

Forest Forum

Washington County Small Woodlands Association

June, 2017

Good Food, Fun and Learning at WCSWA May Potluck

On May 23, we had a lucky combination of:

- Good weather after such a cold, wet spring
- A chance to visit with old and new friends
- A timely topic of early thinning
- Two Forestry Extension Agents, Amy Grotta and Brad Withrow-Robinson

This resulted in **95** people showing up at Bob and Bonnie Shumaker's Tree Farm west of Banks for WCSWA's Annual May Potluck.

First the food: Tom Kapfer, Sam Sadtler and Don Sohler were up to the task of flipping burgers and hot dogs for the large crowd, and the pot luck dishes brought by attendees offered varied delicious fare that challenged the table space available. Thank you Zoe Ahrendt for using your spacial skills to arrange the dishes so all could fit. Note to future tree farm owners volunteering for the May pot luck: Double the table space you think you need.

Bonnie and Bob had carefully set up tables where the forest provided shade due to the hot weather of the previous two days. When a cold wind and clouds came up at dinner time guests scurried to their cars for jackets or sat on the grass to eat where the sun was shining.

Next the visiting: We were glad to see new members at the Potluck and hope they felt warmly welcomed. One of the best things about small woodland owners is the varied background and experience they have to share. It is always good to get together.

See "Potluck", page 8 for the important learning part



Visiting with friends is always a highlight



Tom Kapfer, Sam Sadtler, and Don Sohler take a break from their cooking to pose for a picture

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www.wcswa.com

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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: Renter and woodland helper on tree farm near Gales Creek. Call 503-357-4258.

WCSWA Volunteers: We need you! Please consider the following:

- 1) Join the Program Committee and help generate ideas or simply do the grunt work to set up our monthly programs and tours. Call Bill Triest 503-705-5833.
- 2) Help WCSWA improve communication on Social Media. Call Bonnie Shumaker 503-324-7825

For Sale: DR Brush Mower, 30" deck, industrial engine. 1994 model. Call 503-628-5472

Event Calendar

June	15-17	OSWA Annual Meeting	Florence, OR.
July	15	Tree Farmer of the Year and Neighbor to Neighbor Tour – Don't miss this exciting event! Directions: Take Hwy 6 past the town of Banks. Turn right after milepost 46. Take quick left for 3 ½ miles on Cedar Canyon to Hayward Rd. Turn right. Harrel's tree farm is 2 nd farm on left. 53227 Hayward Rd. Do not use GPS. See you there!	Steve and Lynn Harrel's tree farm in Manning. Topics: Forest Diseases- Dave Shaw Wildlife: Fran Cafferata-Coe Thinning: Ken Nygren Panel of forest landowners: "So you bought a piece of forest property, what now?" 8:00am until after lunch. Tour is free, but you must register. Look for flyer and registration in the mail.

Leadership Notes

Don't you love it when good things come together?

In the sixteen years of WCSWA's annual Native Plant Sale, all profits have been dedicated to education. Initially, this went to an inscribed bench for the newly opened Tillamook Forest Center, buses for field trips and OSU College of Forestry scholarships. Then for a while we had our own committee that awarded scholarships to students who were sponsored by WCSWA members, but not necessarily majoring in forestry. Missing the forestry connection and wanting to focus on students from Washington County, we returned to OSU College of Forestry scholarships, but were having trouble with the local connection. Consulting with OSU's College of Forestry, we found that we could establish an Endowment in the name of WCSWA that would give us more focus on our donation with the added bonus that the Oregon State University Foundation carefully invests funds from all its donors earning 4.5% (ten year average). We had been putting funds aside for scholarships for the years when plant sale profits were insufficient, but were frustrated with the lack of any interest-bearing account.

So last November, we established the "Washington County Small Woodlands Association Scholarship Endowment Fund" (Endowment) in the amount of \$25,000 which came from WCSWA's plant sale account and general fund. This spring, the first scholarship was granted from the Endowment. We were invited to attend OSU's Award Ceremony and WCSWA's Vice President, Vic Herinckx, represented WCSWA at the event at which a \$2,000 scholarship was awarded to Austin Finster (see article below). WCSWA's Board has agreed to present a \$2,000 scholarship yearly while also increasing the Endowment with extra plant sale profits, plus one-half the seedling sale profits. Our goal is to increase the Endowment to \$50,000. You will see by the article below that this year's recipient is just what we have been working so hard to find: a forestry major from Washington County.

Bonnie Shumaker

2017 OSU Dept. of Forestry Scholarship Awarded

We are proud to announce Austin Finster as WCSWA's 2017 scholarship recipient. Austin is a sophomore working toward a degree in Forestry with a focus on Operations. He is from Washington County and a graduate of Liberty High School.



Austin with his father and grandmother



Austin with WCSWA V.P. Vic Herinckx

In his free time Austin enjoys managing Christmas trees, small scale timber harvesting, firewood production and helping out with the family's 4th generation homestead and tree farm in Clackamas County.

We look forward to introducing Austin at our TFOY event this summer or annual meeting in the fall.

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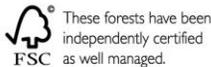


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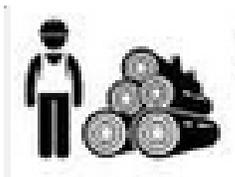
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WCSWA Tree Farmer of the Year “Neighbor to Neighbor” Woods Tour, Saturday, July 15th.

Steve and Lynn Harrel’s Scotch-Berry Tree Farm will be the location of a “Neighbor to Neighbor” woods tour on Saturday, July 15th. Steve and Lynn were awarded Washington County’s Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year at our banquet last November.

Experts in forest thinning, forest diseases and wildlife will discuss these topics with participants. There will be lots of opportunities for questions and answers. A panel of family forest owners will also provide insights with the theme “So you bought a piece of timber property... what now?” The panel will consist of landowners with a variety of backgrounds and years of ownership, and there will be time for questions from the attendees. The panel discussion will happen just after the tours and before lunch.

The tour will begin with coffee and donuts at 8:00 am and conclude with lunch. The woods tour is free, but registration is required. Look for a tour flyer and invitation letter in the mail. Directions to the Harrel’s are on page 2.

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Faster Project Delivery is a Hidden Feature of Sustainable Mass Timber

From *Urbanland*, the Magazine of the Urban Land Institute, By [Archana Pyati](#), May 3, 2017

Although still far from mainstream, mass timber is emerging as a more sustainable alternative to concrete and steel for constructing mid-rise buildings. An engineered product made from mature fir trees, mass timber sequesters carbon, allowing buildings constructed with it to have a carbon-negative impact on the environment.

While its sustainable qualities are attracting developers and architects, so are the speed and cost-efficiency with which mass-timber buildings can be delivered, shaving 30 to 90 days off a construction schedule, said Steve White, principal and director of the Washington, D.C., office of Fentress Architects, a Denver-based firm. An example is the Tallwood House at Brock Commons student residence at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. Considered the tallest mass-timber building in the world, the 18-story Tallwood House was built in less than six months.

Known also as cross-laminated timber (CLT), mass timber is an engineered wood product sold in 20- to 30-foot (6 to 9 m) panels for floors and ceilings. CLT is manufactured from small wood pieces that are glued together. ("What you have is plywood on steroids," White said.) A companion product, glued laminated timber, or glulam, is meant for beams and columns. The technology was developed in Austria in the mid-1990s through an industry/academic partnership.

Building codes across the United States, though, have not caught up with mass timber, with many either not allowing or not addressing this type of construction method. Costs associated with the materials and investment in expertise required to pull off a project are also barriers. Mid-rise projects of six to ten stories achieve optimal cost-competitiveness. Until the costs associated with mass timber come down, buildings taller than ten stories will likely continue to be fabricated from concrete and steel.

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Caecilius Stratius, 2nd century BC poet

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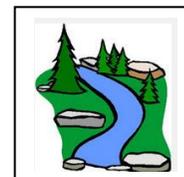
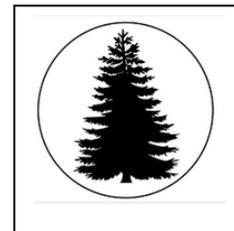
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Potluck – What We Learned About Thinning

Continued from page 1

Bonnie and Bob's tree farm is mostly young timber. In fact, they can attest to the fact that they have been involved in the planting of all the timber growing here in the almost 40 years they have lived on the place. Their first effort was a five-acre stand of brush that they cleared and planted to trees in 1980. It has been thinned two times; first in 2005 and again in 2015. The "South 40" was purchased as a clear-cut in 1997 and planted in 1998. Besides the five acres dedicated to pasture, the rest of the 80 acres is afforestation of former crop land. This is where Bonnie and Bob learned planting and perhaps why they state they are "planters, not thinners" and are having trouble making the transition. In fact, they invited the duo of Amy and Brad



Brad Withrow-Robinson explaining the importance of thinning early

because they felt the articles addressing thinning in their OSU Extension blog "Tree Topics" should have had the introduction "Dear Bonnie and Bob." Brad was the leader of the Master Woodland Manager class Bonnie and Bob took in 2002 and saw the overstocked trees discussed at the potluck when they were first planted as afforestation on an alfalfa field in 2002. Bonnie and Bob have started thinning on this stand, but the plots that Amy sampled when she was here still showed too many trees.

The goal is to thin this stand to 300 trees per acre and as of this writing, Bonnie and Bob have marked more trees and their son Dan has cut them down with the little processor demonstrated at the potluck. A second plot sampling will take place soon.



Dan demonstrating the processor in action

The main take-away from Brad and Amy’s instruction is this quote from their handout: “Waiting for an overly-dense stand to grow to a harvestable size is dangerous. After a period of intense competition, a stand will be too weak to thin. By waiting, you risk missing the narrow

thinning window. Missing the window puts you on the path to an industrial-type stand, condemning it to a long period of stress and self thinning, with few management options left to a landowner except an early clear cut. This is generally counter-productive to most family landowners’ ownership objectives. Young stand thinning avoids this conundrum.”

The handout also included the following table. Bonnie and Bob’s trees in the former alfalfa stand are right on the edge between the Goldilocks zone and the Danger zone, so it is important for the thinning to take place quickly. They hope to have this done by this fall and thank everyone for coming to the potluck and thank Amy and Brad for helping them make the transition from planters to thinners.

Douglas-fir Stand Density Table

Approximate tree size in inches dbh (stand quadratic mean) at different densities (trees per acre) and competition levels (RD). Based on max SDI of 520.

	Relative Density	250 tpa (13')	275 tpa (12.5')	300 tpa (12x12)	360 tpa (11x11)	435 tpa (10x10)
Maximum Stocking	100	16	15	14	13	11
Zone of No Return	75	13	12	12	11	9
	70	13	12	11	10	9
	65	12	11	11	10	9
	60	11	11	10	9	8
Danger Zone	55	11	10	10	9	8
	50	10	10	9	8	7
U. Goldilocks Zone	45	10	9	9	8	7
	40	9	8	8	7	6
L. Goldilocks Zone	35	8	8	7	7	6
	25	7	6	6	5	5
Crown Closure	15	5	5	4	4	3

Bright outlook, Gauging a sagebrush's thirst

From an article in the "La Grande Observer," By [Jayson Jacoby](#), May 25, 2017

Measuring the moisture content of sagebrush — or of any plant — is a pretty straightforward process. The basic idea is to collect samples of foliage from live plants, then weigh the samples before and after drying them in an oven.

Bob Narus needs to know when sagebrush is dehydrated. He's not a plant doctor. Narus is a firefighter. His territory covers about 5.1 million acres, and since a great many of those acres are littered with sagebrush, which typically is quite combustible, Narus has more than a passing interest in precisely how parched the shrubs are. Right now, the sagebrush is actually pretty moist in the Bureau of Land Management's Vale District, for which Narus serves as fire management officer.

This damp situation is the legacy of the past winter, when snow accumulated much deeper than usual across most of the Vale District, which stretches from the Nevada border through Malheur, Baker, Union and Wallowa counties into Southeastern Washington. Narus, who is entering his 28th fire season, said the moisture content in sagebrush, based on samples taken at six sites across the district, is about 60 percent higher than it was a year ago at this time. In May 2016 most of Eastern Oregon was still in a drought. This snowiest winter in more than 20 years not only ended that drought, but it likely will postpone the start of the wildfire season in the rangelands and forests of Eastern Oregon, Narus said.

The soggy sagebrush only partially explains Narus' prediction for the belated onset of fire season. The ground also remains relatively damp, which prevents grasses and other plants from drying as quickly as they would otherwise. "We had snow sitting on the ground at lower elevations for a much longer period this winter than the past two years," Narus said.

The downside to the drought's demise is that this year's crop of grasses — and in particular the immensely flammable invasive cheatgrass — is likely to be bigger than last year's. "Later in the summer that cheatgrass will be dead, and it is a concern, having that fine, dead fuel," he said. Fortunately, this spring has been colder than average as well as wetter, and the chilly temperatures have stunted the cheatgrass, Narus said. "There is a lot of grass, but it's not as tall as it could be," he said.

Predicting fire potential, not fire frequency or size: Measuring moisture in sagebrush or the height of cheatgrass helps Narus and other fire managers project the potential for wildfires to start, and to grow. But he emphasized that what actually happens this summer across the region depends largely on factors that can't be forecasted.

Lightning, most notably. That's the spark that ignites most fires on the Vale District and on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest — generally about 65 percent to more than 80 percent of the blazes each year in those areas. "The real wild card with lightning is does it come with rain or without rain," Narus said.

Wind is also a key factor, Narus said. All else being equal, a fire will grow much faster on a gusty day than on a calm one. "It all depends on the weather," Narus said.

The prevalence of lightning-caused fires doesn't mean fire managers don't worry about the potential for human-sparked blazes, though.

The percentage of human-caused fires is higher on state and private lands, where the ODF is the main firefighting agency. This summer's fire season is noteworthy because tens of thousands of people are projected to visit the region to watch the total solar eclipse on Aug. 21. "This is our hottest and driest period, so we're concerned and will be trying to get the message out about fire safety.

Historic Camperdown elms saved on state Capitol grounds

From an article by [Capi Lynn](#), Statesman Journal Published 6:29 p.m. PT May 13, 2017



Tree lovers rejoice. Four historic elms on the grounds of the Oregon State Capitol have been saved and relocated, and no one had to raise a fuss.

The laborious effort to salvage century-old Camperdown elms took most of a week and involved two different hydraulic cranes.

“People care about the trees. It doesn’t matter where it is. That’s Oregon,” said state parks forester Craig Leech, on hand to observe the relocation of the Camperdown elms.

The Camperdown elms, at least two of which are believed to be more than 100 years old, appear to be thriving. Although not known to be the hardiest of ornamentals, they apparently love our mild climate, especially the mild winters. Camperdown elm trees have graced the grounds of the Oregon State Capitol for more than 100 years.

The Capitol grounds are home to eight of these unique elms, which are recognizable by their rounded crowns and weeping branches. They look like giant parasols and were especially popular during the Victorian era, perhaps chosen for the landscaping to add a feminine touch to a stark, square statehouse. When their leaves drop, a tangled web of twisted branches is revealed.

The romance of the Camperdown elms, despite not being able to reproduce by seed, adds to their charm. Every tree is from a cutting from a cutting from a cutting of the original grafted tree in Dundee, Scotland. As the story goes, the gardener for The Earl of Camperdown found an oddly contorted sprig growing on the forest floor in the 1830s and grafted it to a Scotch elm. That resulting tree still stands today.

All four trees that were relocated at the Capitol are roughly 20 feet tall with crowns 30 feet wide. It isn’t known when they were grafted or originally planted, but historic photographs and reports in the Statesman Journal archives show that Camperdown elms have graced the Capitol grounds for more than 100 years.

At least two of the Camperdown elms survived the 1935 fire that destroyed the previous Capitol and had to be relocated twice before. The first time was after the fire. The trees were salvaged and then replanted in 1941 during landscaping of the new and current Capitol. They had to be moved again when the east and west wings were added to the building. The two Camperdown elms were replanted in 1977; one at each of the wing entrances, and paired with a young Camperdown elm.

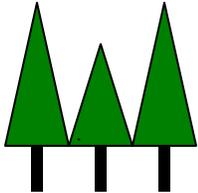
The east-side Camperdown elms now have a Japanese sophora, Norway maple, elkhorn cedar and Colorado blue spruce as neighbors. The west-side Camperdowns are now flanked by a Douglas fir, Deodar cedar, and saucer magnolia.

The root structures — about 36 inches deep with a 12-foot radius — were wrapped in burlap and wire mesh. Tucked underneath each was a platform of recycled steel pipe for stability. Nylon lifting straps were woven carefully through the branches, a tricky proposition because of their dense canopies. NessCampbell Crane + Rigging provided the heavy lifting — the trees weighed between 38,000 pounds and 55,000 pounds — and just one branch was lost in the move. The Capitol’s 21-acre, T-shaped property encompasses the Capitol Mall, Willson Park, and Capitol Park. Strolling through the grounds is like visiting a vast arboretum, one with 75 species of trees.

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Forest Forum



COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE
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Potpourri

New Members: Welcome to new member **Patricia Knapp** of Banks.

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 Book: [Against the Odds, A Path Forward for Rural America](#). Bruce Vincent, a logger from Libby, Montana; Nicole J. Olynk Widmar, Associate Professor of Agricultural Economics at Purdue University; and Jessica Eise, writer and former journalist have authored a book that shares Bruce's experiences in the "Timber Wars" of the late 80's and 90's. This book was reviewed by Kevin Core in the June 2017 issue of "Loggers World." It is described as an easy and interesting read that analyzes the battle and also tells of successes and how to stay engaged in a positive way. The book is available on Amazon or you can contact Bruce Vincent by email: brucevincent@environomicsua.com or 406-293-8821

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>
- For E-Notification: : <https://ferns.odf.state.or.us/E-Notification> or visit ODF Office