



# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

## MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY COMMISSION

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### **Mississippi Forestry Commission Employee Spotlight** *Michael Hughey wins National Tree Farm Inspector award*

Michael Hughey, Mississippi Forestry Commission Area Forester (Service Area 16), won the 2018 National Outstanding Tree Farm Inspector of the Year award, presented by the American Tree Farm System. In this Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) employee spotlight, we will learn more about Michael's forestry background, family, and hobbies.

#### **Where did you receive your forestry education?**

I earned my Associate's Degree in Forestry at Itawamba Community College in 2011, then went on to complete my Bachelor's Degree in Forestry at Mississippi State University in 2013.

#### **How long have you been with the MFC?**

Five years. I obtained a position with the Mississippi Forestry Commission in 2013.

#### **What do you enjoy most about your job?**

I really enjoy helping landowners with the natural resources that God has given us.

#### **What motivates you?**

My passion for working in Forestry comes from the relationships of two very important men in my life. My Grandfather and Father-in-law. Working with my Grandfather on his farm instilled in me at an early age the true value of a hard work ethic; he is the man that taught me to fish and hunt. And I have my Father-in-law to thank for giving me the desire to protect our natural resources. He once told me to get an education in something that I truly loved so that I would never have to work a day in my life. That is so true because I can honestly say that working in this field is more like a passion than a job.

#### **What are your hobbies?**

My hobbies include hunting, fishing, and coaching for my daughter's traveling softball team.

#### **Tell us a little bit about your family...**

I have been married to my beautiful wife, Joey Wilson Hughey, for 26 years. We have three wonderful children; Jacob Hughey (21), Hailey Hughey (20), and Addison Grace Hughey (8).

#### **Anything else you'd like to share?**

I am a devout Christian, Husband, and Father. I am a member of Smithville Baptist Church, where I serve as a Deacon and Sunday School Teacher.

We are proud of Michael's commitment to serving Mississippi's forest landowners and protecting lives, property, and forestland from wildfire.



*Michael Hughey accepts his Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year award from the American Tree Farm System*