

Fall 2023

Idaho Tree Farm Program

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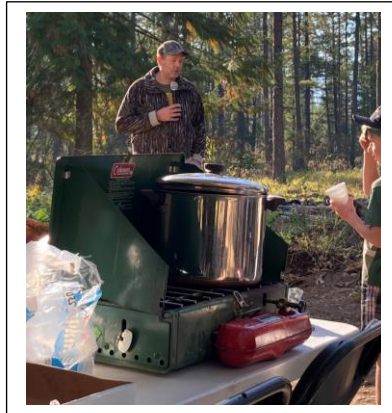
2023 Tree Farm Program

Fall Tour Review

Rainbow's End Tree Farm - Clark Fork, ID

An absolutely gorgeous clear-blue Idaho sky welcomed 54 Tree Farmers, friends and guests to our 2023 Fall Tour just outside of Clark Fork, Idaho. We gathered September 16 at one of the Rainbow's End Tree Farms owned and managed by our 2023 Idaho Outstanding Tree Farmers of the year, the Gabrielsen Family. Family founders Stieg and Joan Gabrielsen began with their first 80-acre Tree Farm in the late 1960's, and continued to add others until today the family operates on 11 separate Tree Farms totaling 860 acres. Our Fall Tour was held on their 261-acre Clark Fork Tree Farm.

It was an excellent day in the woods, with an easy walking tour covering a multitude of sites in a beautiful forest. Stieg and Joan's son, David Gabrielsen, acted as tour guide for the day. A well-experienced professional forester himself, David was able to tell the story of the family's Tree Farm journey through the years, and detail all the "how-to" tips for what worked, what didn't, and why.



David Gabrielsen speaking to the group (the kettle is warming some homemade apple cider, one of their annual family traditions)

Quite often the best conversations at these events are the unstructured Q&A that develops at each stopping point. As an industrial forester David was able to explain how they as private landowners went about managing and contrast that with how a larger company might go about dealing with the same parcel. This led to a very informative discussion between Idaho Tree Farm Leadership, Idaho and Montana Tree Farmers, agency, consulting, and other professional foresters. This resulted in a very friendly and fun day for all.

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Fall Tour Review (continued from page 1)

After the tour, the group was treated with a delicious lunch box lunch from the local Clark Fork Deli, and a recap of Tree Farm events over the past year by our Idaho President, Hailey Frank. In summing up the day, David Gabrielsen had this to say: *“I enjoyed it very much! The weather was perfect, we couldn’t have scripted it any better! The turnout was great, it was great to meet new folks (including two of our Clark Fork neighbors) and see some folks who I’ve not seen for a long time. It was good to see younger folks in the program. I think what stands out to me most is the amount of work put into the event and Tree Farm alike by folks who are doing it purely because that’s what they are passionate about! Many thanks from Rainbow’s End to all the folks who work hard to keep Tree Farm going.”*



2023 Idaho Tree Farm Assessment/Audit

As related in our Summer Newsletter, the 2023 Third Party Program Assessment is complete, and Idaho got very good marks at our closing meeting with the audit team. Only a few minor nonconformities or areas for improvement were indicated and no major nonconformities were noted for our Idaho program.

As requested by the auditors, we will be making some minor changes to the One-Plan Template for management plans. Regarding items such as Special Sites and Endangered Species, we need to clearly mark “Yes” or “No” as to whether they exist, and then cite the website or other source used to determine the finding. Some of the plans had more lengthy verbiage rather than a clear statement on the item. As noted previously, record of pesticide use tended to be the most common minor nonconformity for both Idaho and the others states in the assessment.

Thanks again to all the Tree Farmers that took part in the Assessment this year!



2024 Family Forest Landowners and Managers Conference

It's not too early to mark your calendars for the premier forest stewardship event in our area, the Family Forest Landowners and Managers Conference. The date for the 2024 conference is March 24-26 in Moscow, ID. The planning committee is hard at work to bring you another great conference. The theme for 2024 is: "The Future of Markets, Fire, and Forestry – Gazing Into the Crystal Ball". The conference will begin Sunday, March 24 with a Ties to the Land Workshop followed by a "Get Acquainted" social, put on by the conference and Society of American Foresters Inland Empire Chapter.

Sessions will follow over the next two days including "Future Directions in Forest Markets", "What Will We Do When the Fire Comes?", "Circle of Stewards", "The Future of Carbon Credits for Small Landowners", and many more. As always, the annual meetings of our Idaho Tree Farm Program and the Idaho Forest Owners Association will be held during the conference as well. If you only attend one conference during the year, be sure this is it!

Slash Piling and Burning Tips Available

With Fall in the air (and smoke) the annual rite of slash burning is well underway. For those of you new to the project, or for those old hands looking for more info, the Idaho Prescribed Fire Council has produced a couple post card sized publications that can help you.

One is titled "Pile Guide". It is a two-sided card explaining the Building of Piles on one side and Burning Piles on the reverse. The front offers info on What to Pile, Where to Build, and How to Build. The second side talks about things to be aware regarding Intensity, Duration, Smoke and Control once the pile is ignited.

The other card is titled "Before you Burn..." and covers all the pre-planning items you should consider before striking the match. It has a detailed checklist divided into 4 major topics – How to put together a burn plan, things to consider regarding weather conditions, who you should contact before starting the burn, and when to stop if conditions aren't right.

The cards should be available at your local Idaho Department of Lands office. You can also contact them directly at IdahoRxFire@gmail.com and more information can be found on the website at www.idahorxfire.org.



U of I Extension Forestry Classes (Chris Schnepf, Area Extension Educator - Forestry)

Here are a few of the programs University of Idaho Extension is offering in the near future:

Annual UI Extension Forest Health Program to be held in Coeur d'Alene, Friday, December 15th

Animals, plants, insects, and diseases can sometimes impede reforestation, wildlife habitat, or other forest stewardship goals. *Current Topics in Forest Health* is an annual program that updates forest owners, foresters, and others on methods to improve forest health. Topics to be covered this year include:

- **Avoiding Costly Reforestation Failures Due to Competition:** *Andrew Nelson*, University of Idaho
- **Reducing Weeds Using Biochar:** *Deborah S. Page-Dumroese*, USDA Forest Service Rocky Mtn. Research Station
- **Wood Borers Acting as Primary Tree Killers:** *Tom Eckberg*, Idaho Dept. of Lands
- **Finding Thresholds: Integrated Pest Management for Weeds:** *Tim Prather*, University of Idaho
- **Update on New Herbicides for Forestry:** *Joel Fields*, Wilbur Ellis
- **Responding to Blister Rust and other Insects and Diseases Affecting Whitebark Pine:** *Christy Cleaver and Danielle Malesky*, USDA Forest Service

Current Topics in Forest Health will be held in Coeur d'Alene, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. on Friday, December 15th, 2023 in Room 106 of the Meyer Health and Science Building at the North Idaho College. The program is eligible for 4 Idaho pesticide license re-certification credits, 5 Society of American Foresters continuing forestry education credits, and 6 Idaho Pro-Logger continuing education credits. The program can accommodate up to 100 people. Participants should pre-register by Friday, December 8th, 2023 to ensure their place (registration forms are available at local University of Idaho Extension Offices or registration is available online with a credit card by going to <https://marketplace.uidaho.edu/>, scrolling to, then clicking on "University of Idaho Extension: Panhandle Forestry"). A \$26 registration fee covers handouts and refreshments.

Current Topics in Forest Health is an Idaho Forest Stewardship program, co-sponsored by University of Idaho Extension, the Idaho Department of Lands, and many other agencies and organizations. For questions on the program, contact the University of Idaho Extension office in Kootenai County at (208) 292-2525.

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U of I Extension Forestry Classes (continued from page 4)

Idaho Native Tree Identification and Wreath Making Classes to be held Saturday, December 2, 2023, in Sandpoint

Because we have such a varied range of latitudes, altitudes, soils, and precipitation patterns, Idaho has a wider variety of native trees than most other Rocky Mountain states. The first step in caring for these trees, whether they be in a forest or in a landscape, is to correctly identify the species.

Distinguishing between Idaho's trees can be a daunting task for beginners. Through a combination of images and live samples, a 3-hour workshop titled *Identifying Idaho's Trees* will help participants quickly identify Idaho's most common native trees, including: lodgepole pine, ponderosa pine, western white pine, western larch, Douglas-fir, Engelmann spruce, grand fir, subalpine fir, western redcedar, western hemlock, pacific yew, black cottonwood, quaking aspen, paper birch, and red alder. Participants will also learn about the ecology, silviculture, and history of these species. *Identifying Idaho's Trees* will be held on Saturday, December 2, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the University of Idaho Sandpoint Organic Agriculture Center (located at 10881 N Boyer Road in Sandpoint).

Another class titled *Turning Idaho Trees into Wreaths* will be held at the same site from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm the same day. Participants will learn to make a fresh wreath using native evergreen boughs. Supplies provided include a 14-inch wreath frame, wire, and a selection of native evergreen boughs and pine cones.

College of Agricultural & Life Sciences / College of Natural Resources
University of Idaho, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, and Idaho counties cooperating.

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Both programs can accommodate a limited number of people. Those wishing to participate should pre-register at the University of Idaho Extension Office in Bonner County by Friday, November 24, 2023. A \$10.00 registration fee for each program covers handouts, materials, and refreshments. For registration questions, contact the University of Idaho Extension Office in Bonner County at (208) 263-8511. This program is co-sponsored by University of Idaho Extension and the Idaho Department of Lands.

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Events to Highlight

January 18, 2024 – Idaho Tree Farm Committee Meeting, IDL Mica office, CDA

March 24-26, 2024 – Family Forest Landowners and Managers Conference & Idaho Tree Farm Program Annual Meeting, Moscow, ID

May, 2024 – Idaho State Forestry Contest, Farragut State Park, Bayview, 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 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 4 newest Idaho Tree Farm Program's certified members. 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
Nancy and Jim Clampet	39	Benewah	McKenna Smith
Mark Garoutte	104	Shoshone	McKenna Smith
Bob Bolich	39	Kootenai	Hailey Frank
John Jacobs	14	Kootenai	Hailey Frank

Stay Safe this Winter and Avoid the
 "Bah, Humbugs"

We look forward to seeing you March 24-26 at
 the Family Forest Landowners and Managers
 Conference in Moscow, ID

