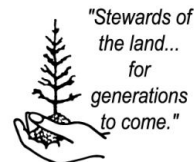




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Washington
FARM FORESTRY
ASSOCIATION



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Washington Farm Forestry Association Becomes Co-Sponsor of the Tree Farm Program

(Chehalis, WA)--The Washington Farm Forestry Association (WFFA), an organization of non-industrial forest landowners, has joined the Washington Forest Protection Association as a co-sponsor of the Washington Tree Farm Program, an affiliate of the American Tree Farm System (ATFS) on September 13, 2007.

“There’s a natural synergy between the Washington Farm Forestry Association and the Tree Farm Program,” WFFA Executive Director Rick Dunning said. “I’m excited for the great opportunity to increase awareness of tree farming and to get the message out about the benefits tree farming provides.”

The American Tree Farm Program is a certification program and is mutually recognized by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) certification program. Now, large forest landowners typically are certified by SFI, while the non-industrial tree farmers use the ATFS.

The ATFS is also known for its National Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year award. Washington State tree farmers have received this national award twice in recent years. Tom and Sherry Fox of Ethel were the 2005 winners and Bob and Lynette Falkner of Frances were the 2003 winners. Bob Playfair, the 2006 Washington State Tree Farmer of the Year was named the Western Regional Tree Farmer of the Year for 2007 and currently is in competition for the national title.

ATFS is the oldest and largest conservation, education, certification, and advocacy program for private forest landowners in the United States. It began in 1941 when Weyerhaeuser Company’s Clemons Tree Farm was designated as the first tree farm in the nation. Certified tree farmers are committed to practicing sound, sustainable forestry on their land and must pass a rigorous inspection by a professional forester.

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