

Washington Tree Farmer

May 2008

A Newsletter for Certified Tree Farmers in Washington



2008 Washington State Tree Farmer of the Year

The Hama Hama Tree Farm, managed by David Robbins and his family, has been named Washington State Tree Farmer of the Year for 2008. David's grandfather H.M. Robbins started the Hama Hama Logging Company in 1922. In 1972, David became involved in the management of the property, which lies on the west side of Hood Canal and includes the Hamma Hamma River, Johns Creek, and 400 acres of estuary and tide flats. The tree farm is mostly composed of Douglas-fir with scattered stands of alder, hemlock and cedar, and supports a sustainable harvest of 1.4 million board feet per year. Their careful stewardship of the water, soil and timber resources directly benefits another portion of the family business -- the Hama Hama Seafood Company, which supplies some of the best oysters and clams around.

David and his father Bart were present at the Tree Farm Luncheon to receive the Stihl chain saw award that goes to all state tree farmers of the year. A new award was presented by Port Blakely Tree Farms, Inc., a family-owned company that feels closely allied with individual tree farmers. They will provide funding for at least the next 5 years for a large sign that will identify the Washington Tree Farmer of the Year.

Tree Farm Luncheon

On April 25th at Mt. Vernon, the 21st Annual Tree Farm Luncheon was held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the Washington Farm Forestry Association. In addition to the announcement of the Washington Tree Farmer of the Year, recognition was given to others who help make the Tree Farm program a success.

John Keller, a 3rd generation tree farmer and DNR forester from Mt. Vernon, was recognized as **2008 Inspector of the Year**. He has been consistently doing around 25 new inspections and re-inspections per year for 20 years. He has done over 150 new inspections and around 500 total in his career.

All inspectors who had done at least one inspection were given a "Tree Farm Inspector" hat and Doug Stinson and John Keller received other clothing items in recognition of the number of inspections they had done in 2007.

Recognition was also given to all Tree Farmers who had been in certified for 25 or more years. Silver 25 year signs and gold 50 year signs were presented to those who were eligible and in attendance. Signs will be mailed to those of you who were interested but not able to attend. In future years, tree farmers who are eligible for these signs will be offered a sign in the year that they reach the 25 or 50 year milestone.

National Tree Farmer Convention

October 16-18, 2008, Portland, Oregon

You won't want to miss this great opportunity to learn about tree farming and meet tree farmers from around the country! The convention is being co-hosted by the Washington Tree Farm Program and the Oregon Tree Farm System.

Six pre-convention tours and two post-convention tours are currently scheduled in Washington and Oregon. One day tours include a Steam donkey logging operation, tree farm & winery tour; a Mt. St. Helens tour, a Covered bridge & tree farm tour and a Project Learning Tree tour.

A Field Day will be held Saturday October 18th at the Little Beaver Creek Tree Farm owned by Richard and Ann Hanschu. Their 240 acre tree farm near Banks, Oregon, will be host to over 40 different educational activities plus an active live high lead logging and cut-to-length logging demonstrations, and the Stihl Logging Show. Detailed information will be provided later in the summer.

Family Forest Fish Passage Program

You will soon be receiving a brochure in the mail about the Family Forest Fish Passage Program, a voluntary program that assists small forest landowners in correcting barriers to fish passage. We have given permission for this mailing by the Small Forest Landowner Office of the Department of Natural Resources because we believe it is a program that may be of interest to you. You may be eligible for payments to replace barriers with a fully fish passable structure - often a larger culvert, arch, or bridge - on your property. Please look at the brochure when it arrives or find it on the DNR web page <http://www.dnr.wa.gov>.

~~~~~

## Forestry Field Days Mark Your Calendars!

Two Forestry Field Days will be held this summer:

**June 21 in Dayton** (SE Washington.) and **August 23 in Naselle** (SW Washington.)

Organized by WSU Extension and DNR foresters and sponsored by many organizations including WFFA and WTFP, these field days are a great opportunity to learn more about how to manage your tree farm. Details will be mailed to forest landowners in nearby counties, or you can watch for a brochure at the WSU Stewardship Forestry website (<http://ext.nrs.wsu.edu/newsevents/forststewardship.htm>) which is also the place to watch for Forest Stewardship Coached Planning courses in your area.

~~~~~

E-Mail Newsletter

If we had your e-mail address, you would be receiving an attractive colored version of this newsletter, and the Washington Tree Farm Program would be saving some money on postage. Please, if you use e-mail, let us know the address by sending an e-mail to treefarm@wafarmforestry.com. We will only use your address for this newsletter and other tree farm related information, plus possibly to get in touch with you when your tree farm needs recertification. We promise not to sell or share your address with anyone who will send you spam!

~~~~~

If you have a question or comments about the Tree Farm Program, please contact:

Bryon Loucks, Washington Tree Farm Committee Chair  
PO Box 1010, Chehalis, WA 98532  
Phone (360) 736-5750 E-Mail: [treefarm@wafarmforestry.com](mailto:treefarm@wafarmforestry.com)

Washington Tree Farm Program  
P.O. Box 1010  
Chehalis, WA 98531

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Chehalis, WA  
Permit #91