

Washington State Tree Farm Program Awards 2020 Tree Farmer of the Year to the Elmore Vance Tree Farm

The Washington Tree Farm Program is proud to announce the recipient of the 2020 Washington State Tree Farmer of the Year is Patty Vance, owner and manager of the Elmore Vance Tree Farm. Located near Randle, Washington, this 148-acre tree farm is named after Ernie Elmore who purchased the property in 1965. Patty Vance is continuing her father's legacy of stewardship with the help of the rest of the family that includes fourth-generation grandniece Annalise Combs who also calls the tree farm home.

"My father loved the outdoors, and he loved the land," said Patty Vance. "I feel my family is fortunate, because my father planted the seed that this property will remain in the family for generations and generations to come."

Of the 148 acres, 122 are enrolled in the American Tree Farm System, and Patty Vance has been a certified tree farmer for 12 years. The tree farm is managed for multiple objectives including commercial timber production, wildlife habitat, and recreation. For nearly a decade, Patty has been active with the Lewis County Farm Forestry Association.

"Patty is enthusiastically continuing the legacy began by her father by managing her forest for generations to come," said Devon Powell, the past president of the Lewis County Farm Forestry Association. "Her enthusiasm for learning about forestry is obvious when she attends our chapter meetings."

In 2019, Patty was recognized as Lewis County Tree Farmer of the Year. Although she appreciates these awards and recognition, they aren't why she is proud to call herself a tree farmer. "I am very fulfilled being a tree farmer and being a good steward to the land," she said. "It's just really fulfilling to plant trees and contribute to clean air and water."

A video featuring the Elmore Vance tree farm is available on the Washington Tree Farm Program's website at <https://www.watreefarm.org/2019-tree-farmer-of-the-year-award/>.

The Washington Tree Farm Program administers the certification of over 400,000 acres of forestland under The American Tree Farm System® (ATFS), a program of the [American Forest Foundation](#). ATFS is the largest and oldest sustainable woodland system in the United States, internationally recognized, meeting strict third-party certification standards. As part of the certification process, each state participating in the ATFS recognizes one of its members as Tree Farmer of the Year. A national winner will be selected by the American Forest Foundation in 2021.

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