

Forest Forum

Washington County Small Woodlands Association

January, 2021

Wednesday, January 27th WCSWA Monthly Meeting: 7:00pm

Drs. **Daniel Leavell** (State Fire Specialist) and **John Bailey** (Professor of Silviculture and Fire Management) will briefly review the 2020 fire season and what we learned from it, as well as previous years' wildfires. Then, they will address what woodland owners could do moving forward to minimize risk to their property, and be available for questions.



John Bailey

The 2020 wildfire season notched some new records for acres burned (especially on the westside) and garnered widespread attention to the growing issue of wildland fire risk in Oregon and beyond. It was predictable in many ways given recent trajectories in fuels accumulation, changing climate patterns and density and dispersal of human development. Beyond exposing our vulnerability to these underlying issues, it also brought to light several new realizations: 1) westside Douglas-fir forests are not the "asbestos forests" we once considered them to be; 2) wildfire transition from uninhabited forest and rangelands to human communities is not dependent on dense, surrounding forests; and 3) house-to-house fire transmission is an

under-studied phenomenon but a huge issue needing resolution. Drs. Bailey and Leavell will provide some data and insights on both the general trajectories driving increased wildland fire risk as well as these new, emerging concerns.



Daniel Leavell

But this is NOT ALL BAD NEWS for 2021 and beyond! Unlike the risk incurred from other natural hazards and disasters (e.g., earthquakes and hurricanes) for which we can only prepare and adapt, wildfire risk itself can be reduced proactively through fuels treatments incorporated into good land management practices. Fundamentally speaking, reducing the fuels availability in and around the things we value will reduce fire intensity (and maybe occurrence) – that is just physics and chemistry. Reductions in fire intensity typically reduce the severity or impact of a fire on those things we value that are at risk: wildlands, woodlands, suburban/urban neighborhoods, and homes – and families - and our ourselves. So, this presentation will include some of the latest ideas about living and coping with fire as a hazard and how to lessen the risk, what makes for effective fuels treatments/reductions across a range of conditions, and how it can fit into a cohesive strategy for managing our risk moving forward into an uncertain future. "Zoom" in on Jan. 27 and learn more.

Here is the Zoom Link:

<https://zoom.us/j/96223386784?pwd=NVkxSDB2T01aQ0R5cFpYWnJ3ck8zQT09>

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

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www.wcswa.com
 Website Manager: Michael Morgan
 Contact Tom Nygren or Bonnie Shumaker for web postings and information.

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<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: Powered Nutcracker, produced and manufactured by the MAVE company in Newberg, Oregon. It is adjustable to crack hard shelled nuts like hazelnuts or walnuts and others. \$150. Contact Neil or Ardis Schroeder 503 628 2344.

Wanted: No New Items

Event Calendar

Fall Tree School Online		Outline of Programs	See page 9 or go to www.knowyourforest.org/TreeSchoolOnline
January	27	2020 Fires: What Have We Learned?	7:00 p.m. Zoom meeting. Drs. Daniel Leavell and John Bailey, Oregon State, see page 1
February	24	Understory Management and ONREF report.	7:00 p.m. Zoom meeting. Multnomah SWCD and ONREF. See page 3

Leadership Notes

Vic Herinckx

Welcome 2021 and the hope of getting back to normal operations this sometime this year. Reflecting on 2020 we had a very successful Native Plant Sale in March and from that point forward everything went virtual with Zoom meetings replacing our monthly program meetings and Tree Farmer of the Year get together. Check the calendar in the newsletter for a list of the meeting topics and dates and try to attend if you can.

As we transition from being in the midst of this pandemic to being able to look back on it, several of us will find this is the only time in our lives where we have experienced an extended timeframe where we were displaced and unable to function “normally.”

Those impacted by wildfire, evacuation, home damage, job loss and other specific circumstances have similar considerations for a short-term change, but even those situations typically don't last 1+ years. Here's to getting normal and the prospect of getting together in-person. I'm certain it will take longer than we want, but we will do it safely.



illness,
back to
again.
be sure

This a great time to set goals for 2021 whether it's creating/updating management plans or executing those plans in the form of silviculture operations, promoting wildlife habitat, road or trail access, controlling invasive plants or many other objectives you might have for your property. If you need some inspiration be sure to watch the Yamhill and Washington County Virtual Neighbor to Neighbor tree farm tours on the www.oswa.org website.

Until next time, Happy New Year and continue to stay safe!

February 24 WCSWA Zoom Meeting, 7:00pm Two 30-minute presentations Understory Management and ONREF

Understory of the forest is often a puzzlement: How to get the desired stuff to grow and keep out the invasives. Multnomah SWCD will offer insight in a presentation by Michael Ahr and Laura Taylor on "Beneficial Understory Vegetation Establishment and Management."

The second presentation will be by the Oregon Natural Resource Education Fund (ONREF) on their past and present activities and future planning. OSWA, through several chapters, including ours, raised \$25,000 to establish an Oregon Small Woodlands (OSWA) ONREF sub-fund. The Oregon Community Foundation will manage the OSWA sub-fund, along with three other sub-funds, as part of the general Oregon Natural Resource Education Fund. These funds will be used to promote natural resource education in high schools throughout Oregon.

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- Search by County for local resources
- Find educational materials in the Learning Library
- Refer to forest practice laws
- Register for classes



Fuel Reduction Success Story on the Badger Fire, Yreka, California

USDA Klamath National Forest and Cal Fire, Siskiyou, Information, Dec. 3, 2020

In the afternoon of July 18, 2020, two fires were reported within the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Siskiyou area of Hawkinsville/Humbug, just north of Yreka, California.

Weather conditions were very hot and dry, with temperatures around 100° F and humidity in the teens. Fuels in the area had been affected by extreme drought following an exceptionally dry winter. The two fires, named the Humbug and the Badger, were burning in steep rugged terrain. Fire behavior was extreme in the timber and brush, producing significant spotting and hampering suppression efforts. Aggressive initial attack efforts using ground and aerial resources from multiple agencies secured the Humbug Fire, but the Badger Fire continued to create challenges for firefighters.

As the sun began to set, the two fires merged into one – the Badger Fire. As the Badger fire spread, it moved into an area of reduced fuels that had been completed as part of the Craggy Vegetation Management Project. When the fire moved out of the untreated fuels and into the treated project area, the fire behavior decreased. Using the features created by the Craggy Project, a dozer line was put in and that played a key role in keeping fire out of the community of Hawkinsville and the greater Yreka area.

This project was collaboratively planned and funded by multiple agencies and demonstrates the need for more landscape level fuel reduction projects in the future. The 11,300- acre Craggy Project employs mastication, hand thinning and piling, timber sales and prescribed understory burning to reduce ladder, canopy and surface fuels at strategic locations for use during wildfire situations. Already a success, the Craggy Project is still in the process of being completed.

The Hills Look Alive, with a Giant Smiley Face



Oregon Live, Posted Dec 03, 2020

By [Janet Krajcsik](#)
jkrajcsik@pennlive.com

Travelers driving in Polk County, Oregon, might be getting a strange feeling that someone is watching them. And in a way, they are correct.

Above them on the forested hillside is a giant smiley face. According to OregonLive.com, the image can be viewed near mile-marker 25 on Oregon Route 18, between the towns of Grand Ronde and Willamina.

There seem to be strange objects and sights appearing in unexpected places lately. There were two monolith structures last

A giant smiley face, formed with trees, can be seen on Hampton Lumber's timberland near Willamina, Oregon, annually in the fall.
Dave Killen, The Oregonian

month, one in a remote area of Utah and the other in Romania. Both have since disappeared as mysteriously as they appeared.

But this image is not so unexpected. It appears annually in the fall when the trees' needles change color.

What resembles a basic smiling emoji (or "happy face" if you remember the '70s) is located on timberland owned by Hampton Lumber. Company spokesperson Kristin Rasmussen said in an email to OregonLive, that the smiley face was created and planted back in 2011 by one of the company's co-owners, David Hampton, along with Dennis Creel, a manager at the time.

"After every harvest, our foresters start planning the reforestation process," she wrote. "They typically plant a variety of native species depending on the elevation and soil conditions, including Douglas fir, western hemlock, noble fir and western red cedar."

The face, measuring approximately 300 feet in diameter, was well thought-out. The eyes and mouth were planted with Douglas fir, while the much lighter "yellow-ish" color of the "face" was created by planting larch trees which proved to be most important. Rasmussen explained, "Larch is a conifer with needles that turn yellow and drop off in the fall, which is why the smiley face is best visible this time of year."

To achieve the oval shape of the eyes and the outer circle of the face, the planting crews used ropes.

Those driving along the highway will be able to see the huge smiley face every fall for the next 30 to 50 years—until the trees are ready to be harvested and processed into lumber.

***Editor's Note:** It is probably too late to see the orange this year, but what a fun idea. I plan to mark my calendar for viewing next fall.*

British Columbia scientists develop a biodegradable face mask

By Levon Sevunts | Radio Canada International
Posted: Monday, December 28, 2020 00:40

A team of Canadian scientists at the University of British Columbia has developed a biodegradable face mask using natural, cellulosic fibres and nano-materials made from wood-based products.



The Can Mask, developed at the Bio-Products Institute, matches the performance of disposable polypropylene masks but is much safer for the environment, according to its creators.

“Compared to a surgical mask the breathability is pretty good, probably better, and then, what matters the most, the filtration efficiency is up to a standard of a surgical mask, even a little bit better,” said Orlando Rojas, Professor and Canada Excellence Research Chair, and Scientific Director at the Bio-Products Institute.

As part of UBC’s Faculty of Applied Science, the Bio-Products Institute develops ways to use renewable resources existing in nature as alternative solutions to fossil fuel derived materials.

“The main principle is to use wood or plant fibres and they are assembled together as in paper... and the fibres are assembled in such a way that you have enough porosity for breathing and yet you can filter out the virus particles,” Rojas said.

The main shell of the mask uses inexpensive paper-type materials that are readily available and in the centre the mask has a specially engineered filter or a membrane that ensures high breathability and filters out tiny particles, Rojas said.

The biodegradable face mask is part of the institute’s effort to mitigate the impact of the dramatic rise in the use of single-use plastics, which according to some estimates has spiked by 40% worldwide since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a PP (polypropylene) mask, biodegradability doesn’t exist, a PP mask is used for a very short time- an average of 12 minutes, but they last thousands of years, Rojas said. On the contrary, the fibre masks are fully biodegradable and not only biodegradable, they are compostable.

The Social Life of Forests

Trees appear to communicate and cooperate through subterranean networks of fungi. What are they sharing with one another?

New York Times Magazine, December 2, 2020, By Ferris Jabr,

https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/12/02/magazine/tree-communication-mycorrhiza.html?campaign_id=61&emc=edit_ts_20201204&instance_id=24727&nl=the-great-read®i_id=54254258&segment_id=46112&te=1&user_id=48f9466c83ef868d7aaa1c80037a5de6

Editor’s Note: This article is much too long to include in the Forest Forum, but is worth reading. Either follow the above link using the Forest Forum at www.wcswa.com or Google The Social Life of Forests, NW Times Magazine article.



Oregon in winter is certain to bring some windy days. It is to be acknowledged that there is danger to being out in the forest in a wind event and concern over the blow-down of trees and broken tops,

It also must be admitted there is a certain excitement on a stormy, windy day, especially if you are inside, warm and dry. In the picture above you can almost hear the whoosh of the wind. "Whoosh" is an example of onomatopoeia, when a word resembles the sound it describes.

Tiffany Fegel, WOWNet coordinator, sent an email on 11/30/2020 with a new onomatopoeia word. Psithurism (pronounced sith-OR-ism) is defined as the sound of wind in the trees: Try that one out next time the wind in the trees perks up your ears.



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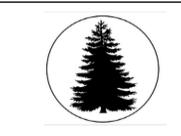
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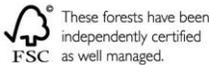
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Oregon State University Extension is continuing to work with the Partnership for Forestry Education to continue the Tree School Online webinar series to our Oregon forestry community.

Sign up for any of these classes which include [FREE Registration](#) and [Webinar description](#) at www.knowyourforest.org/TreeSchoolOnline

Can't view a seminar live? They are recorded and available at the above website.

UPCOMING WEBINARS:

January 5, 3:00 p.m.

Forests as Habitat for Wildlife: Priority Actions for Habitat Management

Instructors: Fran Cafferata Coe, Certified Wildlife Biologist, Cafferata Consulting, LLC

Julie Woodward, Senior Manager of Forestry Education, Oregon Forest Resources Institute

[FREE registration](#) | [Webinar description](#) | [Full class guide](#)

January 19, 3:00 p.m.

Wind, Rain and Dead Tanoak: Sudden Oak Death in Oregon

Instructors: Norma Kline, OSU Forestry and Natural Resource Agent, Oregon State University, Myrtle Point, OR.

Dan Stark, OSU Forestry and Natural Resource Agent, Oregon State University, Astoria, OR.

Sarah Navarro, USFS Regional Sudden Oak Death Pathologist, Portland, OR.

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Her secret is patience.”***

Ralph Waldo Emerson



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Drones plant trees from the sky after U.S. wildfires

Reuters, By Nathan Frandino, Dec. 1, 2020

After record wildfires ravaged the U.S. West Coast, replanting trees amid the apocalyptic, ash-covered landscape is a daunting task. Seattle-based startup DroneSeed's fleet of drones can plant trees six times faster than human hands.

The company has been using its drones to distribute tree seeds, fertilizers and pest deterrent onto about 1,000 acres (405 hectares) of fire-damaged land to help speed up reforestation. The drones – which are 8 feet (2.4 meters) in diameter – can carry 57 pounds (26 kg) and fly eight to 18 minutes at a time.



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If You Missed It – A Story Map of Local Tree Farm Work

Brandy Saffell, Conservation Specialist-Forest Program for Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District (TSWCD), presented a Zoom program on October 28th about working with woodland owners and program partners to implement Tualatin SWCD's forest conservation objectives throughout Washington County. Brandy used an effective technology called "ArcGis Story Map", showing maps, text and video, to show us work done on two different tree farms.

By popular demand, Brandy has given us the link to view the Story Map – it's worth a second look even if you saw it the first time! Here is the link to the StoryMap:

<https://arcg.is/11euW9>

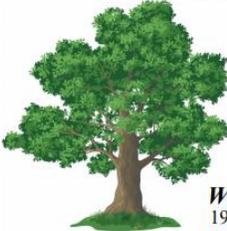
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Forest Service Begins Making Biochar at Wildfire Recovery Site

By [GEORGE PLAVEN Capital Press](#), Dec 3, 2020

ESTACADA, Ore. — An excavator rumbled over a pile of dead tree branches, limbs and woody debris in the Mt. Hood National Forest east of Estacada, Ore., where the Riverside Fire began Sept. 8 and quickly enveloped 138,054 acres.

Next to the pile sat the Tigercat 6050 carbonator, a tank-like mobile machine designed to convert organic biomass such as forest brush and slash into biochar, a carbon-rich soil amendment with serious potential for Northwest farms.



An excavator drops a load of slash into the top of the TigerCat 6050 carbonator, This is the first time federal land managers have incorporated making biochar as wildfire cleanup.

“Black gold,” remarked Kraig Kidwell, regional timber contracting officer for the U.S. Forest Service, as he grabbed a handful of grainy, jet-black biochar. “We’re taking a waste product and creating something usable.”

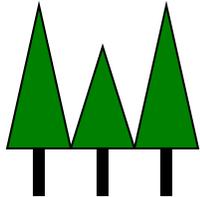
Along the Clackamas River Highway, crews have been cutting down hazardous trees as part of the recovery effort. The logs may be sold for timber, though the smaller-diameter brush cannot be processed at local mills, leaving the Forest Service with few options for it. Slash may be used to make wood chips, though with so much burned material the cost of production quickly outweighs any potential profits. Oftentimes it is simply burned in big piles, though that too has some drawbacks, such as emitting plumes of smoke into the air. Biochar could offer a solution on both fronts.

The Tigercat 6050 works by burning the slash in an oxygen-free environment — a process known as pyrolysis — with a large air-blower recirculating air to trap emissions. It is estimated between 80% and 90% of carbon is sequestered in biochar. Studies show biochar also improves the water-holding capacity of coarse-textured soils. Earlier this year, Elder Demolition, a commercial demolition contractor based in Portland, purchased a Tigercat 6050 carbonator as a way to recycle wood from homes and buildings.

Kidwell said the markets for biochar, admittedly, are still developing. While the product’s benefits are mostly understood, the issue boils down to basic economics — not many outfits are producing biochar, which in turn makes it cost-prohibitive for most farmers.

Incorporating biochar into more forest fire rehabilitation projects could help boost supplies and make it more affordable, Kidwell said. “If someone doesn’t start doing this, it’s not going to happen,” he said.

Forest Forum



COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE
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ASSOCIATION

Potpourri

New Members: Welcome to the **Donald M. Blair Trust** of Dallas, OR. 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 learn about the Oregon Woodland Cooperative
- <https://www.facebook.com/WashingtonCountySmallWoodlandsAssociation>
- For E-Notification: : <https://ferns.odf.state.or.us/E-Notification> or visit an ODF Office