

MAURICE AND LAURA HULL NAMED 2011 NORTH CAROLINA TREE FARMERS OF THE YEAR

Waukegan Farms of Semora has been designated the Outstanding North Carolina Tree Farm of 2011. The award was presented to Maurice and Laura Hull on October 11, 2011 during the annual meeting of the North Carolina Tree Farm Program held in Wilmington, NC.

“The Hull property represents a perfect balance of the four emphases of the American Tree Farm System: wood, water, wildlife and recreation,” stated David Halley, Chairperson of the Special Recognitions Committee.

A team of visiting judges found 750 acres of well managed forest land on the property, three fish ponds and a wild fowl water impoundment, 100 acres of wildlife food plots, 46 hunting stands and blinds and approximately 18 miles of riding trails. Abundant wildlife, especially deer and turkey, were found to roam the open lands and forests.

Waukegan Farms started with the purchase of 585 acres near Semora, NC by Maurice Hull in April, 2002. Previous owners had clear cut much of the timber some 15 years previously and had replanted the harvested areas with Loblolly pine seedlings. The new plantations were overstocked and suffered from severe competition from less desirable forest species. Hull immediately set out to improve the timber stand by removing competition and thinning the pines.



Maurice and Laura Hull were named the 2011 NC Tree Farmers of the Year.

In keeping with his desire to create a quiet and comfortable farmstead, Mr. Hull soon constructed a residential lodge and chose to name the farm “Waukegan” which is an Indian word meaning “a sheltering place”.

Between 2002 and 2011, Hull purchased several adjoining tracts of land, boosting the total size of the farm to 875 acres. He and his wife, Laura, live in High Point, NC, but spend many weekends at their lodge working on the property and entertaining guests. They have recently renovated an older farm house on the property for use as a guest house. For entertainment of their guests, they permit hunting of deer and turkey; they host an annual dove shoot; and they maintain a rifle and a pistol range as well as a wobble trap and shotgun range. Work on the farm is carried out with the able assistance of farm manager, Steve Blackard, who lives nearby.

Their future plans include the establishment of a demonstration forest for education of neighboring tree farmers and school students, the conduct of Learning Tree Project courses for Caswell County school students, the creation of a camping area for Boy Scout troops of the Cherokee Council, the hosting of

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Tree Farm workshops and the creation of a “wood bank” to provide firewood for needy families who heat their homes with wood.

“We congratulate Maurice and Laura Hull for their selection for this prestigious honor,” added Jim Long of the Caswell Area Forestry Association, which nominated the Hulls for the award. “This is a first for the northern Piedmont area of our state and provides a wonderful example of what can be accomplished through good forest management.”

This release on the Hulls was prepared by Jim Long of the Caswell Area Forestry Association.

FORESTERS RECOGNIZED FOR EFFORTS WITH INSPECTIONS

In addition to the selection of the 2011 Tree Farmers of the Year, the North Carolina Tree Farm program also recognized a few foresters for their efforts with the Tree Farm Inspection process.

The first recipient was David Halley, who was named the 2011 Outstanding North Carolina Tree Farm Inspector of the Year Award for his work the selection committee and other volunteer efforts in support of the North Carolina Tree Farm program. Halley, a registered consulting forester, operates True North Forest Management Services in Holly Springs, NC.

The North Carolina Tree Farm program also had two Tree Farm Inspectors earn national recognition through their inspection work. Both Matt Vincett and David Henderson received Bronze Hard Hat Awards for signing up 25 new Tree Farmers.

David, the owner of Henderson Forestry Consultants in Asheboro, NC, was the North Carolina Tree Farm program’s Inspector of the Year in 2008. He is extremely active in the North Carolina program for a number of years. He has done numerous re-inspections and assisted with the Tree Farm audit that was conducted by Price-Waterhouse-Coopers several years ago.

Matt Vincett, a Water Quality Forester for the North Carolina Forest Service in Rockingham, NC, has been involved with the Tree Farm Program in North Carolina for many years. In fact, in the early 1990’s when the Tree Farm program was mothballed in North Carolina, Vincett continued to sign up new Tree Farmers working directly through the National Tree Farm office on his own. Matt was the North Carolina Tree Farm program’s Inspector of the Year in 2006. Ironically, Matt has signed up over 150 new Tree Farmers and already had a Silver and a Gold Hard Hat Award. The Bronze Hard Hat Award was long overdue and allowed him to complete his collection.

“Both of these foresters have shown tremendous enthusiasm for the North Carolina Tree Farm Program and are a valuable credit to the profession and the forestry community,” stated Al Weller, who coordinates the North Carolina Tree Farm program’s inspections.



(l-r) Al Weller congratulates Matt Vincett on earning his Bronze Hard Hat Award.



(l-r) Al Weller congratulates David Henderson on earning his Bronze Hard Hat Award.

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