



Montana Tree Farm

Fall/Winter 2024

Montana Tree Farm News

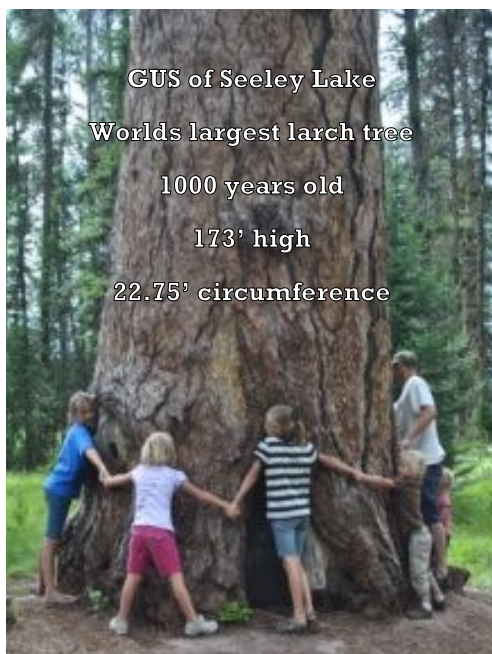


What is Successional Planning and why is it important?

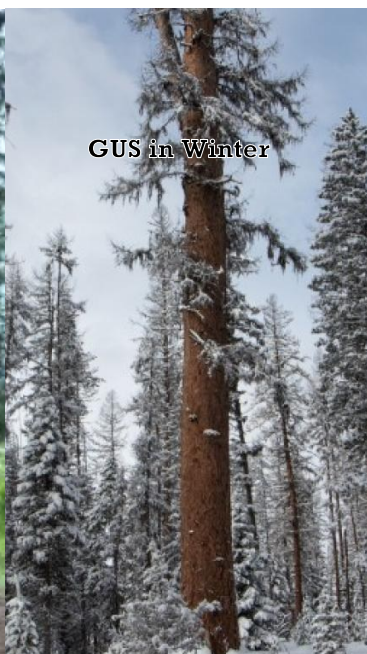
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GUS of Seeley Lake
 Worlds largest larch tree
 1000 years old
 173' high
 22.75' circumference



GUS in Winter

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Other than general editing, the articles appearing in this publication have not been peer reviewed for technical accuracy. The individual authors are primarily responsible for the content and opinions expressed herein.

Award nominations are important to our organization. We also want your opinions, your ideas and your feedback!



Send us a message and tell us what you are thinking, what we are missing and let us know if we are doing a good job!

Note from the Chair

By Holly McKenzie



As we close on another year here in Montana, I'd like to take a time to be thankful for so many of the Tree Farm Steering Committee members who help make this program. It is a great program because of our outstanding Tree Farmers but we have a rotating host of awesome professionals with varied backgrounds who run the financials, the phone calls, e-mails, website, scholarships, inspections, communications, and legal aspects of Montana Tree Farm. Take a look at the list of members and consider serving on this committee one day. It is rewarding and you will meet some great folks! We always need people and we will soon need a good leader to consider the vice chair position as Zoe Leake moves into my role as the Tree Farm Chair next year.

I'll make this letter short, so you have time to read Zoe's' introduction and give her a warm welcome. Tree Farm is a wonderful organization because we rotate our leaders and take turns making it the vibrant educational and informational program it has been for almost 80 years! If you have ever thought of serving on the Tree Farm Steering Committee, give me a call and we could visit about the opportunities to serve the members of Montana Tree Farm for a few years.

Thanks again for making your forest better than you found it!

Holly McKenzie, 406-407-1591

Note from the Vice-Chair

By Zoe Leake



It is a pleasure to step into the exciting role of Vice Chair for the Montana Tree Farm Steering Committee. After graduating from the University of Montana in 2017, I began my career as a consulting forester with my father's company in Tennessee. Exploring the world of hardwood forest management was an incredible experience. However, Montana's call was undeniable and in 2022, I returned to work with Pyramid Mountain Lumber in Seeley Lake. Being part of such a rich timber legacy was truly special. As I look forward to the next chapter in my Montana forestry journey,

I am deeply honored to take on this leadership role with Tree Farm. I'm excited to support the continued success of this outstanding community!



Welcome New Members!

The Montana Tree Farm Committee extends a special welcome to the 10 newest Montana Tree Farm System certified members. Thank you to all the MTFs members and Inspecting Foresters for promoting membership in the Montana Tree Farm System® through the American Tree Farm System®.

As a member and a steward of the land, we appreciate your recurring support of the program and management of your forestland for pride and pleasure. Thank you for your continued commitment to protecting watersheds, wildlife habitat, conserving soil and at the same time, producing the wood America needs and uses.

| New Tree Farm Member | County |
|--|----------------------|
| Timothy & Stephanie Carr | Sanders |
| Wayne & Brenda Finch | Lincoln |
| Three Hole Limited Partnership (Bill Fisher) | Flathead |
| Cody & Heather Guy | Flathead |
| Round Grove Ranch (John Ingalls) | Broadwater & Meagher |
| James & Carolyn Mackey | Lincoln |
| Thomas & Marcia McIntosh | Lincoln |
| William & Bonnie McIntyre III | Yellowstone |
| Donna & Richard Rayburn | Missoula |
| Lisa & Chuck Troe | Sanders |

We hope you had a full and productive 2024. As family forest owners, it's a good time to review the past year and make plans for 2025. What was accomplished this year? What changed over the year? What activities are you planning for next year? Is it time to revise your management plan?

Non-Target Chemical Damage in Your Forest

By Holly McKenzie, DNRC Service Forester @ Kalispell Unit

The past four summers have been warmer and drier than usual and our Montana conifers are exhibiting many symptoms of drought stress throughout the State. Browning inner needles and heavy needle shed in late summer and fall is common, as is winter desiccation from thirsty trees with severely dried orange needle tips following cold winds. Pockets of more crowded trees are most susceptible due to competition for moisture, sunlight, and nutrients.

Most of us know our forests are highly stressed during drought and less resilient to fire, insect infestations, or diseases; but did you know those same dry conditions cause the tree roots to reach further in search of moisture and they absorb every drop they find, even when the available moisture is poisonous.



Foliar Crown Damage

This is most noticeable along our mountain roads, forested highways, and gravel driveways where a considerable number of trees are dying or looking sick. You are seeing the adverse effects of magnesium chloride used for dust abatement and deicing/anti icing. Magnesium chloride is often used as a dust control agent since it is hygroscopic and deliquescent — it has the ability to absorb moisture from humid air. This absorbed moisture helps limit dust by keeping the surface of the road damp enough to hold the dust particles down.

A primary reason magnesium chloride is used in high quantities in the Western United States is because the source is geographically local. The salty waters of the Great Salt Lake of Utah is a major source of magnesium chloride. The salty nature of Mag-Chloride melts the snow and ice, down to 15 degrees and close cousins, sodium chloride and calcium chloride cause similar reactions.

Trees and other vegetation can survive a little bit of salt for a period of time if ample rainfall and snow dilute it enough, however, recent drought is creating saltier road edges and a salty road spray that turns to mist in heavy traffic areas. You may see

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Non-Target Chemical Damage in Your Forest

By Holly McKenzie, DNRC Service Forester @ Kalispell Unit

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tree mortality up to one hundred feet from the edge of the highway and even further where the slope or adjacent wetlands transport the saline water further downhill.

Another non-target chemical damage we are seeing in more of our trees and forested settings, is herbicidal damage. As forestland owners, many of you work hard to keep noxious weeds off of your land. I know I have accidentally killed a few seedlings with some Transline herbicide or 2,4-D herbicide that was meant for a patch of thistle and landed on young larch needles inadvertently. You should be familiar with twisted or cupped needles, this is a tell-tale symptoms of herbicide damage.

In recent years, there are more persistent chemicals that bind with soil particles and remain active for up to five years. You should be very careful with chemicals like



Milestone and Chapparral have an active ingredient called Aminopyralid. These are NOT labeled for a forested setting or around trees or woody shrubbery and they will kill your trees. They do not need to accidentally brush the needles, because the chemical is taken up through the root system over multiple years. The drier the summer, the more your trees absorb this chemical with any available moisture, thus getting a lethal dose quickly. Aminopyralid is only labeled for use on pastureland and should never be used in your forest. I have been called out to properties where large mature pines and larch trees have been dying because a well-meaning forestland owner was trying to be a good steward and get rid of their orange hawk-weed once and for all.

Furthermore, pastureland that has been sprayed with Milestone or Chapparral, has been scraped from farmland during the creation of subdivisions, and the topsoil gets sold to unaware home improvement customers installing flowerbeds, vegetable gardens, or using a tree spade to plant a larger shade tree at a new home. The result is much disappointment and frustration when everything they try to grow for the next few years is twisted, dwarfed and dying, due to the persistent aminopyralid in their newly purchased topsoil.

Always read and carefully follow all precautions and safety instructions provided on the pesticide container label, as well as any other regulations regarding the use of pesticides. Do not be discouraged by these cautionary tales....I am an advocate of being diligent in the war on weeds but ask questions, do your homework and learn from your mistakes. You might find more help through Cenex Harvest States, your County Extension Agent, your DNRC Service Forester and Montana Department of Agriculture.

What will happen to our forest when we are gone?

By Kirk & Madeline David at Cedar Mountain Working Forest, Idaho

You own some forestland. Perhaps you live on your forest, or perhaps it is not where you live but you visit it often, care for it, enjoy it, and work to fulfill your desire to improve its health, beauty, value and utility. In most cases you have spent many years of careful labor and/or many dollars to accomplish your heartfelt goals of stewarding your forestland. Its value and meaning to you have become immeasurable.

You love your forest; you wish for its continued existence, and you are hoping someone else will feel the intrinsic value of your efforts enough to want to carry on that work and that enjoyment long after you have passed on.

Goals! We've all got 'em! We all need 'em! If we were sitting around the table with a cup of coffee, we bet you could tell us *exactly* your dreams for the fate of your forest land when your days on the land are finished. Well then, when you wake up each morning, where are you putting your efforts? If you are like most of us, we wager you're thinning, pruning, planting, logging, cleaning up brush, maintaining trails – insert here your pressing project du jour. Why then is it so difficult to attend to the most important thing you can do for your forest land: to plan for its future when you are no longer its guardian?

The obvious and natural answer is that not one of us wants to spend more than a few moments at a time contemplating our eventual demise! Beyond that, however, dreams for the long term survival of our forests are ephemeral. They drift in and out of our consciousness. They are lofty and personal and vulnerable to criticism from all sides. We nurse them on our private walks during summer evenings. We protect them, hoping we can accomplish them without having to reveal too much about how we *feel* about our land. Rationally, we can undoubtedly agree, without a great deal of pure luck, that approach is not going to pass the land intact from us to its next caretaker. We must *plan* for succession.

If you have a family with descendants, you probably hope to pass on the ownership and responsibility for your land to your offspring. The most successful ways to insure this happens is to involve your children (and grandchildren!) at as early an age as possible. This involves not only discussing your feelings and values with them, but also letting them experience their own excitement, dreams, and reasons why they want to maintain the existence of (their!) forest. The main point for making this method of succession work is for early and often communication about feelings, intentions, and hopes for the future. Like the saying that “the best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago, and the second-best time is NOW,” this adage applies equally well to communications with your descendants about your wishes.

There are many references about succession planning for passing along assets. The most complete and successful advice we have found for transferring land is the “Ties to the Land” program, originated in 2007 by the American Tree Farm System and Oregon State University.

Since 2008, we have facilitated “Ties to the Land” workshops – we've lost track of how many – in Idaho, Washington, and Montana, with the sole purpose of helping landowners turn their dreams into goals, and their goals into reality. We've learned a lot along the way, and perhaps we can offer some tips to get you started.



Meet
Kirk & Madeline David

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What will happen to our forest when we are gone?

By Kirk & Madeline David at Cedar Mountain Working Forest, Idaho

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First, while pretending that you live in a perfect world, WRITE down what you want to happen to your land. Don't censor what you write; don't worry about full sentences. For the moment, don't consider practicality. Just get your thoughts on paper. This is an exercise for your spouse as well, but separately from yours. Do you have family? Is family part of your dream? What about a non-relative? One of the best tips we've picked up for this exercise is from a very wise forest management University professor (Tom McAvo) who said be sure to "give your land a seat at the table" while you're thinking deeply about the future. Treat it like one of your children in your thinking. In other words, include a best decision for the eventual continuance of your land!

Next, record (again, in writing) any major challenges you see standing in the way of achieving your vision: Your children don't get along; they aren't interested in stewarding a forest; they don't have the skills to make decisions about your land; you don't have children or anyone obvious to leave your forest to. As you list them, you may find that your challenges are what have deterred you from planning up to this point. Keep in mind, challenges don't go away because you back off from them, and the objective is to take a realistic look at them.

Now, if you own the land with your spouse, compare your lists of visions and challenges. This may seem obvious, but we've seen couples completely surprised that their spouse lists the same vision and challenges and those completely surprised when the visions and challenges are completely different. People either assume their spouse shares their dream in every detail, or that their spouse will never see things as they do. No matter the result, this exercise is designed to open the door to talk through the dreams and obstacles so that you arrive at a shared vision to implement. If family is part of the vision, this needs to be done before bringing the family in on the discussion. The beauty of writing and sharing not just your vision but your obstacles is that your goals become more real and your challenges are whittled down to size, becoming something to work on, not something holding you back. There they are, in black and white, not nearly as formidable as when they were ideas and fears pushed to the back of your mind.

But what if it is initially apparent that none of your potential heirs has the ability or knowledge to manage your forest estate? As "Ties to the Land" explains, there is still the possibility of ownership while using the services of a consulting forester or other natural resource professional to arrange the technical aspects to perform necessary activities toward desired goals. (Note: Check that forester's credentials with the [Society of American Foresters \[SAF\]](#) and [the Association of Consulting Foresters \[ACF\]](#)).

In "Ties to the Land" we spend a whole day discussing and sharing the infinite variations of goals and challenges, searching for ways to overcome obstacles and fulfill goals. Books could be, in fact have been, written on the subject.

But what if you don't have family or relatives who can or will become heirs of your beloved forestland? Your authors are in exactly that situation, with different ownerships of land in three different states, and three potential decisions.

It is impossible to cover this subject in the confines of a short article, but perhaps sharing part of our story will provide an example of goal setting and problem tackling.

We own four pieces of natural resource land. Kirk's mother inherited two parcels of forest land totaling 120 acres in Washington County, in the panhandle of Florida, which Kirk purchased from her in 1976. The parcels were originally purchased by Kirk's many-times great grandmother in 1864 from the Louisville & Nashville Railroad. These are true "tree farms", southern pines planted in rows to be thinned and harvested regularly at fairly short intervals.

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What will happen to our forest when we are gone?

By Kirk & Madeline David at Cedar Mountain Working Forest, Idaho

(Continued from page 8)

Kirk's paternal grandparents homesteaded 280 dry land agricultural acres near Coffee Creek on the breaks of the Missouri in central Montana. As his grandmother aged, she leased the farming of the land to a local family, now in at least its third generation of caring for this land. They grow wheat and barley and graze cattle there. Ownership of the land passed from Kirk's father to Kirk in 2001.

In 1980 Kirk purchased 155 acres of forested land in northern Idaho, built a house and settled there while working as a fee lands forester in private industry; manager of the Forest Stewardship program for Idaho Department of Lands; helping out with Extension forestry for the University of Idaho; and finally serving as Executive Vice President for Idaho Forest Owners Association. Through the years he has managed our Cedar Mountain Working Forest and in general "learned as much or more from observing what happens in my forest than I ever did in forestry school".

Our number one goal for each of these properties, as different as they are? We want them to stay in the natural resource base.

Our single greatest challenge? We have no children. We could consider the numerous and humorous requests to be adopted that we've received from participants in our "Ties to the Land" workshops, but that probably isn't too realistic either. We need to look elsewhere to meet our goals.

In Florida, both parcels are currently due to be harvested and replanted. As soon as the infrastructure and mill capacity have recovered sufficiently from situations like the ravages of Hurricane Michael, we plan to finish that harvest and replanting and then work with our Florida consulting forester to find a buyer – ideally a neighboring member of the Florida Tree Farm Program or Florida Forestry Association – who will do for the land what we, as absentee landowners, have not been as capable to do, that is take a personal hand in working, observing, and caring for the land.

We have watched the loving and honorable way our Montana farm has been cared for by its long time lessee family. Our ties to this land are familial, theirs are visceral. Their young granddaughter now proudly runs the combine to harvest the wheat. Their lease payments over the years have probably exceeded the sales value of the land, but the real value to us is their stewardship and love for this place of Kirk's heritage. We have willed the ownership (with a life estate clause) to the family's next generation of the caretakers of this land. We can't guarantee it will always remain farmland, but we know this family will go down fighting to keep it so.

Hardest for us was to contemplate the fate of our Idaho forest. Kootenai County is exploding with development. We live here; we recreate here; we refresh our souls here. The water that flows through our land eventually feeds the Rathdrum Prairie/Spokane Valley aquifer. Logs from our land in small part supply the local sawmill. Wildlife of all varieties roam our acres. We do not want this land to become a housing development. So we put our heads together with our local land trust organization and constructed a conservation easement whereby this land will remain a working forest into perpetuity. The next owner of this land may work the land, care for the land, realize their own vision for a working forest, but they must keep it forested and may not develop or further subdivide the land. With no children and no knowledge of who will own the land into the future, it is the best we know how to do.

These are just a few real life examples of probably endless solutions to accomplishing positive succession and continuing the purpose of the land you care for in so many ways that you probably have difficulty expressing them all! The important point is to START trying to

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What will happen to our forest when we are gone?

By Kirk & Madeline David at Cedar Mountain Working Forest, Idaho

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do that for your land. Of course, our answers are very personal to us. Yours will be different and personal to you. *The important thing* is to get your goals in place and start the forward motion to accomplish them. We recommend finding and attending a “Ties to the Land” workshop where you can share your concerns with others facing the same problems, get ideas to help you get started on planning, and receive time-tested written materials to help you on your journey. You’ll be glad you did. The “Ties to the Land” (TTL) program has a wealth of detailed information on how to (and how NOT to!) successfully make that happen. Seek out a TTL facilitated workshop and realize your dreams and goals for the future of your forestland.

Bio for Kirk & Madeline David: Kirk and Madeline David are family forest landowners in Idaho, Montana, and Florida, Tree Farmers, Idaho Tree Farm Committee members, Idaho Forest Owners Association members, Aldo Leopold Foundation Land Ethic Leaders, and “Ties to the Land” Workshop Facilitators. Kirk is a Society of American Foresters Fellow and Madeline is an experienced LLC Business Owner/Manager. They live on their Cedar Mountain Working Forest in Kootenai County, Idaho.

“Ties to the Land” Succession Planning Workshop

It’s no secret that today’s family forests are critical resources. We who are privileged to own forest land supply society with timber and non-timber products, clean air and water, wildlife habitat, and scenic beauty. We express our values in the responsibility we take for managing our forests and the joy we take in simply walking the land.

It’s also no secret that the current owners of private forestland are aging. Look around at the next forest owner or Tree Farmer meeting. How many graying heads do you see? The truth is that millions of acres of family-owned forest, range, and agricultural land in the U.S. will change hands this decade. Whether that land we have worked so hard to conserve passes intact to our families or becomes a casualty to development, subdivision or other conversion depends largely on how well we take charge of the process of succession planning now while we have choices and time to implement those choices.

Do you want to pass your land to your children? Have you asked them if they are interested in owning and caring for the forest? Are you waiting for the kids to bring up the subject? Do your children have the skills to manage the family land? Are you able to explain to your family your devotion to the land and its heritage? Are you afraid to stir up trouble between family members by discussing the topic of inheritance? Are you just at a loss to know where to start with the whole idea of succession and estate planning? Ties to the Land: Your Family Forest Heritage, an award winning daylong workshop about intergenerational transfer of forest, farm or range land is for all who need that boost to start the all-important family conversations about the future. The program presents practical tools and interactive exercises to help families learn to face succession head-on. The curriculum touches on estate planning and legal processes, but focuses on the conversations that need to take place within a family before the attorneys and accountants are brought in.

Remember, succession happens! Whether that succession is planned and results in the successful transfer of your forest to the next generation depends on you. “Ties to the Land” can help.

Montana Tree Farm is pleased to offer “Ties to the Land” on Friday, March 7, 2025 from 9:00AM— 5:00PM at the Best Western Plus Grant Creek Inn, Missoula. Once again, outstanding instructors, Kirk and Madeline David will conduct the workshop. The cost of

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registration is \$50 for the first family member (includes the \$30 workbook plus reference material 'thumb drive'). Additional family members are \$20/each. Additional workbooks can be purchased for \$30 each. Refreshments will be provided. A block of rooms will be available for those attending this workshop the night of March 6th or the night of March 7th for those attending the Mini-college. For additional information contact Ed Levert @ 406-293-2847. To register for 'Ties to the Land' contact Ardrene Sarracino @ 406-317-5477. Attendance is limited to 25 people per workshop so sign up now. Registrations deadline February 28th .

SAVE THE DATE

Kirk & Madeline David

"Ties to the Land"

Best Western Plus -

Grant Creek Inn

Missoula, Montana

March 7, 2025

MSU Extension Forestry

Forestry Mini-College

Missoula, Montana

March 8, 2025

Ties to the Land Workshop

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Landowners**

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Forest Stewardship Foundation

Ed Levert, Chair: Forest Stewardship Foundation



Plans are well underway for the next Forest Landowner Conference. The 15th annual conference will be a joint endeavor between the Forest Stewardship Foundation and the Montana State Society of American Foresters. The date is May 16th and the location will once again be at the Delta Hotels Helena Colonial in Helena. Our agenda is coming along and the conference promises to once again be a very interesting program with subjects of interest to landowners and to professional foresters. The agenda and registration information will be coming out soon.

In 2024 our Foundation was pleased to have sponsored a forest stewardship workshop conducted by Montana State University Extension Forestry. We hope to be able to continue support for this important educational program for forest landowners, possibly sponsoring a 5th workshop in 2025. Not only do we sponsor the annual Forest Landowner Conference, educational workshops, but we also publish the bi-yearly Forest Stewards Journal.

If your family is at all concerned about the future ownership and use of your property make sure you attend the 'Ties to The Land' workshop on succession planning being sponsored by Montana Tree Farm. This is a not to be missed opportunity to help resolve the future of your property.

At times folks have wondered how the Foundation fits into Montana's resource educational efforts. We try to cover important subjects that aren't necessarily being covered by Extension Forestry, [Montana Department of Natural Resources \(DNRC\)](#) or other groups. If we can collaborate with these other organizations so much the better.

If you aren't already a member of the non-profit Forest Stewardship Foundation you can join our small energetic organization by registering online at www.ForestStewardshipFoundation.org with a dues payment of only \$25/year.

SAVE THE DATE

Society of American Foresters/
Forest Stewardship Foundation
15th Annual Forest Landowner Conference
Delta Hotels Helena Colonial
May 16, 2025



MSU Extension Forestry

Lexi Brown: Forest Stewardship Coordinator



Greetings!

For over thirty years, the Forest Stewardship program in Montana has facilitated workshops across the state. This year, five workshops occurred from May through September in Frenchtown, Bozeman, Kalispell, Eureka, and Condon. There were over 140 individuals in attendance, representing 80 ownerships and over 6,000 acres of private forests across Montana.

Our goal is to help develop a lifelong relationship between a landowner and their property. We believe in empowerment through personal involvement. The workshop offers information on forest management and includes modules focusing on silviculture (the growing and cultivation of trees), wildlife, range, fire, legal issues and more. Participants complete an ecological inventory of their forest and develop a Forest Stewardship Plan. The plans are not just about the trees; they encompass all the resources in a forested property, including roads, water sources, wildlife habitat, recreational sites, legal issues and anything else that is relevant to family forest owners and their goals. A plan can help owners keep track of activities and communicate with family members and professionals. We concentrate on developing critical thinking skills, problem-solving and decision-making skills. We help people develop the ability to observe, measure, gather and classify data. This results in their ability to discuss, interpret, and predict.

Participants can then assess the trade-offs and consequences of their management activities and make informed decisions! If this sounds like something of interest to you, I encourage you to register for a workshop. Registration will open December 2024 and close as workshops fill up. If a workshop is filled by the time you want to register, please get on the waitlist. To register, visit www.montana.edu/extension/forestry/

For the 2025 season, there are four workshops planned:

- Frenchtown: May 22-23 & 30
- Bozeman: June 12-13 & 20
- Kalispell: July 24-25 & August 1
- Plains: August 14-15 & 22

I want to thank MSU Extension Forestry for giving me this opportunity; all the advisors that helped with teaching, site visits and monitoring; and the many landowners that attended a workshop this year. Overall, the 2024 season was a great success in many ways and I am very eager to get the 2025 workshops planned and implemented!

2024 Annual Meeting

Montana Tree Farm Annual Meeting: Showcasing Forestry in Action

By Zoe Leake

This year's Montana Tree Farm Annual Meeting was held at Grizzly Basecamp near Bigfork, thanks to the generosity of the Boy Scouts of America Montana Council. Attendees were greeted with coffee, donuts, and a lively silent auction, expertly organized by Pat Mandzak. Thank you to all our silent auction donors for your contributions!

The heart of our annual meeting is the field tours, featuring incredible work by our Tree Farmers. Huge thanks to the participating landowners for opening their properties and sharing their management practices.

1. Grizzly Basecamp conducted a shelterwood harvest to reduce hazardous fuels, improve forest health, and manage pests like Armillaria root rot and Douglas Fir Tussock Moth.
2. Keith and Cathy Beck highlighted their 2020 thinning project designed to improve wildlife habitat, enhance scenic views, and promote forest health.
3. Kate Schlapfer showed thinning efforts aimed at improving fire resiliency, scenic views, wildlife habitat, and forest health, while supporting the next tree generation.
4. Fred Hodgeboom presented a striking seed tree harvest, leaving select Western larch, Ponderosa, and White pine trees. The thriving regeneration is a testament to successful management on this site.
5. Don and Mary Garner demonstrated a stream renovation project using log and woven slash structures to mimic beaver dams, successfully stabilizing a deeply incised intermittent stream.

After the tours, we returned to Grizzly Basecamp for a delicious lunch catered by 406 BBQ, followed by the annual business meeting and the much-anticipated awards ceremony. This year's winners exemplify the passion and dedication of the Tree Farm community:

- * Logger of the Year: [Bob St. Onge](#) with St. Onge Logging Inc.
- * Inspector of the Year: Allen Chrisman, former State Chair & exemplary inspector.
- * Educator of the Year: Lorrie Woods, outstanding work with private landowners.
- * Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year: [Ed & Christie Ferruzzi](#), whose commitment to sustainable forestry is truly inspiring.

We also celebrated three 25-year anniversaries: Robert Lambrecht, Jeff & Doreen Gruber and Pat & Angela Price. Congratulations on this incredible milestone! This year we had two scholarship recipients, [Tyler Brett and Alden Whitney](#), both of whom have promising forestry careers ahead.

We could not have asked for better weather, a more beautiful venue, or more enthusiastic attendees. Our deepest gratitude goes to [Jim Atkinson](#) and the Montana Council for their support, as well as to all the sponsors, silent auction donors, land-

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2024 Annual Meeting

Montana Tree Farm Annual Meeting: Showcasing Forestry in Action
By Zoe Leake

(Continued from page 14)

owners and volunteers who made this event possible. Mark your calendars for next year's annual meeting, to be held on October 4, 2025, at the Bitterroot Inn & Conference Center in Hamilton. We can't wait to see you there!

SAVE THE DATE

MTFS Annual Meeting

Bitterroot Inn & Conference Center

Hamilton, Montana

October 4, 2025



MTFS would like to thank Northwest Motor Sports in Libby for their generous donation of the chainsaw. Jim Atkinson, Eagle Scout, Senior District Executive of the Boy Scouts of America, Montana Council and host of this year's MTFS Annual Meeting was the winning bid in the silent auction.

Thank you to our sponsors, vendors, members and committee who helped make this event a success!

- * [F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber Co.](#)
- * [Idaho Forest Group, LLC.](#)
- * [Marks Lumber](#)
- * [Marks-Miller Post & Pole, Inc.](#)
- * [Montana Forest Consultants](#)
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- * [Montana Wood Products Assoc., Inc.](#)
- * [Northwest Motor Sports](#)
- * [Sun Mountain Lumber, Inc.](#)
- * [Thompson River Lumber Co.](#)
- * [406 BBQ](#)
- * [Boy Scouts of America MT Council](#)

2024 Award Winners

Holly McKenzie presenting Logger of the Year to Bob St. Onge



Montana Tree Farm of the Year Ed & Christy Ferruzzi

The Montana Tree System recognizes the superior stewardship of its members through the annual Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year recognition program. The Ferruzzi's are recognized for their remarkable efforts to enhance and sustain their forests and for spreading the practice of sustainable forestry. The Ferruzzi's have been enrolled in the Tree Farm Program for 40 years and actively manage their forest to Wood, Water, Wildlife and Recreation. These are the cornerstones of the Tree Farm Program.

Ed and his wife Christine bought 40 acres of forestland in 1976. They dreamed of building a log home and raising a family. They slowly added more acreage over time as neighboring properties became available. Most of the land they purchased was cut over lands with some timber value. These stands were composed of both poor-quality shade tolerant species and seral species. Over time, the poor-quality trees were removed and site preparation treatments and stand thinning were used to promote Larch, Douglas Fir and Spruce. Today these forests are healthy, vigorous and resilient to wildfire. They provide timber, wildlife habitat, clean water and recreation opportunities. This is what the Tree Farm Program represents.

In the past 5 years they have selectively logged 50 acres; pre-commercial thinned 97 acres and prescribe-burned 100 acres. Sixty acres have had snags created for wildlife. All riparian areas have been designated and protected. Roads have been improved and developed for management and fire protection. Weed spraying and mowing roads and landings is ongoing.

Ed was a mentor in the Forest landowner outreach program sponsored by the American Tree Farm System. Ed helped write the invitation letter that offered a free visit to properties. Ed has showcased his land to individual landowners who were interested in active forest management. Ed worked for the USFS for 32 years in both timber management and fire management. He retired 14 years ago as the District Fire Management Officer.

Dennis Swift Inspector Recognition

Jeremy Akin, Craig Blubaugh & Nathan Cole

2024 Annual Tree Farm Tour





Mary Naegeli Memorial Scholarship

Each year MTFS recognizes a deserving college student with an interest in forestry, who is a resident of Montana, with an academic scholarship. At the 2017 Montana Annual Meeting, the members unanimously approved a recommendation to name the scholarship the 'Mary Naegeli Memorial Scholarship' after longtime Tree Farm member Mary Naegeli, former steering committee member and strong advocate for long-term land stewardship.

Eligibility

- **Resident of Montana**
- **Enrolled in an accredited institution of higher education on a full-time basis.** If you are an entering freshman, you will need to follow up with documentation of registration.
- **Must have a 2.5 GPA or above**
- **Must demonstrate an interest in forestry/natural resource issues**
- **Must have a MTFS Tree Farmer or a Tree Farm Inspector as a reference.**
 - * If the applicant is not acquainted with a Tree Farmer or Inspector, contact Pat Mandzak at (208) 859-5490 or mandzak@aol.com to get connected.
- **Application:** <https://www.treefarmssystem.org/montana-awards-and-scholarship>
 - * Submit to: Pat Mandzak (208) 859-5490 or mandzak@aol.com

Award notification: The MTFS Steering Committee will inform the successful applicant and the school's financial aid office by August 1 with disbursement through the school.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

High School Graduate of: (school) (city and state)

School attending or planning to attend, as a full-time student: (school) (city and state)

Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA):

Reference: Must be a registered MTFS Tree Farmer or Inspecting Forester (**required**):

Attach to this form:

- 1) A short essay regarding your reason for application and written interest in forestry/natural resource issues (one page or less).
- 2) Verification of enrollment from the appropriate school (incoming freshmen will need to submit documentation of enrollment before the award is processed)

I understand that this request for financial aid is based on the following criteria:

- 1) Montana resident
- 2) MTFS Tree Farmer or Inspecting Forester reference
- 3) Demonstrated interest in forestry/natural resource issues
- 4) Carry a minimum of 12 credits at an accredited higher education institution
- 5) Have a minimum GPA of 2.5

Acknowledgement: (Applicant signature) (date)



Mary Naegeli Scholarship Recipients

Words to best describe this year's recipients of the Mary Naegeli Memorial Scholarship are curiosity and passion. Normally, the scholarship committee awards \$1000 to one student pursuing a course study in a natural resource field. This year, the committee gave a scholarship to both Tyler Brett and Alden Whitney due to their exceptional merit. Congratulations to both!

Tyler graduated from Florence-Carlton High School. In Tyler's essay, he wrote about the influence of his grandparents, Sally and Clint Carlson, who were awarded 2013 Montana Tree Farm of the Year. Through them he remembers learning at a young age about weeds and wildflowers and the places where there were effects of one on the other. They answered his many questions and nurtured his curiosity on all aspects of the whys of nature. That curiosity developed into a passion to learn more. After his junior year, Tyler worked as a paid summer intern with Missoula County Department of Ecology and Extension in the Youth Restoration Program, working across the state. Pulling weeds, spreading biocontrol insects, reseeding grasses, tending seedlings, repairing trails, working with the DNRC and Fish, Wildlife and Parks have all fueled his curiosity and solidified his passion for "understanding the natural world". Finding answers to his questions is why he is studying Environmental Sciences and Sustainability at UM, Missoula.



Tyler
Brett

Alden Whitney graduated from Capital High School in Olympia, WA.

According to his essay, Alden remembers always having a curiosity for his surroundings. When he accompanied his father, a forester/wildlife biologist, in the woods, there were always tidbits of information passed along, such as explanations of road placements, old growth habitat needs for spotted owls, why some trees groups left standing after logging. Curiosity, questions, answers, more questions. Last summer, Tyler was a field forester for Northwest Management in Moscow, cruising three different states. This next summer he has secured a position as a procurement forester for Sierra Pacific Industries out of Aberdeen, WA. What started out as a fascination for his surroundings has turned into a passion to learn more about sustainable forest management. Alden writes "I want to learn as much as I can so I can do my part in managing the forests so that they are around for many future generations to enjoy". He's in the Davidson Honors College at UM.

We applaud the dedication and commitment of these two young men and wish them well in future endeavors. Expect to hear their names as they advance through their careers.



Alden Whitney

Meet: Ethan Tapper

Forester, Author and digital creator from Vermont

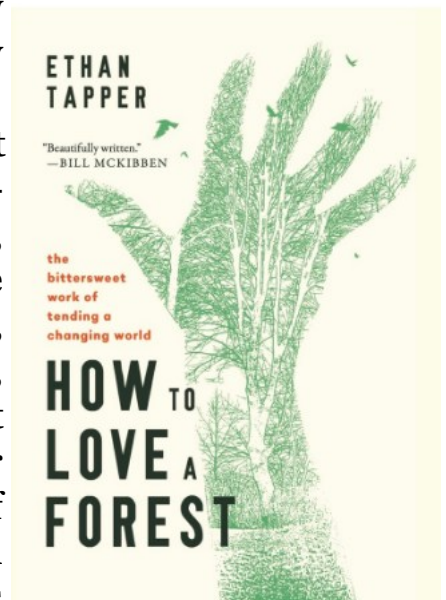
"I believe that our true nature is to be caretakers, stewards of this earth. I believe that the true nature of our power is not to degrade and destroy but to protect this living world and to protect each other."



Ethan's book [How to Love a Forest: The Bittersweet Work of Tending a Changing World](#) was published in September, 2024.

Ethan grew up in Saxtons River, a rural village in Vermont's Connecticut River Valley. After graduating high school in 2007, Ethan accepted a scholarship to attend the University of Vermont, but still unsure about what he wanted to study left after two semesters to go on a six-month wilderness expedition in Vermont and New Hampshire. Following this transformative experience, Ethan spent the next few years in the woods: working as a wilderness guide, living on a primitive homestead in rural Maine and apprenticing with a draft horse logger. After nearly two years, Ethan needed to return to UVM or else lose his scholarship. He picked forestry out a list of degrees on a whim, because, as he says: "it had the word 'forest' in it." He completed his Bachelor of Science in Forestry degree from the University of Vermont in 2012. After graduating from UVM, Ethan worked as a consulting forester on family forests and industrial timberland in Vermont, New Hampshire, New York and Maine, before becoming the Chittenden County Forester in 2016.

As the Chittenden County Forester for the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation from 2016 - 2024, Ethan advised private landowners, municipalities, conservation organizations, foresters and loggers on the responsible stewardship of privately-owned forestland, managed over 4,500 acres of Community Forests, administered Vermont's Use Value Appraisal ("Current Use") program in the County, wrote a monthly column for community newspapers that reached tens of thousands of people each month and led hundreds of public events. In this role, Ethan received numerous awards and distinctions including being named the Northeast-Midwest State Foresters Alliance's Forester of the Year in 2021 and the American Tree Farm Systems National Outstanding



(Continued on page 21)

Meet: Ethan Tapper

Forester, Author and digital creator from Vermont

“As the forest and I lean on each other, as I lay my hands upon it again and again, we will embody a reimagining of what it means to love a forest, a reimagining of what it means to live in this world with compassion.”

(Continued from page 20) Meet: Ethan Tapper

Inspector (forester) of the Year in 2024. Ethan left this role to start his own consulting forestry business, [Bear Island Forestry](#), in 2024.

In 2017, Ethan bought a 175-acre forest in Bolton, Vermont that he named “Bear Island.” When he bought Bear Island, it had, as he says: “every problem that a forest could have.” As Ethan worked to help this forest heal, Bear Island helped him crystalize many of the ideas that would eventually become *How to Love a Forest*. Today, Ethan spends countless hours working at Bear Island, performing the countless bittersweet and beautiful acts required to help this forest “reach towards wholeness again.” Where once he saw Bear Island as a symbol of the dysfunction of the modern world, now, he sees it as “a symbol of what is possible, a symbol of hope.” Ethan donated a conservation easement on Bear Island to the Richmond Land Trust in 2022 protecting this forest forever.

Ethan started writing ‘How to Love a Forest’ in 2018, after realizing that there was no book that captured his understanding of what forests are, how they work, and what it means to take care of them. He wrote the book over the following six years, one hour at time from 5:00 — 6:00 AM each day. It was published by Broadleaf Books in September, 2024!

In 2024, Ethan also started social media channels on [YouTube](#), [Instagram](#), [TikTok](#) and [Facebook](#), and now is a digital creator with tens of thousands of followers and subscribers. His @HowToLoveAForest pages include videos about ecology, natural history, forest stewardship and managing Bear Island.

Today, Ethan manages his businesses Bear Island Forestry, Bear Island Consulting and Bear Island Maple. He manages his forest, orchard, homestead and sugarbush at Bear Island, delivers keynotes and talks, creates digital content for his social media channels, is pursuing a graduate degree at the University of Vermont and performs with his 10-piece punk band, The Bubs.

“A beautiful forest grows on the hillside of this world. It is a forest of justice and equity, biodiversity and ecological integrity, a world that honors both the intrinsic value of this biosphere and the intrinsic value of its people. This forest will not be unearthed through inaction or subjugation, through stubbornness or complacency—only through relationship and responsibility, humility and courage, pragmatism and change. We already have the power to make this forest a reality—we just need to choose to do so.”

— Ethan Tapper, in *How to Love a Forest*



SCAN TO VISIT
MTFORESTINFO.ORG



Need information on 

wildlife habitat
tree identification
reducing wildfire risk
logging & selling timber
and more?

VISIT **MTFORESTINFO.ORG**

A new online resource for Montana private forest landowners.

what is mtforestinfo.org?

MTForestInfo.org is a centralized education and resource website for Montana forest landowners. Education and resources are provided by a variety of Montana forestry organizations and agencies. From the site, you can then navigate to these landowner forestry organizations for additional services and resources.



the website

On MTForestInfo educational guides, web resources, and videos are organized by topic. There is also a page for landowner events and an assistance guide by county, so you can find the right educational, in-person private forestry assistance, or financial assistance to help you meet the stewardship goals you have for your forest!



DNRC
hosted,
partner
guided



Women in the Woods

By: Ashley Machus, Outreach Specialist @ Forestry Assistance Bureau, Stewardship Program

The first weekend in October, women landowners, managers and stewards gathered at Lubrecht Experimental Forest in Greenough to learn about forests and the skills needed to care for them. The workshop began early Saturday morning as women gathered around the campfire with coffee and chainsaw gear. Soon the sound of chainsaws starting up were heard as Amy Freund, with Red Ants Pants Foundation and additional chainsaw instructors led participants in learning hands-on techniques for safely operations of a chainsaw; an important tool for maintaining a healthy forest and reducing wildfire risk.

Annually, Montana Tree Farm System and Montana DNRC host the Women in the Woods Workshop. With more women becoming landowners and the primary



caretakers of forest land, the workshop focuses on empowering women landowners, managers and stewards with the skills and resources to promote forest health and achieve their stewardship goals. With women instructors and peer-to-peer women learning, the workshop exudes a comfortable and empowering learning environment for women. The workshop is part of a larger national effort through Women Owning Woodlands (WOW) that is working to address barriers women woodland owners face when stewarding their land.

In addition to the chainsaw portion, the weekend workshop hosted several guest

speakers. Saturday lunch featured a talk on wood utilization in Montana by Beth Dodson



from the W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation, UM. Lunch was followed by a guided walk in the woods with Sharon Hood, USDA Forest Service Research Ecologist, to look at the Northern Rockies National Fire & Fire Surrogate study plots and discuss forest fuels treatments.

On Sunday, Sara Lamar the Director of Swan Valley Connections Education, guided participants in the field on identifying and interpreting wildlife tracks & signs. A field tour to Primm Meadow to see old growth ponderosa pine trees capped off the weekend.

Thank you to a great group of women stewards who came out for a beautiful, fall weekend in the woods. Stay tuned for the next Women in the Woods in Spring 2025!

www.womenowningwoodlands.net
www.engaginglandowners.org
www.treefarmssystem.org/montana
www.MTForestInfo.org



Remembering the 2024 National Leadership Conference

By Betty Kuropat & Ardrene Sarracino

The 2024 [American Forest Foundation \(AFF\)](#) National Leadership Conference (NLC) was in Vancouver, Washington on March 12-14. Four MTFS representatives attended. With the theme “Rooted in Community”, the presentations and discussions explored ways to involve and engage people to accomplish more together.

The first day included a field trip to [Pomeroy Tree Farm](#) where the family has a variety of enterprises going way beyond growing trees. They restored the original homestead and ways of life for living history programs and community events like school programs, hayrides, Halloween and other seasonal events as well as weddings. They have a winery where we enjoyed a tasting before boarding the bus back to town.

To open the conference, we heard a brief history of AFF and [American Tree Farm System \(ATFS\)](#). Then an overview of the Washington and Oregon TF programs and natural and human history of the Pacific North West.

Some highlights, quotes and take-aways from the rest of the conference: Ryan Rauzon— Identifying, recruiting and empowering volunteers: Finding ways to organize is more effective than advocacy; Find and empower “organic” leaders that operate independent of staff, people who others respect and turn to; “Be Curious, Not Judgmental” became the informal theme for the week.

Ethan Tapper - Communicating Forestry: “Celebrate rather than advocate. Make it a party.” “Tree Farmers are not farming trees, but farming biodiversity, ecology, forest health, wildlife habitat and more. They are caretakers of exemplary forests, doing the hard work as a labor of love.”

[Ken Bevis](#) – Make learning fun: People own forest land for many reasons, especially to enjoy nature and protect ecosystems (wildlife, water, etc.). Ken told the following (and more) stories using images, humor and questions to educate:

- * Wildlife as part of the family. Forests provide a complex 4-section habitat in the canopy, stem, understory and ground.
- * Landowners’ toolbox. Snags, logs, legacy, openings, patches, piles and shrubs.
- * King of the woods. Pileated woodpecker, oval holes, the interior is 4x deeper than hole.

Out of the Woods panel – ideas for events, booths and presentations: Education components are key; know the audience, agenda and theme of the event; collaborate with other organizations, even seemingly unrelated ones; keep the message short and direct.

Non-timber products: Forests offer many resources including floral arrangement greens and mosses, medicinal and food plants, mushrooms and artistic or ‘character’ wood like burls and oddly shaped branches. In WA and OR red maple can be tapped for maple syrup. Landowners there are working together to share equipment and labor for syrup production. Truffles are also highly valued and hunted with trained “truffle dogs”. Too bad these two resources don’t occur in MT!

There were many other informative sessions on the nuts and bolts of AFF and ATFS, like inspection, certification and Standards of Sustainability revisions, awards, processes, leadership manuals, social media opportunities, carbon markets and legislative actions.

In the end, we are a community with common goals. It matters how we talk, organize, lead and empower ourselves and others.

Dennis Swift Memorial

Each year MTFS recognizes active Tree Farm Inspectors at the annual meeting. Many MTFS inspectors volunteer their time, equipment and vehicle use in promoting the Tree Farm System through their certification and inspection activity.

If you would like to show your support in recognizing the importance of our Montana Tree Farm Inspectors in promoting the Tree Farm Program please contribute to the Dennis Swift Inspector Recognition Award.

Make your check payable to Montana Tree Farm System and send it to:

Montana Tree Farm System, Inc.

P.O. Box 17276

Missoula, MT 59808

MTFS is a non-profit, 501(C)(3) organization and donations are tax deductible.

In the News

By: Ardrene Sarracino

“Every walk in the woods is a chance to reconnect with the quiet wisdom of nature, just like your own life story”

Carl & Linda Haywood

July 12, 1942 ~ October 25, 1946
April 5, 2024 ~ June 3, 2024

When Carl and Linda moved to Montana, they built their 'retirement' and forever home on 20 forested acres that teemed with wildlife. They both loved the history of the area, the great outdoors and they became part of a group that started the Thompson Falls 'David Thompson Days' celebration. Later they traced the route of the "Road to the Buffalo"; the original path traveled by native peoples in the Northwest to the Great Plains where bison could be hunted and which was traveled by every early explorer in what is now western Montana. They were instrumental in convincing the Montana Highway Department to place signs marking where modern highways follow that trail.



Carl researched and authored several books with help from Linda who also proofread and edited them. Despite dealing with illness, Carl continued his historical research until the final days of his life. Carl passed away with Linda and his son David, by his side, he was 81 years old. Linda sadly passed shortly after, she was 77 years old.

The Montana Tree Farm Committee and staff would like to thank the Haywood family for their generous contribution in remembrance of the Haywood's.

Clinton E. Carlson

July 27, 1942 ~ March 11, 2024

Clint spent his formative years in Missoula and remained in Western Montana throughout his life. Earning a full scholarship to the University of Montana and graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Forestry and embarked on a career in the Forest Service. He acquired a Master's degree in Forest Science and Genetics and later his PhD in Forest Ecology and became a Research Pathologist with the U.S. Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station in Missoula.



Beyond his professional endeavors, Clint embraced life with grit and gusto. An accomplished athlete, he ran 14 marathons, attained a black belt in American Kenpo Karate and mastered snowboarding at age 50.

Clint was also a wonderful guitar player and singer. He enjoyed hunting for many years, earning the nickname "the ridge runner" from friends. His resilience, intuition wisdom and unstoppable drive inspired all who knew him. He is survived by his beloved wife Sally, daughters Kim Carlson and Charlene Brett and five grandchildren: Erica, Annika, Abby, Craig and Tyler.

In the News

By: Ardrene Sarracino

“A single tree can make a difference, just as your presence in the world continues to inspire others.”

Friends we missed

David L. Owen

March , 1930 ~ November 28, 2022

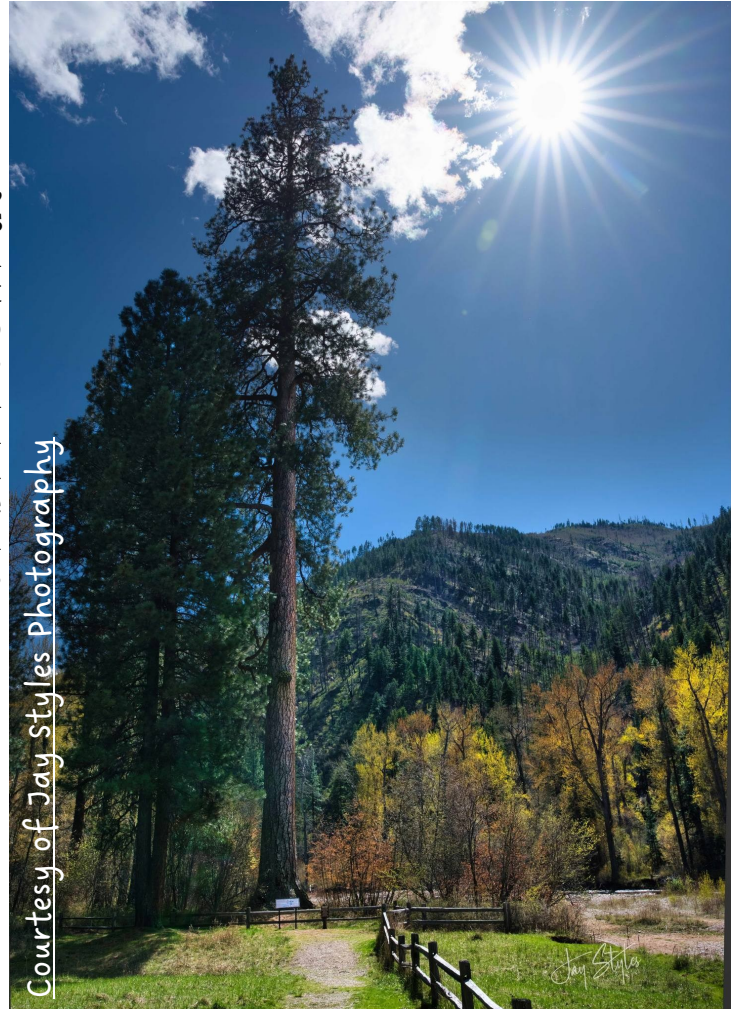
After high school, Dave joined the Army, then moved to Montana, earning his Airborne wings as a reservist. He then becoming a smokejumper for the Forest Service out of Missoula. He continued to jump fires during the summers and on weekends, as he earned a bachelor's degree in Rangeland Management from the UM School of Forestry. Dave finished college and began a career as a Ranger in the Forest Service in the Idaho Districts, doing a variety of jobs. Such as packing supplies to Lookouts, fire camps and trail camps with a horse and mule string.



In 1958, Dave worked as a District Ranger on Big Prairie, now part of the Spotted Bear and he went on to serve as Ranger at Ninemile Ranger District.

Dave and his wife Kay were recognized as Missoula County Land Stewards in 1997 and as Montana Tree Farmer of the Year in 2013. Dave remained active, working on his place in the Swan until he reached 90 years old.

To our beloved husband, papa, grandpa and great grandpa we are eternally grateful to have shared so many years with you and send our love with you as you begin your next adventure.



Courtesy of Jay Styles Photography

Big ponderosa pine a giant in the forest and the Montana state tree.

Measuring over 6 feet in diameter and nearly 200 feet tall, this majestic 'Big Pine' is the largest known ponderosa pine in Montana and the third largest in the country. This Methuselah is near the Big Pine Campground along Fish Creek Road. This giant contains enough lumber to build two average sized houses. 'Big Pine' is over 350 years old and this amazing tree is still growing. The state of Montana acquired the park site in 2010 and it is part of the Montana Legacy Project.

The ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) is known by many names; western yellow pine, blackjack pine, bull pine, rock pine and western pitch pine. The bark has been described as smelling like vanilla or butterscotch in the warm sun.

MTFS Mandatory Membership Dues

Montana Tree Farm System (MTFS) began requiring mandatory dues in 2022. Dues are required for all MTFS members to help with the real costs of running the programs and services provided for members. Dues for 2025 remain at \$25 per year and are valid from January 1st - December 31st. Lifetime membership remains at \$500. Your payment is due by February 28th. To pay your dues by check use the dues form that will arrive in the mail by January or, if you prefer to pay online, logon to <https://www.treefarmssystem.org/membership>.

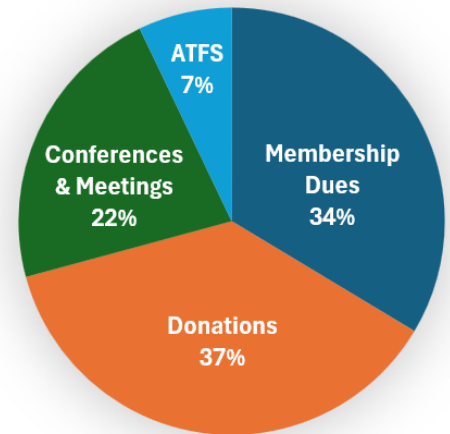
Please note: MTFS *dues* are different from *donations* to the American Tree Farm System®. We know you may also get donation requests from other Montana forestry-related organizations. Each of these organizations have different missions and focus.

Some current benefits of being a Montana Tree Farm Family Forest owner include:

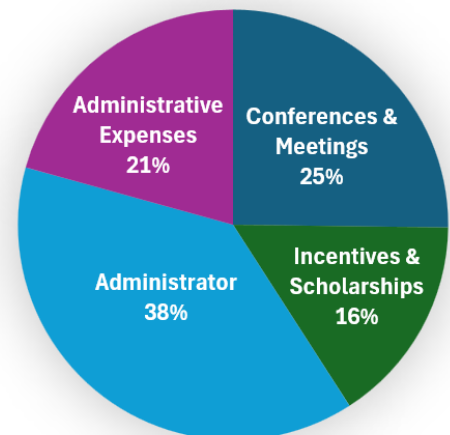
- A visit from a professional forester/resource advisor every 4–6 years.
- Two Family Forest newsletters each year.
- A classic green-and-white Tree Farm sign to proudly post on your property, affirming good stewardship.
- The Annual Meeting is usually held in October which includes tours of Tree Farms, lunch and networking with fellow Tree Farmers.
- Regional and local field tours and networking to meet other members and discuss relevant topics in your area.
- Administrative support for MTFS activities and programs.
- Membership in our parent organization, American Tree Farm System, with over 74,000 family forest owners. The national office has lobbyists on staff who help advocate for private forestland owners across the United States.
- Access and information to information and resources about your forestland.

MTFS is proud of its broad and diverse membership and has historically dedicated significant efforts to expand and serve that membership. Thank you for being the most important part of MTFS.

Revenue



Expenses



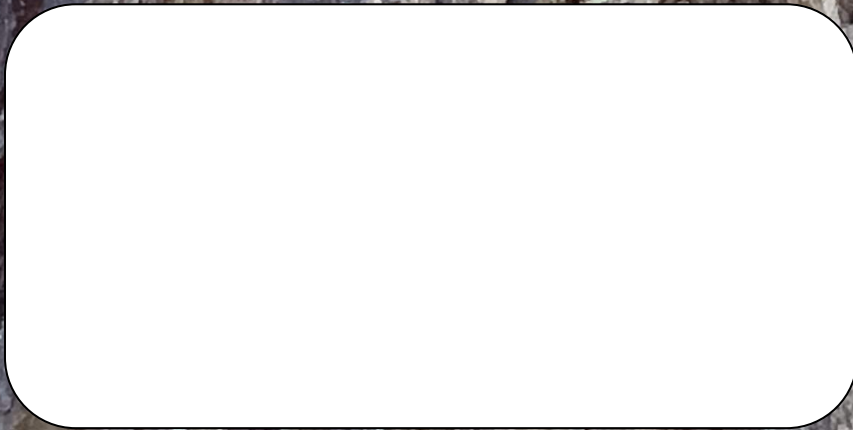
MTFS Steering Committee

- | | |
|---|--|
| ⇒ Holly McKenzie - Chair | ⇒ Patricia Mandzak - Scholarship |
| ⇒ Zoe Leake - Vice-Chair | ⇒ Pat McKelvey - Tree Farmer |
| ⇒ Angelo Ververis - Treasurer | ⇒ Ashley Machus - DNRC Outreach Specialist |
| ⇒ Betty Kuropat - Certification Coordinator | ⇒ Marvin (Ed) Levert - Forester |
| ⇒ Lexi Brown - Stewardship | ⇒ Jeff Whitlock - Awards Chair |
| ⇒ Allen Chrisman - Tree Farmer | ⇒ Erik Warrington - DNRC Stewardship |
| ⇒ Mark Boardman - Regional Certification Mgr. | ⇒ Cindy Peterson - Forester |
| ⇒ Gary Johnson - Regional Certification Mgr. | ⇒ Joe Moran - Advisory |
| ⇒ Mark Schiltz - Conservation | ⇒ Ardrene Sarracino - Administrator |

Montana Tree Farm System, Inc.
PO Box 17276
Missoula, MT 59808

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
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Montana Tree Farm

American Tree Farm System (ATFS) established on June 12, 1941. Montana Tree Farm System (MTFS) established June 1, 1944. First tree farm near Elma, Washington, known as the Clemons Tree Farm and owned by Weyerhaeuser Timber Company.

Tree farm is focused on fire prevention outreach and support for privately owned forestland. National codes and standards created in the 1990's. "We believe even more strongly that privately owned woodlands are vital to our country's clean water and air, wildlife habitat, recreational activities, and produce the jobs, wood, and paper products we all need." Thank you for joining the Montana Tree Farm System team!

Picture to the  **right...**A whipsaw allowed two men to cut planks from logs. They dug a pit, or built a tall structure like this one, and secured the log so it would not roll. Then, with one man on top and one below, they drew a long, two-handled saw up and down through the length of the log.

