

**STATE OF ARKANSAS**  
**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Forests, covering one-third of the land in the U.S., provide all Americans — including Arkansans — clean drinking water, clean air, abundant wildlife habitat; renewable wood for buildings, furniture, energy and paper needs, space to recreate and many well-paying jobs across our state; and

WHEREAS: Most of our nation's forests are owned by the people who make Arkansas and our country great: families and individuals -- our citizens; and

WHEREAS: Seventy-five years ago, the American Tree Farm System was founded to help family and individual woodland owners sustain their forests and the benefits we all receive from them; and

WHEREAS: With 851 individuals and families owning a combined 460, 314 acres of Tree Farm Certified land in Arkansas, the American Tree Farm System remains a vibrant and essential program today, helping to conserve our state's forests and their benefits, especially in the face of growing pressures such as wildfires, insects, diseases and development; and

WHEREAS: Tree Farmers invest time, manpower and personal funds to practice sustainable forest management on their land so we can enjoy the many benefits these forests provide us; and

WHEREAS: ATFS is made possible by volunteers from the local small woodlands associations, conservation organizations, forest products companies, university extensions and our own Arkansas Forestry Commission; and

WHEREAS: The State of Arkansas is committed to supporting our family forests and family woodland owners and will continue to do so to help expand the reach of ATFS to additional woodland owners;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016, as

**75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN TREE FARM SYSTEM**

across the State, and I urge all citizens to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities that recognize the importance of our family-owned forests and the clean water, wildlife habitat and wood supply they provide for all Arkansans and Americans.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 21<sup>st</sup> day of April, in the year of our Lord 2016.



*Asa Hutchinson*  
Asa Hutchinson, Governor

est:  
*Mark Martin*  
Mark Martin, Secretary Of State