

# **Forest Forum**

## **Washington County Small Woodlands Association**

**February, 2018**

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### **Matching Logging Options to Owner Needs**

Marcus Bigsby, local logger in Washington County, gave those attending the January 23<sup>rd</sup> Washington County Small Woodlands meeting a lot to think about concerning potential logging operations on their property. The key factors Marcus wants them to consider are:

- What are my objectives, and how can they be achieved in the logging operation?, and
- How can what I do now help my future management?

*Marcus Bigsby receiving the WCSWA Appreciation Award >>>>  
See "Bigsby" on page 8*



### **WCSWA Meeting – February 27th**

Please plan on joining us for our February meeting. The program will include presentations by **Eric Olson**, Appraisal Supervisor Rural Property, Washington County, and **Scott Young**, County Surveyor, Washington County. Mr. Olson will share his insights on appraisal of timber property in Washington County, including an overview of timber deferral programs and what it all might mean to timber property owners. Mr. Young will help us better understand the functions of the county surveyor office, public land corners, and when small woodland property owners might need a surveyor.

**Date: February 27, 2018**

**Time: 7pm**

**Location: North Plains Fire Station (31370 NW Commercial St, North Plains, OR 97133)**

**PLANT SALE, SAT. MARCH 10, 9:00AM – 3:00PM, HILLSBORO ARMORY**  
PLANNING HAS ALREADY BEGUN FOR THIS FUN EVENT THAT BRINGS URBAN AND RURAL PEOPLE TOGETHER AND RAISES MONEY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS AT OSU'S COLLEGE OF FORESTRY. WE NEED YOUR HELP! SIGN UP AT THE FEBRUARY 27th MEETING.

## WCSWA Leadership

**President – Bonnie Shumaker, 503-324-7825, [bshumaker@coho.net](mailto:bshumaker@coho.net)**

**Vice-President – Vic Herinckx, [vic.herinckx@gmail.com](mailto:vic.herinckx@gmail.com)**

**Secretary-Treasurer – Bob Shumaker; 503-324-7825  
[bshumaker@coho.net](mailto:bshumaker@coho.net)**

### Board of Directors:

Pos. #1: Deb Kapfer, 503-628-6349, [kapferd@upwardaccess.com](mailto:kapferd@upwardaccess.com)

Pos. #2: Sam Sadtler 503-324-0223, [samsncee@gmail.com](mailto:samsncee@gmail.com)

Pos. #3: Susan Schmidlin, 503-429-7861, [mrs.susan.schmidlin@gmail.com](mailto:mrs.susan.schmidlin@gmail.com)

Pos. #4: Tony Spiering, 503-680-8051, [aespierring@gmail.com](mailto:aespierring@gmail.com)

Pos. #5: Cathy Dummer, 503-703-6573, [cannbuckley@hotmail.com](mailto:cannbuckley@hotmail.com)

Pos. #6: Kent Grewe 503-701-2087, [kmg@nwneuroassociates.net](mailto:kmg@nwneuroassociates.net)

### Legislative Committee Chair:

Scott Hayes, [scotthayes8888@gmail.com](mailto:scotthayes8888@gmail.com)

**Membership Committee:** WCSWA Board members

**Program Committee:** Bill Triest – 503-705-5833, [whtriest@gmail.com](mailto:whtriest@gmail.com);

John and Cathy Dummer – 503-970-8789, [cannbuckley@hotmail.com](mailto:cannbuckley@hotmail.com); Mike Messier, 503-233-2131, [mike@troutmountain.com](mailto:mike@troutmountain.com)

**Tualatin River Watershed Council Representatives:** Tom Nygren, primary, 503-628-5472, [tnygren@juno.com](mailto:tnygren@juno.com) ; Eric Chambers, alternate, 503-647-2458, [eric870@hotmail.com](mailto:eric870@hotmail.com)

### WCSWA Website

[www.wcswa.com](http://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

Editors: Tom Nygren & Bonnie Shumaker  
503-628-5472 or 503-324-7825

e-mail: [tnygren@juno.com](mailto:tnygren@juno.com) or

[bshumaker@coho.net](mailto:bshumaker@coho.net)

Proofreaders: Bonnie Shumaker, Dan

## 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) A few short (2-3') rounds of recently-felled Doug fir, cedar or hemlock 16-20" diam. with bark intact (for making table tops). Call Miles, 503-621-9867 or 971-285-6960.
- 2) **Timber Helper** near Gales Creek. Possible quarters. Call 503-357-4258
- 3) **WCSWA** needs you! Please consider the following:
  - a) Join the Program Committee and help generate ideas or simply do the grunt work to set up our monthly programs and tours.
  - b) Facebook users: Help WCSWA keep our Facebook page up-to-date.

## Event Calendar

February	27	Forest Land Assessment and Surveying	7 pm, North Plains Fire Hall
March	10	WCSWA Native Plant Sale	9:00am – 3:00pm, Hillsboro Armory
	27	US Survey of Forestland	7 pm, North Plains Fire Hall
April	24	Chehalem Ridge Nature Park Update	7 pm, North Plains Fire Hall
July	21	Tree Farmer of the Year Tour and Picnic <b>SAVE THE DATE!</b>	Rich and Connie Gaebel's Tree Farm, Mountindale

# Leadership Notes

This is a busy time of year for WCSWA. Seedlings need to be picked up and distributed, and our annual “Native Plant and Tree Sale” is gearing up.

- Seedling Sale: The seedlings have been picked up and are being distributed. Fourteen WCSWA members volunteered on January 26<sup>th</sup> to go to Lewis River Reforestation in Woodland, Washington. With so many hands to help, sore backs were kept at a minimum, and the coolers in North Plains and Gales Creek were filled. Many thanks to Ian Walker, and Paul Sansone and Sue Vosberg for letting us use their cooler space. Thanks also to Don Sohler for chairing the Seedling Committee and to all the volunteers. Some seedlings were delivered straight to tree farms that day. I heard from Ray Brock that all his seedlings to reforest 30 acres were happily in the ground the next day! That’s efficiency.
- Plant Sale – March 10, Hillsboro Armory, 9:00am-3:00pm. This is the 17<sup>th</sup> year of our annual Native Plant and Tree Sale. All profit from the sale is dedicated to the WCSWA Endowment Fund at OSU to award scholarships to students in the OSU College of Forestry with preference to a Washington County student. OSU is acknowledged as having a premier College of Forestry. As small woodland managers, we need to keep graduating students that can help us achieve our goals. Karen Graham is the chair of the plant sale committee and coordinates the ordering of the plants, comprehensive advertising for the sale, and getting you, the WCSWA member, to volunteer the day of the sale. This is an important event, and it is fun! If you haven’t already signed up, contact Karen Graham (503-747-3095) and see where she needs you. This is our first year of actually being INSIDE. We’re excited! Thank you, Karen for all your effort.



**Seedlings loaded at Lewis River Reforestation. We had 14 volunteers! Thank you all!**

Last month, I promised I would report on our WCSWA Board Meeting held on January 16<sup>th</sup>. Here are the highlights:

- Welcomed new Board members Cathy Dummer and Kent Grewe
- Addressed concerns involving both the seedling and plant sale.
- Went over the annual report from the WCSWA OSU Endowment Fund including the additions we have made from the TFOY tour and Annual Meeting. We plan to keep increasing the Endowment to \$50,000 which will generate a \$2,000 scholarship/year
- Discussed this year’s programs and thank the Program Committee for quality work
- Website is up and running and Cathy Dummer and Susan Schmidlin are updating it each month. Thanks to both of them.
- Board members volunteered to help Bonnie Shumaker with monthly meetings and OSWA Board Meetings.

*Bonnie Shumaker*

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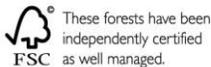
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## 2017 Fire Season Set Records (Not Good Ones!)

Oregon's 2017 fire season will be remembered as one of the worst on record, with large blazes such as the Chetco Bar fire requiring huge expenses to suppress. But there's more to the story than the millions of dollars spent fighting this conflagration in southwestern Oregon, the Eagle Creek fire in the Columbia River Gorge, and the many other expansive wildfires that burned across the state.

A new report from the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) outlines many of the other costs of a fire season that blanketed the state in smoke, forced the closure of roads and highways, and caused the cancellation of outdoor events.

Titled "Impacts of Oregon's 2017 Wildfire Season – Time for a Crucial Conversation," the 25-page report details the far-reaching effects of last year's wildfire season. These include negative impacts to public health, transportation, tourism-reliant businesses, school athletics and iconic Oregon economic sectors such as the wine and timber industries. The report calls on the state's leaders, scientists and policymakers to chart a course wherein Oregonians can co-exist with fire while simultaneously mitigating how it affects our economy and health.

"Fire plays an important role in Oregon's fire-adapted forest ecosystems," says OFRI Executive Director Paul Barnum. "Since we'll never be 'fire-free,' it's crucial for state leaders to discuss how we can lessen the impacts wildfires have on our communities. This new report is intended to bring attention to why such a conversation is needed now." Read the full report on the Oregon Forest Resource Institute website, [www.oregonforests.org](http://www.oregonforests.org)

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Family forestland owners Dale Cuyler and Brenda Woodard.

### OSU Forestry Dean on Temporary Leave

Oregon State University's College of Forestry Dean Thomas Maness announced this week his intention to begin immediately an approximate six-month change in responsibilities to attend to personal matters. As a result, from January 17 to June 30, Executive Associate Dean Anthony S. Davis will serve as acting dean of the college. Maness is expected to return to serving as dean by July 1, at which time, Davis will return to his executive associate dean role.



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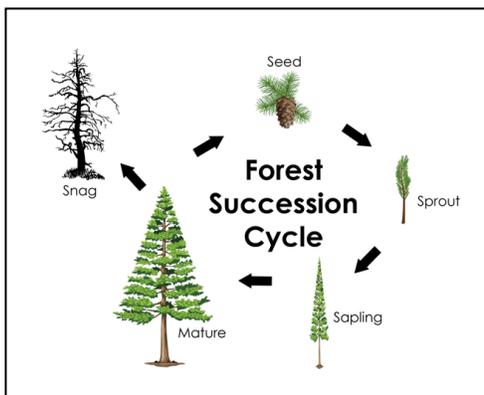
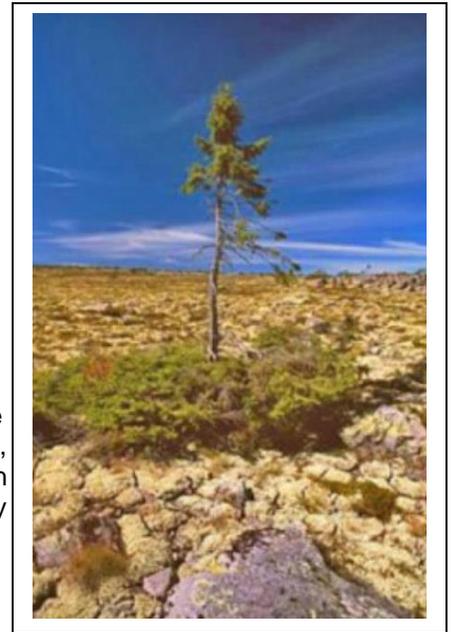
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# Do Trees Need People?

Amber Bieg, *Principal Partner at Green Ideas*  
Idaho Forest Products Commission newsletter, April 12, 2017

The [world's oldest tree](#), a 9,550 year old spruce, was recently discovered in Sweden. This new-found spindly record holder is old even for a tree... right? Perhaps you are asking: How long does a tree live? While there are a few ancient giants (and dwarfs) who have seen humans move from tribal life to the modern industrial world, most trees don't have much more than human lifespans. Like animals, the lifespan of a tree depends on its species. The previous world record holders were the dwarf-size 4,845-year-old and 5,062-year-old Great Basin bristlecone pines (*Pinus longaeva*) in the White Mountains of California.

But talking about one species and a single tree's life-span, you only see the tree and not the forest. Unless planted in cities where they are maintained by people, trees typically live in forests which are complex renewable systems - a system in which many things depend on each other in order for life to continue in a healthy balance. Trees can't just live on their own; they would die. Like people, trees need a diverse community of other living things that provide them food, shelter, and water.



**Forests constantly change over time in a dynamic natural process called "succession." As with people, trees start with conception (seed), moving into birth (sprout), then infancy (seedling), growing rapidly as a youth (sapling), maturing into adulthood (mature), aging to elderly (decline), and then finally arriving at death (snag/rotting).<sup>6</sup> Like baby humans, young trees need the protection and nurturing of older trees, nutrients from soil provided by beneficial fungus and insects, water pulled up via bigger trees and plants' root systems as well as mulch from forest debris. The healthier the forest, the healthier the tree and longer the lifespan.**

For millennia, natural disturbances like fire, wind, ice storms, and insect outbreaks have created diversity in ecosystems by interrupting the reproductive cycle of trees. Why is this good? Disturbances, including logging, wipe out disease and increase genetic diversity, which in-turn increases forest resiliency - allowing trees to live healthier lives for longer. Historically, in western forests before modern times, the most common disturbance was fire.

Like most of North America, much of Idaho's forests are not in a "natural" condition and haven't been for over 100 years. Federal forests that have not been harvested and have been protected from fire are in severe decline. Modern policies have caused the current condition, causing as many problems as past overharvesting did. The cycle of forest succession continues regardless of human intervention. However, we should not expect to have healthy forests without disturbances. The question is what kind of disturbance is acceptable?

While Nature always takes care of itself in the long-run, Idaho forests are in trouble. It is obvious that humans need trees: For more than just the ecosystem benefits such as clean water, clean air, wildlife, fish and others, we use trees for building our homes, printing our books, and a host of other very useful things. **Yes, people need trees! But with climate change, disease, drought, and ecosystem changes perhaps it's time to ask the glaringly human-centric question, if we want to see healthy forests... do trees also need people?**

### ***Biggsby, continued from page 1***

All loggers are different, Marcus pointed out. The ability of a logger to meet the landowner's needs varies both by their logging capabilities, such as the type of harvesting and log transport equipment, and by their interest and temperament in dealing with small logging jobs. Some have equipment only suitable for large operations, and find it difficult to do small jobs efficiently or effectively. Some loggers like working with small woodland owners; some don't. Marcus suggests that you look for a logger who has worked on the kind of property you have, and has good references from the owners of those properties. Aligning with the right logger considers the size of the job, the available equipment and resources, how the logger's schedule matches your timeline, and the skill and experience of the logger on the type of project you have. Bottom line: check logger references and do your homework! Marcus laid out a set of important considerations in planning a harvest operation:

- When to harvest? Road need, size of job, market prices, trucker availability – and the effect of fire season – all affect timing of harvest.
- What resources are available (loggers usually like to plan out their work up to a year or more ahead)
- What is the best time of the year to harvest? Our wet season presents real challenges.
- What is the best harvest method – patch cut, thin, selective?
- What roads and skid trails will be needed (and where should they be placed)?
- Dealing with the slash – stack or scatter?

Finally, Marcus emphasized that there are people who can help you with planning your harvest operation: Oregon Department of Forestry Stewardship Foresters, forestry consultants, loggers - and don't forget to tap the experience of other forest landowners who've been down this road before!

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*"Alone we can do so little;  
Together we can do so much"*  
*Helen Keller*



## Belowground fungal interactions with trees help explain non-native plant invasions

**December 1, 2017, USDA Forest Service - Northern Research Station**

The invasion of nonnative plants above-ground is strongly related to what type of mycorrhizal fungi are dominant below-ground in forest ecosystems. Mycorrhizal fungi are a type of fungi that help trees feed on minerals in the soil and, in turn, feed off sugars in tree roots. New research by a US Forest Service scientist and partners suggests that the type of mycorrhizal fungi dominant in a forest influences vulnerability to non-native plant invasion. The study, "Dominant forest tree mycorrhizal type mediates understory plant invasions," is available at:

<https://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/55479>

## Oregon Forest Pest Detector News

As some of you may know, the Oregon Department of Forestry and Oregon Department of Agriculture have partnered on an invasive woodborer survey along the Columbia River. In 2017, there were two new species of woodborers/bark beetles found in Oregon. One is *Chrysobothris rugosiceps* (pictured below on the left), native to the eastern and southeastern U.S. and previously only reported as far west as South Dakota. Its hosts include oaks and chestnut. The other is the ambrosia beetle *Cyclorhipidion pelliculosum* (pictured below on the right). Neither one is expected to be an invasive species. **Brandy Saffell, Oregon Forest Pest Detector**



Do you know anyone who would benefit from the OFPD training? We're looking for natural resource professionals and volunteers who work closely with trees, particularly private sector workers like arborists and landscaping businesses. If so, forward them this newsletter and let them know about our **upcoming OFPD Training on March 21st (9am - 12:30pm) in Philomath (Oregon Department of Forestry Office)**. Visit [our website](#) for more information or [register here](#).

### **Fascinating Fact**

A Forest Service [study](#) reveals that centipedes use their venomous fangs to prey on invasive earthworms; the centipedes even consume earthworms that may be 10 times their size. This research may help forest managers control invasive worm species.

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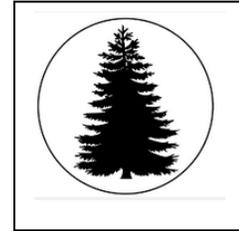
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### North Plains & Longview

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## Timber report for January

*Rick Sohn, PhD, Coquille Lumber*

Log prices continue to rise into record territory. Starts in single family homes are the highest levels in 10 years, per Random Lengths. Recent trends of lumber, logs, home construction and housing markets are compared.

### Interpretation and Looking Ahead

This is a great moment to be in the log selling business, or a business supporter of logging. The #2 Mill Douglas-fir log price this month set a new record, at least since 2005, at \$810. Sometimes, logs are sell above \$900. Stud prices are trending lower, month to month, while log prices are heading up month to month. While this is not a good trend, some strengthening of the product prices can be expected as we head into January and orders are filled for the Spring. As has been reported before, when the price of logs rises to over twice the price of lumber, manufacturers get squeezed. We will revisit the directions of these trends and the significance next month. Housing starts, at 1,297,000, are the second highest annualized level in the last 10 years, with the exception of 1,328,000 in October 2016. More importantly, deeper statistics show, and Random Lengths reports, that a component of the housing starts, single family homes, is at its highest level in 10 years. The unsold home inventory that is below two months, as well as the mortgage rate below 4 percent and the continuing rise of median home prices nationally, are favorable indicators for home sellers and home ownership.

As reported last month, there are some grey linings to these silver clouds of high prices. The high prices are symptomatic of a general log shortage. And Random Lengths indicates that some product purchasers will have to switch away from Pacific Northwest to other regions for their wood products, since there is not enough log supply to add a shift at mills in the Northwest, particularly the Southwest Oregon mills. One operator told me that this is the first time in his 40-year memory in the business that manufacturing capacity in the Roseburg area could not respond to higher product prices by adding a shift. There simply is not enough log capacity in the region, at present. Sustainably managing Federal lands for ecologically based harvest in place of fire could help mitigate the log shortage. Properly planned and carried out, this need not be an oxymoron.

# When it comes to keeping streams cool, buffer strips help but geology rules!

01/23/2018 Oregon State University

Leaving a strip of trees along headwater streams during logging operations helps to keep the water cool, but researchers have now shown that the downstream impacts of such practices have more to do with geology than with the presence or width of buffer strips.

Using studies in three Oregon watersheds — Alsea, Trask and Hinkle Creek — scientists analyzed the impact of buffer strips on downstream temperatures. The researchers used data recorded in experiments carried out in 27 locations over 14 years. The results of the analysis, one of the most robust of its kind in the nation, were reported in the journal *Hydrological Processes*. The Alsea and Trask watersheds are located in the Oregon Coast Range near Alsea and Tillamook respectively. The Hinkle Creek watershed is located northeast of Roseburg in the Cascade foothills.

“In Coast Range and Western Cascades catchments, where our study streams were located, streams that are small and non-fish bearing have no regulatory requirement for an overstory riparian buffer,” said Kevin Bladon, lead author and assistant professor in the College of Forestry at Oregon State University. “As a result, we observed some warming of the stream water. However, if the geology is permeable — where we have a lot of groundwater inputs into the system — that warm water didn’t persist downstream. As soon as it flowed back into a forested stream reach again, the temperature stabilized.”

Based on isolated research efforts, scientists have reached different conclusions about the impact of harvesting on stream temperatures and how far those impacts can be detected downstream. “This study, with 29 different sites across multiple catchments, upstream and downstream in different geologies, provides a lot of strong evidence” about how the environment determines the impacts of logging on downstream temperatures, said Bladon.

“Stream temperature is one of those things that people tend to think is simple and easy to measure,” he added. “However, the dynamics and all of the factors that influence it are quite complicated. Temperatures aren’t just influenced by exposure of water to the sun. They depend on things like whether the water flows through the stream bed or through a stream bank, the geometry of the stream channel, how much water there is in the stream channel, and how much groundwater input there is.”

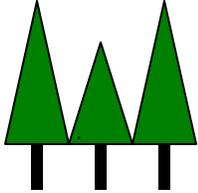
In the experiments Bladon and his team analyzed, stream temperatures were recorded during low-flow conditions from July to September in headwater streams above and below locations where harvesting operations were conducted. The locations provided a variety of geology, landscape and forest-management circumstances. All three watersheds contain fish-bearing reaches. While cutthroat trout are the primary fish species at Hinkle Creek, the Trask and Alsea watersheds are home to populations of coho salmon, steelhead, cutthroat trout and sculpin. Alsea also has runs of western brook and Pacific lamprey.

In Oregon, private forest regulations require loggers to leave buffer strips of trees along fish-bearing streams, medium and large non-fish-bearing streams and domestic water sources. The exact width depends on the size of the stream channel and the fish species present. “We’ve been talking for a lot of years about riparian areas. The discussion can get really heated,” said Bladon. “I think a lot of folks would like to move toward a variable-width riparian area system. Right now, it’s categorized. If it’s a fish-bearing stream of a certain size, you will use a specific width riparian area.

“In terms of stream temperature, in some cases, it’s not enough, and in others, it’s overkill. But, we definitely need more research to figure out where those places are.” While this research provides important insights into the downstream movement of warmed stream water, the experiments analyzed by Bladon and his team were not initially set up to directly address these types of questions. As a result, he and other Oregon State researchers are conducting additional studies. They are placing sensors at short intervals in undisturbed streams and in streams that will be harvested to determine precisely how temperatures change downstream from harvesting operations.

In addition to Bladon, co-authors on the paper included Catalina Segura at OSU, Nicholas Cook with Otak Inc. of Portland, Sharon Bywater-Reyes of the University of Northern Colorado and Maryanne Reiter of the Weyerhaeuser Company. Funding support came through the Watershed Research Cooperative at OSU from the College of Forestry, the Oregon Department of Forestry, the Oregon Forest & Industries Council, the National Council for Air and Stream Improvement, Weyerhaeuser Company, Roseburg Forest Products and Plum Creek Timber.

## Forest Forum



COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE  
OREGON SMALL WOODLANDS  
ASSOCIATION

### Potpourri

**New Members:** Welcome to new members **Mike Pihl** of Vernonia, and **Brandon Mott** 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.

“**Oregon’s Timber History, An Update,**” by Josh Lehner has been published by Oregon Economic News, Analysis and Outlook. You can find it at <https://oregoneconomicanalysis.com/2017/10/10/oregons-timber-history-an-update/>

**The Future of Tall** – on display at World Forestry Center through Summer 2018

**OSU Extension** has published 3 pamphlets to help family forest owners find or hire professionals including:

- Finding the right accountant/preparer <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em9169>
- Choosing the right logging contractor <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em9170>
- Choosing the right chemical applicator <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em9171>

#### Helpful Links:

- <http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/treetopics> to read Amy Grotta’s “Tree Topics” blog
- [www.oregonwoodlandcooperative.com](http://www.oregonwoodlandcooperative.com) to learn about the Oregon Woodland Cooperative