



"The American Tree Farm System® is a nationwide community of Tree Farmers with the same desires to leave the land better for the next generation."

Walt McPhail

Walt McPhail is a Tree Farmer in South Carolina. His woodlands have been in his family since 1860 and Walt will say that the American Tree Farm System® (ATFS) sign he proudly displays tells his community that "my land represents good forestry for years and generations to come." Like other woodland owners in ATFS, Walt takes his stewardship seriously.

ATFS is the largest and oldest sustainable woodland system in America. The famous green and white ATFS sign validates your commitment to do right by your land. As Janet Olver, a Tree Farmer in Pennsylvania describes it, "Having that sign on our property gives us a sense of pride. We've earned that sign by working very hard to manage our forest. And we want to show it off."



Walt, Janet, and Tree Farmers from around the country, know that the American Tree Farm System is there to help ensure the legacy of family forest owners continue. ATFS gives you the tools and the confidence to be an effective steward of the land you love.



We know you are in it for the long term, and the American Tree Farm System is with you every step of the way. Together, we grow stewardship from the roots.



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



Trees are in my blood.

Jim Fish, Michigan

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Our best hope for the future of sustainable forestry is how we can motivate others to pass on these values.

Steve and Janet Funk, Idaho, 2011 National Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year



Tools

"I learn a lot in every way from a lot of people who come to ATFS meetings. I learn about stewardship, invasive species, taxes and much more..." Jim Fish, Michigan

It used to be a forest could be left alone with little or no management. Those days have long passed. Invasive species, drought, catastrophic fire, severe weather, development pressures, and much more require hands-on stewardship. That's why the American Tree Farm System works side by side with woodland owners like you to give you the best and most effective tools to keep your forest healthy and productive.

At www.treefarmssystem.org/tools you'll find a wide variety of resources from tips on what to look for when walking your land, to how to contact a forester, to best management practices. Our webinars and publications give you the most up-to-date information on issues such as invasives, certification standards, and succession planning.

Our policy work in Washington, DC, gives you a voice in Congress and the Administration on the issues you care most about, such as estate taxes and Farm Bill programs. To get updates on family forest issues, visit www.treefarmssystem.org/actionnetwork.

Whether you own 10 acres or 10,000 acres, our team of experts is ready to help.



We're a member of a very powerful network of people. We have a voice in Congress.

Janet Olver, Pennsylvania



On the Ground

What's important about ATFS is its broad reach across regions. It gives family forest owners

information on better ways to manage their property.

Walt McPhail, South Carolina

On any given day, foresters in the ATFS network are walking through the woods with private landowners to help write or update a management plan, advise on a stream bed crossing, plan for a harvest, or just to give a pat on the back for a job well done.

Our network of professional foresters and inspectors knows that validating your stewardship efforts is very important to you, your community, and others in the forestry sector. We can help you sustainably harvest your trees, protect water sources, improve wildlife habitat, and keep your land safe for recreation. Whether it's a field day in your community, or one-on-one consultations, the American Tree Farm System's nationwide network is on the ground with you every step of the way.

For forester contacts and other services in your state, go to www.treefarmssystem.org/services.



Future

Most of America's forests are owned by people like you, not by the federal government. And we owe a lot to you and other woodland owners who provide clean air and water, wildlife habitat, recreation, good paying jobs in rural communities, and the wood products we use every day. To ensure your forest legacy continues, the rest of America needs to understand how vital your forest management is to America's quality of life now, and for future generations.



We are reaching out to industry, legislators, policy makers, and others to tell the story of family forest owners; to strengthen markets, improve forest health, provide tax policy solutions, and keep funding for forest programs in the Farm Bill. We are working on behalf of 10 million family forest owners because healthy forests are the cornerstone of America's economic and environmental health.

For 70 years, the American Tree Farm System has stood by woodland owners like you, with a shared commitment to ensuring your forest legacy is passed on to the next generation. For more information on how to ensure your forest legacy continues, visit, www.treefarmssystem.org/successionplanning.

One day I'm going to be in charge of all this.

All the information I've gotten from my father and ATFS is going to be very important in managing this forest.

Patrick Saloom, Alabama