

# **Forest Forum**

## **Washington County Small Woodlands Association**

April, 2020

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### **Annual Native Plant Sale – Success Again!**

#### **Native Plant Sale a Success!**

*By Karen Graham, Plant Sale Coordinator*

Congratulations to the Plant Sale committee and workers who had the second most successful sale ever, **earning more than \$5,000 for educational programs**. Even with snow and the current health crisis, many people came to the sale and most things sold out. Many Washington County residents look forward to this sale every year as they know we provide quality plants on a consistent date every year. This sale gives all Washington County Small Woodlands members a chance to give back to the organization, enjoy the camaraderie of other members and earn money for scholarship programs.

The plant sale committee leaders, Bonnie Shumaker, Bob Gutmann, Beth Adams, Debi Lorence, and Bernadette Strand did a great job organizing all the plants and arranging the display in the Cloverleaf Building at the Fairgrounds. This was a new venue but fit our needs quite well.

Many hands are needed to make this sale a success so put next year's date on the calendar and join the fun next March 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in learning what the job entails, contact one of the committee members or one of this year's workers: Gordon Dana, Miles Merwin, Marc Ahrendt, Phillip Curtis, Lynn & Steve Harrel, Anne & Richard Hanschu, Sharon Hundley, Tony & Mary Spiering, Tom Nygren, John & Cathy Dummer, Norbert LePage, Susan Schmidlin, Ron Larson, April Olbrich, Linda Hume, Nichole Lorence, Judy Pond, Janice Harris, Vic Herinckx, Sam Sadtler or Neil Schroeder.

***WCSWA is grateful to Dennis Kramer and Clean Water Services for taking many unsold plants at cost. This allows us to have more plants so that late customers still have a good selection.***

### **COVID-19 – WCSWA activities are not immune!**

As you already know, many small woodland activities – WCSWA. Other County Chapters, OSWA – and many of our partners in the governmental and non-profit sectors – have had to cancel planned events in order to comply with local and state mandates designed to limit the spread of this virus. There will likely be other closures and impacts on our activities going forward.

As these closures and impacts occur, you will be notified by e-mail alerts from WCSWA leadership and other sources. For now, the Annual WCSWA Potluck and the Tree Farmer of the Year events are still scheduled to occur.

## 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:

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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

**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:** No New Items to List

## Event Calendar

<b>April</b>	28	WCSWA Monthly Meeting	Cancelled
<b>May</b>	19	Annual WCSWA Potluck: Forestry for the Birds in the PNW – Gregor Yanega	5 p.m. Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve – see article, page 6
<b>June</b>	6	Celebration of Life for Amy Grotta	McMenamins Grand Lodge, Forest Grove. Details to follow
	13	Tree Farmer of the Year Tour and Picnic – Brown's tree farm, Mountaindale	SAVE THE DATE

# Leadership Notes

Vic Heterinckx

One of the objectives for the Washington County Small Woodlands Association is to “Provide a medium for exchange of ideas concerning woodlands by landowners, public agencies, consultants and timber industry personnel.” Since we cannot do that face to face right now we may have an opportunity to try out an **online program meeting in April**. Watch your email box for more details, hopefully it will work out.

Many thanks to Karen Graham and the plant sale committee for a very successful Plant Sale this year and for everyone braving the conditions to volunteer. The proceeds are going to fund our pledge to support ONREF, which now has a total of \$25,000 committed across several OSWA chapters so the funding and high school scholarships should be happening soon.

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**Spring 2020 Tualatin SWCD Weed Watcher Workshop Update – On-site Classes Cancelled; Moved to on-Line format to protect the health and safety of our community during the COVID-19 pandemic.**



Want to learn more about invasive species threatening our rivers and streams? Need some help identifying that strange plant that keeps sprouting in your garden? Join us this Spring for our online 2020 Weed Watcher Workshop!

Invasive plant experts from Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District, Clean Water Services and Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District will provide an introduction to invasive species control, a walk-through of the weeds of greatest concern, and an online quiz to help you practice identifying these plants. Participants receive an electronic copy of our handy Tualatin Watershed Weed Watchers Guide, which includes information on how and where to report infestations.

With your help we can combat known priority invasive species and respond to new invaders before they endanger our natural areas, streamsides, and gardens! Our workshop will be available to view online from April 21<sup>st</sup> to May 27<sup>th</sup>. Please RSVP on our website at <https://www.swcd.net/event/online-weed-watcher-workshops/2020-04-21/>

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## **Reflection on Forests in a Time of Coronavirus**

As I've walked through the forests near my home on Vashon Island over the past couple of weeks, the Douglas-fir, western red cedar, and alder have been my only reliable companions besides my immediate family. In a world contorted by the coronavirus pandemic, I've been grateful for living beings besides my wife and son to bring inside my bubble of isolation.

**One of the great gifts of the forest is the perspective they offer.** While the news rolls in from Milan to Manhattan, the bright unfurling leaves of skunk cabbage and Indian plum are signs of the continuing cycles of Nature, heedless of the viral waves crashing on our personal shores. With lifetimes potentially spanning centuries, forests remind us of a timeless fabric that is much bigger than any of us - one that needs only our care as its stewards for the moment, until we hand it off to the next generation.

*Seth Zuckerman*, Executive Director, Northwest Natural Resource Group

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**Thoughts to Ponder**

“Two heads are better than one; not because either is infallible, but because they are unlikely to go wrong in the same direction”  
*C.S. Lewis*

“If it weren’t for the rocks in its bed, the stream would have no song”  
*Carl Perkins*

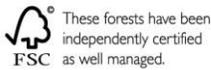


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### New Blog Site

Fun and interesting happenings on the farm and forest of Mike and Susan Schmidlin can be found at:  
[SchmidlinAngusFarms.com](http://SchmidlinAngusFarms.com)

## A Memory Book for Amy Grotta'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. Debi Lorence, Washington County Small Woodland Association Vice President, has stepped up to help Amy's family remember how much Amy has meant to us, by initiating the development of a "Memory Book." **We need your memories.** Here's how you can contribute to this Book: *Click on the link below, then click on "letters or photos". Once inside those folders, it is divided into organizations that Amy worked with. If you have trouble with the link, send your remembrances, either photos or words directly to Debi Lorence, [debilorence@gmail.com](mailto:debilorence@gmail.com). Here is the link. <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Dclw38i0p0s-73F2Y0CxFeQLPc3QoCq>.*

**Please consider contributing. Your letter and/or photo needs to be posted by the end of April to give time to create the book.**

**A celebration of Amy's life will be held Saturday, June 6, 2020 at McMenamins Grand Lodge in Forest Grove, Oregon. Details will follow.**

### CWD: Nature Wastes Nothing

*What is CWD? That new cross-over from Toyota? A new hemp-based miracle oil?*

If you said "none of the above," you're correct. CWD is science-speak, verbal shorthand, for "coarse woody debris." Trunks of dead trees and limbs that litter the forest floor. Once living beings, or parts of living beings, slowly returning to the earth. CWD isn't just a nuisance. It is an important element of the forest and one that, for the past few decades, has prompted quite a bit of research. Kevin Smith, supervisory plant physiologist at the U.S. Forest Service's Northern Research Station in Durham, N.H., has done much of that research. It's anything but waste, say Smith and other scientists. In fact, it is a crucial aspect, an integral part, of virtually every forest ecosystem around the globe.

"In temperate forests it's extremely important as habitat for a wide variety of wildlife, from microorganisms to large mammals; for slow release of nutrients over time; and for water retention. It's one of the sources of humus in soil," said Andrew Barton, a forest ecologist and professor of biology at the University of Maine.

Trees typically spend years, sometimes decades, sometimes centuries, growing. But, like everything else there comes a time when they die. Once dead, a tree almost immediately begins to break down, it hosts a succession of complex communities at various stages in the long drawn out process. Lichens, fungi, bacteria and other microbes, insects, arthropods, reptiles and amphibians. Mammals large and small use standing dead trees

**See CWD, page 7**



### Good signs make good neighbors

Oregonians are more accepting of forest practices if they know forests are being planted after harvest. Let them know with a free PLANTED sign provided by the Oregon Forest Resources Institute.

Visit [KnowYourForest.org](http://KnowYourForest.org) and search for "Landowner signage"



Oregon Forest  
Resources Institute

## Annual WCSWA Potluck - May 19, 2020

### Location:

Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve  
2600 SW Hillsboro Hwy  
Hillsboro, OR 97123

### Meeting Place:

Main Visitors Building in Multipurpose Room  
Parking in Front of Building

### Agenda:

5 to 6 pm Arrival and Socialize  
6 to 7 pm Potluck Meal  
6:45 to 7:30 Speaker and Presentation

### What to bring:

This will be an old-fashioned Pot-luck with no main dish provided. Always lot of choices!  
WCSWA will furnish soda, water, and coffee. Hillsboro Parks has no-alcohol policy

### About Jackson Bottom:

Located minutes south of downtown Hillsboro, Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve's 635 acres are a quiet sanctuary for both people and wildlife. Over 211 species of birds are sighted annually at Jackson Bottom, including Bald Eagles, Great Blue Herons, and thousands of Tundra Swans and Northern Pintails, making Jackson Bottom a haven for bird watchers. The Preserve is home to deer, otters, beavers, and thousands of other species. Wetlands Nature Center includes an exhibit hall filled with interactive exhibits on wetlands and natural history, and the only bald eagle nest on display in the continental United States.

### Presentation:

**Gregor Yanega** will be presenting on "Forestry for the Birds in the Pacific Northwest". A voluntary program that offers resources and insights for augmenting bird habitat on working lands.

**Looking forward to a good time with friends, food, and a lively discussion on birds and the relationship of Forestry to their Habitat.**




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Desired Species:  
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Desired species: Douglas fir

**CWD, continued from page 5**

and downed dead trees for denning, resting and as lookout points. Birds like woodpeckers feed on the beetles and insects that themselves are slowly demolishing the tree's cellulose and lignin. You might think of dead wood as, say, a cyclical cornucopia of ecosystems.

Dead wood also helps hold and retain water, helping cool the forest floor. One finding of a late 1990s study on what happens to CWD following "gap harvesting" in central Maine was that "there was substantial water storage in CWD, even during an exceptionally dry sampling period." That's not only good for the forest as a whole, but especially creatures like salamanders and frogs.

Barton notes that CWD isn't just important for terrestrial ecosystems. He points out that it's also an important component of aquatic environments, from streams to ponds, rivers to lakes. Drowned logs help determine a brook or river's channel, slow its flow and provide important shelter and habitat for everything from fish to birds to insects.

***Forests for Maine's Future – Joe Rankin***

# A healthy forest is no accident

By Mike Cloughesy, OFRI Director of Forestry



***Forest health is a human construct and it can best be promoted by human actions. A forest is healthy or unhealthy because we define it as such. On its own, a forest has no concept of health.***

This was the premise of my closing remarks at the end of the first day of Oregon State University's "Forest Health in Oregon: State of the State 2020" conference, held Feb. 26-27 on the university's campus in Corvallis. Here is a summary of what I said:

The drivers of forest health in my human construct are forest condition, forest disturbance, ecological reaction and human reaction. I will discuss each of the drivers in turn:

## **Forest condition**

Federal forests encompass about 60% of Oregon's forests, or nearly 18 million acres. The Nature Conservancy estimates that over 5.6 million acres of these forests have been identified as fire-adapted forests in need of restoration. These forests are generally overstocked and ready to burn. U.S. Forest Service Forest Inventory and Analysis data show that federal forests account for 1.5 billion cubic feet of growth per year. This is over 50% of the total forest growth in Oregon of 2.8 billion cubic feet. Of this federal forest growth, 8% is harvested, 36% is counted as mortality and 56% is net change or additional volume on these already overcrowded federal forests. These overcrowded forests are fire-prone and prone to infestations from insects such as bark beetles. These forests are also very sensitive to drought and climate change.

## **Forest disturbance**

Forest disturbance can be human-caused, such as logging, thinning and prescribed burning, or natural, such as wind storms and lightning-caused wildfires. Human-caused disturbances—unless it's an accidental human-caused wildfire—can often be designed to achieve certain outcomes such as fire fuels reduction, increased fire-resiliency and managed smoke. Natural disturbances are much less objective-oriented, often leading to stand replacement fires and unwanted smoke.

## Ecological reaction

“Ecological reaction” is the functional response of the ecosystem parts and process to the disturbance. A good example is the Biscuit and Chetco Bar fires, which burned in southwest Oregon with similar footprints in 2002 and 2013. These lightning-caused fires burned in overstocked forests at the dry time of the year. They appeared to be catastrophic from a human perspective. However, from an ecological perspective, they were moderate- and mixed-severity fires that reset the successional cycle and started a new forest with a clean slate.

## Human reaction

To most people, a healthy forest is one with mostly live trees and low risk of fire. Wildfire is seen as destructive. The media often uses the word “catastrophic” when talking of wildfire. Smoke intrusion into Oregon cities is a major health issue. Human-driven forest disturbance is also often seen in a negative light. Logging and burning are perceived as bad. However with education and collaboration, people can understand that human-caused disturbance can lead to a healthy forest and can achieve social objectives.

So, back to my premise:

**Forest health is a human construct.** Benefits from the forest, including clean water, clean air, wildlife habitat and forest products, may be produced to a greater degree in forests with fewer diseases, damaging insects, invasive species and wildfire. Human needs are better met in such a forest, and so we deem these “healthy forests.”

**Forest management by humans can improve the health of the forest.** Thinning, prescribed burning and invasive species control can all promote healthier forests. Human support for active forest management can be driven by its perception as promoting forest health.

***Or, in the words of an old bumper sticker I have on my bulletin board, “A healthy forest is no accident.”***

Now that you have read my closing remarks, you might be interested in some of the topics that were covered at the recent forest health conference. The conference presentations are available as downloadable PDFs [here](https://www.forestry.oregonstate.edu/cpe/forest-health-oregon) (https://www.forestry.oregonstate.edu/cpe/forest-health-oregon). A great summary of the topics covered during the conference was recently published by the Forest Service and the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF). The publication is called *Forest Health Highlights in Oregon – 2019*. Download a copy [here](https://www.oregon.gov/odf/documents/forestbenefits/forest-health-highlights) (https://www.oregon.gov/odf/documents/forestbenefits/forest-health-highlights). More forest health resources are also available at the ODF [forest health page](https://www.oregon.gov/odf/forestbenefits/pages/foresthealth.aspx) (https://www.oregon.gov/odf/forestbenefits/pages/foresthealth.aspx)

***For the forest - Mike Cloughesy, Oregon Forest Resources Institute Director of Forestry***

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## ***Forests: Carbon sequestration, biomass energy, or both?***

There is a continuing debate over the role that woody bioenergy plays in climate mitigation. The controversy involves the impacts of woody biomass demand on forest harvests, prices, timber management investments and intensity, forest area, and the resulting carbon balance under different climate mitigation policies. Increased bioenergy demand increases forest carbon stocks thanks to afforestation activities and more intensive management relative to a no-bioenergy case. Some natural forests, however, are converted to more intensive management, with potential biodiversity losses. Incentivizing both wood-based bioenergy and forest sequestration could increase carbon sequestration and conserve natural forests simultaneously. Conclusion: the expanded use of wood for bioenergy will result in net carbon benefits, but an efficient policy also needs to regulate forest carbon sequestration.

**Science Advances**, March 25, 2020. Alice Favero<sup>1</sup>, Adam Daigneault<sup>2</sup>, and Brent Sohngen<sup>3</sup>

• <sup>1</sup>Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA, USA. • <sup>2</sup>University of Maine, Orono, ME, USA. • <sup>3</sup>Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, USA.

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**How Diverse Are Young Forests? OSU Workshop on June 10th**

We would like to invite you to our **Early Seral Biodiversity and Management** event that will take place at Oregon State University on June 10th with an optional field tour on June 11th to visit management sites.

It has now been over a decade since the topic of early seral forest emerged as a central theme in forest management in the PNW. Since then, agencies have begun to implement management techniques for creating and maintaining this forest type. Scientists and managers, primarily on state and industrial lands, have also collaborated to implement several broad-scale science efforts that test the efficacy of various early seral management techniques.

***The event will include scientists, landowners, agencies, forest practitioners, non-profit organizations, and all those interested in the topic of early seral.***

The **objectives** of this workshop are to:

Present recent scientific findings on the topic of early seral forests in the PNW as they apply to management.

Identify areas of agreement among agencies and other landowners on how to define and manage for early seral forests.

Collaboratively identify information gaps, and conservation and management challenges that are relevant to practitioners and scientists.

Outline key hypotheses that form a research agenda for the coming decade.

To view the full program or register in advance, please visit: [www.forestbiodiversity.org/earlyseral](http://www.forestbiodiversity.org/earlyseral)

## Biological diversity as a factor of production - Relationship between the economic value of our ecosystems and biodiversity

Can the biodiversity of ecosystems be considered a factor of production? Researchers are studying the economic benefits that farmers and foresters can obtain by focusing on several species instead of just one. "We have found that the possible relationships between economic value and biodiversity are varied," says Professor Thomas Knoke, Head of the Institute of Forest Management at the TUM School of Life Sciences Weihenstephan.

### Key points from his research team:

**It all depends on the purpose** - Forests have a number of functions. They serve as home to a variety of animal and plant species, function as a source of wood as a raw material, have a protective function such as protecting the soil and helping combat global warming and serve recreational purposes as well. The different functions of an ecosystem never stand to an equal degree in positive relation to biodiversity. If you were to compile all functions of an ecosystem, you would find a mathematical maximum in terms of its value. The team found that, "maximizing biodiversity at the level of the ecosystem does not maximize economic value in most cases." This particularly holds true if compromises have to be made between different purposes or different economic yields and risks. In such cases, applying a medium level of biological diversity proves most beneficial.

**Where biodiversity pays off** - The more diverse the plants in an ecosystem are, the better the situation is in terms of risk diversification. This affects the variability of cash value of the ecosystem. The research shows that risk can be lowered just by making a minor change to the level of biodiversity. The researchers identified high value potential in biodiversity particularly in connection with the avoidance of social costs. These costs are borne by the public such as diseases caused by air pollution.

**A medium degree of biodiversity often creates the best value** – Knoke found that "Based on theoretical considerations and empirical evidence, we have found that ecosystems with several, but in all actuality relatively few, plant species can produce more economic benefits than those with only one species as well as those with a large number of species."

These findings in no way indicate that mega biodiverse ecosystems are not worth protecting. Instead they show that economic arguments alone are not sufficient when talking about these biodiversity "hot spots." What the relationships do highlight are the economic benefits that even a minor increase in biodiversity could have in the agricultural sector. When it comes to forests, the study shows that it is possible to manage a stable forest that serves a variety of functions with four to five species of trees. The relationships identified in the study can therefore be of considerable value in land use planning going forward.

### Hope for the Industry

COVID-19 has created uncertainty in lumber and panel markets, as buyers have been reluctant to act.

Four weeks ago, our commodity lumber and panel markets were booming, and all indications were that that would continue into the spring. Of course now all bets are off, and to say the commodity markets are in disarray would be an understatement.

A lot of questions will be answered in the weeks and months ahead. I do know that we will come out of this at some time, hopefully sooner than we think. And we will be battered badly, but also, we will be much stronger going forward. **That's what we all are – strong, faithful, resilient, hopeful.**

**Bob Maeda, Freres Lbr. Co.**



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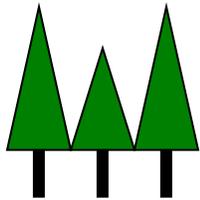
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## Forest Forum



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### Potpourri

**New Members:** Welcome! 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> read OSU Extension's "Tree Topics" blog (Check out what's new from Brad Withrow-Robinson at [www.blogs.oregonstate.edu/treetopics/2020/02/17/backpack-sprayer-mixing-tips](http://www.blogs.oregonstate.edu/treetopics/2020/02/17/backpack-sprayer-mixing-tips))
- [www.oregonwoodlandcooperative.com](http://www.oregonwoodlandcooperative.com) 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