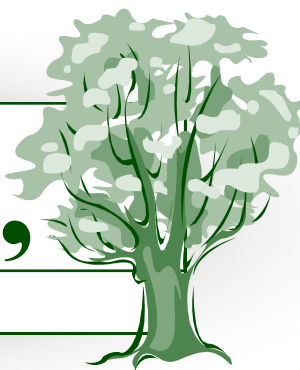


# TREELINE,

TENNESSEE FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

August, 2014



## BOILER INSPECTIONS

By: Dr. Adam Taylor, UT Forest Products Center, Assistant Professor

As was reported in a previous Treeline article in August, 2013, there are new regulations being put in place that affect boilers such as those used at lumber drying facilities. However, there are preexisting regulations on the books that sometimes get overlooked. This article is about one such requirement: the '20 minute' rule requiring regular monitoring of a boiler that is in operation.

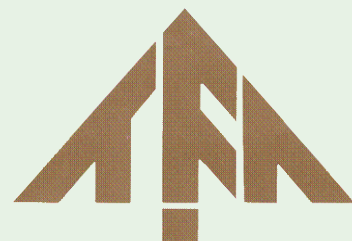
Lumber drying operations generally burn wood processing residues (e.g. sawdust) to heat water in a boiler to make steam that is used to heat and control humidity in their dry kilns. These boilers are considered to be 'power boilers', and as such are required to be checked periodically (at least every 20 minutes) while they are operating – which is generally 24/7 at a lumber drying operation.

*Power boilers are regulated by the State of Tennessee's Division of Workplace Regulations and Compliance and the state law and rules and regulations pertaining to boilers can be found at their website: <http://www.tn.gov/labor-wfd/regscomp.shtml>. The 20-minute rule found in the rules and regulations section (<http://www.tn.gov/sos/rules/0800/0800-03/0800-03-03.pdf>) under Part 22*

(22) Attendants for Power Boilers.

- a. A power boiler having a rating of either 5 h.p. or 50 sq. ft. of heat- absorbing surface or greater shall not be operated for periods of longer than

(Continued on page 2)



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## 2014 TFA Annual Meeting Dates!!!

When: October Wednesday 15th -Friday 17th, 2014 Where: Oak Ridge DoubleTree  
Rooms: King, \$94.00; Double, \$88.00 Reservations: (865) 481-2474 by 9/23/14  
Theme: "Milestones in Management...Tennessee's Service to Natural Resources"

Please join your Colleagues and Friends as we Celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Tennessee Division of Forestry and Honor the University of Tennessee Forestry, Wildlife & Fisheries Dept. and the UT Arboretum/Research Forest at Oak Ridge for their 50 Years of Dedicated Service to Tennessee.

Other Highlights Planned for TFA's 63rd Convention:

- Forestry Field Day at the UT Research Forest/Oak Ridge
- Reception at the American Museum of Science & Energy
  - Golf at Centennial Golf Course
  - Fly Fishing on the Clinch River
- Skeet Shoot at Oak Ridge Sportsmen's Club
- Lunch & Tour at Museum of the Appalachia
  - Lunch and Antiques Shopping in Clinton
- Dinner Overlooking Melton Hill Lake at Riverside Grille
- Historian Ray Smith to Discuss the Impact of the "Secret City"
  - Tour of Y12, K25 Site and Graphite Reactor

The TFA Staff looks forward to seeing you in Oak Ridge!!!

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## COMBUSTIBLE DUST & HOUSEKEEPING: NOT TO BE IGNORED

By: Kelly G. Park, Employers Risk Services, Loss Control Manager

When employees of the Imperial Sugar Factory reported for their second shift work schedule on February 7, 2008, they had no idea 14 of their coworkers would die that evening and 42 more would be sent to the hospital. What happened?.....an explosion of combustible sugar dust after decades of ignoring the dangers of allowing combustible dust to accumulate.

The important question to ask ourselves is: can this happen at my company? Well, yes it can. Anyone who has had a flash fire in their dust collection system has experienced 4 of the 5 conditions needed to create a dust fueled explosion: 1) combustible dust, 2) dust suspended in the air at a high concentration, 3) oxygen/air is present, 4) an ignition source occurs. The final condition needed for an explosion; 5) the dust cloud is confined in a space smaller than the volume created by the dust explosion.

In order to control and ultimately prevent a combustible dust fire/explosion in your facility, housekeeping must be a priority for everyone. Housekeeping is the practice of maintaining a clean, clutter-free, organized working environment that eliminates or greatly reduces the risk of fire, slips, trips and falls. Below are 5 easy steps to begin implementing an effective housekeeping program and establish a fire safe facility.

- **Identify operational practices and processes that create dust and debris.** This could be identifying ineffective dust collection systems, employee work practices, improperly repaired machinery, lack of defined trash collection area, lumber transfer points that create lumber jams, etc.
- **Develop a plan and schedule for housekeeping activities.** To be successful, you must: A) Assign a housekeeping program coordinator, B) Delegate housekeeping responsibility to everyone, C) Communicate your expectations of a successful housekeeping program, and D) Document your activities. Any and all repairs recommended and corrected must be documented to show your commitment to housekeeping.
- **Show your employees what to clean up, how to clean it and where to dispose of it.** Showing your employees is essentially a training program so maintain an attendance sheet and a brief description of the topics covered. At the end of the session, each employee should be able to explain your expectations of maintaining a clean and safe workplace.
- **Recognize and reward employees for their clean-up efforts.** Employees want to know they are doing the job you expect, so tell them when their clean-up efforts meet your expectations. Likewise, if they do not clean-up to your satisfaction, remind them of your expectations and show them again how to properly clean-up their work area.
- **Stay patient.** Implementing any new program takes time and creating a housekeeping program is a patience-driven program. Continuous oversight by the program coordinator, encouragement for a job well done and quarterly review of the housekeeping plans effectiveness is important for program success.

In 2012, two British Columbia sawmills experienced dust explosions that resulted in fatalities. The organization responsible for Safety & Health in British Columbia published a report titled: "Wood Dust in Sawmills: A Compilation of Industry Best Practices". This is a large report but contains a lot of very good information from Canadian Safety Organizations, OSHA, NFPA as well as Weyerhaeuser, Louisiana Pacific and United Steelworkers. You can find this report at the following web site link:

[http://www.worksafebc.com/news\\_room/features/2012/assets/pdf/WoodDustSawmillsCompilation.pdf](http://www.worksafebc.com/news_room/features/2012/assets/pdf/WoodDustSawmillsCompilation.pdf)

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## BOILER INSPECTIONS CONTINUED

By: Dr. Adam Taylor, UT Forest Products Center, Assistant Professor

(Continued from page 1)

*twenty (20) minutes without being checked by an attendant who has been qualified by the owner in its operation, regardless of whether the boiler is equipped with automatic feedwater regulator, fuel or damper regulator, high and low water alarm, or other form of automatic control.*

- b. *A variance from the requirements of (a) above may be issued by the Board. All requests must be submitted to the Chief Inspector no less than forty-five (45) days prior to the next regularly scheduled or called meeting of the Board.*

Who is a qualified attendant and what monitoring entails can be determined by the operator but it should be defined and recorded so that inspectors have something to inspect. Power boilers get inspected twice per year - once when shut down and once while in operation. A monitoring log can be obtained from boiler equipment suppliers and will typically include items such as water level, steam pressure and feed water and furnace temperatures.

The "variance" requests mentioned in part (b) are possible and are used in cases where automatic monitoring and notification systems have been installed. There are special forms and procedures for obtaining a variance (see [http://www.tn.gov/labor-wfd/regscompl/forms/boiler\\_variance.pdf](http://www.tn.gov/labor-wfd/regscompl/forms/boiler_variance.pdf)) and potential applicants should be aware that the monitoring system will be tested to make sure that it works.

Complete information, including contact information, is available at <http://www.tn.gov/labor-wfd/regscompl/boilers.shtml>

# UT DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY, WILDLIFE & FISHERIES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

By: Dr. Keith Belli, UT Forestry, Wildlife & Fisheries, Department Head

This is a special year for the Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries – 2014 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our department!

Although students could take courses in forestry as far back as 1936, the early years of our program were focused on helping students interested in forestry as a profession to complete two years of a pre-forestry curriculum. Governor Frank Clement announced the establishment of a four-year professional degree program at The University of Tennessee in December 1963. Planning was begun immediately on the Junior-year curriculum, which was first offered in the 1964-65 school year. A Head of the Department of Forestry, Dr. Jack Barrett, was appointed on September 1, 1964. A four-year curriculum in forest resource management leading to the Bachelor of Science in Forestry degree was approved by the spring of 1965. The Society of American Foresters first accredited the Forestry program in 1969 and accreditation has been continuously re-approved through 2016. The UT Graduate council approved a Master of Science degree with a major in Forestry in 1966.

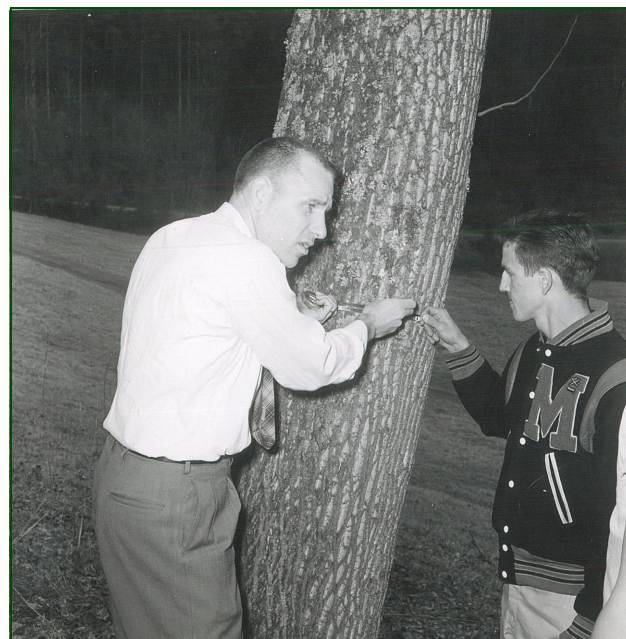
An approved curriculum leading to a B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science was added to the Department's offerings in May of 1973. An M.S. degree with a major in Wildlife and Fisheries Science had been approved three years earlier, in December of 1970. A doctoral program in Natural Resources (shared with the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics) was approved in 2002.

In 1977, the Department of Forestry was re-named the Department of Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries; this new designation more accurately reflected the teaching, research and extension activities of the entire department. At the time of re-naming, fisheries research that had been housed in the Department of Agriculture Biology was transferred to the Department of Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries. Also, at the same time, the re-named Department was given responsibility for all statewide extension activity in forestry, wildlife and fisheries.

Our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorative activities for 2014 are being tied to our traditional events throughout the year. We began the year with our *Annual Wildlife Game Dinner*, setting an all-time attendance record – something that we will try our best to surpass in 2015. Next we celebrated the accomplishments of our newest graduates at our spring *Commencement Luncheon*. This May we were proud to graduate 21 Bachelor's (7 forestry/14 wildlife & fisheries), 7 Master's and 3 PhD students. Most recently, we held our annual *FWF Classic Golf Tournament* at the Centennial Golf Course in Oak Ridge. Ten teams completed in the scramble that benefits our departmental scholarship program.

Upcoming affiliated events include: Annual Fall Welcome Back BBQ/ Advisory Board Meeting/Reunion Banquet (September 11-13<sup>th</sup>); Ag Day (Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>); and the Tennessee Forestry Association Annual Meeting, Oak Ridge DoubleTree Hotel (Oct. 15-17<sup>th</sup>). See <http://fwf.ag.utk.edu> for updates and event details.

I'd like to invite everyone, whether you're an alumni, a current student, faculty or staff member, or a friend of the department, to come help us celebrate this exciting milestone, and kick-off the next 50 years of academic, research and extension excellence.



Dr. Ed Buckner teaching how to measure a tree.  
(Are you this UT Student in 1964?)



Original UT Forestry Building in 1965  
(Now Plant Science Annex B)





# CHEROKEE NATIONAL FORESTS LOCAL COUNTY SUPPORT PAYMENTS

Provided By: Cherokee National Forest

June 16, 2014 – Tennessee Forestry Association \*

## Payments to States

Since 1908, the U.S. Forest Service has shared with states 25 percent of gross receipts from timber sales, grazing, minerals, recreation, and other land use fees on national forests to benefit public schools and public roads in the counties in which the forests are situated.

In the late 1980s, due largely to declines in timber sale receipts, payments began to fluctuate and drop significantly. In 2000, Congress passed the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS) that provided enhanced, stabilized payments to more states through 2006. The act was extended for one year and then reauthorized in 2008 for four more years with a one-year reauthorization in 2012. The program was reauthorized in 2013 to provide benefits for an additional year.

For fiscal year 2013 \$300 million was distributed to 41 States and Puerto Rico. Counties in Tennessee received \$1,157,175.98. The actual amount of each state's payment is determined by a number of factors written into the law, including the number of acres of Federal land within an eligible county, the average 3 highest 25-percent payments made for the eligibility period, and an income adjustment based on the per capita personal income for each county.

The Cherokee National Forest is situated in ten east Tennessee counties. For fiscal year 2013 those counties received the following SRS payments:

County:	Total FY13 SRS Payment:	National Forest Acres (FY12):
---------	-------------------------	-------------------------------

Carter	\$136,510.60	85,553
Cocke	\$106,812.92	54,766
Greene	\$54,141.13	41,899
Johnson	\$111,324.61	52,576
McMinn	\$5,261.28	3,764
Monroe	\$274,642.59	150,163
Polk	\$271,815.51	149,824
Sullivan	\$40,675.05	38,192
Unicoi	\$81,361.11	61,276
Washington	\$17,815.22	16,874

The 650,000 acre Cherokee National Forest (Forest) receives approximately 2 million visitors annually. It offers a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities, including camping, hiking, whitewater boating, hunting, fishing, picnicking, driving for pleasure and more. The Forest also provides clean water to tens of thousands of people, wood products and habitat for an array of fish and wildlife species.



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**Mike Whitley, Director**



# TDF ENCOURAGING INCREASED BMP IMPLEMENTATION ACROSS STATE

By: Mike Sherrill, Tennessee Dept. of Ag., Division of Forestry, Water Quality Specialist

Protection of land and water resources across Tennessee is as closely connected to Forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs) as a log is to a choker. As the agency in charge of monitoring those practices, the Tennessee Department of Agriculture Division of Forestry (TDF) is dedicated to ensuring BMPs are followed closely. In an effort to increase usage, TDF recently increased efforts to improve BMP implementation.

This effort began with first of many planning BMP training opportunities for TDF personnel last fall. Since that time, there have been positive trends in the number of courtesy checks and contacts performed. Generally the program and BMP implementation has progressed well. It is encouraging to observe all the agency personnel involved in doing courtesy checks and complaint investigations. The renewed efforts include TDF's water quality program specialist, Mike Sherrill, having an increased presence "on the ground statewide". This will be a benefit to TDF personnel who might be uncertain about how to deal with a particular issue, as well as newly hired employees. It will also help to create an environment where everyone is "on the same page" relative to advice, fixes, and needed communication. More face time will also benefit loggers and landowners because the information and advice they receive will be up to date and applied more consistently. If loggers need advice on, for example, making a stream crossing at a challenging point or with any other BMP related issue, the Water Quality Specialist or the closest Area Forester should be contacted to help develop a plan that will protect the water and avoid involvement with statutory regulations, administered by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. Someone will be glad to meet on site to provide whatever assistance TDF can offer to implement practical and workable solutions. Additionally, there will be more emphasis placed on training opportunities for forest industry, forest landowners and TDF staff to learn about water quality laws, TDF resources, BMP fundamentals and BMP implementation. TDF looks forward to the opportunity to visit more of loggers, landowners, land managers and citizens statewide in efforts to help implement forestry and BMP practices that keep Tennessee's water ways clean.

## Contact:

Water Quality Specialist. Mike Sherrill at , (731) 988-5309 or by email [Mike.Sherrill@tn.gov](mailto:Mike.Sherrill@tn.gov)

For more information, visit: <http://www.tn.gov/agriculture/forestry/waterquality.shtml>





## LOG-A-LOAD FOR KIDS HELPING TENNESSEE'S YOUTH!!!

In 2014, TFA hosted three Log a Load for Kids Golf Tournaments. These tournaments were held in Adamsville, Cleveland and Kingsport. TFA members and friends enjoyed plenty of good food and fellowship while hitting the links to support our Tennessee kids who are sick and injured. Proceeds raised benefit the hospitals in the Children's Miracle Network across our state.



So far in 2014, funds raised top \$43,600.00. There will also be several opportunities to support Log a Load for Kids during the TFA convention in Oak Ridge, October 15-17.

For more information on how to support Log a Load for Kids in Tennessee, contact Wayne Turner, Committee Chair at 423-596-9445 or [wayne.turner@resolutefp.com](mailto:wayne.turner@resolutefp.com).

## TN TEACHERS CONSERVATION WORKSHOP A SUCCESS!!!

**Provided By: Dr. David Mercker, University of Tennessee & Tennessee Forestry Association**

Teachers from across the Volunteer State participated in the Tennessee Teachers Conservation Workshop at Pickwick Landing State Park, June 24-27.

Comments from the educators following the workshop include: "This was easily the best workshop that I have ever attended! It was very well-planned and very useful to many disciplines and age groups." Also, "I liked the way all the programs showed different aspects of the forest and its use. Having a variety of presenters and experts helped to provide the interest for each area, as those individuals are passionate about their area. Thank you for this great opportunity and all the work it takes to put it together."

TFA thanks Dr. David Mercker with UT, Cliff Daniel and many others who helped make this TCW workshop such a success.







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# US FURNITURE INDUSTRY UPDATE

By: Tom Inman, Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers, President

HIGH POINT, NC – Domestic furniture manufacturing is ebbing in 2014 in the United States while the flow of imports has reached new highs.

The activity is reminiscent of 2006-10 when major manufacturers began offshoring product. While reshoring efforts saw new companies start up in 2011-12, most of those have closed because of foreign competition.

The U.S. International Trade Commission and U.S. Customs Service both report that furniture imports rose 8 percent in 2013 and industry leaders report that has increased again for the first six months of 2014. This comes as major solid wood manufacturing facilities are closing in a new wave of reductions in the U.S.

Heritage Home Group, which purchased the former Furniture Brands International in 2013, recently closed the Drexel Heritage plant in Morganton, NC, resulting in the layoff of 87 employees. It was the sixth facility closure filed this year and others included Thomasville, Henredon, and Pearson. The company is auctioning off its Thomasville and Lane furniture facilities in Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia.

Stanley Furniture Co. shuttered its last American plant in Robbinsville, NC, on July 31. The facility produced its (*ironically*) Young America line of children and youth bedroom furniture.

The cause for these and other reductions or closings is simple: imports. Shipments from China, Vietnam, India and Indonesia were on the rise pushing the total of worldwide furniture shipments to the U.S. to \$19.7 billion in 2013, up from \$18.3 billion the year before.

China was the leader with \$11.6 billion in shipments, a rise of 7%; Vietnam saw an increase of 11% to more than \$2 billion; Canada and Mexico were also up 7% and 11%, respectively. Other countries in the top 10 were Italy, Taiwan, India and Poland.

While difficult for the American furniture worker, it is not necessarily bad news for the American hardwood lumber industry. The U.S. hardwood forest is sustainable and the forest products industry has the infrastructure in place to manufacture the resource. The U.S. is a leader in the world with more than \$765 million in timber exports in the first six months of 2014, up 32% from the same period in 2013.

Hardwood lumber shipments to China were up almost 60%; Vietnam up 15%, Mexico up 17% and Canada up 9% over 2013. These are substantial numbers in both dollar values and volumes of hardwood lumber.

It is estimated that 60% of grade hardwood lumber produced in the U.S. is exported. Much of that is returning as furniture and flooring but an ever-increasing amount is staying in other countries as their economies improve.

The long-term for furniture manufacturing in the United States is not as bright as many projected in 2011. There are positives from domestic producers like Crescent Fine Furniture in Tennessee and Vaughan-Bassett in Virginia. These companies have streamlined their production and developed a product niche that fits America's demand.

Upholstered goods manufacturing remains stable in many southern states. Mattress production is on the rise. Both of these products have application for lower grades of solid hardwoods.

While the furniture industry maintains vast showrooms for product introductions in High Point, North Carolina, more of it is arriving by ship and container rather than tractor-trailer. That trend is likely to continue.

*AHMI is a regional trade association of hardwood lumber producers, distributors and secondary manufacturers headquartered in High Point, NC*







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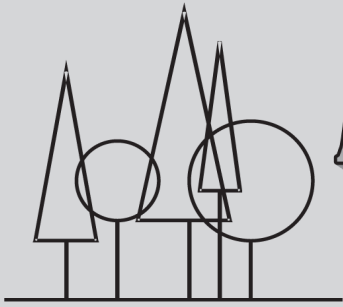
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## TN WOOD PRODUCTS BRAND UPDATE

By: Tim Phelps, Tennessee Dept. of Ag., Division of Forestry, Forestry Communications & Outreach Unit Leader

ily:

Tennessee Wood Products would like to welcome the following businesses to the family:

- Hassell & Hughes Lumber Company
- Volnore Sawmill
- Whitson Lumber Company
- Hinkle Chair Company

The goal of the Tennessee Wood Products brand is to increase visibility and enhance marketing opportunities for Tennessee's wood products industry. A primary benefit of this program is to connect consumers of wood products, here in the U.S. and internationally, to Tennessee producers and manufacturers through the use of a brand logo that signifies common values and attributes of Tennessee's abundant, sustainable and quality forest resources, the talented and skilled human resources that service the industry, and the wide diversity of products produced and used in our everyday lives. The more companies we have using the brand, the more successful it will be.

Learn more about the brand and sign-up today at:

<http://www.tn.gov/agriculture/forestry/twp.shtml>

Questions? Contact Tim Phelps, Communications & Outreach Unit Leader, TN Division of Forestry, 615-428-5913; [TNForest.Businesses@tn.gov](mailto:TNForest.Businesses@tn.gov)



The Tennessee Wood Products branding program is administered by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture Division of Forestry."

## TFA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

9/16 Master Logger Continuing Ed Class  
Collinwood/Chad's Restaurant  
Topic: "Wood Products Certification/Biomass/EAB/TCD"  
Instructors: Dr. Wayne Clatterbuck & Dr. Adam Taylor, UT

10/15-17 TFA Annual Meeting/Convention  
DoubleTree Hotel  
Oak Ridge, TN

\*\*\*Master Logger Cont. Ed classes are "in the works" for South Pittsburg, Fayetteville and Counce. Also, a 5 day initial Master Logger training course will be scheduled in Counce.

