

Maine Tree Farm NEWSLETTER

Spring 2014

A publication of the Maine Tree Farm Committee

Issue No. 1



Dear Tree Farm Member,

Welcome to the first edition of the new Maine Tree Farm newsletter. This will be a quarterly publication, so you can look forward to more regular updates from your state committee. We hope you enjoy the content and we look forward to hearing your feedback and suggestions.

~ The Maine Tree Farm Committee

News Update

2014 Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year

Congratulations to the 2014 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year, Tracy Moskovitz and Bambi Jones, doing business as the Hidden Valley Farm and the Hidden Valley Nature Center (HVNC)!



Their 2,000 acre Tree Farm includes land in Alna, Whitefield, and Jefferson, where they have conducted multiple harvests, trail construction, erosion control, pruning, and wildlife enhancement. The 1,000 acre portion of the Tree Farm in Jefferson is the location of the Hidden Valley Nature Center, which hosts a variety of events and workshops throughout the year related to education, recreation, and low-impact forestry. Learn more about HVNC online at: www.hvnc.org



Photo: Bambi Jones and Tracy Moskovitz (center) receiving their award at the Agricultural Trade Show in Augusta, with their foresters Harold Burnett (left) and Barrie Brusila (right).

HVNC is also a finalist for the National and Regional Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year award. In fact, two Tree Farm Inspectors from the national awards committee visited the property on May 7th to conduct the official inspection (see photo below). Stay tuned for more updates! Read more at www.maintreefarm.org/OTFY/otfy_2014.html.



FAQs

Have questions about the management of your woodlot? Future editions of this newsletter will feature an on-going series of Frequently Asked Questions. Let us know what you would like to hear about and you may see your question answered in the next edition.

To submit a question, email or call
Jennifer Hushaw (Program Coordinator) at
jhushaw@maintreefarm.org or 207-221-2512.

Tree Farm Standards 101

The American Forest Foundation Standards of Sustainability are the heart of the Tree Farm program. They outline the tenets of good forest stewardship that all Tree Farmers agree to follow.

While these Standards were designed specifically for small woodlands owners, they are also recognized internationally as excellent standards for sustainable forest management. In fact, the American Tree Farm System has been endorsed by Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification systems (PEFC), which promotes sustainably managed forests through independent third-party certification.



In total, there are eight Tree Farm Standards and each one focuses on a different aspect of sustainable forestry:

- Standard 1: Commitment to Practicing Sustainable Forestry
- Standard 2: Compliance with Laws
- Standard 3: Reforestation and Afforestation
- Standard 4: Air, Water, and Soil Protection
- Standard 5: Fish, Wildlife, and Biodiversity
- Standard 6: Forest Aesthetics
- Standard 7: Protect Special Sites
- Standard 8: Forest Product Harvests and Other Activities

Each Standard has *Performance Measures* and *Indicators* that provide more detail about the steps landowners need to take in order to meet the Standard. There is also a helpful guidance document that offers more clarification about how to implement and interpret the Standards.

Read the Standards and the accompanying guidance document online at: www.treefarmssystem.org/certification-american-tree-farm-standards

Note: This printed newsletter is a slightly abbreviated version of our new online newsletter.

You can access the online version at www.mainetreefarm.org or subscribe today by emailing your name and Tree Farm number to info@mainetreefarm.org, using your preferred email address.

Switching to an electronic version will help us save on printing and postage costs, and stretch our limited budget even further.

Thank you!

Our quarterly newsletters will have a series of articles highlighting each of the Tree Farm Standards. In this Issue, we are taking a closer look at Standard 7 regarding "Special Sites" - how we define the term, identify these areas, and manage them...

Tree Farm Standard Highlight

Standard 7: Protect Special Sites

Special sites are managed in ways that recognize their unique historical, archeological, cultural, geological, biological, or ecological characteristics.

Where present, and relevant to the property, your forest management plan **must** address a number of resource elements, including special sites. Special sites are defined as "those areas offering unique historical, archeological, cultural, geological, biological, or ecological value." Special sites may be designated for purely sentimental reasons, or may be sites with greater cultural or archeological significance. Examples of special sites include Native American burial sites, historical building ruins, old cemeteries or headstones, cave entrances, spring heads, rare mineral outcroppings, a champion tree, a bear's den, a pitcher plant bog, or a scenic outlook. Most often your "special site" will be some thing or place in your woods that is personally important to you.

Special sites are managed in ways that recognize their unique characteristics. Most will be a small portion of the property. Tree Farmers can identify special sites on management planning maps and, where appropriate, on the ground. *However, Tree Farmers may choose not to identify some special sites on the ground in an effort to protect them from vandalism or overuse.*

Special sites may not be found on every property. Tree Farmers must make a reasonable effort to locate and protect special sites appropriate for the size of the forest and the scale and intensity of forest management activities. Special sites can be identified as part of preparing your management plan, from old property maps, from family history or local lore. One way to address this standard is to contact the Maine Historic Preservation Commission at (207) 287-2132 or visit www.maine.gov/mhpc.

Any special site identified in the management plan must include provisions for its protection, especially during forest management activities. Most properly conducted management activities will not harm these resources. Construction of roads, trails or landings, however, could potentially disturb significant sites. If a reasonable attempt to identify special sites on your Tree Farm turns up nothing, a short statement about that in your management plan will meet the standard.

For more information, check out the ATFS website for tips on preserving special sites at: mylandplan.org/content/special-sites-1

Have a story about your Tree Farm that you would like to share?

If so, let us know! We are looking for content and photographs for future newsletters from Tree Farmers in the state.

Email us today to submit a story or photo at info@mainetreefarm.org



Thanks to Kent Nelson for sending us this great photo!

Helpful On-Line Resources

Maine Forest Service Website

www.maineforestservice.gov

The Maine Forest Service website hosts all kinds of information about forest health, protection, and management, as well as access to field foresters and other educational resources.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Web Soil Survey

websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm

You can use this on-line tool to generate custom soil type maps for your property.

Maine Natural Areas Program - Data Checker

www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/assistance/fmp.htm

This on-line mapping tool allows you to check whether there are any Natural Area Program features within the vicinity of your property, including sensitive habitat and rare, threatened, or endangered species.

Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine

www.swoam.org

SWOAM is a long-time supporter of Tree Farm. They advocate for small woodland owners and host a variety of informative events and workshops throughout the year.

Get Involved!

We are looking for volunteers to help staff the Tree Farm booth at the Fryeburg and Common Ground Fairs this fall.

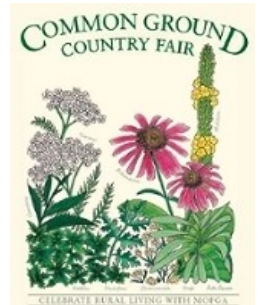
This is an opportunity to meet other potential Tree Farmers and tell the general public what Tree Farm is all about.

Volunteers receive a free pass to the Fair - so put in some time at the booth and then enjoy the festivities!



Sign-up to volunteer on-line at:
www.mainetreefarm.org/events.html

Can't be at the Fairs, but still want to lend a hand? Let us know! Contact us with your information and area of interest (fundraising, design, outreach, etc.) and we'll let you know when volunteer opportunities come up.



Would you be interested in hosting a woods walk/tour on your Tree Farm?

Let us know and we can help you organize one. Just send an email to Jennifer Hushaw (Program Coordinator) at jhushaw@mainetreefarm.org.



MyLandPlan

www.mylanplan.org

There is a great new on-line resource from American Forest Foundation called MyLandPlan.org. Once you sign-up for a free account, you can get access to expert advice and a suite of on-line tools to help you manage your Tree Farm, including tools to map your land, record goals and activities in a journal, and connect with others.

2014 Maine Tree Farm Committee

Chair

Dick Morse, South China, ME

Vice Chair

Paul Larrivee, Sappi Fine Paper

Secretary

Patty Cormier, Maine Forest Service

Treasurer

Dan Mahns, American Forest Management

Be sure to check out the *newly updated*
Maine Tree Farm Website!

You can find contact information for the entire
Tree Farm Committee, including your County Chair,
and much more.

www.mainetreefarm.org



Save the Date!

Upcoming Events

Annual Tree Farm/SWOAM Field Day (*at Hidden Valley Nature Center*) - **Sept. 6, 2014**

Common Ground Country Fair - **Sept. 19 - 21, 2014**

Fryeburg Fair - **Sept. 28 - Oct. 5, 2014**

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*The American Tree Farm System is a
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