

GREENFIELD RECORDER

Shelburne tree tour to teach forest management techniques

20 October 2022



SHELBURNE — Through a tour of the Burnham Family Tree Farm on Saturday, Oct. 22, organizers hope attendees will learn more about managing their woods.

The event, offered by the Massachusetts Tree Farm Program, will be held from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The rain date will be Sunday, Oct. 23, at the same time. The farm is located on Little Mohawk Road. Attendees can park in the Fellowship Hall parking lot (opposite the Fire Station) and walk up the road to the tour.

The Massachusetts Tree Farm Program is sponsored by the Massachusetts Forest Trust, a nonprofit forest conservation organization that educates landowners, loggers, foresters and others about good forest management and safety. The trust is part of the Massachusetts Forest Alliance, which hosts three or four walking tours each year.

The Burnham family has managed 60 acres of woodland for two generations, mostly using small woodlot equipment and methods, according to tour organizers. The 6-acre area being toured is part of a shelterwood harvest — a management technique designed to obtain even-aged forests — that began in January 2022 and is not yet complete. Primary species removed are red oak and white pine.

The Burnham Family Tree Farm is one of more than 500 woodlands in Massachusetts that are certified as tree farms by the American Tree Farm System. All Tree Farms are required to meet national standards for sustainable forest management, and must try to improve wildlife habitat and protect watersheds while growing trees for timber or other forest products.

Greg Cox, program director for the Massachusetts Forest Alliance, explained this tour is meant for anyone interested in the growth of forests.

“People use their woods for all kinds of things,” Cox said. “They can grow timber, grow trees for maple syrup, have beautiful woods, or have their woods for producing firewood and timber.”

Saturday’s tour will include a demonstration of some unusual log and firewood handling methods and equipment. Modern wood heat is also used to heat buildings on the premises.

Organizers say the program will entail walking about a mile, with half of that being on paved roadway. Other terrain may be muddy and there are some steep hillsides.

Cox advises people who are interested in forest stewardship should “do research, see how others are doing it, and decide what you want to do.”

Bella Levavi can be reached at blevavi@recorder.com or 413-930-4579.

Source: <https://www.recorder.com/Shelburne-tree-tour-to-teach-forest-management-techniques-48483922>