Save the Date! 2015 Annual SWOAM/Tree Farm Field Day
September 12, 2015 ~ Baileyville, ME

The 2015 Annual SWOAM/Tree Farm Field Day will take place on Saturday, September 12, 2015 at Wayne Coleman’s Tree Farm in Baileyville, Maine. Wayne is the 2015 Maine Outstanding Tree Farmer. Wayne has been a tireless forest manager and proud Tree Farmer for years. Come on Downeast to see how his good silviculture will reap benefits for his family for generations to come. The Field Day will include woods tours, demonstrations of apple tree and Christmas tree management, right-sized logging equipment, and examples of natural forest regeneration and mature oak management techniques. There will be presentations about restoring chestnut trees to the Maine woods, controlling invasive plants and insects, tree pruning, best management practices, and much more. Lunch will be available.

**Look for a more detailed agenda in the next Maine Tree Farm Newsletter.**

For more information, contact Gretchen Heldmann, the Maine Tree Farm Coordinator, at info@mainetreefarm.org or 207.613.MTFP (6837)

Other Upcoming Events

- 06.23.2015 - Introduction to Forest Management 6:30-8:30pm - Whitneyville, ME
  - http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/events.html
- 06.25.2015 - Estate Planning and Contracts 6:30-8:30pm - Farmington, ME
  - http://www.swoam.org/Events/Calendar.aspx
- 07.03.2015 - Wild Edibles Walk 9-10:30am - Portland, ME
- 07.09.2015 - Yankee Woodlot Tour 10am-12pm - Wells Reserve
- 07.23-26.2015 - Timberframe Workshop, Hidden Valley Nature Center, Jefferson, ME
- 07.26.2015 - Woods Walk 9am - Springvale, ME
- 09.25-27.2015 - Common Ground Country Fair - Unity, ME
  - http://hvnc.org/events-and-workshops/
  - http://www.mofga.org/theFair
  ~ Volunteers needed for the Tree Farm booth at the Common Ground Country Fair, please contact us!!

- 10.04-11.2015 - Fryeburg Fair - Fryeburg, ME
  - http://www.fryeburgfair.org/
  ~ Volunteers needed for the Tree Farm booth at the Fryeburg Fair, please contact us!!
- 10.18.2015 - Great Maine Apple Day - Unity, ME

We want to hear from you!

Have questions about the management of your woodlot or a story about your Tree Farm that you would like to share? Submit stories, photos, and questions to info@mainetreefarm.org or 207.613.MTFP (6837)
New Tree Farm Standards In Effect
Changes Should Be Minimal On The Ground

As a certified Maine Tree Farmer, you are recognized for your hard work and care for your woods. The American Tree Farm System (ATFS) Standards are the basis for evaluating and validating this good stewardship. Every five years the Standards go through a review process before being approved by the AFF Board of Trustees. The new 2015-2020 Standards were released in January, 2015.

What does this mean for your Tree Farm? Changes will likely be minimal for operations on the ground. The basic commitment to maintaining and following an active and adaptive forest management plan that fits the scope and scale of your Tree Farm remains the keystone of the Standards.

Notable themes of the new ATFS Standards include:

**Continued emphasis on your objectives and on-the-ground stewardship.** The new Standards allow for additional flexibility in implementing your Plan, and supports innovative approaches to achieve results for your Tree Farm.

**Holistic, integrated approaches to forest health:** The new Standards address woodland health largely through integrated pest management (IPM) as a comprehensive strategy including, but not limited to, chemical use. However, IPM is not uniformly understood or adopted nationally. There is a widespread consensus to promote understanding of forest health issues and to bring resilience to multiple threats into woodland management activities.

**Expansion of Best Management Practices (BMPs) beyond water quality.** The new Standards and Guidance now encompass BMPs that relate to air, water, soil and site quality elements.

**Clarity regarding threatened and endangered species.** The language in the new Standards makes clear the obligation for protection of occupied habitats and communities. The accompanying Guidance further clarifies distinctions between protected species for different ownership types (public and private), in accordance with federal and state frameworks.

**Forests of Recognized Importance (FORI).** To address confusion related to conservation of ecosystems of recognized importance at the landscape scale (formerly called “high conservation value forests” or HCVF), the new Standards more purposely define these resources, establish a process for identifying them as they relate to ATFS certification, and provide additional guidance about how a landowner may contribute to these unique values, when appropriate.

Terminology alignment with the Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) and other sustainability frameworks. For example, the word “must,” used in the old Standards to denote required items, is now replaced with “shall,” which is used by PEFC, the International Standards Organization (ISO) and other systems. This allows Certified Tree Farmers greater recognition and access to markets globally.

**Note:** PEFC is an international organization that approves and validates 3rd party certification systems such as ATFS.

**NEXT STEPS**

All landowners with woodlands currently certified to the ATFS Standards need to adapt to the new Standards during 2015. You can do this yourself by reviewing your management plan to ensure it is consistent with the 2015-2020 STANDARDS AND GUIDANCE, while also making any other pertinent updates to reflect changes in your objectives or your woodland. You may want to contact your Inspecting Forester in the coming months for assistance. A simple addendum to your plan can help document any updates.

**Note:** A new 2015-2020 Addendum template is in the works from ATFS to help bring plans up to speed with the new Standards. Meanwhile, the 2010 Management Plan Addendum, or another format of your choice, may be used.

New landowners and properties entering the ATFS program after March 15, 2015 will be evaluated to the 2015-2020 Standards.

Questions? Feel free to contact Gretchen Heldmann, the Maine Tree Farm Coordinator, at 207.613.MTFP (6837), or by e-mail at info@mainetreefarm.org

For more information, visit www.mainetreefarm.org

1 To review the 2015-2020 Standards and Guidance, please visit https://www.treefarmsystem.org/atfs-standards
The Results Are In!
The Maine Tree Farm Program Will Remain Third-Party Certified

The results are in! Thanks to all of you who responded to the survey question “should the Maine Tree Farm Program remain a 3rd party certified program?” The responses were 3 to 1 in favor of remaining certified. Based on this, the Maine Tree Farm Committee has voted to remain certified. We all understand that, if the program changes in any significantly negative ways in the future, we can opt out at that time. Thanks again to all who replied and also those who followed up with phone calls to their Tree Farm Inspector or other Committee members.

Many of the survey responses expressed concern about possible additional costs of certification. The Committee decided there will be no fees or dues for the Maine Tree Farm program at this time! Again, if things change in the future, we will let you all know as we address the issue.

Maine Tree Farm Committee Welcomes New Coordinator

The Maine Tree Farm Committee has been without a Coordinator since last fall. Over the winter, the Committee worked through the process of advertising for a new Coordinator, receiving and reviewing applications, conducting interviews, and selecting an individual. That person is Gretchen Heldmann, and we welcome her to the Maine Tree Farm program! Gretchen looks forward to working with all of us, and has provided the short bio below so we can all get to know her a little bit.

Gretchen currently works out of the Bangor area as a consultant providing GIS, municipal, and forest resource services to a variety of clients. One of her primary consultant roles is working as Senior Project Manager for Corson GIS Solutions, a Maine-based company specializing in web-mapping and ArcGIS Online services. She recently completed nearly ten years of municipal service working for the Town of Hampden as their GIS/IT Specialist. While in Hampden, Gretchen built many GIS data layers which were used to manage required information for various town functions ranging from compliance with the town's stormwater permit, to updating the Town’s Shoreland Zoning Map, to assembling maps for economic development or emergency services purposes, to cross-checking information in the assessor's database. Gretchen was also involved with the Town’s Development Review Committee, which worked on a variety of tasks ranging from reviewing proposed development projects to updating ordinances. Gretchen also led the effort for the town to become a Tree City USA, and provided forestry assistance where needed. She has experience writing grants, having been awarded a Clean Water Act grant in the amount of $44,000 and having assisted with two other successful grant applications while with the town, including one from Project Canopy and one to fund the purchase of a firefighting forestry brush truck. Gretchen served as a volunteer on the Maine GeoLibrary Board for six years, including a couple of years as Chair, during which time the Board updated their strategic plan, formalized their brand/image, conducted a ROI study on geospatial products, and compiled existing and created new geospatial data such as updated orthoimagery and lidar collection. She has a BS in Forestry and a MS in Forest Resources from the University of Maine, is a Maine Licensed Forester, and is a GISCI Certified GIS Professional. Gretchen resides in Eddington with her husband, three cats, and one dog in a 100+ year old farmhouse undergoing major renovations. She keeps a flock of chickens, grows a 30’x50’ vegetable garden, preserves the veggies by canning or root cellaring, homebrews beer and wine, and does a variety of other fun things. She also currently serves on the town Planning Board.

Reminder: Switching to an electronic version will help us save on printing and postage costs, and stretch our limited budget even further. You can access the online version and subscribe today at: www.mainetreefarm.org/newsletter.html

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