

# Oregon Tree Farm System News

Volume 6 Issue 2

Fall 2005

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## Notes from the State Chair

*By Mike Barsotti*

Some things stay the same while others change over time. Tree Farm's vision and goal has remained the same; it stands for good forestry, to have more good forestry on more acres. While these haven't changed, what we understand as good forestry has changed and will continue to change as science and landowners efforts progress over time. Our volunteer foresters have been and continue to be our most effective way of bringing science to forest landowners. Tree Farm has been putting more emphases on the management plan because it sees plans as the best way to bring together our personal forest goals and objectives with good science.

In Oregon, Tree Farmers make up about four percent of the owners and about 10 percent of the acres of family forestland ownerships with 10 acres or more. Nationally, Tree Farmers make up only two percent of the owners and about 15 percent of the acres of family forestlands. So in Oregon and across the nation there are a lot of opportunities to promote good forestry through Tree Farm.

Making sure we have healthy forests behind our tree farm signs is still a great way to encourage our neighbors to join us. Our landowner recognition program is another way that remains a constant. Education is big part of the national strategy, but in Oregon with our great Forestry Extension Program, Oregon Small Woodlands Association (OSWA) and the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) all having education as a major mission, has lessened the importance for our Tree Farm program. But rather than sit on the sidelines and watch these organizations spread the word, our State Board has decided to

## In this issue:

- *Notes from the State Chair*
- *2005 Oregon Tree Farm Support Donation Form*
- *Tree Farmer of the Year Awards Luncheon*
- *Tree Farmer of the Year Awards Luncheon Registration Form*
- *ATFS Names Tom and Sherry Fox 2005 National Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year*
- *Project Learning Tree in Oregon*
- *Calendar of Events*

join in. Our first effort is working more closely with OSWA, and towards this goal we will be co-hosting their 2006 annual meeting. Stay tuned.

Another way Tree Farm is encouraging other landowners to join us is to provide additional membership benefits. Certification is a major effort today. Tree Farm wants to assure its members that they have access to all forest markets, and wants to assure the public that the forest management behind our signs is good forestry. Certification is the best way for Tree Farm to do this.

At the local level, certification means we measure our forest management against internationally accepted standards. At the state organizational level, it means we have a professionally run operation. (continued on page 2)

# Notes from the State Chair (Continued from page 1)

*By Mike Barsotti*

At the national level it currently means we seek international recognition as a valid forest certification system.

International recognition is gained through accreditation with the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC). Tree Farm and Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), the forest certification system for industrial forestlands in the United States, are both seeking PEFC accreditation. It's a bit expensive and SFI with a bigger bank account is going first. Tree Farm will be applying when it has the needed resources. It is also hoping that an accredited SFI will reduce its cost.

Discussing this effort brings me to a least favorite topic, and that is money. The National Operating Committee, made up of Tree Farmers, has identified funding as a major issue before this volunteer landowner group. Our vision has stayed the same but our funding sources have and continue to change. The American Tree Farm System began to demonstrate that forests could and should be managed, just like the agricultural lands. Large and small landowners needed to be convinced at first, but that has changed.

The first certified Tree Farm was on Weyerhaeuser land. Tree Farm has moved from an indus-

trial forestland program, managed and funded by forest industry, to a family forestland program, managed by family forest landowners with forest industry support. Currently Tree Farm nationally receives about 40 percent of its funding from the forest industry. It receives about two percent from family forestland members. The majority of funding is currently coming from foundation and government grants. In Oregon we receive about 30 percent from our National organization much of which is forest industry dollars. We receive a bit over 50 percent from member donations and the remainder comes from the Oregon Department of Forestry/US Forest Service and local forest industry.

The National Operating committee is asking questions such as: 'do we need to move to dues?', and 'should we create a new membership category with dues, but keep a free category?'. The Committee has established a working group to gather information and develop options. We will know more next spring when the state leaders have their annual conference.

I want to thank those of you who have personally donated to our Oregon Tree Farm System. Your support is our major source of income. We have been operating the past two years as an all volunteer organization, but it very difficult to provide the attention you deserve, and to operate a program that meets national standards, without some paid staff. For those of you who haven't contributed, I ask that you consider a financial contribution to forward the goals we share so deeply.

Thanks,

*Mike Barsotti*

Mike Barsotti  
State Chair



## 2005 Oregon Tree Farm System Donation Form

Please mail your suggested donation of \$50.00 to:

Oregon Tree Farm System, Inc  
PO Box 13556  
Salem, OR 97309-1556

All donations are tax deductible. OTFS has a tax-exempt status, 501(c)(3). Tax ID #93-1116398

My 2005 OTFS donation is **(keep for your records)**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_.

**Cut off and mail portion below.**

Please attach your check and send to:

**Oregon Tree Farm System, Inc  
PO Box 13556  
Salem, OR 97309-1556**

All donations are tax deductible. OTFS has a tax-exempt status, 501(c) (3). Tax ID #93-1116398

My 2005 OTFS donation is attached.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

# You're Invited to Our Annual Tree Farmer of the Year Awards Luncheon

By Anne Hanschu

The combined Oregon Tree Farm System's Annual Meeting and the Tree Farmer of the Year Awards Luncheon is Monday, November 21, 2005 at the World Forestry Center's (WFC) Miller Hall in Portland.

09:30 AM Registration

10:00 AM Oregon Tree Farm System Annual Meeting

10:45 AM Speakers: "**Gary Hartshorn**, President/CEO of World Forestry Center, will speak on "*What's New at the World Forestry Center.*" **Rick Zenn**, Education Director of the World Forestry Center, and member of Project Learning Tree's (PTL) national committee; and **Susan Sahnou**, Oregon PTL Director. Rick will be giving a national perspective and Susan will talk about PLT in Oregon.

11:45 AM Break

12:00 PM Tree Farmer of the Year Awards Luncheon

Menu: Baron of beef, spinach salad, fresh fruit, and pumpkin pie

Vegetarian meal by special request

12:45 PM Tree Farmer of the Year Awards

\*\*\*\* Video review of County Tree Farms

\*\*\*\* Selection of Western and Eastern Oregon Regional and State Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year

\*\*\*\* Recognition of Tree Farmers of the Year by USDA-Forest Service Regional Forester, Linda Goodman, and ODF State Forester, Marvin Brown

Following the meeting Tree Farmers, family, and friends are invited for a complimentary tour of the World Forestry Center.

1:45 PM Tree Farm Board Meeting

3:30 PM Adjourn Meeting

Directions: The World Forestry Center is located just west of the Highway 26 tunnel. Information and directions are available at [www.worldforestry.org](http://www.worldforestry.org).

# Annual Tree Farmer of the Year Awards Luncheon

Registration Form:

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Amt. paid \_\_\_\_\_

The luncheon fee is \$20.00/plate.

To let us know if you need a receipt, please circle  
Yes or No

Please complete this reservation by November 14, 2005 and send your OTFS check to:

Oregon Tree Farm System  
c/o Anne Hanschu,  
14655 NW Parson Road  
Forest Grove, Oregon 97116

Questions? Call 503-362-0242.

# ATFS Names Tom and Sherry Fox 2005 National Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year

Tom and Sherry Fox of Lewis County, Washington, are the 2005 National Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year. The Fox's received their award during the National Tree Farmer Convention held in Springfield, Mass. This annual ATFS award recognizes outstanding sustainable forest management on privately owned forestland. Tom and Sherry, owners of a forestry consulting firm, Tree Management Plus, were selected from a long list of certified Tree Farmers throughout the nation. Having been actively involved in promoting tree farming and the benefits of sustainable forestry in their community for years, the Fox's tree farming history is saturated with activities, organizations, and projects dedicated to advancing the good name of tree farming.

Tom and Sherry started small in their forest management endeavors. A job relocation gave them the courage and the opportunity to move to five acres in Lewis County, Washington. By the mid-90s they had acquired additional parcels; their Tagshinny Tree Farm is now 144 acres of managed land. The Fox's have planted 55,000 genetically improved seedlings, thinned trees, and conducted regeneration harvests.

Certified Tree Farmers own at least 10 acres of forestland and actively follow a forest management plan developed in partnership with an ATFS volunteer forester. The plan addresses forest sustainability, wildlife habitat, recreation, and water and soil conservation.

The future of forestry depends on proper land management, said Bob Simpson, Senior Vice President-Forestry of the American Forest Foundation. Family forest owners, like Tom and Sherry, actively manage their forests because they believe it is essential for sustainability. Their work is a testament to the positive impacts that sustainable forestry has not only on today's forests but on the forests of tomorrow.

Tom and Sherry have spent the last two decades engaged in issues affecting family forestland owners in Washington State. They have served on local and state chapters of their forestry association and were the first family to get approval for a federal Habitat Conservation Plan. They also were intractably involved in the creation of a Small Forest Landowner Office in the Washington Department of Natural Resources. A Forest Riparian Easement Program that pays small landowners impacted by stream buffers also was enacted thanks to the Fox's work. In fact, advocating on behalf of land owners in Washington has been an integral part of their Tree Farming philosophy.

The Foxes have made responsible forestry the cornerstone of operating their tree farm and have become the go to voice on Washington's forestland for state agencies. It is for these reasons and so many more, that the Foxes received their award surrounded by a standing ovation.

ATFS also recognized the following Regional Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year.

David and Carol Clemens, of Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania (Northeastern). The Clemens purchased their Tree Farm in 1968 as an investment. It was not long before the 494-acre Tree Farm in Susquehanna County, Pa., evolved from its status as a business investment to a labor of love for the entire Clemens family. The Clemens personally undertook undoing damage done in the early 1950s by high-grading, ultimately treating over 100 acres on the best northern hardwood growing sites during the years 1972-1990.

The Dyches' Family of Savannah, Georgia (Southern). Four generations of family members are involved in the Dyches' Family Tree Farm, Bo Beep, ranging from two years-old to 86 years old. The original 396 acres was purchased in 1991 as a hunting retreat. The Dyches' eventually purchased adjoining tracts for a total land holding of 891 acres.

Nick and Carol Thoney, of Daggett, Michigan (North Central). Tree farming has been a life-long passion for Nick. At 10 years-old he began acquiring forest land. By the time he reached 17 years of age, he had purchased 40 acres. Today, Nick and Carol's ownership consists of approximately 2,400 acres, over half of which is managed timberlands.

# Project Learning Tree in Oregon

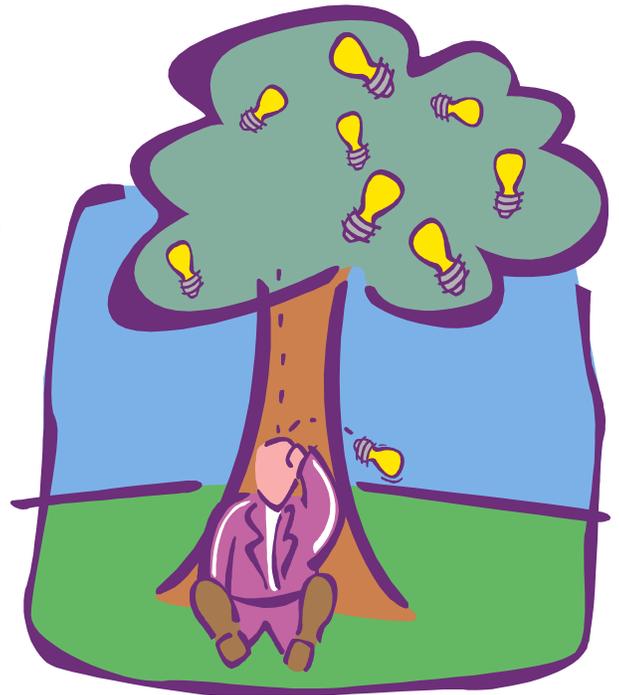
*By Susan Sahnou*

For over 25 years, The Oregon Forestry Education Program (OFEP) has been providing forest-related workshops to Oregon's educators. Each year 800 to 1,000 kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade educators attend workshops focused on such topics as forest ecology, habitats, tree biology forest systems, management, and more. Advanced topic workshops such as fire ecology, sustainability, and watersheds provide educators the opportunity to increase their depth of understanding and knowledge about Oregon's forests.

Project Learning Tree® (PLT) is at the heart of the OFEP program. PLT is an award winning, multi-disciplinary program for educators and students in Pre-K-grade 12. It is a program of the American Forest Foundation (<http://www.forestfoundation.org>) and is one of the most widely used environmental education programs in the United States and abroad. The PLT K-8 and secondary curriculum as well as the supplementary materials are designed to explore the role of trees and forests in our lives and bring thought-provoking, field-tested activities to educators state-wide. The focus is on teaching children *how* to think, not *what* to think. It is designed to raise awareness, develop understanding and knowledge, challenge preconceived ideas, and promote action. The materials are easy for teachers to use. Each activity provides the teacher all the information they need to conduct the activity.

In Oregon, PLT is delivered through OFEP, a program of the College of Forestry, at Oregon State University and funded by the Oregon Forest Resources Institute. Teachers receive the PLT guide by attending a workshop in their area. The workshops are conducted throughout the state by trained facilitators who incorporate local (Oregon and Pacific Northwest) topics and information through presentations and/or field trips. Workshops are free and substitute reimbursement is available to teachers to assist them in attending workshops. The PLT materials are correlated to the Oregon Benchmarks and Standards which helps teachers meet their classroom goals. While most workshops are 6 hours in length, advance topic workshops and institutes are often 2-3 days in length.

Teachers attending workshops often comment on the impact the workshop has had on their understanding of forests. Comments from a recent 3 day teacher institute included, "I have a better understanding of the value, both economic and recreational, that forest science and management plays in sustaining Oregon forests"; "As a liberal Oregonian I was uninformed about the strategic planning that lumber companies implement while harvesting their trees to ensure that they are maintaining a healthy forest"; and finally, "My understanding is much deeper than it was a few days ago. I understand more from each point of view, so now I'm able to understand more of what goes on and needs to happen for us to keep our forests going!"



## Oregon Tree Farm System

PO Box 13556

Salem, OR 97309-1556

(503) 361-0242

Newsletter Editor:

Mike Heath; 503.357.2131

[www.otfs.org](http://www.otfs.org)

«First» «Last»

«Address»

«City», «State» «Zip/Postal Code»



### Oregon Tree Farm System Annual Meeting

**November 21, 2005**

At the World Forestry Center  
Portland, Oregon

### 2006 Tree School

**March 25, 2006**

At the  
Clackamas Community College  
Oregon City, Oregon

*Presented by:*

Oregon State University  
Extension Service

Clackamas County Farm  
Forestry Association

Forests Forever, Inc.

Clackamas Community College