

Anrrich, Sara

From: Justin Lindenberg [jlindenberg@forestfoundation.org]
Sent: Friday, September 21, 2012 11:36 AM
To: Anrrich, Sara
Subject: September 2012 Sightline Express - E-newsletter for ATFS Inspectors



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

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to Gene Kodama!

Please join us in congratulating Gene Kodama, South Carolina State Forester, who received the American Tree Farm System's Sustained Excellence award at this year's NASF annual meeting. Congratulations on this achievement and thank you for your continued support of ATFS in South Carolina.

Dates and Deadlines

- November 1, 2012 – Required sample inspections completed/entered in the database
- February 19-21, 2013 – National Leadership Conference
- July 25-27, 2013 – National Tree Farmer Convention

Tools

Partnership for Better Forests

Congratulations to the 120 foresters who have taken advantage of the \$100 dues credit through the Partnership for Better Forests. These foresters have completed more than 720 new and optional reinspections in the past year. There is still time to qualify for the credit for inspections completed between 9/01/11 – 8/31/12 and the 004 Form(s) are

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

Sarah Crow
Certification Manager
(T) 202 463 2738

Justin Lindenberg
Certification Coordinator
(T) 202 463 2451

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

*We grow stewardship
from the roots.*

processed before October 1, 2012. For additional information about the [Partnership for Better Forests](#), contact [Mike Burns](#).

Facilitator Training

Facilitators, in concert with the State Committees, host the ATFS Inspector trainings that are crucial to grow our network of on-the-ground professionals. Please plan to join us in an upcoming Facilitator training session via webinar. The session will be offered twice: [October 9th at 2:30pm](#) and [October 10th at 9:30am](#) EDT. Each webinar training session is the same and will last approximately 2.5 hours. The training is designed for current facilitators looking for a refresher as well as Inspecting Foresters seeking further professional development opportunities. For inquiries regarding this upcoming training please contact [Sarah Crow](#).

ATFS Webinar Series

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

Basics of Estate Planning and the Tools Available for Family Forests **September 27, 2012**

ATFS is using e-mail to inform our network about the webinars and we encourage you to help spread the word throughout your state network. 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.

On the Ground

Certified Markets Survey Now Available

Markets for certified products vary widely by region, procurement system and product type. We are hoping to learn more about the ways that these markets vary across the county and are looking for your on-the-ground perspectives! [The survey linked here](#) is designed to help us better understand the market environment in your state and region. This survey takes only 5 to 10 minutes to complete. Your insights will help inform the ATFS Certification Program and support the development of tools to enhance market access and build value for Certified Tree Farmers. We appreciate your time to take this survey, available by clicking [here](#). Contact Sarah Crow with any additional questions or ideas at 202.463.2738 or scrow@forestfoundation.org.

AFF Public Affairs Team Updates

AFF's public affairs team continues to work advocating for Tree Farmers across the country. Here are some activities going on this month:

Georgia Takes Steps to Recognize Importance of Wood, ATFS in Green Building

In Georgia, Governor Nathan Deal issued an Executive Order that any new or expanded state building in Georgia should use green building rating

systems that recognize all forest certification systems—including the American Tree Farm System, Sustainable Forestry Initiative, and the Forest Stewardship Council. The Executive Order was the result of a collaborative effort between the Georgia Forestry Association and several forest community and industry leaders, and Georgia Tree Farmers played a role in weighing in with the Governor to encourage him to issue the order. View a copy of the [Executive Order](#), [ATFS News Release](#), and [letter from Tom Martin](#), President and CEO of the American Forest Foundation.

Funding Raised for Estate Tax Research

Our *Keep the Forest in the Family Campaign* marches on. We have now been able to fund the crucial first step in the campaign—ensuring we have good, credible data to make our case regarding the impact of the estate tax on family forests. Thanks to the generous contributions of our donors and additional funding from the U.S. Forest Service Research and Development, we have raised the \$75,000 needed for the USFS Family Forest Research Center to complete the research on the number of family forest owners and acres potentially affected by the estate tax. Thank you for helping to support this critical research. To ensure that we have a strong voice in Congress around the forest conservation impacts of the estate tax, we will continue to raise funds toward our goal of \$270,000 by the end of 2012.

Grasstops Leaders Show Target Members of Congress the Importance of Our Issues in August

Our Grasstops Leaders have been very busy reaching out to their Target Members of Congress this summer to keep our issues on their agendas. [Here's a quick snapshot of some of their activities.](#) As the election looms closer, we're encouraging the rest of our grassroots network to reach out and educate all potential candidates on family forest owner issues. To do this, we've developed the [election toolkit](#) – a tool for our network to research candidates, write messages, or submit a letter to the editor.

Moving Toward the Future

Help Support AFF through the Combined Federal Campaign and State Employee Giving Programs!

This year, the American Forest Foundation is once again participating in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) and State Employee Giving Programs. The CFC supports eligible non-profit organizations that provide health and human services throughout the world, including AFF. (ATFS is a program of AFF.) The CFC is the world's largest and most successful annual workplace charity campaign and is one of the easiest ways for Federal and State employees to give to their favorite charities. Pledges can be made by Federal and State civilian, postal, and military employees during the 2012 fall campaign season (September 1 to December 15). If you are interested in supporting AFF through the CFC or your

State Employee Giving Program, please check off #12049 - under Conservation and Preservation Charities. If you have any questions, please contact Laura Tuel at 202-463-2585. We appreciate your support!

Stumped!

Question: When are required sample inspection forms due?

Answer: Required sample inspections should be completed in the field and entered into the database by November 1st, 2012. Please submit them prior to this date to allow time for data entry and approval. To date, 629 of 1,500 required sample inspections have been completed. Thanks for your hard work to make this a success!