



TFA's Legislative Blast and News & Notes

Friday, April 8th, 2016

Volume 11, Issue 14

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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TFA Sponsored County Roads Legislation Headed to Governor Haslam for Signature

TFA would like to extend a very special thank you to our members for all of the extra efforts that supported passage of SB412/HB850, TFA's County Roads Legislation. The Senate version, SB412, originally passed unanimously the Senate in 2015. The amended version, that states county roads can be posted at a lower than legal weight limit only after a 2/3 approval vote by the local county commission, passed the Senate unanimously this past Monday night.



HB850 with the amendment referring to the County Commission 2/3 vote of approval before posting a county road, passed the House of Representatives on Monday, March 28. Vote was 90 yes and 3 nos.

TFA believes that by requiring the 2/3 vote of the County Commission, there is less opportunity for an arbitrary decision affecting the weight limit on a county road. When a county road is posted at a low weight limit, landowners are denied markets for their timber, loggers cannot efficiently haul logs and mills cannot operate without an inventory of wood for production.

SB412/HB850 has been submitted to Governor Haslam for signature. Passage of this legislation is a huge victory for our members. Thank you so much for your time and support and your continued commitment to our forest landowners, loggers and wood industry operations in Tennessee. Your membership and support have truly made a difference in protecting the ability to sell, haul and produce timber throughout the state, particularly in rural counties that depend on the wood industry for economic vitality and stability in the area.

For a copy of SB412/HB850, please contact Candace at TFA.



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American Forest Foundation Applauds U.S. Green Building Council Decision to Recognize Small Woodland Owners

USGBC announces new path to accept American Tree Farm System® certified wood, encouraging more use of sustainable wood supplies

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The **American Forest Foundation** (AFF) welcomed an announcement yesterday from the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), the governing body for the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) green building rating system, that it will now begin encouraging **more responsibly sourced building materials through a new compliance path**, including wood from family forests certified by the **American Tree Farm System** (ATFS) and the **Sustainable Forestry Initiative** (SFI).

"This is a milestone for family woodland owners, Tree Farmers and forest conservation in America," said Tom Martin, president and CEO of the American Forest Foundation. "Family landowners are a critical group of individuals who steward our forests, providing local sustainable wood fiber while also conserving clean water and air, wildlife habitat and ensuring the overall health of our forests."

Family landowners make up the largest ownership group of forests in the U.S., collectively owning more than one-third of forests in the country, more than the federal government or corporations. Nationally, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) estimates 47 percent of all timber removed from forests in the U.S. comes from family lands. In the South in particular, it is 51 percent.

Individuals in ATFS, also known as Tree Farmers, follow a rigorous set of standards for forest management, which are reviewed by a third-party auditor. The standards, developed by a panel of experts in conservation, forest management and global sustainability, ensure forest landowners are protecting and enhancing clean water, biodiversity, wildlife habitat and other resources while providing sustainable wood supplies. The program, which is run by AFF, is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year. Today, it supports nearly 80,000 Tree Farmers, sustainably managing more than 21 million acres of forest and is internationally recognized and endorsed by the global Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).



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The new LEED credit path will encourage builders to use wood from all credible certification systems operating in the U.S. including ATFS, SFI, PEFC and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

"Markets for our wood products help us conserve our forests," said Dr. Salem Saloom, Tree Farmer from Brewton, Alabama. "We as landowners have annual costs for management and taxes. Markets that want sustainably managed wood, encourage landowners to earn income to replant, restore and keep forests as forests. This recognition could have a real impact in the marketplace as some estimate that half the commercial buildings in the U.S. are being built to a green standard today."

Wood markets also support jobs in rural communities. Family-owned forests on a national level support more than 1 million jobs and \$223 billion in sales.

#

*The **American Forest Foundation** (AFF) a forest conservation non-profit, works on the ground with families, teachers and elected officials to promote stewardship and protect our nation's forest heritage. A commitment to the next generation unites our nationwide network of forest owners and teachers working to keep our forests healthy and our children well-prepared for the future they will inherit.*

TFA Log a Load for Kids Golf Tournaments Scheduled



We hope you will tee-off and have a great time and help a deserving cause at one of the upcoming Log a Load for Kids Golf Tournaments. The golf tournaments support the Log a Load for Kids program which provides needed funding to Tennessee Children's Hospitals that are part of the Children's Miracle Network (CMN).



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Dates & other information are included below for the golf tournaments:

Kingsport/Meadowview Cattails Golf Course

Date: Friday, May 6
Time: 8:00 a.m. (ET)
Entry Fee: \$75.00 per golfer
Hole Sponsorships Available: \$100.00 per Hole
Contact: Dan Wernick 423-676-5542

Kingsport Log-A-Load Flyer Available:

<https://secure.icglink.com/icglink/cms/files/1131/File/Microsoft%20Office%20Outlook%20-%20Memo%20Style.pdf>

Adamsville/Shiloh Golf Course

Date: Saturday, May 7
Time: Tee Times Available at 8:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. (CT)
Entry Fee: Team Sponsor-\$440.00
Hole Sponsorships Available: \$200.00 per Hole; Team & Hole Sponsorship is \$600.00
Contacts: Jay Wolfe, 731-225-6530 & Neal Carson, 731-607-0860

Adamsville Log-A-Load Flyer Available:

<https://secure.icglink.com/icglink/cms/files/1131/File/Le%20Bonheur%20Log-A-Load%202016-6.pdf>

TFA Annual Convention!!!

Look Forward to Seeing You in Pigeon Forge!!!

Save the Dates!!!

September 21-23, 2016
Location: Margaritaville Island Hotel in Pigeon Forge
Room Rate: \$119.00

Theme and more information will be available soon!!!

