

Forest Forum

Washington County Small Woodlands Association

December, 2018



Riebens – 2018 Tree Farmers of the Year

Linda and Ernie Rieben were announced as the 2018 Washington County Small Woodlands Association Tree Farmers of the Year at the Annual WCSWA Banquet. Dallas Boge, chair of the Tree Farmer Selection Committee, present Ernie and Linda with the WCSWA custom Tree Farmer sign. The sign is provided courtesy of Stimson Lumber Company each year to the WCSWA Tree Farmer of the Year. [See the full story on page 5](#)

Annual WCSWA Banquet

A record attendance of 114 at the 2018 WCSWA Annual Banquet filled the dining hall at the Meriwether Golf Club on November 17th.

Bonnie Shumaker, WCSWA President, set the tone for the evening by presenting highlights of the year for WCSWA. She was followed by Jim James, Executive Director of OSWA, who gave the state-level picture, including the policy and legislative activities, Annual Meeting of OSWA, and Good Neighbor events. Election of Officers resulted in two new Directors: Norbert LePage and Marc Ahrendt, re-election of Bonnie as President, and Vic Herinckx as Vice-President, and Bob Shumaker as Treasurer. (Bonnie and Vic will share the Presidential duties, with Vic taking over as President in mid-year).



The evening was capped off by an excellent presentation by Ian McCluskey, Producer / Reporter for Oregon Public Broadcasting's **Oregon Field Guide**. (above, with Bonnie Shumaker) Ian presented clips from some of his favorite productions of interesting and beautiful places around Oregon. The "back story" on the filming of these Field Guide segments was fascinating. Ian expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to be involved in producing these exceptional glimpses of the many facets of Oregon's natural values – and he also stated he appreciated being able to share them with those attending the Banquet.

WCSWA Leadership

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Vice-President – Vic Herinckx, 503-645-9434
Secretary-Treasurer – Bob Shumaker; 503-324-7825

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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

Editors: Tom Nygren & Bonnie Shumaker

503-628-5472 and 503-324-7825

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

Tualatin River Watershed Council Representatives: Tom Nygren, primary, 503-628-5472, Eric Chambers, alternate, 503-647-2458

EMAIL FOR ANYONE ON THIS PAGE: washcosmallwoodlandsassoc@gmail.com

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)

For Sale:

WCSWA member Tree Farm: 34 acres, private valley. 25 acres timber, (25 - 40 yr. ages), PCT and limbed, 9 acres open fields, Class II soils, water rights, pond, small streams. Shop, food processing bldg, storage bldg/bunkhouse. \$419,000. View at RMLS.COM, #18151016. Bill Triest, broker/owner 503.705.5833 whtriest@gmail.com.

Event Calendar

December	n/a	No meeting scheduled	
January	22	WCSWA Monthly Meeting – History of your property – how to research who has owned your property and what has gone on there.	7:00 pm North Plains Fire Hall. Amy Grotta will share her experience in researching the history of the Matteson Forest and will provide links on how we can do it on our properties.
February	26	WCSWA Monthly Meeting - Geology of the Tualatin Basin and the Gales Creek Fault: a framework for understanding your forest property	7:00pm North Plains Fire Hall. Dr. Ray Wells, USGS ret. will be our featured speaker.
March	16	Native Plant and Tree Sale	Hillsboro Armory SAVE THE DATE!

Leadership Notes

GOLDILOCKS TIME

First there was too much to do outside that had higher priority. Then it was too hot and the yellow jackets were lying in wait if we ventured off prescribed forest paths. Then, we had to remember how to do the task and find the correct tools and forms. And finally came the Goldilocks moment when Bob and I buckled down and did some permanent plots in the 20 afforested acres that have been thinned over the past two years.

Bob and I love to plant trees. Then we make sure that for the next two years any that die get replaced. We also are not very accurate with our pacing when planting. The result is too dense a stand within ten years.

In 2016, when we had the WCSWA May Potluck at our place, Amy Grotta did a quick and dirty plot to determine TPA (trees per acre) on our five-acre, 14-year-old former alfalfa field trees. These we had pre-commercially thinned ourselves. Amy came up with 400 TPA. We knew we had planted too heavily, but thought we had thinned it to 300 TPA, so we took out some more trees. Amy suggested we do more plots, but all those non-Goldilocks moments got in the way. The early commercial thinning that was done on 15 acres of 22-year-old trees almost looked too heavy, but again we had not checked it out.

So, this month, we loaded up our RTV with compass, diameter tape, PVC pipe to mark plot centers, increment borer, clinometer, tree paint, tree tally cards and laser measuring tool and headed out. We chose 1/20 acre as our plot size. This equates to doing one plot per acre. I must admit we fudged on that and did 15 plots on the 20 acres, reasoning that since these stands are quite uniform, that would be enough. We decided we wanted more information than just TPA, so we went ahead and marked the tariff tree in each plot measuring height and radial growth on it. The first few plots took a lot of time. We had done all this once before - about ten years ago. We were pretty rusty, but caught on fairly quickly. We even found some of our original permanent plots that didn't get razed by the thinning. The plot size of 1/20 acre requires measuring a circle with a radius of 26 feet 4 inches from the plot center and using paint to mark all the trees within that measurement. The laser tool worked great for measuring that distance. The tariff tree is the first one clockwise on the compass path you choose. Bob did the extra measurements of radial growth and height on the tariff tree, while I measured the dbh (diameter breast height) on all the marked trees.

The plot cards help tally the TPA and average diameter. Once we had these figures we used OSU publication EM9206, a fantastic chart where you graph where your stand fits. The chart goes from "Enthusiastic Growth Zone" to "Goldilocks Zone" to "Danger Zone" to "Zone of No Return." I am happy to report that all the stands we measured fell within the "Goldilocks Zone," meaning they will grow happily without being too dense for probably ten more years. And since we now have permanent plots whose centers are marked with PVC pipe, we can measure again more easily.

Now it is time for full disclosure. I am ecstatic that we finally got this done. Bob will tell you he is glad there are no more suggestions (did he say nagging?) about tackling this task.

References: PNW630 Basic Forest Inventory Techniques for Family Forest Owners; EM9206 Douglas-fir Density Table

Bonnie Shumaker

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

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**Thank you for supporting Washington County Small
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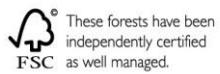
Did you know?

Tree Farmer of the Year videos from past years are now available on our website www.wcswa.com. Just click on "What We Do" and "Gallery." They are fun to watch!



A BALANCED APPROACH

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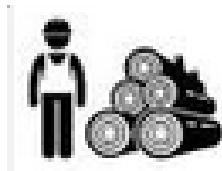
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Riebens – TFOY continued from page 1

The Riebens have 2 parcels of woodland – one on Cedar Canyon Road, and one on Dundee Road. The Cedar Canyon property was purchased by the Riebens from the estate of Linda Reiben's parents in 2013. Her parents purchased the property in 1926, logged it using a steam donkey (yarder), then moved there in 1945 and lived on and farmed the property for the rest of their lives. The Dundee Road property was purchased by the Riebens in 1986 from John McLeod for a timberland investment.



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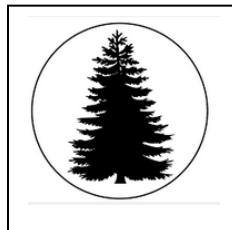
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"A mind that is stretched by a new idea can never go back to its original dimension."

–Oliver Wendell Holmes

"Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen."

Winston Churchill



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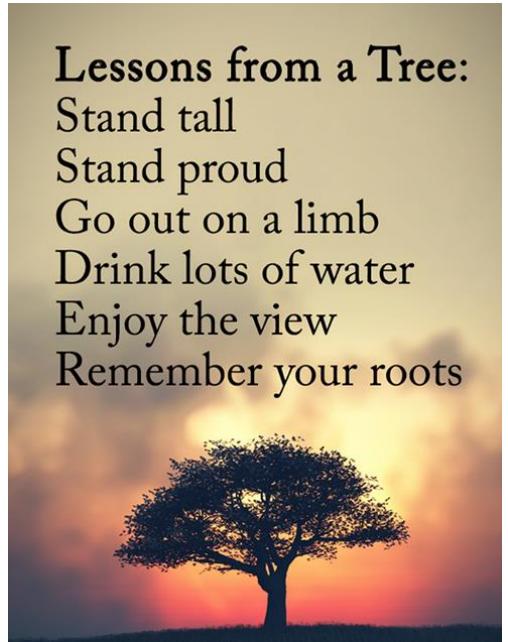
Thinning: this single practice applied with purpose, can shape a young forest into a uniform timber stand or structurally complex habitat for wildlife. OSU Extension released a new publication this summer to help landowners better understand, visualize and apply thinning decisions to their properties.

<https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/catalog/files/project/pdf/em9206.pdf>

Trees Are Subject To Disturbance

Insects, diseases, and other disturbance agents cause significant tree mortality, growth loss, and damage in Oregon forests each year. Large outbreaks can affect the function and resilience of forest ecosystems and may contribute to hazardous forest fire conditions. However, these agents also play a critical role in maintaining healthy, functioning forests by contributing to decomposition, nutrient cycling, and creating openings that enhance forest diversity and wildlife habitat. ***A healthy forest is never totally free of damaging insects, diseases, and other disturbances.***

Lessons from a Tree:
Stand tall
Stand proud
Go out on a limb
Drink lots of water
Enjoy the view
Remember your roots



Slugs – Master Decomposers

Our forests contain an enormous amount of organic material ultimately produced by photosynthesis. A normal west side forest in the Pacific Northwest contains somewhere between 330 and 790 tons/ acre of standing biomass. That's a lot. And all of this material must eventually decompose into foundational elements, feeding the nutrient cycles and ecology of our forests. That's why decomposition is one of the most important ecological functions going, keeping our nutrient cycling going and feeding the plants and fungi of the world.

Ever hear of “charismatic mega-fauna”? These are creatures that easily capture our attention; critters like grizzly bear, elk, mountain goats or cougars. These animals usually function at high levels in the food chain, eating plants or being eaten out on the Serengeti of our imaginations. However, there is another creature that must be considered.



Banana Slug *Ariolimax columbianus*

Our own **banana slug!** Now that's charismatic mega-fauna.

They are the second largest slug in the world, growing up to 12 inches long — but most are between 4 and 6 inches long. They come in a variety of colors, such as olive green, gray with black spots, yellow, even white. Local areas may have similar color patterns, which could be adaptation in action. They occur in moist forests all along the Pacific coast of North America.

Speaking of slime, banana slugs have a magnificent tool in their mucous coating. They have glands all over their body that provide this slick and slimy multi-purpose coating. It protects them from dehydration, and allows them to cover themselves in a ball of the gooey stuff to hole up during dry spells. (That's why you don't see them out and about in the heat of summer.) Ever wonder how slugs cruise along so gracefully? They don't actually crawl across the forest floor at all. They lay down a trail of perfect slime to slide over, and that lets them move with a certain undulating grace. It is at once slippery, and sticky, and allows them to climb vertical surfaces. And the slime is full of chemical signals telling other slugs which way they went, and whether they might be a potential mate. They even eat mucous to replenish their own supplies.

Banana slugs, despite their savory name and appearance, have very few predators thanks to this mucous. It apparently tastes bad and few animals have developed a taste for it. Raccoons will sometimes roll them in dirt to cover the slug (and the flavor?) and then have slug sushi, but mostly, they are left alone. Slug slime is a miracle, multi-purpose substance!

Banana slugs never have to worry about getting a date either: Not because they are so wonderfully handsome/beautiful (although they are in their own mollusk-y way), but because they are hermaphrodites. Yes, slugs are both boy and girl at the same time. They do look for a mate during the wet spring, and exchange sperm in an amazing mating ritual involving hanging by slime threads, exuding their enormous sex organs, and intertwining in, well, a rather sensuous manner. And afterwards, Romance? Commitment? Nope. Each slug goes off separately and lays eggs in moist, rotting wood, leaving their kids to their own fates. Slugs don't do family or child care, so the hatched-out miniature slugs are on their own from day one. No divorces or day care bills for banana slugs!

Most significant to us, banana slugs eat detritus (rotting plant material) and mushrooms. They are important players in the forest ecosystem as nutrient and material recyclers, breaking complex plant matter down into basic components that can further move in the ecosystem.

So next time you see a groovy, big banana slug cruising along in your forest, treat it with a little respect and admiration. They are on duty for all of us, doing critical ecosystem functions with little fanfare and appreciation.

Article excerpted from original by Ken Bevis, DNR Stewardship Biologist, Ken.Bevis@dnr.wa.gov

Trees travelling west: How climate is changing our forests

Many studies on the impacts of global temperature rise have suggested that the range of trees will migrate poleward and upward. However, research presented at the 2018 ESA Annual Meeting in August suggests that more tree species have shifted westward than poleward.

The effects of climate change on trees can be complicated -- different combinations of changes in temperature and precipitation can result in different impacts, and different species can have different responses. As such, resource managers lack a comprehensive understanding of large-scale climate change impacts on forest ecosystems.

Songlin Fei, Associate Professor at the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources at Purdue University, sought to provide some understanding to this problem. Using field data across the eastern US, he analyzed 86 tree species and groups to investigate the magnitude and direction of their responses to climate change over the last three decades and to provide an understanding of any changes.

He found that 73 percent of tree species have experienced a westward shift while 62 percent have experienced a poleward shift. It appears that the shifts are largely associated with changes in moisture availability. The shifts are also associated with species that have similar traits (drought tolerance, wood density, and seed weight) and evolutionary histories, such as deciduous vs. evergreen species. The results suggest that changes in moisture availability have stronger near-term impacts on forest dynamics than do changes in temperature.

Fei's talk is part of a session that discussed research on other large-scale climate change impacts on important forests in the eastern US, such as upland oak forests which provide a wealth of ecological and economic services including wildlife habitat, timber, and water resources. These forests have adapted to persist in fire-prone areas; human-induced fire control may change this by allowing tree species that are fire-intolerant and shade-tolerant (mesophytes) to outcompete the oaks in the absence of fire. Without fires, these mesophytes may foster their own proliferation through a variety of poorly-understood mechanisms, while increasing vulnerability of the upland oak forests.

Story Source: Materials provided by **Ecological Society of America**.

Information Sources for Non-Timber Forest Products

(View these publications by website access through the "Gifts from our Forests newsletter, Northwest Natural Resources Group, <https://mailchi.mp/nnrg/v1e3zrw4lw-1752705?e=af81aad409>)

- [Non-timber forest products resources for small forestland owners & businesses](#)
- [Special forest products: species information guide for the Pacific Northwest](#)
- [Managing the “other” forest: collecting and protecting non-timber forest products](#)
- [Non-timber Forest Products and Forest Stewardship Plans](#)
- [Opportunities for conservation-based development of non-timber forest products in the Pacific Northwest](#)
- [Income opportunities in special forest products: self-help suggestions for rural entrepreneurs](#)
- [Managing small woodlands for diverse value](#)
- [Value added programs for small woodland owners](#)
- [Inventory and mapping: a beginner’s guide to basic inventory and digital mapping of non-timber forest products on small private forestlands](#)
- [Books about non-timber forest products](#)

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

Oregon Bee Project - Oregon is home to more than 500 species of wild bees, vital to plant and animal biodiversity.

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.

Bees and other pollinators — vital to plant, insect and animal biodiversity — have been in drastic decline over the past several decades because of pesticides and habitat loss. David Hampton kept an interest in the issue and thought the company, which manages more than 155,000 acres in Oregon and Washington state to supply its lumber mills, might be able to help.



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. Andony Melathopoulos, a leader of the bee project in the university's Extension Service, said that while there have been similar studies on agricultural lands and roadsides, Hampton Lumber is the first major forestland owner he's heard of doing pollinator research. "They are aware that there is not a lot of good science around this," he said. "It's unknown territory."

Christine Buhl, an entomologist with the state Department of Forestry, said Hampton Lumber's pilot study will provide baseline data as the bee project tries to create research-based land management practices for others to help pollinators. The project is trying to start more pilot studies in different climates around the state and track the change in bee populations over multiple years as new plants and soil compositions take hold, she said. The bee project also trains pesticide applicators on best practices to avoid harming bees and runs a citizen science program called the Oregon Bee Atlas, training individuals to identify and report the more than 500 bee species in Oregon. More information is available at oregonbeeproject.org.

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."

Colin Murphy, The Daily Astorian

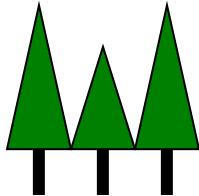
Species-rich forests better compensate environmental impacts

To offset CO₂ emissions, China is reforesting. If a mixture of tree species instead of monocultures were planted, much more carbon could be stored. An international team has shown that species-rich forest ecosystems take up more CO₂ from the atmosphere and store more carbon in biomass and soil, making them more effective against climate change. **Source: University of Zurich**

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Forest Forum



COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE
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Potpourri

New Members: Welcome to **Jinn Davis** of Portland. 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 Timber Topics – 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 Timber Topics, 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 to get on her mailing list.

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