

Forest Forum

Washington County Small Woodlands Association

September, 2018

Drones and Woodlands

About 40 people met at the 180-acre Matteson Forest near Hagg Lake on August 28 to learn from Victor Villegas and Patrick Sherman about drones and how they might be used in forestry.



Victor Villegas explaining drone basics



Patrick Sherman getting ready to fly his Phantom IV



Drone hovering before searching for clear-cut

Victor is with OSU Extension as their Tech and Media Support person and drone expert. Patrick Sherman is with the Roswell Flight Test Crew, noted for their work with drones. The FAA defines a drone as an Unmanned Aircraft System. **See "Drones", page 8**

Creatures Great and Small

AUGUST 29, 2018 / SUSAN SCHMIDLIN

EDITOR'S NOTE: SUSAN ATTENDED THE WCSWA WORKSHOP AT HYL A WOODS ON AUGUST 25 AND POSTED THE FOLLOWING ON HER BLOG <https://mrssusanschmidlin.wordpress.com>

I recently attended a workshop in the woods about the "Future of Forest Creatures." The workshop highlighted dynamics of land owning. It doesn't stop at the crops that are growing, the family that it sustains or the domestic animals that occupy the farm. Rather, it is comprised of complex ecosystems that revolve around grubs, bugs, invertebrates, birds and mammals that are lodgers and/or temporary migrators to the area.

The Mt. Richmond area was the setting for the workshop and we had the opportunity to hear from the experts in their fields about what kind of habitat is needed for different native species to survive and thrive. The day was an assessment of ecosystem health.

See "Creatures", page 8

WCSWA Leadership

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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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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)

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Event Calendar

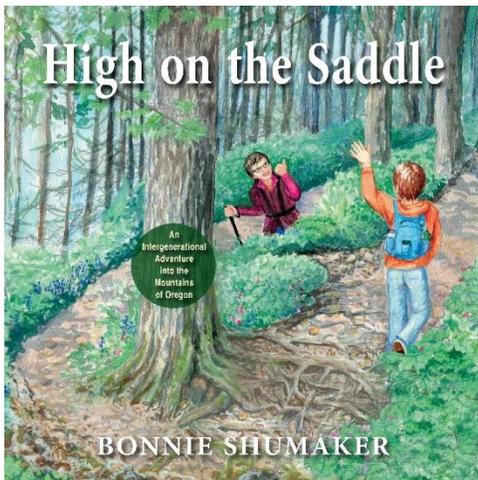
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|------------------|-----|---------------------------------------|--|
| September | 21 | Stella-Jones-McFarland Pole Mill Tour | See page 7 |
| | 25 | Matteson Forest Thinning Tour | Rescheduled date – see pg. 10 to re-rsvp |
| October | 23 | WCSWA Monthly Meeting | North Plains Fire Station – Mike Cafferatta, ODF and Brandy Saffell, TSWCD (see Potpourri, pg. 12) |
| November | 17 | WCSWA Banquet and Awards Ceremony | Meriwether National Golf Club, Hillsboro (see pg. 10) |
| December | n/a | No meeting | |

Leadership Notes

Celebrating a Bucket List Success

I imagine we all have a “Bucket List” of things we want to get done before we are too old to do them, or actually do “kick the bucket.” I’ve always enjoyed writing, but have never been a published author. High on my bucket list was to publish a children’s book that I began writing over 20 years ago. Finding a publisher was the greatest challenge, but through a series of happy circumstances and a re-write at the publisher’s request, I am delighted to announce that the book, “High on the Saddle” is now published and available for purchase at Barnes and Noble, Amazon or from the publisher, www.palomabooks.com.

You may have noticed that the Forest Forum has started posting occasional book reviews (see page 9). The reviews are submitted under a WCSWA member’s aptly titled pen name, “Fir Yew.” Your editors of the Forest Forum applaud this addition and thank Fir Yew for the book suggestions. Fir Yew asked me who was going to review my new children’s book, “High on the Saddle?”



I replied, “Check out the Leadership Notes in the September Forest Forum.” If I appear to be grandstanding, I apologize. Achieving this bucket list item has me exceedingly pleased and wanting to share. So here is my synopsis:

“High on the Saddle” is a book about the special relationship of an adventurous grandma and her nature-loving grandchild. You will experience the special bond they share around their tree farm and the circumstances of their carefully planned trip on a strenuous hike up Saddle Mountain in the NW Oregon Coast Range. One person, after reading the book said, “It’s a delight. “It’s like a new story on every page.”

Forestry plays a large part in the book and should add appeal for WCSWA readers. The two hikers learn about a range of forest types, how they are used, the habitats they provide, as well as the recreational aspect that forests offer.

Bonnie Shumaker

Yellow Jackets – a Real Pain this Summer

I’m sure most people can agree that this is an especially bad summer for yellow jackets. Several people I know have been stung, including me. Here is some information I found on several websites that might make next year not so rampant with yellowjackets. The following is from waspremoval.net.

“Setting out traps in the early spring, when not many wasps are around is best. Because in the early wasp season, it’s the queens that are more active and catching one queen can mean avoiding thousands of worker wasps.”



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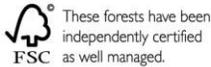
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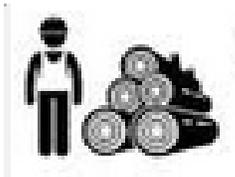
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New Forest Conservation Specialist at Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District

Some of you may already know Brandy Saffell from her previous job as a program coordinator for OSU Extension forester Amy Grotta, or from a presentation she gave at a WCSWA meeting back in spring 2016 on invasive insect pests, or maybe even from an Oregon Forest Pest Detector workshop.

As of August, Brandy joined the Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District as a forest conservation specialist with the immediate goal to continue developing the forestry program with input from residents and partner organizations.

The goal is to encourage productive, healthy forests managed for wildlife habitat and landowner economic objectives. Her primary role in the community will be to provide small woodland owners with technical assistance (especially during early stand management), write forest stewardship plans, and help secure funding to get the work done.

You can call or stop by the office to introduce yourself, talk about management challenges in your woodland, or arrange a site visit. She looks forward to meeting you at the October WCSWA meeting or another local event!

Brandy's Contact Information

Email: brandy.saffell@tualatinswcd.org

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"Serving Many of the Reforestation Needs of the World From This Location Since 1889"

September 21 Tour of the Stella-Jones Pole Mill in Sheridan, 10:00 am.

Don't forget to RSVP for this tour of the Sheridan Pole Mill on September 21.

*There are still spots available. **RSVP** by September 17.*

It's not summer without a mill tour!

The Washington County chapter of OSWA will be joining the Yamhill County chapter for a tour of the pole mill in Sheridan. Previously Pacific Wood Preserving, the mill has been in operation since 1967. The tour will focus on the log yard, grading, peeler, with additional explanation of the treating facility and history of the facility. The tour will last approximately 1.5 hours.

Tour attendees must bring and wear their own personal protective gear. This should include: boots with laces, reflective vest, hard hat, and eye protection. No children under 14 please.

Anyone who would like to carpool (which is hopefully everyone!), let's meet at 9:15 am at Wortman Park in McMinnville, across the street from the OSU Extension Office. Drivers and riders can pair up here and we can leave cars here for the duration of the tour. The address of the park is: 2051 NE Lafayette Ave, McMinnville, OR 97128.

The tour will start at the mill office. The address of the mill is: 22125 Rock Creek Rd, Sheridan, OR 97378. Enter off Rock Creek Road and follow the signs to a parking area specifically for our tour. Please do not park outside the designated areas. Also, parking is very limited so please carpool as much as possible.

Registration is required. To register please send an email to washcosmallwoodlandsassoc@gmail.com or leave a message at (503)703-6573 with the following information: Name(s) of attendees, contact information (phone or email), and the name of the event.

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It is not so much for its beauty that the forest makes a claim upon men's hearts, as for that subtle something, that quality of air that emanates from old trees, that so wonderfully changes and renews a weary spirit.

-Robert Louis Stevenson

“Drones,” Continued from page 1

Drones have multiple rotors (usually 4 – 8) with gyros that help with stabilization. They are easy to launch and retrieve and many have gps systems enabling programming and return to base. Additional sensors can be added such as thermal, infra-red or 3-D mapping. The downsides are they are electric powered with limited flight time (15-40 minutes depending on size). The batteries can ignite and should be stored in metal containers and not reused if damaged.

FAA Regulations for recreational use require you to keep the drone in your line of sight, below 400', not over people, and not within 5 miles of an airport. If you are using a drone for commercial purposes, you must obtain a commercial license. Drone use for forest purposes is still in its infancy. The demonstration Patrick gave was per Amy Grotta's instructions. She wanted an aerial view of the 3-acre clear-cut that just happened at Matteson Forest. She will use it for educational purposes showing the management procedures on the forest. Other uses: Drones have been used in firefighting. Since their sensors can see through smoke, they can map hot spots. Smoke jumpers could carry a drone and release it in remote locations to map a fire. Drones can be fitted with LIDAR to estimate tree height, # of trees, 3D mapping, riparian mapping and even species present.

Patrick showed us the steps to fly a drone: Have a mission briefing (Amy wanted pictures of the clear-cut), have a visual observer for a second set of eyes, turn on the controller first, power the drone saying “Bird going hot!” Then test the hovering and flying before setting off on the mission. When the drone is close to home on the return, turn the drone away from you and fly it backwards (tail in) so that right is right and left is left on the controller. Patrick's closing caution was, “Every drone pilot WILL crash, so begin with a less expensive one.”

“Creatures” from page 1

The first station sat at the edge of a ravine with tall fir trees and leggy maples. A few snags dotted the hillside with little understory and virtually no debris like fallen logs on the ground. The forest here was quiet and the habitat could be improved to encourage small mammals and birds by opening up some space while leaving some decaying trees on the ground along with the snags that are currently standing.

After a van ride and short trek through the woods, we arrived at a six-acre clearing that had been harvested a couple of years ago. We heard about the need for open areas of the forest to attract diverse wildlife while leaving areas with a few old snags and debris piles on the ground in places to create natural habitats for many species.



Chris Seal, USFWS: Manage for a desired future condition, which may change over time

Another ride and walk brought us to a mature oak stand. This area had been logged a decade ago to remove all the fir that had been choking out the oak. With the fir gone, the stand now has a full canopy of oak branches that are healthy and sustainable. While this stand was intended to encourage the Acorn Woodpecker, the environment is not yet in balance for this bird although many other species have been moving into the area.



Lori Hennings, Metro wildlife biologist says clear-cuts need snags for bird nesting and bugs to eat

The last station that we visited was a pasture before it was planted into Douglas-fir forty years ago and thinned within the last five years. Here again we discussed the rational versus the irrational. We heard from experts about what can be done in areas of the woods to encourage forest creatures and how to go about initiating the process.

The idea of multiple species of plants and varying ground habitat can be implemented in the smallest of areas from container planting around the house to multi-acre plots. Variety is not only the spice of life but gives the opportunity to sustain a more diverse array of creatures great and small.

Woods Words – Windows Into How Forests Work:

Those of us fortunate to own forests have long lists of the benefits they bring us. I expect that one benefit on all of our lists is the never-ending puzzle of trying to better understand how forests work. Whether it is comparing the timing of bud break from one year to the next or sorting out who might be eating whom, we all pay attention and try to make better sense of life in the woods. Answers to many of our questions may be found through using our senses; answers to others depend on finding and using resources beyond our forests; and others may never be answered – remaining part of the mystery.

Those of us seeking to continue learning about the interdependent life of our forests are fortunate to be able to turn to a trio of similar, yet unique, books. Jon Luoma's The Hidden Forest: The Biography of an Ecosystem, published by OSU Press in 1999, immerses us in the most remarkable discoveries made over many decades of research in the H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest. Luoma's skillful writing makes complex science not only understandable, but fascinating, and draws the reader into both the book and the forest.

Narrowing the focus from an entire forest to the mysteries perceptible in a square meter, David George Haskell uses his well-written The Forest Unseen: A Year's Watch in Nature to expand our understanding and appreciation of how forests work. With each chapter dedicated to one month's worth of observations and reflections, Haskell engages us with an old Tennessee forest on the campus of the University of the South, where he is a professor. The engaging book successfully links the micro scale of his study plot to the macro scale functions that are universal to all forests.

German forester, Peter Wollenben, brings us the most recent and unique of the trio – The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate. Drawing on solidly researched recent discoveries about interdependent relationships, Wollenben challenges us to expand our thinking – and feelings – about the incompletely understood webs of life that make up our forests. Several aspects of Wollenben's approach have spurred energetic discussion and debate. We look forward to taking this up in next month's newsletter.

Though all three concentrate on similar themes and questions, each provides fresh, new insights that will compliment, expand, and illuminate what we hear, see, smell, and taste (it's blackberry season!) on our walks through the woods. If they are not already on your bookshelf or bedside table, they might deserve a spot. More complete reviews of each may be found online.

Happy Reading! - Fir Yew

INTRODUCTION TO RAINWATER HARVESTING

PLEASE JOIN TUALATIN SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT FOR ONE OF OUR FREE WORKSHOPS AND TOURS TO LEARN THE BASICS OF RAINWATER HARVESTING!

Topics to be covered: • Rainwater collection for both urban and rural settings • Potable and non-potable uses • Parts needed to install a system • Water availability calculation • Water uses and irrigation efficiency • Pump systems, gutters and downspouts • Concept of large tanks (>550 gallons)

Workshops Saturday, September 22nd, October 20th, or November 10th

9

For more information call Clair Klock at 503-998-7026 or 503-210-6007

Matteson Forest Harvest Tour Rescheduled

Due to contractor logistics, this event has been rescheduled. If you already RSVP'd, please re-RSVP. Thank you for your understanding!

New Date: Tuesday, Sept. 25th

Time: 4:00 – 6:00 pm

Location: Matteson Demonstration Forest, Gaston

Cost: Free, but registration is required. Parking space is limited – please carpool if possible.

A commercial thinning of about 30 acres of 30-year old Douglas-fir plantation will be underway at the Matteson Demonstration Forest. On this tour we will talk about how the harvest is meeting management objectives, which include improving the stand, producing income and creating more diversity. We'll discuss markets for the cut logs (including short poles). We'll also see how a cut-to-length processing system is used, and fire conditions permitting, will see a demonstration of the logging equipment.

RSVP by contacting Sonia Reagan, 503-397-3462 or Sonia.Reagan@oregonstate.edu. Please include your phone and email so we can contact you if needed. Wear closed toed shoes and bring a hard hat if you have one.

Directions to the Matteson Forest:

Highway 47 to the Hagg Lake /Scoggins Valley Park turnoff. Follow Scoggins Valley Rd. past the park gate and turn left on West Shore Drive, crossing the dam. Proceed another two miles past the dam on West Shore Drive. Turn left on Hankins Rd. Follow to the property gate on your right.

THE WCSWA ANNUAL BANQUET AND AWARDS

by Delilah Ahrendt

Please mark your calendars and join us for the fabulous annual banquet and awards ceremony where we celebrate those who have helped make the Washington County Small Woodlands Association what it is today!

We thank you for being part of WCSWA and have so much to celebrate, including announcing the 2018 Tree Farmer of the year! We have an incredible guest speaker and will be holding a Scholarship Benefit Raffle.

We are looking for raffle prizes, so if you have something to donate, please contact me at Delilah@DelilahMarvelle.com and donate your item to support the scholarship fund.

When: November 17th, Saturday 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Where: Meriwether National Golf Club, 5200 SW Rood Bridge Road, Hillsboro, OR 97123

Featured Guest Speaker: Ian McCluskey is a seventh generation Oregonian who loves exploring Oregon's wild and remote places. He established the arts nonprofit NW Documentary and for more than a decade has created original documentaries that include the "Oregon Field Guide." His work has earned more than a dozen national awards — including several Emmys! Please join us for an unforgettable night with Ian McCluskey.

Editor's Note: Thank you, Delilah for taking on the job of arranging the Annual Banquet

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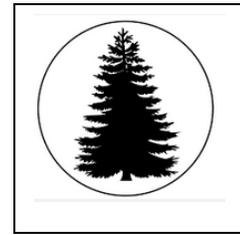
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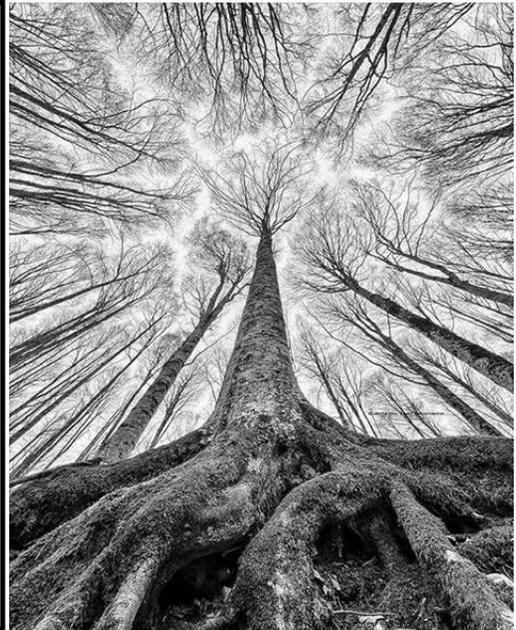
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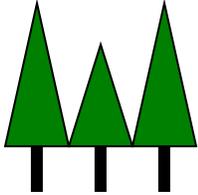
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Forest Forum



COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE
OREGON SMALL WOODLANDS
ASSOCIATION

Potpourri

New Members: Welcome to Charles Bradford 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.

WCSWA October 23 Meeting: Our speakers in October will be Mike Cafferatta, ODF District Forester and Brandy Saffell, Forest Conservation Specialist for Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District. Mike will fill us in on important news from ODF and will hopefully give us an update on the fire season. Brandy is filling the new forestry position at TSWCD and will talk to us about her new position and the district's plans as they relate to forestry. We also hope to be able to introduce Jessica Wells, the new District Conservationist for NRCS. Check back in the October Forest Forum for more information.

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 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