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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TEXAS FORESTRY ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES
2016 OUTSTANDING TREE FARMER OF THE YEAR

Texas Forestry Association (TFA) recently named Dr. Jay Fish as the 2017 Texas Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year for the excellent management of his Tree Farm in Tyler County. The announcement was made at the Annual Meeting held October 26-28, 2016 at La Torretta Resort and Spa in Montgomery, Texas.

"We are honored to present Dr. Fish with this award," Ron Hufford, TFA Executive Director, said. "His dedication and hard work in restoring his tree farm is remarkable."

Dr. Fish has owned 223 acres for 17 years, and it has been a certified tree farm for 14 years. During that time, he was waged a war against Chinese Privet and Chinese Tallow and successfully converted a cutover tract to a thriving pine plantation along with areas of natural mixed pine and hardwoods. His first harvest was in 2014.

After retirement as an academic surgeon in Galveston, Texas, Dr. Fish pursued a new direction for his life. "He has spent hours learning about multiple use forestry, bottomland forestry, and pine plantation management," Keelin Parker said. A local consulting forester, Parker nominated Dr. Fish for the award. "He is always ready to ask questions and learn more about forests. Dr. Fish spends many hours of every week in his forests."

His goals for the property include growing pine trees, the restoration of a hardwood bottomland forest, and managing the land for wildlife.

"It is always a difficult task for the Tree Farm Committee to choose the outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year," said Hufford. "Dr. Fish showcases the special partnership between tree farmer and natural resource professionals, something TFA is proud to be a part of."



DR. FISH PHOTO:

Dr. Jay Fish was presented with a plaque, given by Tree Farm Chairman, Glen Dirksmeyer, for the 2017 Texas Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year by the Texas Forestry Association at the annual meeting held Oct. 26-28, 2016 at La Torretta Resort and Spa in Montgomery, Texas.

ABOUT:

Texas Forestry Association, the voice for forestry for 100 years, promotes an economic, social and political climate that will advance forestry in Texas through education, political action and public relations, as well as serving the broad needs of the forest resource of landowners, producers and consumers, and to enhance and perpetuate the Texas forest resource.

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