

State Forestry Award Highlights Responsible Woodland Management

A White Township farm, Woodsedge Tree Farm, was named as the NJ Outstanding Forest Steward Award for 2013. The award is presented to a NJ landowner each year who demonstrates outstanding stewardship of their forest resources. Tim and Mim Dunne, the owners, were noted for implementing forest stand improvement, wetland restoration, pollinator plantings and wildlife habitat enhancement projects on their 75-acre Beechwood Road farm, 57 acres of which is forested. The Dunes have utilized wood products from their forestry activities, as well as trees damaged during Hurricane Sandy, for firewood, fence posts, and lumber for hardwood flooring, building bird nest boxes and for crafting of wooden bowls. The farm also features Christmas trees, honey and beeswax soap all produced on the farm. Woodsedge Tree Farm was nominated for the award by their consultant forester Don Donnelly of Washington, NJ.

The Forest Stewardship program was authorized by the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 and provides technical assistance, through State forestry agency partners, to private forest owners to encourage and enable active long-term forest management. A primary focus of the program is the development of comprehensive, multi-resource management plans that provide landowners with the information they need to manage their forests for a variety of products and services including wildlife habitat, water quality, cultural resources, rare species management, aesthetics, biological diversity and more.

The award was presented by State Forester Lynn E. Fleming of the NJ State Forestry Service to Tim Dunne last Friday June 6th at "Tree Farm Day" at Hudson Farms in Andover, NJ. More than 100 private woodland owners attended the day-long event to view forest management for rare species at Hudson Farms, demonstrations of "Quality Deer Management", learn about invasive exotic plant species and their control, and learn tree identification and more. The event was opened (on the 70th anniversary of D-Day) by honoring three local woodland owners who are all WWII veterans, at a flag raising ceremony.



Tim Dunne (left) of White Township and his consultant forester Don Donnelly of Washington, NJ accepting the NJ Outstanding Forest Steward Award for 2013 last week in Andover , NJ.