



OREGON TREE FARM SYSTEM

Our Values: Connectivity; Collaboration; Stewardship; Inclusivity; Gratitude

Our Mission: Empowering private landowners to manage their forests sustainably

Our Purpose: Impacting the world by making Oregon a better place one acre at a time

January 25, 2023

Dear Oregon Tree Farm Members!

This is a belated HAPPY NEW YEAR letter 🥳. We will summarize Tree Farm's 2022 accomplishments and our goals for 2023.

2022 was a productive year for OTFS. Our **Certification Working Group** completed 195 parcel certifications including 13 initial certifications, 162 re-certifications, and 20 decertifications. Many thanks to our hard-working volunteer inspectors. These certification visits include the 37 required by the American Tree Farm System to satisfy the ATFS requirements for International Certification. Our **Landowner's Journey Working Group** created kits for each of OSWA's 14 chapters to use to explain the differences between OSWA and OTFS and the benefits of sustainable management and certification. At a recent Washington County event we had over 120 landowners hearing our sustainability story. Presentations in other counties include Lane, Lincoln, Polk, Douglas, and Clackamas. This working group also held a state-wide training on making site visits to new landowners. Our **Recognition Working Group** visited and publicized the County Tree Farmers of the Year and our State Tree Farmer of the Year, David Bugni as well as our OTFS Tree Farm Inspector of the year, Dave Hibbs. Dave Hibbs was then selected as the Western Region Inspector of the year and is in the running for National. We are proud to announce that our 2021 State Tree Farmer of the Year, Ed Easterling, went on to earn the title of Western Region Tree Farmer of the year. We had a great tour of Ed's tree farm at the June Family Forest Convention. Our **Governance Working Group** up-dated our by-laws and completed partnership agreements with the American Tree Farm System and OSWA. Our **Communications Working Group** began designing a new web page, and provided talking points for our Landowner Journey kits. Our **Finance Working Group** produced our budget and tracked our income and expenses. We are all very grateful to our generous donors who make our work possible. Finally, we continued to use our grant from the Forest Service to make enhancements to the on-line program, Land Mapper. If you have not used it to locate and learn more about your own property, we suggest you try it. Just Google Land Mapper.

In 2023, we plan on being even more productive! All of our six Working groups have their own goals. Some of these goals are attacking our backlog of re-certifications; representing OTFS at Tree Schools around the state; increasing the number of County Tree Farmers of the year, and thereby applicants for State Tree Farmer of the Year; revising the OTFS Operations Manual; establishing a new, improved web-site, and modernizing our finance system. We'll keep you informed of progress during the year. Any OTFS member is very welcome to join any of these groups. Contact us, Steve & Wylda, for information. We welcome your participation.

We're grateful to Lauren Grand for serving as OTFS Secretary in 2022, and welcome our new secretary, Mary Chamness, for joining our Board and starting working competently for OTFS from the get-go. Our dedicated treasurer of many years, Dick Beers, wanted to step down and we were quite worried how to fill his shoes, but Sue Zeni volunteered and is already working hard on our OTFS books. Many thanks to Mary and Sue. We're grateful to Kate McMichael as well for joining the Board and volunteering to join our Communications Group. We are still looking for a vice-chair to join our Board, and finding such a person is one of our 2023 goals. Please let us know if you are interested. We have found it a fun process to co-chair, and encourage other tree-farm couples to consider volunteering.

There are two dates for you to keep in mind: June 22-24 is the Annual Oregon Family Forest Convention. Our State Tree Farmer of the Year tour will be held on the last day of the Convention, Saturday, June 24, at Dave and Mary Ann Bugni's Estacada tree farm. The second date is our traditional Members' Meeting on November 4th. In 2023 we are going back to holding this in-person at the Oregon Gardens, with a program in the morning followed by a luncheon and Awards. It is going to be a grand event, so mark your calendars now. More information on both these events will be forthcoming. Additionally, there will be many County Tree Farmer of the Year tours across the state that are always fun and educational. A link to these will be on our new web-site.

The Oregon Tree Farm's main mission is to engage landowners in sustainable forest management. One way we do this is to certify new tree farms and re-certify existing members every five years. Our priority goal this year is to reach 400 tree farms, and we are busy building up our cadre of Inspectors to meet this goal. We plan to reduce our backlog of tree farms who are over the 5-year plus inspection interval as fast as we can.

We want to wish you and yours a very happy 2023, and to assure you that the Oregon Tree Farm System remains a vibrant organization working hard to impact the world by making Oregon a better place, one acre at a time. Contact us with your suggestions, questions, or how we can help.

Sincerely,

Wylda and Steve

Wylda & Steve Cafferata, Co-Chairs, Oregon Tree Farm System

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