

Spring 2014

Idaho Tree Farm Program

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2013-2014

Executive Committee:

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- Vice-Chair –
Steve Funk,
Tree Farmer
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- Treasurer –
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2013-2014

District Chairs:

- District 1 Chair –
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Idaho Forest Group
aekberg@idfg.com
- District 2 Chair –
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- District 3 Chair –
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Idaho Tree Farm Program 2014 Annual Meeting

The annual meeting for our Idaho Tree Farm Program was held March 24 in Moscow on the first night of the **Family Forest Landowners Conference**. It was a record attendance with over 70 people gathering for the evening. Along with many of our committee members and officers we were pleased to also be joined by the American Forest Foundation Senior Vice-President for Family Forests, **Bettina Ring**, as well. The folks at our National office in Washington D.C. have been very good about helping out with this conference and having someone on hand to attend our annual meeting for the past several years, which is very much appreciated. From all indications the conference was a big success again this year, noting a record of 228 attendees. This event has grown to become the major forest landowner gathering in our Intermountain area and many of the evaluations indicated this one was "the best ever". Kudos to the many volunteers and sponsors that helped make it happen!

Our annual meeting began with a review by committee chair, Doug Bradetich, of 2013 activities and projects planned for the current year. A few of the major accomplishments during last year were completion of a strategic plan and leadership manual for our program, 12 new inspectors trained, 125 total inspections, and addition of over 24,000 acres of newly certified family forest.

The highlight of our annual meeting is the announcement of our selections for Outstanding Idaho Tree Farmer, Inspector and Logger of the Year. This year our **Outstanding Tree Farmer** award went to **the Fitchett Family of Sandpoint**. Win Fitchett purchased 900 acres of Humbird Lumber Company land in the Gold Creek drainage northeast of Sandpoint after getting out of the service in 1947. He made a home there for his wife Micky and their children for many years caring for the land, selectively harvesting and operating a small sawmill. Though it had been heavily cut over by Humbird, the Fitchett's stewardship of this tract for the past 60+ years has achieved an amazing restoration of the site. Today Win's children, Rusty and Ruby, continue to actively manage it and are now joined by a third generation as their kids continue the legacy. The family has expressed a desire to keep the tract intact as a Family Forest and attended "Ties to the Land" seminars to help in that effort.

(Continued on page 2)



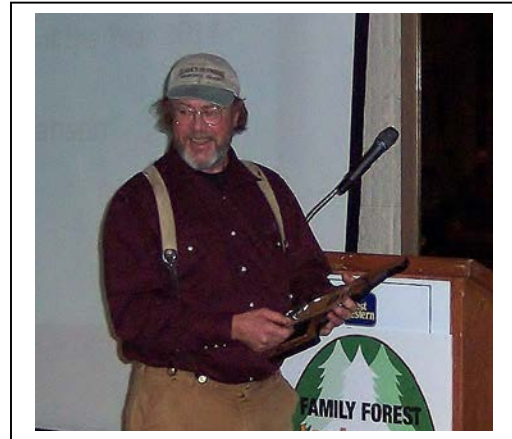
ITFP Annual Meeting (Continued from page 1)

Left to right, Bill Love, Scott Fitchett, Sunshine Bartlett, Linda Fitchett, Rusty Fitchett, Ruby Bartlett, Steve Funk, and Doug Bradetich at the award ceremony.



ITFC Vice-Chair Steve Funk took the lead in building a beautiful T A S sign that was presented to the members at the award ceremony. As is our custom, we will be holding our annual **Fall Tour** at the Fitchett Family Tree Farm the **Saturday after Labor Day this September 6th**, so watch for notices in the coming weeks and we hope to see you there.

Another honor we are pleased to announce is **Outstanding Inspector of the Year**. This year the award went to **Clark Christiansen**. Clark is a Private Forestry Specialist with the Idaho Department of Lands in the Craigmont area and has been very active in promoting Tree Farm to the people he serves there. In both inspecting current Tree Farmers as well as continuing to add new members, he has done a tremendous job for ATFS and we were very pleased to recognize his efforts. As a part of his duties in grant writing and project coordination for environmental education, Clark helps with Arbor Day celebrations over a 3 county area he covers. He views this work in educational activities as a very rewarding part of his job. With the demand for certified wood on the increase, he has seen Tree Farm as a great way to keep land in production through the recent downturns in our markets. He particularly enjoys helping landowners with precommercial thinnings on the mix of forest and pasture common to his working circle. These "Silvipasture" treatments have been well received and useful to family forests there.



Clark Christiansen receiving his award for Outstanding Inspector of the Year

Our award for **Outstanding Logger of the Year** went to **Ed and Nat Bush of Bush Logging**. Ed began managing various private parcels many years ago around the Coeur d'Alene area and quickly gained a reputation for the fine work he did on these tracts. Hallmarks of his jobs were a small crew, equipment that was light on the land, and attention to detail in helping the landowners reach their goals. Today, his son Nat continues the tradition and is also using the same techniques in the management of private land he looks after. In his acceptance remarks Nat said he owed a great deal to Ed, saying "Because of the good work Dad did the first time around, I am now being asked to come back on many of the same parcels again." Proof that there is no substitute for doing it the right way! Congratulations Ed and Nat.



Ed and Nat Bush with Steve Funk

Our final award of the evening went to **Al Kyle and his family's Cedar Mountain Tree Farm** in recognition of **50 years in the Tree Farm program!** ATFS always likes to celebrate important milestones and a half century of stewardship & dedication on the ground certainly qualifies as one indeed. We are very pleased to have landowners like this in our organization fully committed to the long term stewardship of their family forest.



Kirk David, Al Kyle, Steve Funk, Bettina Ring, and Doug Bradetich

All in all a fine night and a great celebration of the tremendous work our many volunteers and landowners put forth each year!



Idaho Tree Farm Program Review – Coming Your Way in 2015

In the previous edition of this newsletter we told you some of what it means to “certified” through ATFS and why that is becoming so important in many of our lumber markets around the globe. Part of that certification process is a periodic **third party review** by **Pricewaterhousecoopers** of each state’s program along with site visits of approximately 15 Tree Farms. This tends to take place each 3 – 5 years, with Idaho being inspected last in 2010. We have been informed by our National office that our Idaho program will **again be up for review in 2015** and our committee is already in the planning stage for this. The review team will pick approximately 15 Tree Farms at random this coming January and we will be out to meet on the ground with those Tree Farmers chosen for inspection around May or June next year. To ensure all goes smoothly, we will be asking help from each of you. Keep in mind this is not an audit of your actions on the ground, but of our program processes. The most important thing for each of you will be to **locate your Management Plan**, make sure it covers all the required topics, and that it properly reflects the present goals for your Tree Farm. If any corrections need to be made, plan to get them in place before the end of this year and contact either your Inspector or our Idaho Tree Farm Office if you have any questions. For Inspectors, we are asking you to visit with each of your Tree Farmers over the next few months to be certain everyone is up to speed and look over their plans for any needed updates. All went well during the last review and we look forward to another successful inspection this time around. The year will fly by quickly, so thanks in advance for helping out on this and let us know if you have any questions.

Idaho – Washington Forest Owners Field Day - Saturday - June 21, 2014 Horsmann Hills Farm - 38305 N. Starr Road, Newport, WA

Whether you own a “home in the woods” or many acres of land, this “out in the woods” educational event is packed with practical how-to information that you need to know. Stewarding land is both rewarding and challenging. Successful management is due to the decisions you make and the actions you take. Attending the *Forest Owners Field Day* will prepare you to plan and execute sound practices, enabling you to accomplish your management objectives, reduce risks, and protect your financial investment.

This event will include classes and activities lead by experts in forest health, wildlife habitat, soils, fire protection, and timber and nontimber forest products. Presenters will be available to answer questions specific to your needs and situation. Youth activities are available throughout the day!

Come join the more than 10,500 satisfied families who have already experienced these Field Day events across the state. If you think forests are vital to the quality of life in Idaho and Washington, please pass this information along to your neighbor! This flyer is available at <http://forestry.wsu.edu>.

Absentee forest owners with property anywhere east of the Cascades will find this event highly beneficial.

Event Sponsors and Cooperators

Washington State University Extension
Washington Dept. of Natural Resources
USDA Forest Service
Spokane Conservation District
Family Forest Foundation
American Tree Farm System
Society of American Foresters
Washington Farm Forestry Association
Papé Machinery

University of Idaho Extension
Idaho Department of Lands
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Kalispel Tribe of Indians
Sustainable Forestry Initiative
Association of Consulting Foresters
Idaho Forest Owners Association
Stihl Northwest

Information

• Andy Perleberg
WSU Extension Educator
andyp@wsu.edu
(509) 667-6540

Gates open at 8 am.

Presentations at 9 am, 10 am, 11 am, 1:30 pm, 2:30 pm, and 3:30 pm.



Report from the ATFS National Leadership Conference Savannah, Georgia - February 2014

Each year our National ATFS office holds a **Leadership Conference** aimed at helping state committee officers and program leaders learn about and put to use the various programs and tools Tree Farm has available for our members. We have found these gatherings to be very useful in our efforts here in Idaho and have been attending regularly. This year the meeting was in Savannah and, thanks in part to a travel grant through the American Forest Foundation, we were able to send 6 members from Idaho. Program Chair Doug Bradetich, Vice Chair Steve Funk, District 1 Chair Andy Eckberg, and Tree Farmers Janet Funk, Kirk David, and Madeline David all attended. The meetings are divided between general sessions for all attendees and several concurrent breakout sessions that folks can choose between. With 6 of us registered, we were able to split up and cover all the breakouts. Here are a few notes we gathered from the various sessions:

- Opening - Attendance has been climbing the past several years and this one set a new record with 250 attendees. ATFS goal is to have Tree Farm recognized as the preeminent stewardship program in the U.S.
- Certification – Continuing to grow in markets, both stateside and globally
Tree Farm as well as SFI is in a program review now for new 2015 standards
The Idaho Program will be reviewed in 2015 – Plans, paperwork, changes, etc. should be tended to
Per “State Choice, State Voice” – we need to declare by Dec 2015 if we wish to remain a certified program
- Owner Impact - People get involved for a variety of reasons so tailor your program to your members needs
Get people’s interests in mind before focusing on a single issue
Most folks have a variety of reasons for Tree Farming beyond simply timber management and income
Only about 10% of people in a program tend to get “really” involved
- ATFS Tools - Grant applications are now due end of August (both education and capital building grants)
Grants – clearly define goals & outputs, National favors things that can be replicated in other states
Developing regional, neighboring states, or other related group partnerships was stressed by National
- Database - Phone ap for 004 inspection forms is now available to help do inspections in the field
The ATFS database is proprietary and confidentiality for members must be protected by state programs
National is continuing to update and improve the database & website to make it more useful for members
- Grassroots - We need to improve legislative outreach/info (both to and from our legislators)
Due to tax classifications, we are limited on lobbying but can share educational information without limits
Our National staff continues to encourage us to join with other groups on issues – more bang for the buck
- Aldo Leopold Center - Helps teach you to open your mind to the various aspects your actions are affecting on the ground
Seeks to help you think in new ways – don’t just do the same old same, but look, listen and learn
Ask yourself on your Tree Farm – “Why are you there & what are you trying to achieve?”
- General - As always, we found the classes to be very interesting and helpful to our program. Beyond that however, having the opportunity to visit with many of our National staff, put a face to a name, and get to know folks from over 40 other state programs is priceless. Hearing about lessons learned, what worked and what didn’t, and ideas some of the other states are planning to put to work increases the knowledge base for all of us. If any of you get the chance to attend one of these, we would heartily encourage you.

Doug Bradetich, ITFC chairman



Forestry for Southern Idaho and the Next ITFC Coffee Social

May 15 in McCall Idaho

We started last year offering **coffee socials** in various areas across the state and the next one is in conjunction with a landowner field day being offered by **University of Idaho Forestry Extension** in the **McCall area on May 15**. It is being titled "**Forestry for Southern Idaho**" and will involve tours on the **Ponderosa State Park, the Nokes Tree Farm, and the Geddes family forest**. The day will begin 8:30 AM at the Ponderosa State Park with a social sponsored by our Idaho Committee. We will review our activities and accomplishments from 2013, share what we have planned for this year, and cover any current issues of interest from the local and national arenas. Coffee and doughnuts will be provided by our program and we look forward to seeing you there.

After the social, the tour will begin with a talk on forest health issues at the Ponderosa State Park. Following this we will move to the Nokes Tree Farm and cover many interesting items. The morning session will include timber harvesting, precommercial thinning, fuel breaks, forest management planning, and the forest stewardship program. After lunch the sessions resume with the topics of thinning & pruning, chainsaw safety and tools demonstration, and forest seedling planting. We will wrap up on the Geddes family forest with a tour covering precommercial thinning, the EQUIP program, working with a consultant, and working with agencies. Sounds like a full day and lots of very useful information to take back to your Tree Farm!

The U of I Forestry Extension has the following to say about this field day:

"Whether you have 5 acres or 2,000 acres, this tour will give you a look at different management practices implemented by family forest landowners. This program will allow participants to interact with landowners and natural resource professionals through discussion focusing on managing forest lands and applying various stewardship practices at each stop. The program will be instructed by Randy Brooks University of Idaho Extension Forestry Specialist, John Lillehaug & Tim Kennedy, Idaho Department of Lands Private Forestry Specialists, Tom Eckberg, IDL Forest Health Specialist, and Forest Landowners/managers at each respective stop."

To ensure an effective learning environment, **each session is limited to 35 participants**. They ask you to register as soon as possible, to assure your place and help them plan. A \$10 registration fee covers handouts and materials.

For program questions, contact Randy Brooks, Extension Forestry Specialist (208-885-6356). For registration questions, contact the University of Idaho Extension Forestry Office at 208-885-6356 or via email at rbrooks@uidaho.edu.

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University of Idaho, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Idaho Counties Cooperating*

Keep Your Contact Information Up to Date

We are working to do an increasing amount of our **communicating with you via email** to lower our response time on issues and help keep postage costs to our program in check. Many of you are receiving this edition for the first time electronically and thanks to all of you for providing the information to help us in this. If any of you wish to begin receiving notices by email, please call our office **208-667-4641** or email admin@idahotreefarm.org and let us know. Also for all of you please let us know of any changes to any of your contact information. We are in the process of updating our state database to help get ready for the program review next year and need to have everything squared away as much as possible. If you have recently had any **changes to things such as phone number, mailing address, email, or your contact name** for the Tree Farm, please let us know so we can amend the database. Specific to your property, if there have been any changes to acreage, owners, or anything else we should be aware of, give us a call on that as well.

Thanks for all your help in this.



Idaho State Forestry Contest – May 8, 2014

The Delay Farm in Careywood, Idaho

The 32nd annual **Idaho State Forestry Contest** is right around the corner and always on the lookout for volunteers! Each year several hundred students from grade school through high school gather at the Delay Farm in Careywood to test their skills at various forestry and stewardship related events. Depending on the age and skill level there are **various levels of competition** - from Junior/Senior for the older students to Rookie and a non-competitive Novice Division for the younger and less experienced kids. Teams from all over the state attend this event and vie to be the best in their division. The winner of the Junior/Senior competition gets to display the traveling trophy, a beautiful silver cross-cut saw with their team name engraved, for the ensuing year.

The competitions are divided into stations with a specific task at each one. These include such things as map reading, compass & pacing, tool identification, log scaling, tree species identification, timber cruising, noxious weed identification, silviculture and soils. The day culminates with awards and a barbecue lunch. Many helpers are needed each year for this event and the contest planners are always on the hunt for interested folks to help out. Don't worry if you think your forestry expertise isn't up to par for this. There is a need for everything from leaders at each of the stations, to score sheet tabulators, to lunch helpers. Truly, there is something for everyone and all the volunteers get to enjoy a day in the woods with some enthusiastic students and a fresh cooked lunch – now you can't beat that!

The Delay Farm is located approximately halfway between Coeur d'Alene and Sandpoint on the west side of Highway 95 near milepost 455. The day begins at 8:00 AM with volunteer check-in, coffee, and doughnuts. Volunteers get their assignments for the day and head for their station for final setup. The students gather around 9:00 for their instructions then to their starting stations to begin the contest at 9:30. The day ends after lunch and awards by 2:00.

For more information if you are interested to help out, contact **Karen Robinson at the Idaho Department of Lands in Sandpoint**. She can be reached via email at krobinson@idl.idaho.gov or 208-263-5104 by phone.

National Tree Farmer Convention

July 17-19 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

The next, and at this point the final, National Tree Farmer Convention is slated for July 17 through 19 in Pittsburgh. This event has been a favorite for many Tree Farmers, but has continued to lose money and appears to be drawing a relatively small audience from the various state programs. Consequently, the board and staff at American Forest Foundation released the following decision:

"After much review and debate, AFF's Board of Trustees, Woodlands Committee, volunteers and staff made the difficult decision to no longer host the traditional Convention after the 2014 event. In lieu of the annual convention, we will focus our resources and attention to providing new, accessible, and more cost-effective ways to deliver the educational and networking opportunities that Tree Farmers want, such as:

- *Providing timely landowner education webinars and online workshops that focus on topics relevant to our network.*
- *Using engaging online tools (e-Newsletter, improved ATFS website, MyLandPlan, etc.) to keep landowners informed and to provide information about resources and networking opportunities close to home.*
- *Promoting state and regional events hosted by partners and committees that provide landowners the opportunity to strengthen their land stewardship and learn from each other.*
- *Biennial National Fly-In events which will rally landowners around relevant topics and move policymakers towards action in Washington, DC.*

In addition to these opportunities, in 2016, AFF will host a field-tour event to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Tree Farm program. Based on this event, AFF will determine the financial feasibility of hosting additional field-based events for landowners in future years

For questions about this year's event, marketing materials to share with landowners in your state, and to share your ideas for new ways to engage and sustain relationships with landowners in the future, please contact **Sara Anrrich at** sanrrich@forestfoundation.org.



Upcoming Extension Classes

The **University of Idaho Extension and Stewardship Forestry Program** regularly offer classes each year on a variety of forestry related topics. The Extension and Stewardship staffs work to see these are timely and useful for family forest owners here in Idaho.

Classes upcoming in Boundary / Bonner / Kootenai Counties are:

Forest Root Diseases – May 30, Bonners Ferry

Pruning to Restore White Pine – June 27, Coeur d'Alene

Forest Thinning / Pruning Field Day – June 28, Bonners Ferry

Forestry Shortcourse – Wednesday mornings June-July, Bonners Ferry

Forest Insect & Disease Field Day – August 8, Sandpoint

County Extension Phone Numbers & Website	
Boundary –	(208) 267-3235
Bonner –	(208) 263-8511
Kootenai -	(208) 446-1680
www.uidaho.edu/extension/forestry	

For more information on these classes or to register for them call the appropriate county Extension office or contact **Extension Forester Chris Schnepf** at (208) 446-1680
cschnepf@uidaho.edu

Incentives Available for Forest Stewardship Members

Coupons are available to incentivize Idaho forest landowners to take advantage of forestry related training opportunities.

The Idaho Forest Stewardship Program, in cooperation with University of Idaho Extension Forestry, is offering **20 percent off registration fees for selected forestry trainings.**

Landowners who joined the Forest Stewardship Program in 2013 or will join in 2014 also can receive **two guest coupons, which can be used to invite two friends, neighbors or family members to the same events for only \$5 each.**

The coupons and other information will be mailed to all Forest Stewardship landowners in Idaho.

Discounted Training Sessions

McCall

Forestry for Southern Idaho
May 15, 2014

Bonners Ferry

Thinning & Pruning Field Day
June 28, 2014

Orofino

Thinning & Pruning Field Day
July 18, 2014

Sandpoint

Forest Insect & Disease Field Day
August 8, 2014

For more information on the **Forest Stewardship Program** contact your **local Idaho Department of Lands Private Forestry Specialist,**

or contact **Program Manager Gina Davis** at
Phone (208)-666-8668
Email gdavis@idl.idaho.gov



Events to Highlight

May 8, 2014 – Idaho State Forestry Contest, Delay Farm, Careywood

May 15, 2014 – Coffee Social / Forestry for Southern Idaho, McCall

June 21, 2014- ID/WA Forest Owners Field Day, Newport, WA

July 24, 2014- Idaho Tree Farm Committee Meeting, CdA

Sept 11, 2014 – Idaho Tree Farm Program Fall Tour and Coffee Social, Fitchett Family Tree Farm, Sandpoint, ID

Stay Informed.....

In case you are ever wondering what is going on at the committee level, our minutes are now being posted on the Idaho Tree Farm Program website. Just log onto our website for minutes of previous session, contact information, upcoming events, and other news of note to help you in your Tree Farm endeavors.

We're on the Web!

Learn more at:
www.idahotreefarm.org

About Our Organization...

The purpose of the Idaho Tree Farm Program is to promote better forest management among nonindustrial forest owners. The vehicle for achieving this aim is the American Tree Farm System® (ATFS), sponsored nationally by the **American Forest Foundation (AFF)**, regionally by the **Idaho SFI Implementation Committee**, and statewide by the **Idaho Tree Farm Committee (State Committee)**.

Welcome New Members!

The Idaho Tree Farm Committee extends a special welcome to the **28** newest Idaho Tree Farm Program's certified members of 2014. Thank you to the District Chairs and Inspecting Foresters for promoting membership in the Idaho Tree Farm Program through the American Tree Farm System®.

As a current member, and a steward of the land, we appreciate your current support of the program and your management of the forestland for pride and pleasure. Thank you for your continued commitment of protecting watersheds and wildlife habitat, conserving soil and, at the same time, producing the wood America needs and uses.

Tree Farm Member	Acreage	County	Inspecting Forester
John Pinch	45	Nez Perce	Clark Christiansen
Norm Fitzsimmons	216	Lewis	Brian Palmer
Doug and Sandra Murdock	20	Kootenai	Gina Davis
Robert Downs	46	Kootenai	Tim Kylo
Zakary Yenulonis	10	Kootenai	Tim Kylo
Dave and Sharon Pratt	140	Valley	John Lillehaug
James Wood – Gold Creek Ranch	1,031	Bonner	Tim Kylo
James and Virginia Wood	140	Bonner	Tim Kylo
Jack Denny Section 30 & 31	70	Benewah	Tim Kylo
Jack Denny Section 7	80	Benewah	Tim Kylo
Jack Denny Section 14	60	Benewah	Tim Kylo
John Aaron	79	Boundary	Russ Hegedus
Del Blackburn Bella Vista	70	Kootenai	Tim Kylo
Del Blackburn Conklin Road	40	Kootenai	Tim Kylo
Chad Denny Tree Farm 1	80	Benewah	Tim Kylo
Chad Denny	670	Benewah	Tim Kylo
Carl Norlander	31	Kootenai	Tim Kylo
James Green	408	Bonner	Lee Andrews
Arthur Lee	56	Boundary	Mike Wolcott
Brian Wood Selle Road	23	Bonner	Tim Kylo
Brian Wood Careywood	39	Bonner	Tim Kylo
Brian Wood Pinecone Road	10	Bonner	Tim Kylo
Brian Wood Shiloh Loop	20	Boundary	Tim Kylo
Brian Wood Brookfield Road	25	Bonner	Tim Kylo
Brian Wood Woodside	50	Bonner	Tim Kylo
Brian Wood	30	Boundary	Tim Kylo
Brian Wood Bodie Canyon	50	Bonner	Tim Kylo
Ralph Caldin	42	Kootenai	Tim Kylo



Congratulations again to
Idaho Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year
2014

Ruby Bartlett, Rusty Fitchett, & Family

"Fitchett Family Tree Farm"

