



Washington Tree Farmer

A newsletter for certified tree farmers in Washington



2012 #1

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2012 Washington State Tree Farmers of the Year



Alexis, Ruby & Alan Walker at their Tree Farm in Curlew WA.

Alan and Ruby Walker of Curlew are the Washington Tree Farm Program's "Washington State Tree Farmers of the Year" for 2012. Their award was announced at the May 4th, 2012 Washington Farm Forestry Association Annual Meeting at the Mirabeau Park Hotel in Spokane Valley, WA.

The Walker Tree Farm is 432 acres in two parcels. One of the parcels is located in Orient, Washington, and the other parcel where they reside is located near Curlew, Washington. In 1985, while serving in the U.S. Coast Guard in California, Allen and Ruby created a vision of their dream retirement, hoping to move to the mountains of Northeastern Washington, and they have realized that dream.

The Walker family has embraced the "Tree Farm concept" and enthusiastically worked to convert an un-managed forest tract into a working, multiple-use tree farm. The Walkers work their tree farm almost daily, an excellent example of a dedicated family that showcases what can be done in N.E. Washington. They've also hosted school field trips, with activities including water quality testing, an outdoor career field day and information about outdoor life. Their management objectives were incorporated to provide a working tree farm that serves as their family home and provides an example to others that timber production can be environmentally sensitive and aesthetically pleasing.

To view a recent Capital Press article about the Walkers, click:

<http://www.watreefarm.org/WalkerCapPress.pdf>

2012 Western Regional Tree Farmers of the Year

Bryon and Donna Loucks, owners of the B&D Tree Farm and 2011 Washington State Tree Farmers of the Year, have recently been named Western Regional Tree Farmers of the Year by the American Tree Farm System (ATFS). From four regional winners across the country, the National Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year will be named at the ATFS National Convention in Jacksonville, Florida in June.



The Loucks have both been active in forestry activities for many years. Bryon has been chair of the Washington Tree Farm Committee twice in the last 25 years and also has been active in the Society of American Foresters. Both Bryon and Donna have served as President of the Lewis County Farm Forestry Association and been active in the Washington Farm Forestry Association. They have hosted many tours on their 160 acre Brockway Road parcel in Lewis County, most recently the 22nd annual tour of 5th graders from nearby Adna Elementary School.

Inspectors Recognized

The American Tree Farm System (ATFS) provides many wonderful services to its members: an internationally recognized certification program, the leading national voice promoting private stewardship, the Tree Farmer magazine, and local forestry workshop opportunities. But the greatest is the interaction between Tree Farm Inspectors and landowners during the inspection site visit. The outstanding efforts of two of our inspectors have recently been recognized.

Mike Nystrom, DNR Stewardship Forester for Western Washington, was named **2012 Washington State Inspector of the Year** at the recent Tree Farm Awards Banquet. [An article](#) published by the DNR summarizes his activities.

Doug Stinson, 2011 Washington State Inspector of the Year, was recently named Western Region Inspector of the Year and will be honored at the National Convention at Jacksonville, FL, in June.

Integrated Management Plan Guidelines

The management plan template has new guidelines that align your management plan with multiple agencies and organizations which have cooperatively developed and adopted them:

- American Tree Farm System: Certified Tree Farm Program
- USDA Forest Service: Forest Stewardship Program
- USDA NRCS: Farm Bill Conservation Programs
- WA Dept. of Revenue: Current Use Forest Property Tax Programs
- WA Dept. of Natural Resources

These guidelines should be used by landowners who need to update their management plans or new tree farmers that are just starting to write their management plan. You can download the [Guidelines for Landowners](#), "*Washington State Integrated Forest Management Plan Guidelines*". You can also download the management plan template here: [Management Plan Template](#), officially called "Managing Your Woodlands: a template for your plans for the future." Foresters who will be helping landowners with a plan should download the additional file: [Guidelines for Foresters](#).

Landowners who need minor updates to their management plan may still use the addendum, which can be downloaded here: [Management Plan Addendum](#). A landowner should update their management plan if their current plan does not reflect what they have done on their tree farm in recent years and if it does not address what is planned in the future. Minor changes in the plan can be addressed with addendums as needed.

New Tree Farm Merchandise Available

Tree Farm T-shirts, Sweatshirts, and Hats that are specific to Washington are now available for purchase. Short sleeved t-shirts are available in two colors -- desert tan and dill green.

Long-sleeved crew-necked sweatshirts are available in one color - forest green. Baseball caps are tan with a dark bill.

All items have "Washington" above the Tree Farm logo. For further information on price and sizes and an order form, visit the [Merchandise web page](#).



Forest Stewardship University

Online learning opportunities for Washington forest owners are finally here! Many of WSU Extension's most popular forest stewardship workshops are now available as self-directed online classes. There are over two dozen available classes taught by the state's top experts, and new classes are added regularly. Classes are available on demand at any time and from anywhere. With a guaranteed access time of at least one year, you can work through each class at your leisure and come back for review as necessary.

These online classes allow you to learn what you want and when you want, while saving time, money, and gas in the process. Individual classes range in length from approximately 15 minutes to an hour long, and cost between \$5 and \$9 each. Topics include tree and plant identification, stand dynamics, silviculture, forest health, forest aesthetics, road building, forest inventory, weed control, and more. You can register for classes individually to fully customize your learning experience, or sign up for discounted

packages of classes around similar topics.

To see what's available and to access these new online workshops, visit:

<http://extension.wsu.edu/forestry/FSU/>

MyLandPlan: On-Line Tool for Land Management

MyLandPlan is a resource for woodland owners, by woodland owners to help you protect and enjoy your woods and is provided to you by the [American Forest Foundation](#) (AFF). AFF works on behalf of family forest owners around the country who want to ensure their woods stay healthy for all the reasons why we love woods - wildlife, recreation, solitude, a place to enjoy with family and friends.

The exclusive Land Plan tool gives you all kinds of easy ways to get more involved with keeping your woods healthy now and for the future. After you create a profile, you will have access to the Land Plan tool, an exclusive area of the website. The planning tool lets you:

- Map the boundaries of your land
- Add features and special sites like trails, special trees and other favorite spots
- Set goals and plan actions to protect and care for your land
- Receive information specially tailored for what you want to do on your land
- Record your actions and experiences in your own personalized forest journal. Share them with others if you want.

Check it out at: MyLandPlan.org

Family Forest Fish Passage Program - Funding Available!

Do you have roads with stream crossings on your forestland?

The Family Forest Fish Passage Program is looking for additional quality projects to help fish and restore access to upstream habitat.



Many miles of stream are inaccessible to fish because of barrier culverts. Our goal is to help restore declining salmon and trout populations by replacing barriers with new structures that allow fish to migrate into the upstream habitat. Since 2003, nearly 200 small forest landowners have taken advantage of the Family Forest Fish Passage Program replacing 222 barriers and opening over 470 miles of stream for salmon and trout. Here's what small forest landowners have said about the program:

"I am absolutely tickled with the quality of the project. When the road was put in 50 years ago we had no idea the impact it would have on the generations of salmon. We are very thankful to have fish returning and a new bridge to access our tree farm." - Herb and Delores Welch

"It's a win win, the landowner gets a great structure that they never could afford otherwise, and the fish get a better stream." - Holly Koon and Max Duncan

"All parties involved in this project were excellent to work with. We have a quality bridge that will last forever." - Ron Roberts

[Click here to watch a video about the FFFPP Program.](#)

[Click here to apply to have your culvert evaluated.](#)

Contact Rick Kuykendall at 360.902.1404 or rick.kuykendall@dnr.wa.gov for further questions or additional information.

Women Owning Woodlands Website

The Women Owning Woodlands web project strives to bring topical, accessible, and current forestry information to woodland owners and forest practitioners through news articles, blogs, events, resources, and personal stories. We support women in forest leadership, women who manage their own woodlands, and all who facilitate the stewardship of forests.

WomenOwningWoodlands.net is a collaborative project of the National Woodland Owners Association (NWOA) and the USDA Forest Service, Cooperative Forestry Office. It is supported by volunteer Regional Editors who write content for the site based on their areas of expertise and geographic locations. You can learn more about the Regional Editors on our Contact Us page where you can send suggestions for events to be added to the calendar or ideas for content you'd like to see on the site.

Visit us at: WomenOwningWoodlands.net

Forest Owners Field Days with WSU Extension

Come join the ranks of over 9,000 family forest owners who have already attended these extremely popular "out in the woods" educational events at venues across the state. See why past participants refer to these as "must attend" events for anyone who owns forestland.

Washington-Idaho Forest Owners Field Day

Saturday, June 16: Newport, WA

[Click here to view the Newport event brochure and registration information!](#)

St. Maries Forest Owners Field Day

Saturday, July 14: St. Maries, ID

[Click here to view the St. Maries event brochure and registration information!](#)

Western Washington Forest Owners Field Day

Saturday, August 18: Maytown, WA

[Click here to view the Maytown event brochure and registration information!](#)

You can learn more about upcoming educational opportunities for family forest owners anytime at: forestry.wsu.edu

Other Educational Opportunities for 2012

Ties to the Land

Several sessions of this excellent succession planning workshop will be held in Fall 2012. If you want to pass your forest land to family members, you should attend one of these.

Forest Stewardship Coached Planning Workshops

If you need to write or update your management plan, or if you just want to learn more about managing your property, you should take this course. Several sessions are scheduled for Fall 2012 in various locations around the state.

Fall Forestry Educational Seminar

This annual one-day seminar will be held on Saturday, October 6, in Chehalis.

Details on all of these events and more can be obtained from the Washington Tree Farm web page under [Upcoming Events](#). Visit this site whenever you want to learn about educational events for forest land owners.

We Want Your Photo!

We want photos of Tree Farmers with their Tree Farm sign! If you have a digital photo that you don't mind sharing, with the understanding that it might appear on the web page or a display board, please send it to info@watreefarm.org. Please identify the people in the photo.

Resources

You can find all of these on the [WTFP web page](#), but to make it quicker for you, here are some resources that might be helpful to you.

Management Plan Template. [Word version.](#) [PDF version.](#)

Management Plan Addendum. [Word version.](#) [Pdf version.](#)

[Benefits of being a certified Tree Farmer.](#) Share this with potential tree farmers.

We are working on a single Internet link to resources that might be useful to tree farmers who are working on their Management Plans, as well as Inspectors who are coaching them. It is still a work in progress, with suggestions welcome for more useful links. Visit it at www.watreefarm.org/Resources.html and bookmark it for future reference.

If you have questions, suggestions or comments about this newsletter, please contact John Henrikson Email: info@watreefarm.org Phone: 360-602-1603



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