

# Oregon Tree Farm System recognizes work of local farmer Linda Hull

Lane County tree farmer Linda Hull was among five forest landowners recognized by the Oregon Tree Farm System at an awards luncheon Saturday. The annual event, which honors Oregon's outstanding tree farmers, was held at the Oregon Garden in Silverton.

Linda and her late husband, Paul, purchased their 120-acre property near Cottage Grove in 1976. The property has been passed down through the Hull family since John and Amanda Hull got it as a Donation Land Claim in 1891.

Linda and her children manage the forest for timber and wildlife habitat.

Oregon's 2018 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year, who were recognized at the same event as Hull, also have ties to Lane County. The Oakes family owns several parcels of forest land, approximately 800 acres, in northern Lane County, and west of Monroe and near Alsea in Benton County.

The homestead parcel, west of Monroe, was purchased in 1883 by Don Oakes' great-grandfather. Their forests are currently being cared for by four generations.

Goals for their forests include producing income from timber harvest, providing wildlife habitat, maintaining a family gathering spot, and sharing what they have learned with other woodland owners, local organizations and the general public.

Don and Donna Oakes passed the ownership on to their six

children in 1999, forming the Oakes Investment LLC. Their daughter, Marsha Carr, who passed away this summer, took on the leadership role after her retirement.

"Marsha worked with Dad to learn about forestry and eventually took the Master Woodland Manager course from the OSU Extension Service," said brother Darrell Oakes. "She did plot studies, marked trees for thinning and recovery after storm damage, and recently laid out a major road project."

Marsha was an active member of the Benton County Small Woodlands Association, and helped her father manage the LLC properties.

Their forests are certified by the American Tree Farm System meeting their standards of sustainability. Their management goals and action plan are defined in their management plan, which was first hand written by Don years ago.

Marsha took on the current version this past year.

Darrell stated, "The plan is an educational tool for the next generation. They can look at what we were thinking to guide them in managing the property".

The Oregon Tree Farm System also recognized five other family forest landowners for their exceptional, sustainable forestry management.

The other honorees were: Debi



The Hull family with their award from the Oregon Tree Farm System

COURTESY PHOTO

Poppe and Tim Dahl (Clackamas County) The Weld Family Tree Farm (Linn County) Tom and Cindy Beechinor and Family (Umatilla County) and Rich and Connie Gaebel (Washington County).

For 52 years, the Oregon Tree Farm System has recognized family forest landowners who provide forest benefits and products using sound forestry management principles.

The American Tree Farm System and its state chapters operate an internationally recognized forest certification program overseen by and for family forest landowners to promote sustainable forest management through education, recognition, and assistance.

OTFS and the Oregon Department of Forestry share the goal of family forest landowners voluntarily improving the health of their

forests. Both provide assistance in the development of forest management plans using a jointly developed plan template.

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# Oregon National Guard troops return from Middle East after demobilization

SALEM — The Oregon Army National Guard honored citizen-soldiers in a demobilization ceremony on Sunday, Nov. 4, at 3 p.m., at the Army Aviation Support

Facility, Hangar 1.

A platoon of more than 20 citizen-soldiers with Detachment 3, G Company (Golf), 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, returned

from a nine-month deployment to the Middle East in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

These soldiers are largely from the Willamette Valley

area.

The platoon assisted with aerial medical evacuation (medevac) using HH-60 Blackhawk helicopters to save lives in support of U.S. and Coalition efforts.

The detachment augmented the South Dakota Army National Guard's Company C, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, serving under the 1st Battalion, 126th General Aviation Support Battalion and the 449th Combat Aviation Brigade.

Over the course of the deployment, Detachment

3, Golf Company, flew more than 200 combined hours and conducted more than 80 medevac missions.

The unit also conducted numerous training events with U.S. forces and members of the Finnish, Australian, Canadian, Italian, German, Danish, Spanish militaries, among other coalition partners.

Golf Company, 1-189th Aviation, has a long tradition of answering the call to duty. On the home front, the unit conducts medevac, search and rescues, as well as wild land fire suppression

throughout Oregon.

The unit has previously deployed overseas to Bosnia for Operation Joint Forge 7, three times to the Middle East in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation New Dawn, to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom, and to Kosovo in support of Operation Joint Guardian.

Another group of approximately 70 Soldiers with G Company, 189th Aviation, were recently welcomed home from a Middle East deployment in March 2018.

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