



# Washington Tree Farmer

*A newsletter for certified tree farmers in Washington*

2011 #1



## Message from the Chair

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, I have long contended, is the interaction between Tree Farm Inspectors and landowners during the inspection site visit.

During the on-the-ground inspection, not only can the tree farm be certified sustainable according to ATFS standards, but important observations and advice are often shared by the visiting professional foresters. This is the most important opportunity Tree Farm provides to help you be effective stewards of America's natural heritage by keeping your forest healthy and productive.

Over the coming months, many of you will be contacted by our Administrator, John Henrikson, or possibly one of the inspection coordinators (Tom Terry, Andy Perleberg, Dave Roberts, Loren Hiner, Tom Westergreen) or a Tree Farm Inspector checking to see if you are ready for your inspection. Please make a special effort to respond promptly to this dedicated volunteer cadre when they call so they can help you continue to be good stewards of your woodlands, which are vital to our country's clean water and air, wildlife habitat, recreational activities and producing the jobs, wood and paper products we all need.

John Keller, Chair  
Washington Tree Farm Program

## 2011 Washington State Tree Farmers of the Year



Bryon and Donna Loucks at their B&D Tree Farm in Centralia WA.

Donna and Bryon Loucks of Centralia are the Washington Tree Farm Program's "Washington State Tree Farmers of the Year" for 2011. They are the 2010 Lewis County Tree Farmers of the Year. Their award was announced at the April 15th, 2011 Washington Farm Forestry Association Annual Meeting at the Heathman Lodge, Vancouver, WA.

The Loucks reside on one of the 3 parcels that make up the 207 acre B&D Tree Farm, which is an outstanding example of a well-managed tree farm. Their lives revolve around tree farming. Their primary objective is to provide timber harvest income in their retirement, but equally important is the ability to do this while still receiving the enjoyment that comes from owning and working on the land, and seeing and enhancing wildlife habitat.

**A picnic and tour of the B&D Tree farm will be held on Tuesday, July 19th and is open to any interested Tree Farmers. For more information, [click here](#).**

## Updated Management Plan Template

The management plan template has been updated so that the addendum is now an integral part of the template. This template 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 management plan template here: [Management Plan Template](#), officially called "*Managing Your Woodlands: a template for your plans for the future.*" You also should download the [Guidelines for Landowners](#), "*Understanding your plan: a guide for landowners using Management Your Woodlands: a template for your plans for the future.*" Foresters who will be helping landowners with a plan should download the additional file with [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.

## NRCS/EQIP Assistance for Forest Landowners

The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) offers funding to help non-industrial private forest landowners implement conservation projects on their forest land through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). EQIP is a voluntary program that provides financial assistance and technical expertise to landowners who want to plan and install measures to protect the soil, water, air and other natural resources on their land.

EQIP provides cost share and assistance payments for the implementation of certain conservation practices such as pre-commercial thinning, stand release, culvert replacements for fish passage, and other practices important to improving and maintaining the health of natural resources in the area.

If you have natural resource concerns on your land and are interested in making a commitment to conservation, EQIP could provide the funds you need to make it happen. To find out if EQIP is a fit for your operation, contact your local NRCS office at a USDA Service Center in your area or go to [www.wa.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.wa.nrcs.usda.gov)

Note that the application deadline for 2012 projects is **August 12, 2011**.

A flier that describes the EQIP program and other cost-sharing programs offered by NRCS can be downloaded [here](#).

## 2011 Fall Forestry Seminar - Mark Your Calendar

Plans are underway for another outstanding seminar, organized by the Washington Tree Farm Program but open to everyone with an interest in managing their forest land. The date will be **Saturday, October 8**, and the location will again be the **Veterans Memorial Museum in Chehalis**.

The morning session will be devoted to "the business of tree farming" - purchasing forest land, structuring your business, and book-keeping and taxes. The afternoon session will focus on managing Phellinus (Poria) root rot, which is a larger problem in western Washington than is usually recognized.

More details and registration information will be distributed later in the summer.

## Children's Museum - Green Globes Certification

The New Children's Museum on East Bay in Olympia will be the centerpiece in a cluster of new projects that will incorporate **sustainable building practices** and **innovative environmental partnerships**.

The entire East Bay development is located on a historic contamination site, and its public partners are working to convert the former industrial area into a safe, attractive, community amenity.



We are encouraging our membership to contribute to the Museum's construction and Green Globes Certification either through a cash donation or a donation of local wood products for construction. Green Globes Certification is a supporter of using ATFS certified wood. Please consider donating through the Washington Tree Farm Program (contact John Henrikson - see below). We are hopeful we can muster a large enough donation to get the Tree Farm logo featured in the museum's handout materials.

Here is a link to more information about the [New Children's Museum](#)

## 2011 National Tree Farmer Convention

August 9-11 in Albuquerque, NM

For three days, landowners and their families will gather for fellowship, networking, and learning about the tools available to continue their sustainable forest management.

We are gathering at the [Hyatt Tamaya Resort & Spa](#), situated between [Santa Fe](#) and [Albuquerque](#) at the base of the Sandia Mountains that reflects the rich history of the Tamayame people.

Located on several thousand acres of native land, this [Hyatt](#) property features amazing mountain views, the Rio Grande River, and an expansive cottonwood forest.

To register or to learn more, click here: [2011 Tree Farmer Convention](#)



## New Web Site for American Tree Farm System

Check out the ATFS web site, [www.treefarmssystem.org](http://www.treefarmssystem.org), which has a totally new look and some new features. You will find information about certification, woodlands conservation, policy and advocacy, tools and resources. You can keep up to date with news that relates to tree farming by following the ATFS blog, or following on Twitter or Facebook. Members can also log in to update their contact information, register for an event, or make a donation.

## Forest\*A\*Syst: on-line guide for forest management

This is a great web-based tool developed for the USDA Forest Service-Forest Stewardship Program that guides the user through the essential topics of forest management. Not just for new tree farmers looking to prepare a management plan, this site is well organized, extensive and interactive, with up-to-date information on emerging topics like agroforestry, carbon, and biomass. There is a section listing natural resource professionals to assist with your plan. You can even print an aerial photo of your tree farm from this site! Check it out at: [forestasyst.org](http://forestasyst.org)

## 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](#).  
[Sample Management Plan](#)

[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](http://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](mailto:info@watreefarm.org) Phone: 360-701-7656