

# **Forest Forum**

## **Washington County Small Woodlands Association**

**May, 2021**

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### **April 28 Zoom Meeting: Scott McEwen and Mike Cafferata**

As promised, our April meeting focused on local happenings.

**Scott McEwen**, the Executive Director of Tualatin River Watershed Council (TRWC), gave the first presentation. Watershed Councils were formed in Oregon in 1993 as part of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. TRWC is one of 85 councils set up by The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. Scott McEwen became Director of TRWC two years ago following watershed work he did in Michigan. The 23 stakeholders that make up TRWC represent agriculture, forestry, business, government, education, environment and neighborhood organizations. Tom Nygren is the WCSWA representative on the Council, and Eric Chambers is the alternate.

Scott calls Oregon “a fabulous place to do water work.” The Tualatin River is 80 miles long with 898 tributary miles covering an area of 712 square miles. Land use is 50% forestry, 30% agriculture and 20% urban.

Scott reminds us: “Rivers move; rivers are dynamic, not static.” In order to make informed natural resource decisions, TRWC uses LiDAR which creates very accurate elevation models with pulsed laser beams. A new LiDAR map is created every 5 years, the last one in 2019. NetMAP uses LiDAR to show landforms and how they may influence water features. It can predict areas vulnerable to debris and mud flows, landslides and roads vulnerable to slips. This type of mapping covers large areas saving costs over field collection to pinpoint areas of focus for maintenance or improvement. You can view the LiDAR for your area at <https://gis.dogami.oregon.gov/maps/lidarviewer/>.

*See April 28 Zoom Meeting, page 10*

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### **Wednesday, May 26 Zoom 7:00pm – Alternate uses and fun on the tree farm**

**Trail building:** Great trails, sustainably engineered and designed around the way you’d like to use them can transform your tree farm, connecting you, your family, and visitors to your forest in ways you never imagined. Tune in to our regular May Zoom meeting to hear **Barrett Brown** talk about adding fantastic recreation trail experiences to your tree farm; or maybe, simply, new ways to get around the place. From planning, construction, and maintenance, this will be a great chance to learn and ask questions about the art and science of trail building.

**Orienteering in Woodlands:** **Tony Pinkham**, president of the Columbia River Orienteering Club will inform us how woodlands can be the site of some incredible orienteering navigation competitions. The club is always looking for new areas to challenge and develop the navigational skills of their orienteers. Woodland venues typically offer the best navigational challenges that prepare the orienteers for competitions. Tony will tell us how you can be involved if you are interested in letting them use your woodland property for the sport of orienteering.

**Zoom Link:** <https://zoom.us/j/96223386784?pwd=NVxkSDB2T01aQ0R5cFpYWnJ3ck8zQT09>

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## WCSWA Leadership

President – Vic Herinckx, 503-645-9434

Vice-President – Barrett Brown, 503-647-6499

Secretary-Treasurer – Bob Shumaker; 503-324-7825

### Board of Directors:

Pos. #1: Norbert LePage, 503-985-0149

Pos. #2: Marc Ahrendt, 503—928-2083

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

**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.new.wcswa.com](http://www.new.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:

**Wanted:** Looking for **Massey-Ferguson165 diesel tractor steering box**. Also **need dry firewood** (Scholls area). Contact Mike at 503-628-3631

## Event Calendar

<b>Tree School Online</b>		Outline of Programs	See page 7 or go to <a href="http://www.knowyourforest.org/TreeSchoolOnline">www.knowyourforest.org/TreeSchoolOnline</a>
<b>May</b>	<b>26</b>	Alternative Uses of Forestland (besides timber!)	
<b>June</b>	<b>23</b>	Twilight Tour at Bob and Bonnie Shumaker's	See page 3
<b>On the horizon!</b>			
<b>July 23<sup>rd</sup> – OSWA Annual Meeting</b>			
<b>August 21<sup>st</sup> – Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year Tour, Culbertson's Tree Farm, Lane County</b>			

# Leadership Notes

Vic Herinckx

WCSWA leadership had a board meeting in April where we discussed the possibilities of summer events and activities. We think it will be safe and beneficial to plan for a couple of outdoor events this summer, including a visit and update on the Shumaker property in June and a Tree Farmer of the Year tour at the Brown's Tree Farm in late August or early September.

Additionally, we are planning to hold our annual meeting and banquet in-person in November. There may be some adjustments to what we have typically done in the past to make sure these events are safe for everyone and follow OHA's guidelines. We will make last minute adjustments as needed. I'm sure everyone is looking forward to getting back to in-person events - it's been a long time!

The wind storm that came through Labor Day 2020 and fanned all the destructive fires, also blew down a fence and part of a Maple tree in my backyard. The picture here may not do justice, but the branch came right out of the center of the tree, and so I decided the tree needed to come out. Would you believe most of the wood < 5" diameter from that tree has been sliced in 3/8" thick slices and shipped all over the country via the Etsy marketplace? If you aren't familiar with Etsy, it's an online marketplace where people come together to make, sell, buy and collect unique items. The top sales categories are craft and supplies, handmade items and jewelry. Craft supplies is a pretty big market and you may have goods in your woods that you can market and ship as craft supplies or refined into handmade products. My site is focused on Maple, Doug-fir and Cherry slices. Maple is the best seller and works well for painting, pyrography, laser engraving and other purposes. There is no cost to build an Etsy site and it costs \$.20 to list an item for sale. If this sounds like something you might be interested in and have questions or need help getting started, give me a call, I'd be glad to help.

Until next time, continue to stay safe!



## **Twilight Walking Tour – June 22 – 6:00pm – 8:00pm Shumaker Tree Farm west of Banks**

We are hoping for the best and will observe all Covid-19 protocols in place at the time. This will be a return to the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday meeting time. Registration will be required to attend. It will be wonderful to get together and share what has been happening on the Shumaker Tree Farm. Here are the proposed stops along the walking tour.

- Pre-commercial thinning project utilizing grant from NRCS
- Fire safety access – neighbor to neighbor
- Phenology (see “Tree Talk” page 6)
- Equipment and animals (just for fun). We know woodland owners love equipment.

Watch for more information and how to register in the June Forest Forum

**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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**Amy's Trail Winding Forward**



**Amy Grotta Memorial Trail Work-party opportunities:**

When our beloved OSU Extension agent, Amy Grotta, died December, 2019, plans were made for a memorial trail in her honor at the Matteson Forest, a new OSU Research Forest near Hagg Lake. Covid-19 interrupted plans for this Trail.

There is now an opportunity for you to get involved. There will be a work party led by Amy's husband, David Dreher, on May 8, 15, and 22 prior to a trail machine coming in late May to rough out the trail.

The finishing touches will be put on the trail in late September. If you wish to volunteer, please contact David Dreher [dmdreher@gmail.com](mailto:dmdreher@gmail.com).



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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



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# Tree Talk - Phenology Study

By Bonnie Shumaker

Phenology is the study of cyclic and seasonal natural phenomena, especially in relation to climate and plant and animal life. The origin of the word phenology comes from phenomenon + logy. In science, phenomenon stands for any event which we can sense or detect or record.

Leading up to my understanding of the meaning of phenology was signing up for CoCoRaHS last fall. CoCoRaHS (pronounced KO-ko-rozz) stands for Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, Snow network and is a grassroots volunteer network of backyard weather observers of all ages and backgrounds working together to measure and map precipitation (rain, hail and snow) in their local communities across our nation. In their words: "Every drop counts." Check this out at [www.cocorahs.org](http://www.cocorahs.org).

Coordinated with CoCoRaHS, is Oregon Season Tracker. I was encouraged by OSU Extension to enroll in this, too, and I did. **Oregon Season Tracker** (OST) links volunteers, natural resource managers, educators, and researchers to the science they use by reporting precipitation and **seasonal** plant changes. You observe from your own home, farm, woodland, ranch, or school. OST uses the information in their studies and also connects to the USA National Phenology Network. Check them out at [www.extension.oregonstate.edu/ost](http://www.extension.oregonstate.edu/ost).

OSU has a list of priority plant species they are studying. They want to expand the plant phenology beyond their area near Corvallis. I chose Vine Maple (3 specimens) and Douglas-fir (one specimen). There is some online training, record sheets and comprehensive photo galleries you can find at: [www.extension.oregonstate.edu/ost/educational-photo-galleries](http://www.extension.oregonstate.edu/ost/educational-photo-galleries).

I record and send in information once a week from my computer. Below are some pictures from my study. I am enjoying both of these "citizen science" projects. Check them out if they interest you.



**Vine Maple** (*Acer circinatum*): At our elevation of 1100 feet, plant phenology always lags behind the lowlands. This picture was taken May 2<sup>nd</sup> and shows growing leaves. The leaf buds broke April 16. Next, I'll expect flowers, pollen release and fruits. The three specimens vary depending how deep into the forest they are – not surprising.

**Douglas-fir** (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)  
As with most woodland owners, we watch for bud break each year on Doug-fir. I discovered there is more to Doug-fir phenology than this needle bud break, such as pollen cones,

pollen release and unripe and ripe seed cones that I will record if and when they happen.



Bob and I have been accused before of giving names to our trees. The Doug-fir I chose to study is Wendell. It was given to us at Wendell Walker's funeral in March, 2012. It grows proudly next to Barbara, the Western Red Cedar. Both Wendell and Barbara Walker were mentors to us when we started learning about forestry. I know Wendell is happy contributing to further knowledge of Douglas-fir. In this May 2<sup>nd</sup> photo, Wendell's needle buds are about to break. There are a couple that have actually broken way up high, but I couldn't get a good picture. This had not happened as of my April 28 report, but I will report that on May 5th. I am having fun encouraging my specimens on with their seasonal change. Sign up, too if it interests you.



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](http://www.knowyourforest.org/TreeSchoolOnline).

Access previous webinars here, too. All webinars are from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

**May 18:** Managing Your Forest with Fire in Mind – Part 2. John Bailey, OSU

**June 1:** Into the Woods – Michael Ahr, Benton Co. SWCD, and Peter Hayes, Build Local Alliance

**June 15:** Forest Sustainability and Certification

*The scientific mind does not so much provide the right answers as ask the right questions*

Claude Levi-Strauss  
Anthropologist



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## 'Forest Bathing' Is Great for Your Health.

TIME, BY QING LI, MAY 1, 2018

We all know how good being in nature can make us feel. We have known it for centuries. The sounds of the forest, the scent of the trees, the sunlight playing through the leaves, the fresh, clean air — these things give us a sense of comfort. They ease our stress and worry, help us to relax and to think more clearly. Being in nature can restore our mood, give us back our energy and vitality, refresh and rejuvenate us.

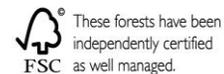
In Japan, we practice something called forest bathing, or *shinrin-yoku*. *Shinrin* in Japanese means “forest,” and *yoku* means “bath.” So *shinrin-yoku* means bathing in the forest atmosphere, or taking in the forest through our senses.

*Editor's note: As small woodland owners, we need to remind ourselves just to enjoy, not always plan work to do!*



A BALANCED APPROACH

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## NEW OFRI BOOKLET

OFRI (Oregon Forest Resources Institute) has just published a new booklet,

### “Managing Logging Slash Piles in Northwest Oregon.”

This publication has gathered the best management practices for burning the material that’s not left for nutrients, firewood or wildlife purposes. The goal of this publication is to reduce fire hazards on the landscape and assist landowners with safely creating and burning slash piles. Download it or order it at [oregonforests.org/node/796](http://oregonforests.org/node/796)

  
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### **April 28 Zoom Meeting, continued from page 1**

**Mike Cafferata**, District Forester for Oregon Department of Forestry, Forest Grove was next on the agenda to talk about **FIRE**. He gave a Washington County specific review of the 2020 fire season and how to prepare for the 2021 season.

Regarding the 2020 fire season locally, Mike recalled lessons learned:

- 1) “Don’t let a fire sit on the landscape” – continue full suppression on all fires until controlled. This was successful in Washington County in 2020.
- 2) Be Ready!

Mike gave a huge “Thank You” to West Oregon Electric Company for shutting down power during the east wind event in September. He also commended the community effort and logging companies for working their equipment when and where it was needed.

The next part of Mike’s report focused on what we can do on our property. He stated that while every situation is different, basics are the same:

- Immediate Zone: 0 to 5 feet from your home should be free of debris
- Intermediate Zone: 5 – 30 feet should have reduced flammable vegetation. Examples are watered lawns, low, fire resistant shrubs that are well spaced and no accumulated debris
- Extended Zone: 30 – 100 feet should have no ladder fuels and trees should be well spaced and limbed up from the ground. (Access roads and accessible water sources should be treated the same as Extended Zone).
- Property should be well labeled with address, water sources and turn-around spots.
- Public use: Be extra vigilant during fire season to prevent trespassers.
- Help Your Neighbors: talk to your neighbors about what you are doing and why so they will be encouraged to do the same.

Mike informed us of a new OFRI publication (see above) that he highly recommends. He encourages landowners to insist that their logging contractor know and follow the advice in this booklet.

## Western redcedar dieback monitoring Pacific Northwest – Help Wanted

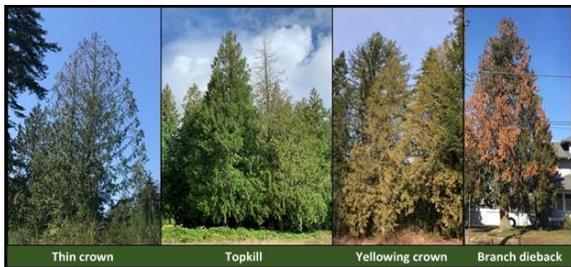
Tree Topics, Posted: 20 Apr 2021 04:24 PM PDT Christine Buhl, ODF Entomologist

From Oregon through western Canada, western redcedar (*Thuja plicata*, WRC) has been dying in areas where it should be thriving, such as along streams and within closed canopies. The cause for this sometimes sudden and expanding dieback is currently unknown. Insects and diseases of WRC are typically secondary, meaning that they are not direct tree killers but are opportunistic pests and can only attack dead and dying trees. Redcedar can even tolerate endemic levels of bark beetles and stem decay for many years. These known pests have not always been found in dieback pockets nor have novel pests been observed.

The predominant theory for sudden mortality is that trees may be impacted by a changing climate, including increasing average temperatures and drought stress in the form of reduced and inconsistent precipitation. Even shaded sites along streams are at risk due to higher than usual average temperatures and reduced stream flow. Western redcedar is a species more sensitive to slight changes in abiotic conditions and may be crossing the lower limits of where they can thrive in some areas.

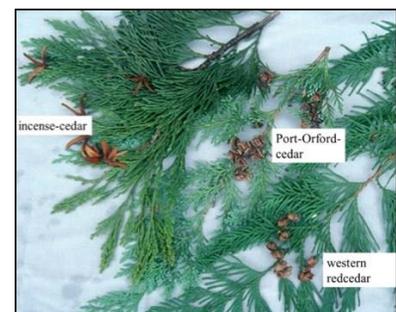
**Looking for the cause:** A team including Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), Washington Department of Natural Resources (WADNR), the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), various university researchers and natural resource agencies are collaborating to collect locations to determine the distribution and possible cause(s) of dieback. We are mapping locations of dieback and monitoring some of these sites over the long-term.

**We are now asking for your help** in identifying sites of where dieback and tree decline is occurring. We are looking for pockets of dieback containing at least two mature trees with any of the following symptoms: Thin crown, topkill, yellowing crown or branch dieback.



Do not report sites where the cause of dieback is known (e.g., mechanical damage, single sun-exposed trees, decadent old growth candelabra crowns or symptomatic trees in known root disease pockets) or trees with normal, seasonal dieback of older needles rather than whole-branch mortality.

Lastly, western redcedar may be confused with the other two species that we call “cedar”: incense cedar and Port Orford cedar (none are true cedar, which do not occur naturally in the PNW). The easiest way to identify western redcedar is by looking at the cones.

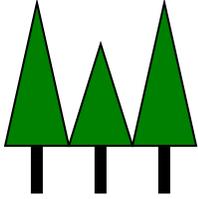


Western redcedar produces cones that look like woody roses, incense cedar has larger cones that split open like duck bills, and Port Orford cedar has cones that resemble soccer balls. Assist us in this effort to understand what is happening with this majestic staple of Pacific Northwest forests and urban areas.

**Are you seeing these symptoms on western redcedar in your area? We need your help locating and reporting dying and symptomatic WRC across the species distribution!**

**Please submit GPS locations of western redcedar dieback:** Christine Buhl, ODF Entomologist in Oregon ([christine.j.buhl@oregon.gov](mailto:christine.j.buhl@oregon.gov))

# Forest Forum



COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE  
OREGON SMALL WOODLANDS  
ASSOCIATION

## Potpourri

**New Members:** Welcome all. 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>
- For E-Notification: : <https://ferns.odf.state.or.us/E-Notification> or visit an ODF Office