

West Tennessee forester receives prestigious fellow award

Dr. David Mercker recognized for extraordinary contributions to forestry

JACKSON, Tenn. – University of Tennessee Extension Forester David Mercker has received the Fellow Award from the Society of American Foresters (SAF). This award recognizes long-standing service to forestry at the local, state and national level. As an SAF Fellow, Mercker is regarded as an ambassador for the advancement of forestry.

Mercker has worked as a professional forester for 28 years, including 15 years in his current role as a UT Extension Forestry Specialist. He has led countless educational programs and field days in an effort to inform Tennessee's private landowners of responsible forest management. He has worked with loggers, schoolteachers and 4-H members in conservation training. He also manages more than 200 acres of forestland at the West Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center in Jackson, which is now a certified American Tree Farm, thanks to Mercker's efforts.

"I'm honored to be recognized as a leader when it comes to the advancement of the forestry profession," says Mercker. "Educating landowners, industry personnel and youth about the science and sustainable management of forests is empowering for them and me."

SAF is the national scientific and educational organization representing the forestry profession in the United States. Its mission is to ensure the continued health and use of forest ecosystems and the present and future availability of forest resources to benefit society. Only about five percent of SAF members receive the title of Fellow.

Mercker received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from Southern Illinois University. He completed his PhD. in Natural Resources from UT in 2006. Before joining UT Extension, Mercker worked as a consultant forester in Indiana.

