

TREELINE,

TENNESSEE FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

February, 2008



General Assembly Convenes in Nashville

By: Candace Dinwiddie, TFA Executive Director

The 105th General Assembly convened in Nashville in January. 2008 marks the second year of the two-year session for the 105th Legislature. Reports already indicate that state revenue is declining. Legislators will likely look very hard before passing legislation that carries a fiscal impact to the state.

In his January, 2008 State of the State address, Governor Bredesen said "What I am proposing in this year's budget is to concentrate on the basics, putting our full attention to those things that we need to do well to keep Tennessee moving forward in education, safety, jobs and health." For the second consecutive year, the largest portion of the \$27.99 billion budget – including \$13.84 billion in state dollars – will fund Pre-K-12 education and higher education. With a combined appropriation of \$8.41 billion, education represents 30 % of the total budget.

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TFA Green Building Legislation Introduced

By: Candace Dinwiddie, TFA Executive Director

HB4041 by Moore, Yokley, Harrison, Montgomery, McCord, Sargent, Litz, Dean

SB3992 by Lowe Finney, Burchett

TFA with support from the American Forest & Paper Association has introduced legislation into the 105th General Assembly that would encourage the State Building Commission to promulgate rules & regs that require design, construction & certification of state buildings with at least a rating of 2 Green Globes or equivalent rating under a comparable standard. The Dept. of Finance & Administration shall monitor & document ongoing savings that result from the operation of state buildings that are designed, constructed and certified as achieving 2 Green Globes or an equivalent rating under a comparable standard.

TFA believes that by introducing this legislation, forest products manu-

factured in Tennessee will be readily available to use in the construction of state buildings. The Green Globes certification standard allows for more locally manufactured wood products to be used in construction compared to other green certification building standards. It is important to the leadership of TFA that public buildings constructed under green standards in Tennessee be able to make use of our state's wood products in the construction process.

HB4041/SB3992 will be heard in the House & Senate State & Local Government Committees. TFA members should call their House & Senate representatives and request that they sign on as sponsors of HB4041/SB3992. For contact information on members of the General Assembly, click on <http://www.legislature.state.tn.us/>. TFA staff will keep our members informed on the legislation's progress through the committees and House & Senate hearings on the bill.

TFA Legislative Day Planned

By: Candace Dinwiddie, TFA Executive Director

TFA's Day on the Hill will be Wednesday, March 5. Plans are for TFA members to meet at Legislative Plaza in front of room 20 at 10:00 a.m. (CST). Oak seedlings, mugs and informational materials will be distributed to the Governor, legislators and other staff members at the Capitol. At 5:00 p.m. TFA's Legislative Reception will be held at the Downtown Sheraton in the Pinnacle Room. TFA members are encouraged to attend and participate. If you would like to be a part of TFA's Day on the Hill, please contact Candace at 615 883-3832 or cdinwiddie@tnforestry.com. There is no charge for TFA members to attend any of the events on March 5, but staff needs to know who will be participating so nametags can be made in advance

as well as giving hotel staff a "heads up" on a count for the reception. Candace will also provide directions, parking information and help with overnight accommodations reservations if needed.

Please plan to attend....TFA's Day on the Hill gives our members a great opportunity to speak with their legislators both in their offices at the Plaza and in a more relaxed manner at the reception. Legislators look forward to this day every year and enjoy seeing their forestry constituents and listening to the issues that are important to the every day lives of the men and women who make their living in the timber industry and grow our forests in Tennessee.

Hardwood Lumber Market Conditions at the end of 2007

By: Doug Schnabel, TN Division of Forestry, Forest Resource Management Unit

The market in a word is "POOR" or two words, "VERY POOR" !!

I am always a little reluctant to talk about the market because the next question is always, "When will it improve ??". Of course that is an excellent question that no one really knows the answer, but let's just talk about that a little. Most of the market for hardwood products is related to the housing market in the United States and the housing market is down for now. The US housing market total starts and single family starts are down about 30 percent from a year ago. Inventory of new homes stands at 8.5 months supply and existing homes are 10 months for an inventory of 529,000 new homes and 4.56 million existing homes or a total of 5.1 million homes for sale. This is double the typical inventory of homes that we usually have, at least for the past 10 years. Prices are down but they need to come down more on existing homes to encourage sales. The median home in the US is valued at \$ 217,800. So what does this mean for an improvement and when ?? **The consensus forecast from National Homebuilder's is for the housing market to reach a bottom in the last half of 2008 and a recovery at the beginning of 2009 !!!**

Sounds bad ?? One bright spot in the market is the opportunity to export our hardwood logs, lumber and other wood products. Many companies in Tennessee and in the eastern United States have exported to Europe for many years. The European market is a mature market but has been a good one. The euro to dollar exchange rate has helped even more, the euro was worth \$1.47 in US today. White Oak is the primary species used in Europe and has kept that strong for past year.

China and a few southeast Asian countries look to be the big opportunity for wood products. The growth in the Chinese economy and demand for goods of all types is what is driving that opportunity. The Chinese GDP growth is expected to be 10.5 % in 2007 and has for the past decade. There are two main reasons for China's growth:

High level of investment spending. China is second after the US in investment, and not all from outside of the country; China has a very high personal savings rate of 25 % of income. (In the US it was actually negative in 2006 !!!) In the furniture industry, 60 % of furniture imported into the US from China is from US owned companies.

China open to global economy China has always been open to trade and we hear all the time of the huge trade surpluses with the US and now the EU but in total for China they are actually minor with all the importing that China does from other countries. China also has very low tariffs and is one of the most open to imports in the developing world.

How does this affect the forest products business here and in China ?? Increasing log exports from the United States to China because China has restricted cutting in its own forests starting in the 1990's and so has had to import much of its log needs. Russia is big supplier with 18 % of the hardwood log market, compared to the US at 5 %, but the US is growing, primarily veneer logs, but there is the possibility of some sawlogs as well in future.

China is the world's largest importer of hardwood lumber, the US share has grown from \$7 million in 1995 to \$332 million in 2006. 2007 was down 8 % however, but tropical wood was down as well, so the US market share actually increased to 27 percent of the total hardwood lumber imported.

It is estimated that there are 50,000 furniture enterprises in China employing more than 5 million people, with an output of \$57 billion. What surprises most Americans is that exports were only one third of the production, the rest was sold in China, making it the fastest growing furniture market in the world !!!

What do we see for the near term future for hardwood in Tennessee ??

Poor US market for at least another year, a high level of competition, some producers will go out of business. Reduction of log prices.

More emphasis on exporting, including logs.

New markets in developing countries; Vietnam, India, Middle East.

Teacher's Conservation Workshops

East TN Teacher's Conservation Workshop
June 22-27, 2008
University of TN
Knoxville, TN

West TN Teacher's Conservation Workshop
July 13-18, 2008
Pickwick Landing State Park
Pickwick Dam, TN

To registration or for more information call TFA. The registration fee must be received by June 2 for Knoxville and June 16 for Pickwick.

Natural Resources Scholarships

By: Dr. Keith Belli, UT Wildlife & Fisheries, UT Department Head

Careers in Natural Resources

Now, more than ever, there are tremendous opportunities for students to pursue careers in natural resource-related fields such as forest resources management, wildlife and fisheries management, wild-land recreation, and wildlife health. Many federal and state agencies, as well as private corporations and consulting firms are facing an unprecedented need for new employees in the next few years as those in the A baby boomer@ generation enter their retirement years. At the same time, enrollment in natural resource majors is at a low point in the cycle. The result is that entering students find themselves in small classes while in school, and in great demand when they graduate. Another benefit of current low enrollment levels is that there are fewer entering students competing for college and departmental scholarships, raising the likelihood of success. All things considered, for those young people that have an interest in the outdoors, and want to make a difference in how we manage and conserve our

natural resources in Tennessee, it is a great time to consider a career in forestry, wildlife and fisheries at the University of Tennessee. For more details, please go to <http://fwf.ag.utk.edu/>.

Scholarships

The University awards numerous four year, one year, and renewable scholarships based on academic merit, special talents or accomplishments, and need. Students pursuing careers in Forestry or Wildlife and Fisheries may also be eligible for scholarships administered by the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources and by the Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries. However, application for all scholarships is through the general university form, and subject to university-wide deadlines. Detailed information and application procedures can be found at <http://web.utk.edu/~finaid/newpage/schol@info.html>.

The priority application deadline of November 1 is intended for freshmen who

wish to be considered for UT's prestigious Chancellor's Scholarships and the Haslam and McClanahan Scholarships. Applicants who complete the admission application process and submit the Entering Freshman Academic Scholarship Application, with all supporting documentation, including the essay, by November 1, will be considered for the Chancellor's Scholarships. All October SAT/ACT scores received at UT by December 1 will be considered in the scholarship selection process.

Applicants who complete the admission application process and submit the Entering Freshman Academic Scholarship Application by the regular application deadline of February 1 will be considered for all other General University and Alumni Scholarships (except Chancellor's Scholarships), and College and Departmental Scholarships (except Haslam and McClanahan Scholars).



Program of Interest for Forest Landowners with Tornado Damaged Timber

The UT Extension Service plans to host two landowner timber tax/tornado educational programs as follows:

- April 21 Hickman County area
- April 22 Macon County area

Topics included in the workshops will be basic rules for casualty loss; property held for personal use or business investment;

determining timber basis, depletion allowance and fair market value as well as other consideration.

The Tennessee Tree Farm Committee will sponsor a meal for those attending. Please watch the TFA web site for registration information.



Tennessee Healthy Hardwood Dates Announced

During the past two years, the Tennessee Healthy Hardwood field days have become a tradition for county forestry association members, other landowners, and those interested in good, sustainable forest stewardship to attend.

The 2008 theme is "Forest Management for Nongame Wildlife" with TWRA as the primary speakers. The Tennessee Tree Farm Committee is also providing Biltmore sticks for all participants.

Dates for the 2008 workshops are:

- May 17 Tully State Forest in West Tennessee
- May 31 Prentice Cooper State Forest
- August 16 Natchez Trace State Forest
- August 23 Standing Stone State Forest

More information will soon be available on the 2008 Healthy Hardwoods field days. In the meantime, please mark your calendar and plan to attend one or more of these insightful and educational workshops.



Dept. of Agriculture Announces Cost-Share Funding for Portable Bridges & Mats

The Tennessee Dept. of Agriculture through the Agriculture Enhancement Program has announced that cost-share funding is available for the purchase or construction of portable skidder bridges and mats. The use of these type crossing structures will serve to control soil erosion and protect water quality. Specifications and dimensions for the skidder bridges and mats are listed below. Loggers can construct their bridges or mats or purchase these structures as long as the specifications are met. For more information on the cost-share program for skidder bridges and mats, contact John Kirksey at the Tennessee Division of Forestry at 615 837-5425 or area TDF foresters. More information on this program can be found at TDF's website: www.state.tn.us/agriculture/forestry or the TFA website: www.tnforestry.com.

Specifications on Portable Wood & Steel Skidder Bridge & Wood Pallet Mats Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program Cost Share

Specifications on Portable Wood Skidder Bridge

Intended Use	To provide an elevated stream crossing to support skidders & logs with approximate total weight in excess of 40,000 lbs
No. of Bridge Mats	2 or 3
Materials & Design Sketch	Each portable bridge mat shall be of all wood construction.
Length	May be from 18 to 24 feet
Width	4 feet (+/- 6 inches)
Cant Dimensions	Minimum of 10 inches in width and height, and single piece the entire length of mat
Wood Species	Oak or Hickory
Lift Cable or Chain	Each mat shall have cable or chain attached to each end suitable for lifting by logging equipment. The devices must be attached to the mat in a manner that allows for periodic replacement.
Ends	The top surface on each end should be beveled to prevent splintering.
Rod Ties	3/4 inch threaded steel rod spaced at 3 foot intervals shall be used to tie the cants together with at least one nut, lock washer and standard washer.
Spikes	12 to 14 inch barn spikes nailed at 2 foot intervals to increase mat strength.

Specifications on Wood Pallet Mats

Intended Use	To provide an elevated support for logging equipment where soils are wet to avoid rutting or other damage to soil
No. of Bridge Mats	5 or 10
Materials & Design Sketch	Each mat shall be of wood construction.
Length	May be from 12 to 16 feet long
Width	10 feet wide (+/- 6 inches)
Material Dimensions	2 inch x 8 inch boards
Wood Species	Oak
Construction Design	A minimum of 10 evenly spaced boards underneath serving as foundation for 10 runners placed on top at right angles to foundation boards. The runners should be placed to provide efficient load bearing surface for equipment.
Connectors	No lifting pockets shall be installed. The top sheet must be a continuous travel surface with no openings.

Specifications on Portable Steel Skidder Bridge

Intended Use	To provide an elevated stream crossing to support skidders & logs with approximate total weight up to 40,000 lbs
No. of Bridge Mats	2 or 3
Materials & Design Sketch	Each portable bridge mat shall be of all steel construction.
Length	May be from 18 to 25 feet
Width	4 feet (+/- 6 inches)
Top Sheet	Minimum gauge of 1/4 inch (0.250 inch)
Bottom Sheet	Bottom sheeting shall be installed on each end underside extending 4 sloping downward from the mat traffic surface
End Ramp Configuration	Each bridge mat shall be flat-bottomed, with the top sheet of ramp sloping downward from the mat traffic surface
Lifting Pockets	No lifting pockets shall be installed. The top sheet must be a continuous travel surface with no openings.
Weld Beads	3 inches +/- beads every 7 to 10 inches
Towing Eye	1 1/2 inch steel rod in U or V shape on each bridge mat end ramp pipe
I-Beams	Center beam runs length to ramp, side beams run entire length & are tapered at ramp. Beams are W8x31 I-Beam
Cross Members	I-Beams of same material as longitudinal beams, spaced at 5 feet 6 inch intervals
Ramp Edge Pipes	3 inch schedule 80 pipe welded across tapered edge of ramps to prevent ramp end from cutting skidder tires.



UPDATED 2008 Master Logger Class Schedule



Continuing Education Classes

Livingston/City Hall	February 27	Log Bucking
Hohenwald/Memorial Park Community Bldg.	February 28	Stream Crossings
Wartburg/Lone Mountain State Forest	April 23	Stream Crossings
Parsons/TN Timber Show	April 25 & 26	Log Bucking
Dunlap/Mtn. Valley Bank	April 30	Stream Crossings
Pikeville/Little Mountain Video Shop	May 1	Stream Crossings
Dover/Cindy's Restaurant	May 6 & 7	Stream Crossings

Other locations are also being planned. If you need a class in your area, please contact L.M. Sceals at 931-209-1397.

5 Day Initial Master Logger Course

Camden, The Catfish Place

March 6	Safety/OSHA	April 3	First Aid/CPR
March 20	BMPs	April 10	Business/Graduation
March 27	Silviculture		

TFA Staff is scheduling a 5 day initial Master Logger course at Roane State Community College in Crossville. The start date of the class is May 28, 2008. Check the TFA website for the Master Logger calendar at www.tnforestry.com/masterloggerworkshops.htm for updates on upcoming Master Logger workshop dates.

TFA is partnering with the Tennessee Dept. of Agriculture to increase training opportunities for master loggers and other forest resource managers and owners. In 2008, the Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program (TAEP) will provide 50% scholarship tuition to loggers attending the initial 5 day workshop and Master Loggers who attend continuing education classes. Tuition for the 5 day course is \$150.00, and \$70.00 for continuing education classes.

The Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program will REIMBURSE participants 50% of the tuition upon graduation of the 5 day class as well as completion 1 day continuing education class.

General Assembly Convenes in Nashville Continued

By: Candace Dinwiddie, TFA Executive Director

Other features of the 2008-09 budget proposal include:

- \$12 million to expand home & community based health care services
- \$29.3 Million for an economic development jobs package
- \$1.3 million for a new TBI lab in Knoxville
- \$1.3 million for DNA analysis under the Johnia Berry act of 2007
- \$5.6 million for the UT Biofuels Center and \$4 million for the state's alternative fuels initiative
- \$10 million for the Heritage Conservation Trust Fund.

TFA will continue to monitor legislation that will affect our members both mill and logging operations as well as growing trees and sustaining Tennessee's forests. To review legislation, check for legislators' contact information or look at House & Senate Committee calendars, access the General Assembly web-site at www.legislature.state.tn.us.

Project Learning Tree

By: Tamera Coleman, TN PLT Coordinator

In 2007, 748 Tennessee educators were trained and now have activity guides for Project Learning Tree. We have seen an increase each year for several years now. This, year, 57 % of these educators were pre-service teaches. That means this group of 427 young people will begin their teaching careers armed with the most comprehensive environmental education guide currently available in U.S.

This Fall, at the TN Department of Education's annual LEAD Conference, one of the featured speakers was Mike Irvin, principal of Oil City Elementary School in Oil City, Louisiana. Since Oil City became an Elementary Environmental Science Magnet school in 2002, they have recorded dramatic increases in standardized test scores, attendance, and school morale—both students and faculty. The entire faculty is PLT Trained. Their success story sends a loud and clear message about the importance of connecting classroom lessons with the natural and built environments, and about the ease of using PLT to do it!!

In Tennessee we continue to offer PLT Educator training free to both formal and non-formal educators, thanks to the generous support of TFA and TN Division of Forestry. If you know an educator who would like to attend a workshop, contact Tamara.Coleman@state.tn.us

Tree Farm Information Updated on TFA Website

Tennessee Forestry Association's staff has recently updated information regarding the Tree Farm Program on the TFA website. Check out the Tennessee Tree Farm Program at www.tnforestry.com/treefarm.htm You can also access the page by going to www.tnforestry.com and selecting the Tree Farm Program on the side navigation panel. Please let us know what you think of the new format or if you have any questions or suggestions please email Lisa Lynn at llynn@tnforestry.com

Advertise on Tennessee Forestry Association's Website

TFA is now offering advertising on our website. Please contact TFA office for spec and rate sheet. We are also offering a discount if you advertise in two or more of our publications. We want to say a special thanks to all of our advertisers. We appreciate your support of the association.

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Trooper Corner

Sgt. John W. Harmon, Tennessee Highway Patrol



The Tennessee Highway Patrol wishes everyone a happy & SAFE New Year!

Start the New Year out right...schedule an THP ACES trooper to give you an educational contact and driver meeting. This includes a truck inspection to ensure safety compliance. If you haven't used this valuable resource – it is your loss. There is NO CHARGE for this service and ACES troopers want to build communication with TFA members and make sure problems are addressed on the front end, to keep from having problems down the road. Working together we can improve driver and fleet safety.

Contact TFA to learn more about how this service works. Or you can contact Sgt. John Harmon at 800-305-2201, ext. 2312.
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Scott County Planning for New County Forestry Association

The Scott County Extension Service along with the Tennessee Division of Forestry is planning a key people meeting for Tuesday, March 11. If you are interested in helping form and being a key part of a county forestry association in Scott County, please contact Jeremy West at Scott County Extension 423-663-4777. TFA members are encouraged to participate. County forestry associations are important to TFA and we believe this is the very best way for landowners and others to appreciate and learn about all the values of our state's forest resources.

Annual Meeting Dates Announced

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend the 2008 TFA Annual Meeting at Sheraton Music City Hotel in Nashville. The dates are October 1—3, 2008. You can find out more about the hotel by visiting their website at www.sheratonmusiccity.com. We look forward to seeing you there.



Practicing sustainable forestry and providing markets for Tennessee forest products.

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