American Tree Farm System
2003 Regional Tree Farmer of the Year Nomination
MAINE
CLARK A. GRANGER
Tree Farm # 973
AMERICAN TREE FARM SYSTEM
REGIONAL TREE FARMER OF THE YEAR CONTEST
Nomination Form

State: MAINE

Year: 2003

Name of Tree Farmer: Clark A. Granger
191 Phipps Point Road
Woolwich, Maine 04579

Tree Farm # 973

Phone Number: (207) 442-8759

E-mail: rgranger@clinic.net

Location of Tree Farm:
The farm has woodland acreage in three counties. The primary Tree Farm is located in China, Maine (Kennebec County) and borders the Sheepscot River, one of several Maine rivers which provide habitat for the endangered Atlantic salmon. Other woodlots are located in Woolwich (Sagadahoc County) on the shores of Brookings Bay, and in Waldoboro, Maine, (Lincoln County), off the Mank Road.

Occupation:
Clark has worked as a plant pathologist for the Maine Forest Service for 35 years, helping homeowners, small woodland owners, and Christmas tree growers manage their tree disease problems in an ecologically sustainable manner. A firm believer in practicing what he preaches, Clark personally tests, applies and refines most of his recommendations to landowners on his own tree farm first to make sure they actually work and will result in effective disease control. Clark is a "hands on" grower, personally mixing and spraying the insecticides, herbicides, and animal repellants used on his tree farm, so he speaks from experience when he fields questions from other tree farmers at grower meetings which relate to pest control issues.

Total woodland acreage:
The three parcels which comprise the Granger Farm total about 750 acres, 737 of which are forested and certified as a Tree Farm.

How long has the tree farmer owned the land?
Clark has put together the Tree Farm one woodlot at a time over the past 34 years. The first parcel was purchased in 1969, and important forest land acquisitions followed over the years as funds permitted. Even today the Tree Farm continues to build on its past successes, with negotiations in progress for the addition of another 124 acre parcel this spring. Bringing this new parcel up to Tree Farm standards will be largely a project for the next generation, particularly for Clark's son Greg, who shares Clark's enthusiasm for managing the farm using sustainable forestry practices.

How long has the land been under a written forest management plan?

How long has the property been a certified Tree Farm?
33 years.

What are the primary objectives of the Tree Farm?
1) Timber Production
2) Christmas Tree Production
3) Research (Restoration of the American chestnut, Christmas tree improvement)
4) Recreation

How much of the actual Tree Farm field work is done by the owner?
Clark and his son Greg do about 75 percent of the field work, including planting, mowing, spraying, firewood harvest, corrective pruning and site preparation.

How is the rest accomplished?
Road construction, pond building, and Christmas tree shearing are contracted.

What forest management work has been accomplished in the last five years?
1) Harvesting (type of cut, volume, and products): 63,916 bf of logs, 872 cords of pulpwood and 60 cords of firewood have been selectively harvested; 11,578 Christmas trees have also been harvested.

2) Reforestation (natural, artificial and number of acres); 18,850 Christmas trees were planted on 30 acres. Natural regeneration is ample on harvested woodland areas.

3) Other practices (protection and TSI): 39 acres of pre-commercial thinning was conducted (crop tree selection); 2 fire ponds were constructed, 2 1/2 miles of road were built, property lines were blazed and painted around 650 acres, and 20,000 feet of drainage tile was installed to reduce frost heaving of newly planted seedlings. Log landings were reseeded following harvests. Watersheds were protected during road construction through the use of silt fences, ditch seeding, and staked hay bales to slow water until ditch vegetation became established.

Has the Tree Farmer been involved in any special activities?
• Clark was the driving force behind the establishment of the Pine Tree State Arboretum, serving as its first President and Executive Director.

• He was a member of the State of Maine Arborist Examining Board in the 1980's and served as Chair for part of this period.

• He served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Maine Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation from its inception in 1998 until 2001.
• He served two 3 year terms on the Board of Directors of the Maine Christmas Tree Association.

• He served on the National Christmas Tree Association Grades Committee in 1986 and 1987, traveling to Washington, D.C. to meet with regulators to revise the federal standards used in grading Christmas trees.

• Clark serves as a representative to the American Farm Bureau Federation's Forestry Advisory Committee. Over the past three years he has met with this committee in Yuma, Arizona; Washington, D.C.; and Dallas, Texas to help formulate Farm Bureau forest policy.

• He served a two year term on the Maine State Agriculture Commissioner's Agricultural Advisory Committee in 1987 and 1988.

• He represents the Maine Christmas tree industry on the Agricultural Council of Maine's Board of Directors.

• Clark is active in the Maine Farm Bureau, where he chairs the State and County Forestry Committees, testifies to the Maine legislature on proposed forestry legislation, and serves on the Farm Bureau's Board of Directors and Executive Committee.

• He leads the Maine Christmas Tree Association's tree improvement program, where he manages two balsam fir seed orchards and progeny testing efforts.

• He has served several terms on the Woolwich, Maine Conservation Commission, and has served as chair of the town Agriculture and Forestry Committee.

• He participated in a collaborative workshop on Northeast wolf recovery with the US Fish & Wildlife Service, Defenders of Wildlife, and the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group in Rumford, Maine in July of 2000 to represent the views of farmers regarding the reintroduction of wolves to northeastern forests.

• Clark helps manage an American chestnut breeding orchard on his tree farm which is part of The American Chestnut Foundation’s program to breed a blight resistant chestnut to restore the species to American forests.

**Is the Tree Farm under the multiple use concept?**
Yes. The Tree Farm provides all the conventional forestland multiple uses: timber, recreation, wildlife habitat protection, and clean water. But it also serves to advance the science of forestry and the technology of Christmas tree production, through efforts to help breed a blight resistant American chestnut, a program to breed superior balsam fir Christmas trees, and an effort to test and employ cutting edge technology in Christmas tree production. Special habitat protection efforts are required in riparian areas of the Tree Farm, because adjacent waters contain populations of the Atlantic salmon which was recently listed as an endangered species.

**What uses are allowed?**
Hunting, fishing, hiking, and trapping are all allowed.
Not allowed:
The use of all terrain vehicles, snowmobiles, and SUV's is discouraged.

Is the Tree Farm sign in good condition and correctly displayed?
Yes.

In your own words, tell why you feel this is an outstanding tree farmer?
Clark is an outstanding Tree Farmer not only because he manages his own property to the highest forestry standards, but also because his commitment to better forestry transcends the physical boundaries of his Tree Farm. While the Tree Farm provides for the maintenance of an American chestnut seedling orchard where blight resistant chestnuts are being bred, the fruits of this effort will be manifested off the farm in the forests of the eastern United States far into the future.

Clark hones his developing skills as a breeder of superior balsam fir for use as Christmas trees in his own seed orchard on his own Tree Farm, and then applies this knowledge to lead the Maine Christmas Tree Association’s tree improvement effort in their seed orchards.

Clark keeps a sharp eye out for new grower products entering the marketplace and quickly tests them to see if they really represent an advance over older technologies. If they do, he relays his findings to others at grower forums where he is a frequent speaker.

What, if anything, has this tree farmer done to promote tree farming?
Clark has not only enrolled his own forest lands in the Tree Farm program for 33 years, but he also advocated for the creation of the Pine Tree State Arboretum in Augusta, Maine, which subsequently was certified as Maine Tree Farm #2483 in 1991. Clark was the Arboretum’s first President and Executive Director.

Today the Pine Tree State Arboretum attracts 10,000 visitors annually, and all of them see a Tree Farm sign as they enter the premises. About 3,000 of the Arboretum’s visitors are school children, assuring that Tree Farm values become instilled in the next generation at an early age. The Arboretum’s 224 acres of fields, plantings and woodlands provide five miles of trails for walking, horseback riding, and biking in summer and cross-country skiing and snowshoeing in winter. Its visitor’s center also houses the offices of the Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine and the Maine Tree Foundation.

In addition to gaining tremendous exposure for the Tree Farm program, the Arboretum’s Tree Farm also maintains ongoing forest research and demonstration plots.

Clark's own Tree Farm has also hosted members of the public for many years, including field trips for school children, trail riding events for horse enthusiasts, field days for Chestnut Association members, and woodland management tours. These events, along with the use hunters, fishermen, and hikers make of the property, amply demonstrate to visitors the multiple use benefits that Tree Farms provide.
Does the Tree Farmer belong to any organization, i.e. Forest Landowners, state forestry association, or has he or she received any special awards for forestry efforts (other than Tree Farm awards)?

- Member - Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine
- Member and Past Director - Maine Christmas Tree Association
- Member and Chair - Maine Farm Bureau Forestry Committee
- Member - American Farm Bureau Federation Forestry Advisory Committee
- Member - American Rhododendron Society
- Member - Maine Landscape Nursery Association
- Director - Maine Farm Bureau
- Director - Agricultural Council of Maine
- Member and Past Director - The American Chestnut Foundation (Maine Chapter)
- Award - Friend of Maine Farm Bureau (2000)
- Citation - National Future Farmers of America Organization (1998)

Name and affiliation of cooperating forester: Barbara E. Brusila, Consulting Forester
Address and phone number:
1320 Western Road
Warren, Maine 04864
(207) 273-4046

Nominating Forester:
Abbott B. Ladd
RR 1 Box 339
Belgrade, Maine 04917-9720
(207) 495-3824

State Tree Farm Chair
Clifton Foster
Timberstate G. Inc.
P.O.Box 157
Gray, Maine 04039-0157
(207) 657-4441
February 4, 2003

Clark Granger
191 Phipps Point Road
Woolwich, ME 04579-5130

Dear Clark:

One of the reasons Maine Farm Bureau is a strong and influential organization is because of the dedicated efforts of many of its leaders. Your involvement to Maine Farm Bureau exemplifies this involvement, particularly on forestry issues.

Your role serving on the Maine Farm Bureau State Board of Directors, Executive Committee and Chairman of the State Forestry Committee has provided Maine Farm Bureau the leadership necessary for Maine Farm Bureau to be a recognized credible voice for forestry issues affecting Maine rural landowners. Not only has Maine Farm Bureau received your expertise on forestry issues, the Kennebec County Farm Bureau has also benefited from your chairing the county Forestry Committee. Likewise, the American Farm Bureau has benefited from your involvement on the American Farm Bureau Federation Forestry Advisory Committee that makes recommendation to the AFBF Board of Directors on forestry issues.

Farm Bureau members on the county, state, and national levels have all benefited from your expertise on forestry issues, particularly with your commitment and advocacy for sustainable forest management on privately owned lands. Because of your work on forestry issues, Maine Farm Bureau selected you as the “Friend of Farm Bureau” for 2000, the highest honor given by Maine Farm Bureau.

We will look forward to many more years of your involvement and dedication to Maine Farm Bureau.

Sincerely,

Doug Blackstone

Doug Blackstone, President

DB/jj
-----Original Message-----
From: Clement & Merrilee [mailto:meserve@xpressamerica.net]
Sent: Sunday, February 02, 2003 5:27 PM
To: Clark.Granger@maine.gov
Subject: Letter Of Appreciation from the Maine Christmas Tree Association

February 2, 2003

Hi Clark,

I want to take this opportunity to personally congratulate you on your selection of Maine Outstanding Tree Farmer.

On behalf of the Maine Christmas Tree Association, we want to congratulate you and thank you for all the dedicated and hard work that you have provided over the many years. By being a member of the MCTA, Director for two terms and a person whom the association can count on to give instruction on the proper use of pesticides and different views on techniques of planting, growing and shearing the perfect tree.

You have provided great leadership on the various committees that you have served on. For the last few years you have done an exceptional job of overseeing the seed orchard and progeny sites. With your help and expertise the Association will have a superior balsam tree.

Thank you,

Clement Meserve, MCTA President
February 1, 2003

Dr. Clark Granger, Plant Pathologist
Maine Forest Service
Insect and Disease Lab
50 Hospital Street
Augusta, Maine 04330

Dear Clark,

On behalf of the Maine Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation, I want to thank you for your very generous support of our program to breed blight-resistant American chestnuts.

As a member of our Board of Directors from its inception in 1998 until 2001, you provided valuable insight and guidance for securing funding for our projects, and a link to the Maine Forest Service. When you first expressed an interest in 2001 in taking on the challenge of a breeding orchard, I realized that your experience and success in growing Christmas trees made you perfectly qualified to grow chestnut trees.

Last spring we needed to establish a new breeding orchard for four lines of hybrid chestnut seedlings, and you quickly offered to create the new orchard on one acre of your Deer Hill Farm in China. On a Saturday in mid-June, you and your son Greg augured holes and watered while a dozen ME-TACF volunteers planted the 358 seedlings. Your daily inspections and timely mowing and irrigation ensured excellent survival and growth. And your experience with Christmas trees has guided us toward developing the most efficient weed control strategies.

We are looking forward to planting two more lines of seedlings at Deer Hill this year. I also welcome the opportunity to begin the process of planning with you to establish a seed orchard for production of fully blight-resistant American chestnuts. Your long-term commitment is helping TACF achieve our goal to restore the American chestnut to the forests of Maine. Thank you.

Eric Evans, President
Maine Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation
Clark Granger Presented with 2003 Maine Outstanding Tree Farmer Award

A t the January annual Maine Agricultural Trade Show, Tree Farmer Clark Granger was presented with the outstanding Tree Farmer of the year award. Newly elected Governor Baldacci was on hand with the newly elected Maine Tree Farm Chairman, Cliff Foster to present the award to Clark.

Recently retired after 35 years of service with the Maine Forest Service, Clark has been employed by the State at several capacities, including State Pathologist, Forest Entomologist and the Forest Nursery Manager. For 33 years, Clark has practiced various types of forestry and experimental forestry on his 737 acres of forest land. His work includes genetics research, herbicide and pesticide research, and work related to producing blight resistant American Chestnut, including one acre dedicated to the production of American Chestnut. Clark also produces Christmas trees and has a seed orchard for the production of superior balsam fir Christmas tree seed stock.

Throughout the years, a number of timber sales have occurred on the Granger Tree Farm, including a recent sale along the Sheepscot River. This thinning was executed in such a way to maintain favorable shading of the river for protection of the Atlantic Salmon habitat.

A significant amount of time and expense has been invested by Clark in the management of his Tree Farm. Extensive amounts of precommercial work has been completed, including pesticide application to control white pine weevil, and other forest pests. Erosion control devices have been used where necessary, in particular on access road construction.

In the most recent years, Clark has contracted the services of Barrie Brusila, consulting forester from Warren, for his forest management expertise. Her involvement with the Tree Farm includes timber marking for several timber sales, creation of a forest management plan and the professional services necessary for Clark to qualify for federal cost sharing on forest management projects.

Beyond the management of his Tree Farm, Clark has been involved in many leadership roles of which have advanced forestry in Maine. In addition to writing many scientific publications and giving presentations about forest entomology and pathology, Clark has been involved with the Maine Farm Bureau, the Maine Christmas Tree Association, and others. He is a founding past president of the Pine State Arboretum.

Changes in the Maine Tree Farm Committee

I n December, the Maine Tree Farm Committee elected a new slate of officers. As noted in the above article, the new Chair is Clifton Foster. Cliff is a consulting forester and a recently retired state representative. The new vice Chair is Steve Elliott, Forester for Mead-Westvaco. Patty Cornier remains the committee secretary and Dick Pierce remains the treasurer.

In other changes, State Forester Paul Larivee has replaced Greg Foster as Cumberland County Area Chair. Greg has replaced Kathy Nitschke as the editor of this column and will remain on the Tree Farm committee. Kathy will remain on the committee, with the goal of completing the publication of the History of Maine’s Tree Farm Program.