



Vermont Woodlands Association
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Vermont Tree Farm Forester Takes National Honor

The Vermont Tree Farm program is proud to announce the selection of Kathy Beland, forester from Clarendon, as the National Outstanding Tree Farm Inspector of the Year for 2014. Beland was nominated by the VT Tree Farm committee in October 2013 and captured the Northeast Regional award – a noteworthy achievement in itself. She later competed against three other regional finalists and was honored with the national title for 2014. The award was announced at the National Leadership Conference held in Savannah, GA. Beland's husband Tom and other Tree Farm committee members were present to bask in her accomplishment.

The American Tree Farm System is a program of the American Forest Foundation. Vermont's state program is sponsored by Vermont Woodlands Association (VWA). There are approximately 500 Tree Farmers in the state and nearly 100 Tree Farm certified foresters. Beland is truly outstanding among the ranks of foresters and a champion for the program.

Beland is not only a Tree Farm forester but a facilitator who regularly offers training workshops for foresters and has presented two Forester Field Days with nearly 50 of her colleagues in attendance. She is the co-chairperson of the Tree Farm committee and an indispensable advisor for Tree Farm administrative staff. With an eye toward the future, she has offered landowner workshops focused on the next generation of Tree Farmers.

In addition to serving as co-chair of the Tree Farm committee, Beland is a member of the VWA board of directors; a VWA accredited consulting forester and member of the consulting forester advisory committee. She also makes a significant contribution to the forestry community as the coordinator of the Forestry Building at the Vermont State Fair held each September in Rutland.

Tree Farmers are woodland stewards who share a common love for and connection to their land and who proudly display the Tree Farm sign, a nationally recognized symbol of sustainable forestry. The program is third party certified. Tree Farm foresters work with landowners to enroll their properties in the program and write management plans that address the four tenets of Tree Farm: wildlife, water, recreation, and wood. They update plans and complete on-site inspections

as required. Tree Farmers and Tree Farm foresters can be proud of their commitment to stewardship. If you see a “green and white” Tree Farm Family Forest sign, know that it is a sign of good forestry.

For more information about the Tree Farm program or to inquire about becoming a Tree Farm forester, contact the administrative office at 802-747-7900 or email info@vermontwoodlands.org.



Kathy Beland displays her National award at the April VWA Annual Meeting.

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