



FALL 2011

# sightline

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

ON THE GROUND

## ATFS Inspectors can earn \$100 towards ACF and SAF dues through new Partnership

ATFS in partnership with the Association of Consulting Foresters (ACF) and the Society of American Foresters (SAF) will provide a \$100 credit for qualifying foresters toward their 2012 ACF or SAF member dues. This initiative, "Partnership for Better Forests" recognizes that inspecting foresters provide the on-the-ground validation of Tree Farmer's stewardship that is essential for the integrity of the Tree Farm program. Additionally, SAF will credit members for the balance of their national dues; local and chapters dues may still apply.

In order to qualify for the \$100 credit on your 2012 ACF or SAF dues, you will need to register at [www.surveymonkey.com/s/PartnershipforBetterForests](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PartnershipforBetterForests) and complete two Tree Farm Inspections. These inspections could be either new Tree Farms or optional reinspections. However, required inspections and decertifications do not apply. Any applicable inspections completed after September 1, 2011 are eligible.

We can only guarantee that the first 100 foresters from both ACF and SAF who complete their eligible inspections after September 1, 2011 will have the credit applied, so get your boots on the ground and get the 004 Inspection Forms into the pipeline quickly!

### Looking for Tree Farms to Inspect? Do your clients meet the 2010-2015 ATFS Standards of Sustainability?

If so, contact your State ATFS Administrator [www.treefarmssystem.org/inyourstate](http://www.treefarmssystem.org/inyourstate) for more information. Your State ATFS Administrator can also assign

you any available inspections in your area as long as your ATFS Inspector training is up to date. They can also explain the process and routing of the 004 Forms after you have completed your inspections.

### Want to become a Tree Farm Inspector?

Contact your state committee to inquire about the next in-person inspecting forester training opportunity.

### Is your ATFS Inspecting Forester Training up to date?

If your last training was before February 2010, you can renew your ATFS Inspector qualifications by participating in an in-person training or an online refresher. Contact your state administrator or Amy Yambor at [ayambor@forestfoundation.org](mailto:ayambor@forestfoundation.org) for your username and password to access online refreshers at [www.atfsdatabase.org](http://www.atfsdatabase.org). To learn about upcoming in-person training opportunities, contact your state program.

### Not sure who to talk to for the state you work in?

All state contacts are listed online at [www.treefarmssystem.org/inyourstate](http://www.treefarmssystem.org/inyourstate)

### Am I eligible to participate?

Individuals are responsible for checking with their employer to determine if professional dues credit is acceptable under existing policy.

### Still have questions?

All other questions can be emailed to [inspectors@forestfoundation.org](mailto:inspectors@forestfoundation.org)

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[www.treefarmssystem.org](http://www.treefarmssystem.org)



# 2011 National Outstanding Inspector of the Year

Brian Cobble, Live Oak, Florida

Cobble is a senior forester with the Florida Forest Service. He coordinates and administers state and federal cooperative forestry programs on private forestlands. In accepting the Wesley R. Meier Award during the National Tree Farmer Convention in August, Cobble asked the audience if they were familiar with the area where he worked. If not, the musical verse, "Way down upon the Swanee River" might set the southern scene of his tree farming world.



longleaf pine restoration, prescribed burning, mechanical brush reduction, watershed protection, wildlife management, and exotic and invasive species control. In 2010, Cobble conducted 45 inspections on 13,809 acres and brought nine new properties into Tree Farm.

Cobble is also a registered Mississippi forester. He has conducted forestry workshops and presented programs on forestry topics. He is a certified

Cobble works on the ground with landowners through state and federal cost-share programs providing technical and financial assistance in reforestation,

wildland firefighter in Florida and served on emergency response teams for hurricanes and wildfires in Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, and Montana.



Michael Heath



Sam Topper



John Joliff

Congratulations are also in order for the 2011 Regional Inspectors of the Year, Michael Heath, Oregon\*; Sam Topper, Delaware; and John Joliff, Ohio.

ATFS Inspectors are truly the boots on the ground for Tree Farm.

\*Heath has relocated to Maine



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# STIHL, Inc. to Sponsor Tree Farm Inspector of the Year Recognition Program

Our partners in sustainability, STIHL, Inc., announced at the 2011 National Tree Farmer Convention that, beginning in 2012, they will expand their current ATFS sponsorship to include the Inspector of the Year recognition program.

For 10 years, STIHL, Inc. has proudly sponsored the State, Regional, and National Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year recognition program. Hundreds of Tree Farmers have received STIHL product certificates as part of this sponsorship that recognizes exemplary landowner stewardship. Adding support for the Inspector of the

Year awards affirms and acknowledges the work of our Tree Farm Inspectors, whose boots on the ground help support the work of the Tree Farmers across the country.

“It has been our pleasure to sponsor the Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year award for many years now. As we all know, the Tree Farm program could not exist if it were not for the hard work and dedication of the men and women who volunteer their time as inspectors. STIHL is therefore proud to recognize the inspectors with an award of their own,” said Roger Phelps, Promotional Communications Manager for STIHL.

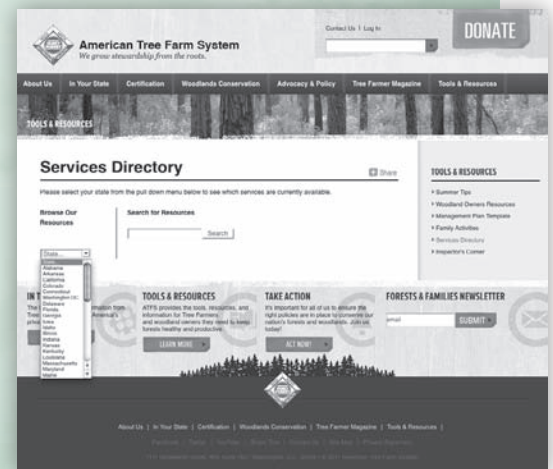
## Service Directory

In an effort to continue to provide the necessary resources and tools to help our Tree Farmer be the best stewards of their woods, we have developed an online services directory. This directory includes, for each state, the contact information for foresters, agencies, suppliers, and other relevant companies and organizations.

To search the directory, visit [www.treefarmssystem.org/services](http://www.treefarmssystem.org/services) and select your state in the drop down menu.

To be listed, foresters will need to be inspectors who are up-to-date on their training and have completed a inspection to the 2010-2015 Standards. If you are listed, please take a minute to check your listing:

- Is your name and contact information right?
- Are you in the right state(s)?
- Is your company or agency name correct
- You can add the following information:
  - List multiple states
  - Description: include services provided and the states in which you work. Be sure that your description is general enough that it will not change frequently. These descriptions are limited to 250 words or less.
  - Add a company or agency name
- To update information, email [inspectors@forestfoundation.org](mailto:inspectors@forestfoundation.org)
- Want to be listed? Contact your state program to get assigned inspection [www.treefarmssystem.org/inyourstate](http://www.treefarmssystem.org/inyourstate)



# Stumped?

## Answers to Inspectors' Most Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q: Can I conduct a phone interview for a required inspection?**

**A:** ATFS accepts a phone or email interview with a Tree Farmer if the inspecting forester has conducted a field visit within six months of the phone or email interview. If it has been more than six months since the inspecting forester has had a field visit, they must visit the Tree Farm.

### **Q: How can I use ATFS to increase my business as a consulting forester?**

**A:** Email [inspectors@forestfoundation.org](mailto:inspectors@forestfoundation.org) to get your business information listed on the services directory of the Tree Farm website. Landowners can identify you as a professional forester in their area and as an ATFS volunteer. This is a great way to develop your business, as well as continue serving your community. If you have completed an inspection since February 2010, then you are eligible for a listing in the service directory. If

you have any questions, please email [inspectors@forestfoundation.org](mailto:inspectors@forestfoundation.org).

### **Q: One of my clients has a Tree Farm of more than 10,000 acres. How can I keep them in the Tree Farm program even though all Tree Farms over 10,000 acres are no longer eligible for the State Tree Farm Program?**

**A:** There are several options you may explore with the Tree Farmer:

1. Verify the property is contiguously forested. ATFS only certifies forested acreage. If the large parcel contains non-forested acreage, check the forested acreage. It may be less than 10,000 acres.
2. If the property is not contiguous, it may be split into multiple Tree Farms of less than 10,000 acres each. However, if one management plan covers all of the acreage, it is important to clearly identify which tracks make up which Tree Farm within the management plan.

3. If the property is contiguous, explore other ATFS Certification options. The Tree Farmer may be interested in the Independent Managed Groups (IMG) Certification, or third party certification. Please visit [www.treefarmssystem.org/certification](http://www.treefarmssystem.org/certification) to find more information, or contact [inspectors@forestfoundation.org](mailto:inspectors@forestfoundation.org).

### **Q: My training as an inspector expired. How can I take update my training?**

**A:** To update your training with ATFS, contact your state committee chair to find when the next classroom training is scheduled in your area. If you would prefer, you can take the online refresher training at [www.atfsdatabase.org](http://www.atfsdatabase.org). Contact [inspectors@forestfoundation.org](mailto:inspectors@forestfoundation.org) to get your login name and password so you can take the online refresher training, which will get you updated and ready to volunteer.

FUTURE

## Review Your Management Plan Campaign

In this issue of *Forests and Families*, we have launched the "Review Your Management Plan" campaign. We are encouraging Tree Farmers to review their plans in the New Year to see if they are on track for achieving their goals for their woods. In addition, we want to make sure that our Tree Farmers are ready for the range of forest threats that are out there, from wildfire to invasive species to drought. We are continuing to add resources to our Woodland Owners Resource [www.treefarmssystem.org/woodlandresources](http://www.treefarmssystem.org/woodlandresources) and we hope this will become an important tool for our Tree Farmers. If you have any suggestions to help us improve this tool, please let us know at [inspectors@forestfoundation.org](mailto:inspectors@forestfoundation.org).

Please join us in encouraging our Tree Farmers to take a moment at the beginning of each year to make sure their management plans are up to date, to help them prepare for the new year's activities and any potential changes on the horizon, and plan for the next generation.



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