



## *Press Release*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 27, 2009

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### **Ken Frearson Named New York State Tree Farmer of the Year**

Albany, NY – The New York State Chapter of the American Tree Farm System has named Ken Frearson as Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year. Frearson owns Agony Hill Tree Farm that consists of 445 continuous acres that is located in the Townships of Italy, Middlesex and Potter, Yates County, New York State. Frearson will be recognized for this achievement on April 18<sup>th</sup> at his Tree Farm during the annual Italy Valley Quality Deer Management Cooperative meeting. This award recognizes outstanding sustainable forest management on family owned forestland.

Frearson was nominated for this award by Scott Graham, forester with Future Forest Consulting based out of Naples. “A Tree Farm is living proof that a well-managed forest is a better forest,” said Graham. Graham is a certified Tree Farm inspecting forester and one of the American Tree Farm System’s<sup>®</sup> 4,400 volunteers. “Ken Frearson deserves to be recognized for years of excellent forest management and his commitment to forest stewardship,” Graham said.

The Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year competition recognizes private landowners for the exceptional job they do to enhance the forestland on their property. Winners are also chosen based on their efforts to foster and promote the practice of sustainable forestry to other landowners and the public. Ken Frearson’s, Agony Hill Tree Farm will go forward to the judging for Northeastern Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year title.

To be a certified Tree Farmer, a landowner must manage their forestland in an environmentally sound manner in accordance with the American Forest Foundation’s standards and guidelines. “Tree Farmers provide Americans with a renewable supply of essential timber and wood products,” said Graham. “Their forests help clean the air we breathe, protect the watersheds we depend on, and provide homes for wildlife. By constantly seeking expert advice on sustainable forestry practices, Tree Farmers like Frearson make good decisions for their land that will sustain their forest for generations to come,” Graham said.

*The American Tree Farm System<sup>®</sup> (ATFS) is a national program that promotes the sustainable management of forests through education and outreach to private forest landowners. Founded in 1941, ATFS has 26 million acres of privately owned forestland and 80,000 family forest owners who are committed to excellence in forest stewardship. Tree Farmers manage their forestlands for wood, water, wildlife, and recreation with assistance from 4,400 volunteer foresters. ATFS is a program of the American Forest Foundation, a nonprofit organization that works for healthy forests, quality environmental education, and informed decision-making about our communities and our world.*



