



American Tree Farm System

January 19, 2010

To: Maine Tree Farm inspectors
Maine Tree Farm Committee
Maine County Chairs
Fm: Kirby Ellis-Chair
Re: 2010 budget

Dan Mahns, our Tree Farm treasurer, built a budget for 2010 based on the information he currently had and on income that we have historically received for the past 10 or so years from our anonymous donor. The annual donations to TF, totaling \$10,000, went in to our general budget account to defray expenses and to pay incentives to inspectors for the regular 6 year inspections. Maine Tree took care of our administrative expenses for mailings and other organizational needs, also with donor money. In late December we learned that those donations would cease at the end of 2009. The donations to Maine Tree and SWOAM have also ceased, putting the three organizations in a tough financial spot.

An Executive Committee meeting was convened in early January to review the 2010 budget and make adjustments as necessitated by a sudden \$10,000 loss of revenue. The budget adjustments and other changes in TF operations are as follows:

- Regular inspections will no longer be paid
- A phone inspection check-off list will be developed to take the place of most ground inspections
- The \$3600 from National for the audit will need to go into the general TF budget account
- Required inspections will pay \$75 for each TF no matter how many inspectors go
- The remaining \$25 will go to the general TF budget account to pay for administrative expenses
- A grant we received from National for \$5,000 will be used for inspector training to the new standards and hopefully provide some sort of dollar incentive to those attending
- The history publication reprint has been eliminated

These changes should allow the Tree Farm Committee to have a balanced budget at the end of 2010.