

Forest Forum

Washington County Small Woodlands Association

October, 2018

Matteson Demo Forest – Thinning Tour

The Matteson Demonstration Forest, recently acquired by the Oregon State College of Forestry through a donation by the late Marie Matteson, is a great place to see how forests can be managed. Amy Grotta, Extension Forester for Washington, Columbia, and Yamhill Counties; and Steve Fitzgerald, OSU Silviculturist and Research Forest Director (photo at right) arranged for small woodland owners to see a mechanized thinning operation on the Forest. Brent Klumph, OSU Research Forest Manager, set up the demonstration with Miller Timber of Philomath - who is doing the harvesting.



The thinning area was a 30 year old plantation about 29 acres in size. The objectives are to maintain optimum growing conditions for an extended rotation, and promote pole development; generate income, create structural diversity by varying thinning methods across the unit – leaving wildlife trees and snags; and provide education and demonstration for small woodland owners. On the site used in this demonstration, four ½ acre gaps were being created to create diversity, with snags and wildlife trees. Within the gaps, the harvested trees will be assessed for potential to create short poles (30'). The gaps will be planted to western redcedar and Douglas-fir. Outside the gaps, the trees will be thinned to 100-125 trees per acre – trees with defect and poor form will also be removed.

(See the rest of the story on page 11)

Stella-Jones Pole Tour



A small group of Washington and Yamhill County small woodland owners got an up close and personal look at the manufacture of one of the highest valued forest products – transmission and distribution poles. The tour took place at the Stella-Jones owned McFarland –Cascade pole manufacturing facility in Sheridan. Nels Jensen (left photo) and Greg Roberson of Stella-Jones led the tour. The facility has a long history – from Taylor Pole, to Pacific Pole and Preserving, to McFarland-Cascade, and finally to Stella-Jones. The facility site has been designated a “super-fund” site by the Environmental Protection Agency, due to the many years of preserving chemical use.

As explained by Nels, pole grading is a very precise process, where small differences in a tree’s characteristics can have big consequences on the value of pole potential from the trees.

(See the rest of the story on page 11)

WCSWA Leadership

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

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

October	23	WCSWA Monthly Meeting	North Plains Fire Station – Mike Cafferatta, ODF and Brandy Saffell, TSWCD (see page 5)
	27	Oregon Tree Farm Annual Recognition Luncheon, Workshop, and Annual Meeting	Oregon Gardens, Silverton contact Jim James at 503-588-1813 or jimjamesoswa@yahoo.com
November	17	WCSWA Banquet and Awards Ceremony – Ian McClusky of Oregon Field Guide is the speaker	Meriwether National Golf Club, Hillsboro (see pg. 9)
December	n/a	No meeting scheduled	

Leadership Notes

TREES and SEAS

Bob and I like to take a vacation each September, and this year we chose to travel with our pickup truck and trailer to Vancouver Island. In the past, we have treated Vancouver Island as a launching place. A long time ago, we took the ferry from here to Pender Island, again on the ferry with our 1970 Toyota Landcruiser from Port Hardy to Prince Rupert, and a few years ago as passengers only on the ferry from Port Angeles to spend a day in Victoria.

This time, we decided to explore the Island itself. Since we like to vacation in our travel trailer, we had to convince ourselves it would be worth the \$450 round-trip expense on the ferry from Port Angeles to Victoria. With that accomplished, we then planned a two-week trip touching various points of interest on both the east and west sides of the Island. The east side waterway is the Inland Passage or Discovery Passage. I can only imagine what a blessing this must have been when the Strait of Juan de Fuca was discovered and the Inland Passage provided a way to travel both north and south away from the stormier main part of the Pacific Ocean.

It is no secret that we love trees, and Vancouver Island has forests in abundance. These forests then lead down to the sea wherever the geography allows. There are forest preserves with beautiful old-growth fir, cedar, hemlock and madrone, but the majority of the forests seem young and un-thinned and the growth rings we saw on cut trees were tight.

In Victoria, we spent a day at Butchart Gardens which boasts "Over 100 years in bloom." The 55 acres of gardens here were more beautiful than I imagined, even this late in the flower season. Forest trees surround the Gardens and are included in it as well. From Victoria, we camped at Nanaimo, Courtenay, and Campbell River, all on the east side. Campbell River is at the "Narrows" of the inland Passage and from camp we watched fishing vessels, ferry boats, cruise ships, sailboats and tugboats towing all manner of commerce.

We then traveled to the west side along Highway 4 to Tofino and Ucluelet which required 20 miles of a white-knuckle drive down very steep Kennedy Hill with grades up to 18% in a heavy rain with water sheeting across the highway. The west side, on the Pacific Ocean proper, gets a lot more rain (129 inches in Tofino vs. 59 for Campbell River and 28 for Victoria), but we got lucky and our two days there were beautiful! This side of the Island has sandy beaches and rocky headlands, a lot like Oregon beaches. The sun also shone for our trip back over Kennedy Hill. The improved weather plus familiarity with the road made things much nicer.

Logging is important to the economy of Vancouver Island and we saw signs along the road warning of log trucks, but what we observed most were log rafts in various bays. Here, the water is the highway! Sorting yards at many bays slid the bundled log sorts right into the bay waiting to be towed to lumber mills along the water or loaded onto ships for export.

It's great to get away and see woodlands in another country. It's also great to get home to the woodland we love.

:

Bonnie Shumaker

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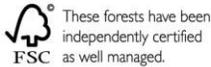
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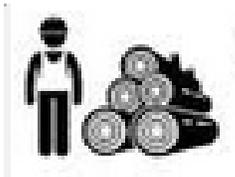
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WCSWA October 23 Meeting

Our speakers in October will be **Mike Cafferatta**, ODF District Forester and **Brandy Saffell**, Forest Conservation Specialist for Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District. The value of both ODF and TSWCD to forest landowners will be one of the focal points for their presentations.

Mike's position at the Forest Grove District office encompasses both the management of the eastern portion of the Tillamook State Forest, providing forest stewardship assistance to forest landowners, supervising administration of the Forest Practices Act, and managing forest fire protection in his District. Mike will fill us in on these activities and other important news from ODF.

Brandy is filling a new forestry position at TSWCD. She will talk to us about her new position and the district's plans related to forestry. The forestry position at the TSWCD is a positive addition to their traditional activities, and was enabled by the 2016 passage of a mill levy to support TSWCD. In the past, TSWCD had no tax base, and relied on assistance from the Oregon Department of Agriculture, Clean Water Services (for joint riparian activities), and grants from other sources. Consequently their focus was primarily on agriculture. The new tax base – supported in a significant part by the 40% of the County in forest land, has enabled TSWCD to initiate some new programs and activities directed toward assisting forest land owners in the County.

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Bees Like Clearcuts!

A recent study led by wildlife biologist Jim Rivers, a professor in Oregon State University's College of Forestry, indicated the removal of slash and other debris and compacting soil in recently harvested forestlands can create prime habitat for bees. In some areas, researchers found a threefold increase in population diversities in recently harvested stands. Similar research has shown prime pollinator habitat in recently burned areas.

Hampton Lumber linked up with the Oregon Bee Project, an effort started by the state Legislature in 2015 between foresters and scientists at Oregon State University to promote bee health, for advice in creating the best habitat. The company then seeded four different sites and 18 acres with plants for bees to forage.

Jed Arnold, a stewardship coordinator with Hampton Lumber, recently walked a 1-year-old timber stand the company owns. The landscape was largely cleared of debris, aside from the burned wooden husks left from a slash pile burn.

Rather than conifers, Arnold was on the lookout for yarrow, lupine, penstemons and other wildflowers the company planted to attract bees in cut stands.

Arnold oversees an 18-acre pilot study by Hampton Lumber providing baseline data to researchers on how forestland owners can help struggling bee populations by creating prime habitat on recent clearcuts.

"David Hampton was the big push behind this," Arnold said of the company's co-owner. This coming winter, Hampton Lumber will expand the pilot study to an additional 20 acres.

"In five to 10 years, the young trees in these study areas will start to shade out the flowers we're planting now," Arnold said. "But by then, we should have new patches of wildflowers coming up in nearby sites."

Excerpted from the Daily Astorian, Sept. 6, 2018

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"The world depends on fungi, because they are major players in the cycling of materials and energy around the world"

E.O. Wilson, Biologist

Woods Words – High Exposure

When more than twenty friends go out of their way to ask whether you've read a recently published book, you can't help but pay attention. In this issue we will explore a pair of books that are being given more attention by the general reading public than any have in recent memory.

Giving in to my insistent friends, I tracked down The Overstory and lost myself in the many armed labyrinth of Richard Powers' forest-centric novel. Apparently unrelated tales immerse readers in evolving relationships between a group of individuals and trees that they encounter before he eventually weaves the threads together into a cohesive whole. Other reviewers explore in more detail. A good place to start is with Barbara Kingsolver's review in the NY Times. At the same time that I am intrigued by what makes this book appealing to so many readers, I was troubled by the level of violence that was so much a part of the novel and by the way that so many characters were simplistic and predictable caricatures of those who care about trees.

In a recent newsletter we briefly introduced the other book that is high on best sellers' lists and is frequenting many nightstands - Wohllenben's The Hidden Life of Trees. While engaging many readers with recent discoveries about interconnections between forest flora, the book is also spurring energetic discussions amongst those with deeper knowledge of forests and forest science. A deeper dive into this may be found by searching for "smithsonian trees talk". One final and related resource is the recent documentary "Intelligent Trees".

This reader comes away with mixed feelings about both of the books and curiosity about what we might learn from their popularity. On the one hand, it excites me that so many people are reading - and thinking and talking - about trees and forests. On the other hand, I have two main concerns:

1. *Wohllenben regularly makes what I see to be an unsupported and unconstructive leap from the scientifically supported fact that trees actively communicate with one another to assuming that this communication is more similar to human communication than is supported by the facts. From communication he assigns and assumes motives and intentionality such as "nurturing" and "caring" that does not seem justified.*
2. *For humans and forests to coexist over time, we must have reciprocity - with forests providing for humans and humans caring for forests. Both books put the lion's share of their emphasis on humans caring for forests (which might explain their popular appeal). At the same time, they fall short in acknowledging that forests will only be sustained when enough humans are aware of the many ways that forests sustain them and their families.*
While we will each draw our own conclusions about these books, I think we can agree that they provide an energetic window into trees, forests, people and the ways that we think about the many dimensional relationships.

Happy Reading! - Fir Yew

INTRODUCTION TO RAINWATER HARVESTING

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Workshops Saturday, October 20th, or November 10th 9

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

November 17th: Leadership Changes Coming

The Annual WCSWA Banquet is coming up on Saturday, November 17th at the Meriwether National Golf Club. At the Banquet, we will elect Officers and two Board Members for 2019. The following people have agreed to be considered for election. Nominations can also be made from the floor at the Banquet:

President: Bonnie Shumaker (January – June) and Vic Herinckx (July – December)

Vice President: Vic Herinckx

Secretary-Treasurer: Bob Shumaker

Board of Directors:

Position #1: Norbert LePage

Position #2: Marc Ahrendt

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.

Editors Note: Thank you, Delilah for taking on the job of arranging the Annual Banquet

"A mind that is stretched by a new idea can never go back to its original dimension."

Oliver Wendell Holmes

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"The noblest pleasure is the joy of understanding." —Leonardo da Vinci

Matteson Demo *continued from page 1*

The harvesting machine used by Miller Timber is a matched pair: a Ponsse cut-to-length (CTL) harvester, with a Ponsse forwarder. The harvester has a “self-learning” capacity – once programmed for the site, it analyzes the first 150 trees or so to determine taper and other features of the trees – and match them to the cutting specs programmed by the operator. It has a reach of 35’ on either side of its travel corridor (10’ wide). Both the harvester and the forwarder have large, low pressure tires, and place the slash out in front of their machine as they move through the forest – to reduce compaction, and to get the slash close to the ground for rapid decomposition. It consumes 45-50 gallons of fuel a day. A pair of these machines cost \$1.2 to 1.3 million. They can be rigged for tethered logging, and with winches.



Stella-Jones Tour *(continued from page 1)*

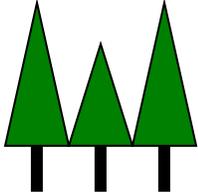
Defects that are significant include spike knots, sweep, bark inclusions, knot size – and the amount of sapwood in the outer rings (1-1 ½” of sapwood is needed to ensure adequate preservative penetration). Circumference is key in final grading – not diameter – and it is measured 6’ from the butt end of the log. Though logs are graded and sorted in the woods, and landowners paid on that basis, the final grading is done after the log is peeled. After peeling, the poles are air-dried for 1 ½ years before being placed in the pressure-preserving tubes for treatment. Treatment in preservative pressure tubes takes several days, depending on size and other factors.

Nels said they like to get 5-7 truckloads of poles a day. They have their inventory of 25,000 poles spread over the peeling, drying, and treating process areas. They run one shift a day, and have 20-25 people working at their facility. Pole competition is steep, since they compete with log markets for the best logs. Some poles are sold internationally – a recent order of 20,000 poles by Ireland was fulfilled.

Pedro Nambo, pole grader, grading poles after peeling >>



Forest Forum



COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE
OREGON SMALL WOODLANDS
ASSOCIATION

Potpourri

New Members: Welcome to **Ayla Hofler** 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.

Tall Timbers – Are You Plugged In? Amy Grotta, the OSU Extension Forester for Columbia, Washington, and Yamhill Counties, is a great resource for small woodland owners. Are you aware of the quarterly newsletter that Amy produces, called Tall Timbers, and also her periodic Tree Topic blogs? They are excellent resources, bringing together the latest in research findings, with practical advice and sources to help you manage your forest land. Contact Amy at amy.grotta@oregonstate.edu

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