

Forest Forum

Washington County Small Woodlands Association

June, 2019

WCSWA Potluck: *Food and Friends!*

Ingredients for an excellent WCSWA Potluck: Bring together warmish weather with just a touch of light rain, a beautiful tree farm, 73 friendly woodland folks and a speaker giving a machinery demonstration. All this happened May 21st at Tony and Mary Spiering's tree farm a few miles north and west of North Plains.

After ample time to visit and watch the burgers and hot dogs cook as delicious pot luck dishes were arranged, we all sat down to enjoy food and friends. Afterwards, Mike Pihl of Mike Pihl Logging gave us an informative talk. Mike started logging at age 17 in Kansas City (Oregon). He formed his own business in 1986 and does all aspects of logging, including cutting, hauling and replanting.



Right now, Mike is feeling the pain of tariffs as the export market has dried up and the domestic market is flooded with logs. Poles are a good value. When asked what makes a pole, Mike told us that first you need an excellent faller, and there must be no deducts on the tree. A rule of thumb to follow from there is: 17" dbh should give a 70-foot pole, 18" dbh should give an 80-foot pole, 19" dbh should give a 90-foot pole and so on. To keep track of log markets, Mike informed us that every Friday at 2:00pm, Random Lengths, www.randomlengths.com releases the newest log prices.

Mike serves on the Board of Directors at Camp 18. The board is currently raising money for a new museum and memorial building and Mike encouraged us to support this.

For several years, Mike Pihl Logging was featured on the reality show Ax-Men, but they declined to continue since there was, in Mike's words, "too much drama." Last year, Mike was approached again with the promise that this time it would show logging without the added drama. The new History channel series will be called "Ax-Men Reborn" and will start showing in July.

Mike then led the group a short distance away to watch him demonstrate his Kubota Mini Track Hoe. This very versatile machine operates quickly and efficiently. Many woodland owners could be seen mentally trying to pencil out if the \$75,000 (plus accessories) made sense other than looking like a lot of fun.



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
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 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

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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

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

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. (3 month limit)

For Sale: No New Items to List

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)

Are You Missing An Opportunity? Put in a For Sale or Wanted Ad in the Tree Farm Tradin' Post!

Event Calendar

June	10-11	Early Seral Biodiversity and Management - OSU	www.forestbiodiversity.org/earlyseral
	20-22	OSWA Annual Meeting, Corvallis	Registrations mailed from OSWA
July	20	Tree Farmer of the Year tour	Ernie and Linda Rieben's tree farm on Cedar Canyon Road
August	23	WCSWA Mill tour, Longview Fibre chip processing plant	Information to follow later
September	TBD	TBD	TBD

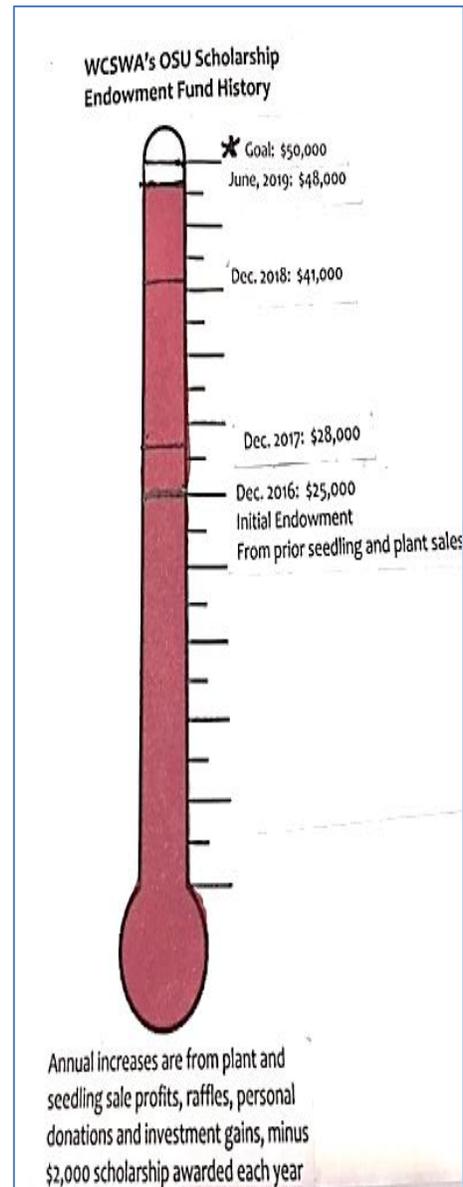
Leadership Notes

WCSWA Scholarship Endowment with Oregon State University - So close to meeting our Goal!

Since 2001, the first year of WCSWA's Plant Sale, all Plant Sale profit has been designated for educational purposes, almost all in scholarships. The awarding of the scholarships has changed over the years, and in 2016 we decided to create a WCSWA Scholarship Endowment with Oregon State University. There are two main advantages to this. First, we are able to designate that scholarship recipients are enrolled in OSU's College of Forestry, with a preference given to a Washington County student.

Secondly, all OSU Endowments have the advantage of professional investing, something we are not capable of, or willing to do ourselves. In December 2016, the Endowment was initially funded at \$25,000 from mostly seedling sale savings over the years. Our goal has been to grow the Endowment to \$50,000 so that a \$2,000 scholarship can be awarded each year from the investment growth alone. Then, with further profits from the Plant or Seedling sale, we can either continue to grow the Endowment, award a larger scholarship, or both.

I wanted to create a visual showing how we have advanced toward our goal. You can see from the crudely-made graphic that I don't have a future in computer graphics, but it does show that we are SO CLOSE to reaching our goal. There will be a raffle at our Annual Banquet on November 23 to help us bridge the gap. Personal donations have been received in the past and are always welcome, too. Perhaps by December 2019 our goal will be reached.



Vic Herinckx and Lane at OSU's Awards Banquet

2019 WCSWA Scholarship Winner

While on the subject of scholarships, congratulations go out to the 2019 WCSWA scholarship winner, Lane Osborn. Lane is a freshman at Oregon State University working towards degrees in Forest Restoration + Fire and Forest Management. He grew up in Myrtle Creek and then moved to Beaverton when his father took a job with Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue. Lane ultimately plans to be a Firefighter and EMT. This summer Lane will be hard at work with Miller Timber Services out of Philomath on call as a Wildland Firefighter. When he gets the call, he will have to report to duty in under 2 hours and then go on a 14-day deployment with 2 days off. You can meet Lane at either the TFOY picnic in July (if he is not fighting fires) or at our November banquet.

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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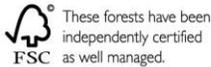
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Interactive website that connects forest landowners with seedling growers, forest management vendors & other technical assistance resources





A BALANCED APPROACH



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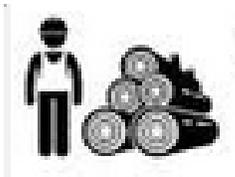
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Tall Trees – Who’s the Champ?

There’s a new record for the tallest tree in the tropics, and the scientists who found it say it could add to our understanding of how and why some trees grow so tall. A survey from an airplane in 2014 of the forests of Danum Valley Conservation Area in Malaysian Borneo helped University of Nottingham geographer Doreen Boyd and her colleagues pick out the sky-scraping tree that they’re calling Menara, the Malay word for “tower.” But it wasn’t until Unding Jami, a local tree climber with the South East Asia Rainforest Research Partnership, or SEARPP, hoisted himself into the canopy of the yellow meranti (*Shorea faguetiana*) and lowered a measuring tape back to the ground that they were able to confirm the tree’s height at 100.8 meters (330.7 feet).

For comparison, the tallest Douglas-fir is reported to have once been 465’ tall (Nooksack Valley, Washington), but the tallest now living with a live top is 322’ tall, on BLM land in Coos County. The Doerner fir, in the same general area, has an additional 10-15’ of dead crown that would have made it the largest Douglas-fir at one time.

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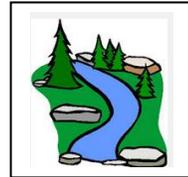
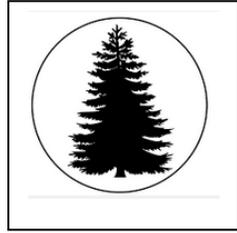
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New Book: Managing Insects and Diseases of Oregon Conifers

This 134-page book is written by current and former OSU Extension forest health experts. It discusses options for managing major insect pests and diseases of conifers in Oregon forests: bark beetles, wood borers, and ambrosia beetles; defoliators; root diseases and stem decays, and more. Full color with extensive reference section. Cost: \$18, order at: <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em8980>.

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is the joy of
understanding”**

Leonardi da Vinci

Time to Order Seedlings

by *Don Sohler*

It is time to start thinking about your seedling needs for the 2019-2020 planting season. A seedling order form is included in this newsletter. Orders are taken on a first-come basis.

We will have 40-50 thousand Douglas-fir 1+1 Vernonia High Gain seedlings available this year. The seedlings are grown for WCSWA by Lewis River Reforestation in Woodland, Washington from seed bought from the ODF Schroeder Seed Orchard breeding program. These seedlings have superior growth characteristics and are intended to maximize the growing potential of your site. We will also have 2,000 Western Red Cedar plug +1 available.

The price is \$62/bag (.51 each) for the DF packed at 120 per bag and \$80/bag (.80 each) for WRC packed at 100 per bag. Seedlings will be available between January 15 and February 15 depending on weather conditions. We have a limited number of seedlings available, so please be careful in your ordering so that we can serve the most people.

Order inquiries and questions should be directed to Don Sohler 503-357-0536, and order forms and checks sent to WCSWA, c/o Bob Shumaker, 52490 NW Cedar Canyon Rd., Banks, OR 97106.

Note: The North Plains cooler and property has been sold. The new owner is allowing us to continue to use the cooler, but to respect their privacy we will only have access on Fridays and Mondays.

How Old Did You Say Your Tree Was?

Researchers recently discovered a bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) in the swamp that's at least 2,624 years old. According to their study, published in the journal [Environmental Research Communications](#), the discovery revealed bald cypress as "the oldest-known wetland tree species, the oldest living trees in eastern North America, and the fifth oldest known non-clonal tree species on earth." (Non-clonal trees mean the trunk is the same age as the roots. [Clonal trees](#) originate from the same ancestor and often live for tens of thousands of years.) According to the researchers, only individual trees of Sierra Juniper (*Juniperus occidentalis*) at 2,675 years, Giant Sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) at 3,266 years, Alerce (*Fitzroya cupressoides*) at 3,622 years, and [Great Basin Bristlecone Pine](#) (*Pinus longaeva*) at 5,066 years old are known to live longer than the Black River bald cypress.

Regional Differences Pose Profitability Challenges for North American Sawmills

by Joe Clark, Forest2Market, April 15, 2019

Beginning in 4Q2017, prices for domestic and export Douglas- fir logs in the Pacific Northwest (PNW) rose steadily before they spiked in 2Q2018 to record levels. The phenomenon occurred when North American lumber prices also surged to record highs. While regional lumber producers in the PNW couldn't fully capitalize on high lumber prices due to their equally high log costs at the time, producers in the US South were perfectly positioned to take advantage of the market and maximize profits.

There are several supply chain differences between the forest industries in the PNW and US South, but ***what are the primary differences affecting sawmill profitability in the two regions?***

1. Conifer Sawlog Supply

US South

While total pine sawtimber inventory and harvested volume have increased at similar rates, growth still outpaces removals by 82%. As a measure of overall sustainability of the timber resource, this is one of the contributing factors that makes the US South an attractive investment opportunity and has led to numerous upgrades and expansions of existing sawmills. As a result of the abundant pine sawtimber supply, prices have remained low and globally competitive with little volatility—all important criteria for investment decisions.

Pacific Northwest

The forest industry in the PNW faces a unique set of challenges that are principally supply driven. Constrained supply for all wood products limits growth opportunities in the region, keeps log and fiber prices elevated and has led to mill closures and capacity reductions. The domestic PNW industry is resource constrained due to the combined effects of three factors:

- Limits on available timberland and marketable timber
- Increased demand shift to PNW due to supply constraints in Canada
- Export demand for logs

Demand for PNW sawlogs has remained strong but, unlike the US South, timber supply is constrained. The regional industry is supplied primarily from private lands, which is a finite resource with limits on annual production. Though ample additional timber supply exists on public lands, harvests from these lands is a fraction of sustainable levels. Unlike markets where the timber supply is expanding and prices can adjust downward as supply outpaces demand, the PNW timber supply is tightly matched to lumber and panel production requirements. This limits sawmill expansions and caps residual production to a finite volume.

2. Sawlog Prices

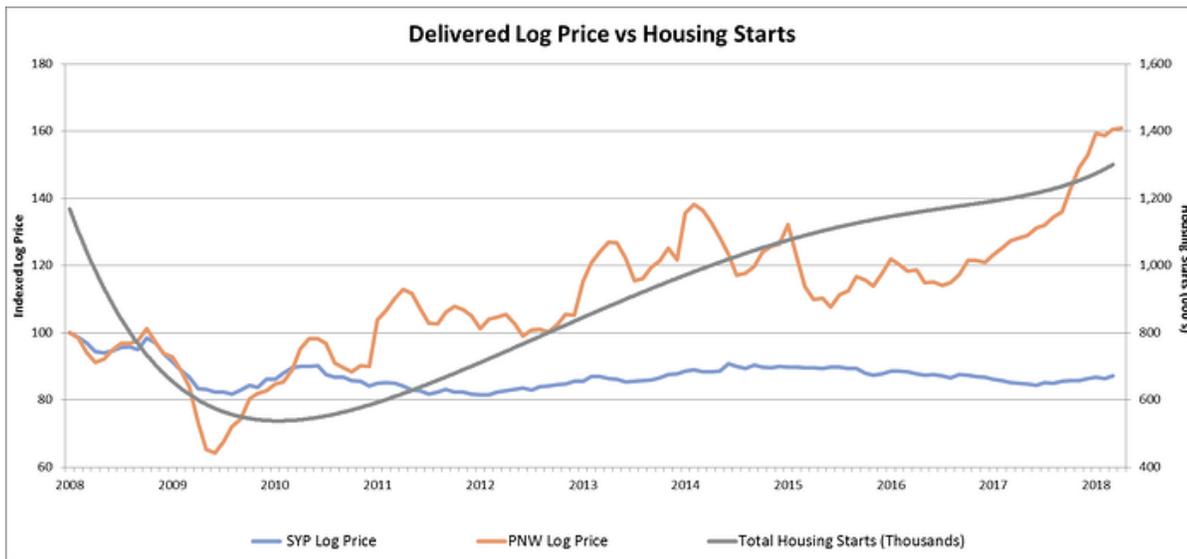
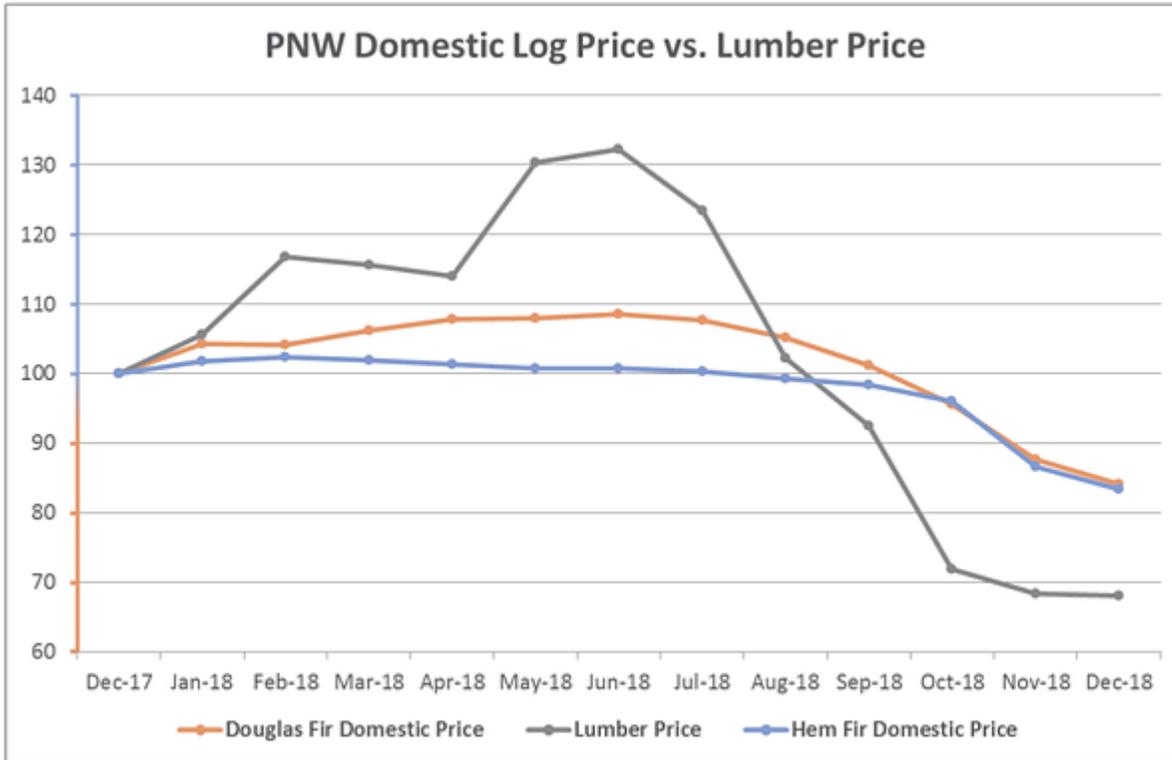
US South

In the aftermath of 2008's financial collapse, southern sawmills were forced into survival mode. The mills that survived invested in new technology that improved efficiency and lowered costs. It is not, in fact, an overstatement to say that the industry shifted its cost structure significantly. At the same time, as log prices collapsed, landowners simply chose not to sell timber, opting instead to wait out the down cycle. A strange thing happened as a result of this confluence. ***As landowners waited for a recovery, trees grew larger and mills, owing to their new-found efficiency, used fewer trees. The net result after 10 years was that forests in the US South had more and larger trees, and sawtimber prices in the region are virtually unchanged since 2007.***

A number of factors contributed to the sudden rise in lumber prices last year, including US tariffs on Canadian softwood lumber that were instituted in 2017, a shortage in log supply in British Columbia (BC) due to mandated reductions to its annual allowable cut (AAC) and back-to-back severe wildfire seasons that interrupted log flow and mill operations. However, despite the ups and downs of the North American lumber market, there has been minimal volatility in southern timber prices since the Great Recession; on the global stage, only Brazil offers lower delivered prices. Forest products companies that operate in the South can take advantage of some of the lowest operating costs in the world with almost zero price risk on their largest input cost.

Pacific Northwest

Resource constraints are palpable and restrict production levels for all products in the PNW. Due to limited timber supply, sawlog prices recovered quickly after the lows of 2009; by 2013, sawlog prices had recovered to 2007 levels. Unlike oversupplied timber markets like the US South that can absorb additional log demand without moving log prices higher, log prices in the PNW are very sensitive to additional demand. Additional demand does not stimulate additional harvests; it only stimulates higher prices. **Sawlog prices in the PNW are twice as high as those in the US South and on par with traditional high cost markets in Sweden and Germany. All of the data points to a very constrained market that has limited upside before pricing itself out of the global market.**



The Northwest US market is severely hobbled due to the tight log supply and high costs, which limits sawmill profitability during periods of high demand. Also notable is the fact that very little capital is flowing to the PNW industry, owing in large part to the restricted log supply and high log costs.

Ferns – Seen One, Seen Them All?

"Outdoors" people, even those that don't consider themselves naturalists, can identify trees, at least the common species. And the common wildflowers. but, when it comes to ferns, well, ferns tend to look alike. Sort of lacy and delicate and . . . green.

That is unfortunate, say fern lovers and fern experts. There are some 12,000 species of fern worldwide. And they are a very old lineage - 150 million years old before the dinosaurs even appeared. They predate flowering plants by some 200 million years. Ferns are a big part of our woodlands, growing in almost every kind of soil, from dry to very wet and even on rocks. And they are fascinating plants. Tough, with ancient roots, a quirky life cycle and some impressive chemical defenses.



Michael Sundue, an expert on fern evolution at the University of Vermont's Department of Plant Biology and the curator of its Pringle Herbarium, points out that most of today's fern species are not the same as the ones that existed hundreds of millions of years ago, just as modern humans aren't the same as our ancient ancestors. But, they are no less fascinating, he said.

Ferns make up some 6 to 10 percent of vascular plant diversity throughout the world, with the tropics sporting the greatest diversity, Sundue said. Though it's the tropical cloud forests in the mountains where you will find the most species, he added: there are 600 species of ferns in the Amazon lowlands, versus 1,200 in the mountains of Bolivia. Species diversity is much more limited in temperate climates, he notes.

Sundue is fascinated by fern reproduction. Which is, well, different. Ferns have a two-stage reproductive cycle. Mature ferns produce spores - millions of them. The first spore to fall in an area and begin growing produces chemicals that force other spores that land around it to produce only sperm. It's a way of keeping away competitors. And it's also interesting that some ferns can be self-fertile, or fertilized by other individual ferns of the same species, or in some other cases of different species. Ferns like to hybridize. Most ferns can also spread through rhizomes, roots that generally grow across the top of the ground.

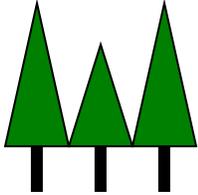
Botanists monitoring the revegetation of Mt. Saint Helens in the aftermath of its 1980 volcanic eruption, were really interested to find a fern growing on the flanks of the devastated mountain. "But it was a particular fern unknown in Washington State," Lubin said. "It was a Japanese fern. The spores can get into the jet stream and travel long distances."

Many ferns sport a complex array of chemical defenses that not only keep insects from eating them, but mammals as well, said Arthur Haines, research botanist for the Native Plant Trust. The common bracken fern produces anti-nutrients that bind to essential minerals in the body, preventing absorption of minerals and thus making the food less nutritious, Haines said. Bracken fern also produces a hormone-like compound that causes insects to molt ahead of schedule, interfering with their development and killing them. And, bracken fern produces nectar that attracts ants, which discourage predation by other insects and mammals, he said. It is a fern of many lethal talents.

Joe Rankin writes on forestry, nature and sustainability from his home in New Sharon, Maine.

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Forest Forum



COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE
OREGON SMALL WOODLANDS
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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.



Potluck Pictures

<<< Pihl Presentation

Mike's "Mini-Grapple" >>>



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