



Washington Tree Farmer

April 2009

A newsletter for certified Tree Farmers in Washington

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WFFA Membership

Membership brochures from the Washington Farm Forestry Association will be coming your way soon. The cost per year is \$65.00 and is a real bargain considering the value this program brings to tree farmers of Washington State.

Their voice in Olympia is

Tree Farm Awards Luncheon

The Annual Meeting of the Washington Farm Forestry (WFFA) is coming on May 29th in Ellensburg. The WFFA will be announcing the Washington State Outstanding Tree Farmer for 2009 during the Friday luncheon.

WFFA is a co-sponsor of the Washington Tree Farm Program and we work closely together providing educational programs and recognition of Outstanding Tree Farmers.

This year's nominees for Washington State Tree Farmer of the Year are:

- Mueller-Sack Tree Farm - Stan Mueller (Lewis County)
- Rapjohn Tree Farm - Robert & Mariella Arnold

(Pierce County)

- Woods Family Tree Farm - Bill & Erin Woods (King County)

We invite and encourage you to join us for this celebration of sustainable forestry and excellence in forest management.

[Click here](#) for a registration brochure.

2009 National Tree Farmer Convention Update

The 2009 National Tree Farmer Convention will be held in Washington, DC this September. Sponsored by the American Tree Farm System (ATFS), it will kick off on Monday, September 28th and end with the Awards Banquet (where we will announce the 2009 National Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year) on the evening of Wednesday, September 30th.

Pre-convention tours are in development. Registration information will be posted on the [Tree Farm System](#)

well respected and the educational programs and tours the local chapters put on are a great resource.

WFFA and WTFP work closely to coordinate many different programs that help Family Forestland owners to be the best stewards of the land in the state!

Learn more about WFFA at the [WFFA website](#)

New Tree Farm Web Site

A new web page is under development for the Washington Tree Farm Program. It is still a "work in progress", but it is available to use at www.watreefarm.org. Unlike the previous site which never changed, the new site will be updated with articles of interest, announcements of upcoming events, and pertinent information about the Tree Farm Program, for both existing members and potential members. Check it out!

Quick Links

[Washington Tree Farm Program](#)

[Washington Farm Forestry Association](#)

[website](#) as soon as it is available and will also be featured in an upcoming issue of the Forest and Families newsletter and Tree Farmer Magazine. Stay tuned!

Certification Update

Third Party Certification Assessments are underway across the country. The entire American Tree Farm System is currently considered third party certified, but to maintain this status and fulfill our commitments to PEFC, each of the four regions must undergo third-party certification assessments. Different states in the region are selected to have random tree farm audits.

Washington will be audited in 2010 and the WTFP will be assisting tree farmers in 2010 who are randomly chosen for a compliance audit.

2009 Regional Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year

Congratulations to the Dave Robbins family and the Hama Hama Tree Farm as they move into the Regional Tree Farm Competition. Their tree farm is a family operation that demonstrates the best of the best in forestry management. [Read more](#) about their history.

There are four regional finalists nationwide and they will be in the running to be awarded the title of 2009 National Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year at the National Tree Farmer Convention in Washington, DC in September. Their properties will be visited by Tree Farm inspecting judges throughout the months of April and May. The four Regional Tree Farmers of the Year will be announced in June.

Good luck to the Hama Hama Tree Farm.

Retention of High-Valued Forest Lands at Risk of Conversion to Non-Forest Uses in Washington State

This report is in response to the 2007 Washington State Legislature which allocated funds for the U of W College of Forest Resources and its Northwest Environmental Forum to recommend actions for retaining highest-valued forest lands at risk of conversion to non-forest uses. You can download the full report from the [Northwest Environmental Forum website](#). Interesting reading.

Washington Family Forest Owners

American Tree Farm System

Sustainable Forestry Initiative

Washington Forest Protection
Association

Printing this newsletter

If you would like to print this newsletter to read more carefully or save for future reference, don't worry about using up your expensive color ink. The background colors that are used to catch your attention don't print.

Field Day

Mark your calendars! The highly anticipated Summer Family Forest Owners Field Days have been scheduled! The Eastern Washington Field Day will be Saturday, June 20th in Republic. Then, after several years in Southwest Washington, the Western Washington Field Day returns to the North Sound area. It will be held July 31st - August 1st in the Birdsvie area just west of Concrete in Skagit County. All landowners are invited to attend either or both Field Days.

The expanded 2-day Western Washington Field Day event will feature dozens of hands-on sessions on a variety of forestry topics from beginner to advanced. There is something for all ages and all skill levels at the field day.

More details and registration information will be available soon. Visit [the WSU Forestry Extension website](#) for more information or to sign up to receive newsletter announcements about the field day and other events as information becomes available.

If you have a question or comments, please contact:

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