

# Forest Forum

## Washington County Small Woodlands Association

July, 2019



**Family members at a new plantation explaining how they contribute**

its members. The awards banquet finished off a fun, informative day. There was even a band with live music with OSU Extension forester Glenn Ahrens as a harmonica playing band member.

Saturday's 2018 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year Woods Tour was at Oakes Investment, LLC's forestland near Monroe managed by Don, Darrell and Dena Oakes, which has been in the Oakes family since 1883. The picture above shows three members of this large extended family explaining how family members are encouraged to participate in areas that highlight their strengths.

## Washington County Neighbor to Neighbor & 2018 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year Woods Tour – Saturday, July 20, 2019



**Ernie and Linda Rieben, Madrona Ridge Tree Farm  
51145 NW Cedar Canyon Rd., Banks, OR**

Event is free, but Registration is Required, email [oswaevents@gmail.com](mailto:oswaevents@gmail.com) or call (503) 588-1813 by July 15

**Tour Focus: 1) Property History, 2) Managing Mature Timber, 3) Invasive Species, & 4) Thinning**

*Editor's Note:* You should have received an invitation in June from OSWA. Hope you can come.

## WCSWA Leadership

President – Vic Herinckx, 503-645-9434

Vice-President – vacant

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

**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. (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 and no major mechanical problems. Marc Ahrendt (503-928-2083)

## Event Calendar

|                  |    |   |  |
|------------------|----|---|--|
| <b>July</b>      | 20 | Tree Farmer of the Year tour                    | Ernie and Linda Rieben's tree farm on Cedar Canyon Road, see pg. 1 |
| <b>August</b>    | 23 | Mill tour, Pacific Fibre Products, North Plains | 9:00 a.m. at the mill. See article page 5.                         |
| <b>September</b> |    | No meeting or tour in Sept.                     |  |
| <b>October</b>   | 22 | North Plains Fire Station, 7:00pm               | Wildlife in the forest - Critters in the Forest – Peter Hayes      |

# *Leadership Notes*

## **Passing the Baton – Two of them**

Last November at WCSWA's Annual Banquet, we elected Officers and Board Members. You may remember that the office of President was split for the year. From January through June, you elected me, Bonnie Shumaker, for the first half. In July, Vic Herinckx has taken on the job as President for the rest of the year. I have been happy to serve as your President for the past 2 ½ years with the knowledge that Vic would be ready to take over in July, 2019. Vic has led most of our monthly meetings during my stint as President, for which I thank him a lot. Watch for changes to this page starting next month. Vic has new ideas that you'll like.

The second baton, I pass to Barrett Brown, a WCSWA member. He will be the NW Representative on the Committee for Family Forestlands (CFF), a position I have held for 3 ½ years. I know he will represent our interests well. This Committee gives input to the Board of Forestry on a variety of subjects that affect family forestland owners. I have gained much knowledge attending these meetings in Salem, and feel confident that the insight we share with the Board of Forestry is valued. I am especially pleased that this year, after over a year of work, a sticking point to intergenerational transfer has been resolved. This involves the option of allowing a family member to build a second dwelling on forestland. CFF members testified to the Board of Forestry on our concern with this issue. OSWA, with our lobbyist, Roger Beyer, initiated HB 2469. CFF members testified to the House of Representatives, worked to add amendments to address land use concerns, and testified again in the Senate. HB 2469 has now been signed into law. The second dwelling must be for a relative, be on 80 acres or more, be within 200 feet of the main dwelling, be fire-safe, and there is no land division.



**Alsea Falls on the South Fork of the Alsea River**

Now that I've taken care of official business, I'll share tree business in the Shumakers' lives. We left early for the OSWA Annual Meeting in Corvallis. We took our travel trailer and stayed at Alsea Falls in a nice BLM campground. A lovely trail led to a Day-Use area and the Falls, which are not tall, but offer a beautiful 30-foot cascade over large rocks on this South Fork of the Alsea River. The trees are predominantly hemlock with good-sized ones growing out of huge old-growth stumps and nurse logs.

While in Corvallis, we also took a drive up to Mary's Peak, the highest mountain in Oregon's Coast Range. While the view was shrouded in by fog, we did get a glimpse of the valley below. I'm sure it is quite beautiful on a clear day.

I do enjoy sharing woodland news, both on our farm and other learning ventures. Because of this, I plan to write a "Tree Talk" column on the alternate months that I am the editor of the Forest Forum. This way, we can still stay in touch.

***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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Please send this form, ad copy, logos, photos, etc. to:

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***Imagination is more important than knowledge. For while knowledge defines all we currently know and understand, imagination heads us to all we might yet discover and create.***

***Author unknown***



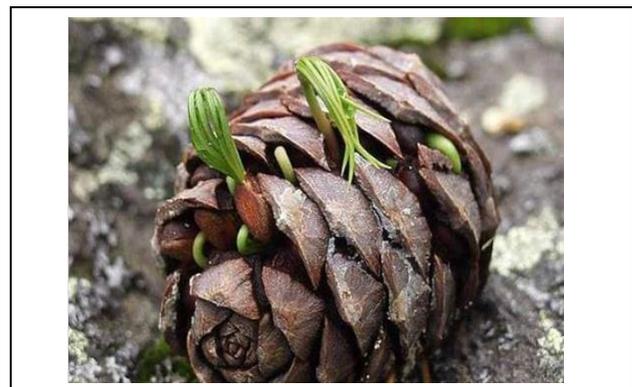
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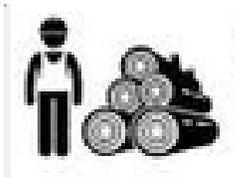
Pamela Hines, Office Manager  
503-409-2888

info@troutmountain.com

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## Mill tour of Pacific Fibre North Plains Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019

Have you ever wondered what happens at the chip mill in North Plains? Perhaps some of your harvested trees have been sold there, or you've heard about it and wanted to know what is produced there and where it ends up. If you have ever pondered those questions this is the tour for you. Plan to meet up at the Pacific Fibre plant in North Plains (south side of Hwy 26) at 9:00am on August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Address: [34380 NW Vadis Rd, Cornelius, OR 97113](#)

Paul Hadaller will be leading the tour. Paul has worked for PFP for 24 + years in various capacities. He is currently Log/Procurement manager.

Pacific Fibre Products has three whole log chipping facilities, located in Longview, WA., Molalla, OR and North Plains, OR. They supply wood chips to Nippon Paper and WestRock Paper, both in Longview, WA, and Georgia Pacific Paper in Wauna, OR.

They also process wood waste/bark and log yard debris into ground covers and soil mixes.

PFP's motto is: "Nothing Beats Reliability in Products or People!"

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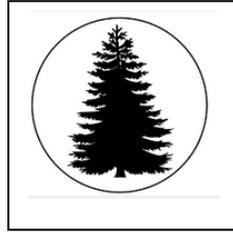
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## Starker Forests appoints new CEO

Staff Report, Jun 17, 2019

Starker Forests Inc. announced the appointment of Randy Hereford as President and Chief Executive Officer. Formerly VP timber and chief forester, Hereford has served the forest management company in increasingly responsible positions since he began in September 1978. "Randy has been a dedicated and valued member of our forestry staff for over 40 years," said Bond Starker, Chairman of the Board. "We are especially impressed with his ability to inspire and develop our younger foresters." Hereford replaces Jake Gibbs who resigned in early May.

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## Nature and Nurture: Genetics and Climate Influence the Timing of Flowering in Trees

Science Findings, May, 2019

Authors: McDaniel, Josh ; Prevey, Janet S. ; Harrington, Connie ; St. Clair, Brad



**Technically, Douglas-fir are not flowering plants, but its young female cones are often referred to as "flowers.:"**

To successfully reproduce, conifers must have impeccable timing—opening their female cones to receive pollen from the male cones of nearby trees. This timing is a response to temperature and other environmental cues.

It is to the tree's advantage to flower when risk of damaging frost is low, but early enough in the spring to take full advantage of the growing season.

Douglas-fir is ecologically important and the cornerstone of the timber industry in the Pacific Northwest. Seed orchard managers carefully breed different populations of the species to produce seedlings that will thrive in particular areas in need of replanting.

Understanding the environmental cues that influence the timing of flowering is important for predicting how reproduction and survival of trees will change in the future. To address this need, a team of researchers with the USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station developed a model that predicts, within an average of 5 days, when Douglas-fir will flower.

Seed orchard managers are using the model to plan and schedule time-sensitive tasks related to flowering in the orchards. The model highlights how both cool and warm temperatures influence the date of flowering for Douglas-fir. It can be used to predict how future changes in temperature could influence flowering times across the range of Douglas-fir under different climate predictions.

### KEY FINDINGS:

- Winter temperatures were the strongest predictor of Doug-fir flowering time.
- Warmer temperatures in the future will likely result in earlier flowering on sites that currently experience high chilling. Sites that currently experience low chilling may display no change or delay in flowering.

To read the entire article, go to [www.fs.fed.us/pnw/publications/sci fi.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/publications/sci fi.shtml)

## Oregon Woodland Cooperative Member Lyal Purinton Shares Efficiency Tips

In 1992, while looking for a small acreage on which to live and raise a horse or two, Sandy and Lyal Purinton stumbled across 41 acres of severely over-cut forest with a run-down farm house. Reminding Sandy of her childhood home, the purchase of the property was inevitable. The first few years were spent reforesting the property and making the house livable. The farm has grown over the years and now encompasses 120 acres. With the help of their sons, Justin and Collin, the farm has been managed with a desire to create a sustainable forest that will provide wildlife habitat and a legacy for their grandchildren.

Lyal has belonged to the Oregon Woodland Cooperative (OWC) for over ten years and has always appreciated having access to consultants and other knowledgeable individuals who provide forest management skills to help new members. The OWC is now a distributor for practical forest tools from LogRite® and SuperSplitter® and offers a substantial discount for members.

Lyal runs a custom sawmill business and sells firewood through the OWC. “Now that the kids are grown, it’s often a one-man operation,” says Lyal, “so finding tools and equipment that can make the process more efficient is really important.” For example, a log arch enables Lyal to haul larger logs – up to 4 feet in diameter – with a tractor. “With the log arch I can pick up the front end of a log and pull it straight through the woods. It takes less power, the log is more stable, and it doesn’t drag the log through the dirt, which would dull my saw. When I have clean logs, I can cut all day – otherwise I have to sharpen every couple of hours.” LogRite also has smaller arches that can be pulled by an ATV or by hand.

Lyal also uses a LogRite peavey and hookaroon to speed his operations. “The peavey has a longer handle and is made of lighter but stronger aluminum so I can throw bigger logs around on the sawmill. Something about the angle on the hook makes it bite better than any other peavey I’ve used – just one whack and it’s solid. With the hookaroon, I can reach out and grab a board on the sawmill and pull it toward me. I can pull rounds of firewood to the splitter, too. It saves me miles by not having to walk around my equipment all the time.”



**SuperSplit kinetic splitter**

Lyal uses a gas-powered SuperSplit kinetic splitter to process logs for the firewood business and his family’s personal use. “The SuperSplit works at least three to four times faster than a hydraulic splitter,” remarks Lyal. “The wide work table holds the split wood and the pusher clears it into the bin, which means I don’t have to manually pick it all up and move it. That saves me a lot of time.” Lyal says the SuperSplit is remarkably frugal on gas, too. “I can split two and a half to three cords of wood on a tank full of gas,” he adds, “and that’s only three quarters of a gallon.” An electric version of the SuperSplit is also available.

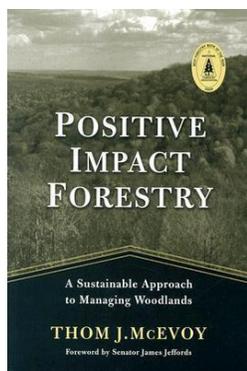
“I like that all of this equipment is made in the U.S., too,” says Lyal in conclusion.

If you would like to know more about the OWC, we invite you to visit [www.oregonwoodlandcooperative.com](http://www.oregonwoodlandcooperative.com) or call (888) 800-1192.

## Woods' Words: Do the Right Thing – Book Review

All of us who carry the responsibility of caring for forested lands run into some form of having the land seemingly saying to us “Do the right thing.” Whether we’re sorting out what to do about an invasive non-native doing its best to overwhelm our vulnerable seedlings, or searching for a way to get a dense stand well-thinned while also generating a bit of revenue, or dealing with a problem with sneaky trespassers, doing the right thing might seem straightforward until we run into the logical question of “What is the right thing?!”

Because it is fortunate that we are all different, we must all find our own way to decide what is the “right thing” for us and our land. Useful advice may be found in many places – tips from experienced friends and neighbors, content shared through many a class or workshop, or treasure discovered in the morass of the internet. In addition to these, it is hard to beat what useful, wise advice might be discovered between the covers of a book. From the long row of books on the shelf offering advice on forest stewardship, let’s take down and consider two. I find them helpful, and you may too.



Thom McEvoy’s **Positive Impact Forestry** (Island Press 2004) provides a wide range of important and down-to-earth advice in a concise and readable way. Though the content is flavored by the context of New England, where he works as an extension forester, much of the information shared is directly applicable to our wet Northwest. Building on the foundation he shares about how forest ecosystems work, he goes on to provide nuts and bolts advice on such diverse topics as basic silviculture, choosing and working with a forester or logger, and navigating decisions related to intergenerational transfer.

In contrast to McEvoy’s brevity, we can also look to the remarkable and recently published **Ecological Forest Management** (Waveland Press, 2018) for ideas about what doing the right thing might mean. In this magnum opus of a book, well rooted Northwesterners Jerry Franklin and Deborah and Norm Johnson challenge readers with scientifically grounded and fresh frameworks for understanding, considering and caring for forests. Where so many previous forest management books are based on a framework of considering forests as a place to grow productive crops of trees, the authors challenge us to consider forests as complex, multidimensional systems that can – and should – provide us with many things, including saw logs. Though not for the faint of heart, or pocketbook, this landmark book is remarkably readable with so much to offer all of us who care about – and for – forests. Why not encourage our public libraries to buy and circulate copies?



In the end, direct experience with forest stewardship will always be the best teacher, but books, like these, can help us expand our knowledge, help us figure out what questions we need to be asking, and reach our own conclusions about what it might mean to do the right thing – at least for now! For this reader, learning from this pair of books was definitely the right thing.

*Happy Reading - Fir Yew*

# Got burn piles? Oregon winery tries a new approach: Turning wood debris into biochar

By Michael Alberty | The Oregonian/OregonLive | Posted June 08, 2019 at 05:00 AM

In 2018 Brian Marcy and Clare Carver of Big Table Farm winery in Gaston cleared 13 acres of a hillside for a new vineyard. The only problem was how to dispose of the dozens of piles of fir trees, Scotch broom and brush without fouling the air.

A year of research led Marcy and Carver to the Carbonator-500, an 83,000-pound portable air curtain carbonizer made in Chester, New Hampshire, by Ragnar Original Innovation. The Carbonator-500 is a \$600,000 super-sized kiln on wheels that incinerates wood and debris piles without significantly polluting the atmosphere. It also turns those piles into a useful soil amendment known as biochar, a charcoal-like substance comprising mostly carbon and ash.



**The Carbonator-500 at work at Big Table Farm winery in Gaston.**

With all their boxes checked, Marcy and Carver contracted with Blackwood Solutions, an authorized Carbonator-500 dealer based in Indiana, to bring one to Big Table Farm. On May 14, the Blackwood Solutions team arrived for what Carver describes as “the Carbonator-500’s very first on-site carbonization of cleared vegetation in an agricultural setting.”

Carbonization is hot and quick. An excavator fills half of the Carbonator-500’s ceramic-lined combustion chamber with wood debris that is set on fire. A short time later, powerful fans, started by remote control, throw an invisible curtain of

air over the flames. The air curtain keeps the smoke in and oxygen out as the debris burns by a process known as pyrolysis. This air curtain is the key to the Carbonator-500’s superiority over

open burn piles when it comes to greenhouse gas and hazardous small particle emissions.

The excavator then begins reloading the combustion chamber with wood debris. The chamber’s 2,500-degree Fahrenheit fire quickly reduces the debris to chunks of biochar. The biochar is then cooled by water jets as augers push it out the rear of the machine. A conveyor belt transports the biochar to a large pile where it is sorted into “supersacks” that hold two cubic yards each.

By June 1, the Carbonator-500 had disposed of all of Big Table Farm’s wood and brush piles. Left behind were clear blue skies and massive piles of biochar.

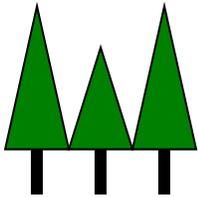
Big Table Farm has over 100 “supersacks” to date. “We are going to place as much of it as we can into our compost piles,” Carver said. “That way we can work the biochar into the ground and hopefully keep the carbon sequestered for hundreds of years while attracting and holding nutrients, water, and microbial life.”

Carver may also sell some of the biochar to help offset project costs, which are not insubstantial. “It is \$12,000 a week to lease the Carbonator-500, which is the most cost-effective solution if you take open burning off the table,” Feagans said. “I have also seen biochar listed for sale at \$500 a (cubic) yard. If it is actually selling at that price, you could recoup a lot of your costs.”

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## 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'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.

**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