

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 78

By Travis

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Chris and Christina Anderson upon being named the 2016 Tennessee 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, two such individuals are Chris and Christina Anderson of Rhea County, who were recently recognized by the Tennessee Forestry Association as the State's 2016 Tree Farmers of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Chris Anderson purchased 147 acres of land in 1995; the tree farm is on the north end of Walden's Ridge, which sits on the eastern ridge of the Cumberland Plateau, and shares a border with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Natural Areas; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the pine beetle devastation of 2000, Chris Anderson sought the advice of area forester Shannon Gann, who entered him into the Forest Stewardship Program and first stewardship management plan to develop a healthy sustainable forest; by 2006, his land management met the standards for certification of Forest Stewardship; that same year, he married his wife and tree farm partner, Christina; and

WHEREAS, the Andersons restored the forest back to a healthy state by clear cutting and thinning 136 acres in 2007 and 2008; sixty acres were replanted in shortleaf, loblolly, and yellow poplar using a planting crew in 2011, and an additional 3,800 hardwood and shortleaf pine seedlings were hand planted by Mr. Anderson; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Anderson continues to hand plant anywhere from 1,500 to 5,000 seedlings annually of hardwood and pine mixes; he also uses other methods such as crop tree release, bush hogging, invasive controls, and prescribed burns as he develops the forest back to its natural setting. These practices have allowed the big bluestem grasses and other wild flowers to naturally occur, and four areas have been developed into wildlife food plots; and

WHEREAS, the Andersons met the standards for American Tree Farm certification in 2012; through the acquisition of additional properties, a total of 232 acres were put into a trust in 2013; and

WHEREAS, keen to share the natural beauty of their land, Chris and Christina Anderson hosted the Tennessee Hemlock Conservation Partnership in 2015 to hold an HWA landowner workshop for the public; it was the first time the workshop was held on private property; and

WHEREAS, with the help of current forester Bryan Duggan, the Andersons received the D'Addario Play. Plant. Preserve. Grant in 2015 and 2016 and planted a total of 2,700 seedlings; in 2016, they received a grant to plant 1,000 milkweeds throughout twenty acres in a natural wild setting, and their land is now one of over 14,000 certified Monarch Watch Waystations; and

WHEREAS, Chris and Christina Anderson are the fitting recipients of Tennessee's 2016 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 TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we congratulate Chris and Christina Anderson upon being named the 2016 Tree Farmers of the Year by the Tennessee Forestry Association 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.