

Forest Forum

Washington County Small
Woodlands Association

February, 2017



Water Rights: There is a Lot to Know

Jake Constans, Watermaster for District 18 was the speaker at WCSWA's January 24th meeting. District 18 includes the North Coast and Tualatin River Basins. The office is in Hillsboro at 1400 SW Walnut St. Suite 240. Further contact information: 503-846-7780 or jake.w.constans@wrd.state.or.us. Jake encouraged people with individual questions to contact him.

The duties of the Watermaster include enforcing water law, monitoring streamflow and groundwater, assisting the public with water right applications, and dam safety inspections.

Acknowledging that many of us have wells, Jake told us we can go to the website www.wrd.state.or.us to find the "Well Log Query" for our particular well and get the driller's report. If you want to know if your property has water rights, go the mapping tool at the same website. There are senior and junior water

rights with the junior water rights turned off first in times of low stream flow. If land is sold, the water right stays with the land. The water right must be used. If it is unused for five consecutive years it is subject to cancellation.

There are certain water uses that are exempt from needing a water right including in part; domestic use to 15,000 gallons/day, natural springs, fire control, rainwater collected from an artificial impervious surface (such as a parking lot or roof). Water rights are needed for a pond, commercial irrigation, nursery, or volume over 15,000 gallons/day. Jake encouraged people with specific questions to call or visit him at the Hillsboro office. He brought copies of the "Aqua Book," *Water Rights in Oregon*, & *Water Well Owner's Handbook*, also available on the website.

"Dynamic Geology of the Tualatin Valley" Soils, Rocks, Ancient Lake Beds, Loess and Missoula Floods"

Come join us at the February 28th WCSWA Meeting, 7:00pm, North Plains Fire Station

Scott Burns, Professor Emeritus and past chair of the Department of Geology at PSU, will be our speaker. He has happily returned to the Pacific Northwest after a 25 year hiatus. Scott specializes in environmental and engineering geology, geomorphology, soils, and Quaternary geology. In Oregon, he has projects involving landslides and land use among others. He actively helps local TV and radio stations and newspapers bring important geological news to the public.

WCSWA Leadership

President – Bonnie Shumaker, 503-324-7825, bshumaker@coho.net

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

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Tualatin River Watershed Council Representatives: Tom Nygren, primary, 503-628-5472,

tngren@juno.com ; Eric Chambers, alternate, 503-647-2458, eric870@hotmail.com

WCSWA Website

www.wcswa.com

Website Manager: Michael Morgan

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

Facebook:

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

Forest Forum Newsletter

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Proofreaders: Bonnie Shumaker, Dan Hundley, Tom Nygren, Ardis Schroeder

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."

For Sale: No items offered this month

Event Calendar

February	23-25	Oregon Logging Conference	Displays open Feb. 25, 9:00am-3:00pm, Eugene Fairgrounds
	28	WCSWA Monthly Meeting	7 pm, North Plains Fire Station Scott Burns, Geology Professor Emeritus at PSU. See article on page 1
March	2	Logs to Lumber to Living	630 - 8:30 pm. Columbia County Extension, St. Helens, \$15/family. Thoughts on building a cabin http://tinyurl.com/Logs2LumberSH .
	11	WCSWA Annual Native Plant and Tree Sale	16 th Annual Sale! NEW LOCATION – Hillsboro Armory, 9:00-3:00. See article page 5. Call Karen Graham 503-647-0310 or kgraham@duckswild.com to volunteer to help. All profits fund OSU Forestry scholarships
	25	Tree School Clackamas	http://extension.oregonstate.edu/clackamas/tree-school

Leadership Notes

Picking up the Pieces

I know our tree farm is not alone in sustaining damage from this winter's storms. Bob and I take solace in the fact that it could have been worse in the number of tree tops that broke off or whole trees that were uprooted. In addition, there are those youngsters who were so bent over by the snow that they will not recover.

We concentrated the better part of two days tidying up the damage along our roads, trails and driveway. Some of the young cedar and fir could be propped back up with a hardy push and foot stomp, some could not. The deer have appreciated the tasty leaves from the fallen limbs of Madrone, so they are doing their part in helping with the clean-up. We now have the start of this year's firewood from our clean-up efforts, and we can walk the trails again with ease (at least until the next storm – one is forecast two days from now as I write this). The trees with broken tops inside each stand will wait until winter's end to be removed. I hope none of the readers of this column sustained too much damage. It is certainly a winter to be remembered.

In WCSWA business, we held our first Board Meeting of the year on January 31st. It was slated to be on January 17th, but was postponed because of that pesky snow that wouldn't melt off in time for us to get off our hill safely.

Highlights of the Board Meeting:

- We received a positive reply from Washington Co. Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) on the ideas we generated on how they can further help small woodland owners after the passage of the bond measure which WCSWA supported. Tom Nygren and Bonnie Shumaker will meet with the SWCD this month to further discuss this.
- Seedling Sale: Seedlings are slated to be picked up the week of February 6-10, weather permitting. 65,560 seedlings sold.
- Plant Sale: March 11th at Hillsboro Armory. New location will require a lot of advertising which is underway. Need more volunteers. (see article on page 5).
- OSU Endowment and 2017 scholarship: WCSWA has established a \$25,000 Endowment to award a \$2,000 scholarship each year to OSU Forestry. Since this is a new Endowment, interest has not accrued yet, so the WCSWA Board voted to send \$2,000 to fund a scholarship for this year.
- Membership: Our brochure "Got Forest?" with an insert highlighting this year's programs was sent to 264 new forest landowners in Washington Co. with an offer to join WCSWA.
- Website: The Board voted to go ahead with an improved website. A committee was initiated from Board members to work with our webmaster. We need further volunteers from our membership. (Find more information on page 12).
- Presidential Support: In addition to leading monthly meetings, Board members have volunteered to help with representing WCSWA at OSWA meetings. THANK YOU!
- Next Board Meeting, April 18th, Elmer's Restaurant, 7:00am.

Bonnie Shumaker

Advertising Opportunity: The Forest Forum is a monthly newsletter sent out to over 250 members and friends of WCSWA. Advertisers receive free newsletters for the duration of their ads. ADVERTISING RATES (PRICE INCLUDES TYPESETTING & AD PREP)

YES! I want to advertise in the WCSWA Forest Forum. Ad size: _____

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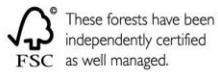
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- ▲ ALTERNATIVES TO CLEARCUTTING
- ▲ FOREST PLANNING AND RESTORATION



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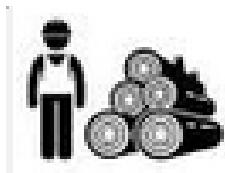
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WCSWA Annual Northwest Native Tree and Plant Sale

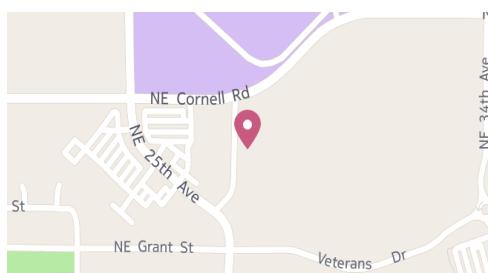
Saturday, March 11th

9:00am – 3:00pm

****New Location** – Hillsboro Armory
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WCSWA Members: We need your help to make this a success . Contact Karen Graham kgraham@duckswild.com or 503-647-0310.

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A New Life for Banks Lumber

By Steve Zika, CEO

Since Hampton Lumber's acquisition of the Banks sawmill in 2016 we've invested several million dollars in upgrades to improve safety, efficiency, and optimization to get the most out of each log. We've received tremendous support from the local community and have hired a crew that we believe will make the sawmill a great success. With the upgrades complete, we're set to re-open the mill the week of February 6, 2017. As before, the mill will process Douglas-fir logs into finished lumber bound for customers throughout the West Coast. The sawmill will start out with one forty-hour shift and approximately 50 employees. Future production levels will be determined by the available log supply. Hampton owns 10,000 acres of forestland near the Wilson River, but the bulk of the logs for the Banks mill will come from nearby state forests and local landowners. Anyone interested in working at the mill should call Anne Norton at 503-324-2681 and any local landowners with logs to sell should contact Tyler Robbins at the same number. We hope to make this new operation a long-term success much like our other Oregon sawmills in Willamina, Tillamook and Warrenton and look forward to being a good partner and neighbor in Banks and Washington County.

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Optimism—A Poem for Tough Times

New Jersey Woodland Stewards Program Newsletter, January 2017

A sign along the Poetry Trail at the Johnson Education Center in Princeton (D&R Greenway), as seen by Rachel Roat, WS Class of 2016, who writes "*It seems particularly apt these days.*"

Optimism

**More and more I have come to admire resilience.
Not the simple resistance of a pillow, whose foam returns over and over to the same shape, but the sinuous tenacity of a tree: finding the light newly blocked on one side, it turns in another. A blind intelligence, true.
But of such persistence arose turtles, rivers, mitochondria, figs — all this resinous, un-retractable earth.**

By Jane Hirshfield, an American poet, essayist, and translator.

In Springfield, New Mill is a Symbol

From Dylan Darling of The Register-Guard, Jan. 2, 2017

SPRINGFIELD — The sounds of hammering, welding and other construction still mix with the hum of machinery inside the Swanson Group plywood mill southeast of downtown Springfield. Crews continue building the mill, which replaced the one destroyed by a massive fire in 2014. The mill may be unfinished, but the making of veneer, a key component in the making of plywood, began last May.

The new mill, which is about a third larger than the one it replaced, is a boon to the local economy. The Springfield plywood plant now has about 100 workers, but that number could grow to as many as 260. With the new mill, Swanson Group is creating a more modern facility than the plywood plant that was destroyed by fire. The new lathes and other devices already in use and the automated machinery to come are more advanced than the equipment destroyed by the conflagration. "It'll be the most technologically advanced plywood plant in North America when it's completed," Swanson said.

Even though the new plant will be more efficient than the one it replaced, the production of overlay plywood could require as many as 260 employees, which would be about 10 more than the old plant. At full operation the mill each year can process about 35 million board feet of timber, enough to fill about 10,000 log trucks. Swanson Group expects to initially produce about 10 million square feet of 3/8-inch thick overlay plywood annually at the Springfield mill.

A man is retiring from the timber company his grandfather started 80 years ago, even though the next generation isn't quite ready to move into the executive suite

From an article by Bennett Hall, Corvallis Gazette-Times, Dec. 30, 2016

CORVALLIS, Ore. — When you grow trees for a living, you tend to make plans for the long term. That's the way they do things at Starker Forests, the Philomath timber company founded by Oregon Agricultural College forestry professor T.J. Starker in 1936 with 110 acres of second-growth trees in the Coast Range.

T.J. Starker's strategy of buying cut-over ground and nurturing trees to maturity has paid off, resulting in a company with 20 full-time employees, 87,000 acres of standing timber in Benton, Lincoln, Lane, Linn and Polk counties, and annual sales of around \$15 million. So has his vision of grooming younger family members to take an active role in the business, with a fourth generation of Starkers now involved in the company. But sometimes life gets in the way, as it did in 1975, when T.J.'s son, Bruce Starker, died unexpectedly in a small-plane crash, thrusting his own sons, Bond and Barte Starker, into management positions years earlier than expected. It happened again last year, when health issues forced Barte Starker, the younger brother, to retire prematurely.

Now 69, Bond Starker is preparing to step down as president and CEO, even though the next generation isn't quite ready to move into the executive suite. "We figured (Barte) would be the bridge," Bond Starker said in a December interview. Instead, the company is launching a search for a new chief executive. Both brothers have two grown children apiece, but one of them is not involved in the family business. The other three all serve on the Starker Forests board, but still have young children at home and are not prepared to take on more responsibility just yet.

"Our goal is to have somebody identified (for the CEO position) by mid-March and have them start sometime between then and mid-April," Bond said. After that, he's looking forward to a celebratory family trip to Hawaii and hopes to have more time to devote to his favorite hobby, photography. Also on his retirement bucket list: a boat tour of Crater Lake and an overnight stay at the park lodge.

Even with the new CEO in place, however, Starker will stay on as chairman of the board and will continue to come into the office on a regular basis, though with scaled-back duties. "Hopefully I can do more of what I like to do and less of what I don't like to do, businesswise," he said. That means he'll get to spend more time away from the office, checking on the family's scattered timber plantations stocked with Douglas and grand fir, cedar and hemlock, with a smattering of pine and spruce. "It's really good to see those trees you remember when you planted, and now they're 12 inches or bigger (in diameter)," he said.

As a company that has always believed in long growing rotations to maximize the value of its timber, Starker Forests is only now reaching what it considers a sustainable harvest level of about 44 million board feet a year. "We've cut some of the trees Mom and Dad planted back in 1949 or 1950," Starker said. "But we haven't cut all of them yet." As for the trees he and his brother planted when they were just starting out with the family firm in the 1960s and 1970s, it will be up to their kids to cut them — when the time is right. "That was kind of the plan from the beginning, I guess," Starker said. "We wanted to make sure there was something for the next generation to harvest."

Biomass experiment delayed at Boardman Coal Plant

Plans to conduct a full-day test burn of biomass at the Boardman Coal Plant have been delayed

From an article by George Plaver•East Oregonian, Published on December 30, 2016 8:41PM

A major step toward determining whether the Boardman Coal Plant can run entirely on biomass will have to wait until after the new year. Portland General Electric had planned to conduct a full-day test burn at the plant using nothing but woody debris by the end of December. However, as winter weather had Oregonians cranking up the heat, PGE needed all resources on deck to keep up with the surge in electricity demand.

Steve Corson, PGE spokesman, said the biomass trial at Boardman will instead be held sometime during the first quarter of 2017. Workers at the plant did use a partial mix of coal and biomass for three days — Dec. 6, 8 and 12 — which Corson said provided further information about how the material behaves with the facility's pulverizers. "It is similar to coal, but there are distinctions," Corson said.

PGE has until 2020 to decide what to do with the Boardman facility, the state's last remaining coal-fired power plant. Rather than install costly emissions upgrades, the utility is researching whether the station can be converted to run on an alternative source of fuel. If not, the plant will be shut down completely.

Earlier this year, PGE partnered with a newly incorporated business called Oregon Torrefaction, made up of the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities, Bonneville Environmental Foundation and Ochoco Lumber Company, based in Prineville. The corporation is providing 8,000 tons of torrefied biomass needed to run the Boardman plant for one day, at full capacity. The process of torrefaction refers to roasting biomass, such as wood waste, at high temperatures in the absence of oxygen, resulting in a brittle, charcoal-like material that can be crushed inside the plant. The hope is that low-value timber, small-diameter trees and forest clutter can become a sustainable source of fuel for the plant, while simultaneously improving forest health and creating rural jobs.

Not everyone is as optimistic. The Sierra Club recently issued a report flagging several concerns with the project's impact on air quality and forest health. Among its findings, the Sierra Club reports that PGE would actually need 12,800 tons of dry wood daily at the Boardman plant, since torrefaction does burn off some of the material's total mass. Assuming the plant runs at peak capacity for five months, that adds up to 1.9 million dry tons of unprocessed wood annually. Logging residue would provide just 6-8 percent of that feedstock, according to the report's estimates. As for additional thinning projects, the Sierra Club cautions against tailoring forest management to meet future energy needs.

"Forest management practices motivated to meet energy needs sets a dangerous precedent for our public forests, especially when continuous large volumes are needed in the supply chain as is the case with the Boardman proposal," the report reads. Alexander Harris, conservation organizer with the Sierra Club in Portland, spearheaded the report. He said the organization is not pursuing a campaign against biomass, but is watching closely to see that climate and forest consequences are being closely monitored by PGE.

Corson reiterated the project is still in the research and development phase, and many questions still need to be answered before the proposal could even be considered feasible. He

chided the Sierra Club report for making some faulty assumptions, such as sourcing of the biomass, which Corson said would come from multiple sources.

"There seems to be a decent possibility the answer to the questions could point to a sustainable, renewable, environmentally responsible solution for the plant that would benefit our customers and the local community," Corson said. "We're continuing our research to make sure we have the best information we can collect before we make any decisions."

A successful full-day test burn would mark the next milestone in the process, and could lead to additional multi-day trials in the future.

Forestland Classification to start in Washington County

By Mike Cafferata, ODF

State law recognizes the importance of protecting Oregon's forestland from wildfire and gives landowners the responsibility to prevent fire from spreading from their lands to the lands of another. Working with landowners, the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) provides this fire protection.

Forestlands in Washington County have been part of the Department of Forestry's protection responsibility for decades; however a formal identification of which lands need protection from wildfire has not been done since wildfire protection switched from private landowners to State protection. Those lands identified as needing protection are assessed for the costs of fire protection through their annual property tax statement. As a matter of fairness, all lands that benefit from fire protection share in the costs.

The Oregon Department of Forestry is currently working in Yamhill County to confirm which lands need wildfire protection, and will soon move to Washington County and complete the process here. To do so, a committee of private landowners will be appointed by the Washington County Commission and work with the State to review all lands in the county. This committee will identify which lands are forestlands and benefit from fire protection. The Yamhill County Forestland Classification website www.co.yamhill.or.us/content/forestland-classification-committee has more information. Anyone interested in serving on the committee, or just interested in more information, can contact the Oregon Department of Forestry in Forest Grove. Their office number is: 503-359-2191. Mike Cafferata's contact information is: mike.j.cafferata@oregon.gov or 503-359-7430.



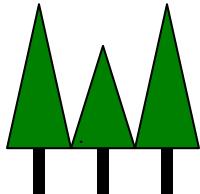
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Forest Forum



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Potpourri

New Members: Welcome to new members: **Jesse Johnson of Gaston, Robert Irish of Yamhill, Gordon Dana of Banks, Bill Marre of Portland and Sharon Hundley of Forest Grove.** 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.

New Website for WCSWA needs YOU: At the January 31st Board Meeting, the decision was made to go ahead with plans to improve our website. Do you have experience or an interest in helping develop the website? Are you familiar with "WordPress?" If so, please contact any Board member or Officer (see page 2).

Tree Vocabulary By Rachel Roat, New Jersey Woodland Steward, Class 2016 ,
What is a Bole? In botany, a **bole** is the section of the trunk of a tree beneath the point where branching commences. In forestry, a bole is the trunk or stem of a tree. The bole is usually the part that is commercially useful for lumber.

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>