



# Sightline express →

The monthly e-newsletter exclusively for ATFS Inspectors.

February 2013



## Dates and Deadlines

*March 15, 2013:* Regional Outstanding

Inspector of the Year Nominations Due

*March 15, 2013:* Last day for Early Bird  
registration at the 2013 Convention

*May 7-8, 2013:* ATFS Policy Fly-In,  
Washington D.C.

*June 14, 2013:* Convention registration  
closes

*July 25-27, 2013:* National Tree Farmer  
Convention

## Special Announcements

**Call for Inspector of the Year Nominations! – Deadline is March 15**

Annual recognition of outstanding Inspectors at the state, regional, and national levels is a great way to validate your hard work on the ground. Nominations for the 2013 Outstanding Inspector of the Year are due Friday, March 15, 2013. If you would be interested in nominating a fellow inspector, please contact a representative of your state Tree Farm committee or Sara Anrrich for more information. The Regional and National Outstanding Inspector of the Year awards are proudly sponsored by STIHL, Inc.

## **Request for Articles: Sightline Express**

Would you like to be featured in next month's Sightline Express, the exclusive e-newsletter for ATFS Inspecting Foresters? We're opening the Sightline Express to news, information, and best practice sharing from our national corps of ATFS Inspecting Foresters!

Submissions should be between 100-200 words and include a link to a web page with more information. This is a great venue to share information and make announcements about people, places and events.

We provide you the on-the-ground tools you need to help validate the work that family woodland owners are doing to keep their forest healthy and productive.

Working together, we help provide outreach to landowners and promote better forest stewardship.

Contact Us

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

*We grow stewardship from the roots.*

Submissions will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Please send your submissions to Justin Lindenberg at [jlindenberg@forestfoundation.org](mailto:jlindenberg@forestfoundation.org)

## Tools

### ATFS Webinar Series

ATFS values your commitment to good stewardship and we strive to provide the tools you need as you work to keep America's forests healthy, productive, and enjoyable. The [ATFS webinar series](#) provides important information to our inspectors and tree farmers and covers a range of topics from invasive species to legacy planning. Here is what's coming up:

- [Timber Income on your 2012 Income Tax Returns](#)  
**February 28, 2013**
- [Panacea or Pandora's Box? California's regulatory forest carbon market](#)  
**March 21, 2013**

We have requested CFEs for these webinars and will post that information on our website as soon as it is available. ATFS is using e-mail to inform our network about the webinars and we encourage you to help spread the word. If you cannot participate in a webinar, live recordings will be posted [online](#) after the completion of each webinar. Suggestions for future webinars should be sent to [webinars@forestfoundation.org](mailto:webinars@forestfoundation.org).

### The National Tree Farmer Convention is celebrating its 20th Anniversary this year - come join us!

Journey to the "Land of 10,000 Lakes" to join hundreds of Tree Farmers, Inspectors, landowners, industry professionals and partners as we learn just what it takes to create *Healthy Forests for a Healthier Future*. Our event this year will provide you with a wealth of learning and networking opportunities and will feature a field day excursion to a local Certified Tree Farm. Early Bird registration for the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention is now open! To learn more about this year's event and to register online, visit [www.treefarmssystem.org/2013-national-tree-farmer-convention](http://www.treefarmssystem.org/2013-national-tree-farmer-convention).

## On the Ground

### Survey for a 004 Form App, send to your state Inspector Corps!

In an effort to make your on-the-ground work more seamless and efficient, we are exploring the possibility of developing a 004 Form "app" that will allow you to complete and submit inspections using your smart phone. Please take a few minutes to tell us how you currently use technology in the field, and [forward this link](#) to other active inspectors in your state. There is growing excitement about the possibility of this app and we want to get it right, so [please click here](#) to fill out the survey and be sure to forward it to anyone you think might

benefit from this on-the-ground tool in the future.

## ATFS Demonstration Tree Farm in New Mexico seeks Visiting Foresters

The Visiting Forester program at Philmont Scout Ranch consists of volunteer professional foresters who spend a week at a premiere Boy Scout High Adventure Base sharing their forestry knowledge with participants (this site sees over 50,000 scouts each year). The Philmont Scout Camp Demo Forest was recognized as an ATFS Tree Farm in 2002 by the New Mexico Tree Farm Committee.

The program will run from June 9 – August 17, 2013. Two Visiting Foresters will be selected for ten weeks each of camp. If you are interested in being considered as a Visiting Forester, please [contact](#)

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## Moving Toward the Future

On the Ground: In Washington - Mark your calendars for the ATFS Fly-in, May 7-8, 2013 – Washington, D.C.

Please join us Tuesday, May 7th and Wednesday, May 8th for our 2013 American Tree Farm System Capitol Hill Fly-in to learn about policy issues and talk with your Members of Congress. Similar to previous events, our upcoming fly-in will bring those interested in tree farming from across the country together to voice their policy concerns to their Members of Congress, focusing on issues like invasive species. With more than 58 million acres of forests threatened by pests and pathogens, we need your help now more than ever to make sure policies and programs are in place to protect America's family forests.

[Click here](#) for information on registration, scholarship opportunities, and more!

## Stumped!

**Question:** I'm recertifying a Tree Farm, initially certified in 2007. While currently recorded as one tree farm, it actually consists of 3 separate contiguous parcels. One parcel is 10 acres with 6 acres forested. The other two are 40 and 280 forested acres. Do I have to decertify this 6 acre parcel?

**Answer:** Great question! Since this 6 acre parcel was initially certified before 12/31/2009 it can continue to be certified if it meets the standard. No Tree Farms less than 10 acres can be certified past 1/1/2010. As there are now three Tree Farms (according to the definition of contiguous), please ensure they are represented this way on the 004 forms and in the database. This helps improve the accuracy of our database and gives verifiers a better target for confirming certification.

