

Maine Tree Farm NEWSLETTER



Winter 2015

A publication of the Maine Tree Farm Committee

Issue No. 4

3rd Party Certification - Time to Decide!

Dear Maine Tree Farmer:

As mentioned in the previous Maine Tree Farm newsletter, 2015 is the year the Maine Tree Farm Committee needs to decide whether Maine Tree Farmers' woodlands will continue to be "third party" certified thru the American Tree Farm System (ATFS). As part of the decision process, the Committee would like to know if you, as a Maine Tree Farmer, want your woodlands to remain certified in this way. Your voice is very important in making this decision, as it affects the direction of the Tree Farm Program in Maine for the next several years.

There are several potential benefits to third party certification. Certified wood should be worth more in the marketplace, based on the extra care taken of all the values of the woods as it grows. In the past there has been no financial incentive paid in Maine by the buyers of our wood. However, during the past several years there have been instances where Tree Farmers sold their certified wood when mills were not otherwise accepting wood. Also, in the broader sense, third party certification tells the public and the industry that our wood has been grown in sustainably managed forests according to the highest quality silvicultural and environmental practices, under the ATFS Standards of Sustainability for Forest Certification.

With third party certification come significant costs and extra efforts that non-certified forests don't incur. In the past, the American Forest Foundation (AFF) and the ATFS in Washington have absorbed the certification costs. Thus, the third party certification that our woodlands have enjoyed has been provided at no direct cost to the state committees or to Tree Farmers, other than costs for developing and implementing a forest management plan. However, due to economic pressures and a lack of interest by some states that have no desire for certification since they have no markets, ATFS has decided to change the method of cost allocation related to the certification process. As part of the change, ATFS has asked that each state decide by the end of 2015 whether they want to be certified or not. States that choose third party certification will have until the end of 2019 to come up with a plan for meeting the added cost.

As of right now the Maine Tree Farm Committee does not know what the full projected costs to each Tree Farmer might be in the future to third party certify their Tree Farm. We do know it will cost the state committee \$10 per Certified Tree Farmer per year starting in 2019. This annual fee is capped at \$7,000 per year per state. Since Maine has more than 700 Certified Tree Farmers the committee knows our annual cost will reach the \$7,000 cap. There may be additional costs of which we are not yet aware.

Continued on page 2



Continued from page 1

Whatever other costs the committee might need to pass back to state members also remains to be determined. In the past, the Maine Tree Farm Committee has received financial support from some area mills because of the certified wood program we have offered. Whether or not that support will continue if Maine drops third party certification is unknown. Whether or not Maine mills will help defer the annual certification costs is unknown too.

If Maine decides to discontinue the third party certified program under ATFS, we will continue to perform as in the past except there will be no scheduled outside 3rd party audits. We will still have annual field days, send quarterly newsletters, hold regional events and offer regular site visit "inspections" by area Tree Farm foresters.

We hope you will help with this important decision by letting the Committee know what you want by answering two questions:

DO YOU WANT YOUR TREE FARM TO REMAIN THIRD PARTY CERTIFIED?

If you wish to remain certified,
WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO PAY SOME REASONABLE ANNUAL COST TO HELP DEFER THE COSTS OF THE PROGRAM?

Please send your answers to Rich Merk at (207) 415-1628 or mqh@fairpoint.net . You may also want to contact your County Chair person. *(see page 4 for list)*

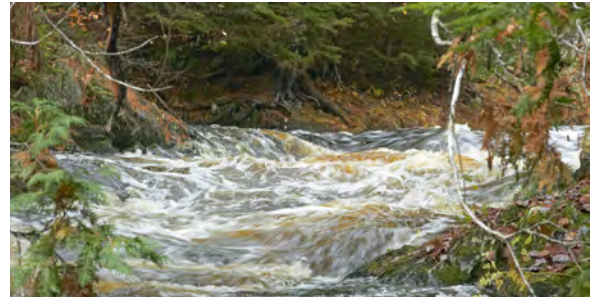
Thank you for your important input and timely attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Paul Larrivee, Chairman of the Maine Tree Farm Committee

Tree Farmer Profile

Wells Demonstration Forest- by Pam Wells

The Wells Demonstration Forest, located in the Milford/Greenfield area, Penobscot County, Maine is owned by Pamela and Bryan Wells of Old Town, Maine. The ~1000 acre woodlot provides habitat for a variety of Maine wildlife species, migratory birds, and plants. Pam and Bryan obtained the property in 2004 after seeing the Sunkhaze Stream which courses through the center of the property. At that time, the property had recently been harvested by a timber liquidator. While there were some stands which had not been harvested, the majority of the trees had been cut in strips leaving slash in wide skidder trails: a common Maine forest story.



In the last 8 years, the Wells have determined that the purpose of their forest is complex. With the assistance of their forester, Kirby Ellis, they have created a management plan which includes managing stands for future timber harvest, designated areas for wildlife habitat, opportunities for forest industry research, and a place for small woodlot owners to learn more about how to manage their forests. Other longer term goals include carbon sequestration and resistance to sprawl.

Inspector Recognition

On December 5, the Maine Tree Farm Committee held its second Inspector Recognition event for 2014, which included a field tour of the Alicia Gavalya and the Rock Crop Tree Farms in Hiram. Jack Wadsworth, Tree Farmer, Inspector and owner of Rock Crop Farm, hosted the event, which was followed by food and beverages at his home. Excellent discussion and camaraderie took place. Attendees all received Tree Farm Inspector travel mugs. In addition, 3 Cabela's store gift certificates were raffled off: winners were David Hall, Vite Vitale and Howard Charles. The event was a "thank you" to the Tree Farm Inspectors who donate their time and expertise to support the program and promote responsible forest management. The event was underwritten by a small grant from the national office of American Tree Farm System, and by the generosity of the Wadsworth Family. More such meetings are planned for 2015.

Thank You to Our Volunteer Leaders

As the calendar turns from 2014 to 2015, it's time to recognize outgoing and incoming Maine Tree Farm Committee officers. As of the December quarterly meeting, Paul Larrivee, of New Gloucester, is the new Committee Chair, replacing Dick Morse. Dick will remain on the Committee as Chair "ex-officio." Paul will continue to serve as Cumberland County Chair as well. Kyle Burdick, of Pembroke, is the new Vice Chair. Kyle is also the Washington County Chair. Under committee by-laws, Vice Chairs move up to Chair for the next 2 year term. Patty Cormier and Dan Mahns remain as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. The Committee takes this opportunity to thank Dick Morse and all the officers for their service and dedication, past, present and future.

Maine Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year

Wayne and Peggy Coleman have been selected as the 2015 Maine Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year. The Colemans manage their 95 forested acres in Baileyville for firewood, commercial forest products, recreation, wildlife, and as a legacy for their children and grandchildren. Many forestry education events have been held on their woodlot through the years. They are long time SWOAM and Tree Farm members. Working along with their forester, Kyle Burdick, the Colemans are true woodland stewards.



We want to hear from you!

Have questions about the management of your woodlot or a story about your Tree Farm that you would like to share? Submit stories, photos, and questions to info@mainetreefarm.org or 207-221-2512.

List of County Chair Persons

Kevin Allcroft

Hancock Forestree Concepts
68 Snow Corners Road
Orrington ME 04474
allcrofkk@roadrunner.com
207-825-3033

Larry Beauregard

At Large
273 Washington Street
Brewer ME 04412
ljbeauregard@myfairpoint.net
989-6158

Mark Brown

Kennebec Brown's Forestry
167 Taber Hill Road
Vassalboro ME 04989
mbforestry@hotmail.com
233-9348

Kyle Burdick

Vice Chair, 2015-2017
Washington Forestry Services
and Consulting
495 Leighton Road
Pembroke ME 04666
kyleeroyburdick@gmail.com
214-4341

Patty Cormier

State Secretary
Somerset Maine Forest Service
PO Box 416, Norridgewock ME 04957
patty.cormier@maine.gov
592-2238

Jesse Duplin

Oxford Wadsworth Woodlands
35 Rock Crop Way, Hiram ME 04041
jduplin@wadsworthlands.com
776-9006

Brett Gerrish

Penobscot Prentiss & Carlisle
107 Court Street, Bangor ME 04401
bhgerrish@prentissandcarlisle.com
949-0281

Keith Kanoti

Lincoln Maine Forest Service
22 State House Station, Augusta ME 04330
keith.kanoti@maine.gov
287-1073

Paul Larrivee

Chair, 2015-2017
Cumberland Sappi Fine Paper
165 North Avenue, Skowhegan ME 04979
paul.larrivee@sappi.com
624-3706

Robert Leso Franklin

25 Dutch Gap Road
Chesterville ME 04938
bobmimi@midmaine.com
778-2000

Morten Moesswilde

Waldo/Knox
Maine Forest Service
536 Waldoboro Road
Jefferson ME 04348
morten.moesswilde@maine.gov
549-9003

Rich Merk

ATFS Certification Com.
216 Forrest Edwards Road
Otisfield ME 04270
mqh@fairpoint.net
627-4102

Gordon Moore

Piscataquis
PO Box 1107
Greenville ME 04441
gordon.moore@maine.gov
695-3721

Dave Rochester

Aroostook
Maine Forest Service
45 Radar Road
Ashland ME 04732
dave.rochester@maine.gov
441-3817

Andy Shultz

At Large
Outreach Comm. Chair
Maine Forest Service
22 State House Station
Augusta ME 04333
andrew.h.shultz@maine.gov
287-8430

John Starrett

Androscoggin/ Sagadahoc
165 North Avenue
Skowhegan ME 04976
john.starrett@sappi.com
238-3068; 242-2942

Don Winslow

York
PO Box 25 E.
Parsonsfield ME 04028
Maplecrest.forestry@hotmail.com
793-2894

Maine Tree Farm Committee
PO Box 5470
Augusta, ME 04332
The American Tree Farm System is a
program of the American Forest Foundation

