

Spring 2024

Idaho Tree Farm Program

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2024 Idaho Tree Farm Program

Outstanding Award Winners!

Another well attended and productive Family Forest Landowners & Managers Conference is now in the books and we can announce to you our Idaho Outstanding Tree Farmers, Inspector and Logger of the year for 2024. Our annual meeting was held the first night of the conference with a social hour open to both Tree Farmers and general public.

President Hailey addressed the group and covered topics of both local and national interest to the Tree Farm Program. Of most importance was a recap of the recent 3rd party audit/review from this past summer, in which our Idaho Program was given high marks for our management and activities.

The meeting then turned to awards and acknowledgements, beginning with our Inspectors. Their efforts form the backbone of our program and tie together all the fine work of Idaho Tree Farmers, their management plans, and ensuring all the requirements from our National ATFS staff are met. Active Inspectors were awarded gift cards of ascending value based on the number of inspections they turned in over the year, along with their choice of ATFS shirt or hat. Without them this program could not continue, and their work is greatly appreciated.



We then turned to our Tree Farmer, Inspector and Logger awards. We are very proud and pleased announce **Groth Family Forest as our 2024 Idaho Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year!**

(Pictured left - Marianna Groth with husband Tom Sherman, and Walter Jon Groth with his wife Kristie,)

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Idaho Outstanding Award Winners (continued from page 1)

The following is a bio from the Groth Family on their Tree Farm: *In 1956 Walter (Wally) and Wealthea Groth purchased an 80-acre tract of land in French Gulch near the community of Kingston, Idaho. At that time, the home they lived in was in the path of the newly proposed Interstate 90 Freeway, so in 1965 a new home was built on the French Gulch property, and the family moved in. Several years were spent building fences, outbuildings and also roads to access the forested land. A lot of thinning projects and a few strategic timber harvests occurred. After the passing of Wally in 1988, and Wealthea in 2011, the ownership of the land passed to their two children, Walter Jon and Marianna.*

Jon now lives with his wife, Kristi, in the family home, and Marianna and her husband, Tom Sherman, live just a few minutes away. The footprint of the land has changed a bit. Wealthea's sister and her family established a home on the northeast corner, and Tom and Marianna were able to purchase a clear-cut 20 acre parcel which adjoins the southwest corner.

The fleet of equipment used to work on the land has definitely grown, and quite a bit of effort has gone into improving the roads to ensure year-round access. There have been wind events to clean up after, and thinning is a never-ending chore, as well as planting and nursing seedlings along in the bare patches. Meanwhile the timber has also grown steadily, and there will be harvests planned in the future.

Marianna led a slide presentation of their activities, detailing the history of their family, a recap of harvests over the years, slides of wildlife habitat improvements, a fuel break project, and their story of updating equipment from a single old dozer to additions of other skidders, dozers, fire equipment and many other items to help with their care of the Tree Farm. The work and stewardship they have shown over the past 68 years is truly a testament of their love for the land!

The award for 2024 Idaho **Outstanding Inspector of the Year** went to **Dennis Parent**. The following are remarks from President Hailey on Dennis: *"In 1974 Nixon was the first president to resign from office, the Sears building in Chicago becomes the tallest building in the world, the 55 MPH speed limit was imposed, and Dennis Parent conducted his first Tree Farm Inspection. Since 1974 Dennis has shown dedication to the Tree Farm Program through connecting with landowners and conducting inspections. Between 2014-2022 Dennis completed 27 inspections and re-inspections! He is someone the program can consistently count on for inspections. He began work for Pack River Lumber 1972-1977, then joined Inland Empire Paper until 2014, leading silviculture and technical services there on over 116,000 acres. Currently Dennis still works as a Consulting Forester for Inland Forest Management. Dennis enjoys spending time with his wife, children, and grandchildren. Let us all congratulate Dennis on a job well done and on becoming our Idaho Tree Farm Inspector of the Year for 2024!"*



Dennis (right) pictured with Past President Steve Funk

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Idaho Outstanding Award Winners (continued from page 2)



Mitch Donohoe with President Hailey

Last, but definitely not least, was our award for 2024 **Idaho Outstanding Logger of the Year**. Our winner this year was **Mitch Donohoe**. One not so kept secret in the forest products industry is the classic phrase “once the sawdust gets in your boots it never quite gets out”. Our Idaho Tree Farm Logger of the Year is no exception to this rule. Growing up in a logging family, Mitch Donohoe has spent countless hours operating machinery. He treats each job as if it was his own land, and always does his best to take great care of the land. Mitch spends a lot of his time conducting work on Tree Farms all over North Idaho. He worked for his father Larry for several years up until his father retired and then Mitch purchased the operation. Like his logging operation Mitch is a Family guy who enjoys

spending time with his wife, parents, children and grandchildren. Congratulations Mitch on becoming the Idaho Tree Farm Logger of the Year for 2024.

Also honored for a lifetime of service was Robert Barkley, newly retired from the Idaho Department of Lands, many years as a Tree Farm Inspector, and long time District 2 Chair. Congratulations Robert for all your help and support over the years. Good luck in the years to come!



Robert with President Hailey

(Below) Idaho Tree Farm Inspectors recognized for inspections completed during the year.



Congratulations to our Idaho Outstanding Award Winners for 2024. Great job to all of you!



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

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

“Ten Acres and a Dream” - 1-day Workshop for Rural Landowners offered in Post Falls

University of Idaho Extension is offering a 1-day program designed to help owners of small rural acreages manage their land and meet their goals. The program, titled “10 Acres and a Dream”, was the idea of Idaho Master Forest Stewards, most of whom are private landowners themselves, and have interacted with a variety of new rural landowners who have struggled with making their dream of owning and tending rural property a reality.

“Ten Acres and a Dream” will be held in Post Falls, Idaho on Saturday, May 11. Topics covered in the program will include: living on the land – a great American tradition; homesteading infrastructure; growing fruits, vegetables, and other crops on small acreages; working with county government; raising large and small livestock and managing pastures on small acreages; and Idaho Panhandle forestry fundamentals. The program will conclude with a panel of three University of Idaho Master Forest Stewards sharing their Idaho rural living experiences.

Program enrollment is limited to 45 participants. Those wishing to participate should pre-register as soon as possible, but no later than May 3. A \$15 registration fee includes resource materials and refreshments. Online registration with a credit card is available by going to: <https://marketplace.uidaho.edu/>, then scrolling to, and clicking on “University of Idaho Extension: Panhandle Forestry”. Registration forms for mailing can also be downloaded at www.uidaho.edu/extension/forestry/programs. For registration questions, contact the University of Idaho Extension office in Kootenai County at (208) 292-2525. This program is co-sponsored by University of Idaho Extension and the Idaho Department of Lands.

Registrations due June 7 for Forest Thinning & Pruning Field Day in Post Falls

Trees killed by bark beetle attacks always make forest owners ask: “What can we do about it?” Whether you have problems with insects or disease, concerns about fire, or just want to help forest growth, the response from foresters is nearly universal: **thin your forest**. This is especially true in northern Idaho, where forests frequently become overstocked. Thinning and pruning can favor better adapted tree species, improve forest genetics, invigorate tree growth, reduce insect and disease problems, reduce fire risk, improve access, and enhance many other values. In June, local forest owners can learn how to implement these practices more effectively in a “Thinning & Pruning Field Day.” The program will feature:

- Presentations on fundamental concepts of thinning and pruning, as well as financial and technical assistance to help forest owners improve their stands.
- A field trip featuring: a thinned stand; a pruned stand; and demonstrations of manual and mechanical thinning and pruning tools, chainsaw safety, and forest genetics.

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

The program will be held on Saturday, June 15, 2024 in Room 302 at the University of Idaho Research Park (958 S. Lochsa Street in Post Falls) and will start at 9:00 a.m. and conclude by 5:00 p.m. Those wishing to participate should pre-register by Friday, June 7, 2024. A \$20.00 registration fee covers a field notebook of publications and refreshments. To register online go to: <https://marketplace.uidaho.edu/> then scroll to, and click on “University of Idaho Extension: Panhandle Forestry”. Registration forms can also be downloaded at www.uidaho.edu/extension/forestry/programs (click on “Strengthening Forest Stewardship Skills”). For registration questions, contact the University of Idaho Extension Office in Kootenai County at (208) 292-2525.

The *Thinning & Pruning Field Day* is an Idaho Forest Stewardship program, co-sponsored by University of Idaho Extension, the Idaho Department of Lands, and many other agencies and organizations.

University of Idaho, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, and Idaho counties cooperating.

The University of Idaho is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer and Educational Institution.

Idaho State Forestry Contest (Kurt Koetter, Forestry Contest Committee)

The 41st annual contest will be held at Farragut State Park again this year on May 9 at the Scott Group Campsite. Students from grades 5-12 are competing for individual and team trophies and dollar prizes. There are over 230 students registered representing 15 different groups from regional schools, FFA's and 4-H organizations. Volunteers are important to the success of the contest and there is still time to become part of this traditional activity. The Longhorn Barbecue will be serving lunch for all that have gathered prior to the Awards Ceremony. For more information and to volunteer, go to the IDL website and click on the Idaho State Forestry Contest. We hope to see you there.

Forestry for Southern Idaho (John Lillehaug, District 3 Chair)

The Southern Idaho Forestry Day is scheduled for Thursday, June 27. It will be hosted by the Idaho Tree Farm Program and Valley Soil & Water Conservation District. Location is still to be determined, but will be either in the McCall or Cascade area. More information to follow as the final site and topics of discussion are determined



Events to Highlight

May 9, 2024 – Idaho State Forestry Contest, Farragut State Park, Bayview, ID

June 27, 2024 – Forestry for Southern Idaho, Site TBD

July 18, 2024 – Idaho Tree Farm Committee Meeting, CDA, 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 3 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
Patton Family Trust	505	Bonner	John Kinne
Mark Lillie	19	Bonner	John Kinne
Critter Ranch Trust	135	Bonner	Russ Hegedus



Congratulations once again to the Groth Family
2024 Idaho Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year

Plan to join us in Kingston this September for our Fall Tour of their beautiful Tree Farm

