



sightline

A Newsletter for the Inspecting Foresters of the American Tree Farm System®

Recognizing Excellence

ATFS Named Terry Truttman 2005 Inspector of the Year

Editor's Note: The Wesley R. Meier Award was established in 1998, to honor the work, life, and passion for forestry, of if Wesley Roger Meier, a once outstanding and dedicated volunteer inspector for ATFS in Wisconsin. Though he lost his life to cancer in 1994, the award shines as a living memory of his exemplary work for the American Tree Farm System, for which he volunteered for 14 years. Mr. Meier has been honored by the Tree Farm inspectors of his day and by those who come after him, by having this award bestowed in his name.



Terry Truttman of Missouri earned the 2005 Wesley R. Meier Outstanding Inspecting Forester of the Year Award. He accepted this award at the 2005 National Tree Farmer Convention.

A resource forester with the Missouri Department of Conservation, he has contributed greatly to ATFS through managing, volunteering, supporting, promoting, and teaching. He has completed 29 Tree Farm reinspections over the last five years, developed plans, inventoried stands, marketed timber stand improvement areas, and arranged sales for many of those areas. Until last year, he handled the Tree Farm

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This is the last printed version of Sightline

In order to continue communications with our Tree Farm Inspectors, all future issues of Sightline will be distributed via email and available on the website. Not only is this a cost savings to the program, but it provides the opportunity to communicate with inspectors more frequently, and with more timely information.

To continue receiving Sightline, please send your name and email address to inspectors@treefarmssystem.org or sign up online at www.treefarmssystem.org > News & Action. Multiple email addresses are accepted to make sure you don't miss an issue.



George Frame, of Concord, NH, Honored with the 2006 National Field Leadership Award

George Frame has been an active part of the New Hampshire Tree Farm Committee for eight years, serving in this year as the committee co-sponsor. In previous years he has served as chair and vice chair. Referred to by his colleagues as “trainer extraordinaire”, he is proactive in motivating inspectors to accomplish reinspections, and makes every effort to train inspectors who are interested in being a part of the Tree Farm program.

A strong ally to the Tree Farm program, he has represented Tree Farm at events throughout the New England area and beyond, including various National Tree Farmer Conventions, Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests Annual Meeting, and the Yankee Division of Society of American Foresters (SAF).

“Presenting this award to George is only a small representation of our gratitude for George’s unwaning enthusiasm, his ability to motivate volunteers, and his commit-

ment to New Hampshire’s forest owners through the American Tree Farm System,” said Bob Simpson, AFF Senior Vice President of Forestry Programs.

Frame was presented with the award in March at the 2006 Tree Farm National Leadership Conference in Baltimore, Maryland.

The Tree Farm Field Leadership Award recognizes individuals that have been instrumental in inspecting family forestland and its adherence to AFF’s Standards of Sustainability across a region or a state. It highlights the efforts of key Tree Farm committee volunteers for the role they play in accomplishing the ATFS goal of sustaining forests, watersheds, and healthy habitats through the power of private stewardship.

New Guidelines for Tree Farm Eligibility

In 2002, a moratorium was in place that limited the acreage size of new Tree Farms entering ATFS to less than 10,000 contiguous acres. At their December 2005 meeting, the AFF Board of Trustees approved new guidelines for determining eligibility for ATFS certification. The acreage size was increased to 20,000 from 10,000 contiguous acres. However, landowners whose properties are between 10,000 - 20,000 contiguous acres must apply to the national office to determine eligibility under additional criteria as well as undergo a third-party audit judging conformance with the AFF Standards of Sustainability. All third-party audits must be conducted by an accredited ATFS Lead Auditor.

The additional criteria to which eligibility is determined include:

- Properties must not exceed 20,000 contiguous acres
- Properties are non-industrial and/or associated with small local business
- Ownership is privately held and not publicly traded
- Commitment to sustainable, long-term forest management
- Owner(s) demonstrates proactive forest management involvement
- Ownership goals and objectives do not compromise ATFS mission
- Owner(s) are susceptible to active outreach effort or can contribute to the effort

Please direct any inquiries regarding third-party certification to operations@treefarmssystem.org.

Sightline is a publication of the American Tree Farm System® (ATFS), a program of the American Forest Foundation. ATFS promotes the sustainable management of forests through education and outreach to private forest landowners. Founded in 1941, ATFS has 29 million acres of privately owned forestland and 73,000 family forest owners who are committed to excellence in forest stewardship. Tree Farmers manage their forestlands for wood, water, wildlife, and recreation with assistance from 4,400 volunteer foresters. ATFS is a program of the American Forest Foundation, a nonprofit organization that works for healthy forests, quality environmental education, and informed decision-making about our communities and our world.

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PEFC Endorsement Process Begins

Five years ago ATFS began an initiative to re-engineer its certification program to fit emerging criteria for international certification systems, specifically the Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Systems (PEFC).

The initiative, Certification Readiness Initiative, or CRI guided the Tree Farm program and the American Forest Foundation as it set new standards of sustainability, established new national uniform training procedures, prescribed inspector qualifications, and developed a group certification system.

ATFS has completed this preparation and is now ready to apply for PEFC endorsement.

PEFC is the independent, non-profit, non-governmental organization, founded in 1999 which promotes sustainably managed forests through independent third-party certification. PEFC provides an assurance mechanism to purchasers of wood and paper products that they are promoting the sustainable management of forests.

To assure a successful endorsement audit, ATFS has contracted with Abusow International, Ltd. to begin a gap analysis of PEFC endorsement requirements. Following this analysis, it will be determined if ATFS is in a position to continue, with Abusow et al working with ATFS to bridge any gaps noted in the analysis.

After completion of the bridging (if required), Abusow et al will take ATFS through the PEFC endorsement application process. Following the application submission, PEFC will contract with a third-party auditor who will audit ATFS to the PEFC standards. ATFS national will keep state committees well apprised of this progress. The NOC has established a Certification Endorsement Task Group to monitor the progress and to work with state programs to prepare them for the PEFC audit. For more information contact operations@treefarmssystem.org

Statistical Sampling For Reinspections

Beginning in 2006, ATFS will begin selecting properties for reinspection using stratified random sampling.

In 2002, ATFS contracted with Virginia Tech's College of Forestry to explore the concept of stratified random sampling as a means of reducing the number of annual reinspections necessary for program policy conformance. Selecting properties to be reinspected through stratified random sampling allows for a significant reduction in total number of inspections necessary while providing a statistically valid answer in the form of the total percent of ATFS certified acres in conformance with AFF's Standards of Sustainability for Forest Certification.

By nationally stratifying properties into acreage categories, required reinspections drop from approximately 8,000 in 2006 to 1180. The results would be 95% accurate with a

margin of error of ± 2 percent. Thus, upon completion of annual reinspections, ATFS will annually report that X percent of ATFS certified acres are in conformance with AFF's Standards of Sustainability. The obvious advantage from sampling is the greatly reduced burden on state programs to perform reinspections.

State programs are given the option of completely adopting the sampling system, or continuing with business as usual. The difference for those continuing with business as usual is that those properties selected in the sample are required to be inspected by year's end. Those state programs that adopt sampling entirely will only be responsible for inspecting those properties selected in the sample. States should witness a 75% or greater reduction in their reinspections. Look for further communications from your state committee regarding the reinspection method they have chosen.

Clippings

Inspector Certificates

In January 2006, the ATFS National Office sent inspector certificates and wallet cards to inspecting foresters trained in late 2004 and 2005 for which paperwork had been received. This includes inspectors trained face-to-face or

through the online refresher course. If you were trained or retrained in 2005 and did not receive an inspector certificate, or if your certificate and wallet card contained an error, please send an email to inspectors@treefarmssystem.org in order to

obtain new materials. Inspectors trained in late 2005 for which paperwork had not been received by the January 2006 mailing and those inspectors trained in the first quarter of 2006 will be receiving certificates and wallet cards shortly.

Nominate an ATFS Volunteer Inspector

2005 Tree Farm Inspector of the Year Contest

The American Forest Foundation sponsors this annual award to recognize top performers among the thousands of Tree Farm inspecting foresters. Any inspecting forester can be nominated with approval from the state committee chair. The nominee does not necessarily have to be the state's inspector of the year.

While certification and reinspection activity is a requisite, equal emphasis is placed on promotion of ATFS, and involvement in the forestry community in general. The winner receives the Wes Meier Award – a special marble and wood plaque – an LL Bean

gift certificate, and Tree Farm logo merchandise. The winning inspector will also receive a travel stipend to the 2006 National Tree Farmer Convention in Mobile, Alabama, October 19-22, 2006, where the award ceremony will take place. National and regional winners are featured in Tree Farmer Magazine.

Nomination forms are available through your state committee or on the Inspector's Corner section of the Tree Farm website, www.treefarmssystem.org > Tree Farm in your state > Inspector's Corner.



Loblolly Pine by Drue DeBerry

Inspector's Corner New on the ATFS Website

Tree Farm is excited to announce the newest addition to our website – Inspector's Corner. It's found under the Tree Farm in Your State section and is a great resource for Tree Farm information pertaining to inspectors only. Visit www.treefarmssystem.org > Tree Farm in your state > Inspector's Corner to see more.

Outstanding Achievements in

Sustainable Forestry

The American Tree Farm System and BASF -

Recognizing individual achievement in the pursuit of sustainable forestry in the United States.

This prestigious award, sponsored by BASF, honors an individual who has achieved significant results in their community by effectively reaching forest landowners and others with the benefits of sustainable forestry.

Nominate someone you know who is working tirelessly, through a business or private organization, to demonstrate the positive benefits of sustainable forestry while achieving significant results in promoting the values and merits of sustainable forestry.

Submission deadline: Friday, August 4, 2006.

A \$5,000 cash prize accompanies the Outstanding Achievements in Sustainable Forestry Award. The winner is recognized at the 2006 National Tree Farmer Convention in Mobile, Alabama, October 19-22, 2006.

Entries must include a cover sheet with the nominee and nominator's name, company/ organization, mailing address, home and office telephone numbers, and email.

Concise, factual presentations with letters, materials, clippings, photographs, publications, etc. are encouraged and welcomed by the judges. Entries should not exceed 10 pages on 8 1/2 x 11 sheets.

Entries must describe, in narrative form, the individual's program activity, its effectiveness and results; who and how many people were reached and benefited from the program activity; the originality and innovation of the program activity; and how adaptable the program activity could be in other community settings.

Additional entry requirements include describing the individual's personal or professional:

- Commitment and personal goals toward sustainable forestry.
- Vision, either demonstrated or articulated, of sustainable forestry.
- Leadership to engage, encourage, and mobilize others to share their vision and commitment.
- Recognition of the individual's contribution in the broader forestry community, public and landowner.

Send nomination postmarked by no later than Friday, August 4, 2006 to:

BASF Outstanding Achievements Award
American Tree Farm System
1111 Nineteenth Street, NW
Suite 780
Washington, D.C. 20036



BASF

The Chemical Company

The American Tree Farm System is a program of the American Forest Foundation.

Visit vmanswers.com or www.treefarmssystem.org for additional details to prepare your submission.

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business of seven Missouri counties in addition to giving private land forestry assistance in three other counties.

For eight years, Terry served at the Missouri Regional Tree Farm Chair. He continues to support the program by setting up the Tree Farm display at fairs, local soil and water board meetings, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and school functions. He also promotes ATFS on more than 6,000 acres of a state land conservation area by conducting or joining in Tree Farm promotions and field days.

Terry's commitment to ATFS and sound forestry practices made him the ideal candidate for the Wesley R. Meier Award.

Congratulations to the 2005 Regional Inspectors of the Year

ATFS would like to recognize these individuals for their commitment to Tree Farm through their state committees and for educating the public on the benefits of sustainable forestry.



Northeast
Michael C. Greason
New York



Southern
John Magruder
Virginia

Editor's Note: The Western Region did not nominate a n inspector this year.

Terry, John, and Michael were highlighted in the 2006 January/ February edition of Tree Farmer Magazine.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW

2006 National Tree Farm Convention

*October 19-22, 2006
Mobile, Alabama*

The Alabama Forestry Association (AFA) is busy planning for one of the best Tree Farm Conventions ever!

As hosts, AFA is preparing for hundreds of Tree Farmers to enjoy the Alabama Delta area with tours to Historic Blakeley Island, the Solon Dixon Center, the beautiful and colorful Bellingraph Gardens, and dinner on the USS Alabama Battleship. Participants to this 13th Annual Convention will also visit several of Alabama's 2,000 plus Tree Farms.

The Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel in downtown Mobile, overlooking Mobile Bay will be the convention site. Mark your calendars now and plan to join ATFS and enjoy all the attractions, dining, and recreation Mobile has to offer.

Visit www.alaforestry.org and www.mobilebay.org. Look for convention registration materials in upcoming issues of *Tree Farmer Magazine*.

*Alabama
Tree Farm...*
ALWAYS GROWING



Richard Stricklin Received 2005 BASF Award

Richard Stricklin of Mountain View, Missouri was named the winner of the BASF Forestry Products Outstanding Achievements in Sustainable Forestry Award for 2005. He received his award during the Tree Farmer National Convention held in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Stricklin, of Mountain View, MO, constantly seeks new ways to reach local timber owners in the Ozarks. With the Top of the Ozarks Resource Conservation and Development Council, Stricklin has headed a diverse portfolio of activities including a television pilot on the Ozarks, resource publications and websites, educational workshops, and multiple projects and initiatives focusing on land management and sustainability. His projects take all facets of sustainable forestry into account, creating effective, balanced projects.

Stricklin's commitment to proper management of forestland extends to his own 160 acres of forestland. He has been a certified ATFS member since 1987 and was certified as a Forest Crop Land Cooperator in 1990. Annually, Stricklin personally implements 10 acres of timber stand improvement based on his long term management plan developed with the Missouri Department of Conservation, converting poor forestland to rich short leaf pine. He also serves as chair of the Forestry and Wildlife Committee of the Top of the Ozarks Resource Conservation and Development Council.

Stricklin is described by those in the forestry community as one who has "initiated, overseen, guided, hosted, edited, documented, secured, and organized many projects and programs - all to the good of sustainable forestry and educated landowners."

Jim Hull, Texas State Forester, Wins Sustained Excellence Award

Jim Hull was presented with the 2005 Sustained Excellence Award at the National Association of State Foresters (NASF) annual meeting in September. The Sustained Excellence award honors Jim for his long standing support for ATFS.

Hull has been involved with ATFS since 1964, beginning early in his career as a Tree Farm Inspector. Jim's involvement continued as he began his tenure as state forester in 1996 - eventually overseeing a quarter of the Tree Farm inspecting foresters in the state. He has been an active proponent of ATFS, speaking at numerous field days and working to integrate the Tree Farm program into Texas Forest Service (TFS) operations and making sure that all TFS field staff in East Texas participate in the Tree Farm program. Join us in congratulating Jim for his commitment to ATFS.

Voluntary Third-Party Certification of Individual Tree Farms

Increased interest in forest certification by the global forest products industry, customers, and non-governmental organizations has renewed interest in Tree Farm Certification.

Landowners interested in seeking third-party certification of conformance with AFF's Standards of Sustainability may now do so. At their March 2006 meeting, the ATFS National Operating Committee (NOC) approved third-party certification of individual properties on a voluntary basis. This policy change now allows landowners to contract with accredited ATFS Lead Auditors to undergo an audit of conformance with the AFF Standards of Sustainability. Until the implementation of the ATFS Group Certification program in 2004, certification of conformance with the AFF Standards of Sustainability have been individual certifications conducted by a volunteer force of professional inspecting foresters. Interested landowners should contact the national office for more information on the application process, applicable fees, and the list of accredited ATFS Lead Auditors. For more information, contact operations@treefarmssystem.org.

Stumped?

Answers to Inspectors' Most Frequently Asked Questions

How do I know if I need to take a refresher course?

Answer: The ATFS inspector refresher course is for all inspectors who have already taken the initial face-to-face training. All inspectors must be trained to the 2004 – 08 AFF Standards of Sustainability (implemented July 2004) regardless of when your five (5) year inspector status expires.

For instance, if you were trained in 2003, your inspector status would have been good until 2008. However, because the

2004 Standards were implemented, inspectors must take the refresher course to be considered up-to-date. ATFS is currently working to synchronize the training and the Standards development cycle.

Your state may be offering refresher training courses in your area. Or, you may take the online refresher course by visiting www.atfsdatabase.org/training. You'll need your inspector number and about an hour to complete the training. The refresher training course counts for 2 CFE credits.

I've been assigned to inspect a property I've inspected less than 5 years ago. Why is that?

Answer: As you may already know, ATFS is implementing a national sampling system in 2006. Using statistical theory, we will be able to decrease the burden of inspections for those states that are resource challenged while increasing Tree Farm's credibility in the certification world. Those states that are able to keep up with their five (5) year reinspections may choose to continue on the same reinspection cycle they have always had.

Regardless of whether or not your state chooses to continue with the five (5) year reinspections or only inspect the properties required by the sample, all states will have a list of Tree Farms that were drawn as part of the national sample. It just may happen that one of these properties has been inspected recently. However, it is important to conduct the inspection in order to keep the sample statistically valid. This is one more reason why inspecting foresters are so important to ATFS. Thank you for your continued hard work!

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