



FORESTRY CONTEST



Sponsored by: Idaho Dept. of Lands ~ Bonner SWCD ~ US Forest Service ~ Natural Resources Conservation Service

April 2017 Newsletter

A Reminder to Coaches!

Date: Thursday, May 11

7:30 am to 2:00 pm

Delay Tree Farm, Careywood

Hwy 95, Mile Marker 455

 **Free Barbecue Lunch**

MORE VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED & WELCOME!

Contact Karen Robinson at krobinson@idl.idaho.gov or 208-263-5104. **On contest day, please arrive by 7:45*** and **check in** at Volunteer Check-In marked by the new purple banner on the red barn to the west of the property. Coffee is available there, then check your assignment and meet your station leader. (*earlier if you're helping with Registration)

Coaches FINAL Forestry Contest Schedule – May 11th

- ◆ 6:00—7:00—Coaches call in final registration to Amanda at 509-386-7853 (exact number of teams and exact number of individuals in each division— Rookie, Junior HS, or Senior HS).
- ◆ 7:30—8:30 Final Registration at the Contest for Seniors, Juniors, and Rookies. Coaches receive brochures and labels for all their contestants. Students pick up their promo item in designated area—Rookies receive theirs on bus.
- ◆ 8:30—8:40 Group Picture
- ◆ 8:40—9:05 Announcements
- ◆ 8:50 Novices sent to Novice Course, Start at 9:00
- ◆ 9:00 Juniors & Seniors sent to Jr/Sr Course (20 min. walk). 1st Station starts at 9:30
- ◆ 9:05 Rookies sent to Rookie Course (15 min. walk). 1st Station starts at 9:30
- ◆ 9:30 JR/SR, and Rookie Competition Begins
- ◆ 12:30 Lunch

THANK YOU for Supporting Forestry Education in Idaho

Thank you to the following agencies and individuals for their generous contributions!

- Cash:**
- ◆ Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Comm.
 - ◆ Natural Resources Conservation Service
 - ◆ David Ritz Memorial—Rick & Sherri Ritz
 - ◆ Xmas Hills
 - ◆ Senator Shawn Keough
 - ◆ Inland Forest Management
 - ◆ Co-op Country Store
 - ◆ Boundary County Farm Bureau
 - ◆ Idaho Forest Group
 - ◆ Idaho Assoc. of Soil Cons. Districts
 - ◆ Idaho Forest Owners Assoc.
 - ◆ Idaho Tree Farm Committee
 - ◆ Idaho District Employee's Assoc.
 - ◆ Kurt & Sandy Koetter
 - ◆ McFarland Cascade Pole & Lumber
 - ◆ Stimson Lumber

Conservation Districts: Ada, Adams, Bear Lake, Benewah, Boundary, Butte, Camas, Custer, Clark, East Side, Elmore, Kootenai-Shoshone, Latah, Madison, Portneuf, South Bingham, Weiser River, West Side

In-Kind Contributors: Litehouse Inc., Coeur d'Alene Tractor, Idaho Forest Products Commission, Custom Den, Wood's Meat Processing, Yoke's Fresh Market, Super 1 Foods, Frito Lay, Bonner County Waste Management, Ace Septic Service, GII2, Mak's Signs

Honorary Chairman—Ray Delay, Jr

Whether a kid becomes a forester or not, Ray Delay, Jr says there's still great value in having the opportunity to watch ants hauling twigs and other stuff along one of their superhighways, or hear squirrels chattering after you've disturbed their fall gathering activities, or to just enjoy the serenity and quiet in the forests, fields, and mountains of Idaho. And Ray knows what he's talking about because his whole life and career have been closely tied to the family farm and forest lands, even when he wasn't actually living there.

Ray's grandfather, Tony Delay, immigrated here from Italy in 1908 and bought the property exactly 100 years ago. During the early years, Tony maintained the land primarily for "livestock enterprises" including sheep, pigs, horses, and cattle. He also sold cordwood (buyers included the Sandpoint to Bayview ferry on Lake Pend Oreille) but most of the land remained forested because clearing was done by hand in those days, a monumental task. Eventually, Tony focused on developing the family dairy operation that remained active until the 1980's.

Ray's dad, Raymond Sr, grew up on the farm, living and working on it his entire life. He met Fairy, at the Iva Lee Dance Hall in Coeur d'Alene, a popular place for troops on leave from Farragut Naval Base, and they married in 1948.

Like their dad, Ray Jr and his brother, Gene, grew up helping their parents on the farm, milking the cows every day before and after school. After high school, Ray earned an Agriculture and Economics (Ag/Econ) degree from the University of Idaho. His first job was with a fertilizer company. After that, he studied banking and worked for an agricultural chemical company in Boise and Spokane but, in 1996, he was hired to be the controller for the local Co-op Feed Store and he moved home to Sandpoint. Ray became the Co-op's manager two years later and has served in that capacity ever since.

(cont'd on next page)

Continued — Honorary Chairman—Ray Delay, Jr

Ray Sr always felt that the property's timber was his "savings account" so he left the forest intact until after the dairy herd was sold and he began participating in the federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), which restricted use on the hay and agricultural ground. He bought an old 2-ton truck and self-loader, and the two Rays spent "innumerable" hours repairing and fixing up this (and other) ancient equipment. (As soon as the self-loader and truck were ready, Ray Sr tried it out but it was so unstable that he immediately sold it!) Eventually, he bought a small tractor from CDA Tractor, which worked quite well.

In the late 1990s, the Delays hired Mike Wolcott of Inland Forest Management to help with larger commercial logging operations to remove diseased or insect-infested trees, and many wind-thrown trees (especially lodgepole pines). Sometimes, they brought in small sawmills to make dimensional lumber, which they sold or used for construction of useful farm equipment, such as a cattle feeder. Ray and Fairy were named Idaho Tree Farmers of the Year in 2005.

When the Forestry Contest first began in 1983, Ray Jr was working in Spokane. Although he helped with the contest whenever he was able, he always kept a low profile to keep from interfering with the project his parents loved doing so much. Ray Jr started taking a progressively more active role in the contest after his father died in 2008. With his mother's passing in 2015, Ray literally became the "keeper of the keys" for the Forestry Contest and his commitment to the contest has not waned – actually, just the opposite.

We are extremely fortunate that Ray Delay, Jr loves to share the legacy of hosting the Forestry Contest and his appreciation and knowledge of his family's Idaho Tree Farm – its abundance, solitude, and serenity – with young generations of Idaho citizens. Ray, we thank you for your continuing generosity and commitment to helping so many kids learn to love the woods at the Idaho State Forestry Contest!



The Delay Farm is pictured as students walk from the upper meadow competition area to the farmyard for their BBQ lunch.

- **To help celebrate the 35th Anniversary of the Idaho State Forestry Contest**, we will have pictures on display in the lunch area of all 35 years of the Idaho State Forestry Contest since it was first held in 1983.
- **\$20 T-Shirts for Sale at the Contest:** Long sleeve, forest green, Carhartt T-Shirts will be for sale at the Contest. They have the Forestry Contest logo embroidered above the pocket. We have Men's sizes Small through XXL. Thanks to Ray Delay and the Co-op for helping to provide these T-Shirts.