



DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE

NEWS RELEASE

2320 S. DuPont Highway, Dover, Delaware 19901

To: Newsroom Directors and Assignment Editors
Date: March 29, 2010 Number of pages: 2

Contact: John Petersen
Phone: 302-698-4552

William G. Jester of Harrington honored as Delaware Tree Farmer of the Year



Photo 1 caption:

(from left) Matt Hansen, Sussex County Forester with the Delaware Forest Service, honors William G. Jester with the 2010 Delaware Tree Farmer of the Year Award at the recent annual banquet of the Delaware Forestry Association, as his wife Marsha Jester joins him for the presentation.

Photo 2 caption: (from left) With his wife Marsha at his side, William G. Jester of Harrington celebrates his selection as the 2010 Delaware Tree Farmer of the Year, an honor presented at the Delaware Forestry Association's annual banquet. The award recognizes outstanding Tree Farmers who follow management plans that incorporate sustainable forestry and conservation practices. Jester's 215-acre farm contains 90 acres of forestland.



For more than two decades, William G. Jester of Harrington—Delaware's 2010 Tree Farmer of the Year—has managed his forestland according to American Tree Farm System guidelines. A major component of a successful Tree Farm is the creation of a written forest management plan that addresses a landowner's key objectives for maximizing the four major benefits of forestland: wood, water, wildlife, and recreation. Likewise, biodiversity is also a critical component of a certified Tree Farm, and many successful Tree Farms contain many different habitats and stages of forest regeneration—from seedlings to mature timber. Tree Farmers are also expected to maintain natural forest buffers and implement a variety of conservation techniques.



William G. Jester honored as Delaware Tree Farmer of the Year - page 2

(continued from page 1)

To accomplish these diverse goals, Jester has worked closely with federal and state agencies to develop wildlife habitats, preserve water quality, promote reforestation, and manage his forestland for recreational use. Working with staff from the Delaware Forest Service, he formulated a written forest management plan which included recommendations for planting pines, oaks and other hardwood species for wildlife, as well as periodic tree thinnings to promote forest health. He has also enrolled portions of his land in the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service's Conservation Resources Enhancement Program (CREP).

Reforestation is important to Tree Farmers. In 1986, Jester oversaw the reforestation of pine seedlings on 30 acres of recently clear-cut land. And in 2001, an eight-acre tract of land he purchased from a timber company was replanted to loblolly pine following a clear-cutting operation. In 2007, a mix of 80 percent hardwoods and 20 percent pines was planted on another six acres—in addition to plantings surrounding a wildlife food plot as a CREP practice.

In the spring of 2008, he joined a cooperative effort between the Delaware Forest Service and NRCS to encourage whole farm planning, forest stewardship and soil conservation. That project generated an updated, comprehensive plan for his entire 90 acres of forestland, and also included six acres of hardwood plantings and the construction of a shallow pond for wildlife.

The Delaware Forestry Association was established in 1982. On the web: www.delawareforest.com
American Tree Farm System can be found on the Internet at: www.treefarmssystem.org

###