

# **Forest Forum**

## **Washington County Small Woodlands Association**

June, 2020 **Rev1 for Website**



### **ZOOM on in for WCSWA's Wednesday, June 24th Meeting 7:00PM**

Are you looking to connect with other Washington County Small Woodland Association members and learn something about managing wildlife? In an abundance of caution and desire to "keep the band together" during the pandemic the program committee has teamed up with Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) to bring you another virtual program meeting on June 24, 2020 at 7:00 pm. Our featured speaker will be Fran Cafferata Coe, and the title of her presentation will be "Managing for Wildlife on Your Woodlands". Fran will share with us updates on wildlife planning resources from OFRI and others, current wildlife research projects in Oregon, and tree farm certification regulation changes. Fran will also answer questions from the crowd. Please plan to sit back in your own home and join us for the meeting. Mike Cloughesy will facilitate the meeting.

**Meeting Date and time: Wednesday, June 24, 2020, 7:00 PM Pacific Time**

**Location: Zoom at the following link:**

<https://zoom.us/j/92232932663?pwd=cTdIWm9YSiRpLzRTaEpneDdxalppQT09>

We know you cannot "click" on your paper copy of the Forest Forum, so go to the Forest Forum on our website, [www.wcswa.com](http://www.wcswa.com). We will also send an email with the link a couple of days before the meeting.

**See "Zoom" page 9**

## **Seeing the Future – Through Trees!**

**In the future, we may be seeing the world through clear panes of wood instead of glass.** The Forest Products Laboratory (FPL) is pushing the technological concepts of science fiction into reality. A scientist at FPL is helping progress the feasible development of an alternative transparent material to glass that is made from wood. By far, glass is currently the most ubiquitous building material for windows.

Gazing through our windows, the economic and ecological cost of this building material is not immediately perceptible. Unless it's winter—and the cold seeping through brings on a shiver. Glass, especially single paned glass, has a high intrinsic thermal conductivity. Or in other words, it has a natural ability to transfer heat through it. In cold months, that equates to a heftier heating bill. And during the summer, homes heat up faster creating pricier cooling costs. Energy flows through glass as if all the windows have been left open. Additionally, manufacturing current building glass comes with a heavy carbon footprint. Yearly manufacturing emissions are approximately measured at 25,000 metric tons.

**See "Trees", page 7**

## 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. #2: Marc Ahrendt, 503—928-2083

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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

**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

**Wanted:** No New Items

## Event Calendar

June	24	WCSWA "Zoom" meeting	
Tuesdays through July 28		Tree School Online	<a href="http://www.extension.oregonstate.edu/tree-school/tree-school-online-class-guide">www.extension.oregonstate.edu/tree-school/tree-school-online-class-guide</a>
July or August	TBA	Tree Farmer of the Year Virtual Tour	Barrett and Susan Brown Tree Farm

I had the pleasure of touring the WCSWA Tree Farmer of the Year property on an exceedingly warm day (for May) on May 28. The Browns have a very nice property and after spending a little time on the ground it's evident that their recognition is well deserved. No, you didn't miss the TFOY tour, this was just a planning meeting. It's not clear exactly when WCSWA will be able to have a large group on the property so the Browns have been collaborating with several others to bring their tree farm to us in an online format. The objective of the visit May 28 was to do some more detailed planning for the event and capture some video and interview content.

The property setting is North of North Plains off Dairy Creek Rd. From the old store at the intersection of Mountindale Rd. and Dairy Creek Rd., it's about 5 miles up Dairy Creek Rd. Then you cross over East Fork Dairy Creek and climb out of the valley up to the property setting at about 1000ft. elevation. Along the way there are some nice views of the valley and the surrounding area that's mostly in timber production.

On arrival at the Browns' property you see this picture - a small patch of mature Noble Fir, Red Cedar replanted in an old Christmas Tree field, the home site and shop in the middle of the picture and acres of timber to the right, sloping down to Dairy Creek.



The property is predominantly 25+ year old Douglas Fir with patches of Red Alder and Maple and Cedar and overall a lot of stand diversity. There have been numerous commercial and pre-commercial thinning projects and the stands have clearly benefitted from thinning. In 2013 a thinning project was completed on gentle slopes and the

adjacent steep slopes were left untouched. The difference in timber size and health in the thinned vs. unthinned areas is dramatic.

The road and trail system is well developed, with rock from a quarry on the property used to keep primary roads navigable year-round as well as miles of trails for mountain biking, motorcycle riding and even trails you can take a motorized scooter on!

The lower parts of the property include portions of Dairy Creek at about 450' elevation where the Browns have done extensive stream restoration work as well as installation of a flat car bridge. These projects have provided opportunities to partner with neighbors and other partners such as the Tualatin River Watershed Council.

There is much more to see and hear about from the experts that were involved with these projects and many others, so look forward to that opportunity coming to your computer screen soon.

Until next time, hope everyone continues to stay safe!

*“You can't see what you don't understand, But what you think you already understand, you'll fail to notice*

Richard Powers

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*"The significant problems we face today cannot be solved with the same level of thinking that were at when we created them."*

**Albert Einstein**

# WCSWA Zoom Meetings Hit the Ground Running

By Tom Nygren

The COVID-19 Virus has created uncertainty in our lives in many ways. For WCSWA members, it has disrupted our normal schedule of meetings, social gathering, and informative field trips. However, the WCSWA leadership has stepped up to the task of maintaining contact with members, and is continuing to provide useful information for small woodland owners. Though most small woodland people are not strong in modern computer and social media skills, there are resources available to help, such as OFRI's Director of Forestry, Mike Cloughesy. When asked by WCSWA leaders to help out, Mike volunteered. He not only instructed them in how to set up an on-line meeting; he provided access to OFRI's Zoom connection, orchestrated the May 5<sup>th</sup> trial Zoom meeting, and facilitated the follow-up May 20<sup>th</sup> inaugural monthly meeting. **Thanks, Mike!**

## In case you missed the May 20<sup>th</sup> WCSWA Zoom meeting.....

You weren't alone. However, there was a reasonably good on-line attendance for the meeting - about 20 people participated. The topic was a local presentation and discussion as a follow-up to the Tree School Webinar earlier, **COVID-19 and the Forest Sector**, which featured a panel consisting of Steve Zika, CEO of Hampton Lumber Company; Tammy Cushing, OSU professor; Rex Storm of Associated Oregon Loggers; Ron Graham of ODF (Fire Protection); and Gordon Culbertson, Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year. Some bullet points from their presentations:

### Steve Zika

- The CV-19 situation has caused big changes – in both how the company operates, and in the markets they serve. Hampton is now producing at the 2012 level, a significant drop.
- There has been a shift in lumber demand from housing construction to home remodeling – this has helped Hampton cope with the downturn.
- Green Douglas-fir has held up better than the composite market.

### Tammy Cushing

- Consumer spending is down - 7.5% in March
- Housing starts are down, but home improvement demand is strong
- There has been a spike in demand for some paper products (*does toilet paper come to mind?*)
- Mills are reducing inventory – reflecting decreased demand – and reducing shifts
- Conflicting state policies – WA: forestry is not essential; OR: forestry is essential
- **Good News!** There is a lack of value correlation with the market activity; woodland owners can “bank on the stump”, and the biological/environmental risk is short-term for woodland owners.

### Rex Storm:

- Forestry contractors seriously affected : road construction, harvest, future reforestation, and protection
- The market decline is the major cause, not the stay-at-home order
- AOL has worked hard at getting information out to contractors about how to deal with COVID-19, including for activities such as worker transit, screening, training, sick leave
- The “shape of the curve” is key to recovery: will it be a “V”? That could mean a 6 week recovery. A W “bounce” could mean 10 weeks, which means some lean times but not a structural change; or an “L” – this could mean 15 weeks, with loss of some workforce, capital and profit effects, discouraging investment in the industry.

### Ron Graham:

- The big issue is the effect of COVID-19 on training and operation of fire crews, including transit of crews, fire camps, sharing of equipment
- Possible respiratory problems with smoke

### Gordon Culbertson:

- A southern Oregon perspective: mills are building up big inventories (as opposed to northern Oregon)

(Continued on page 6)

- Now is the time to work on things you need to get done; contractors are more available.

**And now for the local WCSWA follow-up meeting:**

This meeting focused on the local forestry sector situation, as a follow-up to the Tree School panel above. The speaker was Tyler Robbins, forester for Hampton Lumber Company. Tyler has worked for Hampton for the past 5 years. Hampton has 143,000 acres of forest land and 10 sawmills. They focus on logs between 10 and 30 inches top diameter.

Tyler explained that at this time, log prices are fairly high as mills try to re-build their inventory after the winter logging slowdown. When the COVID-19 guidelines were instituted in mid-March, some operations were reduced. Lumber sales dropped off for a month, and some mills had shutdowns and reduced shifts. However, things have now opened back up again, with some load quotas, but the goal is to keep logs flowing at a level of production. Log prices are down, though – 15-20% depending on species and log sizes.

The Hampton strategies to cope with this situation are:

- Delaying and/or slowing higher priced timber purchases
- Changing prudent mixes of products and dimensions focus on higher liquidity, i.e. more on 4x4, 4x6 sizes
- Keep log prices down – 15-20% - Hampton expects that export of logs will increase due to these lower prices (more favorable for small woodland owners)
- Focus on premium products sought by home improvement stores (remodel, repair)
- Fulfilling orders coming in coordinated with inventories
- Lower fuel prices

**Final thought:** Tyler thinks that the recovery log prices will occur in a “W” shaped pattern: down, up, down, up. Fire season shutdowns may slow recovery also.



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## Time to Order Seedlings

By Don Sohler and Bob Shumaker

It is time to start thinking about your seedling needs for the 2020-2021 planting season. A seedling order form is included in this newsletter. Orders are taken on a first-come basis.

We will have 40-45 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 4,500 Western Red Cedar plug +1 available.

The price is \$65/bag (.54 each) for the DF packed at 120 per bag and \$70/bag (.70 each) for WRC packed at 100 per bag. Seedlings are available between January 15 and February 15 depending on weather conditions.

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.

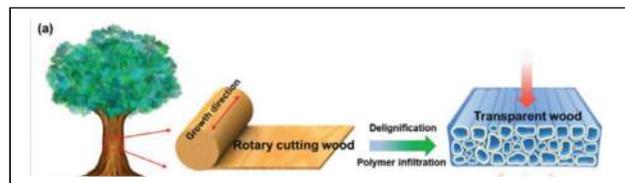
### ***“Trees”, continued from page 1***

Finding alternatives to glass has been an ongoing research exploration. However, transparent wood has emerged as one of the most promising, feasible materials of the future. Wood as a transparent material did pose some challenges—haze, durability, and thermal insulation for energy efficiency were previously barriers to a workable product.

#### ***How are transparent trees even possible?***

Wood from balsa, one of the lowest density trees in the world due to its fast growth rate, is treated to a strong oxidizing agent (NACLO) that can remove the compounds in wood responsible for light absorption.

After a long oxidizing bath, the balsa wood structure becomes more porous and cell walls are significantly thinned. In essence, it is bleached and leached of nearly all visibility. After its bath, the wood is then infiltrated with a synthetic polymer (PVA), which creates a product with high optical transmittance and low haze. The transparency produced from the PVA addition is approximately 91%, which is comparable to today's glass translucency standard.



Moreover, the addition of the synthetic polymer has made for a far more durable, lighter, transparent material than glass. It can sustain strong impact primarily because of its naturally dense wood structure combined with cellulose and the energy absorbing polymer filler. This gives it higher ductility, the ability of a material to undergo significant stress before deformation. And unlike glass, when it does fail under stress it bends or splinters instead of sharply shattering.

*continued on page 10*



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Willamina, OR 97396

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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:  
Douglas fir & White woods

#### TYLER ROBBINS

503-324-2681 office  
503-728-8192 cell

##### BANKS

13662 NW Commerce St.  
Banks, OR 97106

Desired species: Douglas fir

### “CSI OSU” No, not a TV Program

Oregon State University's College of Forestry is the new home of a forensics lab that fights timber crime, a \$1 billion annual problem for the United States' forest products industry.

Scientists at the center use a specialized type of mass spectrometry for wood species identification to determine if a truckload of logs, a guitar, a dining room table or other wood products are what they are purported to be.

"The illegal timber trade is a direct attack on sustainable livelihoods and ecosystems in Oregon and other parts of the country, and also abroad," said Anthony S. Davis, interim dean of the College of Forestry. "Advancing the capacity for science-based approaches to curtailing such behavior aligns directly with OSU and our college's mission to promote economic and social progress in an ecologically sound manner, and provides an opportunity for us to partner with interested countries in using novel wood identification technologies."



Although OSU Extension was not able to hold their [2020 Clackamas County Tree School](#) in March, you will still be able to enjoy the classes you were looking forward to taking.

[OSU Extension Forestry and Natural Resources](#) is working with the [Partnership for Forestry Education](#) to bring you this 15-week webinar series. You can participate in many of the classes that were set for Tree School Clackamas, along

with some new classes developed exclusively for Tree School Online. For more information, go to:

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/tree-school/tree-school-clackamas>

**THESE WEBINARS ARE FREE FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS.** For questions about the series, contact:

Glenn Ahrens, OSU Extension Forester, [glenn.ahrens@oregonstate.edu](mailto:glenn.ahrens@oregonstate.edu)

Amanda Brenner, Tree School Coordinator, [amanda.brenner@oregonstate.edu](mailto:amanda.brenner@oregonstate.edu)

Mike Cloughesy, OFRI Director of Forestry, [cloughesy@ofri.org](mailto:cloughesy@ofri.org)



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Zoom – continued from page 1

A few suggestions for a successful virtual meeting:

- All you need to join the meeting is:
  - o A computer, tablet or phone with an internet connection, web browser, and a speaker
- OR
  - o For people who want to call in rather than join by computer you can call: (669) 900-6833 US (San Jose) and use the following information:  
Meeting ID: 922 3293 2663  
Password: 022750
- It is not necessary for you to have a camera or microphone on your computer, although they will allow you to interact with the presenter and other participants.
- If you do have a camera and microphone, you will be able to leave them turned off. However, this will not allow you to interact with the presenter and other participants.

The meeting will be "open" starting at 6:40PM, to allow you to be sure you can connect well ahead of the 7:00PM meeting start time. Someone will be available to confirm that you've connected and provide a little trouble-shooting help if needed.

*“The Real Voyage  
of Discovery  
Consists Not In  
Seeking New  
Landscapes, But  
In Having New  
Eyes”*

Marcel Proust



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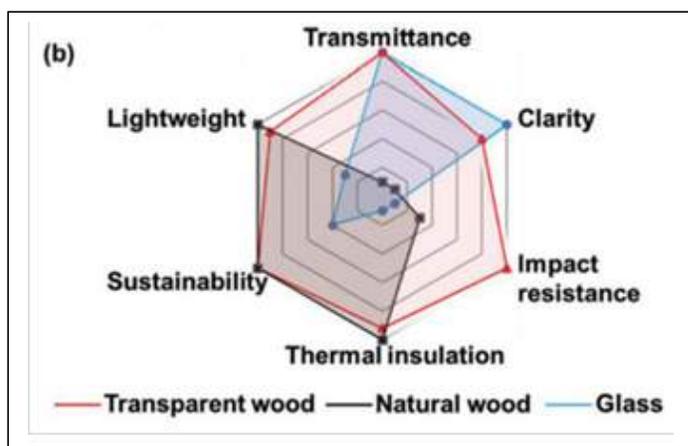
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**“Trees” , continued from page 8**

Transparent wood also outperforms glass in thermal insulation. Its low thermal conductivity means that it transfers less heat and energy. It is estimated to be more than five times less thermally conductive than glass. As the world looks for ways to make a positive impact on climate change, that equates to real world economic and environmental benefits.

Economically, it won't break the bank either. Transparent wood is made from a sustainable, renewable resource with low carbon emissions. And because of its compatibility with existing industrial processing equipment, it has the potential for an easy transition into fabrication.



With all the potential benefits transparent wood has to offer, an invisible forest could create our greenest planet yet.

To find out more about the amazing advancements our scientists are making, visit the Forest Products Laboratory at: <https://www.fpl.fs.fed.us/>

Forest Products Laboratory scientist [Junyong Zhu](#) and his colleagues from the University of Maryland and the University of Colorado have developed a process for a transparent wood composite that simultaneously enhanced transparency, increased thermal insulation, and improved durability. They reported their findings in the [Journal of Advanced Functional Materials](#) in their paper, [“A Clear, Strong, and Thermally Insulated Transparent Wood for Energy Efficient Windows.”](#)



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## Want to help monitor the decline of Western Redcedar? (Master Woodland Manager message 6/3/2020)

The WRC project is a collaborative involving ODF forest health, OSU forestry extension, WADNR forest health, and the USFS. We are investigating pockets of western redcedar that seem to be dying back in areas where they should be thriving. This is an issue all the way up through western Canada. We are 1) trying to determine all locations of the dieback via ground reports (see request below), and 2) establishing long-term monitoring plots to collect very basic single tree data using Survey123 to detect patterns.

**There are two ways you can help:**

- 1) Identify locations where redcedar decline is present. We could do this by assigning individuals parts of NW Oregon to conduct road surveys to find these spots or visit areas we have highlighted as potential sites (public lands where WRC occurs). Master Woodland Managers and other cooperators would only need to be able to identify decline symptoms which is quite easy (clusters of WRC with red and/or thinning crowns) and record locations (lat/long preferred), estimated acres which is often <1 acre, and generally who owns the property. and/or
- 2) Collect monitoring data. Which entails 1-2x year visits to a plot to collect all of the following info (the data that requires equipment\* only requires 1x collection and can be done later by ODF):

**Contact Christine.J.Buhl@oregon.gov to get involved**

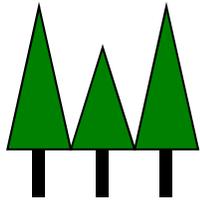
### Data to Monitor

1. Date
2. Location
3. Site type
4. Est.acres of redcedar damage
5. Ownership
6. Landowner name
7. Landowner contact info
8. Site number
9. Tree DBH\*

10. Age estimate
11. Tree crown symptoms
12. Tree crown dieback rating
13. Foliage transparency rating
14. Core sample\*
15. Insect or disease present?
16. Crown classification
17. BAF10\*

18. Aspect
19. Slope position
20. Dominant ground cover
21. Plant associations
22. Photo

## Forest Forum



### Potpourri

**New Members:** Welcome to **Mary and James Barnhart** of Portland. 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
- [www.oregonwoodlandcooperative.com](http://www.oregonwoodlandcooperative.com) learn about the Oregon Woodland Cooperative
- <https://www.facebook.com/WashingtonCountySmallWoodlandsAssociation>