



# Montana Tree Farm News

## Annual Meeting & Field Day Saturday, October 2, Lolo Creek Drainage

This year, Montana Tree Farmers will hold our Annual Meeting and forestry tour Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Lolo Creek area southwest of Missoula. At first we will visit the Jean and Charles Parker 80-acre forest, which was recognized as Tree Farm of the Year in 2000. We will see how the Parkers have practiced sustainable low-impact forestry in this mixed Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine forest located in the wildland-urban interface.

Next, we travel west to Paul Rossignol's Tree Farm on Graves Creek, a tributary of Lolo Creek. This 1250-acre property consists of grassland and forest ranging from open ponderosa pine-covered south slopes to riparian areas populated by spruce. Paul's management goals have been to convert dense thickets of Douglas-fir to more open diverse, and healthy stands dominated by pine and larch. We will see how he has conducted commercial thinning and harvesting, with the help of a professional forestry consultant and a logging contractor. We will also see pre-commercial thinning, tree planting, weed control, and other activities that Paul has carried out himself.

From the Rossignol place, we will go across the road to have our barbecue and annual awards banquet at the rustic Lumberjack Saloon, built of huge cedar logs. The silent auction will also be held here. Awards include Tree Farmer, TF Inspector, TF Logger, and Environmental Educator of the Year. Door prizes and Tree Farm mementos will also be given out to the audience.

## Annual Meeting Agenda:

**9:00-9:15 a.m.**—meet at Lolo Shopping Center and Mall, in the center of Lolo on the east side of Highway 93. We gather in the large paved parking lot which is just south of the first stoplight when entering Lolo coming from the north (from Missoula).

**9:30 a.m.**—busses depart for stop #1—Parker Tree Farm

**10:45 a.m.**—busses depart for stop #2—Graves Creek

**11:30** —tour loop of Rossignol Tree Farm

**1:30 p.m.**—barbeque and awards banquet at Lumberjack Saloon

**3:30 p.m.**—declare winners of silent auction

**4:00 p.m.**—busses have returned to Lolo Shopping Center

## Silent Auction

Each year's annual Tree Farm Meeting brings a better-than-ever silent auction. Last year's auction at the Swan Valley meeting broke all records. Dozens of Tree Farmers headed home with precious items ranging from original art and woodcrafts to forestry tools. This year I'll be trying to make the top bid for the set of custom fishing flies! I would like to sincerely thank all of those who donated auction items and to all of the buyers who supported this fund raiser with their purchases.

We have some outstanding auction items again this year, but you will have to come to the meeting to see them. Monies generated from the auction help defray costs of our annual meeting, including awards for outstanding Tree Farmers and inspectors, and they help finance Tree Farm activities throughout the year.

We are always looking for new items. If you have something to donate to the silent auction, please contact me or any of the Tree Farm board members. I hope to see you October 2<sup>nd</sup>, when we will have a great time vying for treasures in the auction!

Sincerely,





# If you have timber or logs for sale, We are interested...

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foresters about opportunities to  
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## Plum Creek

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### Tree Farm Inspector Training October 19<sup>th</sup>

Anyone who meets the minimum academic requirements to be a tree farm inspector (B.S. in forestry or A.D. with experience) is invited to attend a fall Tree Farm Inspector training class at the Missoula Plum Creek Office on 140 N. Russell Street. We will be reviewing the new inspection forms at this time as well. This training qualifies for 2 Society of American Foresters' Continuing Forestry Education credits. Training will start at 1:30 PM and go until 4:30 PM, which will allow for subsequent attendance at the Missoula Chapter SAF meeting at 5:30 PM if desired. For further information contact Peter Kolb at 248-1785 (p.kolb@plumcreek.com).

### “Slash” (Comments from the Chair) Gary Johnson

Hi! I'm the new chair of the Montana Tree Farm steering committee. I am a tree farmer and a Forest Service retiree. I had planned on two years of leisure as the Vice Chair prior to assuming the role as Chair. However I was forced into action after Mark Boardman's National Guard unit was called up for active duty in Iraq. Our prayers are with Mark and his unit as they serve their tour of duty. Michael Justus was selected by the steering committee to fill the vacant Vice Chair position. Mike lives in Eureka and is a forester with the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation.

I would like mention some issues facing us tree farmers. First of all we are not being heard in Congress. Many tree farmers, me included, don't





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	Joe Larson	(406) 258-2135
	Barry Dexter	(406) 258-2177
Trout Creek Landing:	Andy Stockwell	(406) 546-5810

### Registration Form: Tree Farm Tour and Luncheon

Saturday, October 2, 2004

Preregistration is necessary to get an accurate meal count. **Registration must be mailed by Sept. 23.** Registration fee is \$20 per person. Attendance limited to 100.

FORM: Tree Farmer's Name (please print), Mailing Address including Zip Code:

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone:\*\* \_\_\_\_\_ No. of Persons Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Menu choice (indicate no. of persons for each): \_\_\_\_\_ Regular meal (steak)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Special diet needs for the dinner:

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*If the tour is filled, late applicants will be notified ASAP by phone.

Please send this form and your check to:

Montana Tree Farm Program  
 PO Box 17276



## Tree Farmers Help Establish “Forest Discovery” Sites by Peter Kolb

Thanks to a grant from the American Forest Foundation and a lot of work from Tree Farm volunteers, two new forest discovery sites are up and running. Each site consists of a ½ mile loop trail with 10 informational kiosks. The purpose of these sites is to add to a network of forest management demonstration areas across Montana.

Forest discovery sites are strategically located in different habitat types, and they demonstrate alternative management approaches. Discovery sites are a feature of the Montana Ecosystem Learning Center, co-sponsored by educational institutions and agencies. This cooperative program is establishing numerous Discovery Sites on different ownerships across Montana to provide objective learning opportunities for schools, landowners, and the vacationing public. Previously, people have only been able to learn about forests in preserved areas such as Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks.

One of the new Forest Discovery Sites is located at the Family Forestry Expo area near the Stoltze Sawmill northwest of Columbia Falls. Here a loop trail leads through an actively managed forest owned by Stoltze. The site demonstrates tree thinning, group selection, Streamside Management Zones, and the ecology of the grand fir forest ecosystem.

The second site lies across the road from Seeley Lake Campground, on the west side of the lake, in the Lolo National Forest. Management objectives are to restore an uneven-aged stand of ancient western larch that was historically maintained by frequent fires. This stand structure will perpetuate high quality recreational values and low wildfire hazard. To begin restoration, the ranger district removed over 6,000 board feet per acre of small to medium-sized firs most of which grew up during the last century. They have also underburned parts of the stand. Posters describe the details of the local forest ecology and how different management strategies can be implemented for a variety of objectives.

## Got Liability? by Peter Kolb

One of the great perks of helping teach landowner workshops is that I get to learn new things from other instructors. At this spring's wildfire hazard reduction workshop—organized by the Northwest Regional RC&D and the Montana DNRC, the Montana Logging Association gave presentations about the liability insurance that is required of all its members. This requirement protects loggers and homeowners from the expenses associated with accidents. As a tree farmer myself, I have overlooked these insurance needs. After attending this workshop I vowed to be much more careful in the future if I hire someone to work on my property.

Did you know that if you hire someone to work for you, professional or the kid next door, you the landowner could be held accountable for all medical, pain and suffering, etc. expenses should anything happen to them while on your property? Someone you hire to work on your property who injures him/herself could sue you if they do not have the coverage described below.

Always ask for proof of the following: *Any contractor working for a landowner must have Commercial General Liability \$1 million, Loggers Broad Form Property Damage Liability \$1 million, Workers' Compensation \$100,000, and Automobile Liability \$1 million. If they do not have these, the landowner could be held liable for any damage or personnel injury that may occur.* The same should apply to anyone who works for you on your property (plumber, roofer, furniture delivery person). If you want to hire the kid next door I was told that a property owner's workman's comp plan is available through most insurance companies.

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## New Face in MSU Extension Forestry



Roy Anderson was recently hired by the Montana State University Extension Service as a forest products marketing and wood utilization specialist. Roy is located in the Extension Forestry Office in the Forestry Building at the University of Montana in Missoula.

He will be developing an extension program focused on forest products marketing and wood utilization issues in Montana. "I anticipate working a lot with non-industrial private landowners and landowner groups," said Anderson. "The timber sale planning and forest products marketing process is complex and the typical landowner doesn't have a lot of experience."

One of Roy's first projects is writing and publishing *Timber Sale Planning and Forest Products Marketing: a Guide for Montana Landowners*. Many landowners wonder – do I need a forest management plan? Should I hire a consulting forester? What trees should I cut? Who can cut them? Who will buy them? The publication provides information about these and many other issues facing a landowner who is selling timber. A bound version of the publication is available at the State's DNRC forestry field offices. The document can also be downloaded from the internet at:

[www.forestry.umt.edu/hosting/forestproducts/publications.htm](http://www.forestry.umt.edu/hosting/forestproducts/publications.htm)

Roy also anticipates developing a one-day workshop that addresses landowners' forest products marketing issues. Workshop topics might include information about the recent trend toward landowners forming cooperative groups, the costs and benefits of forest certification, dealing with small diameter timber, tax implications associated with timber harvesting, and doing your own cutting and milling. As a workshop program develops and a date is set look for an announcement in this newsletter or on the MSU extension forestry website

<http://www.forestry.umt.edu/extensionforestry>

Roy comes to MSU forestry extension from Oregon State University where he recently completed a PhD in forest products marketing. Prior to that, Roy worked as a log buyer, sold hardwood lumber, and owned his own logging and portable sawmilling business all in his home state of Wisconsin. You

## Continued from Page 2 . . . .

Unfortunately, when tree farmers aren't heard from, our concerns do not count. The most recent call for action is a prime example of the need to act. The 2002 Farm Bill set mandatory funding for family forestry. The outcome of the Bill was creation of the Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP) and an allocation of \$100 million for the next 5 years. In FY 2004, the Office of Management and Budget suspended funding for FLEP to cover the costs of that year's wildfires on federal land. In the proposed FY 2005 budget, Congress recommended canceling funding for FLEP. Only after Tree Farmers nation-wide responded to a call from the National Tree Farm office to contact their congressional delegation did the Administration agree to support funding at \$15 million for family forests in 2005. However that level of funding is below the amount made available in the Farm Bill and no assurance that the program will be funded in the future. Please take the time to write or call Montana's congressional delegation telling them that family forests are important.

The backlog of Montana tree farm re-inspections is growing. In 2003, 150 tree farms were due to re-inspection. We were able to complete only 73 of these, leaving the rest to be re-inspected along with the those additional tree farms due in 2004. Some of the tree farms have not been inspected for 10 years or longer. For these tree farms, the State program loses in 2 ways. First the tree farm will not be certified and will lose contact with the State Tree Farm committee. Second, the State committee will not receive its share of funding for these tree farms from the National Office to administer the state program. TREE FARMERS, please check your last re-inspection report. If the date is 1999 or earlier or if a Tree Farm inspector has not contacted you since 1999, please contact the Certification Coordinator for your area [Flathead, Lincoln, Sanders Counties—Paul McKenzie 892-7005; Missoula, Ravalli, Lake, and Granite Counties—Gary Johnson 728-3028; All other areas—Jerry Furtney 949-1531 or Scott Hicswa 578-2099].

TREE FARM INSPECTORS, please volunteer your time to complete at least 3 re-inspections in 2004. We need to get the re-inspection backlog behind us.

A significant number of Montana Tree Farm newsletters are being returned after each mailing,





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**Continued from Page 5 . . . .**

look at the address on this newsletter. If the address is incorrect or you have relocated please inform us of the correct address. We cannot keep you informed on Tree Farm issues if we do not have a correct address and telephone number. Send corrections to Montana Tree Farm System, P.O. Box 17276, Missoula, MT 59808 or send us a message through our web site at [www.mttreefarm.org](http://www.mttreefarm.org). If you know of fellow tree farmers who have moved, please have them contact us or better yet, let us know of their whereabouts so we can contact them.

I hope you have had a great summer and will join us at the annual meeting on October 2nd.

### **2004 Tree Farm Officers**

Chairman - Gary Johnson  
Vice Chairman - Mike Justus  
Secretary - Scott Hicswa  
Treasurer - Larry Westcott  
News Editor - Steve Arno  
News Publisher - Kári Boardman  
Web Master: Chuck Crouter

**Web Site:** [www.mttreefarm.org](http://www.mttreefarm.org)