

TREE FARMER OF THE YEAR

Nominated by: Dwayne Turner, WestRock



Randa Miner – Frank Hill Heirs Property
(5,000 acres – Warren, VanBuren, and
Sequatchie Counties)

Randa Miner is the tree farmer for the Frank Hill Heirs Estate property, a 5,000 acre tract of land that has been in her family since a Land Grant in the early 1800s. Ms. Miner is a retired school

teacher, and has been active in the management of the tree farm since its enrollment in the program in 1992. The Hill Heirs have been a member of the TN Forestry Association since 1987, and Ms. Miner has been the person responsible for keeping the property intact and in well-managed forestry production for the last several years. Her mother, Livy Hoover, was responsible for decisions prior to this, from the 1980's until her passing in 2013, and was similarly an outstanding steward of the land.

In addition to responsibly managing the property for timber production, Ms. Miner has been proactive in protecting forest health, with early detection of pests such as pine beetle and Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, and continues to cooperate with various state and federal agencies to ensure the forest remains healthy. Earlier this year she completed treatment of Hemlocks along 4 miles of streams, not only protecting the trees, but also enhancing the water quality in the Collins River watershed. She plans to restore Shortleaf pine on 300 acres of plateau forest in 2018, and has used a combination of natural and artificial regeneration for reforestation after harvest activities in the past.

At a time when markets are pushing for divestment of large family tracts of land and seeing them parceled off and sold for real estate, Ms. Miner has made active decisions to keep the property functioning as a working forest. Her commitment to go above and beyond in order to maintain the integrity of the property and forest is exemplary, especially through economic hardship and declining forest product markets.

Diana Gennett is truly a key component to making the Tennessee Tree Farm program so successful in our state. She served as Chairman of the Tree Farm Committee and encouraged active participation by Tree Farmers, foresters, NGO representatives and state agency personnel on the committee to ensure that Tennessee's Tree Farm program remained certified and providing the information and education mandated by national Tree Farm to our landowners in the Volunteer State.

During 2016, Diana inspected 20 out of the 66 Tree Farms inspected in Tennessee. Seven of her inspections were new Tree Farms. In 2017, she has inspected three out of the ten inspections completed to-date. Throughout Tennessee, at least 15% of all the Tree Farms were brought into the program by Diana. She regularly handles at least 1/3 of the inspections statewide.

Diana's commitment is truly an inspiration and Tennessee's Tree Farm program is alive and well thanks to her dedication. On behalf of the Tennessee Tree Farm Committee and the Tennessee Forestry Association, it is our pleasure to honor Diana Gennett as our 2017 Tree Farm Inspector of the Year.

INSPECTOR OF THE YEAR

Nominated by: Tennessee Tree Farm Committee



Diana Gennett, Gennett Forestry Consulting