**Tree Farm Standards Revision Comment Period Open**

The American Tree Farm System® (ATFS), a program of the American Forest Foundation (AFF), recently launched a 60-day public comment period on AFF’s current Standards of Sustainability for Forest Certification (Standards) and announced the 13 members of a new Independent Standards Review Panel (ISRP). The Standards are the benchmark for all ATFS forest certification, which are third party audited. The ISRP will also be responding to evolving international requirements while ensuring the Standards are a good match for the constraints, abilities, and resources of family forest ownerships in America.

During this first of two public comment periods in 2020, interested members of the public are invited to participate by submitting comments and suggestions here, [http://www.tfaforms.com/330231](http://www.tfaforms.com/330231). Submissions will be accepted January 2, 2020 through March 2, 2020.

The following list of candidates will serve on the ISRP in 2020:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Organization/Representative</th>
<th>Independent/Nonprofit</th>
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<tr>
<td>Joe Fulghum, Ph.D., BATFS</td>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>University of Tennessee</td>
<td>Institution</td>
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<tr>
<td>John_Deppen, CFA</td>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>Pennsylvania State University</td>
<td>Institution</td>
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<td>Marc Giller, FIA</td>
<td>District Chair</td>
<td>District</td>
<td>Institution</td>
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<td>John Cook, ACT</td>
<td>District Chair</td>
<td>Arkansas Forest Service</td>
<td>Institution</td>
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<td>Smith Buescher</td>
<td>District Chair</td>
<td>Arkansas Forest Service</td>
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<td>John Franks</td>
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The 13 members of the panel represent a broad spectrum of family and small forest owners, forest industry, conservation, and environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGOs), science and technological communities, foresters, and state and federal governments.

For more information about the Standards revision process visit:
- [https://www.treefarmsystem.org/standards-process-overview](https://www.treefarmsystem.org/standards-process-overview)
- or contact Leigh Peters at lpeters@forestfoundation.org.

**Tree Farm Program Honors Nine Inspectors**

Tree Farm inspectors and organizations received accolades during the December Tree Farm committee meeting. Every year the group recognizes inspectors for their hard work the past 12 months. The committee met at the Wood Grill Buffet in Benton for a business meeting and to recognize its volunteer inspectors.

John Cook, the committee chairman, presented the 2019 Inspector of the Year Award to Todd Hardman with Anthony Timberlands. Hardman said it was surprising to hear his name called. He and his coworkers split up a large number of properties that needed to be inspected this year, but Hardman took it upon himself to take on the extras. “I was able to find the time to do that,” Hardman said. “Just to go out and check on the status of current tracts I’ve been on before and some I haven’t been to, to see what needs to be done on them.”

To earn a Bronze Hard Hat, you have to sign up 25 new tree farms into the program, a Silver Hard Hat requires 50, and a Gold Hard Hat needs 100. This year, Trey Franks, with the Arkansas Department of Agriculture – Forestry Division, earned both the Bronze and Silver Hard Hat Awards.

“I was looking forward to it,” Franks said. “I kept pestering Jennifer [Johnson] about where I’m at, how far am I? I kept on pushing for it, and I was going, I think I have that many landowners.”

Earlier in 2019, Franks had a big job change, and getting to his 50 new tree farms was a bit of a challenge. He explained that he would work, go home, and work some more to make sure he reached his goal. He wanted to have the achievement under his belt and two cool hard hats on his wall.

Franks and Hardman were only two of the honorees at the meeting. Below is a complete list of the awards presented:

<table>
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<th>Outstanding District</th>
<th>District 5</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inspector of the Year</td>
<td>Todd Hardman, Anthony Timberlands, Inc.</td>
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**District Chair Award**
- Tabitha Holloway, Arkansas Dept. of Agriculture – Forestry Division

**Agency Award**
- Arkansas Dept. of Agriculture – Forestry Division

**Corporate Award**
- Anthony Timberlands, Inc.

**Silver Hard Hat Award**
- Trey Franks, Arkansas Dept. of Agriculture – Forestry Division
- Andrew Hilton, Silvicraft

**Bronze Hard Hat Award**
- Jeff Denny, Denny Company
- Trey Franks, Arkansas Dept. of Agriculture – Forestry Division
- Trayvis Todd, Forestry Associates, Inc.

AFA in conjunction with the SFI State Implementation Committee is proud to present a new **Landowner’s Guide to Sustainable Forests**. You can download a PDF version of that book at [https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.arkforests.org/resource/resmgr/sfi_2019_booklet_for_web_2.pdf](https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.arkforests.org/resource/resmgr/sfi_2019_booklet_for_web_2.pdf) or printed versions are available by calling the AFA office at 501-374-2441.
Arkansas Tree Farm Program
1213 W. 4th St.
Little Rock AR 72201
501.374.2441
www.arkforests.org

Mark your calendars
January 15
WEBINAR: OpenTEAM: Open Technology EcoSys-
tem for Agriculture Management - 12 p.m.

February 6
WEBINAR: Woodland Management: What is Right
for You and Your Woodland? - 6 p.m.

February 13
WEBINAR: Understanding the Financial Aspects
of Woodland Management - 6 p.m.

February 20
WEBINAR: More than Timber: Income Opportuni-
ties from Non-timber Forest Products - 6 p.m.

February 27
WEBINAR: Your Woodland Legacy: Intact, In For-
est and in Family Ownership - 6 p.m.

For information on registering for the webinars visit
www.forestrywebinars.net

Forestry Toolkit Workshop Offered

The Forestry Toolkit – Using available resources to improve your forest management.

Dr. Kyle Cunningham with University of
Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service
(UACES) will be offering a series of evening
forestry landowner workshops from January
through March. Meeting locations include
White/Lonoke Counties (January
28th), Dallas/Calhoun Counties
(February 11th), Marion County
(February 18th), Union/Columbia
Counties (Feb/Mar), Pike County
(March) and Yell County (March).

The events will run from 5:30 PM
- 8:00 PM, with dinner provided.

There is no cost to attend, but
attendees must pre-register with
the host county extension office
by the registration deadline.

Dr. Cunningham will present
available tools that can help
landowners better plan forest
management activities to reduce costs
and assist in meeting personal forest goals.
Topics may include pine or hardwood
management, competition control,
thinning, prescribed fire, available mapping
resources, and decision support tools
for forest landowners. Contact your local
cooperative extension office to see specific
topics for your area.

Additional information on feral swine
culture work in the state can be found at
https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/
nrcs/ar/programs/farmbill/89e4ddbf-0842-
43aa-b627-709ea50cf060/ and http://nrcs.
usda.gov/fscp.