

# The Forest Steward's Journal

Summer 2014 Volume 20

## Journal of the Forest Stewardship Foundation

The MISSION of the Forest Stewardship Foundation is to "educate and inform landowners, natural resource professionals and the general public about the science and ecology of forest lands, the many values derived from forested lands and the principles of sustainable forest land development."

DISCLAIMER: As in the past, we again advise that this information is submitted for your interest only. The Foundation's mission, as indicated above, is to "educate and inform", not to advocate or persuade. The Foundation takes no position either endorsing or opposing, approving or disapproving, any of the assertions or arguments in the contributed information.



### The Importance of Shade

The Montana Forest Stewardship Foundation sponsored Ties to the Land workshops in Missoula and Helena on May 22 and May 24 as associated events connected to the May 23 Montana Forest Landowner Conference. Ties to the Land Workshops are designed to assist families successfully plan for future ownership and management of their property through succession planning. As this photo of a PowerPoint slide shows, the word "planning" can mean many different things.

A society grows great when old men  
plant trees whose shade they know  
they shall never sit in.

-- Greek Proverb

## From the Chair

by Ed Levert,  
Montana Stewardship Foundation Chairman

This year's conference was a rather interesting venture into one of the social issues of private forest ownership: How to keep your forest intact by involving the family. "Strengthening Connections" was the theme of this year's conference, although there were many other educational subjects offered. The conference started with an Emmy award winning video, Green Fire, which is about the life, studies and teachings of Aldo Leopold, often referred to as the father of American wildlife management. This film was all about land ethics and fit perfectly with our conference

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## Landowner Conference is Big Success

by Gary Ellingson,  
Montana Stewardship Foundation Board Member

It's hard to believe over a month has passed since the Fifth Annual Montana Forest Landowner Conference, held May 23 in Helena.

Landowners and foresters alike are trying to make the most of an always busy summer season so time passes quickly. On my long drives between various projects spread across Montana I have had some time to reflect on many of the topics presented and good discussions conducted during the conference.

The first thing that comes to mind is the quality of speakers who volunteered their time to present at the conference this year. These folks take time out of their busy professional lives to prepare a presentation, travel to Helena, and then return home for no charge. They obviously believe in the Montana Forest Stewardship Foundation Mission to "educate and inform."

I also think about the folks who donated items to the silent auction. Quilts, jewelry, artwork, trout flies, and other donated items were very high quality and represented hours of work by the donors. The generous bidders who purchased them not only took home a great "prize" but also helped to financially support the conference.

Numerous volunteers staff the registration desk, and assist throughout the day. Conference sponsors and vendors make direct financial contributions that help to keep our registration fee as low as possible... \$35 for a full day of top notch information and a great lunch is really one heck of a deal.

Please See "Conference" on Back Page

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# **Chair...Continued From Page 1**

theme and the two Ties To The Land workshops conducted the day before in Missoula and the day after in Helena. With over 100 in attendance, including speakers and vendors, we were excited by the energy and enthusiasm of the audience throughout the conference.

On the "Strengthening Connections" portion of the program we learned about ways to involve the family and in particular the next generation. Trail construction to enjoy the natural features of the property and activities such as "citizen scientist" on how you can engage the family in research projects on your property.

## **TIES<sub>to</sub>theLAND**

We can help educate forest landowners all day long, but if that property changes ownership every generation, how much have we gained? This is where under the excellent tutelage of Kirk and Madeline David, the two Ties To The Land workshop participants learned how to take those first steps in passing on the property. There were 11 participants in Missoula and 18 in Helena. These were the first workshops offered in Montana using the workbooks and video developed by Tree Farm and Oregon State University. We hope that we are able to expand these workshops across the state, as they are so needed to help families with that difficult task.

My thanks once again to Northwest Management, Inc., our board members and many other volunteers for helping make the landowner conference and Ties To The Land workshops such a success.

## **Join the Forest Management Discussion on Facebook and Exchange Information**

The Montana Forest Stewardship Foundation has established a Facebook group page to help private forest landowners obtain and exchange information about forest management trends, issues, and more.

We're just getting started in the social media world of Facebook, but the Foundation board established the Facebook group specifically to post and exchange information about the importance of private land forestry. The group address on Facebook is <https://www.facebook.com/montanaforeststewardshipfoundation> and it's easy to get signed up:

- 1) Join Facebook (if you haven't already done so).
- 2) Type in "Montana Forest Stewardship Foundation" into the top "Search" box.
- 3) Once you find the Foundation's group page, click the "Like" box.

Once you "Like" the group page you'll automatically receive all Foundation posts and comments, and will be able to post and comment on the information posted on the page. Please contact Glenn Marx at 406-490-1659 or at [montanamalt@q.com](mailto:montanamalt@q.com) for more information.



# Ties to the Land Workshops Help Families Plan Future Forest Ownership, Management

by Klare Matthew

I attended the May 22<sup>nd</sup> Ties to the Land Workshop in Missoula with my father. My father manages our family property of 500 acres in northwestern Montana and we attended the workshop to develop a plan for succession.

The main focus of the workshop seemed to be teaching families how to start a dialogue about planning the future of their land and dealing with family conflicts. The presenters used a hypothetical family and their story to create discussion about bringing different generations together and resolving conflicts between family members.

One of these strategies that seemed like it would be the most helpful for our family was the Heirloom Scale where each family member rates how they see the property: as purely a financial asset or as a priceless family heirloom. I think this is a great tool to use when meeting with the family to discuss the plan for the land and how involved family members want to be.

We also discussed our goals for the future and envisioned what challenges we might meet along the way. I think it was helpful to hear about other families and their experiences. I also appreciated the use of the hypothetical family to create discussion when people, especially those who were dealing with major conflicts and hurt feelings, felt uncomfortable or apprehensive talking about their own family.

The only area of deficiency I saw in the workshop was a lack of

discussion about the different options about passing land to the future generations. Although information was provided in the resource materials, it would have been helpful to hear more about different forms of ownership, management, and governance. The presenters talked about a follow up workshop they have done in the past where various professionals with expertise in these areas shared their knowledge. I think this would be a great addition to what we learned in this session.

The strategies we learned in this workshop give us a great starting point to develop a plan with our family and make sure that everyone feels like their opinions are heard. We had a great experience at the Ties to the Land Workshop and left with the motivation to start planning for the future.

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Kirk David guides one of many landowner questions to Madeline David as they facilitate the Helena *Ties to the Land* workshop.



**Interested in Montana Private Forest Management?  
Join the Montana Forest Stewardship Foundation**

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## ***“Conference”...Continued From Front Page***

Behind the scenes there is much more work with designing and printing brochures, editing mail lists, mailing out over 1600 brochures, and tracking registrations. All of this tremendous effort and expense results in approximately 100 people coming together for a day to learn, share and have fun. The great evaluations provide evidence that those who attended thought highly of the experience.

The sheer size of Montana makes it difficult for landowners to travel and attend these events. Ask any organization that tries to serve forest landowners in Montana about the challenges and expense they face in putting together educational events. Montana Tree Farm, the Forest Stewardship Program, MSU Extension Forestry, and Montana Forest Owners Association, as well as other organizations, all spend significant portions of their limited budgets reaching out to forest owners with newsletters, brochures, and electronic media. Most of these organizations are supported by a limited number of dedicated volunteers who are focused on doing the best they can to support various programs. These programs are working together to find ways to share their resources and work together for the benefit of the Montana private forest owner.

It is very important for landowners to participate in educational programs when they are made available in order to ensure their continued availability. Thanks to all who were able to attend this year and to those who were unable to attend we missed you and hope to see you next year!

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TYPE IN “MONTANA FOREST  
STEWARDSHIP FOUNDATION” AND CLICK ON “LIKE”**