

Forest Forum

Washington County Small Woodlands Association

February, 2020

February 25th WCSWA Meeting

New Focus on Wildfire

The February 25th meeting of Washington County Small Woodlands will feature **Carrie Berger**, Associate Program Leader, Forestry & Natural Resources, College of Forestry, OSU.

Ms. Berger's presentation will include an overview/update on the new **Fire Program** within OSU Forestry & Natural Resources Extension and how it might benefit small woodland owners. She will also share her own Firewise story. You won't want to miss it! **7:00 p.m. at the North Plains Fire Hall** on Commercial Street.

In late June 2019, the Oregon Legislature approved the establishment of a new Oregon State Wildland Fire Extension Program, to be led by Forestry & Natural Resources Extension and the College of Forestry at Oregon State University. The ultimate goal is to build wildfire resistance and resilience into our rural landscapes and wildland-urban interface areas. This initiative was inspired by the innovative work of Extension Agent Daniel Leavell with the Klamath and Lake County Forest Health Partnership as a model for expanded effort statewide. A publication outlining their collaborative process, including curriculum for carrying out similar landscape-scale planning, was published in October 2018.



This new Wildland Fire program will add capacity for up to six new OSU Extension Wildfire Specialists to work with agency and industry partners, communities, landowners, and land managers. The positions will be strategically located where risk is greatest and efforts are likely to have the most impact. The work to be done is too big for any one organization, but by leading partnerships and working together the program plans to make a real impact on the ground, spreading land management and fuel reduction projects over the Oregon landscape. The extra effort is needed as the risk of destructive wildfires is increasing in Oregon and across the West due to growth in the wildland-urban interface, increasing frequency of severe fire weather, and increasing forest fuel loads.

WCSWA Native Plant and Tree Sale – 9:00 Saturday, March 14, Cloverleaf Building at the County Fair Complex

Come check out all the beautiful plants at our annual Native Plant Sale! Located indoors at the Cloverleaf Building at the Hillsboro Fair Complex, it's a perfect place to get some advice about native plants and buy plants that are sometimes difficult to find at regular nurseries. **Tell your friends and use NEXT DOOR to spread the word, too.**

Most plants are potted, as noted in the Plant List 2020. We provide native plant experts to help with selection, boxes for handling and transporting the plants, and general volunteers to help collect and carry the plants to your vehicle. Credit cards, cash, and checks are welcome payment. Come early for the best selection. All profits fund high school natural resources education.

WCSWA Leadership

President – Vic Herinckx, 503-645-9434

Vice-President – Debi Lorence 503-858-3636

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, Bill Triest – 503-705-5833, Tony Spiering – 503-680-8112

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/WashingtonCountySmall
WoodlandsAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/WashingtonCountySmallWoodlandsAssociation)

Forest Forum Newsletter

Editors: Tom Nygren & Bonnie Shumaker

503-628-5472 and 503-324-7825

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

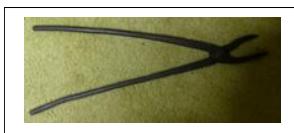
Tualatin River Watershed Council Representatives: Tom Nygren, primary, 503-628-5472, Eric Chambers, alternate, 503-647-2458

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

The Tree Farm Tradin' Post

A free service to our members: List tree farm items/land to buy, sell, or trade. Contact Tom Nygren, 503-628-5472. Got a tool or piece of equipment you don't need any more? Or maybe you are looking for tools, equipment, property, or materials? You can place a free advertisement in Forest Forum. (3 month limit)

For Sale: Antique Pioneer/Logging/Farming Implements – contact Sharyn Simantel 503-648-3318



Antique Wrought Iron Camping Griddle (large); Antique Wrought Iron camping Kettle, 9 1/2" x 7 1/2" w/ Handle; Antique Farrier Pliers, Circa 1900's; Lifting/Skidding Timber Tongs, 29 1/2" H x 1 3/4" (@ the nexus); Antique iron pulley(s), one steel, one wood, (each 10" x 6").

For Sale: Brush Mower – see Tradin' Post on page 5

Wanted: No items this month

Event Calendar

February	25	WCSWA Monthly Meeting North Plains Fire Hall 7:00 p.m.	Carrie Berger, OSU extension agent, (see article, page 1)
March	14	WCSWA Native Plant Sale	See page 1
	24	WCSWA Monthly Meeting	TBA
April	28	WCSWA Monthly Meeting North Plains Fire Hall 7:00 p.m.	Scott McEuen, Tualatin River Watershed Council

The good logs always seem buried in the bottom of a cull deck. At least that's my recollection growing up harvesting firewood from state forest clear-cuts to keep our woodstove happy in the winter. This always brought some fun and excitement to firewood cutting – could the '73 Ford F250 and some cable and chain pull it out? Sometimes yes, sometimes no. I suppose that was my first introduction to forestry.

The second came in about 1995 when my father-in-law Tom Nygren bought some ground in Drain, OR that was a nice mixture of Oak Savanna, Maple hardwood, young Doug Fir and brush. He had a dozer clear and pile the brush and we got to work planting what seemed like thousands of seedlings. Was it hard work? Yes! Do I have fond memories of doing it? Yes!

Roll forward to February 2019 and the storms in the lower Willamette Valley made their mark on the Drain property. Susan Schmidlin had a nice article in the January newsletter about the broader effects of this storm. Many trees in the 30-35 year age class were brought down or broken off in just about every way conceivable. Last summer Ken Nygren oversaw a harvest that included about 10 acres of clear-cut in 1-2 acre patches so Tom now has some nature inspired structural diversity and an opportunity to plant another 4,000 Doug Fir seedlings. So, we are off to work in February with 3 generations of Nygrents to get the seedlings planted. I'm certain good times will be plentiful and many fond memories will be made.

I have mentioned in a previous newsletter that the WCSWA board considered support for the Oregon Natural Resource Education Fund (ONREF). (<http://onref.org/index.html>). The grant fund was established in 2001 to provide funds to establish, expand, improve and maintain forest-related natural resources education opportunities in Oregon high schools. Pledges from Lane, Benton, Yamhill and Columbia OSWA chapters as well as individual contributors are at work to create a new OSWA ONREF sub-fund which requires \$25,000 to get started. At the January 21 meeting the WCSWA board pledged \$5,000 to this effect so at present there is a total of \$18,000 in pledges and \$7,000 to go. Steve Cafferata, who represents the Pleasant Hill ONREF sub-fund, suggests that if you are 70.5 years of age or greater and taking required minimum distributions (RMD) from an IRA a properly executed distribution qualifies as a Qualified Charitable Distribution making the distribution tax-free. If you are interested in making an individual pledge or would like to contact Steve for additional information please let me or Norbert LePage know.

Concerned about invasive weeds?

Mark your Calendar Now to Attend a Free Weed Watcher Workshop!

- Talk with weed experts.
- Discover how to help.
- Learn from live samples.
- Bring in mystery plants for identification.
- Receive a free field ID book.



2020 Weed Watcher Workshops:

- April 21 | 6-8pm Tualatin SWCD Office 7175 NE Evergreen Pkwy #400 Hillsboro, OR 97124
April 29 | 6-8pm Tualatin Public Library Community Room 18878 SW Martinazzi Ave. Tualatin, OR 97062
May 12 | 6-8pm City of Beaverton Griffith Bldg Rm 150 4755 SW Griffith Dr. Beaverton, OR 97005
May 20 | 6-8pm Banks Public Library Community Room 42461 Market St. Banks, OR 97106
May 27 | 6-8pm Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge 19255 SW Pacific Hwy. Sherwood, OR 97140
Sponsored by Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation, Clean Water Services and Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District. Register at <https://www.swcd.net/events/list/>. The cap is 30 people per workshop.

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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	1 issue	4 issues	12 issues
1/12 page	\$20	\$40	\$100
1/6 page	30	60	150
1/4 page	40	80	200
1/3 page	50	100	250
1/2 page	75	150	375
2/3 page	100	200	500
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503-769-9806

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Stayton, OR 97383

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

Tradin' Post continued from page 2

For Sale: Brush Mower - Debi Lorence
503-858-3636



Seedling Sale Update

By Don Sohler, Seedling Sale Manager

On Tuesday, January 21st, nine volunteers drove to Lewis River Reforestation in Woodland, Washington and picked up 68,000+ Douglas-fir seedlings. One thing I learned at a very young age while working in the wildland fire business is, "Many hands make light work." I would like to thank the following volunteers for assisting me with making "light work" out of handling and transporting nearly 550 bags of seedlings. I could not have done this task without their help: Marc Ahrendt, Ray Brock, Wally Dodge, Richard and Connie Gaebel, Richard and Ann Hanschu and Mike Jamieson.

Since the beginning of WCSWA's seedling sale in 2000, seedlings have been stored at the Walker Tree Farm's cooler in North Plains. The farm was sold last year, and we found a new storage facility, Lieb Foods in Forest Grove for this year. Some WCSWA members picked up their seedlings directly from the trailers at Lieb Foods before they went into storage. 362 bags were put into storage at Lieb Foods. Another 100 bags of seedlings were delivered to Paul Sansone's cooler in Gales Creek.

I would also like to recognize the employees at the cold storage facility, they have gone out of their way to help us: Melissa K. for scheduling and processing our P.O., Dave P. for setting up the account, and the fork lift operator for always helping when I am shorthanded.

The following day my grandsons Alex and Andrew returned to Lewis River with me to handle and transport the remainder of the seedlings as the Western Red Cedar became available on short notice. They always bring joy to my life when we work on projects like this together

In Memory of..... A Memory Book for Amy's Family

Members of the small woodland owner community recently lost a valued friend, advisor, and leader in Amy Grotta, Extension Forester for Columbia, Washington, and Yamhill Counties. Amy's responsibilities covered a wide geographic area, with many communities, and her knowledge and expertise was spread thinner than we would have liked. We will miss her in our community of kindred souls. However, Amy's family has suffered the greater loss. Debi Lorence, Washington County Small Woodland Association Board member, has stepped up to help them remember how much Amy has meant to us, by initiating the development of a "Memory Book". Here's how you can contribute to this Book as described by Debi. **Your letter and/or photo needs to be posted by mid-March.**

Washington County Small Woodlands is helping to gather photos, letters, and other favorite memories that can be uploaded from a person's computer into a google docs folder, then myself and another person will create a book that can be ordered for a permanent memory of Amy's work and professional life.

Once you click on the link you will make another decision to click on "letters or photos". Once inside those folders, it is divided into organizations. If you have suggestions, ideas or changes please let me know. If it all looks ok, please forward on to your Small Woodland people (and have them pass it along as well to others who have memories to share).

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Dclw38i0p0s-73F2Y0CxFeQLePc3QoCq>

*Thank you for your time and help to create something special for Amy's husband and two children.
Your woodland friend :)*

Debi Lorence MWM

(PS – look for an upcoming opportunity to help build a memorial trail for Amy at the Matteson Demonstration Forest – perhaps in early June)



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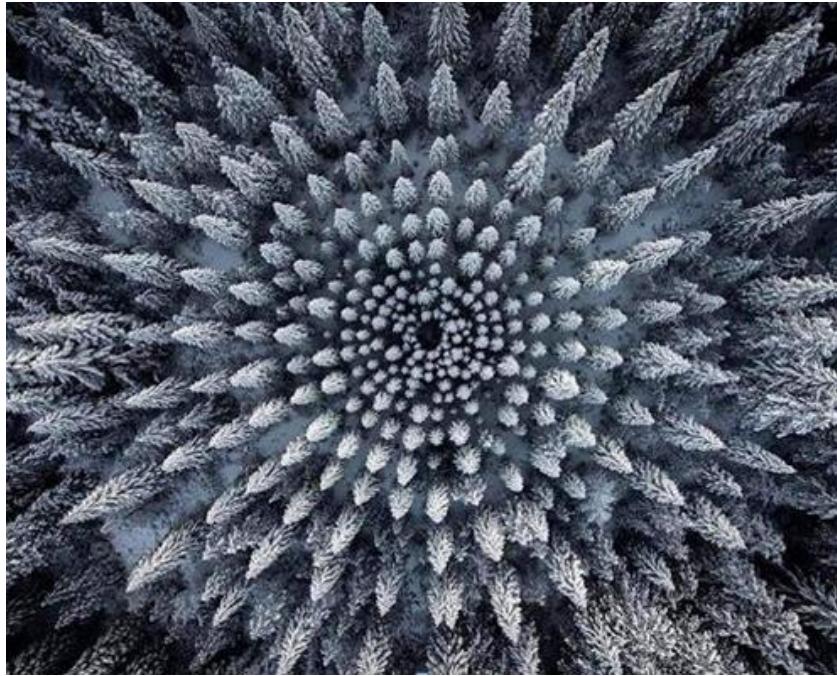
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New Blog Site

Want to read fun and interesting happenings on the farm and forest of Mike and Susan Schmidlin? Susan Schmidlin has a new site for her blog. Go to: SchmidlinAngusFarms.com and click the follow button.



What Is This?

Have you ever seen something like this in your forest travels? It is an important tool used by forest scientists. What does it do? Where can you find it?

(For the answers, look on page 9)

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Oregon's Forest Sector – An OFRI Snapshot

Mike Cloughesy, Director of Forestry at Oregon Forest Resource Institute, presented the “state of the forestry economy in Oregon and Washington County at the January WCSWA meeting. Mike also gave the history and mission of OFRI. Providing much of the basis for Mike presentation is the work OFRI has done in producing publications such as “Forest Facts”, “The 2019 Forest Report”, and especially the “2019 Forest Sector Economic Report”.

Mike set the stage with statistics about forest land ownership in Oregon and how it relates to timber harvest, growth, and mortality. With that backdrop, he showed how forests are a vital factor in Oregon’s economy, employment, and wages. He then stepped the figures down to Washington County.

A Summary:

Oregon Compared to: Washington County

27.9 million acres of forest	242,000 acres
Harvest (2017) – 4 billion b.f.	123 million b.f.
Forest Sector jobs – 61 thousand	4,176 jobs
Ave. forest sector wages - \$50K	\$55.6K

One of the most interesting figures Mike presented was the comparison of growth, natural mortality, and timber harvest on the state’s forest lands. Total timber growth 2006-2015 was 2.84 million cubic feet. Of that growth, 39% was harvested, 25% died of fire, insect, and disease, and 36% continued to add to the total volume of wood on the landscape.



President Vic Herinckx Mike Cloughesy



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DAVE KUNERT

503-815-6321 office
503-931-3143 cell

TILLAMOOK
3111 Third St.
Tillamook, OR 97141
Desired Species: White woods

WARRENTON
550 NE Skipanon Dr.
Warrenton, OR 97146
Desired Species:
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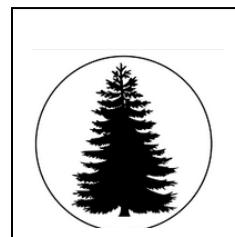
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Answer to the picture puzzle on page 6

The **Nelder Plot** is a field research design with the underlying concept that the **individual tree** is the Experimental Unit, not the **plot**. Many forest biometrists and silviculturists have stayed away from this plot design because they were attempting to use “plot-based” measures of density. If you manage forest stands with mixed species, mixed structure and/or irregular densities (spatial patterns), then you care what kind of growth model is applied and how it was calibrated. If your harvesting regimes have shifted away from even-aged clearcut harvests, then your forest structure is taking on the characteristics identified above.

Nelder plots were used in a study of the response in stand structure and dynamics of young red alder over a gradient in planting density in the HJ Andrews Experimental Forest in Lane County. Valuable information about the relationship between planting density and diameter growth were learned from study of these unique Nelder plots. Nelder wheel design allows a researcher to test multiple tree densities in a single plot. Because spatial relationships among planted trees are fundamental to a Nelder wheel, a researcher needs a specific set of layout parameters to establish a Nelder plot.



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Pruning – Is It Worth It?

The topic of pruning often comes up when landowners get together. Usually, landowners want to know if it's worth their time and effort to prune their forest trees and the answer is probably the most common answer foresters give landowners regardless of the topic – it depends!

Why Prune?

Pruning is simply the removal of the lower branches from live trees. Many of our tree species here in the Pacific Northwest have branches that may persist on a tree for decades after they die. Ultimately, whether or not pruning is an option depends on a landowner's goals and objectives. First, let's look at some of the reasons why we might want to prune. Pruning trees has the potential to:

- Increase understory vegetation for wildlife, or possibly special forest products
- Reduce ladder fuels
- Improve visual aesthetics
- Improve access into your forest
- Reduce incidences of diseases
- Increase wood quality and value

When to Prune

- This question is best broken down to two parts – the size of the tree and the time of the year. There is no hard-and-fast rule on the size or age of a tree, but it makes sense to wait until after you do any thinning in your forest. Pruning is time-consuming, so you don't want to prune trees that you're just going to cut later
- When it comes to timing, conifers can be pretty forgiving. It's always best to prune with the trees are dormant (think wintertime). Late summer and fall can be OK, but that can sometimes cause stress in a tree as it's preparing to go dormant. Spring to early summer (mid-March to mid-July) is best to avoid, as that's when the tree is growing most actively. During this period, the bark tends to be looser, making it easy to damage a tree with pruning activities.
- Pruning during the spring when sap is flowing can also attract **pitch moths**. This moth is actively looking for a good host in the spring and prefers Douglas-fir and pines. Though this moth usually doesn't cause tree mortality, it can cause unsightly pitch masses and reduce the aesthetic quality of your forest. An exception to this timing rule should be made if you notice disease on your trees, especially if it's white pine blister rust, in which case I recommend pruning the branch regardless of the time of year.

Here are some final thoughts for you to consider when deciding to prune:

- Know what your long-term goals and objectives are to determine if pruning is appropriate for you. Your local ODF Forester or OSU Extension Forester can help with this.
- If doing it to improve wood quality, choose where to place your efforts – trees of good quality on good sites should be chosen. You may need to thin overstocked stands first before pruning in order to get the benefit – especially if thinking about economics.
- Prune at the right time of year to avoid damaging the trees and wasting your efforts.
- Keep records of pruning, especially if you're doing it for financial return.
- Keep your feet on the ground! Use a pole saw to prune higher branches as opposed to going up a ladder.

Adapted from an article by Matt Provencher, Stewardship Forester, Washington State Department of Natural Resources,

Land Steward Short Course in Washington County

A program of OSU Extension offered by Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District

This new Land Steward course from Oregon State University Extension will equip landowners and managers to care for their properties and gain knowledge in wildfire risk reduction, woodland management, encouraging and controlling wildlife, stream ecology, pasture management, growing healthy soils, small acreage infrastructure, stewardship planning, and more. With a blend of online, classroom, and field instruction, this course is well-suited for busy adults who enjoy online learning but also want to see stewardship in action.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Throughout the course, you can expect to spend up to two hours per week on each self-paced online lesson and related activities. Through the online materials and in-person sessions, you will develop property management and planning skills, see real-life examples of land stewardship in action, network with other landowners, and meet natural resource professionals and learn how they can support you. You will also complete a series of resource assessments to get to know your property better and develop a management plan for your property using our landowner-friendly template.



Spring 2020 Land Steward Short Course

DATES: March 4th - May 4th, 2020

LOCATION: Tualatin SWCD (Hillsboro)

FORMAT:

- 1 evening class: March 4th
- 2 weekend field days: April 4th & April 25th
- 9 self-paced online lessons

COST: \$50 (with discount code: TUAL70). Course is a \$200 value!



Register online by following the link on our event page:

<https://www.swcd.net/event/land-steward-short-course-washington-county/>

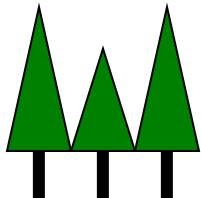
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Forest Forum



COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE
OREGON SMALL WOODLANDS
ASSOCIATION

Potpourri

New Members: Welcome to **Dawn Rayborn**, and **Seng and Shelley Yahnson, of Hillsboro**; and **Dave and Trenee Lambert of Rainier!** 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.

Do you have a copy of the updated Third Edition of the OFRI publication *Oregon's Forest Protection Laws*? Every forest land owner should have a copy! Get a free (shipping free) copy from <https://oregonforests.org/node/549>

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 OSU Extension'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