



Sightline *Express*

Introducing Sightline *Express* – A new way to be in the loop with what's going on at Tree Farm!

As a monthly e-newsletter, ATFS staff will use Sightline *Express* to update volunteer inspectors on the latest Tree Farm news and other topics. Sightline *Express* will compliment the paper editions of Sightline sent out three times a year. We hope you find this newsletter informative! Please contact Victoria Lockhart at vlockhart@forestfoundation.org with any questions or content suggestions.

1. **AFF Standards Revision**

AFF is revising its 2004-2009 Standards of Sustainability for Forest Certification to which every Tree Farmer must meet to be certified. We have finished the second public comment period. Thank you to all those who commented! The Independent Standards Review Panel charged with developing the revised Standards have been particularly interested in inspector comments as you are the force on the ground working with landowners every day.

The Independent Standards Review Panel will be meeting in Washington, DC on September 9 to review the comments received and draft final updates to the revised Standards. The Standards will go to the AFF Board of Trustees for approval before being released to the Tree Farm family.

Following approval of the revised AFF Standards, all inspecting foresters will be required to undergo an updated inspector training program. This will be available on-line. To better coordinate inspector training expiration dates with the 5-year cycle for revised Standards, all inspectors whose training would have expired or will expire before the new Standards are released have received extensions. This has been processed in coordination with the State

Tree Farm committees. Once the new Standards are released all inspectors will receive an expiration date to coincide with the Standards revision process to avoid future complications.

To follow the Standards revision process please visit AFF's website at www.forestfoundation.org.

2. **ATFS Inspector Training Revision**

To coincide with the revisions of AFF's Standards, staff has begun development of new in-person and online ATFS inspector training courses. We want to hear from you how we can improve the training. What did you find most valuable in the current training? What would you improve or add to the training? Send us your input. Please email all comments and suggestions to Victoria Lockhart at vlockhart@forestfoundation.org, or give Victoria a call at 202.463.2738.

3. **Need a 004 form?**

Electronic copies of the 004 inspector form and the auditor verification form are always available on the ATFS website. Visit www.treefarmssystem.org>Tree Farm in Your State>Inspectors Corner for this and other resources for inspectors.

Or contact your state program if you are meeting with a specific landowner and you would like to have an electronic copy to print that has all of the Tree Farm and landowner information already filled out. All state contacts are listed

4. **Stumped**

Have any questions you think others would like to hear the answer to as well? Email your questions to Victoria Lockhart at vlockhart@forestfoundation.org, and they may just appear in the Stumped section of our next *Sightline* newsletter!

5. **What's New around AFF?**

Just a few of the things happening at AFF this month.

- Tree Farmer and Rolling Stones Keyboardist [Chuck Leavell](#) asks Congress to ensure family forest owners Have Access to carbon and renewable energy market opportunities and incentives
- AFF seeking nominations for the NRCS State Conservationist Award. This award recognizes NRCS state conservationists and their staffs for outstanding technical and financial assistance to private forestland owners on forest conservation activities. Nominations are due by

September 15, 2009. Please see the 2009 [call for nominations](#).

- AFF has announcing [funding](#) for the University of Massachusetts to compile a comprehensive understanding of existing tax policies and programs across the country to help AFF advance policies that help family forest owners stay on their forestland.

As always, check out the latest news of what's happening at the American Forest Foundation on our website – www.forestfoundation.org.

This is just the beginning of Sightline *Express*. Look for us next month with more information on the program and some outside topics as well.

Please feel free to contact us at any time with any questions or concerns.

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