



# TFA's Legislative Blast and News & Notes

Friday, March 11th, 2016

Volume 11, Issue 09

## **MEET THE TFA STAFF**

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## **TN Teachers Conservation Workshop Dates Announced**

Please help TFA "spread the word" about the Tennessee Teacher Conservation Workshops. Dates and locations are listed below. Educators from across the state are invited to attend the workshops and lodging, meals, travel and other expenses are covered for teachers while in attendance.



During the workshops teachers visit active forest management sites, harvesting operations, sawmills, papermills and secondary wood manufacturers. Project Learning Tree instruction and materials are provided by the TN Division of Forestry and TFA members while teachers attend the workshops. Throughout the workshops, teachers get a true idea of why we manage our forests and the importance of the productivity of our timberlands. Take home materials are provided teachers for use in the classroom. In follow-up evaluations of the workshops, teachers provide excellent feedback on how they learned the "whys" and reasons we manage our forests that so bountifully provide clean water, wildlife habitat, scenic views and also thousands of jobs for Tennesseans across our state.

The workshops are sponsored by: TFA/SFI Committee; Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers, Assn.; Lumbermen's Educational Foundation; Packaging Corp. of America; The Ames Plantation; UT Forestry, Wildlife & Fisheries Dept.; TN Dept. of Agriculture/Division of Forestry; TN Dept. of Education and the Tennessee Forestry Association.

2016 Dates and Locations are:

June 13-17 University of Tennessee/Knoxville  
June 21-24 Pickwick Landing State Park/Pickwick Dam, TN

Registration Brochures may be downloaded from the TFA website at: [www.tnforestry.com/Educational/Teacher%27s Conservation Workshop/](http://www.tnforestry.com/Educational/Teacher%27s%20Conservation%20Workshop/) Or contact TFA staff and brochures will be promptly mailed to you.



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## **TN Healthy Hardwoods Field Day Dates**

*"Hardwood Tree Planting: Making it Work for You"*

Dates and Locations:

March 19	Giles County/D'Addario Drumstick Sawmill
April 23	Polk County/East TN State Nursery
April 30	Madison County/West TN Research & Education Center



There is no charge to attend. Lunch is provided by sponsors. Brochures, directions etc. are available through TFA and the TFA website at:

[www.tnforestry.com/TN\\_Healthy\\_Hardwoods\\_Field\\_Days/](http://www.tnforestry.com/TN_Healthy_Hardwoods_Field_Days/)

Please contact TFA to pre-register.

## **Workshop to Address State's Need for Certified Firewood Producers**

*April 9th workshop will show participants how to start their own certified firewood business*

**Knoxville, TN** — An alliance of state, federal and non-governmental partners announced a new public opportunity for learning about how to develop a business to heat-treat firewood in kilns to fill increasing demand at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park campgrounds.

On Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, a free workshop will be held at the University of Tennessee Center for Renewable Carbon to provide more information on new regulations for firewood in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, on the insect pests that prompted these regulations, and the new business opportunities that have sprung up to meet public demand.

In March 2015, the National Park Service instituted new firewood regulations in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park that restrict firewood use to either downed wood in the park or heat-treated, certified firewood. The reason? Tree-killing insects and diseases are becoming an increasing problem in Tennessee and all over the United States. These insects and diseases can't move far on their own, but when people move firewood they can jump hundreds of miles. New infestations destroy forests, reduce property values, and cost huge sums of money to control. For example, Emerald Ash Borer, a beetle native to Asia, has been killing Ash trees in Tennessee since 2010. According to the USDA Forest Service and the Tennessee Division of Forestry, an estimated 271 million ash trees in Tennessee, amounting to \$11 billion value, could potentially become infested with the Emerald Ash



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Borer.

"Although Emerald Ash Borer is now widely spread throughout Tennessee, we still have the opportunity to slow or stop the spread of other invasive tree pests that are on the horizon," said Heather Slayton, Forest Health and Sustainability Unit Leader with Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Division of Forestry TN. "Asian Longhorned Beetle, for example, kills maple trees in 3-5 years and can also kill many other types of trees. The impact of this insect, as well as many others, is something that we are working hard to control. Preventing the transportation of firewood is a major way in which we and citizens can help in protecting our trees and economy. That's why we want to provide resources to increase the production of local, certified heat-treated firewood and help people learn about this new business opportunity."

Heat treatment kills insects by heating firewood to a certain core temperature and for a certain amount of time. Heat treatment takes place in a kiln which can control the temperature and the amount of time that heat is applied depending on what type of pest insect you are trying to kill. There are federal regulations restricting movement of firewood using quarantines. Kiln operators who follow heat-treatment guidelines for those quarantines can receive a federal stamp of approval certifying their firewood can legally be moved out of their county. Without the heat-treatment and seal of certification, it is illegal to move this wood.

"The new firewood rule in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park has increased public awareness about the threat to our forests," said Trish Johnson, Director of Forest Conservation for The Nature Conservancy in Tennessee. "Many citizens are very worried about the fate of this beloved park in the face of insects and diseases spread by firewood. The rule will help in decreasing the risk by stopping the movement of wood from across the country; however, it will increase the need for heat-treated firewood for campers to purchase. This is a great opportunity for local entrepreneurs to help our forests and gain a new source of income through getting certification to heat-treat firewood in kilns and build their own firewood business. We hope that this workshop will help bring this opportunity to life for many citizens."

The workshop is open to anyone interested and will be held on April 9<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. EDT at University of Tennessee's Center for Renewable Carbon. During the workshop, the group will:



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- learn about the pests that travel in firewood
- learn about the risk to our forests and trees,
- learn about federal and state regulations as well as campground rules for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park,
- have hands on opportunity to prepare firewood, place into a kiln, and use the tools to measure the wood for moisture content,
- hear from a professional on kiln design,
- listen to success stories from people who have built their own businesses and learn about other firewood activities going on in and around Tennessee.

Staff from Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Division of Forestry (TDF), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and The University of Tennessee (UT) as well as experts on kilns and new firewood kiln business owners are involved with the workshop. This is one of a series of workshops that will be held state-wide. The workshop will qualify attendees for pesticide points and Continuing Forestry Education (CFE) points.

**Space is limited to 20 attendees. Please register for the workshop by April 1<sup>st</sup> by contacting Katie Pareigis with The Nature Conservancy: 615-383-9909 or [kpareigis@tnc.org](mailto:kpareigis@tnc.org).**

Lunch will be provided to attendees. Directions to workshop location will be provided at registration.

*For information about Tennessee's forest pests: [protecttnforests.org](http://protecttnforests.org).*

*For more information about risks associated with movement of firewood: [dontmovefirewood.org](http://dontmovefirewood.org)*

*For more information about where to find local or certified heat-treated firewood: [firewoodscout.org](http://firewoodscout.org)*