



Kentucky Tree Farm Committee Newsletter

Kentucky Tree Farm Committee Award Winners

Every August, the Kentucky Tree Farm Committee (KTFC) reviews award nominations for the outstanding Tree Farmer, logger, and Tree Farm inspector of the year. The list of nominations is narrowed down to two or three, and then site visits are conducted by a small team of committee members. The members then report back to the KTFC in February for the selection of the award winners. It is a challenge to select a winner among the many great finalists—the KTFC would like to thank all the nominators and the finalists for their dedication to the Tree Farm program. Congratulations to the following 2011 award winners:

- **2011 Kentucky Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year:**
Michael Harvey,
Campbellsville



Michael Harvey



Eddie Butler

- **2011 Kentucky Outstanding Logger of the Year:**
Eddie Butler,
Vanceburg

- **2011 Kentucky Tree Farm Inspector of the Year:** Sean Godbold,
KY Division of Forestry,
Elizabethtown

*Photos courtesy: Paul Miller, Jr.,
National Hardwood Magazine*



Sean Godbold

Grassroots Action Network

The American Tree Farm System (ATFS) has created the Grassroots Action Center, which is a network of Tree Farmers and family forest advocates committed to fighting for policies that ensure family forest owners have the tools they need to keep their forests healthy and productive and protect their forest heritage. The center is a great way to stay current on policy issues that impact family forest owners and to find and contact any elected or appointed official at the national, state, or local level. Learn more about it by visiting <http://familyforestaction.org>.

Saving Special Places

A special site is any noteworthy or meaningful place in your woods: the ruins of an old homestead, a painted cave wall, or even a treasured spot your family returns to year after year. It's a place of personal, historical, archeological, cultural, geological, biological or ecological significance. Protecting these special places for the future is part of the ATFS 2010-2015 Standards of Sustainability for Forest Certification. But it doesn't have to be costly or difficult. Regardless of their type, special sites are important and fragile. And, like our nation's woodlands, they are rapidly disappearing. Woodland owners have a unique opportunity to preserve these pieces of history before they vanish forever. With some information and a little planning, you can preserve a piece of America's heritage for generations to come. Visit www.treefarmssystem.org/special-sites to learn more and to find resources to help.

Third-Party Certification Assessments

Each year, a number of state programs represent their region in the ATFS third-party certification assessments. During the assessment, Tree Farms across each state, representing a range of acreage categories, will be visited by third-party auditors in order to better understand their on-the-ground management and verify conformance with the 2010-2015 Standards of Sustainability. Kentucky will participate in the 2013 assessment, and all Kentucky Tree Farmers should ensure that their management plans and activities are in compliance with the 2010-2015 Standards for Certification (www.treefarmssystem.org/standards-for-certification).

Let Potential Buyers Know You Have Certified Wood

If you are a Tree Farmer, it is important to let potential timber buyers know it. Provide your Tree Farm number and certification information on timber-sale announcements. It can help you establish that the harvested material is eligible for and should be tracked as Certified content at Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Certified facilities.

Thanks to Pete McNeill

Pete McNeill, a long-time Tree Farmer in Fleming County and member of the Kentucky Tree Farm Committee, recently passed away after a long illness. He and his family have had a long tradition of being great stewards of their property and promoting the concepts of caring for the land. In fact, they are Kentucky's only winners of the National Tree Farmer of the Year award. While we will miss Pete's warm smile, kindness, and dedication to good forest management, we will not forget him.