

## House Resolution 1278

By: Representatives Houston of the 170<sup>th</sup>, Dickey of the 145<sup>th</sup>, and Camp of the 135<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Congratulating and commending Heather Brasell; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Heather Brasell, a dedicated forest landowner from South Georgia, has been  
3 named the 2023 Tree Farmer of the Year by the American Tree Farm System for her  
4 unwavering commitment to the sustainable management of trees; and

5 WHEREAS, the American Tree Farm System program promotes the growing of renewable  
6 forest resources on private lands while protecting environmental benefits and increasing  
7 public understanding of all benefits of productive forestry; and

8 WHEREAS, she has long been instrumental in the stewardship of the Gaskins Estate, a  
9 cherished property in Berrien County that has been under her family's care for nearly two  
10 centuries; and

11 WHEREAS, through her leadership, the Gaskins Estate has flourished into a diverse  
12 ecosystem of planted and natural longleaf, loblolly, and slash pines alongside a variety of  
13 hardwood species, all of which contribute significantly to the biodiversity and environmental  
14 health of the region; and

15 WHEREAS, Heather Brasell has enacted focused practices such as prescribed burning,  
16 invasive species control, and tree thinning to ensure that the Gaskins Estate remains a  
17 sanctuary for native wildlife, including gopher tortoises, Bachman's sparrows, and indigo  
18 snakes, as well as a model of exceptional forest management; and

19 WHEREAS, she established the Gaskins Forest Education Center in 2011, transforming the  
20 estate into a center for learning and outreach by hosting frequent classes, workshops, and  
21 field days to educate and inspire the public about the benefits of sustainable forestry; and

22 WHEREAS, her roots in forest ecology, further nurtured by a degree in science education  
23 earned in Georgia, have driven Heather Brasell to passionately advocate for the beauty and  
24 benefits of Southern forests; and

25 WHEREAS, by the example Heather Brasell has made of her life, she makes this world a  
26 better place in which to live, and it is only fitting and proper that she be appropriately  
27 honored.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
29 the members of this body congratulate and commend Heather Brasell, the American Tree  
30 Farm System's 2023 Tree Farmer of the Year, and extend their most sincere best wishes for  
31 continued health and happiness.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
33 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to  
34 Heather Brasell.