

Anrrich, Sara

From: American Tree Farm System [jlindenberg@forestfoundation.org]
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 12:39 PM
To: Anrrich, Sara
Subject: May 2012 Sightline Express

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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

We grow stewardship from the roots

Dear Sara,

We hope you enjoy the May edition of Sightline Express, the e-newsletter exclusively for American Tree Farm System Inspectors.

Special Announcements

Announcing our 2012 Inspectors of the Year
Congratulations to these hard working and dedicated foresters whose work on the ground is helping us put more good forestry on more acres:

2012 Regional Inspectors of the Year:

- **Southern Region: Justin Dewberry, Mississippi**
- **Western Region: Doug Stinson, Washington**
- **North East Region: Andy Fast, New Hampshire**

And the 2012 Wes R. Meier National Inspector of the Year is John Stambaugh, of Indiana!

These outstanding inspectors will be recognized at the 2012 National Tree Farmer Convention, June 14-16, in Jacksonville,

Sarah Crow
Certification Manager
(T) 202 463 2738

Justin Lindenberg
Certification
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(T) 202 463 2451

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Florida. Many thanks to our partners at STIHL, Inc. for sponsoring this recognition program!

2012 STIHL, Inc. Photo Contest Entries are Due June 1

The [2012 Tree Farm Photo Contest, sponsored by STIHL](#), is an opportunity to show off the beauty of Tree Farms in your area and a chance to win a \$500 gift certificate for STIHL products! Photos must be taken on or of a Certified Tree Farm and should fall into one of two categories: scenic Tree Farm landscapes or multiple generations on a Tree Farm. E-mail submissions to photos@treefarmssystem.org; entries are due June 1! Your photos may even show up in the 2013 Tree Farm Calendar.

Dates and Deadlines

- June 1, 2012, 2012 STIHL, Inc. Photo Contest Entries Due
- June 14-16, 2012, National Tree Farmer Convention in Jacksonville, FL
- November 1, 2012, Required sample inspections completed/entered in the database

Tools

Announce ATFS Certified Wood!

For landowners, knowing their Tree Farm number and providing Tree Farm certification information on a timber sale announcement establishes the credibility and recognition needed to show that the harvested material is eligible for and should be tracked as Certified content at Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Certified facilities. Sample language that can be used is:

Wood from this Certified Family Forest is Certified by the American Tree Farm System (Tree Farm #DC-1234). As such, it is endorsed by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certifications (PEFC) and eligible for credit as certified content for Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) certified facilities and chains of custody. For questions about identifying Tree Farm products in your next sale, contact [Mike Burns](#).

Online 004 Forms

Are you interested in completing an inspection but waiting to be assigned one? No problem! All you need is an interested landowner and a 004 form. Conducting an ATFS inspection is an excellent way to market your services, build your clientele and provide landowners with access to the array of benefits and resources that ATFS has to offer. Online 004 Forms are available in the [Inspector's Corner](#) of the Tree Farm website. For questions, contact [Justin Lindenberg](#).

ATFS Webinar Series

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

- [Fix the Estate Tax to Keep the Forest in the Family](#)
 - **June 27, 2012, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. EDT**

ATFS is using mail and e-mail to inform Tree Farmers and foresters about the webinars and we encourage you to help spread the word throughout your own network. If you cannot participate in a webinar, live recordings will be posted online after the completion of each webinar.

On the Ground

Working Forest Film

With support from the American Forest Foundation, veteran forester and ATFS Inspector Bob Williams spearheaded production of the documentary film "A Working Forest". The video encompasses forests from Florida to Wisconsin and shines light on many contemporary issues in forestry. With interviews and exposés from professionals in the field this film is a pleasure to view. An excerpt of the film is available [online](#), and you can visit the [website](#) for more details.

AFF Public Affairs Team Updates

AFF's Public Affairs team continues to work aggressively in Congress to represent the ATFS network. Here is what we are working on:

Farm Bill Progress

At the end of April, the Senate Agriculture Committee [passed a Farm Bill](#) that promotes rural jobs, strengthens rural communities, and for the most part, reflects the priorities that AFF and the Forests in the Farm Bill Coalition fought to include. Along with [several other conservation partners](#), we hope to see the Farm Bill now proceed to the Senate floor for a full Senate vote.

The House Agriculture Committee held a forestry hearing on May 18th as they work toward finishing their version of a Farm Bill. [John Burke, AFF Chair of the Board of Trustees, was invited to testify at the hearing, giving the Tree Farm network a seat at the table in the Farm Bill process.](#)

Positive Developments on Fix to Biobased Program in Farm Bill and New Legislation

The Senate Agriculture Committee's bill included a fix to the Biobased Markets Program that would open the door for forest products that have been innovative in their approach to growing, harvesting, procuring, processing or manufacturing regardless of the age of the product. In

addition, [Senators Pryor and Blunt](#) introduced the *Forest Products Fairness Act of 2012* (S. 2346), which would allow all forest products into the Biobased Program simply based on the recognition of their biobased content. AFF is engaged in daily conversations with our champions on the Hill to open up the Biobased Markets program to forest products in an effort to help strengthen markets for family forest owners.

Keep the Forest in the Family Estate Tax Campaign

The estate tax can be a significant and unexpected burden on some family forest owners. That's why ATFS launched the *Keep the Forest in the Family* campaign. We are fighting for to fix the estate tax in a way that works for family forest owners and encourage you to join the effort by [sharing an estate tax story](#) or by [giving to this campaign](#). With your gift, we will be able to fund research on the numbers of forest owners potentially affected by the estate tax, which will help us to effectively make our case on Capitol Hill. Your gift will also enable us to continue the [Keep the Forest in the Family](#) campaign with strong lobbying and grassroots relationship building.

Moving Towards the Future

Bettina Ring, Our New VP of Family Forests

Bettina Ring will be joining the staff of ATFS on May 29 as the new Vice President of Family Forests. Since making the announcement to our network, we have received glowing reviews from many of her peers within the ATFS network of leaders. Here is just a sampling:

I have known Bettina for some 20+ years now and she is one of the most respected and trusted individuals that I know... she has always been creative, innovative and collaborative to find solutions and improvements. -Carl Garrison, Virginia Department of Forestry

For the past eight years, Bettina has been working for the non-profit conservation community out west and has gained some valuable experience in protecting working forests and partnering with folks to protect and restore forested landscapes. She is a very impressive individual with a great public policy resume, which should make her a great fit for the Tree Farm Program. I am looking for great things from Bettina in the upcoming years. -David Halley, True North Forest Management Services

[Bettina] will be able to hit the ground running and add a tremendous perspective to the "family forests" table of issues. She is one of us...and will be a great addition to the Tree Farm / State Forestry Agency partnership. We could not have hand-

picked a better choice... and I urge you to get her to your state soon and welcome her home. -Tom Boggus, Texas Forestry Service

Stumped?

Email inspectors@forestfoundation.org to get your *Stumped?* questions answered!

Q: What are the requirements for determining the presence of high conservation value forests (HCVF)?

A: HCVF are forests with a combination of unique attributes of regional, national or global significance. Most HCVFs in the US are recognized and protected by state or federal government agencies. However, all Tree Farmers are required to address HCVFs in their management plan. When present, Tree Farmers' forest management activities should maintain or enhance HCVFs. While there is no central clearinghouse of information on HCVF, databases maintained by State Natural Heritage Programs are key resources for researching HCVF. The ATFS website provides a listing of Natural Heritage databases, by state. Tree Farmers must consult these resources and document the research in their management plans, as required by Indicator 5.1.1 in the 2010-2015 ATFS Standards of Sustainability.

Thank you for your participation as an inspector with the American Tree Farm System! Your interaction with family woodland owners is helping to improve the sustainability of our forest resources across the U.S.

As always, check out the latest news of what's happening at the American Tree Farm System on our website - www.treefarmssystem.org.

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

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