



# Forestry, Wildlife & Fisheries Update Newsletter

Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries  
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## ANNOUNCEMENT OF UPCOMING CONFERENCES

*Wayne K. Clatterbuck, Forest Management and Silviculture*

A workshop on **Oak Regeneration and Management** is scheduled for **October 3 and 4** in Lexington, KY, hosted by the University of Kentucky. The workshop is focused on providing foresters and other natural resource professionals with up-to-date information on oak regeneration dynamics and management tools used to enhance oak regeneration. Workshop topics include: oak regeneration processes, prescribed fire and oak regeneration, litter effects on oak regeneration, scarification treatments to improve oak seedling establishment, planting to enhance oak regeneration, and oak shelterwood with mid-story control. Speakers include David Loftis and Callie Schweitzer from the Southern Research Station, USDA Forest Service; Jeff Stringer, Mary Arthur and John Lhotka with the University of Kentucky, Ron Rathfon from Purdue University and Wayne Clatterbuck from the University of Tennessee. Field demonstrations are planned at the Berea College forest on October 4. The registration fee for the workshop is \$35. Continuing education credit with the Society of American Foresters for the workshop is 7.5 hours. *For more information or to register, call Renee Williams at the UK Forestry Extension Office (859-257-7597) or at e-mail: [forestry.extension@uky.edu](mailto:forestry.extension@uky.edu)*

A conference titled “**Scientific Foundations of Conservation Planning in the Cumberland Plateau and Mountains**” is scheduled for **November 13-14, 2007** in Knoxville, TN at the UT Conference Center. The objective of the conference is to identify, summarize and evaluate scientific information that is highly relevant to conservation planning in the Cumberlands. Although the conference agenda is still being formulated, more than 15 presentations by the forest and natural resource research community are planned. The conference is organized into three sessions: People and Ecosystems, Conservation Science and Forests of the Cumberlands. The conference steering committee includes representatives of Oak Ridge National Laboratory, The Nature Conservancy in Tennessee, University of Tennessee, USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station and the National Council for Air and Stream Improvement. *Information about the program and registration will be available in early September. Contact Wayne Clatterbuck at 865-974-7346 or e-mail: [wclatterbuck@utk.edu](mailto:wclatterbuck@utk.edu)*

**WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT CALENDAR FOR AUGUST**

*Craig Harper, Associate Professor, Wildlife Management*

**Habitat Management**

- Prepare new cool-season plots for fall planting
- spray existing sod with glyphosate herbicide (e.g., Roundup—2 quarts per acre)
- amend soil according to soil test recommendations
- incorporate (disk or plow) lime and fertilizer into root zone of plot
- see *Growing and Managing Successful Food Plots for Wildlife in the Mid-South*, PB 1743 (<http://www.utextension.utk.edu/publications/pbfiles/PB1743.pdf>), for additional information on seeding rates and management recommendations

Bushhog and spray perennial forage food plots for weed control if necessary

- see *Growing and Managing Successful Food Plots for Wildlife in the Mid-South*, PB 1743, for herbicide recommendations

Spray woody competitors in old-field habitats, including native warm-season grasses

- multiflora rose privet, sericea lespedeza, sweetgum, elms, etc.
- Roundup, Garlon, Arsenal, Cimarron, and PastureGard should be considered

Begin strip-mowing dove fields once they mature

Top-sow winter wheat (late August) to attract doves and provide forage for deer, turkeys, and other wildlife through fall and winter

Burn old-fields to stimulate forbs and reduce grass dominance (late August)

Plant firebreaks (late August) and other disked strips not left for natural vegetation

- annual cool-season grains (e.g., wheat and oats) along with annual legumes (crimson and arrowleaf clover and Austrian winter peas) are excellent choices

Finish planting wild millet around beaver sloughs and other areas that will be flooded in November for ducks

Construct/repair dikes and water-control structures for flooding fields/woodlands for waterfowl this fall/winter

**Wildlife Damage/Population Management**

Conduct census for white-tailed deer using infrared-triggered cameras

- one camera per 100 – 150 acres
- prebait with trace mineral salt and shelled corn for one week
- after prebait week, continue baiting sites and taking pictures for 2 weeks
- refer to *Quality Deer Management: Guidelines for Implementation*, PB 1643 (<http://www.utextension.utk.edu/publications/pbfiles/PB1643.pdf>), for information on calculating deer density estimates census pictures

If bats are in your attic, don't close them up now.

- young are still present
- if you close them up, they will die and produce a terrible odor
- maternal colonies will be leaving for hibernation before too long

Refer to *Managing Nuisance Animals and Associated Damage Around the Home*, PB 1624

(<http://www.utextension.utk.edu/publications/pbfiles/pb1624.pdf>), for additional wildlife damage management information.

**HUBER TREES FOR TENNESSEE**

*Larry Tankersley, Extension Forester*

The Huber Engineered Woods (HEW) “Trees for Tennessee” seedling program continues to operate providing tree seedlings to Tennessee landowners interested in planting. The program is open to landowners between Cannon County eastward to Cocke and Hamblen counties, planting between 5 and 70 acres.

Landowners should meet with a consulting forester, their county Extension agent or Division of Forestry area forester and complete a reforestation plan, a planting map, and a State Nursery order form. Once the plans are approved Huber will provide the trees at no cost to the landowner. (The State Nursery order form should be sent to the State Nursery.)

The seedling program has loblolly pine, Eastern white pine and yellow-poplar available. Landowners should forward their plans to Tom Kain, Area Procurement Forester, Huber Engineered Woods, LLC, P. O. Box 1104, Spring City, TN 37381, or call 423-452-7104.

Sounds like a good deal, check it out!

*For more information, contact Larry Tankersley at (865) 974-7977 or [ltanker1@utk.edu](mailto:ltanker1@utk.edu)*

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**Update on the Oak Mast Crop for 2007**

*Wayne K. Clatterbuck, Forest Management and Silviculture*

I have been following the potential acorn crop in 2007 on five oak trees (two white oaks and three red oaks) in Knox and Blount Counties to determine the impact of the late spring freeze and the ongoing drought conditions on acorn production. Although the observations of these trees do not represent all trees or conditions found throughout Tennessee, the drought and freeze were widespread.

Acorns have not been observed at all on white oaks. The late-spring freeze affected flowers and pollination on white oaks and acorns were not formed. Red oaks, taking two years for acorns to mature, did have some developing acorns in early summer, but most are stunted and have been aborting. The drought (with precipitation deficits of 12 to 18 inches statewide) is impacting the development of remaining red oak acorns. Many oak trees are beginning to lose their leaves in mid-August because of the lack of moisture in east Tennessee.

The 2007 oak mast crop in Tennessee will probably be severely limited, if not a failure. The lack of mast will impact wildlife populations, especially those that rely on mast for much of their sustenance.

*For more information contact Wayne Clatterbuck at 865-974-7990 or [wclatterbuck@utk.edu](mailto:wclatterbuck@utk.edu).*

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**BARK SIDING**

*Adam Taylor, Assistant Professor, Wood Products Specialist*

In pioneer times, chestnut bark was used as a siding for houses and other buildings. With the demise of the chestnut tree and the advent of readily available sawn lumber and other convenient building materials, bark siding disappeared. More recently, bark siding has returned, using the bark of yellow-poplar trees to create a rustic-looking, durable siding product for homes in east Tennessee. *(See picture following this article.)*

On a living tree, the bark provides a tough, long-lasting layer of protection for the wood inside the trunk. In the spring and early summer, while the tree is actively growing, the bark can be removed from logs in sheets, and then flattened and dried. These dried sheets can be trimmed into “shingles” to make a siding that can be nailed to the walls of houses. This siding requires no finish or maintenance and can last for many years. There are reports that some chestnut bark siding lasted for many decades.

Bark for siding is currently being harvested on a small scale in east Tennessee and western North Carolina. Bark siding is a niche product, used for high-end homes. The retail price can be about \$10 per square foot, so it is certainly not a low-cost option. Because of the high price of the finished product, some loggers that have been harvesting bark have received more money for the bark than for the logs themselves! Unfortunately, the small size of the bark siding market means that bark harvesting won't provide a large source of revenue for loggers in Tennessee.

*For more information, contact Adam Taylor at [AdamTaylor@utk.edu](mailto:AdamTaylor@utk.edu) or 865-946-1125*

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**INTENSIVE MANAGEMENT OF PINE INCREASES GROWTH****AND BENEFITS WILDLIFE** - *Wayne K. Clatterbuck, Forest Management and Silviculture*

Studies by forest and wildlife researchers at Mississippi State University suggest that mid-rotation thinning, selective herbicide use and prescribed burning controls competition and enhances wildlife habitat in pine stands. The research is reported in the July 2007 issue of *The Forestry Source*, a publication from the Society of American Foresters, the professional forestry organization in the United States.

Pine plantations reach closed canopies within 12 to 15 years, where competition for light, nutrients and moisture become limited. Thinning of pines and control of unwanted hardwoods relinquishes space to allow the remaining trees more resources to maintain growth.

The open forest structure created by thinning, herbicides and prescribed fire stimulates the development of a lush understory composed of native grasses, legumes, forbs and shrubs. The imazapyr (brand names: Arsenal and Chopper) herbicides controlled many unwanted broadleaf species, but did not affect plants such as legumes or blackberries which provide food for many species of wildlife.

According to the researchers, most pine plantations would greatly benefit from these treatments. Mid-rotation release is a cost-effective measure that has a return on investment of more than 10 percent in the growth of pine trees. It also has a tremendous benefit to wildlife habitat compared to untreated and unmanaged pine stands. *For more information contact Wayne Clatterbuck at 865-974-7990 or [wclatterbuck@utk.edu](mailto:wclatterbuck@utk.edu).*

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**COMPETITION FOR SOUTHERN PINE** -*David Mercker, Extension Specialist I, Forest Mgmt.*

Over the course of the last three decades, the Southeastern U.S. has developed into a preeminent wood fiber producing region. A striking 18 percent of the world's industrial timber products originate from the Southeastern U.S. (Prestemon and Abt 2002). The Conservation Reserve Program has encouraged tens of thousands of highly erodible and otherwise unproductive acres, to be converted to short rotation conifer plantations. This has been beneficial for a host of environmental reasons while improving forest landowner revenues too.

Recently forest landowners engaged in conifer production have faced increased competition from Canada, particularly with softwood construction lumber, a result of the lifting the export tariff as part of the North American Free Trade Agreement. This has affected net revenue for those landowners holding out for premium prices with larger diameter trees.

A second form of competition for the smaller pulpwood products is developing from private landowners and companies in Latin America. Known as the Southern Cone countries, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Uruguay have been actively establishing plantation forests, primarily pine and eucalyptus. According to Cubbage (2007), "the average growth rates of forest plantations in the Southern Cone are probably at least twice those in the Southern U.S., so they can produce more timber on less area than we can. In addition, moderate manufacturing costs and favorable exchange rates make these countries strong competitors in timber production."

All this is not suggesting that our softwood industry is collapsing, rather that competition is vibrant. To remain viable in the international trade will require sharp management. Landowners should consider adopting new (and proven) technology, participate in government subsidies, make all effort to minimize input costs and maximize growth rate, and sell when markets are favorable. Unlike many of the competing countries, the U.S. has better developed: transportation systems, professional forestry agencies, fire control, educational system, and supportive government. Collectively, these should "keep us in the game" . . . though a more competitive one.

**TIMBER TAX UPDATE**

Larry Tankersley, Extension Forester

Seven federal income tax provisions that provide incentives for forest owners to follow sound management and reforestation practices:

- \* **Timber is standing trees usable for wood products.** Income from timber sales qualifies for long-term capital gains treatment. Rates are 5% or 15% depending on ordinary tax bracket. Farmers report on Form 4797, "Sale of Business Assets", other on Schedule D, Capital Gains and Losses," note use of "Qualified Dividends and Capital Gain Tax Worksheet" for tax savings. As a capital asset, owners should maintain records of their "basis" in the timber. Basis is defined as with other capital assets. (See UT publication and Form T).
- \* **Annual deduction of management expenses related to the income potential** of the timber. Definition of profit, not a cash flow, but may need to substantiate increasing value.
- \* **Depreciation and section 179 deductions**, again for items related to the income potential of the timber. (179 deduction is \$125,000 for 2007)
- \* **Deductions for casualty losses or other involuntary conversions** such as theft, condemnations and non casualty losses. (Limited to adjusted basis)
- \* **Reforestation tax deduction**, up to \$10,000 per year. Qualified expenses for the establishment of commercial timber stands, either naturally or artificially. Expenses include site preparation, seed/seedlings and planting.
- \* **Amortization of reforestation expenses** in excess of \$10,000 per year. (84 months; effectively eight tax years.)
- \* **The ability to exclude qualifying reforestation cost-share payments from gross income.** Varies with the program. Excluded amounts are not qualified for reforestation deduction or amortization.

**Other stuff:**

Conservation easements; value of the easement is a charitable deduction. (UT publication)

Greenbelt, Tennessee ad valorem tax relief,

Websites:

[www.timbertax.org](http://www.timbertax.org).

[www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

*For more information, contact Larry Tankersley at (865) 974-7977 or [ltanker1@utk.edu](mailto:ltanker1@utk.edu)*

## **COFFEE COUNTY PLACES 2ND IN NATIONAL 4-H FORESTRY INVITATION**

*Steve Sutton, 4-H Department, submitted by Larry Tankersley*

The Coffee County 4-H forestry judging team earned second place honors at the 28th annual National 4-H Forestry Invitational, July 22-26. Tennessee was among 17 states competing in the invitational held at West Virginia University's Jackson's Mill State 4-H Camp and Conference Center near Weston, West Virginia. The International Paper Company Foundation, the Association of Natural Resources Extension Professionals and the Cooperative Extension Service sponsored the event.

Tennessee was represented by Coffee County team members Nathan Jones, Miranda Hunt, Jonathan Mills and Andrew Russell. Dean Northcutt, Coffee County Extension leader, coached the team. He was assisted by volunteer leaders Barry Rhoads and Lori Jones.

Illinois earned the top team score and Georgia placed third. Chris Francis of Illinois received the high-point individual award. Second place was awarded to Illinois' Neno Muganda and third place went to Miranda Hunt of Tennessee.

Team members compete for overall team and individual awards in several categories. Events included a forestry written exam, tree identification, tree measurement, compass orienteering, insect and disease identification, topographic map use, the Forestry Bowl and forest evaluation.

In addition to the national sponsors, the Tennessee team received additional support from various organizations, businesses and individuals who support the forestry project through the Tennessee 4-H Foundation. Sincere appreciation is extended to Larry Tankersley, UT Extension forestry specialist for his assistance in giving leadership to our state event and preparing our 4-H'ers for the national contest.

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## **MCNAIRY COUNTY WILDLIFE TEAM RETURNS FROM UTAH**

*Ricky Mathenia, County Extension Leader, McNairy County*

The state champion McNairy County 4-H wildlife judging team placed 7th at the 2007 4-H Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Invitational in Cedar City, Utah. The Tennessee team, composed of Justin Droke, Johnathon Meredith, Katalin Meredith and Justin West, was one of 19 teams competing at this year's event hosted by Southern Utah University.

The Tennessee team was recognized for placing 3rd in the Urban Plan section of the contest. Team member Justin West received the 3rd place award in the Aldo Leopold Essay Contest based on Leopold's book, *A Sand County Almanac*.

Coaches were treated to a day in Zion National Park while the actual contest was taking place. The Tennessee team spent a day exploring Mammoth Caves which are ancient lava tube caves and visiting Cedar Breaks National Monument.

This year's top teams were from Alabama and Utah, with nineteen teams competing. This was truly a trip of a lifetime for the 4-H'ers attending. Many new friendships and lasting memories were made at this event.

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