

# **Forest Forum**

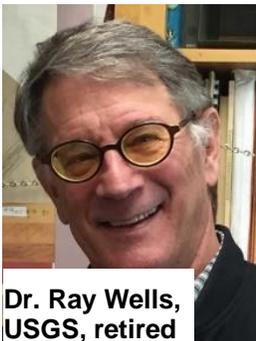
## **Washington County Small Woodlands Association**

**February, 2019**

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### **February 26, WCSWA Monthly Meeting**

#### ***Geology of the Tualatin Basin and the Gales Creek Fault: a framework for understanding your forest property***



**Dr. Ray Wells,  
USGS, retired**

Have you heard of the Gales Creek Fault and always wanted to know more about it? Where is it? Is it active? Who is studying it, and what could it tell us?

Our featured speaker, Dr. Ray Wells, a Research Geologist Emeritus at the U.S. Geological Survey, will help us explore these questions. Dr. Wells is passionate about geology and is a recognized expert in the field. He has just completed a 20 year-long project to produce a geologic map of the greater Portland area, from the Cascade foothills to the Coast Range. The map encompasses 2500 square miles, including the Gales Creek Fault. He will share his experience and also share how you can identify surface expressions of geologic features that might help you better understand and manage your forest property.

The meeting will take place **Tuesday, February 26 at 7 pm at the North Plains Fire Station (31370 NW Commercial St. North Plains, OR).**

### ***WCSWA Native Plant Sale Coming – March 16<sup>th</sup>***

Do you have some “holes” in your woodland that you’d like to fill with some interesting, colorful, or useful native plants? Perhaps these “holes” are now just providing a place for Asian blackberry, scotch broom or other non-native plants! Here’s your chance to get some replacements that will increase plant diversity, provide better habitat opportunities for wildlife, or just improve the aesthetic quality of your woodland. Yes, native plants love to be planted in March! Besides being beautiful, native plants are adapted to local water, soil and climate conditions and are therefore more disease resistant, require less water and are less likely to require pesticides or fertilizers. Birds, bees and other native animals and insects thrive where native plants are available.

Help us get the word out about our Plant and Tree Sale. Flyers will be available at the February 26 WCSWA Meeting for you to post locally or use social media to help spread the word. All profit goes to scholarships at OSU College of Forestry, with preference given to a Washington County student.

A complete list of plants will be added to our website when available:

<http://new.wcswa.com/wordpress/what-we-do/outreach-activities/>.



**When: March 16, 2019 @ 9:00 am - 3:00 pm**

**Where: Oregon Army National Guard Hillsboro Recruiting, 848 NE 28<sup>th</sup> Ave, Hillsboro**

**WCSWA Leadership**

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

**Board of Directors:**

- Pos. #1: Norbert LePage, 503-985-0149
- Pos. #2: Marc Ahrendt, 503—928-2083
- Pos. #3: Susan Schmidlin, 503-429-7861
- Pos. #4: Tony Spiering, 503-680-8112
- Pos. #5: Cathy Dummer, 503-703-6573
- Pos. #6: Kent Grewe 503-701-2087

**Legislative Committee Chair:** Scott Hayes 503-568-9999  
**Membership Committee:** WCSWA Board members  
**Program Committee:** John and Cathy Dummer – 503-970-8789, Mike Messier, 503-233-2131, Bill Triest – 503-705-5833

**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](mailto:washcosmallwoodlandsassoc@gmail.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 and 503-324-7825  
 Proofreaders: Bonnie Shumaker, Dan Hundley, Tom Nygren, Ardis Schroeder

**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:**

**Wanted:**

**NO ITEMS LISTED THIS MONTH**

**Event Calendar**

<b>February</b>	26	WCSWA Monthly Meeting - Geology of the Tualatin Basin and the Gales Creek Fault: a framework for understanding your forest property	7:00pm N. Plains Fire Hall Dr. Ray Wells, USGS ret. will be our featured speaker. See article on page 1
<b>March</b>	16	WCSWA Native Plant and Tree Sale	Hillsboro Armory – Forestry Scholarship Fundraiser! SAVE THE DATE!
	23	Tree School – Clackamas Community College	Watch for mailer or search online
	26	WCSWA Monthly Meeting – Pollinators – Oregon Bee Project	7:00pm North Plains Fire Hall Dr. Christine Buhl, Entomologist, ODF
<b>April</b>	23	Mass timber in construction by architects who designed Carbon 12.	7:00pm North Plains Fire Hall Kristin Slavin, Path Architecture
<b>May</b>	21	WCSWA Annual Potluck: Presentation by Mike Pihl, and demo of Kubota mini-hoe with log grapples	Tony and Mary Spiering’s property – details to follow in April newsletter

# *Leadership Notes*

The WCSWA quarterly Board Meeting was held on January 15, 2019.  
Highlights were:

## March 16 Native Plant and Tree Sale – Hillsboro Armory



Thank you, Karen Graham, for chairing this committee. The Board encouraged Karen to order more plants this year since we sold out early last year. Now the job of WCSWA members is to be sure as many people as possible know about the sale. Flyers will be available at our February 26 meeting for you to post at local establishments and offer to church or other groups you attend. Also, if you subscribe to “Next Door,” or have a Facebook page, be sure to post our sale.

Native Plant and Tree Sale, March 16, 9:00 – 3:00 Hillsboro Armory. All profits go to scholarships at OSU College of Forestry with a preference for a Washington County student. Native plants adapt well, require less water and fertilizer and attract wildlife, including pollinators. Find a complete plant list at [www.wcswa.com](http://www.wcswa.com).”

OSU Scholarship Endowment: The WCSWA Endowment was set up to provide scholarships to students enrolled in the OSU College of Forestry, with preference given to a Washington County student. Our goal is to have \$50,000 in the Endowment so that it will generate a \$2,000 scholarship each year without additional funds being added. More monies can be added annually to increase the amount of scholarships offered. Our total as of 12/31/2018 is \$40,000, so we are getting close. All the plant sale profit and one-half the seedling sale profit is earmarked for the Endowment as well as raffles held at the TFOY picnic and Annual Banquet.

Program Committee: Lots of exciting programs are confirmed through May, and the Tree Farmer of the Year Tour and Picnic is scheduled at Linda and Ernie Rieben’s near Banks on July 20. Save the date!

2019 Annual Banquet, November 23: Costs have been rising. WCSWA has subsidized this event for years, but last year the cost to the organization was \$3,700. The Board will do more research before deciding how much to increase the price to keep the subsidy to a more reasonable amount (around \$2,000).

OSWA Government Affairs Committee (GAC): The 2019 Legislative session has many bills that could affect woodland owners. Tom Nygren has agreed to be WCSWA representative at OSWA’s weekly GAC conference calls. All members are invited to join the GAC and receive Legislative Updates. Email Jim James [jimjamesoswa@yahoo.com](mailto:jimjamesoswa@yahoo.com) if you are not already getting the Updates and would like to. Grassroots efforts on our part make a difference!

Leadership Openings: There will be a vacancy for Vice President when Vic Herinckx assumes the President role July 1. If you are interested, please contact any Officer or Board Member on page 2.

*Bonnie Shumaker*

**Advertising Opportunity:** The Forest Forum is a monthly newsletter sent out to over 300 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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Interactive website that connects forest landowners with seedling growers, forest management vendors & other technical assistance resources

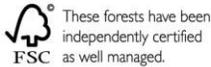
"If you judge a fish on its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing it's stupid"

*Albert Einstein*



A BALANCED APPROACH

▲  
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▲  
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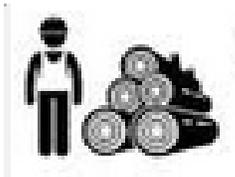
Pamela Hines, Office Manager  
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## Updated Forest Facts Available

A new edition of Oregon Forest Facts, one of the Oregon Forest Resources Institute's most sought-after publications, has been released, complete with the latest data about Oregon's forests and forest-based economy.

The Oregon Forest Facts 2019-20 Edition is now available for digital download and to order online. The pocket-size booklet offers a detailed reference guide to Oregon's forest sector, including information, maps, graphs and statistics about forestland ownership, timber harvest, forest-based employment and wood products production. Other topics covered include forestfire trends, water quality in Oregon's forests, investments in protecting watersheds and salmon habitat, and acres of Oregon forestland certified by third-party forest sustainability programs.

"Oregon Forest Facts offers a broad overview of Oregon's forest sector, with compelling graphics and fully cited information that will help readers gain a better understanding of Oregon's forests, forest management and forest products," says Oregon Forest Resources Institute Director of Forestry **Mike Cloughesy**.

The latest data from the Oregon Forest Facts 2019-20 Edition can also be accessed online at [OregonForestFacts.org](http://OregonForestFacts.org). The mobile-friendly site includes the option to easily share charts and graphs containing information about Oregon's forests, via email or social media.

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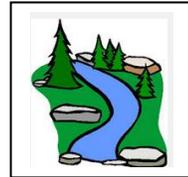
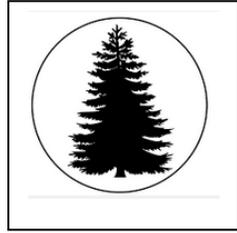
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### Trees traveling west: How climate is changing our forests

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 Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting suggests that more tree species have shifted westward than poleward. Songlin Fei, Associate Professor at the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources at Purdue University, 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.

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### Property History – Did You Miss It?

Amy Grotta, OSU Extension forester, presented a very interesting “walk-thru” of how she developed the history of ownership for the Ruby Matteson Demonstration Forest at the January WCSWA monthly meeting. OSU acquired the property by donation in 2013.

Amy led the group thru the steps – and links to information sources – that she used to develop a history of the Matteson property. She found a huge amount of information about past ownerships, and the family and area connections that led up to OSU acquisition. She provided a handout which traced the steps – and linkages she used in her search – and suggested that any landowner can do the same if they are interested. Contact Amy at amy.grotta @oregonstate.edu for a copy of her handouts.

## A Beetle Invasion Coming to Northwest Oregon??

Anyone driving through the Rocky Mountains, as well as the Blue Mountains, is struck by the large number of dead and dying trees in unburned areas. The cause of this widespread mortality is generally attack by insect pests – especially mountain pine beetle. We may feel thankful that this devastating picture is not found in our neck of the woods. But wait – could it be in our future as well?

*(Information and picture from article by Glenn Kohler, WA DNR Forest Entomologist)*

While the mountain pine beetle is not our big problem (on Douglas-fir), there are plenty of other bark beetles who can be problematic. This past spring and summer, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) received numerous reports of dead or damaged Douglas-fir trees throughout the state. Symptoms include entirely red crowns in saplings and red tops or scattered red branches in trees. The damage is more common in dry lowland areas and sites with well-drained soils. DNR forest health specialists examined Douglas-firs with these symptoms and found unexpected levels of attack by  
*(continued on next page)*



several species of bark beetles such as Douglas-fir engraver, (*Scolytus unispinosus*), Douglas-fir pole beetle (*Pseudohylesinus nebulosus*), and another engraver beetle, *Scolytus monticolae*, that has no common name.



These beetle species are normally considered “secondary” because they typically infest trees that are first weakened by a larger, primary issue such as root disease, fire damage or drought stress. Secondary beetles can damage trees under stress but normally lack the capacity to kill live, healthy trees. Douglas-firs have been particularly affected by abnormally hot and dry summers over the past three years. Back-to-back drought years are stunting the health of Douglas-firs, leaving them less able to fend off insect attacks.

These conditions have allowed secondary bark beetle species to establish in healthy Douglas-firs and boost beetle populations, causing significant damage or even killing some trees. Secondary bark beetles mostly prefer to attack small-diameter trees, yet recent investigations have found them in stems of larger diameter trees as well, which is historically uncommon.

### ***We see similar conditions here in Oregon!***

There are natural and man-made changes occurring in our forested environment which could lead to increased attack by insects in western Oregon forests:

- **Overcrowding** in forest stands, particularly in the thousands of acres of young plantations which replaced the original older and less dense forests. These dense stands lose their vigor as they fight for moisture and sunlight, making them more susceptible to insect attack.
- **Decreasing water availability**, particularly during the long, dry summers. The growth of forest trees all over the world is becoming more water-limited as the climate warms, according to University of Arizona scientists. The effect is most evident in northern climates and at high altitudes where the primary limitation on tree growth had been cold temperatures.



"Our study shows that across the vast majority of the land surface, trees are becoming more limited by water," said first author Flurin Babst, who conducted the research at the UA Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research and the Swiss Federal Research Institute WSL in Zurich. <https://phys.org/news/2019-01-temperature-limits-global-forest-growth.html#jCp>

- **Higher winter minimum temperatures.** A new study demonstrates how the Mountain Pine Beetle's range is expanding due to warming temperatures but reveals how overpopulation might decelerate growth. Los Alamos National Laboratory scientists and colleagues confirm that increasing minimum winter temperatures allow beetles to expand their range but reveal that overcrowding can put the brakes on population growth. Could this produce the same effect on the bark beetles commonly found in western Oregon? [www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/06/180620094908.htm](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/06/180620094908.htm)

# ***The Tax Man Cometh***

**By Tamara Cushing**

I know it's only January, but soon we will all undertake the American ritual of filing taxes. Figuring out how much we owe to the government is difficult for the average taxpayer. For family forest landowners it can be even more confusing as they may only have an occasional harvest and now must report the income.

Income from a harvest will require taxes to be paid to both state and federal revenue agencies. Taxpayers are allowed (and should) reduce sale proceeds by their basis as well as expenses from the sale. Under most circumstances, part or all of the proceeds will be considered capital gains and lower tax rates will apply. That same income will be reported to the state of Oregon for state income taxes. For most family forest landowners, income taxes will be filed in April of the year following the harvest. Each year landowners are also receiving their property tax bill. Family forest owners have a choice to enroll in the Small Tract Forestland Option (STF). Participation in the STF Option results in the landowner only paying 20% of the property taxes each year. Many refer to this program as the deferral program because the intent is that the other 80% is deferred until there is a harvest. For landowners in the STF Option, the landowner is assessed a severance tax based on the volume of timber harvested. This is in addition to the state and federal income tax obligation. For 2019 landowners in Eastern Oregon will pay \$4.65/MBF while those in Western Oregon will pay \$5.98/MBF.

Oregon also has a state harvest tax. Landowners must report all harvest volumes but will only pay harvest tax when the volume passes 25 MBF. The preliminary rate for a 2019 harvest is \$4.28/MBF. The Oregon harvest tax is assessed on timber harvested from any land in Oregon with the exception of most tribal lands.

This is just the tip of a very complex iceberg. Federal land is treated differently. The state and counties receive "Payments in Lieu of Taxes" (PILT) and funds from the Secure Rural Schools Act instead of paying property taxes. But that is a whole different conversation.

Foresters aren't expected to be experts on all this tax stuff. The critical role for foresters is to start the conversation with landowners. Let them know that there are special parts of the tax code directed at forestry. Tell them that there is a tax incentive to help with the costs associated with reforestation. Another potential role for SAF is in the education of those who prepare tax returns. One of the biggest issues is the lack of familiarity with forest operations. If we can explain what the operation is and the purpose, it will increase the likelihood that it is appropriately accounted for during tax preparation. Tax season may not be everyone's favorite time of year, but it is definitely an important task to face each year. For me, I'm excited about the questions and challenges that each new tax season brings.

Happy returns!

*Tammy Cushing is the Starker Chair of Private and Family Forestry at Oregon State University and was recently elected the Vice-President of the Society of American Foresters. Her responsibilities at OSU are heavily focused on Extension programming in forest business topics with an emphasis on taxes and succession planning. Tammy also teaches forest economics and supervises graduate students. She was born and raised on the beaches of central Florida. Tammy has a forestry degree from the University of Florida (Go Gators!), a Masters in Forest Economics and a Master of Taxation--both from Mississippi State University--and a PhD from the University of Georgia in forest finance. She has worked at a forestry consulting firm, the University of Kentucky, and Clemson University prior to moving to Oregon in 2014. Tammy has been active in SAF since her student days at UF and was named a Fellow in 2017. Outside of work, she is married and is the mother of Emma and Max. The kids love to keep her busy with sports, music, and robotics!*

## Watershed Council Names Executive Director

**Scott McEwen** assumed responsibilities as the Executive Director of the Tualatin River Watershed Council in November, 2018. For the past decade and a half Scott has been a conservation leader in the Pacific Northwest. Prior to his work with the Council, Scott served for nine years as the Conservation Director for Columbia Land Trust where he and his team permanently protected over 15,000 acres of threatened habitats and working lands in both Oregon and Washington. He also served for three years as the Director of Technical Programs overseeing habitat restoration and ecosystem monitoring programs for the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership.

Scott is passionate about understanding, conserving and restoring the diverse habitats of the northwest. His background in the Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, and species recovery programs in combination with his technical knowledge have resulted in the development of effective and enduring programs.

Scott still owns 40 acres of northern hardwood forest in northern Michigan that he manages for forest health and wildlife habitat. Over the past ten years he has seen all of his White Ash die as a result of the emerald ash borer. Every year brings changes and new challenges to forest management.

When he is not at work, you can find Scott white water rafting with his family or plying the area's estuaries and rivers with his kayak or canoe.

*Editor's note: The position of Executive Director was recently created at TRWC to provide strategic leadership to the Council in working with a wide range of governmental and non-governmental partners.*

### ***Whole-tree logging may not hinder plant biodiversity***

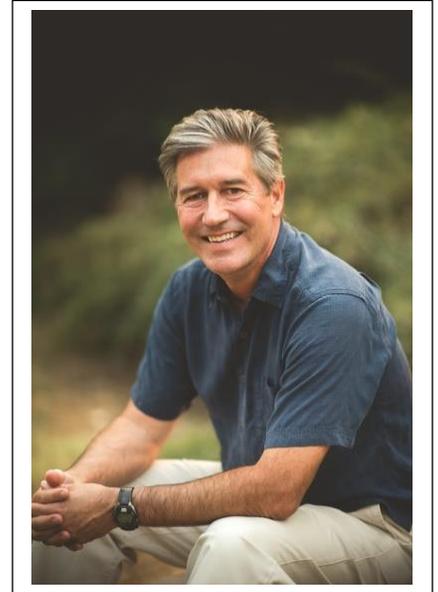
When it comes to timber harvesting, removing the whole tree -- from stump to twigs -- doesn't reduce plant diversity any more than old-fashioned logging, which leaves tree branches behind in the woods, new research finds. Michigan Tech silviculturalists expected that plant diversity would go down in logging stands where whole trees had been removed, perhaps because the tops and branches leave some nitrogen behind to fertilize the soil. That's not what happened; there was no difference between whole-tree logging and leaving material behind.

With funding from the National Council for Air and Stream Improvement and Weyerhaeuser, Robert Froese, a forest scientist and PhD graduate Michael Premer at Michigan Technological University team decided to find out. "People think, 'It's bad enough to log, and now you are going to take away the branches that decay and then nurture the ecosystem? But we wondered, what really is the role of branches?'" What they discovered surprised them: when it comes to plant diversity, harvesting the whole tree does not have dire consequences. The results of their study have been published in the journal *Forest Ecology and Management*.

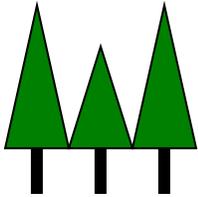
The researchers expected that plant diversity would go down in stands where whole trees had been removed, perhaps because the tops and branches leave some nitrogen behind to fertilize the soil. That's not what happened. "What we found is nothing, essentially," Froese says. There was no difference in the composition of the overstory -- the trees that grew back after logging. In stands where logging residues had been removed, the understory -- shrubs, grasses and other small plants -- was actually more diverse. "The difference was small, but it was measurable."

Why? The scientists can't say for sure, but they have a theory. "We believe when you remove logging residues, you disturb the soil more, which increases nitrogen availability," said Froese. "We've been asked if the diversity increased because of an uptick in invasive species, but we didn't find that."

*Materials provided by Michigan Technological University. Original written by Marcia Goodrich.*



## Forest Forum



COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE  
OREGON SMALL WOODLANDS  
ASSOCIATION

### Potpourri

**New Members:** 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.

**No new members were signed up in the last month** – do you know someone who could benefit from OSWAWCSWA membership? Let them know what they're missing and invite them to join!

### News Flash! Basic Woodland Management Shortcourse, March 2019

This five-session course is ideal for anyone who is just starting out taking care of a woodland property. Topics to be covered include:

- Getting started: assessing your property and site
- What's going on in your woods? Understanding tree biology, forest ecology and habitat
- Taking care of your woods: tree planting, care for an established forest, weed control
- Getting it done: Timber sale logistics, laws and regulations
- Field trip to see first-hand examples of what you've learned.

**Contact: Amy Grotta, OSU Extension Forester (503) 397-3462**

**Dates:** Tuesday/Thursday, March 12th, 14th, 19th, 21st. Saturday field trip TBD (probably March 23 or 30)

**Time:** 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

**Location:** Columbia County Extension office, 505 N. Columbia River Hwy, St. Helens

**Cost:** \$40/individual or \$50/couple sharing materials

**To register:** <https://tinyurl.com/basicwoodland2019> or call Sonia at 503-397-3462. Deadline: Friday, March 1st.