

Washington Tree Farmer

November 2008

A Newsletter for Certified Tree Farmers in Washington



Ties to the Land

Will your forest become a lasting legacy or the source of a family squabble?

This fall, WSU Extension Service, with the strong support of the Washington Farm Forestry Association and the Washington Tree Farm Program, will be presenting seminars throughout the state to help landowners plan for the future of their land and family legacy. Landowners often dream of having their children inherit their land and manage it with the same care that they always have. Unfortunately, this rarely happens without thoughtful planning.

Ties to the Land explores succession planning -- the "human side" of estate planning. The award-winning interactive program stresses the importance of formulating a plan with the entire family, involving all generations in management decisions early on, and holding family meetings to understand everyone's goals. It covers the steps you should take BEFORE you visit the lawyers and accountants and run up thousands of dollars of unneeded expenses.

The two-part program is being offered at locations across the state in November and December. **Time is short and pre-registration is required.** The cost is \$75 per family, which includes a workbook and accompanying DVD. Call now to register for one of these sessions:

Colville	Nov. 3 & 24	Janean Creighton	509-477-2199
White Salmon	Nov. 6 & Dec. 4	Michael Ahr	360-902-1849
Des Moines	Nov. 10 & Dec. 1	Amy Grotta	206-205-3132
Republic	Nov. 13 & Dec. 4	Emily Burt	509-775-5236
Dayton	Nov. 18 & Dec. 10	Michael Ahr	360-902-1849
Spokane	Nov. 19 & Dec. 10	Janean Creighton	509-477-2199
Everett	Nov. 20 & Dec. 11	Kevin Zobrist	425-357-6017
Chehalis	Dec. 5 & Dec. 12	Steve Stinson	360-736-5918

Forest Stewardship Coached Planning Courses scheduled

Forest Stewardship Coached Planning is an 8-session practical, hands-on course that helps forest landowners prepare their own forest stewardship plan with guidance and "coaching" from natural resource professionals. These Stewardship Plans are accepted as Management Plans by the American Tree Farm System if managing the forest for its product values is one of the land owners intents.

Attendees learn how to manage their timber resources, protect soil and water resources, improve wildlife habitat, keep their forest healthy, manage fire risk, and implement practical steps to meet their individual ownership objectives. A Stewardship Plan may also help qualify your forest land for lower property taxes in the designated forest land classification.

Sessions are scheduled for Republic (January 29 – March 19) and Everett (February 24 – April 21). Sessions in other parts of the state are already underway. If you are interested in attending a session, contact your local forestry extension agent so they know of your interest, or watch the WSU Forest Stewardship calendar online at <http://ext.nrs.wsu/newsevents/forststewardship.htm>.

Certified Tree Farmers are now required to have a written management plan, and this course is an excellent way to accomplish that and to learn to do a better job of managing your property. If you are contacted for your 5-year re-inspection and you do not have a plan, you will be de-certified. If you would like to write your own plan using the ATFS "template", contact the Washington Tree Farm Program at (360) 736-5750 to obtain a copy.

Tree Farmer Magazine

If you don't subscribe to Tree Farmer Magazine, the official magazine of the Tree Farm System, you are missing a lot of information that is available for a modest price. You automatically receive one free issue per year. To receive the other 5 issues each year, you must subscribe for a cost of \$18 per year.

The Sept/Oct 2008 issue had a feature article on the 2007 Western Regional Tree Farmers of the Year, Bob Playfair and Thelma Fry from Chewelah, Washington, who were the 2007 Washington State Tree Farmers of the Year.

To subscribe, contact Tree Farmer Magazine, American Forest Foundation, 1111 Nineteenth St. NW, Suite 780, Washington, D.C. 20036. Phone 888-889-4466 or e-mail info@treefarmssystem.org

Tree Farm Signs

When your property is visited by a forester for a new or re-inspection, you are given one new Tree Farm sign if you want it. If you would like additional signs or signs between inspections, you may purchase them for \$20 each from the WTFP office. Send a check to the WTFP, PO Box 1010, Chehalis, WA 98532, and specify if you want the old style signs (like the sign in the header of this newsletter) or the new style with "Family Forest" in the green center.

The E-Mail Version of this Newsletter is Better!

If you are receiving this printed copy, it means that we don't know your e-mail address. We would prefer to send you this newsletter via e-mail because it is in color and contains useful links that you are missing. Please send a message to info@watreefarm.org saying you will accept electronic newsletters. We promise not to inundate you with messages or share your e-mail address with spammers!

The Washington Tree Farm Program is managed by the Tree Farm Committee. Members include:

Bryon Loucks	Chair	Don Theoe	Representing WFFA
Sherry Fox	Chair-Elect	Dave Roberts	Representing Private Industry
Bob Falkner	Administrator	Dave Robbins	2008 Tree Farmer of Year
Lou Jean Clark	Admin. Assistant	Bob Burns	2007 Tree Farmer of Year
Donna Loucks	Database Management	Bob Playfair	2006 Tree Farmer of Year
Doug Stinson	Inspector Training	Rick Helman	SW-N District Coordinator
Tom Fox	National Convention	Andy Perleberg	Central District Coordinator
John Keller	Representing DNR	Brian Vrablick	East District Coordinator
Adrian Miller	Representing WFFA		

If you have questions or comments about this newsletter or the Tree Farm Program, please contact:

Bryon Loucks, Washington Tree Farm Committee Chair
Washington Tree Farm Program, PO Box 1010, Chehalis, WA 98532
Phone (360) 736-5750 E-Mail: chair@watreefarm.org or info@watreefarm.org

Washington Tree Farm Program
P.O. Box 1010
Chehalis, WA 98532

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