

# Tree Farm News

A Quarterly Newsletter of the  
Maine Tree Farm Committee

## The Maine Tree Farm Committee

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### Andy Abello and Amanda Russell Receive Maine Outstanding Tree Farm Award

On Wednesday, Jan. 13, Andy Abello and Amanda Russell of Edgecomb received the 2010 Outstanding Maine Tree Farm award. Amanda and Andy are pictured above with the award, which is the highest and most prestigious honor given by the Maine Tree Farm program. It was presented by Jo Pierce, 2007 National Outstanding Tree Farmer and current Maine Tree Farm vice chairperson, and Liz Sandler, national director of the American Tree Farm System.

The Abello/Russell Tree Farm will be the site of the 2010 Outstanding Tree Farm Field Day, planned for Saturday, Sept. 18. Be sure to plan a visit to Edgecomb to view the exemplary forest management and wonderful forest products crafted by Andy and Amanda from wood harvested on their Tree Farm. There will be demonstrations, tours and presentations well worth attending. Look for more information in the June edition of the Tree Farm News.

### Third-Party Certification Puzzle Continues to be Assembled

In the last Tree Farm Newsletter, an overview of the newly revised Tree Farm standards was presented. The last statement of this news item read, "Tree Farm



**A Sign of Good Forestry**

inspector training will resume nationwide.” By the time you read this, Maine Tree Farm Committee member Mike Dann will have completed a three-day “National Leadership Conference” in the home city of the 2010 Super Bowl winners, New Orleans. Scheduled for Feb. 22-24, the conference will include details of the revised standards and how they will affect all Tree Farmers.

On March 3, Maine Tree Farm Committee members will learn from Mike how to proceed with the revised Tree Farm inspectors’ training workshop. Later this spring, Tree Farm inspectors will receive appropriate training to guide Tree Farmers in remaining certified. Most of the adjustments will probably relate to the written forest management plan. Some plans may need amendments to address natural areas and other items. Others may need no improvements, and some may best be addressed with a new written plan. All Tree Farmers will need to be “current” with the new standards by 2011.

### **Certified Tree Farms and Trip Tickets**

Several years ago, the Maine Legislature introduced a bill requiring that truck drivers hauling unprocessed wood to complete and carry a trip ticket for every load. To assist state forest rangers in identifying and prosecuting timber theft, trip tickets include the landowner’s name, forest operations notice number, destination of the wood and other information. Today, these trip tickets may be more useful for records to track wood from sustainable forests.

Many forest product producers, particularly in the paper industry, sell to distributors who require that a certain level of wood fiber in the product come from sustainable forests. These companies themselves are normally certified, and need to provide proof of chain of custody for the wood to maintain their certification status, and thus their markets. Including a note on this trip ticket that the forest is a certified Tree Farm will help roundwood buyers in their certification endeavors. The usefulness of the trip ticket for prosecuting timber theft ends at the destination of the wood, but these tickets can also provide extended benefit by helping wood buyers to accurately track the volume of certified wood in the market. Tree Farmers or their foresters may want to have the trucker add this note to each trip ticket.

### **17th Annual National Tree Farm Convention**

Burlington, Vermont, will be the location of the next National Tree Farm Convention. The convention is

scheduled for July 13-15, 2010, and the Maine Tree Farm Committee encourages Tree Farmers to reserve the date for a great convention in a nearby New England state.

All Tree Farmers will receive registration material in the March/April 2010 Tree Farmer magazine. Reservations for rooms (\$139 per night) at the Burlington Hilton can be made at any time by calling 1-800-455-8667. You may also visit [www.treefarmssystem.org](http://www.treefarmssystem.org) for more information.

### **Tree Farm and SWOAM Reach Memorandum of Understanding**

The Maine Tree Farm Program and the Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine recently agreed to combine efforts to employ a new person at the SWOAM office in Augusta. Funded for two years with private money, this person will be trained to handle specific issues and questions pertaining to the Tree Farm program, and also function in various capacities for SWOAM. Look for more details in future publications.

### **National Forestry Legislation**

In the January/February 2010 edition of the Tree Farmer magazine, Bob Simpson, senior vice president of the American Forest Foundation, stated that “2010 appears to be shaping up to be one of the biggest years we’ve seen for legislation affecting Tree Farmers.” Renewable energy, climate change and estate taxes are the “big three” that Bob highlights.

Estate tax law changes that passed the House in December will increase the tax rate from 35 percent to 45 percent, and lower the exemption from \$5 million to \$3.5 million. AFF has been supporting a House bill (which has 56 co-sponsors), the Family Farm Preservation and Conservation Estate Tax Act (HR 3524), which exempts the value of working woodland from federal estate tax under certain circumstances.

Simpson also wrote, “The recent Kerry (D-Mass.)-Boxer (D-Calif.) climate bill (S 1733) and the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Bill (S 1462) include very restrictive definitions that will make it difficult, if not impossible, for family woodland owners to sell their biomass into emerging renewable energy markets. It is unclear when these bills will move in the Senate, but we could see action before spring.” These and other proposals would have a significant impact on woodland owners. Simpson encouraged landowners to visit <http://family-forestaction.org> to learn more about these legislative proposals.