

## Indiana State Forester Don Stump Honored by the American Tree Farm System

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The American Tree Farm System, a program of the American Forest Foundation, recognized Don Stump with their National Field Leadership Award during their 2009 National Leadership Conference in Charleston, South Carolina.

This national award recognizes a volunteer who has been instrumental in accomplishing the vision and goals of ATFS - sustaining forests, watersheds and healthy habitats through the power of private stewardship.

Stump, a dedicated American Tree Farm System (ATFS) volunteer forester for more than 37 years, works for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Currently he is also the ATFS state administrator and secretary as well as the ATFS district chair in Indiana. As district chair, Stump works with other volunteers to manage property inspections and re-inspections. Additionally, he is an active member of the Indiana Forestry and Woodland Owners Association.

Stump has worked for many years to promote the value of ATFS through the news media and to generate publicity for Indiana's private forest landowners. He speaks of his love of forestry and the Tree Farm program at local schools, various state and national conventions, and at the Indiana State Fair.

He is the organizer of one of Indiana's largest forestry field days which recognized Richard Heck, the 1984 National Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year.

Upon receiving his award, Stump remarked, "I'm very moved to receive the recognition for a career working with Tree Farm and all its wonderful people. Tree Farm has been the most satisfying part of my job. I am very honored. Thank you."