

Forest Forum

Washington County Small Woodlands Association

June, 2021

Twilight Walking Tour – Tuesday, June 22 – 6:00pm – 8:00pm Shumaker Tree Farm

It has been a long time and will be wonderful to get together for those who feel comfortable doing so. Registration is required, and we will observe all Covid-19 protocols in place at the time. No food or beverages will be provided. Bring your own if you wish. This will be a return to the 4th **Tuesday** meeting time.

Bob and Bonnie will share what has been happening on the Shumaker Tree Farm. Here are the stops along the walking tour.

- **Pre-commercial thinning project utilizing grant from NRCS**
- **Fire safety access – neighbor to neighbor**
- **Phenology – seasonal changes and reporting to Oregon Season Tracker Program**
- **Equipment and animals. We know woodland owners love equipment. The equipment is near the barn. Seeing the sheep, pigs, horses, and chickens is just for fun.**

How to Register or ask questions: Call Bob or Bonnie at 503-324-7825 or email at shumaker2b@yahoo.com.

Final Virtual Meeting This Spring – A Great Way To End It!

The final virtual meeting this Spring, on May 26th, was well worth watching. Both speakers, Barrett Brown (focused on trails), and Tony Pinkham (describing orienteering) gave very interesting and informative presentations. A synopsis of each follows.

“Build a Trail, and They Will Come”

Barrett Brown, one of the featured speakers at the WCSWA May virtual meeting, presented a thoughtful look at trailbuilding on small woodland properties. Barrett, who with his wife Susan are members of Washington County Small Woodlands Association, are the 2019 Tree Farmers of the Year for Washington County. He began by describing a visit he made recently to another member's woodland to provide advice on access – road and trail – opportunities.

Barrett's presentation was based on his extensive experience in trail building, which includes not only his experience in “hands-on” trail construction, but also on his: connections with organizations such as the International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA); design and production of trail building machines; membership in advisory groups such as the Oregon Department of Forestry Recreation Advisory Committee, and extensive use of trails in forest environments.

If you had thought his presentation was going to be about how to use a shovel and pickax to build a trail – you were very surprised by what Barrett presented. Barrett laid out a process for building trails that was based on some key concepts, such as:

See “Trails”, on page 5

WCSWA Leadership

President – Vic Herinckx, 503-645-9434

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

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

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Program Committee: John and Cathy Dummer – 503-970-8789, Bill Triest – 503-705-5833, Tony Spiering – 503-680-8112

WCSWA Website

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

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

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

The Tree Farm Tradin' Post

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

For Sale: No new items

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

Event Calendar

Tree School Online		Outline of Programs	See page 8 or go to www.knowyourforest.org/TreeSchoolOnline
June	22	Twilight Tour at Bob and Bonnie Shumaker's	See page 1
On the horizon!			
July 23rd – OSWA- Oregon Tree Farm Joint Virtual Annual Meeting			
August 21st –Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year Tour, Culbertsons' Tree Farm, Lane County			

Leadership Notes

Vic Herinckx

I hope you all are looking forward to getting together for a twilight tour at the Shumaker property as much as I am. It will be a great opportunity to visit with friends that we may not have seen in the last year as well as meet new WCSWA members and prospective members. If you have any neighbors and friends that might be interested in becoming WCSWA members be sure to invite them. Additional Tree Farmer of the Year tours are planned by OSWA at the Culbertson property in Lane County on August 21 and by WCSWA at the Brown property in late summer.

At the WCSWA board meeting in April the board voted to contribute an additional \$3,000 to our scholarship endowment fund at Oregon State. This contribution was in conjunction with the University Foundation's Dam Proud Day fundraising campaign in April. Overall, \$64,745 in new donations were committed to College of Forestry scholarships. If you are interested in contributing to the WCSWA scholarship endowment account at Oregon State feel free to contact Bob Shumaker for details on how to do that.

We have had an ongoing dialog on forest carbon, most recently at the November program meeting and December newsletter. The headline "Salesforce CEO, Others Boost Timber-Carbon Bets" caught my attention in the May 27 Wall Street Journal. The details convey money flowing into these companies building marketplaces to trade carbon offsets. This particular market focuses on paying southern pine timber growers to defer harvest for 1 year. The short term commitment is appealing enough that more than a million acres have been enrolled. For more information you can find the WSJ article here <https://on.wsj.com/3i689mf> or OFRI's publication on Carbon in Oregon's Managed Forests at "oregonforests.org/Carbon".

Until next time, continue to stay safe!



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Recordings of WCSWA Virtual Meetings Now Available on Website

Over the past several months WCSWA virtual monthly meetings have covered interesting topics that might help you in managing your small woodland. If you couldn't make one of the recent meetings you can still get caught up on the content. Recordings of the meetings are now available on this

webpage: <http://new.wcswa.com/wordpress/what-we-do/gallery/> Monthly meetings during 2021 and their topics were as follows:

January 2021: OSU Fire Program

February 2021: Managing Understory & ONREF Program

March 2021: OSWA Leadership and State Legislative Update

April 2021: Washington County Focus

May 2021: Alternate Uses and Fun on the Tree Farm

The webpage can also be accessed by going to our website www.wcswa.com and selecting "What We Do" and "Gallery". Enjoy any time!

Trails, continued from page 1

- “Purpose-driven” – what does the trail user want to experience?
- Long-term sustainability - Being organic and strategic in planning the trail
- Let nature determine the “fit” of the trail to the land
- Build in the “artistry” of human experience

Barrett offered three guidelines to consider when building trails using the above concepts:

1. Exposure – the trail should induce “a little bit of adrenalin” in the user, but not be too hazardous.
2. Meander and mystery – the trail user should always wonder “what’s around the corner”, which will make the hike more interesting.
3. Undulation – building the trail as a series of “small watersheds” will not only help increase variety in the trail experience, but will help blend the natural movement of water on the landscape with the trail tread, and avoid unsustainable conditions such as erosion and mud.

Barrett offered a couple of sources for good information on trails:

- “Trail Solutions”, published by the IMBA
- “Natural Surface Trails By Design”, by Troy Scott Parker
- “Historic Trails All Around the World”

Orienteering – Competitive Navigation in the Natural World

Continued from page 1

Tony Pinkham, president of the Columbia River Orienteering Club (CROC), offered a close-up look at an activity that is probably not well-known to most woodland owners –running, walking, biking, skiing or otherwise maneuvering through the forests and field in search of tiny flags – and doing it in competition with others. As Tony pointed out, this is an international sport – growing in popularity in the U.S., but already very popular in Europe, Asia, and other parts of the world.

The formats and courses for orienteering events are diverse – any form of locomotion – and the locations are also diverse – from wilderness to urban areas. All ages are welcome (7+ years and up), and events typically draw 30 to 60 people. Events are designed to different skill levels, from beginner to advanced. All that is required to participate is a map (provided), and a compass (or for some events, a GPS device).

Now for the surprise! Tony and his club are always looking for new venues for their events, and if you are interested, they would like to talk with you. They are looking for woodland venues (not necessarily trails), that are wooded, with varying terrain that is runnable. Trails are great for beginner courses; off-trail areas are for advanced courses. Complex trail networks are great for sprints. They do need places that can accommodate 30-60 competitors (and their cars), for up to 6 hours one day a year for at least a few years.

If you are interested, and can accommodate their needs, here are some specifics:

- Events are environmentally considerate to wildlife and other values
- The event organizers ensure that the areas are cleaned up; sanitation facilities are provided. Participants provide their own food and water
- Organizers provide a detailed map – LiDAR and imagery based, for participants and landowners
- Possible fee provided to landowner (or if you have liability and/or legal concerns – a donation to a charity of choice)

If you would like more information about providing an orienteering course, contact Tony at president@croc.org. You can visit their website at <http://www.croc.org>. Their event coordinator is Abra McNair; events@croc.org.

Whatever you need to know



Gail and Gordon Culbertson (2019 Oregon Tree Farmers of the Year) working with Lauren Grand (center), OSU Forestry Extension Agent

Keep your forest healthy • Improve wildlife habitat
Reduce wildfire risk • Learn about certification

Find it at KnowYourForest.org

All the resources and assistance to manage your forestlands are in one easy to access location that is regularly updated.

- 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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Spring 2021 Weed Watcher Workshop

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 the Tualatin Soil & Water Conservation District (Tualatin SWCD) this Spring at our 2021 Online Weed Watcher Workshop!



Can you guess which invasive plant this is?
Find out by watching our online TWIST Weed
Watcher Workshop!

The **Tualatin Watershed Invasives Species Team** (TWIST), previously Tualatin Watershed Weed Watchers, is a partnership between residents, volunteers, non-profits, and government agencies. Volunteers and staff look for and report Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) species in the Tualatin River watershed.

Our online workshop is presented by invasive plant experts from Tualatin SWCD and Clean Water Services. The presentation provides EDRR species identification information and instructions on how to properly report them.

Check out our events page at <https://tualatinswcd.org/event/weed-watcher-workshop/> to register and view the presentation. The workshop recording will be available until the end of the year. With your help we can locate known priority invasive weeds and respond to new EDRR species before they endanger our natural areas, streamsides, and gardens!



Continued from page 1

Directions to Shumaker Farm: 52490 NW Cedar Canyon Rd. Banks, OR. GPS works, too.

From east of Banks: Take Highway 26 west to junction with Highway 6 (Tillamook Hwy). Go on Highway 6 for six miles and turn right onto Cedar Canyon Rd (just after milepost 46). In one-half block, turn left. This is still Cedar Canyon Road. Travel three miles up the gravel road. Turn left at the "Hayward Cemetery" sign. Go past the turnoff into the cemetery itself, around the corner and down the hill to our house.

From south of Banks: Take Hwy 47 to Banks. Turn left at stoplight to get on Hwy. 6 going west for 3 miles. Turn right onto Cedar Canyon Rd (just after milepost 46). In one-half block, turn left. This is still Cedar Canyon Road. Travel three miles up the gravel road. Turn left at the "Hayward Cemetery" sign. Go past the turnoff into the cemetery itself, around the corner and down the hill to our house.

From north or west of Banks: From Hwy 26, turn south on Hayward Rd. at Manning. Go five miles up this gravel road to the junction of Cedar Canyon and Parson Rd. Turn left and we are the first driveway on the right.



Oregon State Extension and Natural Resources Program and Partnership for Forestry Education have **one final scheduled Tree School webinar**. You can sign up for this June 15th webinar – and view any of the previous webinars, at www.knowyourforest.org/TreeSchoolOnline. All classes are FREE; just see a class description, and register at the above website. All webinars are from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

>>>>>>>>>>June 15: Forest Sustainability and Certification<<<<<<<<<

Welding Wood Is a Wonderful Idea

Welded wood, developed by researchers from TMI Ltd and the University of Cambridge's Construction Innovation Lab is a "a sustainable process to rapidly join timber elements using linear friction welding." In this energy-efficient process, joints are produced by pressing and rubbing two timber surfaces together at high frequency (50-150 Hz). The resulting friction and heat softens and re-sets *lignin*, the natural 'glue' in plant materials, as well as mechanically interlocks the cellular material, causing the 'welding'. In just two to three seconds, the fused timber joint is stronger than conventional adhesives and even stronger than the native wood. This technique has the potential to be applied not only to planed/sawn wood but also to CLT (Cross Laminated Timber).



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Time to Order Seedlings

By Bob Shumaker and Don Sohler

It is time to start thinking about your seedling needs for the 2021-22 planting season. **A seedling order form is included in this newsletter.** Orders are taken on a first-come basis. We will have 40-50 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 5,000 Western Red Cedar plug+1 Hi-Terpene available. These WRC are developed by ODF to have a high terpene level so they don't taste good to elk and deer. Hopefully you won't have to tube them.

The price is \$76/bag (.63 each) for the DF packed at 120 per bag and \$84/bag (.84 each) for WRC packed at 100 per bag. Seedlings will be available between January 15 and February 15 depending on weather conditions. We have a limited number of seedlings available, so please be careful in your ordering so that we can serve the most people. Order inquiries and questions should be directed to Bob Shumaker, 503-324-7825, and order forms and checks sent to WCSWA, c/o Bob Shumaker, 52490 NW Cedar Canyon Rd., Banks, OR 97106.

Welcome to Boomerville!

The wet hillside was peppered with burrow openings, big ones. They were about 6 to 8 inches in diameter, and looked to go way back into the moist earth. Steve Cafferata lay down on the ground and put his arm and shoulder deep into the cavern and found no end he could reach. The ferns and forbs around the opening were snipped back, almost like little scissors had cut them down. And just up, down and across the hill, were many more of these openings.



Fran Cafferata Coe points to a mountain beaver Tunnel (Photo by Steve Cafferata)



An *Aplodontia rufa* active burrow entrance. (Photo by Fran Cafferata Coe)

Yes, mountain beavers, "Boomers," *Aplodontia rufa* live here. They occur in what could be called colonies, as seen by these obvious burrow openings. Sometimes quite a few live near each other. Underground is an amazing, elaborate tunnel system with chambers dedicated to particular uses: food storage, resting, toilets, (TV? Internet?). But it's not an interconnected colony like, say, prairie dogs, who share communal burrows. Surprisingly, *Aplodontia* are solitary burrowers, and each system is self-contained. Burrows are self-draining, with water directed away from living areas, and can be surprisingly deep into the earth (10 feet down has been recorded). Apparently they are only social during breeding season, and even then, not for very long. Mom raises the kids.

see "*Boomers*", page 11



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Boomers, continued from page 9

Mountain beaver is a common name, but it is a misnomer. Aplodontia don't live in water or build dams. They can swim, but mostly don't. They have primitive kidney systems, however, and drink lots of water to keep their systems working. They are the only surviving member of their ancient genus in the world. They look kind of like a giant hamster, with long claws, or a beefy guinea pig, but you won't likely see one. (If you have burrows, put a trail camera right on the entrance).

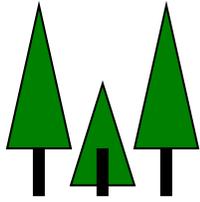
Boomers are a fascinating animal with important ecological roles in wet forest systems. They serve as prey for carnivores such as owls, foxes, bobcat, fisher, or coyotes; they aerate forest soil systems; they spread seeds and spores from their vegetarian diet; and they act as a pruning force on understory vegetation, keeping the growth green and lush, thus benefiting other herbivores.

However, sometimes Aplodontia are considered pests, especially in new tree plantations, where they have the troubling habit of nipping off planted seedlings. In these cases, armoring seedlings with tubes can work, but is difficult to do, or the population can be reduced through trapping. But first, assess to see if whether the damage has reached a threshold to require action. Some simple plots and nip counts could determine this decision. If need be, then take action. But remember, they will be back.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife have a great resource page for more information on this critter, and methods of controlling problem Boomers: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/species/aplodontia-rufa#conflict>
And there's a great article from Mt. Hood in Oregon with everything you might want to know about mountain beavers: <https://weastblog.org/2019/06/30/mountain-beaver-13-things-to-know/>

Posted on [April 20, 2021](#) by [Forest Stewardship Notes](#), Washington Department of Natural Resources

Forest Forum



COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE
OREGON SMALL WOODLANDS
ASSOCIATION

Potpourri

New Members: Welcome our new members!

Charlotte and Dean Alderton of New Castle, OR * Kristine Duffe of Hillsboro * Brad and Linda Needham of North Plains * Joan Overholser of Forest Grove * David Rabon of Hillsboro * Michael Rubin of Sheridan

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>

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