

Forest Forum

Washington County Small Woodlands Association

August, 2016

Chehalem Ridge Nature Park Tour



Nature Park in Progress

On July 23, a group of WCSWA members was treated to a private tour of Chehalem Ridge led by Mike Messier of Trout Mountain Forestry. Chehalem Ridge is comprised of 1200 acres of land that was purchased by Metro in 2010 from Stimson Lumber Company. The timber on most of the land is 17 to 20 years old and was originally planted on 9 x 9 spacing for production forestry. Metro is using funds from a natural areas bond measure to

convert the dense stand into a

“nature park for people.” Trout Mountain Forestry was hired by Metro’s forester Kate Halloran in 2012 to help implement the conversion.

Metro plans to use a variety of thinning densities with 30’, 50’ and 70’ tree spacing and create “habitat gaps” of one-third to one-half acre, all of which will open the forest floor to sunlight that will create biodiversity for animals and understory plants. Metro’s plan is to leave 4 snags and 4 downwood piles per acre. Trees removed are sold as short logs or pulp or kept as downed wood debris. Metro will plant shrubs they grow themselves and also buy others from local nurseries. Their goal is to have Chehalem Ridge open to the public by 2018-19.

In the far northwest corner, we viewed a 50 acre stand that Metro bought from a small woodland owner who had preserved Madrone and Oak. Doug-fir was carefully removed from here using a feller buncher and processor. Logs were cut to length in the woods to prevent damage to leave trees. Sixteen loads of the Doug-fir were kept on the property as downed woody debris.

At the top of the property is the “Iowa Hill Oak.” This will be a destination point. A trail will lead here to an open space with native grasses, a valley view and a newly created oak savannah with the Iowa Hill Oak as a centerpiece.

Final plans for the property are still being completed. See article on page 7 for your chance to give input.



Iowa Hill Oak will be the centerpiece for a planned Oak Savannah

WCSWA Leadership

Co-Presidents – John and Cathy Dummer, 503-970-8789
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WCSWA Website

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

Facebook:

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

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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) The Program Committee needs your help. Our chapter's strength is due in large part to the wonderful programs we offer throughout the year. Bring your own ideas, help brainstorm ideas, or just be willing to do the contact work to help nail down the events. Contact any member of the Program Committee listed above – and "Thanks."

2) Wanted Renter + Helper in timber and home. Call (503) 357-4258

Event Calendar

August	---	No WCSWA Monthly Meeting or Tour OSU Master Woodland Managers Mini-College Your Legacy, Your Land Webinar (see page 3)	Corvallis, OR. Contact by e-mail - Tiffany.Fegel@oregonstate.edu 11-12 a.m. http://mylandplan.org/content/your-legacy-your-land-monthly-webinar-series
	25-27		
September	8	Chehalem Ridge Trail-Options and Input	See page 7 for details
	22	Your Legacy, Your Land Webinar	11-12 a.m. http://mylandplan.org/content/your-legacy-your-land-monthly-webinar-series Details being worked out. Will be a weekday tour, mid to late Sept. Watch Sept. FF for details
	TBA	Lumber Mill Tour	
October	24	WCSWA Monthly Meeting: Drones and Technology	Detailed information will be in the September Forest Forum
November	19	WCSWA Annual Banquet	Dr. Thomas Maness, Dean of the College of Forestry, Oregon State University, speaker

The Woodland Beat

One of the things I've been meaning to do - but have been negligent in actually sitting down and taking the time to work at - is to help my Dad to update his management plan. Among other complicating factors, a big part of the issue of course has been finding the time to sit down and do it.

Reviewing my dad's management plan has helped reveal a number of things that I didn't know about the plan for his property. He purchased the property when I was about 6 or 7 years old, so I've grown up spending time there, but not necessarily been all that informed about Dad's plan.

One of the interesting things in his plan is that he used soil type to distinguish the various stands on the property. Knowing what is on the ground and what is on the soils map really makes a lot of sense, but it wasn't anything I'd ever connected before reviewing his plan. Small woodland owners and managers have a knack for putting on the ground knowledge, firsthand experience, experimentation, science and of course free information to use in some creative ways that lead to some solid management planning. I think it was an "aha" for me because Dad and I never really talked about it, but it makes sense.

Reviewing the plan has also given me a better understanding of how Dad views the details of forest management. There is a fair amount of discussion about finding the right species for each of the plots, which I had not realized was a focus for him. He also talks about energy expended on several tasks that did not result in the hoped for success. Drainage, roadway and fence maintenance items are part of the plan, but are carefully noted with a disclaimer that they'd be dealt with as energy is available.

Perhaps the most striking comments are in regards to plants and wildlife. The bald eagle's nest on an adjacent property is mentioned and the noted plan is to "respect, enjoy and watch the bald eagle on N line." There is also mention of Fender's Blue Butterfly and Kincaid's Lupine as well as the wetland areas (denoted by soil type).

It really would have been nice to know all this as I was growing up. Perhaps it is more accurate to say that it would have been nice if I'd have paid more attention to what was going on as I was growing up with respect to the family forest. The thing that I did pay some attention to was how my Dad kept working at understanding his property and what he could do to encourage a healthy forest and how that has kept him going. There is no denying there is a symbiotic relationship between small woodland owners and their forests. If you give you also get back – small woodland owners get it.

Until next time – Happy Small Woodlanding!

John and Cathy Dummer

"Your Legacy – Your Land" Webinars

Join Tamara Cushing, OSU, for the monthly "Your Legacy, Your Land" Webinar. She is partnering with the OSU [Ties to the Land program](#) to connect you with experts as you work through your plans. On the fourth Thursday of every month at 11 am (PST), they will discuss a different topic associated with your legacy plan, from setting goals to communicating with your family to understanding the different estate planning tools. Register for each webinar: <http://mylandplan.org/content/your-legacy-your-land-monthly-webinar-series>

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Tree Talk

by Bonnie Shumaker

During the hot days of August, there is little to do with our trees. Replacing the siding on our 85 year-old barn with metal siding certainly does not qualify as tree related, although it did take up a bunch of our time, and it looks good. We are thankfully done with ladders and our bodies are still intact.

More tree farm related is a book I am reading titled “Stitching the West Back Together, Conservation of Working Landscapes,” edited by Susan Charnley, Thomas E. Sheridan, and Gary P. Nabhan, 2014. I first heard about the book in the May, 2016 issue of “Science Findings” from USDA Pacific NW Research Station. The two central arguments stated in the book are: “Sustainable working landscapes are critical to the conservation of biodiversity in the American West and its cultures of rural ranching and forestry. Given the West’s patchwork of public, private, and tribal lands, perhaps the best way to conserve biodiversity and ecosystem function on a large scale is through a process of collaborative conservation.” The term “radical center” appears in the book to describe an emerging consensus-based approach to land management challenges. In one example, a vow of “no legislation and no litigation” committed stakeholders to find grassroots solutions. From this beginning, the book chronicles landscape-scale examples reflecting the trial-and-error realities of collaborative conservation. It is not easy and certainly does not bring quick results, but maybe does offer hope. I checked out the book on interlibrary loan from OSU. You might enjoy it, too.

This brings me to an article I saved from “News Clips” which I receive from Oregon Department of Forestry as a member of the “Committee for Family Forests.” It is a letter to the Eugene Register-Guard dated February 26, 2016 and authored by Scott Hanson (then OSWA President) and Jim James, OSWA Executive Director. The article points to the need for collaborative conservation.

“Everyone knows the best water quality comes from forestland. So how do we find the balance between those who believe they have the right to make demands on landowners and those who have the responsibility to care for our forests with all the associated costs?”

There are two groups of people in our society focusing on water quality from forestland: the “believers” who conclude it’s their right to have access to high water quality at any cost, and the ‘caretakers’ who own the land and provide the protections that keep a forest a forest.

Harvesting timber, followed by reforestation, is the most logical way for caretakers to pay the bills and keep a forest a forest while continuing to provide all the amenities believers expect.

Forest and water quality are deeply respected by caretakers whose families’ livelihoods depend on a strong long-term relationship. So when the state Board of Forestry decides on new riparian rules under the Forest Practices Act, there’s a potential financial impact on caretakers that can challenge their ability and desire to keep a forest a forest.

Society must find a balance between a precautionary mandate promoted by believers and the realities associated with a caretaker’s ability to keep a forest a forest. Otherwise we face a possible negative water quality outcome when forestland is converted to some other use at the discretion of the landowner.

Only time will tell, but overregulation has the potential to make things worse for water quality, not better.

A Beetle May Soon Strike Out Baseball's Famous Ash Bats

From the post By Brian Mann, Aug 3, 2016, North Country Public Radio
There's a voracious little bug destroying forests across the eastern U.S. Scientists say emerald ash borers, exotic beetles imported accidentally from Asia, have killed as many as 50 million trees. They're now threatening groves in New York's Adirondack Mountains that are used to make an iconic kind of baseball bat.

At the Rawlings plant in Dolgeville, a humble little sawmill about an hour's drive west of Albany, NY, workers sort chunks of pale white wood veined with brown. About 40 people work here. They've hand-crafted baseball bats made from ash wood for more than a century. The home run in 1951 — the famous "shot heard round the world" — that lifted the New York Giants over the Brooklyn Dodgers in the pennant race was hit with one of these bats. The bats are still a favorite with major leaguers. The ash is popular because these bats don't shatter as easily as other woods. A lot of the famed Louisville Slugger bats are also made from ash trees cut in New York and Pennsylvania.

But now an emerald-green invasive bug that looks sort of like a fancy grasshopper is threatening forests from Michigan to New York. The larvae chew layers of healthy bark into pulp. "If the ash borer is not controlled, it'll wipe out the entire species of white ash," Ron Vander Groef, Rawlings plant manager says. "We will not be able to make any more pro bats or retail bats or anything out of white ash because it will be gone." This won't end baseball as we know it. A pretty decent bat can be made from birch or maple, but scientists say this is a wake-up call for something a lot bigger.

"It's bordering on catastrophic," says Deborah McCullough, a scientist at Michigan State University. She was one of the first entomologists to realize that emerald ash borers had invaded. Federal and state officials across the country are working to try to quarantine affected areas. That means no untreated wood can be moved out of those areas. They're also experimenting with insecticides and the release of a variety of wasp that targets ash borer larvae. McCullough is hopeful that some white ash will survive, but in some areas 90 percent of these trees have died. "When you start losing entire species, the effects cascade through the whole ecosystem," she says.

So next time you see a baseball bat shatter in a big game, it may be that ballplayer was forced to swing maple instead of ash. And it won't just be America's pastime that's changed. America's great eastern forests are changing too.

Leadership Opportunities

WCSWA is a strong organization because of willing volunteers. Nominations are now open for officers and board members for 2017. Election will be at the Annual Banquet, Nov. 19. Officers serve a one-year term. Board members serve a three-year term.

Officers:

President or Co-President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer

Board members:

Positions #3 and #4 are open for election. Thank you to members who attended our last board meeting. We hope you were favorably impressed and will consider running.

John and Cathy Dummer have done an excellent job as Co-Presidents for four years. They are stepping down this year. The two board members are also not running for re-election. Can you help out or suggest someone who can? Call any board member or officer (see page 2) for information – and thank you.

November Annual Banquet Save the Date, Nov. 19

This year we have a very exciting program.

Dr. Thomas Maness, Dean of the College of Forestry, Oregon State University, will be our guest speaker. He will be discussing the "Institute for Working Forest Landscapes" and give an update of happenings at the OSU College of Forestry which will likely include discussion of the advanced wood products lab and construction of the replacement of Peavy Hall.

Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District (TSWCD) Seeks Increased Capability for Water, Soil, and Forest Health

The Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District (TSWCD), a local conservation service organization authorized by Washington County and the State of Oregon, serves a critical role in protecting and enhancing the soil, water, forest, and other land resources in the Tualatin River basin. However, limited funding restricts what the District is able to do in working with landowners, residents of towns and cities, and cooperating partners to protect and enhance soil, water, and forest resources. The District receives minimal funding from the state, and has been relying on grants from partner organizations to fulfill its' mission.

A recently developed operating plan for the District recognizes the need for an expanded and more effective role. The Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District (TSWCD), has been the exception among sister Districts in surrounding Counties, which all have approved a base tax rate funding.

The Districts' Board of Directors, elected by Washington County voters, has decided to ask voters in this fall's election to approve a tax rate levy. The proposed levy would provide necessary funding to meet the challenges of conserving and enhancing these vital resources. For more information, go to www.swcd.net/levy

Chehalem Ridge Nature Park Community Event

Please join Metro staff on September 8th to learn about trail alignment options and access opportunities for the future Chehalem Ridge Nature Park. Park planners will give a brief presentation, share draft site plans, and welcome conversation with participants on the options. This is your opportunity to help shape the future of Chehalem Ridge. Light refreshments will be provided.

Event details:

6-8pm, Thursday, September 8th
Forest Grove Community Auditorium
1915 Main Street, Forest Grove, OR 97116

While Chehalem Ridge is currently closed to the public for restoration work, guided tours will be offered to the public this fall. Please visit our project webpage to learn more and subscribe for project updates:

www.oregonmetro.gov/chehalemridge

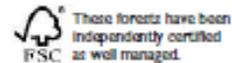


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*Thomas Edison, quoted in
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Research: If it was easy, it would just be called "search."

Source unknown

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Family forestland owners Dale Cuyler and Brenda Woodard.

Tualatin River Watershed Council

Engaging the community to sustain our watershed

Resources for Tualatin Basin Woodland Owners

Tualatin River Watershed Council wants to partner with upland owners who want to be good stewards of their land, by helping them meet their goals through insuring that our watershed has healthy uplands. Watersheds are composed of uplands, riparian areas, wetlands, lake and streams. Healthy uplands include hillsides that are well-vegetated with a diversity of native forbs, shrubs and trees (including downed trees) that provide habitat for native fish and wildlife as well as prevent soil erosion. Well planned roads and stream crossings adequate to allow for fish and winter storm debris passage also contribute to a healthy watershed.

If you're a Tualatin Basin woodland owner who'd like to meet your goals through increasing the native shrubs and trees in your woodland or upland, Tualatin River Watershed Council may be able to provide you with native plants. If you're interested in learning more, contact April Olbrich, TRWC coordinator, 503-846-4810 or trwc@trwc.org

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Timber Harvest decline

Oregon's timber harvest in 2015 declined for the second year in a row. The Oregon Department of Forestry reported decreases across most ownership types, except for state holdings, which increased. Amounts are in board feet of wood. **Source: Oregon Department of Forestry**

State

2015: 290 million
2014: 230 million
2013: 252 million

Other private

2015: 454 million
2014: 558 million
2013: 511 million

U.S. Forest Service

2015: 368 million
2014: 387 million
2013: 392 million

U.S. Bureau of Land Management

2015: 193 million
2014: 209 million
2013: 165 million

There's a lot of value in a load of logs

From a guest column to the News-Review Jul 29, 2016

Doug Robertson of Roseburg is a former Douglas County commissioner and continues to be a consultant on forestry issues.

Timber harvest last year in the state of Oregon fell to its lowest level since 2008. The Oregon Department of Forestry has identified several reasons for the decline, including a slowing global demand for wood products, the expiration of the U.S. Canadian Lumber Treaty, sluggish housing starts in our country and a huge increase in catastrophic wildfire.

The reality is harvest levels from Oregon's timber lands have always been impacted by outside influences. However, history reminds us that the one constant relative to harvest levels, is change. In fact, we are beginning to see some change in the first two quarters of this year. It appears that housing starts will see a modest increase in 2016, and talks are scheduled to begin between the U.S. and Canada regarding lumber imports. As a result industry leaders and agency officials are cautiously predicting a slight increase in the volume of timber harvested from Oregon's timber lands this year.

Forest Health in Oregon: State of the State, 2016

Part 5 of a 5 part series of information presented at a Symposium at Oregon State University on February 16-17. This series of articles has been written by Tom Nygren, who attended the Symposium and agreed to report on it as a Master Woodland Manager assignment. **NOTE:** the presentations that this information was derived from can be viewed on-line at <http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/2016foresthealth/presentations/>.

Management Issues, Barriers, & Resiliency

At a symposium on the state of forest health in Oregon last February, key factors affecting forest health in Oregon were presented by local and regional experts. In the past few issues of Forest Forum, summaries of these factors were discussed. The symposium experts also offered some thoughts on how land managers could cope with these factors. This final Forest Forum article on the symposium presents their thoughts on the **management issues**, **barriers** to dealing with these issues, and the importance of **resiliency** in future management.

Management issues: There are many ways to describe the management issues facing forestland owners and managers – the key factors in the 4 previous articles on the symposium have pointed them out in detail as they apply at both local and regional scale. However, these issues occur in a broader context of management: the **goals** of the land owner/manager, the natural ecological **range of variation** for the landscape and its plant and animal inhabitants, the **technology** available to affect management outcomes, and the **economics** that both drives and limits opportunities for managers. Management is a necessity – forests are no longer within their natural range of variation – and forests are important to us for many values. As managers, we must work with ecological processes within a management strategy that is both socially acceptable and economically viable.

Barriers: Bill Gamble, US Forest Service District Ranger on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, summed up the barriers to effectively dealing with the issues as:

- Ecological – the magnitude of the landscape situation
- Economic – limited budgets for dealing with high-cost responses
- Social – disparity of expectations in the public and their values are not always compatible, which complicates the management needed to keep forests healthy

Resiliency: Bill also defined resiliency as “the ability of ecosystems to respond in an ecologically effective and socially acceptable manner.” He also added that active management with the best intent is necessary. Other presenters at the symposium stated that:

- the trust of the public in those managing the land is important
- small woodland owners are very diverse and their diverse management approaches help create resiliency, and their intimate connection with both their land and their communities fosters trust in the general public,
- educating both the public and the professionals is vital.

As a final caution to those of us charged with managing forests (our own or the public's), the wisdom of the philosopher Soren Kierkegaard was offered – **“Life can only be understood backward, but it must be lived forward.”**

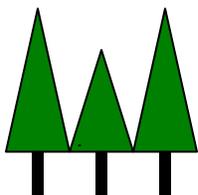
Garden Smart Oregon Plant Resource Guide

Garden Smart Oregon, a guide to non-invasive plants, provides information on selected invasive plants throughout Oregon (with pictures) and provides suggestions for replacing invasive plants with either native and/or ornamental plants. It can be found online (<http://www.nature.org/media/oregon/gardensmart-rev-2010.pdf>). You can also obtain a copy of the brochure through the Tualatin River Watershed Council (email trwc@trwc.org), or the Tualatin SWCD, website www.swcd.net or Lacey Townsend, 503-648-3174, x102.

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Forest Forum



COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE
OREGON SMALL WOODLANDS
ASSOCIATION

Potpourri

September Mill Tour: Watch September Forest Forum for details on this mill tour. Details are still being worked out, but it will be in mid-to-late September on a weekday since mills do not run on weekends.

New Seedling Chair Volunteer: Don Sohler, WCSWA member and retired forester for ODF who worked mainly in reforestation and fire, has agreed to take over WCSWA's seedling chair position. Bob Shumaker, current and long-time seedling chair, and Don will work together this year (2016-17) so that Don can make a seamless transition next year. Thank you, Don.

Western Regional Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year, 2016: The Defrees family of Baker City has been selected Western Regional Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year. They are in the running with three other regional winners for National Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year. Many WCSWA members visited their tree farm/ranch in June at the OSWA Annual Meeting, and we know this honor is well deserved.

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>