



Washington Tree Farm Program News

Spring 2017

Letter from the Chair:
**Know your standards, celebrate
the people who make this
program great...**

Tammie Perreault

Last week - I was in Yakima speaking about Tree Farm Certification at the Washington Society of American Foresters meeting. My talk covered the [2015-2020 standards](#) for American Tree Farm Systems. Its important for every Tree Farmer, no matter how long you have been certified, to understand the most recent standards. [You can download a copy here](#) or send an email to info@watreefarm.org to have a copy mailed to you.

If you are being inspected this year you will likely need to fill out an [addendum](#) to ensure your management plan meets the 2015-2020 Standards. You can learn more about this simple form [here](#). If you need help getting ready for



On May 5th, we will honor Tree Farmers and Volunteers at our Annual Awards Luncheon. You may remember Tom Westergreen was honored as State Inspector at this luncheon last year-- and now he is the National Inspector of the Year!

We hold this event in conjunction with our partner organization, [Washington Farm Forestry Association](#), during their annual meeting. We hope you will join us in Bothell for our Annual Awards Luncheon. You can register to attend here: <http://www.wafarmforestry.com/>

At the end of my talk in Yakima, I received an unexpected honor from one of our most well-known volunteers-- Andy Perleberg. Andy quietly presented me with the vintage Tree Farm pin in the picture above. He told me the story of how he was given this pin from the late (great) Don Theoe who mentored Andy as a new Inspector. What an honor!

It is a reminder that the Tree Farm sign is about not just Certification--it is about the people who come together over generations to make our State program strong.

Farm--certified since 1982. Come out and see what your fellow Tree Farmers are doing!

I hope you will join Tree Farmers and volunteers to honor our past and celebrate our future.

As always, if you have any questions or recommendations about Washington Tree Farm Program. Please feel free to call me at (360) 515-1340 or email at chair@watreefarm.org.

Congratulations to the National Tree Farm Inspector of the Year



Tom Westergreen is presented the National Outstanding Inspector of the Year Award by Tom Martin, President and CEO of American Forest Foundation

American Tree Farm System Honors Tom Westergreen as 2017 National Outstanding Inspector of the Year

Westergreen was selected from among four regional winners for his exceptional on-the-ground work with family forest owners in Washington and commitment to the American Tree Farm System.

The Outstanding Inspector of the Year award annually recognizes forest inspectors for exceptional sustainable forest management and exemplary work for ATFS. The award was presented on February 23 at the 2017 ATFS National Leadership Conference in Greenville, South Carolina.

“Tom does what he loves most: talking to, sharing with, and learning from his fellow Tree Farmers,” said Tom Martin, president and CEO of the American Forest Foundation, which manages ATFS. “He uses his personal story to help other landowners understand the importance of sustainable forest management and recognizes that his role as an Inspector goes beyond assigned reviews.”

Westergreen has a life-long passion for tree farming and ATFS. He was raised on and currently manages his family tree farm, land that has been sustainably managed by his family since 1888. It is one of the oldest Tree Farms in Washington, having been recognized by ATFS for decades. He became an ATFS Inspector in the early 1980’s and currently serves as a Region Inspection Coordinator in Washington.

Westergreen is an active member of the forestry community in Washington. For example, he has testified at state legislative committee hearings on topics and issues that are important to Washington’s landowners and forests. He is also responsible for developing and overseeing the Whatcom Women in Timber “Woods Tour,” an annual event that for more than 30 years has taken the public out to the woods to see sustainable forestry management first-hand. Westergreen was nominated by the Washington Tree Farm Program.

The 2017 Regional Outstanding Inspectors of the Year, all with outstanding accomplishments, are Derek Albers of Maryland, Michael Hughey of Mississippi and Christine Walroth of Wisconsin.

2017 Milestones

Two Tree Farms are being recognized in 2017 for being certified for **50 years!** Congratulations to:

John Kingsbury
Elizabeth Lonseth

Being recognized for **25 years certified** this year are:

Dale Arola
Jim Durkos
Bill Fisher
Doug Windes

William Armbruster
Joyce Curtis
Allen Rolfson

Pacific Education Institute

Bringing Students to Your Tree Farm



Would you like to share your passion for your tree farm with students in your local community, but don't know how or where to start?

The Pacific Education Institute (PEI) through their Project Learning Tree (PLT) affiliation has received a grant to bring tree farmers and teachers together for a one-day workshop in early August (date/location TBD) to experience PLT lessons that prepare students for a forest site visit as well as develop lessons that can be tailored to a specific tree farm.

PEI envisions scientifically literate citizens making balanced decisions for a thriving future. To accomplish this our mission is to deepen student engagement by empowering educators to take students outdoors to learn integrated, real-world science.

We work to deliver authentic career-connected learning with a balanced perspective. Project Learning Tree is a national program of the American Forest Foundation (AFF) that has developed Project Learning Tree Activity Guides. These are engaging lessons that address what a forest is, why they are important, what products we get from them, and how they are managed. Find out more about National PLT at www.plt.org.

Another valuable resource for landowners is Walk in the Forest which was developed by AFF and Society of American Foresters (SAF) to provide forest land owners with guidance to having teachers, community leaders, and children visit their managed forests in a meaningful way.

PEI values our partnerships with Tree Farmers and hope you can participate with us in August. If you would like more information about us, the resources mentioned or the workshop contact Denise Buck, PEI Program & Operations Director at dbuck@pacifieducationinstitute.org.

Idaho Forest Group Mills pays a Premium

In the last newsletter we talked about the Idaho Forest Group offering an additional \$5.00 per thousand foot over their printed prices for logs from certified Tree Farms. Of

Washington Tree Farm Program. Some have asked us where are these mills are located? Idaho Forest Group has mills throughout the entire Idaho Panhandle. **Movie Springs, Laclede, Chilco, Lewiston, and Grangeville.**

If you are interest in selling to them log onto www.ifg.com click on the "timber" tab and enter your contact info in the "contact a forester" tab. You can also call (208) 772-6033 to reach one of the log accountants directly.

Is your chainsaw ready for spring?

By John Keeler

Are you getting ready to do some management activities, maybe a thinning? Then make sure your chainsaw is as ready as you are. Chainsaw inspection and maintenance are critical to its mechanical integrity and safety. The following checklist is designed to help you operate your chainsaw properly.

- Make sure fasteners on your chainsaw are snug.
- Check the AV system and ensure the buffers are in place and not worn, broken or damaged.
- Check your air filter often. If your filter is dirty, clean the filter according to manufacturer directions or replace the filter.
- Check the chain on your saw when on idle. If the chain moves when the saw is idling, adjust the saw's idle using the proper adjustment screw on the carburetor.
- Check your muffler and spark arrestor according to you saw's maintenance schedule.
- Inspect the bar, chain and sprocket frequently. Don't forget to install a new sprocket after every two chains wear out.
- Keep your saw chain sharp. File the chain with a few light strokes on each tooth using a file and guide each time your refuel, even if you think the chain is already sharp.
- Replace worn, cracked or damaged chains immediately.
- Check and maintain your bar. Inspect the guide bar body, grooves and rails for damage, wear, and debris. Repair minor nicks with a flat file.
- When reinstalling your guide bar, always place the bar with the opposite side up from when you last took it off.
- Finally, check your chain brake to make sure it engages and disengages appropriately.

Most owner's manuals feature a chart detailing the maintenance you should perform and at what intervals. If you are unable to perform any of these functions, return your chain saw to an authorized dealer for inspection and maintenance.

Upcoming Events

We have many great events lined up in 2017. Be sure to follow us on Facebook and visit

Washington Tree Farm Program Quarterly Meetings

April 13th, 2017

July 13th, 2017

October 12th, 2017

Please email info@watreefarm.org for information. Everyone is Welcome!

[Washington Tree Farm Program Awards Luncheon](#)

May 5th, Bothell, WA

[WSU Field Days and Coached Planning](#)

forestry.wsu.edu

Fall Forestry Seminar!

The best educational event for small landowners is returning to Vancouver, WA in Fall 2017

Join us in Washington D.C., American Forest Foundation Advocacy Day

October 3-4

Interested? chair@watreefarm.org

Lost in the woods?



Has your email, phone or address changed since your last inspection? If so we might not be able to locate you. Please take the time to send us an email with any changes so we can contact you.

If you have questions, suggestions, or comments about this newsletter, please contact Elizabeth Ide at info@watreefarm.org or 360-602-1603.

If you have interest in volunteering with Washington Tree Farm Program's committee, please send a letter of interest/qualifications to the address below.

Washington Tree Farm Program

P.O. Box 1814

Olympia, WA 98507

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Past Issues

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