

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 678

By Wirgau

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Bob and Cathie Ashby upon being named the 2013 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to specially recognize those outstanding citizens of our State who have committed themselves to sustaining the renewable natural resources of Tennessee in a manner that provides economic enrichment while preserving valuable resources and biodiversity; and

WHEREAS, one such couple dedicated to conservationism is Bob and Cathie Ashby, the owners and operators of Legacy Acres Tree Farm in Benton County; the couple was recently named the 2013 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year; and

WHEREAS, the farm began when the couple purchased an 823 acre tract, most of which had been clear-cut harvested; despite lacking knowledge in forestry, Mr. Ashby desired a place where he could hunt freely and contacted the Tennessee Division of Forestry; and

WHEREAS, with the assistance of Terry Tynes, the Area Forester, Mr. Ashby developed a management plan for a farm with the objective of timber production, creation of a recreation area for hunting and other outdoor activities, development of a habitat for wildlife, and aesthetics; and

WHEREAS, in February 1997, 167,000 trees were planted on 305.6 acres of land to begin what would become Legacy Acres Tree Farm; and

WHEREAS, sixteen years later, the plantation is now a fully stocked beautiful forest that could be described as a “deep dark woods” and is teeming with deer and turkey; in its first five to seven years, the forest was also a good habitat for small animals that include quail, rabbits, and songbirds; and

WHEREAS, since the farm was founded, it has become well stocked with multiple species of broadleaf hardwood trees, including white oak, red oak, tulip poplar, hickory, sweet gum, black cherry, white ash, and red maple, among others; and

WHEREAS, the Ashbys have expanded on their original 823 acres with the purchase of adjoining farms, two purchased in 1999 and one purchased in 2001, to add 309.5 acres to their original farm; and

WHEREAS, Legacy Acres Tree Farm currently consists of 1,123 acres with a small lake, a small wildlife pond, a meadow, wildlife openings, a catfish pond, a greenhouse, and twelve miles of interior roads in order to best enjoy all that the woods have to offer; and

WHEREAS, Bob and Cathie Ashby are the fitting recipients of Tennessee's 2013 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year award, and their commitment to responsible stewardship of the land is most assuredly deserving of special recognition by this General Assembly; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we congratulate Bob and Cathie Ashby upon being named the 2013 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year by the Tennessee Tree Farm Committee and thank them for their dedicated and thorough understanding of our State's precious renewable resources -- our forestland and wildlife habitat.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.