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Snohomish County Tree Farmer Named 2010 Washington State Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year

Earl, Laurine, and David Ingebright, owners of the Valhalla Tree Farm in the Cascade foothills near Arlington, have been named Washington State Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year by the Washington Tree Farm Program. The award was announced at the Annual Meeting of the Washington Farm Forestry Association on April 26. The Ingebright's 70 acre tree farm was purchased by Earl in 1959. Now he and his son David manage it with the goal of keeping the forest healthy and productive for growing trees, sharing it with friends and family, and passing it on to their children in better shape than when they received it. In the spirit of teaching young people about stewardship and outdoor skills, they have a group camp site that is available for scout, church and other youth groups. Water from a pure hillside spring has been piped downhill to supply water to the house and group camp. Recently a small cabin, a Norsk Hytte, was built on scenic hill overlooking Jordan Creek, a salmon-bearing stream that passes through the property. The family enjoys many activities on their property as they continue to nurture their private forestland and teach visitors about forest stewardship.

"The Ingebright family deserves to be recognized for their many years of excellent forest management and their commitment to forest stewardship," Washington Tree Farm Program chair Sherry Fox said.

The Washington Tree Farmer of the Year contest recognizes private landowners for the exceptional job they do to enhance their forest land as well as the promotion of sustainable forestry practices. The state, regional, and national Tree Farmer of the Year contests are sponsored by the American Tree Farm System (ATFS), a national program that promotes sustainable management of forests through education and outreach to private landowners. To be a certified Tree Farmer, a landowner must manage his or her forest land in an environmentally sound manner in accordance with the American Forest Foundation's standards and guidelines. Founded in 1941 in Washington State, ATFS has 94,000 family forest owners who are committed to excellence in forest stewardship on their 26 million acres. The two oldest forestry organizations in Washington, the Washington Farm Forestry Association and the Washington Forest Protection Association co-sponsor the Washington Tree Farm Program. They represent the private forest landowners in the state. For more information, visit www.watreefarm.org, call (360) 736-5750 or e-mail info@watreefarm.org.

