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Steven D. Stinson Leadership in Natural Resources Scholarship Announcement

For Washington Farm Forestry Association Members, Families and Affiliates

Deadline: All requested information MUST be received by Monday, March 15, 2021, 5:00 p.m. PST. Email submissions are required and should be sent to info@wafarmforestry.com.

Award: Maximum of \$6,000 award split between college students majoring in natural resources and Ag-Forestry Leadership Program applicants. The WFFA Scholarship Committee reserves the right to re-allocate awards between these categories depending on the caliber and number of applicants received. Prior scholarship winners are welcome to re-apply. The scholarship awardee(s) will be notified by April 15, 2021.

Purpose: The Steven D. Stinson Leadership in Natural Resources Scholarship Program is directed towards students from the Pacific Northwest that are studying in a natural resource field or natural resource leadership field of inquiry. Preference will be given to Washington Farm Forestry Association (WFFA) members and their families and to those studying in forestry-related disciplines. The award can be used to support students at 2-year, 4-year or graduate level post-secondary education levels or Ag-Forestry Leadership Program trainees.

Applications should contain: proof of enrollment at the institution of your choice, including your major field of inquiry; three professional and/or personal references; transcripts (for post-secondary applicants); resume or CV; the name and address of the family member who is a WFFA member in good standing (if any); and an essay. Applications will be considered/accepted from non-WFFA affiliated students with the understanding that the review and ranking process will give higher placement to WFFA-affiliated students. The essay will be evaluated using criteria that include your career goals, forestry experience, understanding of stewardship, vision of the future of family forests, leadership skills and financial need. The Scholarship Committee will review and rank only those applicants who completely address each area. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

For additional information contact Elaine Oneil, WFFA Scholarship Committee Chair, at eonel@wafarmforestry.com.



Steven Douglas Stinson (1961-2014) ***An Enduring Legacy of Stewardship***

Steve's passion for family forestlands began with childhood tree planting on the family tree farm in Toledo, Washington. As a young adult, it seemed natural to take up timber cutting, but after several years he sought a larger role in forestry and went back to school. Steve completed his B.S. (Environmental Sciences) at The Evergreen State College and a M.S. (Silviculture) at the University of Washington. While at school, Steve gained recognition within the Washington Farm Forestry Association, as an articulate, common-sense advocate for responsible forestry. Following graduation, he was selected to be the first Director of the Small Forest Landowners Office for the Washington Department of Natural Resources. Later he went on to found and direct the Family Forest Foundation to promote practical, science-based forestry including innovative approaches to habitat conservation planning. Steve helped develop the Family Forest Legacies LLC, to allow aging landowners to secure the future of their managed forestlands.

These projects remain in place today with members continuing to work toward achieving the goals that Steve envisioned. Steve was a graduate of the AgForestry Leadership Program, he worked with WSU Extension on Ties to the Land Seminars, and, on numerous occasions, led delegations of tree farmers to Olympia and Washington, D.C.

Throughout his career, whenever or wherever Steve spotted opportunity to improve the prospects for Washington forests in general and family tree farms specifically, he would be there. Steve's skills as a forester were all encompassing whether he was working on a green chain, planting trees or falling trees; he was equally comfortable at university symposia, in congressional offices, or seated at a tree farmer's kitchen table. Although Steve's life was sadly cut short by cancer in 2014, his legacy continues.

To honor his leadership in Natural Resources and to ensure continuing support for young tree farmers pursuing higher education in natural resource sciences, Steve's family and members of the Washington Farm Forestry Association have joined with Port Blakely Tree Farms to establish the ***Steven D. Stinson Leadership in Natural Resources Scholarship Fund***.