



Washington Tree Farm Program Newsletter

Tree Farmer 2013 #1



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2013 Washington State Tree Farmer of the Year



Ken and Bonnie Miller are the Washington Tree Farm Program's "Washington State Tree Farmers of the Year" for 2013. Their award was announced at the April 26th, 2013 Washington Farm Forestry Association Annual Meeting at the University of Washington campus in Tacoma, WA.

The Miller Tree Farm is an 83-acre tree farm in two parcels. Ken and Bonnie's residence is located on a 41-acre parcel adjacent to Millersylvania State Park south of Olympia. The second 42-acre parcel is located about one mile east of Oakville. The Miller tree farm has been certified under ATFS for 20 years. The Miller's primary objective for their tree farm is to generate income through timber harvest for retirement, maintain wildlife habitat and to pay back to the forestry industry for owner's career. Ken and Bonnie have spent countless hours reviving the South Sound WFFA Chapter from a Chapter that was non-existent to one of the most active WFFA Chapters in the State. The Millers are generous in sharing their Tree Farm with others by hosting demonstrations and social events. Ken has spent countless hours in Olympia representing the WFFA and family forest owners fighting for their rights before the Forest Practice Board and serving on the DNR Small Forest Landowner

Advisory Committee.

In June, the Millers hosted their very popular annual Field Day and Picnic for the South Sound Chapter of WFFA, with educational presentations on pre-commercial thinning and forest wildlife.

Also, In August, the Millers hosted a tree farm tour with ATFS Leadership, US Congressman Derek Kilmer, State Forester Aaron Everett, and other leaders in the forestry and conservation community to discuss opportunities for engaging more landowners in active land stewardship and certification.

→ A Special Thanks to our Contributors!



The generous donations provided by the WA State SFI Implementation Committee and the WA Forest Protection Association have allowed the WA Tree Farm Program to continue providing certification and outreach services free of charge to over 800 Tree Farms in Washington State.



We would also like to acknowledge and thank the many Tree Farms, large and small who continue to make financial contributions to the program.

Maintaining the integrity of the American Tree Farm System's certification program in our state is only possible with the combined support of financial donors, volunteer inspectors and committee members, and the excellent forest stewardship of landowners like yourself.

→ 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 effort of one of our inspectors has recently been recognized.

Tom Terry was named 2013 Washington State Inspector of the Year at the recent Tree Farm Awards Banquet. Tom has been a Washington Tree Farmer Inspector since 2008 and has been the Inspector Coordinator for the WA Tree Farm Program while also serving as a Committee Member on the Committee for four years.

→ ATFS Membership and Dues

The American Forest Foundation (AFF) has been testing multiple financial models to sustain its national program. Throughout 2012 and 2013, there has been discussion of a 3-tiered membership dues system that would be phased in. The voices of American Tree Farm System (ATFS) members were heard loud and clear during that time, and the AFF Board of Directors decided against the tiered financial model.

This testing of a national dues system revealed that certification has different value in different regions. In a drive to ensure financial sustainability for the program the AFF Board is now recommending certification only to the State programs that need and value it. Individual State programs need to declare their choice by 2015. Each State that opts-in to certification will jointly create a plan with ATFS to cover the cost of certification. Our State Committee will be making this decision to opt-in or out of certification during 2014.

The Pacific Northwest is a premier wood basket with close proximity to urban markets, manufacturing and export markets, and as such it is at the center of the certification conversation. Consumers now expect a level of transparency in how forest products are grown and manufactured ensuring the enduser can make an informed decision. Taking into consideration the commitments of the Idaho Forest Group, Weyerhaeuser, Simpson and other log buyers requesting Tree Farm Certification Numbers; it's hard to imagine the certification trend disappearing.

It is an exciting time for certified forest products. Our State Committee is exploring multiple financial models and fundraising plans to create a self-sustaining certification program for Washington tree farmers.

Our goal is to facilitate small forest landowners' path towards certification in

Washington State and to increase market access and preference for our forest products. We look forward to working with you.

Idaho Forest Group Prefers Certified Wood

For years, Tree Farmers have been asking "is there a monetary value in having a "Certified" Tree Farm? ATFS Certified Tree Farms have now crossed this threshold. In February 2013, the Idaho Forest Group (IFG) announced it "...*adopted a policy of paying a bonus over their printed prices for any sawlogs sourced from a certified tree farm.*" IFG also gives preferential treatment to certified sources in times of curtailment, which matches a similar preference given by Weyerhaeuser.

ATFS members selling to IFG receive a premium of \$4.50 per MBF and the state ATFS program in Idaho or Washington (based on where the trees grew) receive financial contributions of \$0.50 per MBF. This is outstanding news for tree farmers taking the extra steps to remain certified, as well as the State Tree Farm Programs performing the administrative work.

"Ties to the Land" Succession Planning Workshop

The award-winning "Ties to the Land" succession planning workshop will be offered by Washington State University Extension at five locations in Eastern Washington this fall.

The dates and places are as follows:

Spokane - November 9
Dayton - November 16
Goldendale - November 16
Tonasket - December 7
Ellensburg - December 14

Succession planning is the human side of estate planning; it is a way for families to maintain their ties to the land across multiple generations.

Enrollment is limited to 30 families and registration is on a first come, first served basis.

The workshop is a mix of presentation and practical exercises to help families address key challenges, such as the legal and economic aspects of transferring a farm, forest or ranch from one generation to the next. Participants receive a "Ties to the Land" workbook which contains tools designed to help families continue to improve and direct communication and planning at home.

Registration costs \$45 per family or ownership; it includes the workbook, an estate planning guide, and refreshments. Lunch may be purchased at least one week in advance for \$10 per person. Disability assistance is available on request.

For more information, contact Andy Perleberg, 509-667-6540 or andyp@wsu.edu. To view all upcoming events, please visit the [WSU Forestry Extension web site](#).

MyLandPlan.org

MyLandPlan.org is an easy-to-use online tool created by the American Forest Foundation (AFF) for documenting your forestland goals and attributes. It is especially useful for including the next generation in your tree farm venture with a collaborative, contemporary web-based platform.

The AFF planning tool helps you keep track of all your woodland activities and experiences in one place, which can then be shared with other family members and friends. And with this exclusive planning tool, you'll receive specialized information to help you do right by your land. My Land Plan also connects you with woodland owners and professionals that share your love for the woods.

Features include:

- *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.

Log onto MyLandPlan.org and give it a try!

→ U.S. GSA to Recognize Tree Farm Wood

American Tree Farm System certified lands will now be given a fair shot by one of the largest builders in the federal government-the General Services Administration. After much education and outreach from the AFF network, our industry partners, governors, Members of Congress, and others, the GSA has decided to recognize both the Green Globes rating system and the US Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design rating system (LEED) as viable green building rating systems for the federal government.

GSA has for a number of years recognized only LEED, which historically discourages the use of wood, especially wood from ATFS certified forests. While this decision does not change our concerns with LEED, it means that GSA, and potentially other federal agencies who follow GSA's lead, can now choose not to use LEED.

With this change, we now have an opportunity to get the federal government to use more wood in their buildings, and to use wood from ATFS certified forests.

→ Tree Farm Merchandise Available

Tree Farm T-shirts, Sweatshirts, and Hats that are specific to Washington are available for purchase.

T-shirts are available in two colors -- desert tan and dill green. Long-sleeved crew-neck sweatshirts are available in forest green. Hats 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](#).



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 let us know who is in the photo you send in.

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 Henrickson. Email: info@watreefarm.org Phone: 360-602-1603

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