

Forest Forum

Washington County Small Woodlands Association

June, 2016



Wendy, Mel and Chips will host the TFOY tour

Tree Farmer of the Year Tour and Picnic

June 25 – 8:30am – 1:00pm

Mel and Wendy Mortensen are this year’s “Tree Farmers of the Year” for WCSWA. They will host a tour and picnic on June 25. The gathering is also a “Neighbor to Neighbor” event.

RSVP to oswaevents@gmail.com or call (503) 588-1813 by June 20th. Admission and Lunch are free. For a complete article and directions, see page 9.

Potluck May 17, TFOY Announcement, ATFS 50 Year Award – Plus Weed Watchers Workshop & Pole Harvest Discussion

See complete article on pages 10 - 11



Jennifer Nelson, Tualatin SWCD holding Knotweed - Destroyer of watersheds



Tom Nygren presenting 50 year Tree Farm sign to Ron and Nikki Larsen



Ken Nygren explaining the quality of some really fine pole logs

WCSWA Leadership

Co-Presidents – John and Cathy Dummer, 503-970-8789
cannbuckley@hotmail.com

Vice-President – Vic Herinckx, vic.herinckx@gmail.com

Secretary-Treasurer – Bob Shumaker; 503-324-7825
bshumaker@coho.net

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WCSWA Website

www.wcswa.com

Website Manager: Lia Boyarshinova

Contact Tom Nygren or Bonnie Shumaker for web postings and information.

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/WashingtonCountySmallWoodlandsAssociation>

Forest Forum Newsletter

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The Tree Farm Tradin' Post

A free service to our members: List tree farm items/land to buy, sell, or trade. Contact Tom Nygren, 503-628-5472. Got a tool or piece of equipment you don't need any more? Or maybe you are looking for tools, equipment, property, or materials? You can place a free advertisement in Forest Forum. Another way for tree farmers to help each other! (3 month limit)

- Wanted:**
- 1) Computer savvy WCSWA member to monitor and suggest changes/updates to our website www.wcswa.com Contact either newsletter editor (see Forest Forum newsletter box above)
 - 2) Alternative representative from WCSWA to Tualatin River Watershed Council – contact Tom Nygren, 503-628-5472 for more information
 - 3) Forest caretaker and home for rent at Gales Creek timber property. Call 503-357-4258.

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Event Calendar

June	9-11	Baker City	Annual OSWA Meeting
	25	Mel and Wendy Mortensen's Shepherds Rest Tree Farm, North Plains. RSVP, details and map, page 9	WCSWA Tree Farmer of the Year, and Neighbor to Neighbor Tour at the Mortensen's 8:30am – 1:00, tour and lunch. RSVP, pg.9
July	23	9am - noon Chehalem Ridge Tour	We will visit an active oak savanna restoration, see 4 years of cut-to-length thinning in young plantations, and visit a 2014 thinning in a mature mixed fir/madrone/oak woodland with some spectacular madrone.

The Woodland Beat

Most of us find trees and forests or their inhabitants to be inspirational to at least some extent. People share that inspiration in different ways. Some prefer to just spend time in a forest, others hike, enjoy a days work removing invasive species or cut firewood, and a few are inspired to write songs about trees and forests. While I've never felt particularly moved to write a song about the forest others have, and I thought it might be interesting to share a little research on what some of the more popular songs about trees might be.

While we aren't quite in the right season I'll start the list off with "O Christmas Tree". Modern lyrics were written in 1824 by an organist in Leipzig Germany and interestingly a Tannenbaum is a fir tree and the original song didn't actually refer to a Christmas tree but was just celebrating the fir's evergreen qualities as a symbol of constancy and faithfulness. Wow, this guy really was inspired by the trees.

Moving a little later into the last century "Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree (With Anyone Else But Me)" was a popular war-time song recorded by Glen Miller's orchestra and the Andrews Sisters. It was the number one song on the hit parade from October 1942 through January 1943. Perhaps there is a little less focus on the forest and more on the tree itself in this one.

Van Morrison's "Redwood Tree" from his 1972 album *Saint Dominic's Preview* is a little bit obscure. I'd never heard it before, but it is worth a listen especially if you are a Van Morrison fan. He got some inspiration from some really big trees.

"Tie A Yellow Ribbon Around The Old Oak Tree" was made popular by Tony Orlando and Dawn in the 1950s. In 1973, "Lemon Tree" became popular. It was based on a Brazilian folk song and recorded by Peter Paul and Mary, the Kingston Trio, Bob Marley and the Wailers and Herb Alpert and the Tijuana Brass. Both songs were popular and have some relationship to trees.

My personal favorite is a song that happened to be on a cassette tape (yes this is dating me a little) that I had while I was working and living in Africa. I asked a friend to send me whatever the number one album was at the time for something to listen to and it happened to be by Hootie and the Blowfish. There is a song on *Cracked Rear View* (number one in 1995) called "Not Even The Trees". The opening line in the song is "Alone, as I sit and watch the trees, tell me if I scream will they bend down and listen to me?" The song itself has some deeper and to some extent darker complex meaning related to the loss of a loved one, but the image that line invoked for me while sitting in the middle of Africa was that of contemplative time spent in a fir forest half a world away and not necessarily screaming at the trees or expecting them to listen. I suppose it should not be a surprise to realize that trees and forests are an inspiration to the artists in our culture and that inspiration is reflected in our music.

Until next time – Happy Small Woodlanding!

John and Cathy Dummer

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Tree Talk

by Bonnie Shumaker

Building the Yellow Chip Trail

Last fall, readers may remember that we did a thinning on our oldest stand (planted 1980). When we were planning the thinning, I jokingly told the forester, when he asked if I had any special requests, that I didn't want him to make a mess. The look on his face told me he was afraid I might not be kidding, so I set his mind at ease. Logging is a messy business. There are all those limbs and tops of the trees lying around. We asked that the "mess" not be piled, just left as is.

Probably because this is our oldest stand, it is also our favorite and most aesthetically pleasing. The trail we built here over the years is not straight. It winds through the 5.5 acres with a jog here and there. Bob grudgingly followed my wishes to create these twists and turns saying it sure wasn't going to be a good skid trail.

He was right. It was not a good skid trail, so a skid trail or two had to be created to get logs to the landing. In doing so, our walking trail suffered. After the logging was finished, Bob took his bulldozer and re-created the walking trail. It still meanders nicely and also goes through some new territory. This winter, it was muddy and messy, but we could see the potential for making it more visually pleasing when spring and drier weather arrived.

Now it is spring and almost summer and we have been working on fixing up the trail. Understory plants along the muddy areas have returned doing their part to spruce things up. We attached our chipper to the tractor and are feeding it branches and tops and aiming the chips so they cover the trail. The goal here is mostly aesthetic. We're not going for "park-like" woods; we're just messing with the mess for about 20 feet on each side of the trail. Our hard work is paying off. It is returning to the pleasant walking trail again. The trees are looking good, too, with space to grow.



Building the Yellow Chip Trail



Ever wonder where a Junco builds a nest? This one is behind the light switch in the shop. They just hatched!



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Didn't Get To Tree School?

The handouts from Tree School 2016 are now online. Go to <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/clackamas/tree-school> to view them.

Scholarship Decision

A letter from the WCSWA Board

Scholarships have been the designated purpose of the Annual Plant and Tree Sale since its inception. Lyal Purinton and Chuck Price started the sale in 2001, after finishing the Master Woodland Manager Program where woodland owners are educated by professors from OSU College of Forestry. They were so impressed by the caliber of OSU's College of Forestry and the need to have qualified future foresters to help us all, it seemed important to support the College through scholarships. A Native Plant Sale could generate scholarship money as well as help bridge the urban/rural divide by mingling plant buyers and small woodland owners through the sale of native plants. Lately, we have added one-half of the profit from the Seedling Sale to bolster the amount awarded. Scholarships between \$1,000 and \$5,000 have been awarded.

We have retained \$10,000 in a savings account with the intention that we could keep granting scholarships for a few years in case the Plant or Seedling Sales did not earn a profit or did not exist. The problem here is that our savings account earns hardly any interest. In discussion with the OSU Foundation, we found that we could create a Washington County Small Woodlands Endowment for \$25,000. The OSU Foundation has managed substantial funds for decades. They use an independent consulting firm to provide expertise and advice to the investment committee with a current rate of 4.5% based on a 12 quarter rolling average of actual returns. 4.5% of \$25,000 would pay out a \$1,125 scholarship each year without any more input. Plant Sale and/or Seedling Sale profit can be added yearly to increase the scholarship amount or increase the endowment. OSU provides an annual stewardship report that provides both endowment and current use balances and uses of funds.

Your WCSWA Board members discussed setting up this endowment at our April Board meeting. With \$10,000 from the Plant Sale savings account and \$15,000 from our general account, we can make this happen and still retain adequate reserves for normal operations. We recognize that we are not qualified as a Board to be in the investment business, but have confidence in the OSU Foundation's ability to do this. To be able to pay out a guaranteed \$1,125 scholarship annually from just the interest makes a lot of sense, and we can add to this from Plant Sale and Seedling Sale profits. With our own endowment, we also have more say in the parameters of the scholarship.

WCSWA Board members plan to vote on creating a Washington County Small Woodlands Endowment for \$25,000 at our July 26 board meeting. We welcome input from WCSWA members on the creation of this endowment any time before the July 26 Board meeting. Please contact any Officer or Board Member (page 2) if you wish to give input. Sincerely: Officers: John and Cathy Dummer, Co-Presidents; Vic Herinckx, Vice President; Bob Shumaker, Secretary-Treasurer. Board of Directors: Deb Kapfer, Sam Sadtler, Bonnie Shumaker, Scott Hayes, Doug Eddy, Karen Graham



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Pole Trivia

1. How much sapwood must be in the tree to make a pole?
2. How deep can mechanical damage penetrate into the tree and not cull the pole?
3. How much sweep can a pole have?
4. How many knots can a pole have in a one foot segment?
5. How many pole manufacturing companies are in western Oregon?
6. How many rings per inch must a pole have?
7. How is the length and class of poles determined?
8. Name one surface or knot indicator that culls a tree from making a pole?
9. What is one characteristic that is different on a piling versus a pole?
10. What is the longest legal length a self loader truck without a steer trailer can haul?



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Pole Trivia Answers:

1. *One inch – outer ring*
2. *Up to one inch if sapwood is at least 2 inches deep*
3. *A tape placed at center on top to bottom cannot leave the bole*
4. *Up to 7 inches of knot heartwood (total the length of all knots measured at the longest point)*
5. *Two: Bell Timber and Stella Jones*
6. *Average 7 rings/inch in outer 3 inches*
7. *Circumference at ground line – 6 foot from butt*
8. *Spike knot, conks, scars*
9. *Lower tolerance for sweep in piling; piling allows thin sap and spike knots*
10. *80-85 feet depending on how loader is mounted*

Got questions? Get answers.

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Family forestland owners Dale Cuyler and Brenda Woodard.

OSU Professor Wins Forestry Research Award

Corvallis Gazette-Times 05-10-16

Oregon State University College of Forestry Prof. Doug Maguire has received a research award from the Oregon Society of American Foresters (OSAF). Maguire, who has taught at OSU since 1996, now has won the award three times. The award recognizes outstanding achievement in any branch of science leading to advancement in either the science or practice of forestry in Oregon.

Since 1988 he has been the author or co-author of 94 articles in peer-reviewed journals. He has served as the major professor for 37 graduate students and as a graduate committee member for an additional 88 students.

Maguire's main research focus is in silviculture, growth and yield and Douglas-fir productivity and plantation management. Since 2007 he has been the director of the Center for Intensive Planted-forest Silviculture at Oregon State.

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Washington County
2016 Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year
Neighbor to Neighbor Woods Tour
Wendy and Mel Mortensen's Shepherd's Rest Tree Farm
Saturday, June 25th - 8:30 am to 1:00 pm

Registration Required: email oswaevents@gmail.com or call (503) 588-1813 by June 20th. Admission and Lunch are Free

Shepherd's Rest Tree Farm is honored to be selected as Washington County Tree Farm of the Year. Mel and Wendy Mortensen purchased 36 acres in 1976 with the intent to establish a Christmas tree plantation. In 1988 an additional and adjacent 19 acres was acquired. Noble fir predominated, but Grand fir, Shasta red fir, Douglas-fir, Fraser fir, and Nordman fir were also produced. The farm supplied 15 customers in the western United States with an average harvest of 15,000 trees per year.

In 2000, Mel and Wendy determined to retire from the Christmas tree business and with the guidance of the Oregon Department of Forestry converted the farm to timber production. Douglas-fir and Western Red Cedar were planted. The stand will benefit from a commercial thinning in 2017.

Tour Highlights

- 1) Property History – Afforestation from a Christmas Tree Farm & Plans for Future
- 2) Commercial Thinning Options – Why and How
- 3) Reducing fire risk, pruning, and a chipping demonstration
- 4) Wildlife Management in a young forest & Dealing with Elk

Directions to 17845 NW Solberger Road, North Plains, OR 97133 - On Hwy 26, West of Portland, turn North at Exit 59, Jackson School Rd. Travel North 2.3 miles to NW Mason Hill Rd. Turn right for 2.4 miles to a slight left turn onto NW Solberger Road. Then 0.8 miles to 17845 NW Solberger Rd. Look for tour signs.

Tour Sponsors: Oregon Tree Farm System, Oregon Small Woodlands Association, OSWA Washington County Chapter, Oregon Forest Resources Institute, and OSU Forestry Extension



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Continued from page 1

Weed Watchers – Rob Emanuel from Clean Water Services and Jen Nelson from Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District introduced us to invasive species “speed dating” with an array of nasty plants that would love to displace our native species with their voracious propagating qualities. We were each given a “Weed Watchers Guide of the Tualatin River Watershed” for reference to help identify suspected weeds. We were also given a hoof pick/brush combo to be used to clean our shoes when we suspect we’ve treaded on some invasive weeds to keep weed seeds from spreading.

The weeds they profiled and showed us were:

Spurge Laurel: Daphne family- resembles Rhododendron only smaller with an olive-shaped fruit

Garlic Mustard: found along roadsides & streams 1-3 feet tall; spreads by seedpods popping

Giant Hogweed: resembles Cow Parsnip only bigger (10ft.) Will burn and blister skin

Knotweed: Stems similar to bamboo; grows to 12 ft. Spreads by creeping rhizomes. Heart-shaped leaves. Hard to control as a tiny root fragment swept downstream will regenerate.

Purple Loosestrife: resembles Douglas Spirea, but leaves emerge right at stem; forms massive thickets in moist areas.

This is just a sample of the Weed Watchers Guide. We also learned how to report sightings:

1. Take pictures (close-up and distance) of the plant showing scale
2. Write a description (flower color, shape, size, leaf shape)
3. Location information: GPS coordinates or written directions to site
4. Size of infestation: Number of plants or weed patch size
5. Report online: www.oregoninvasivehotline.org or call TSCD (503)648-3174, ext. 5)

For more information or to find out how to get your “Weed Watchers Guide” contact Jen or Rob.

Jennifer Nelson - tualatinswcd@gmail.com

Dr. Rob Emanuel - emanuelr@cleanwaterservices.org

Continued from page 1

Pole Discussion, by Ken Nygren

Ken Nygren showed us two beautiful 110' logs that had been cut for poles. Logs sold as poles bring the highest price, and the Hanschu's are in the process of doing a pole harvest. Ken and Tom Nygren have a consulting business, "White Oak Natural Resource Service," which sub-contracts with Bell Timber to design a pole harvest program with landowners. The program is called MAP. You need not have poles ready to cut. The program Bell Timber provides through Ken and Tom offers free consulting to manage your timber for an optimum pole harvest. The bulk of the poles that Bell Timber sells supplies the NE, SE and Midwest markets with large poles. Large diameter Douglas-fir poles have no competition in the rest of the United States. Smaller poles compete with pine species. If you are interested in finding out more about the pole management program, contact Ken or Tom Nygren. Email: woodsmantwo@gmail.com or call Tom (503)628-5472 or Ken (971-241-0268). On page 7 you will find some trivia questions regarding poles. Learn the answers, come to the TFOY picnic on June 25 at Mel and Wendy Mortensen's and you may win a prize!

Forest Health in Oregon: State of the State, 2016 ***Forest Diseases***

Part 3 of a 5 part series of information presented at a Symposium at Oregon State University on February 16-17. **NOTE:** the presentations that this information was derived from can be viewed on-line at <http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/2016foresthealth/presentations/>.

There are many diseases affecting trees in Oregon. They may affect the foliage, branches, stems, and roots. While diseases do not all immediately kill a tree, they all affect the tree's vigor and make the tree susceptible to other potentially damaging agents such as windthrow, insects, animals, and birds.

Most diseases affect single trees or groups of trees, but not usually large-scale treed landscapes. There are exceptions such as Swiss needle-cast, where infection is common to Douglas-fir forests of the Oregon Coast Range. Most, such as root rots, may naturally spread slowly through root contact, but can spread in leaps and bounds through transport by human activity. Air or water borne spores from diseases can also increase the rate of spread. Some, such as white pine blister rust, spread through intermediate hosts such as *Ribes* species, with the aid of climatic factors.

The most significant diseases affecting Oregon's trees are:

Root Rots (laminated [phellinus], black stain, armillaria, annosus, Port Orford cedar, and others): *Laminated* root rot is ubiquitous in northwest Oregon forests, occurring in patches of Douglas-fir scattered through the forest. Dave Shaw, OSU Forest Health Specialist, estimates that 6% of the Coast Range and 8-11% of western Oregon and Western Washington conifer forests are infested. In Douglas-fir timber, 13% may be infected. It spreads slowly but surely, mobility stopped only by lack of new Douglas-fir (but also true fir) roots to infect. Other conifers, such as the pines, cedar, spruces, and hemlock are somewhat less susceptible. A general allegory might apply – "Like death and taxes, root diseases will always be with us." Preventing the spread is the most reasonable approach, by isolating infection centers by creating barriers of roots of less susceptible trees such as hardwoods.

According to Alan Kanaskie, recently retired forest pathologist for ODF, *black stain* is one to watch out for – it is often associated with plantations, and is spreading as Douglas-fir plantation acreage increases. Overall, *laminated root rot* is the biggest threat because it is so commonly found in Douglas-fir forests.

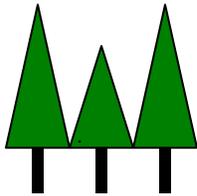
Sudden Oak Death (SOD and other Phytophthora diseases): SOD is most closely associated with nursery stock – the source of initial infection in Oregon. It entered the State in 1997 or 1998 near Brookings. It kills highly susceptible tanoak, coast live oak, and California black oak – species which are found only in southern Oregon. Great effort and cost has been expended to stop its spread, with some success. Something to think about – SOD has been found to infect Douglas-fir, rhododendron, evergreen huckleberry, and Oregon myrtlewood when they are growing very near infected tanoaks. Other phytophthora diseases in Oregon (there are 32 different species) affect Douglas-fir (especially in nurseries) and Port Orford cedar (POC). POC is especially damaging, and has significantly affected Port Orford cedar stands in southwest Oregon. Phytophthora affected trees are killed by lesion damage to tree stems as trees become infected by spores from infected trees are transported by wind or water.

Next month – Part 4 of this Forest Health Conference series will cover wildlife, storm, fire, and drought damage. Part 5 will follow on management issues, barriers, and resiliency.

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Forest Forum



COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE
OREGON SMALL WOODLANDS
ASSOCIATION

Potpourri

New Members: Welcome to new members Brad and Lisa Graff of Portland, Astrid and Rolf Laido of Sherwood, and Don Sohler of Gaston. We are here to help members achieve their management goals. To get the most out of your membership, come to the meetings and tours that are scheduled throughout the year. (You're always invited to the WCSWA meetings!). You'll find many kindred spirits among our diverse membership – and many opportunities to learn and share together! If you have any questions or need help, contact any of the Directors, Officers, or Newsletter Editors listed on page 2 of this newsletter.

Upcoming Opportunities: WCSWA is the strong chapter it is because of members who step up to volunteer for whatever is needed. This fall, there will be two openings for leadership: President (or Co-Presidents) and Board Member. Please consider volunteering for one of these positions or say “yes” if someone asks you for your service. There is a written job description for both positions. Ask any board member or officer for more information.

International Paper is paying \$2.2 billion to buy seven mills from Weyerhaeuser that make pulp used in diapers, tissues and other consumer products. Weyerhaeuser Co., based in Federal Way, Washington, is shedding its pulp businesses to focus on selling lumber and other wood products. It plans to use most of the sale proceeds to pay down debt. Earlier this year, Weyerhaeuser bought Plum Creek Timber for \$8.44 billion, creating the world's biggest timberland and forest products companies. Weyerhaeuser said last year that it planned strategic alternatives for its cellulose fibers business, which includes pulp. It is still reviewing what to do with its liquid packaging board facility, newsprint and publishing papers businesses.

Helpful Links:

- <http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/treetopics> to read Amy Grotta's "Tree Topics" blog
- www.oregonwoodlandcooperative.com to learn about the Oregon Woodland Cooperative
- <https://www.facebook.com/WashingtonCountySmallWoodlandsAssociation>