



# Update Newsletter

Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries  
Dr. Keith Belli, Department Head

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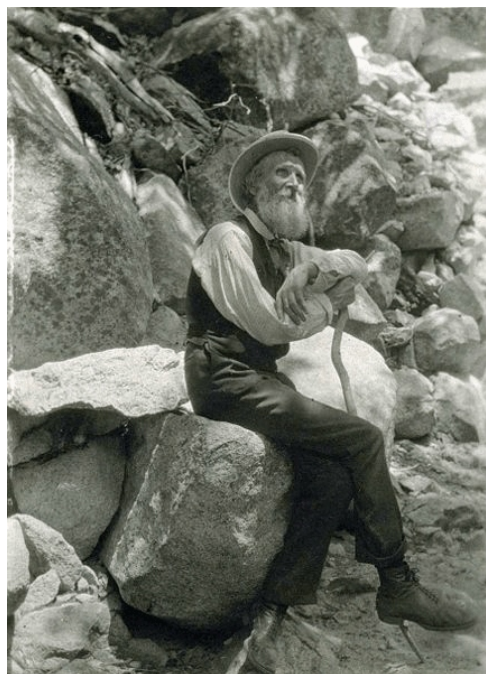
## In This Issue

Wildlife Management for December . . . . .	page 2
Attracting Backyard Birds . . . . .	page 4
Spray Now to Control Weeds . . . . .	page 5
Timber Tax Update . . . . .	page 5
How to Choose a Forestry Consultant . . . . .	page 6
Chain Saw Safety . . . . .	page 6
Selecting a Christmas Tree . . . . .	page 7
Under Water Logging . . . . .	page 8
Marketing & Trading Forest Carbon . . . . .	page 9
Hardwood Analysis and Trends . . . . .	page 10



“Far away in the sunshine are my highest aspirations. I may not reach them, but I can look up and see their beauty, believe in them, and try to follow where they lead.” ~ Louisa May Alcott

“Hold your hands out over the earth as over a flame. To all who love her, she gives of her strength, sustaining them with her own measureless tremor of life. Touch the earth, love the earth, honor the earth, her plains, her valleys, her hills, and her seas; rest your spirit in her solitary places. For the gifts of life are the earth's and they are given to all, and they are the songs of birds at daybreak, Orion and the Bear, and dawn seen over ocean from the beach.” ~ Henry Beston (1888-1968)



“Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves.” ~ John Muir

*John Muir (April 21, 1838 – December 24, 1914) was one of the first modern preservationists. His letters, essays, and books telling of his adventures in nature, and wildlife, especially in the Sierra Nevada Mountains of California, were read by millions and are still popular today. His direct activism helped to save the Yosemite Valley and other wilderness areas. The Sierra Club, which he founded, is now one of the most important conservation organizations in the United States. His writings and philosophy strongly influenced the formation of the modern environmental movement. One of many Americans who inspired Theodore Roosevelt to conserve our nation's forests was the naturalist John Muir, who once said, "Everybody needs beauty as well as bread - places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul." In today's fast-paced, high-tech world, Muir's words are even more compelling."*

## Wildlife Management Calendar for December

Craig Harper, Associate Professor, Wildlife Management

page 2

### Habitat Management

Do **not** mow (bushhog) old-fields if you have any interest in wildlife

- mowing at this time destroys much needed winter cover
- mowing accumulates thatch, limits mobility, and suppresses the seedbank
- wait until late March/early April and burn and/or disk the field
- if you just can't burn or disk, at least wait until early April before mowing

Disk strips in old-fields for brood habitat

- will stimulate forb growth next spring
- will reduce grass dominance where nwsg have become too dense
- will reduce woody encroachment by sweetgum, elms, and other non-desirable woody saplings in the field

Disk firebreaks around fields and woods (if it's not too wet) before the ground freezes

- disking now will stimulate forbs next spring

Native warm-season grasses can be planted during the dormant season

- don't plant too deep – no more than ¼ inch!
- don't forget preemergence weed control next April/May; it is critical!

Continue to strip-mow or silage chop dove fields to provide seed and hunting opportunities

- don't mow it all – leave some for January/February
- strips can be disked and top-sown with winter wheat (2 bushels per acre) to provide additional forage opportunities
- migrating doves appreciate your efforts and the late dove seasons can offer great shooting

Spray perennial forage food plots for weed control if necessary

- refer to *Growing and Managing Successful Food Plots for Wildlife in the Mid-South*, PB 1743, for specific information

Fertilize winter forage plots containing oats, wheat, and/or cereal rye

- 30 pounds of N per acre

Soil test now for spring plots

- applications of lime require about 6 months before full effect on pH is realized

Plant trees/shrubs for wildlife

- establish hedgerows across fields with soft-mast bearing trees and shrubs
- hedgerows can be used to break up fields into sections
- also plant trees/shrubs in blocks at end of fields or in "odd" areas
- crabapple, persimmon, wild plum and others are good choices
- refer to *Improving Your Backyard Wildlife Habitat*, PB 1633, for a list of other trees and shrubs to consider

Fertilize/prune trees/shrubs for increased soft mast production

- this is for trees out in the open, not those in woods
- fertilizing oaks in woods is a waste of time and money; to increase mast potential for trees in the woods, refer to TSI activities

Continue Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) activities

- stimulate growth among oaks, beech, cherry, persimmon, and other mast producers by killing surrounding competitors
- girdle unwanted trees and spray wound with a mixture of Garlon and Arsenal AC
- use 2 quarts Garlon 3A and 12 ounces Arsenal AC filled to 1 gallon of water

Build brushpiles from thinned trees and pruned limbs

- put large stems on bottom, small stems on top

Erect boxes for wood ducks and bluebirds

- 1 box per 100 yards of shoreline is adequate for wood ducks
- clean out old wood duck boxes and put in fresh wood shavings (about 4 – 6 inches)
- screech owls and squirrels may use the boxes through winter
- repair/install predator shields if necessary
- bluebird boxes should be no closer than 80 yards apart
- up to 9 or more bluebirds may roost in a single box on cold nights

Put out bird feeders and keep them full

- refer to *Improving Your Backyard Wildlife Habitat*, PB 1633, for information on specific feeders and seed for birds

Flood waterfowl impoundments

- a depth of 8 – 12 inches is ideal for dabbling ducks

Duck numbers should be rising – watch the weather!

**Wildlife Damage/Population Management**

Close crawl spaces under the house and check for openings in the attic

- helps keep snakes, skunks, and squirrels from getting into places where they are not welcome
- rodents are beginning to cache food for the coming winter; take action now to keep them out of your house
- glueboards are very effective in trapping mice, snakes, and lizards looking for a warm place inside your basement or garage

Blackbirds and starlings have gathered into large winter flocks

- don't allow them to roost in your trees; if they start, they'll form a habit
- repel them with noise makers (shotguns, firecrackers, banging metal pans together)
- be persistent

*For more information contact: Craig Harper @ 865-974-7992 or [charper@utk.edu](mailto:charper@utk.edu).*

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## Attracting Backyard Birds

*Craig Harper, Associate Professor, Wildlife Management*

Providing bird seed during winter is a popular activity that helps increase wildlife viewing opportunities. Birds are particularly attracted to feeders during mid- to late winter as other foods can be more difficult to find. By knowing the type of feeder and seed (or other food) that different birds prefer, you can cater to several different species.

Feeder design is less important, especially if you use a fly-through feeder, which will accommodate most bird species. More selective feeders include the tube-type or cylindrical feeders used to offer thistle seed to goldfinches and pine siskins. The table below lists different seeds and other types of food that may be offered to attract different birds.

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>PREFERRED FOOD</u>
mourning doves	black oil-type sunflower seed, white proso millet
woodpeckers, chickadees, titmice, nuthatches	black-oil type sunflower seed, cracked nuts, shelled and broken peanuts, bread crumbs, suet
blue jay	sunflower seed (all types), peanuts, cracked nuts, shelled and cracked corn, suet
mockingbirds, brown thrashers, robins, thrushes, catbirds	cut apples, oranges, raisins, bread crumbs
cardinals	sunflower seed (all types), cracked corn, shelled and broken peanuts
Eastern towhees	white proso millet, sunflower seed (all types), cracked corn, shelled and broken peanuts
evening grosbeak	sunflower seed (all types), cracked corn, shelled and broken peanuts
goldfinches	niger thistle, hulled sunflower seed, black oil-type sunflower seeds
house finch	black oil-type sunflower seeds, niger thistle
purple finch	sunflower seed (all types)
sparrows, juncos	white proso millet, black oil-type sunflower seed, wheat, bread crumbs
grackles	hulled sunflower seed (all types)

Don't forget to try suet feeders, fruit halves nailed to a tree or post, peanut butter smeared into pine cones or onto the side of a tree, and old breads and cakes. Offering several types of foods will ensure a variety of birds visit your backyard. Remember to clean feeders periodically with hot, soapy water fortified with a capful of bleach. Bottoms of platform feeders (and others that might hold water) should have small holes drilled into the bottom to allow water to drain after a rain.

Finally, beware of cats. House cats are extremely efficient predators and can severely reduce the number of birds and small mammals visiting feeders, especially during winter when birds may be concentrated around feeders. If you care about wildlife, you should keep your cat indoors.

*For more information contact: Craig Harper @ 865-974-7992 or [charper@utk.edu](mailto:charper@utk.edu).*

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## **Spray Now to Control Weeds in Cool-Season Forage Food Plots**

*Craig Harper, Associate Professor, Wildlife Management*

Every spring, I get calls asking what to spray to control weeds in wildlife food plots. In many cases, winter annual weeds (such as chickweed, purple deadnettle, and henbit) have become well-established, flowered, and are producing seed. At this point, it is too late to worry with spraying! Most weeds are most susceptible to herbicides when young. Herbicide labels indicate the height various weeds should be sprayed for optimal results. For cool-season forage food plots (such as clovers, chicory, oats, wheat, rape), the time to control cool-season weeds is now.

Before an herbicide can be selected for application, weeds must be identified. If you are unable to identify weeds, buy a weed identification guide with nice color pictures. If you are still unsure of what weeds you have, ask your extension agent to help you with identification. After you have identified the weed, select an herbicide that will control the weed **and** includes a label for the crop you are growing.

To control or reduce coverage of grasses (such as cheat or tall fescue) in clover plots, use a grass-selective herbicide (such as Arrow 2EC or Poast 1.5L). To control forb weeds (such as the winter annuals listed above) in wheat, oats, or cereal rye, use a forb-selective herbicide (such as 2,4-D, Banvel, Clarity, or Harmony Extra). 2,4-DB (such as Butyrac 200) can also be used to control several forb weeds in clover plots. In addition, Pursuit can be used to control several forb and grass weeds in clover plots.

Be aware effectiveness on some weeds vary with different herbicides. Refer to herbicide labels for a list of weeds controlled. You should always read the herbicide label prior to application and follow the label instructions concerning precautions, rates, and other application information. The herbicides listed above are only possible suggestions and are not meant to imply approval of those products to the exclusion of others.

Although the weeds in your food plots may be small now, this is a good time to spray—prior to weeds flowering and producing seed. Getting rid of weeds now will prevent problems with competition later and promote increased forage production for wildlife.

*For more information contact: Craig Harper @ 865-974-7992 or [charper@utk.edu](mailto:charper@utk.edu).*

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## **Timber Tax Update**

*Larry Tankersley, Forest Specialist*

Here's the website for this Year's Timber Tax Tips, from our friends at the Forest Service:

<http://www.timbertax.org/documents/TaxTips07.pdf>

The report pretty much sticks to the outline that we have used for a number of years. Persons who have attended Timber Tax Workshops in the past will recognize much of the information but should still read the "Tips" for ideas. Persons spending money on timber production, tree establishment and receiving cost-sharing should pay particular attention to those paragraphs. Also correctly reporting timber income, as a long-term capital gain where appropriate, avoids taxes.

No formal timber tax workshops are planned in Tennessee at this time, but if you get a group together, I'd be proud to come discuss it with you..

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to give me a call or send an e-mail. If you send e-mail, please include a phone number, as I'd rather talk than write a long report.

Happy Holidays!

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

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## **How to Choose a Forestry Consultant**

*Wayne K. Clatterbuck, Professor, Forest Management and Silviculture*

A consultant bases business on satisfied clients. The person or company you hire should represent and serve your interests in all matters concerning your forested properties.

Consultants may base their fees on the acreage of forested property involved; a percentage of the revenues from the sales; dollars per unit of wood sold (board feet, tons, cords, etc.); or the amount of time required to perform the job. Cost should be one consideration in choosing a consultant, but a foresters experience, performance record and understanding of your objectives are equally important.

There is no single best way to manage forest land. Goals and objectives of landowners vary widely. Each forested property is unique with different forest structures, ages, species composition and topographies. Choose a consultant who understands your needs and with whom you feel comfortable. Determine a consultant's qualifications by requesting information from the consultant and references from several other clients. Compare qualifications, experience and costs among consultants before choosing one.

As in any business arrangement, be aware of competing loyalties. Some foresters may be employed as timber buyers for forest product companies, and as such, may have potential conflicts of interest involving other clients. The consultant is ethically bound to inform you of any possible conflicts of interest or even an appearance of such conflicts. No legal standards exist that govern consultants in Tennessee. Membership in professional organizations such as the Society of American Foresters and the Association of Consulting Foresters is an indication of the consultant's professional commitment. Each of these organizations has a code of ethics that guide the professional performance of their members.

Once you have selected a consultant, sign an agreement or contract. The agreement should include a list of services, how they are performed and who will perform them. For example, if boundaries are to be marked, who will search the records for property descriptions? If timber is to be sold, will it be by competitive bid, negotiated bid or contract logging? How often will the consultant check during harvesting to assure the job is done correctly?

Growing trees is a long-term process. Given the willingness of landowners to commit themselves to sound land management practices, growing timber can lead to both short- and long-term benefits. Hiring a consultant can assist you in realizing these benefits.

*For more information, contact Wayne Clatterbuck at 865-974-7346 or e-mail at [wclatterbuck@utk.edu](mailto:wclatterbuck@utk.edu).*

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## **Chain Saw Safety**

*Wayne K. Clatterbuck, Professor, Forest Management and Silviculture*

With the cooler temperatures of winter approaching, many of us are beginning to stoke the wood stove or enjoy evenings by the fireplace. Many people are injured each year cutting trees or logs for firewood. The chain saw is a dangerous tool when proper precautions are not followed. Listed below are safety tips to remember when using a chain saw.

- Carry the saw by the handle only.
- Cover the saw blade with a plastic or wood guard when not in use.
- Inspect trees carefully for loose limbs (widow-makers) and rot before the cut.
- When felling a tree, choose an escape route away from the direction of fall before starting to cut. Be sure there are no obstructions.
- Wear heavy shoes or boots with non-skid soles.

- Clean around the tree or log so that the chain does not catch on anything.
- Leave the chain saw on the ground while starting the engine.
- Keep a firm grip on the chain saw handle and keep the guard (dog) tight against the tree or log. Brace your body against the engine handle so that if the saw pinches, you will be pushed rather than struck.
- Shut off the engine when moving from one place to another.
- Use wood, plastic, or magnesium wedges when felling a tree or cutting a log. They are lightweight and will not seriously damage the chain.
- Stop the chain before wedging. If the wedge touches the moving chain, it may break the chain, causing the saw to kick back or the engine may stall.
- Avoid cutting limbs above waist height. Remove these limbs after the tree or branch is on the ground.
- Use ear plugs or headsets to protect against 100 decibel or higher chain saw noise levels.
- For safety in the woods, wear a hard hat made of metal or plastic, eye protection goggles, nylon protective leg chaps, heavy shoes or boots and light non-slip gloves.

*For more information, contact Wayne Clatterbuck at 865-974-7346 or e-mail at [wclatterbuck@utk.edu](mailto:wclatterbuck@utk.edu).*

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### **Selecting a Christmas Tree**

*Wayne K. Clatterbuck, Professor, Forest Management and Silviculture*

Christmas trees are a traditional part of the festive holiday season. The most popular Christmas trees in Tennessee are Virginia pine, eastern white pine, eastern redcedar, Fraser fir and Scotch pine. Here are some tips for choosing and maintaining your Christmas tree.

1. Measure the dimensions, including ceiling height, of the area where the tree will be placed before buying the tree. This will help you select the right size and shape of tree.
2. The easiest method to obtain a fresh tree is to cut one from a Tennessee Christmas tree grower. There are more than 100 growers of “choose and cut” Christmas trees in Tennessee. For a directory of Christmas tree growers, contact the Tennessee Dept. of Agriculture, Division of Marketing at (615) 837-5160 or access the following website: <http://picktnproducts.org/trees/cmastrees.html>
3. Trees in Christmas tree lots are often obtained from Michigan, Oregon, Colorado and New England as well as regionally in Tennessee and adjacent states. These trees may have been cut 4 to 6 weeks before they appear on the lot. Make sure to test the tree for freshness by placing a branch between the thumb and forefinger of your hand. Pull your hand toward you allowing the branch to slip through your fingers. The needles should bend but not break, and adhere to the branch, not fall off in your hand. A second test is to lift the tree a few inches off the ground and drop it on the stump end. Some interior brown needles should fall, but if green needles fall in abundance, find another tree.

4. To keep your tree fresh, cut ½ to 1 inch of the bottom of the trunk. Immediately place the stump end in water. Keep water in the tree stand at all times. A cut tree can absorb 2 or 3 quarts of water the first day indoors. If the base of the tree dries out, sap from the tree will form a seal that will not allow water absorption. Water additives to enhance the “freshness” of the tree are not recommended. Research has shown that these additives will deter water absorption. Only use clean water in your tree stand.
5. The tree should be placed in a cool area. Keep your tree away from fireplaces, heat registers, radiators, heaters and televisions. Inspect your Christmas tree lights for broken insulation or faulty sockets each year. Always unplug tree lights when you are away from home and before you go to bed.

The National Christmas Tree Association website is a wonderful source of information on Christmas trees: <http://www.christmastree.org/home.cfm> Choose the following subheading for articles about Christmas trees: trees, news media, teachers, fun stuff and environment

**We, at the University of Tennessee, Forestry, Wildlife & Fisheries Dept.  
wish you a happy and prosperous holiday season!**

*For more information, contact Wayne Clatterbuck at 865-974-7346 or e-mail at [wclatterbuck@utk.edu](mailto:wclatterbuck@utk.edu).*

# # #

### **Underwater Logging?**

*Adam Taylor, Assistant Professor, Wood Products Specialist*

There are millions of logs and dead trees under the water of lakes, rivers and reservoirs in the United States. Some companies are now harvesting this timber for specialty wood products. Underwater timber comes from two main sources:

- 1) Flooding of forest land. The creation of dams has flooded many acres of standing timber.
- 2) Sunken logs. In the past, cut logs were often transported to sawmills by floating them on rivers and lakes. However, many of these logs (“sinkers”) would drop to the bottom before they made it to their destination.

Regardless of how the trees or logs ended up being submerged, if the water was cold and deep, the wood would not rot or deteriorate. If these logs are brought to the surface, they can be cut into lumber, dried and used much like wood cut from a living tree.

A number of business ventures have started to bring up sunken logs and trees and process them for high-value specialty products. The wood from these recovered logs has a number of potential merits including the novelty of its origin and the fact that these “old-growth” logs are sometimes very old, slow-grown (narrow growth rings), very large in size or high quality. On the other hand, bringing these logs to the surface and processing them is expensive, so the resulting wood products are expensive too.

Recovered logs products are sometimes advertised as being environmentally friendly because living trees are not cut. However, care must be taken not to disturb the aquatic ecosystems in which these logs are located. Some companies have developed specialized equipment that efficiently recovers submerged logs or trees, while reducing the disturbance to the lake bottom.

Recovered logs from the bottoms of lakes and rivers are an interesting source of specialty wood products. However, because of the cost of recovering the logs and the limited supply, sunken logs can never be a substitute for the timber supply from our renewable and growing (above-water) forests.

*For more information, contact Adam Taylor at 865-971-6857 or [AdamTaylor@utk.edu](mailto:AdamTaylor@utk.edu)*



## **Marketing and Trading Forest Carbon**

*Joshua Idassi, Assistant Professor, TSU Cooperative Extension*

### **1. What is Carbon Sequestration?**

According to the Department of Energy (DOE) “**Carbon sequestration** refers to the provision of long-term storage of carbon in the terrestrial biosphere, underground, or the oceans so that the buildup of carbon dioxide (the principal greenhouse gas) concentration in the atmosphere will reduce or slow. It has the potential to provide enhanced income opportunities for farmers and forest landowners for their storing of carbon in woodlots, grasslands and croplands. Landowners can earn annual payments for this carbon storage. In the US, some states have adopted forest carbon trading and marketing systems.

### **2. How it Works?**

Landowners earn annual payments for storing carbon in their forests and soils via the Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX). Founded in 2003, the CCX is attempting to provide a market-based mechanism for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Large-scale greenhouse gas producers (energy companies, paper mills, factories, etc.) voluntarily participate in the CCX as carbon credit buyers. These companies look to landowners, farmers and other carbon sequestering projects as carbon credit sellers to offset greenhouse gas emissions. Carbon credits are traded between buyers and sellers on the Chicago-based CCX much like soybeans and pork bellies are traded on the Mercantile Exchange.

### **3. Who is our target audience/eligibility?**

Potential registry comprised of those currently enrolled in federally funded cost-share programs (EQIP, CRP, & WRP). Also, the potential exists for those landowners not currently enrolled in the above cost-share programs. Currently Tennessee has a bill in the legislature to: “establish a system for Carbon sequestration registration in the interest of the landowners of the state in the event that markets are favorable to carbon credit trading”. For Tennessee, such a carbon sequestration registration system shall:

a) Encourage voluntary action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; b) Enable participants to voluntarily record carbon sequestrations made in a consistent format that is certified; c) Ensure that sources in the state receive appropriate consideration for certified carbon sequestration results under any future federal or international regulatory regime relating to greenhouse gas emissions; d) Recognize, publicize, and promote participation in the registry; and e) recruit broad participation from all economic sectors and regions of the State of Tennessee.”

### **4. What is the current carbon market situation?**

The global market for carbon emissions offsets is emerging and is one of the most rapidly developing commodities markets. In 2005, the global carbon market as a whole traded about US \$ 12 billion. In the US, only CCX has the capacity to trade forestry offset credits.

### **Targeted Audience:**

1. University of Tennessee and Tennessee State University Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agent
2. Tennessee Division of Forestry Area Foresters
3. Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency - Land Managers
4. Non Industrial Forest Landowners

**Contacts:** Dr. Joshua Idassi – TSU Cooperative Extension  
Mr. John Fenderson – Tennessee Dept. of Ag. Division of Forestry

## **Hardwood Analysis and Trends (HAT)** – November 2007

*David Mercker, Extension Specialist, Forest Management*

There has been very little to report in terms of price movement for **HAT** species over the past several months. Within the Appalachian and Southeast regions, “static” if not “lackluster” are the best descriptors. There is concern over uncertainty of future demand, causing many mills to more closely monitor purchases of both standing trees and delivered logs.

Hardwood lumber markets are typically grouped into the following broad areas: low grade, average grade, and upper grade. The low and upper grade markets performed fairly well over the summer months. Low grade markets supply R. R. tie and pallet industries, while upper grade is often exported. Average grade lumber is largely fueled by domestic demand, especially for home furnishings in new and refurbished units. US housing starts fell 10.2% in September from August and 30.8% from September 2006.

Analysis of individual species follows, along with the 16 week price change for #1 Common lumber beginning July 1.

**Red Oak** – red oak #1 common lumber price stabilized on May 27, 2006 and has remained the same for 17 months; Demand is weak, and concern exists for additional downward pricing pressure; Exports to Mexico, China, and other Asian countries have declined. Red Oak Change = 0%

**White Oak** – the demand for white oak lumber is described as solid, largely due to the strong European preference; Approximately 15 – 20% of the volume of standing timber in Tennessee is white oak, and this continues as positive for landowners, loggers, and mills in the region. White Oak Change = 0%

**Sugar Maple** – supplies are ample and competition in lumber sales is stiff; From April of 2005, sugar maple endured a 25% price reduction, a trend that is tapering but continues. Sugar Maple Change = -3%

**Poplar** – the upper grades for poplar are primarily used domestically, particularly with finished goods reliant on US housing starts; with housing starts haven fallen considerably, demand is off; average grade (#1 common) lumber is strongly dependent on offshore customers, and that demand has also slowed. Poplar Change = -10%

**Cherry** – although consumers give high preference for cherry, most cherry is used for high-end products (furniture, cabinetry, jewelry boxes, etc.) for which consumer spending is weak; additional downward pricing pressure is likely. Cherry Change = 0%

**Black Walnut** – Demand is strong and prices are firm for this unique species; log exports increased 51% from January to August 2007 thus raising the competition (and price) for logs with area mills; likely has reached the peak. Black Walnut Change = +1.5%

Summarized with permission of the Hardwood Market Report, Memphis, TN

The UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE