



TFA's Legislative Blast and News & Notes

Friday, April 1st, 2016

Volume 11, Issue 13

MEET THE TFA STAFF

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Do you have any News & Notes Comments or Suggestions? Please email Lisa Lynn at llynn@tnforestry.com

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UPDATE ON HB350 PASSAGE OF TFA COUNTY ROADS LEGISLATION

A message from our TFA President Jake Almond:

"We finally are close to having some legislation that will help us in the unfortunate positions we have been placed due to some unreasonable County Road Superintendents. Our House Bill 850 passed on Monday with no amendments attached. From what I understand, the

Senate now has some cleanup to do since the House Bill does not match what was passed last year in the Senate. It may not be exactly what we wanted but it is definitely a step up from the past.



I want to say thanks to everybody that has helped over the past 1.5+ years to get this done. We have had multiple meetings where TFA members have missed work to participate which shows how strong our association is. Thanks for all the phone calls, email and correspondence with your legislators. Finally, a special thanks to Tom Midyett and CandAce for all the work they have put into this legislation. Here's to a fully loaded truck leaving our landowners' forest heading on a county road to the mill!"

Summary of HB850/SB412

HB850/SB412 will require a 2/3 vote of a County Commission before a county road can be posted at a lower weight limit than legal weight limits. TFA believes HB850/SB412 helps alleviate the arbitrary decision making powers in certain counties. The legislation provides for better input and broader discussion before a county road can be posted damaging private property rights and market vitality in our state.

HB850/SB412 passed on the House Chamber floor on Monday evening, March 28. The Senate will vote to conform to the House legislation next week. Please contact Candace for more information or if you would like a copy of HB850/SB412.



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TFA HOSTS SUCCESSFUL TREE DAY & LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION ON 3/9

Each year, legislators and staff anxiously await Tree Day at the Legislature!!! TFA members deliver seedlings, mugs and other information to each legislative office and spend time with decision makers to ensure our voice is heard on Capitol Hill. TFA thanks the TN Division of Forestry for providing the shumard oak seedlings. Legislators sure enjoy talking about the seedlings planted years ago and the healthy trees that have grown in the yard or on their farm.



Dr. Adam Taylor with the University of Tennessee provided a very informative program during the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee meeting on March 9. Dr. Taylor received numerous questions addressing markets, etc. for wood products and also ably addressed legislators' concerns about the future health of our forest resource.

TFA members also presented Governor Haslam with seedlings and he thanked our members for their economic contribution to Tennessee, especially in rural areas. He also recognized private landowners for growing trees for productivity and also providing for our state's scenic landscape, clean water and wildlife habitat.

TFA's Legislative Reception was extremely well attended by legislators and many other decision makers. TFA thanks our sponsors and we know our Tree Day activities and reception would not be possible without your generosity.

TFA Tree Day/Reception Sponsors:

- Tennessee Paper Council
- American Forest & Paper Association
- TFA Selective Workers Comp. Group



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- Middle Tennessee Lumber Company
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- Outdoor Underwriters, Inc.
- White County Lumber Company

HASLAM NAMES JAI TEMPLETON AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER

Thursday, March 31, 2016 | 10:19am

NASHVILLE – Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam today announced the appointment of Jai Templeton, a sixth generation Tennessee farmer, as commissioner of the Department of Agriculture effective May 1. Templeton will replace Julius Johnson who last week announced his retirement.

Templeton, 44, currently serves as the depart-





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ment's deputy commissioner, leading the day-to-day operations and directing programs and services that range from food safety to animal and plant health to agricultural development.

"Jai has played a critical role in developing the department's 10 year strategic plan to grow Tennessee's agricultural and forest industries. As a lifelong farmer, he will be a champion for the farming industry and continue the department's work to strengthen our rural communities," Haslam said.

Prior to joining the department in 2011, Templeton served as mayor of McNairy County. He and his family have farmed in McNairy and Hardin counties for decades, producing grain, cotton, hay, timber, and cattle.

"I am honored to be asked by Gov. Haslam to serve as a member of his cabinet. Agriculture is my life. The past five years in the role of deputy to Commissioner Johnson have been a wonderful experience for me and I am grateful for the continuing opportunity to serve the agriculture industry," Templeton said. "As a former mayor of a rural county, it is refreshing to work for a department and administration focused on the development of rural Tennessee. I look forward to continuing the great work of this administration to strengthen our farm and forest communities all across our state."

From 1995 to 2003, Templeton served as field representative for former U.S. Representative Ed Bryant. He is a former McNairy County commissioner and former president of the McNairy County Chamber of Commerce, where he helped form the McNairy County Regional Alliance to focus on economic development in the area.

A native of McNairy County, Templeton has a bachelor's degree in business administration from Union University in Jackson, Tenn. He is also a graduate of the University of Tennessee Certified Public Administrator program.

Templeton is a member of the Agricenter International Board of Directors, the McNairy County-Chester County Cattlemen's Association, the McNairy County Forestry Landowner's Association, the Tennessee Farm Bureau, the National Cattleman's Beef Association, Memphis Ag Club, Mid-South and First Farmer's Cooperative and a former board member of the Tennessee Cattlemen's Association.

He and his wife, Allison, reside on the family farm in Stantonville and are members of First Baptist Church of Adamsville. They have three children, Canon and Eliza Smith, and Mycaela Rhodes and husband, Alex.