

Summer 2022

Idaho Tree Farm Program

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Idaho Tree Farm Program

2022 Fall Tour – Cedar Mountain Farm, Athol

It's hard to imagine with long sunny days at hand, temps in the high 90's and the 4th of July a recent memory, but fall is just around the corner. For our program that means one thing – the Idaho Tree Farm Program Fall Tour! We will meet this year on **Saturday, September 10** at Cedar Mountain Farm near Athol, ID; the home of Al and Daryl Kyle, our 2022 Outstanding Idaho Tree Farmers of the year.

The day will start at 8:00 AM with a coffee and donut social hour, then at 9:00 off to the woods for a tour of their Family Forest Tree Farm. We will tour two very different stand types during our walkabout. First, the area near their home and Bed & Breakfast which is a dryer Douglas fir / ponderosa pine type. This is the area they first entered when taking over the management of the property. A great deal of work was put in not only to complete a commercial thinning, but also quite a bit of stand improvement activities such as an extensive mastication project. Their efforts have transformed what was a crowded and fire prone thicket in 1974 to a nicely thinned and productive conifer forest today.

From there we will move to a grand fir/cedar stand on the south end of the Tree Farm. They have set up a trail for self-guided woods walks in this parcel, popular with their bed & breakfast guests, as well as day use visitors. We will view a pond developed by the original owners which has evolved over the years into a well-used water source for area wildlife. Also scattered through this tract are several old snags left from the 1910 fire. The Kyles have installed signage along the way to help with species identification and to point out notable landmarks.

We will end the tour with a sack lunch sponsored by the Idaho Tree Farm Committee and a short presentation on current happenings in the Tree Farm Program. To make sure we have enough food and seating ready; we ask you to please **RSVP to Colleen at admin@idahotreefarm.org** by August 31.

Cedar Mountain Farm is located north of Hayden, ID near the Silverwood Theme Park at 25249 N. Hatch Road, Athol, ID 83801. Take Exit 446 off Hwy 95 just south of Athol and proceed to Bunco Road. Approximately 2 miles on Bunco, take a right onto N. Hatch Road and continue ¼ mile to the Kyle's home.

We will be walking trails in both areas on level to moderate slopes, regardless of weather that day, so bring sturdy shoes and appropriate clothing for conditions.

Forestry for Southern Idaho Tour Recap (Tim Kennedy, Idaho Dept of Lands)

Southern Idaho Forestry Tour was held on June 8, 2022. Finally, it was time to get back out in the woods and show people what they can do to keep their land healthy and growing strong. This was evident by the turnout of around 50 people attending the one-day session.

The session started out with John Lillehaug letting people know about the advantage of being in the American Tree farm System and providing the donuts was a bonus. Since the area we were touring had been hit hard over the past few years by the tussock moth, Tom Eckberg, IDL's premier bugs and crud expert, gave a great presentation on what to watch out for and possible treatments to do in the woods.

How to pay for all that fun you will have while making your forest healthy, wealthy, and wise? Erin Morra from the Natural Resources conservation Service explained how the EQIP program could benefit you in many ways. One of the ways to improve your property is by logging. With logging there are rules to follow, and Adrienne Morrow's presentation to the group about the new stream protection rules was very enlightening.

After lunch we did a field tour on two stewardship landowners provided by the Squaw Creek Soil Conservation District. First stop was at Blaine Wheatley's property, where he explained his thoughts and goals for his property and showed us an area that had been thinned a few years ago using the EQIP cost-share program. He made the comparison of what his property looks now compared to the area across the fence line that has been untreated for many decades. In the thinning area, Blaine said a lot of the small seedlings that were under the trees and brush have grown taller since the thinning. The second stop was at David and Sharon Pratt's property that has also been thinned using the EQIP program. William Pratt, who did the thinning, explained what the landowner wanted and how he met their objectives. A tree had a core taken out of it and the growth rings in the past 5 years were the same width as the previous 10 years, which indicated the trees had responded to the thinning by using the extra light and nutrients that became available after thinning.

Overall, it was a great day and judging by the evaluations and suggestions for new topics received, the 2023 tour should be epic.



Looking for a Few Good Tree Farmers...(for our State Committee)

Our search continues for people willing to serve on our Idaho Tree Farm Committee. The bylaws allow for an unlimited number of Tree Farmers on the committee. It is a great way to take a more active part in our activities and give back a little to the program. You could choose to devote time as a member at large; serve on one of the subcommittees such as bylaws, budget, newsletter, review of candidates for Outstanding Tree Farmer, Logger & Inspector of the year; or volunteer as a committee officer.

A wise man once said, "The world is run by those that show up". If you are interested in stepping up a notch and investing some of your time to our program, contact our State Administrator, Colleen Meek, at admin@idahotreefarm.org or call her cell at 208-691-5933 to let us know and answer any questions you might have.

American Forest Foundation Announces New Website

You're invited to join the American Forest Foundation's brand-new virtual community, The Family Forest, a home for family forest owners and the people who support them.

The Family Forest is a dedicated online space where people who care for family forest land can connect with others who share the same goals and aspirations. This community offers landowners, foresters and their champions the opportunity to build relationships by using various content formats: question forums, polls, threaded conversations, live events, and sub-groups geared toward their specific interests. For leaders, educators and peer influencers in the conservation realm, it will offer a centralized location to post announcements, information, share resources and host virtual events as well.

AFF is excited to launch this new tool which has potential to engage family forest owners at a scale that was previously unattainable, yet is another crucial step in empowering them to achieve their objectives for forest stewardship.

To join us in The Family Forest, use this [registration link](#) or visit community.forestfoundation.org.

Check out the latest blog post from AFF, [Take a Walk with Us in The Family Forest](#), to learn more about this new virtual community.

Idaho Tree Farm Program Assessment - Planned for 2023

As part of a "certified" Tree Farm program, Idaho undergoes a third-party assessment every 3-5 years. Our next assessment is slated for 2023. What does this mean to you as a Tree Farmer? The assessment is based on a statistical sample of all the Idaho Tree Farms, segregated into small, medium, and large sized tracts. Parcels are chosen at random by PricewaterhouseCoopers and then either visited on the ground, or as Covid has required the past couple years, the owners contacted by phone interview. Your management plan will be reviewed, and the interviewer will ask some basic questions about your Tree Farm activities. Keep in mind this is an assessment of our program, not of your management. They want to determine if the plans are being kept up to date, inspections happening as requested or required, and more about the basic operation of our committee rather than your Tree Farm. As a part of this your Inspector may be getting in touch over the remainder of this year to dust off your plan and identify any areas needing updates or additions. If you have any questions contact your Inspector, District Chair, or our administrator Colleen at admin@idahotreefarm.org .



Project Learning Tree Update Michelle Youngquist

Greetings from Idaho Project Learning Tree and the Education office of the Idaho Forest Products Commission.

The summer is flying by. June kicked off with the *Project GREEN Summit*, attended by 39 educators from southwest Idaho. The first day was at Bogus Basin ski area, where a Good Neighbor Authority forest restoration project was recently completed by IDL & USFS. The second day was in the forests near Idaho City. We were thrilled to share PLT activities with teachers both days. We ended June with the *Sustainable Forestry Tour for Teachers & Counselors*, based out of Moscow for the first time. Our first tour since 2019, it was wonderful to treat 25 educators like the VIPs that they are, and help them explore the full circle of sustainable forestry. We are grateful for our generous sponsors, including Idaho Tree Farm Program. Here is a quick video about the week:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W384t7LI6Yo>.

National Project Learning Tree/SFI provides a large array of activity guides for teachers and others who work with youth. The three most recent publications are:

- *Trees & Me*, a new activity guide for teachers and families of kids ages 1-6 years: <https://www.plt.org/news/plt-releases-trees-and-me-activity-guide-explore-nature-young-children/>.
- *Explore Your Environment*, for educators of Kindergarten through Grade 8: <https://www.plt.org/news/plt-releases-explore-your-environment-k-8-activity-guide/>
- *Green Jobs: Exploring Forest Careers Educator Guide* – for educators of learners age 12 to 25 years. <https://www.plt.org/curriculum/green-jobs-forest-careers/>

PLT materials are available from Idaho PLT through a variety of workshops for teachers and others: <https://idahoforests.org/plt>. Books may also be purchased directly from National PLT at <https://shop.plt.org/>.

Coming this fall: IFPC will once again offer the Forest Products Week Essay Contest for Idaho K-12th graders. <https://idahoforests.org/essaycontest>. Please encourage youth to participate!

BONUS: The 2022 *Thru the Trees* video contest for 14-18 year old students in Idaho, Montana, Washington and Oregon named winners in May. The FIRST PLACE team is from Idaho! Check out the creative videos at <https://www.thruthetrees.org/2022-winners>.

Questions? Michelle Youngquist, plt@idahoforests.org, 208-334-4061

Idaho State Forestry Contest Results, Kurt Koetter, Idaho Tree Farm Committee

Here are the results of the Idaho State Forestry Contest, held May 12 at Farragut State Park.

Thanks to all the volunteers that gave their time to the Forestry Contest. We couldn't do it without them. This year we had approximately 200 volunteers and 130 student participants.

Sr. Division Team Winners

First Place--Careywood Eager Beavers 4H Team 1

Second Place--Whistlestop 4H

Third Place--Boy Scout Troop 114 Team 1

Jr. Division Team Winners

First Place--Sandpoint Schole Academy Team1

Second Place--Selle Valley Carden School Team 1

Third Place--Bonners Ferry High School Team 1

Rookie Division Team Winners

First Place--Selle Valley Carden School Team 4

Second Place--Selle Valley Carden School Team 3

Third Place-- Selle Valley Carden School Team 2

Senior Division Individual Winners

First Place--Alanna Hinkie from Whistlestop 4H

Second Place--Johnathon McComas from Whistlestop 4H

Third Place-- Magnolia Fry from Careywood Eager Beavers

Jr. Division Individual Winners

First Place--Colteer Cates from Sandpoint Schole Academy

Second Place--Lily Fry from Careywood Eager Beavers 4H

Third Place--Mason Zills from Bonners Ferry High School

Rookie Division Individual Winners

First Place--Braden Burrows

Second Place--Morgan Tico

Third Place--Lincoln KlinginSmith

All from Selle Valley Carden School



Forest Health Updates – Isabella Valdez, Idaho Dept of Lands

Western Larch Needle Issues

Following wet springs similar to this year's, many trees are in a healthier state because of the abundance of available water. However, in some cases, this weather pattern is just right for some trees to become riddled with disease. One shining example of a tree suffering this fate is the western larch

Western larch, though bearing needles, is a deciduous tree, meaning it sheds its needles in the fall and re-foliates in the spring. Some of the more common diseases and insects it can suffer from include **larch needle cast**, **larch needle blight**, **larch casebearer**, and **late spring frost**. All of these damage agents can be easily seen; you may have seen one of these if you noticed discoloration in larch needles this year.



Larch branch infected with larch needle cast.

Larch needle cast (*Meria laricis*) is a fungal disease that infects the needles of western larch. Spores from last year's needle drop are first distributed by wind and rain in the early spring; once they infect the needles, the needles develop bands of discoloration that are initially yellow and then turn reddish-brown. Affected needles are more prevalent in the lower crown of the tree. After about a month, the needles drop, and the spores produced from those infections can infect new needles. Wet years such as this year provide ideal conditions for spore production and needle infection/reinfection. Thus, infection rates this year are significantly higher than those of drier years in the past.



Larch branch infected with larch needle blight

Larch needle blight (*Hypodermella laricis*), though easily confused with needle cast, is a different fungal disease that has slightly different symptoms. This disease also causes needle discoloration primarily in the lower crown, though the needles turn brown and wilt. These dead needles will remain attached to the tree for 1-3 years. Spores are produced on needles killed in previous years and are released after water causes fruiting bodies to open and release the spores. Therefore, like larch needle cast, infection increases in wet years.

(continued on next page)



Forest Health Updates (continued from page 4)

Another damage agent is an insect called the **larch casebearer** (*Colephora laricella*), which mines the needles throughout the crown of western larch. Adults lay eggs in early summer and lay eggs on larch needles. Upon hatching, the larvae enter and mine the needles, which can cause extensive needle damage. The larvae then build their cases out of the needles they have mined and attach their cases to needles, feeding on the inside of needles. The insect overwinters in these cases on branches and proceeds to feed and molt the following spring. Eventually, they emerge from their cases as adults to repeat this cycle. Infected needle tips appear straw-colored and wilted. You may also see cases in late summer that are about 1/4th



Larch casebearer damage on needles

One last cause of damage includes the abiotic disease, **late spring frost damage**. This can look similar to the other diseases, though damage will be more concentrated towards the top of the crown.

None of these issues are easily or practically managed in a forest setting. Because of the nature of western larch's fall needle drop, none of these issues cause extensive mortality. The trees get to essentially start over (to an extent) come spring. The main prolonged damage that may occur is growth reduction/loss and sometimes mortality in young trees that have recurring damage.



Events to Highlight

September 10, 2022 – Idaho Tree Farm Program Fall Tour at Cedar Mountain Farm, Athol, ID

October 20, 2022 - Idaho Tree Farm Committee Meeting. TBD

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 sessions, 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 family forest owners. The vehicle for achieving this aim is the American Tree Farm System® (ATFS), sponsored nationally by the **American Forest Foundation (AFF)**, statewide by the **Idaho SFI State Implementation Committee (SFI SIC)**, and administered by the **Idaho Tree Farm Committee (State Committee)**.

Welcome New Members!

The Idaho Tree Farm Committee extends a special welcome to the newest Idaho Tree Farm Program's certified member. 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 to 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
Roy Cliff	65	Bonner	Karen Robinson

Have a great rest of your summer and we look forward to seeing you at the

Fall Tour at Cedar Mountain Farm

25249 N. Hatch Road, Athol, ID 83801

remember to RSVP to Colleen at

admin@idahotreefarm.org

by August 31

Stay safe and stay hydrated!!

