislator of the Year
Representative Kent Calfee, Kingston was named Legislator of the Year.

CFA of the Year
Members of the Hardin County Forestry Association accepted the CFA of the Year Award.

TFA Award of Merit
Terry Porter, ForesTech Resources Solutions in Castalian Springs was named TFA Award of Merit Recipient.

Master Logger of the Year
Michael Redfern of Robertson County was named Master Logger of the Year. Rick Bryan w/ Bryan Equipment Sales presented Michael with a STIHL Chainsaw.

Tree Farmer of the Year
John Burch owner of Briar Patch Family Farms, LLC of Humphreys County was named the Tree Farmer of the Year. Award was presented by Jon Boggs from the Tree Farm Committee.

Forest Resource Award
Commissioner Julius Johnson, TDA, received recognition with the Forest Resource Award.

Extension Agent of the Year
Jerry Lamb, Rhea County, received the Extension Agent of the Year. Wayne Clatterbuck with UT Extension presented the award.

Past & Present President
Jake Almond, American Forest Management will serve another term as TFA President.
Practicing sustainable forestry and providing markets for Tennessee forest products.

P.O. Box 33
Counce, Tennessee 38326
(731) 689-1295

F&W FORESTRY SERVICES, INC.
Providing management, consulting, and real estate services to landowner

Clinton Office
Rick Sluss, C.F.
Manager
P.O. Box 328
Clinton, TN 37717
(865) 640-5430
rsluss@fwforestry.com

Paris Office
Tom Cunningham, C.F.
Manager
P.O. Box 879
Paris, TN 38242
(731) 234-6685
tcunningham@fwforestry.com

Providing management, consulting, and real estate services to landowner

Panther Creek Forestry, LLC
“Making your forest work for you”
Forest Managers . Timber Sales
Tree Planting . Wildlife Habitat Planning

Ben Myers
benmyers@panthercreekforestry.net

Brenton Berlin
jbberlin.pcf@gmail.com

210 N. Chancery St. Office: (931) 474-6203
McMinnville, TN 37110 Cell: (931) 259-5478
www.panthercreekforestry.net Fax: (931) 474-6206

For more than 20 years, Thompson Appalachian Hardwoods has manufactured and exported the highest-quality Appalachian hardwood lumber and logs. With control of raw material from the forest, Thompson Appalachian Hardwoods guarantees a consistent, high-quality product from start to finish.
Hello, Tennessee Forest Landowners. You may have been hearing about the changes in the Tree Farm Program (ATFS) that is administered by the American Forest Foundation. It is a Certification Program under the internationally endorsed that is endorsed internationally by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).

Landowners and qualified professional natural resource professionals who follow and are trained in the 2015-2020 Standards are encouraged to promote the program for the benefit of landowners. There are 8 Standards with subsequent performance indicators within each Standard. These Standards are points that would be included in a landowners Forest Management Plan for each of the parcels of land that maybe owned by an individual landowner. These plans are written as collaboration between the landowner/s and their respective forestry professional to ensure that the Standards are include and addressed for each parcel. Other natural resource professionals may be part of this collaboration to assist a landowner to learn about their property and to comply with the Standards. A landowner can employ a forestry professional to write a Forest Management Plan to become first a Pioneer Tree Farm one year. During that year the landowner must begin one or more activity before attaining the Certified Tree Farm status at the one year anniversary. This is not usually a hard benchmark to attain. An example or two maybe, painting your property lines or identifying the invasive plants on your property for removal.

This year Tennessee’s Tree Farms were audited for compliance under the Tree Farms Standards. Tennessee passed with flying colors again, as we did in 2011. This is a testament to the commitment of our Landowners and the Foresters that write and inspect the individual Tree Farms. Currently we have 436 Tree Farms and we would like to grow our Certified Tree Farms across the state. Of the 99 counties in Tennessee there are thirteen counties without one tree farm. The Tree Farm Committee has set a goal for our Forester -Inspectors to have one in each of these counties during the calendar year of 2016. This goal is in addition to our continued yearly outreach to landowners to qualify as a Certified Tree Farm.

Additionally, Tennessee has been asked by the American Forest Foundation to grow our Committee’s commitment to an organization that has more resources and partners to administer the Tree Farm Program. This means we have more duties that were normally completed by AFF and have become a part of the Committees duties to carry out. A major point of these is that we will have to become more fully funded on our own to provide services and to work with the public in education and information about our forest and the Tree Farm Certification. To learn more about this program contact your local Forester or if you are new to this program please view Tennessee Forestry Association’s website and contact any of our Committee Members for assistance and we can put you in contact with a Certified Tree Farm Inspector in your county.

We look forward to Tennessee’s Forest and Wood Products being “Gold” Standard in the United States. Thank you for managing your timberlands and farms.

2015 TFASWCG UPDATE

By: Phil Averitt, TFASWCG Board Chairman

I cannot believe how fast the year has passed and now we are trying to figure out what 2016 holds for the forest industry. I can tell you the directors of the TFASWCG are working to insure that workers’ compensation is not one of the problems you have to worry about. The group has had a moderately good year, with a current loss ratio of 41%. Our financial stability has allowed for the overall rate to remain the same for 2016.

The TFASWCG has several programs that are in place to help the members control their workers comp cost. First is the loss control provided by ERS. In all my years in business, I have never had such pro-active loss control as the service from ERS. They are very easy to deal with, and they offer sound advice on ways to reduce the workers’ comp exposures in the work place.

Our claims management personnel monitors each claim to insure that injured employees receive proper treatment and help them return to work in a timely manner. This has helped to control cost during a time when medical expense has continued to rise.

Another program available to members is the Tennessee Drug Free Workplace. Participation in this program helps to make the workplace safer and can also, earn you a credit on your premium.

Every member needs to look at the new Safety Center web site. Here you will find ideas for safety training, posters and links to sites that can help you to promote safety in the workplace.

Your TFASWCG Board of Directors are working to provide the best service available, so do not hesitate to contact us when you have questions or concerns. We want to make our group stronger and more responsive to the members needs.
We understand your business.
We deliver quality service.
We would love to serve you.

FM:  Loss control, specialized training, other value-added services
FM:  Workers’ Comp Program endorsed by:
  ◆ NC Assn. of Professional Loggers
  ◆ NC Forestry Assn.
  ◆ Tennessee Forestry Assn.
  ◆ Virginia Loggers Assn.
  ◆ SC Timber Producers Assn.

Forestry Insurance Specialists:
Eddie Campbell—919-770-6132
Jimmie Locklear—910-733-3300
Nick Carter—803-669-1003
Chris Huff—919-810-9485

1600 Glenwood Ave. ◆ Raleigh NC 2761
www.forestrymutual.com
Toll-free: 800-849-7788
Proudly serving NC, SC, VA, TN & GA
QUESTION: HOW DO YOU RE-INVIGORATE A COUNTY FORESTRY ASSOCIATION?

When my son-in-law Billy Penick (2015 President for the County Forestry Association of the Year, Hardin County) retired with twenty years in the military, he and our daughter Jennifer joined hands with us on our farm in Hardin County. Billy was especially enthused with the forestry projects we were pursuing. He asked how we had learned what we know so far about trees and forests.

We told Billy about the many years of programs provided by the Hardin County Forest Landowners Association. We spoke of the unique opportunities to have dialogue with a broad spectrum of people involved in the nurture of trees and their related ecosystems-ranging from tree-huggers to leaders in the industry. We explained that much of the time since we arrived in Hardin County, the organization had Association President John Ross and Extension Agent Marcus McLamore to thank for its success. After what must have been ten years of success of leadership, John Ross took a well-earned rest and there was nobody ready to step up. Also, Marcus retired from long service as extension agent. So when Billy arrived on the scene, those many years of opportunity to learn through a Forestry Association were on hold.

Billy had experience as a Chaplain's Assistant in setting up meetings, lining up programs, and organizing events. He pulled together the previous Board Members to seek their support in revitalizing the organization for Hardin County. Mike Martin and Jay Wolfe agreed to take the offices of president and vice president, with Billy serving as secretary/treasurer. Local TDF Forester Paul Whaley provided encouragement and connections. Cards were sent as invitations to all previous members listed in the office of Brian White, the new extension agent, as well as newcomers known to Paul through his Forestry office. A phone campaign was effective in spreading the word of what was going on and reminding folks of the date and the time. Local industry Packaging Corporation of America (PCA) provided funds for a catered supper for that first reorganizational meeting.

Billy remembers that snow storm advisory loomed over the evening of the first meeting—February 11, 2014. Everything was set to go, so he took a chance and went ahead with the event. The roads were covered with snow just east of in Wayne County and south of us in Alabama, but Hardin County stayed clear—and folks turned out! An excellent meal was followed by short presentations by panel members Tennessee Ag Extension Agent Brian White, Will Conrad from PCA, Ray Garton from TWRA, and Area Forester Paul Whaley, followed by open discussion.

Since that first meeting, we have enjoyed interesting presentations on Chain Saw Safety, native Short-Leaf Pine, Quail and Pollinator Fields, Wild Hogs, and native Bats. Our average attendance has been over fifty with a broad representation of interests. Community businesses such as Hardin County Bank have contributed funding to continue offering an attractive meal for meeting attendees. At our most recent meeting, Paul Whaley updated us on the latest tree planting programs available and David Mercker spoke on “Marketing, Mismanagement, and Monarchs.”

Hardin County Forestry Association is once again providing us knowledge, fellowship, and insight into the many facets of forestry stewardship in Tennessee.

NATIONAL ISSUES YEAR END UPDATE CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

amicus brief urging the US Supreme Court to accept the petition filed by agriculture and home building groups for review of a July decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. The lower court’s decision affirmed EPA’s “total maximum daily load” or “TMDL” for the Chesapeake Bay, upholding EPA’s broad interpretation of the Clean Water Act (CWA) that dramatically alters the carefully crafted balance of federal versus state and local power established by Congress under the law. Concerns are that if left unchallenged, a bad precedent would be set that would allow EPA to exercise similar authority over watersheds nationwide.

H2-B

Efforts are underway to contact federal House and Senate members urging support for the “Strengthen Employment And Seasonal Opportunities Now Act (SEASON), H.R. 3918 and S.2225. SEASON would streamline the H-2B application process and provide needed certainty for seasonal employers while enhancing protections for Americans and H-2B workers.
Briarpatch Family Farms, LLC has been a paradise for four generations of the Burch family. It was acquired in 1964 by our parents John and Frances Burch. They bought it as a getaway and as a place to hunt quail. At purchase the land was heavily wooded with vacant fields and early succession growth. Our parents built a small one bedroom house with a swimming pool, a magnet for grandchildren, in the center of the property. A 5 acre fishing lake was also built. In 1967, a professional forester was hired to develop a management plan. That same year the first deer was killed.

Over the years the Briarpatch has been a place where generations have sought solitude and entertained friends. The 4th generation is entering into these pleasures.

In 1973-74 our parents gifted the property to my brother Lucius and I and our children. A timber harvest was conducted on a shared basis in 1983 and the proceeds were reinvested in expanding the size of the house and building another lake. In 1983 we purchased 315 acres of an adjacent tract. This land contained 241 acres of forested land with pockets of good timber. In 1993 we purchased 304 acres of adjacent property of which 289 acres were fenced and contained 121 acres of forested land, the balance in pasture which contained 3 lakes, 3 - 3.5 acres each, and 4 smaller ponds. This land was leased to a local farmer for grazing cattle. The lakes and ponds are all fishable and are attractive to a resident flock of Canadian geese. We experience fish predation from river otter and bald eagle. Beaver are a serious problem and we are periodically forced to employ a trapper.

Over the years wildlife management shifted from quail to deer and turkey. Today we maintain a variety of food plots: 17 acres of milo, 6 acres of winter peas, summer pastures consisting of 23 acres of orchard grass and clover and winter pastures of rye and winter wheat, of which 12 acres are a dove field. We rotate the milo and winter peas into orchard grass and clover fields every 3 years. We fertilize and lime as required. Recent clear cuts and shelter wood cuts have proved very attractive to deer and turkey and provide an abundance of fresh forage and forbs as well as bedding areas and dusting sites. We are trophy deer oriented and have a rule on bucks that they must be a mature deer, 8 points or better, with a spread outside the ears (~15 inches).

We became seriously interested in developing our timber resource in 2012 when a storm blew down about a dozen white oaks. A neighbor had a logger doing some work and suggested I talk to him. In a brief telephone conversation I asked the logger to look at the trees and he said he would and send me a check if he could use them. About 6 weeks later I got a check that got my attention. I called the State Area Forester and we spent the better part of a day going over the property. Several months later he presented me with a management plan and told me we had done enough work to become a certified Tree Farm. The plan he presented to us called for some clearcuts, shelterwood cuts, and replanting in pine. After circulating the plan around the family we decided to execute it. This involved hiring a professional forester. We also discussed our goals: improved wildlife habitat and improved value of our timber stands. About this same time it became obvious that we needed a structure that made it easier to execute contracts. This led to the formation of Briarpatch Family Farms, LLC, with me and my nephew Lucius as managers.

Since hiring a consulting forester to help execute the plan we have received a detailed timber inventory that broke the forested acres of the property into management units to help make better management decisions based on our goals & objectives. Some of the practices we have implemented since 2012 include; Clearcuts on 3 tracts totaling 30.44 acres and shelterwood cuts on 3 tracts totaling 64.5 acres, pine plantation, Timber Stand Improvement harvest on 24 acres, and Chemical stem injection on 28 acres. Along with these practices that address the timber resource, we continue to implement our food plot program, annual prescribed burns for the oak savannah habitat, and maintain trails and boundary lines. Today the Briarpatch consists of 1,373 acres, 1,020 of which are forested that is under a great management program that will enhance all the resources on the property for many generations in the future to enjoy.
Regional Meeting Dates

Wednesday, January 27, 2016
Knoxville/Calhoun’s On the River
Time: Social Hour at 5:30 p.m., Dinner at 6:00 p.m.
Program: Program: “Future for Tennessee Wood Markets”
Presenter: Dr. Adam Taylor, University of Tennessee
Registration Fee: $25.00 (payable at the door)
Please contact Dana at TFA to pre-register.

Thursday, February 4, 2016
Montgomery Bell State Park/Dickson
Time: Social Hour at 5:30 p.m., Dinner at 6:00 p.m. CST
Program: “Surviving in These Challenging Times”
Presenter: Jere Jeter, TN State Forester, TN Dept. of Agriculture/Division of Forestry
Registration Fee: $15.00 (payable at the door)
Please contact Dana at TFA to pre-register.

TENNESSEE FORESTRY ASSOCIATION
Candace Dinwiddie, Executive Director
cdinwiddie@tnforestry.com
Dana Howard, Executive Administrative Assistant
dhoward@tnforestry.com
Lisa Lynn, Publications Coordinator
llynn@tnforestry.com
L.M. Sceals, Master Logger Coordinator
lmsceals@bellsouth.net

CONTACT INFORMATION
PO Box 290693
Nashville, TN 37229
Phone: (615) 883-3832
FAX: (615) 883-0515
www.tnforestry.com
treeline@tnforestry.com