

# treefarmer

MAY/JUNE 2003

AMERICAN  
FOREST FOUNDATION



AMERICAN  
TREE FARM SYSTEM

THE PRACTICAL GUIDE TO SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY®

## Trends FOR THE 21<sup>st</sup> Century

### ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

The Lure of Better Fishing

Oregon's Rediscovery For est

Lease Spells Out Hunter's Rights

*Tree Farmer* is the official magazine of the 65,000-member American Tree Farm System™ (ATFS). It is published six times a year for subscribers and new Tree Farmers, and for 7,000 volunteer foresters who participate in the System. Opinions do not necessarily represent those of the American Tree Farm System.

*Tree Farmer* magazine is a bi-monthly forest enhancement publication by Tree Farmers for Tree Farmers and all who benefit from their endeavors. *Tree Farmer* espouses the environmental benefits of sustainable production of forest products through responsible forest stewardship on private forestlands. With information, advocacy, and practical advice, the magazine promotes sustainable forest practices for multiple benefits to society.

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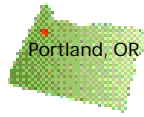
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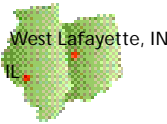
This issue's stories come from:



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## 6 Trends, Trees and Tree Farmers

The Forest Service's Gina Childs and Steve Bratkovich analyze some of the trends — including the increase in population and the increase in the importance of environmental values of forests — that will drive many of the decisions and issues affecting forest products and forest landowners in the 21st century.

## 13 Stock Up for a Better Catch

If you have a pond, chances are you've dreamed of casting out and reeling in bass, bluegills or trout and then serving them up for dinner. As wildlife management expert Jeff Jackson says, stocking is essential to realizing that dream. Here he explains how to develop a good fishing hole, from killing undesirable species to transporting and releasing fingerlings to your pond.

## 18 Rediscovering Oregon's Trees

Visitors enjoy and learn about forest resources, managed forests and sustainability in a new forestry demonstration area outside Portland.

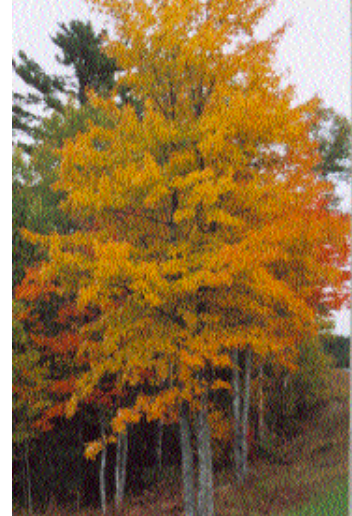
## departments

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How casualty loss rules apply to timber.

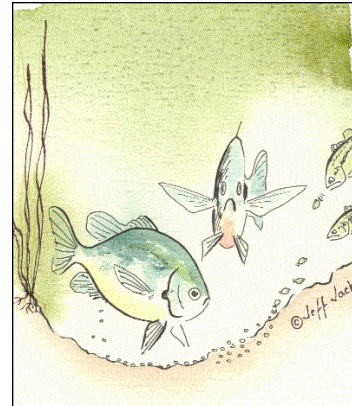
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Use a lease to spell out hunting rights.

26 Tools & Techniques  
Suck up the fuel to prevent that fire.

28 Woodland Security  
Cheating: Who, why and what you can do about it.



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NATIONAL TREE FARM INSPECTOR OF THE YEAR (1999) CHARLIE MORENO MEASURES A HIGH-QUALITY TREE IN PREPARATION FOR A HARVEST IN SOUTHEASTERN NEW HAMPSHIRE. PHOTO BY NED THERRIEN.



# Peering Into the Future

BY THERESA D'ORSI

*Tree Farmers who commit to keeping their forests healthy, develop clear goals for their land and obtain quality technical assistance can keep ahead of the future.*

In our cover story, we perch on the shoulders of two Forest Service analysts as they peer into their crystal ball. Gina Childs, group leader for information management and analysis, and Steve Bratkovich, marketing and utilization specialist, reveal how they think current trends and policy actions will shape Tree Farming in the 21st century.

They find that two great “megatrends”—a steady increase in the U.S. population and Americans placing a higher value on the scenic and ecological values of forests such as wildlife habitat, clean air and clean water—have the potential to dramatically influence forest product consumption, land use practices, land values, ownership patterns, and clean water and clean air.

“We’ve seen a dramatic shift in attitudes over time,” says Dave Bengston, research scientist and natural resources economist with the USDA Forest Service North Central Research Station. “A shift in people valuing environmental, recreational and preservationist values over commodity values. It is not that commodity and economic values are unimportant, but that other values are increasing in importance.”

And while these trends may bring opportunities such as access to global markets and demand for high-quality hardwoods, they may also bring more challenges. These megatrends—which signal a decline in per capita forestland and an increase in environmental values—may converge, according to the authors. “People tend to place higher values on things perceived as rare,” they write. “If people believe forests are rare or getting more rare, they are likely to favor policies designed to protect and preserve forests and restrict other uses.”

However, as the authors predict: “Tree Farmers who commit to keeping their forests healthy, develop clear goals for their land and obtain quality technical assistance

can keep a step ahead of the future.”

Ideally that future will include more hands-on, outdoor classrooms such as the new Rediscovery Forest in Oregon we also profile in this issue. A model of the Tree Farm certification program and commitment to sustainable forestry, this forestry demonstration forest is expected to draw 400,000 visitors annually to enjoy, explore and learn more about forest management.

And while you plan for the future, take a little time for the here and now. Also in this issue, wildlife management specialist Jeff Jackson explains how you can bring to life any dreams of fishing from your own pond. From ridding your pond of undesirables to selecting compatible species for stocking, this article will help you put delicious fresh fish on your table.

With that in mind, I’m off to catch something—even if it’s only a tall tale—for dinner ....

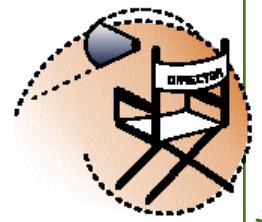
## Correction

Tree Farm inspector and stewardship forester Adam Zirbel of Southwest Badger Resource Conservation & Development in Richland Center, Wisconsin, pointed out an error we made in our January/February 2003 article titled “Stewardship Rewarded.” He corrects our information on Wisconsin’s tax laws: “Wisconsin’s Managed Forest Law (MFL) allows the landowner to close up to 80 acres per municipality and deed to the public. Only acreage entered over the 80-acre level per township/ownership would be subject to public use. Currently the MFL annual property tax on acreage ‘closed’ to public use is \$1.95/acre and \$.83/acre on acreage designated as ‘open’ to public use.” We appreciate the accurate information. ■



*Theresa D'Orsi lives in Norwich, Vermont.*

# System Evolves to Empower Tree Farmers



from the director

Ever so quietly, something very dramatic has been taking place within the American Tree Farm System. Something amazing has been evolving, not just by happenstance, but through deliberate and focused means, and according to a plan.

Tree Farmers have slowly become empowered to take a leading role in the governance of the American Tree Farm System (ATFS).

In 1994, the first Tree Farm National Operating Committee (NOC) convened and was charged to develop the first national strategic plan for ATFS. Upon presentation, part of the Operating Committee's five-point plan involved giving greater governance of ATFS to the people for whom the program was created — Tree Farmers. Surely and deliberately, this has been occurring on both a national and a state level.

This empowerment manifests itself in many ways at the national and state levels. First, at the national level, the NOC contains Tree Farmers as representatives from all four national regions as well as the previous three National Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year. This gives Tree Farmers the largest voting block on the Operating Committee.

Second, *Tree Farmer* magazine is guided solely by Tree Farmers. Since 1994, the entire editorial board has been composed of only Tree Farmers, and the dramatic change in the quality of the publication shows what an impact they have had. This past year, for the first time, *Tree Farmer* received three national publication awards.

Finally on the national level, Tree Farmers guide the Operating Committee's two standing committees on outreach and education and public policy. Four Tree Farmers sit on the Outreach and Education Committee, whose charter it is to "propose to the NOC educational activities to be developed and implemented to ... address

continuing leadership education, inspector education [training] and public awareness."

The National Public Affairs Committee is also a standing committee within the NOC. They are charged to "render advice and guidance on national political and policy matters that impact ... forest stewardship practices on non-industrial private forest lands ...." This committee is composed entirely of Tree Farmers. Already this year, they have met in Washington, D.C., with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) national administration officials and have been quite successful in assuring family forest owners will not be left out of Farm Bill cost-share programs specifically directed at family forest owners.

Possibly the most dramatic changes in governance can be seen at the Tree Farm State Committee level. Prior to the 1994 NOC strategic plan, state committees were run almost exclusively by foresters. Today, nearly half of the state committees in the Tree Farm program have Tree Farmer chairs or vice-chairs. Their contributions are invaluable and can be easily noted by the increased energy and activities in those states' programs.

As we continue to develop our new strategic plan, Vision For 2010, I am sure even greater strides will be made in Tree Farmer governance of ATFS. This will only make for a stronger program making even greater contributions to sustaining our family forest heritage. ■



*Bob Simpson is national director of the American Tree Farm System and vice president for the American Forest Foundation.*

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