

# Forest Forum

## Washington County Small Woodlands Association

March, 2019



### Local Geology – Six Big Events

Dr. Ray Wells, Research Geologist Emeritus, US Geological Survey, Portland, knows how to explain Geology to the lay person. He showed with charts and maps how our area was and still is being formed. There is evidence within twenty miles of North Plains of six big events that shaped the land from 50 million to 20 thousand years ago. These include the Coast Range uplift creating the mountains and lowlands beyond, sediment deposits of sandstone, then volcanic deposits which were followed by catastrophic glacier outburst floods of which there were at least 40.

Dr. Ray Wells helps members find their property on geological map

Dr. Wells encouraged us to explore Lidar mapping on our tree farms. These can show a map of the canopy, ground and drainage. He stated that with Lidar the canopy minus bare earth equals “trees” where you can map species, heights and volume. Websites to explore are:

<https://www.oregongeology.org/lidar>; [www.oregongeology.org/gis](http://www.oregongeology.org/gis).

### March 26 Monthly Meeting, Pollinators and the Oregon Bee Project



Christine Buhl

Did you know that Oregon is home to over 500 species of bees? Please plan to join us on March 26 at 7pm at the North Plains Fire Station to find out a little more about what is happening with bees from Oregon Department of Forestry Forest Entomologist Dr. Christine Buhl.

Bees are responsible for pollinating many of our staple crops and native plants in rural and urban landscapes. The Oregon Bee Project (OBP) is a new collaborative effort tasked with improving the health of these insects and the habitats that support them. In this talk we'll discuss how Oregon is tackling pollinator health through censusing our wild bees, improving bee habitat, preventing pesticide exposure and researching the threats to wild and managed bees.

We'll also discuss what you can do to get involved with OBP as a citizen scientist and guidelines on enhancing pollinator habitat on your forest stand.

## WCSWA Leadership

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

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**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)*

**Wanted:** 4x4 truck. Not too concerned about cosmetic appearance, transmission style (auto/manual), or interior features. Just must be 3/4 or 1 ton rated, 4x4, tow hitch (also interested in getting a trailer), and no major mechanical problems. Marc Ahrendt (503-928-2083)

## Event Calendar

<b>March</b>	16	WCSWA Native Plant and Tree Sale	Hillsboro Armory – Forestry Scholarship Fundraiser! 9:00am-3:00
	23	Tree School – Clackamas Community College	<a href="https://extension.oregonstate.edu/tree-school/tree-school-clackamas">https://extension.oregonstate.edu/tree-school/tree-school-clackamas</a>
	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
<b>June</b>	20-22	OSWA Annual Meeting, Corvallis	Registration materials to be mailed to members in April
<b>July</b>	20	Tree Farmer of the Year Tour and Picnic	Linda and Ernie Rieben's tree farm west of Banks
<b>August</b>	23	WCSWA Mill Tour	North Plains chip processing facility

# Leadership Notes

## Looking beyond Dormant Time



As I write this at the end of February, it's 26 degrees outside with two inches of new snow on the ground. The days of false spring that I expect to get in February came in January which left room to be surprised with this blast of winter in February. The two bird feeders we have need filling every other day amounting to 20 pounds of bird seed a week. Our place is the dining spot for juncos, chickadees, doves and jays, but a couple of thrushes have been visiting, too, talking of spring.

I know it is too early to look for bud swell on the trees, but a few pussy willows have pushed back their hoods signaling expectation of warmer days. To combat the doldrums of winter and take advantage of Wilco's "buy two, get one free" sale, Bob and I bought six baby chicks that don't have a clue

about the snow as they scratch and peep under their heat lamp in the shop. The breeds are 3 Ameraucana, 2 Silver-laced Wyandotte and 1 Buff Orpington and will replace our aging chickens come summer.



Our dog Bailey checking out the chicks

I had a note on my February calendar to try a new method to control yellow-jackets by trapping the queens in early spring. Wanting to verify that this is a good idea, I sent the question to "Ask an Expert" at OSU Extension. If you haven't tried this website to ask a wide variety of questions on subjects that Extension covers, I highly recommend it. <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/ask-expert>

Here is their reply. I'm planning to try it.

### **Yellowjacket attractant traps, OSU Extension Catalog Best Management Practices for Christmas**

#### **Tree Export, reviewed June 2018**

*Yellowjacket attractant traps include chemical lures, colors, and trap designs to attract western yellowjackets. These traps are less successful with German yellowjackets. They are useful for monitoring worker activity but not for control.*

*Yellowjackets are the only Christmas tree "pest" for which there are specific chemical lures for attraction. Placing roughly 5 traps per 10 acres of field is sufficient for monitoring. The queen is the key to controlling population growth, and she only flies in March. Thus, early lure placement and trapping should help control some colony formation. Since the queen does not move outside the nest after this early period, later trapping only affects the worker population.*

I hope to see many of you (and friends and neighbors) at the Native Plant and Tree Sale on March 16 at the Hillsboro Armory 9:00am-3:00pm. Thank you to all who volunteered to help at the sale. All profit from the sale funds OSU College of Forestry scholarships with preference given to a Washington County student.

***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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**"Timber" dating app matches tree lovers with trees**

Woodworkingnetwork.com By Robert Dalheim Feb 18, 2019

Swedish outdoor power product maker Husqvarna's new "dating" app matches those who love trees with what they love. The "Timber app," just like Tinder, allows users to "swipe left or right" on their smartphones to accept or reject different tree species until a "match" is made.



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## Forest Science:

### Magnetic north just changed.

### Here's what that means.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC.COM BY [MAYA WEI-HAAS](#),

FEB. 4, 2019

Magnetic north has never sat still. In the last hundred years or so, the direction in which our compasses steadfastly point has lumbered ever northward, driven by Earth's churning liquid outer core some 1,800 miles beneath the surface.

Yet in recent years, scientists noticed something unusual: Magnetic north's routine plod has shifted into high gear, sending it galloping across the Northern Hemisphere-and no one can entirely explain why.

The changes have been so large that scientists began working on an emergency update for the World Magnetic Model, the mathematical system that lays the foundations for navigation, from cell phones and ships to commercial airlines.

The World Magnetic Model update was officially released earlier this month, and magnetic north can again be precisely located for people around the world.

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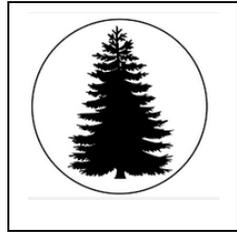
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### "Woods Words" – Being Bugged:

One of the great pleasures of trying to be good stewards of forests is that there is so much to be learned. At the same time the steep slope of learning can become a daunting challenge. Ecology, economics, political science, history, law, diesel mechanics .... it never ends!

But every once in a while, changing circumstances cause us to move a topic up from the back burner to the front of the line. This happened to me recently. While splitting several cords of fir, my attention was caught when bark fell from a round exposing the numerous, fascinating tracks of insects (continued on page 8) that I could see burrowing tunnels beneath the bark. The flood of questions, such as "Who are you? What is

your life history? Are you something that I should be worrying about?” refreshed my awareness of both the complexity of forests and the size of my ignorance.

While we all know that insects play major roles in our forests – often beneficial, we also know that there is potential for changing climate – with hotter and possibly drier summers – to shift something like a beetle from the category of “not an issue” to “this is an issue that we need to better understand.”

With the twin motivations of feeling the land steward’s responsibility to know and general curiosity about the role of insects in our forests, I found my way to one of the most helpful and interesting books I have read this decade. In [Empire of the Beetle: How Human Folly and a Tiny Bug Are Killing North America's Great Forests](#), Andrew Nikiforuk artfully engages his readers in the fascinating and frighteningly changing tale of bark beetles in the forests of North America.

In this readable and well written book, he leads us into the worlds of entomologists, botanists, foresters, and rural folks, from the coasts of the Bering Sea to Florida, to understand both the longtime role of beetles in healthy forests and the disturbing ways that the patterns of beetle behavior are changing all across the continent. Though the author is no strident climate change activist, the book can’t help but be about both the ecology of beetles and the tangible and troubling consequences of climate change. I highly recommend it for any reader, but particularly for those of us who are dependent on and responsible for forests.... and prone to having conversations with wee critters in our firewood piles.

Happy Reading and thanks for the recommendations that many have sent! - Fir Yew

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## **Helping landowners learn from their peers about harvest options**

Northwest Natural Resource Group (NNRG) and Oregon State University (OSU) are reaching out to forest owners for a voluntary study about timber harvesting methods to understand how they affect financial returns from the forest as well as its post-harvest condition.

The goal of this research project is to help landowners who are considering a timber harvest to learn from the experiences of others. Currently there is limited information about the economics of commercial timber harvests that use thinning or uneven-aged management, and how those results compare with other harvest methods.

The researchers are surveying Oregon and Washington forest owners who harvested timber from their forest in the last 5 years (since 2014) and are willing to share information about the silvicultural methods and financial outcomes from these recent timber harvests - information that will be held in strict confidence by the researchers. The survey asks detailed questions about the harvest techniques and equipment used, the volume of timber harvested, cost of the harvest work, and harvest revenues.

The results of this study will be shared with forest owners through a variety of methods including articles, papers, and classes taught by NNRG, OSU, and partner organizations. Data in the study will remain confidential within the research team. Information will be aggregated so it cannot be traced to any individual ownership. Data will be collected through at least June 2019.

As a thank you to forest owners who take the time to complete the survey, the first 100 participants are eligible to receive a \$50 gift card to a forestry supply business.

Learn more about this research project at: [www.nnrg.org/thinning\\_study](http://www.nnrg.org/thinning_study). [Questions? lindsay@nnrg.org](mailto:lindsay@nnrg.org).



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Quote from the book **“Einstein and the Rabbi”**

By Naomi Levy

*“One of my favorite Hasidic stories is about a little boy who keeps going into the forest every day. The boy’s father notices that his son keeps escaping into the woods and asks him, “Why do you keep going into the woods each day?” The son replies, “I go there to find God.” The father tries to gently correct his son by saying, “My child, don’t you know God is the same everywhere?” The boy replies, “Yes, Papa, but I’m not the same everywhere.”*

## **Join us for Soil School 2019!**

Saturday, April 13, 2019 — 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Portland Community College, Rock Creek Event Center  
17705 NW Springville Rd, Portland, OR 97229

Soil School is a day-long workshop that includes multiple sessions on a wide variety of topics – all having to do with soil. This year’s focus is on climate change and its effects on soil ecosystems. Students will have the option again this year to participate in hands-on learning in the Washington County Master Gardener Education Garden. Soil School is tailored toward gardeners, landscapers, and farmers in the community, and is designed to educate and provide networking opportunities for attendees.

Soil School is presented by [West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District](#) and [Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District](#).

# On the rise: Local factories part of tall wood-building movement

From “The Spokesman Review,” February 27, 2019



A Spokane Valley factory could help transform the U.S. building industry, bringing tall, wooden structures into the mainstream.

Building with wood – a renewable resource – is better for the environment than building with steel and concrete, said officials with Kattera Inc. The Menlo Park, California, company is on track to open an engineered wood products factory in April. The 250,000-square-foot plant will make structural panels and beams from wood scraps that are glued together in layers and compressed.

According to Kattera, the factory will be the largest of its kind in the U.S. Kattera’s factory will put Spokane at “the epicenter” of the tall, wooden building movement, said Michael Green, an architect for Kattera in Vancouver, British Columbia. He’s known for his TED Talk, “Why We Should Build Wooden Skyscrapers.” A second engineered wood products factory will open in Colville in late April, when Vaagen Timbers LLC’s plant comes online.

Advocates for wood construction won a significant victory in December when the International Code Council determined mass wood structures up to 18 stories tall were safe. With taller wooden buildings accepted in building codes, Bender expects them to take off.

Glulam beams have been around for about 100 years, while cross-laminated timber was developed in Austria about 30 years ago. Glulam is used for beams and columns in tall, wooden buildings. Cross-laminated timbers are used for walls, roofs and floors. Multistory wooden building construction took off in Europe during the 1990s before moving to Canada. Now, Green said, it’s headed to the United States.

Portland currently has one of the United States’ tallest wood buildings – an eight-story condo tower called “Carbon12.” But that project is dwarfed by the University of British Columbia’s Brock Commons Tallwood House, which is 18 stories.

Kattera’s Spokane Valley factory will produce enough material to build 45 commercial office buildings each year, supplying cross-laminated timber to an emerging West Coast market. The projected output is 50 percent greater than existing European factories, said Robert Malczyk, a director for Kattera. About 150 people will work at the plant when it opens.

The five-story, 150,000-square-foot Catalyst building in Spokane’s University District will be built with Kattera’ products. Green was involved in the design. As it goes up, local residents will get a chance to see a multistory wood building under construction, he said. “Now, you can build up to 18 stories within the code,” Vaagen said. “The only caveat is that we have almost no cross-laminated timber production in North America.” Oregon has one producer. Most of the rest are in Canada.

“Having two major facilities in the area is really going to put Spokane and the region on the map,” Vaagen said.

WSU is part of the equation, too. Faculty in the Composite Materials and Engineering Center are working with Kattera on structural testing and refining the manufacturing process, Bender said.

# OSU study: Rock-'eating' trees pivotal to forest health

By: KTVZ.COM news sources Posted: Feb 25, 2019 09:43 PM PST



## Coast range red alder taps nutrients from bedrock

Agricultural Sciences and a co-author on the study.

The research also furthers the understanding of a specific set of trees that are known for their ability to naturally fertilize forests by converting atmospheric nitrogen into forms available for other plants. This process, called nitrogen fixation, is essential for natural ecosystems.

“Nitrogen mostly comes from the atmosphere, but more than 20 other nutrients mostly come from rock,” Pett-Ridge said. “We’ve established a connection between those two processes. Nitrogen-fixing trees, which we knew were special for how they bring in nitrogen from the atmosphere, also have a unique ability to accelerate the supply of rock-derived nutrients.” In a way, red alder “eats” rocks, said Steven Perakis, an ecologist with the USGS and lead author on the National Science Foundation-funded study.

“These trees not only can add nitrogen to ecosystems, they also can add all the other nutrients that forests require to grow and store carbon,” Perakis said. “That knowledge can contribute to the sustainability of forest practices in managed forests. Farmers figured out a long time ago that nutrients were essential for maintaining productivity. These processes take a little bit longer to show themselves in forests.”

Nitrogen is the most important nutrient for plant life. But atmospheric nitrogen is useless unless its chemical bond is broken down by bacteria. Some tree species such as red alder have formed a symbiotic relationship with nitrogen-fixing bacteria. The bacteria have an enzyme that converts atmospheric nitrogen into ammonia, which promotes plant growth.

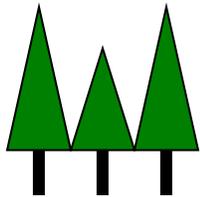
In the study, Pett-Ridge and Perakis looked at six different species of trees growing in the Tillamook State Forest in the Oregon Coast Range: Sitka spruce, Douglas-fir, western hemlock, western redcedar, bigleaf maple and red alder. They collected leaves to analyze their strontium isotope composition, which reveals tree nutrient sources. They determined that the red alder leaves showed a stronger fingerprint of rock-derived nutrients than the other trees.

The isotope analyses were made in the W. M. Keck Collaboratory for Plasma Spectrometry at OSU. Pett-Ridge is an adjunct professor in OSU’s College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Science. Perakis is a research ecologist with the [USGS Forest and Rangeland Science Center](#) in Corvallis and a courtesy faculty member in OSU’s College of Forestry.

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## Forest Forum



COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE  
OREGON SMALL WOODLANDS  
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### Potpourri

**New Members:** Welcome to Sharon and Stephanie Peel of Springfield, OR. 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.

#### **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. [www.oregonforestfacts.org](http://www.oregonforestfacts.org). You can also pick up a copy at our monthly meetings.

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

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

#### **Helpful Links:**

- <http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/treetopics> to read Amy Grotta's "Tree Topics" blog
- [www.oregonwoodlandcooperative.com](http://www.oregonwoodlandcooperative.com) to learn about the Oregon Woodland Cooperative
- <https://www.facebook.com/WashingtonCountySmallWoodlandsAssociation>
- For E-Notification: : <https://ferns.odf.state.or.us/E-Notification> or visit ODF Office