



News Release

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Pictured: Jim Walley, Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year E.J. Dennis, Kay Dennis, and Meacham Harlow

E.J. Dennis named Mississippi Forestry Association's Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year

Jackson, Miss. - Mississippi Forestry Association (MFA) named E.J. Dennis of Ellisville, as the 2018 MFA Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year. MFA presented the award at its annual President's Banquet, a highlight of the 2018 MFA Annual Meeting in Tupelo. The 250 banquet guests enjoyed a video presentation by Mississippi State University's *Farmweek* on Dennis' tree farm. Dennis will represent Mississippi in the 2019 National Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year competition sponsored by the American Tree Farm System.

The land, in Overt, Mississippi, has been owned by the Dennis family since 1950, and E.J. inherited it 15 years ago. The land has been under a written forest management plan for seven years and has also been a certified Tree Farm for the past seven years.

Meacham Harlow, Mississippi Forestry Commission, nominated E.J. Dennis for this award. Harlow states, "Mr. Dennis is a great example of what it means to be a great steward of the land and our natural resources. He loves to share the history of his tree farm, but at the same time, he looks to the future with current forest management practices and always seeks to improve his property."

Dennis' tree farm is used as a hands-on lab for local Jones County Junior College (JCJC) Forestry students. Just a short 10-minute drive from the college, it proves to be an excellent resource. Harlow adds, "E.J. Dennis looks for

opportunities to teach future generations by showing them the value of the land through his stewardship and management of his tree farm.”

Dennis is a member of the Mississippi Forestry Association and a member of the Jones County Forestry Association (CFA). He also frequently hosts his local CFA and other community groups on his property for educational programs.

Mississippi Forestry Association's vision is to serve as the "Voice of Forestry" in Mississippi. MFA's mission is leading diverse groups to promote landowner rights, environmental stewardship, member prosperity, and community understanding. MFA members and staff work to accomplish the mission by conducting public affairs, communication, and education programs that will foster better understanding and appreciation of conservation, development, and use of forestland and resources. To learn more, visit www.msforestry.net.

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