

Forest Forum

Washington County Small Woodlands Association

August, 2021

The Health of Our Forests: *Facing the Four Horsemen of the Forest Apocalypse (Drought, Weather, Fire, and Pests)*

Over the past two years woodland owners have faced a series of negative events affecting the health of their woodlands. Ice and snow breakage, wind events, extensive fire occurrence and severity, and increased concern about how the weakened trees can survive relentless insect and disease occurrence have raised the anxiety level of many woodland owners. A significant factor that must be considered moving forward is how periods of drought that have occurred in the recent past relate to the total health condition.

Woodland owners in Washington County – and throughout Oregon and the West, are noticing some very unhealthy signs of problems in the forest. Trees with “red flag” branches, trees with their most exposed sides showing red – or in some cases trees appearing to be in their death throes, are becoming a common sight. ***A Washington County woodland owner recently raised a concern. He noticed that his Douglas-fir was “not happy”.*** He described tree stand edges with southern and western exposure showing damage to last year’s growth all the way, nearly to the crown. While further stand damage is less severe – he thinks the stand will probably outgrow the damage. He believes lower elevation Douglas-fir is probably not a good choice going forward. He believes climate change has made the lower elevations a difficult place to grow Douglas-fir.

“This is why so many foresters (including me) are being a little evasive when asked what the impacts of this event will be. We don’t really know. We don’t like what we see, but in addition we are worried about the underlying damage that we cannot yet see. That hidden damage will likely show up gradually over the next months or year”, **Bradley Withrow-Robinson** *See “Drought”, page 11*

Heads Up – Barrett and Susan Brown TFOY Tour, Sept. 18th

You won’t want to miss the next WCSWA Tree Farmer of the Year tour – actually on the ground! Barrett and Susan Brown will be hosting the tour, and will feature:

- An immediate post thinning review of an NRCS project - how did it go? Did we adapt in any ways during the project?
- A review, with Tualatin River Watershed Council, of our big restoration project. Barrett and TRWC will discuss their review of how the project has gone.
- Different recreation sites and multiple recreation trail types.
- Recreation immunity statute protection for landowners.
- Neighbors and property line stories.
- Fran Cafferata, wildlife consultant, will speak on wildlife
- A quick stop to look at a borrow pit - development and crushing, stockpile plans.

Details and directions to follow in the September Forest Forum

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

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

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)

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Wanted: No new items.

Event Calendar

Tree School Online		Outline of Programs	See page 8 or go to www.knowyourforest.org/TreeSchoolOnline
August	21	WCSWA event Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year Tour, Culbertsons’ Tree Farm, Lane County	No WCSWA event scheduled Lane County 2019 Tree Farmers of the Year, Gail and Gordon Culbertson! Tour their Whitewater Forest Tree Farm. Enjoy a day in the woods with friends. Registration soon from OSWA
September	18	Washington County TFOY tour	Barrett and Susan Browns’ in person Tree Farmer of the year tour
October	16	Truffle Dogs and Biochar	Details to be announced in a future Forum

Leadership Notes

Vic Herinckx

It's nice not to be allergic to bee stings, but then you sort of forget to watch out for them. I had a reminder last month that yellowjackets don't like it when you disturb their nest with falling trees and chainsaw vibes. Nothing gets you moving quicker than the first sting and realization there could be many more coming if you don't quickly flee the area.

Outdoor events (and the risk of an occasional bee sting) are the theme right now with the Oregon Family Forest Convention tour on August 21, the Browns' tree farm tour in September and a planned outdoor format program meeting in October. Looking forward to being able to connect with everyone through these outdoor gatherings for the next several months.

The WCSWA board met on July 27th and one of our discussion items was the annual meeting and banquet that occurs on the 3rd Saturday in November. For several years running this has been at Meriwether National Golf Club which has been a nice venue for us. Currently they are pausing event bookings due to Covid so we don't have anything booked for November. We have been considering moving monthly program meetings to the Jessie May's Community Hall in North Plains, which could also work for a gathering in November but not our traditional banquet. The board's consensus was to either scale all the way back to an online business meeting in November and push the banquet out until spring, or to do an in-person meeting in November but change the format to be more appropriate to the Jessie Mays space and to promote social distancing. We will continue to monitor the current Covid surge and restrictions and make a final decision sometime in September. Thanks for your understanding and flexibility as we make adjustments during this time.

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's virtual monthly meetings have covered interesting topics that might help you in managing your small woodland. 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!



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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



A conservationist is one who is humbly aware that with each stroke (of the axe) he is writing his signature on the face of the land.

Aldo Leopold in *A Sand County Almanac*

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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) 2021 Online 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, streambanks, and gardens!

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

Better predicting how plants and animals will weather climate extremes

A team of scientists has devised a more accurate way to predict the effects of climate change on plants and animals -- and whether some will survive at all. Frequently, ecologists assess an organism's fitness relative to the climate by quantifying its functional traits. "These are physical properties you can measure -- height, diameter, the thickness of a tree," said UC Riverside biologist Tim Higham. "We believe more information is needed to understand how living things will respond to a changing world."

The team, led by Higham, outlines an alternative model for researchers in an article published in the journal *Trends in Ecology and Evolution*. This new model incorporates the functional traits of an organism as well as environmental variables, such as temperature, habitat structure, and the speed of wind or water an organism interacts with. The team calls these "ecomechanical models." As oceans rise, strong storms will reach farther inland. The intensity of hurricanes, and the proportion of hurricanes that reach very intense levels, will likely increase with climate change. As a result, Higham said that fluids will exert greater forces on anything in their path. These forces could cause organisms with roots, such as trees, to break or be uprooted.

"If you measure the functional traits of a tree, and we know the speed of the wind, we can predict how much bending will occur," Higham said. "At certain wind speeds, the tree will potentially come down." The way wind disperses seeds, or how insects and birds fly in the face of strong winds, can potentially influence their fitness. When considering the fate of living things, the physics governing the way they move through space is another important factor accounted for by this new framework. In this sense, ecomechanical models are not limited to understanding the impacts of climate change. "They can help scientists understand evolutionary patterns and how animals interact differently with their environment as they grow," Higham said.

Adapted from UC-Riverside materials, and article by Jules Bernstein, July 1, 2021



Oregon State Extension and Natural Resources Program and Partnership for Forestry Education have completed their live Tree School Online webinars. You can view any of the previous webinars, at www.knowyourforest.org/TreeSchoolOnline.



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As lumber prices soar, OSU professor develops way to predict log price changes

At a time when lumber prices are skyrocketing, an Oregon State University researcher has developed a new way to predict the future price of logs that uses readily accessible economic information. “Log prices are really variable,” said [Jeff Reimer](#), a professor of applied economics at Oregon State. “That makes this a difficult business, whether you are land manager, mill owner, timberland investor or, as we are seeing now, a home builder.” Reimer’s study, [recently published](#) in the journal Forest Policy and Economics, focused on Douglas fir, the most commercially important timber species in the Pacific Northwest.

Reimer found that simply knowing the number of housing permits issued in a month can explain about 46.8% of the variation in log prices over time. Adding additional information – including the monthly inventory of homes, mortgage rates, the exchange rate with Canada (also a big timber supplier) and the Case-Shiller home price index – explains about 74.3% of the price variation.



Carol and Norbert LePage on View Deck overlooking W80 PCT

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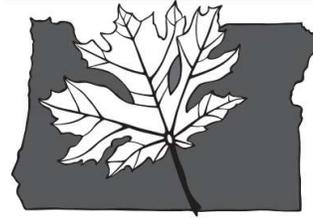


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OREGON MAPLE PROJECT

Community Sugaring in the Pacific Northwest

From the indigenous sugaring camps of the Anishinaabe to the sugar shack gatherings of springtime Vermont, making maple syrup has always been a community venture - a chance to gather, give thanks, and find nourishment in nature during the sparest months of the year. Support of community sugaring is central to the mission of the Oregon Maple Project. So we invite you to join our Sugaring Collective for the upcoming season!

What: Our Sugaring Collective is comprised of individuals and families in NW Oregon who have access to a minimum of 25 Bigleaf Maples for tapping. The Oregon Maple Project provides training and assistance through sugaring workshops and site visits. Members of the collective learn to tap their own trees, harvest sap, and freeze it for later processing. In early spring we combine our sap in the Oregon Maple Project evaporator, boiling Bigleaf syrup together at Camp Colton. Members of our Sugaring Collective pay \$150 to participate, receiving ongoing support throughout the sugaring season, plus a percentage of the Bigleaf syrup crop equal to their sap harvest.

When: We begin workshops and site visits in October; start tapping as early as November; collect sap all the way through February; and "sugar off," bringing sap to syrup in March. Members of the Sugaring Collective follow best practices, harvesting, filtering, and freezing sap from their maples daily throughout the winter.

Where: Workshops and the community boil are held at our sugarhouse in [Camp Colton](#). Sap harvesting and site visits happen on members' personal property.

Please contact [Eliza](#) at info@oregonmapleproject.org to learn more about becoming a member of the Collective.



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Welding Wood Is a Wonderful Idea

The University of Cambridge and TWI Ltd have figured out how to rub two sticks together.

One of the questions often asked about cross-laminated timber (CLT) is: "What about the glue?" The boards in CLT are held together by a layer of polyurethane glue. It doesn't off-gas but it would be nice if it wasn't there and we had solid wood, with fewer worries about health hazards, flammability, or end of life issues. Craig Rawlings of [The Forest Business Network](#) points us to something completely different:

It's welded wood, where researchers from TMI Ltd and the University of Cambridge's Construction Innovation Lab developed "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."

TMI is an association of welding industries and has been using friction welding in other materials, and started [applying it to wood in 2019](#). They claim that "the process has many potential benefits, including environmental factors as the joining doesn't require the addition of any other materials to the wood."

This technique has the potential to be applied not only to planed/sawn wood but also to CLT (Cross Laminated Timber)."

Dr. Darshil Shaw of the University of Cambridge compares it to rubbing your hands together, according to the release: "How do you produce more heat?" asks Dr. Shah. 'Rub your palms faster (frequency), push your palms against each other with more force (pressure), rub your palms for longer (time) and move your palms over a longer distance (amplitude). Similarly, in wood welding, to generate more friction and heat, these are the 4 principal manufacturing parameters we can control."

Dr. Shaw also informed Treehugger that the process does work at 90 degrees orientation, but that "bond performance is relatively weaker than in the parallel directions.

Lloyd Alter, May 18, 2021. www.treehugger.com

Keep Up on Fire, Smoke, and Restoration Status

Marc Ahrendt has shared some excellent links for keeping up on the current fire, smoke, and restoration situations. These are active links, and incorporate the latest information. Thanks, Marc!

firesmoke.ca

wildfire.oregon.gov

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/6329d5e4e13748b9b9f7f33f06a3c376/>



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Alicia Christiansen, OSU Extension Forester for Douglas County
Norma Kline, OSU Extension Forester for Coos and Curry Counties

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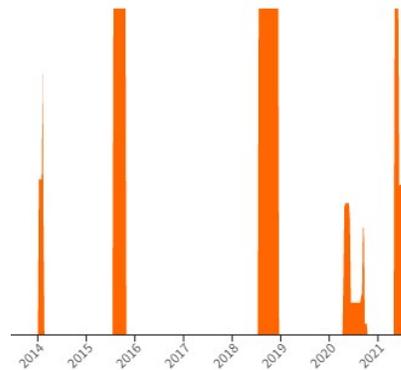
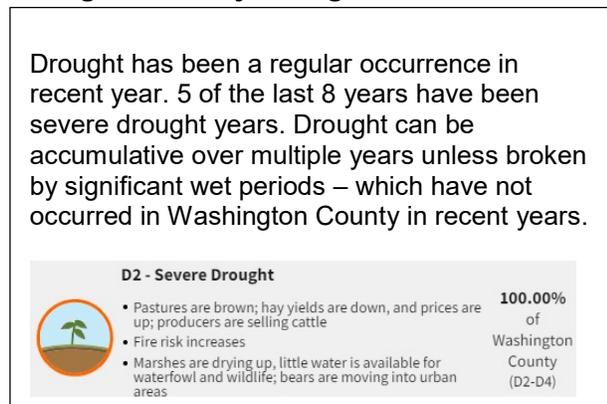


Drought

continued from page 1 This woodland owner is not alone – others up and down the Willamette are alarmed by the damage they are seeing. Brad Withrow-Robinson notes that a common symptom seen is foliage scorch/sunscald of new growth, sometimes first or second year needles too, generally on southwest exposures, and the southwest side of the tree. This can be quite dramatic along roads and other exposed areas, with scorched needles visible from base to crown, particularly in Douglas-fir and grand fir, whose needles turn bright red. Western redcedar and western hemlock are also affected, although the symptoms may be less dramatic, since the color change is more muted. Scorching can occur when heat builds up to fatal levels in leaves and needles unable to cool themselves by evaporation. This is most likely to occur late in the day, and explains why the southwest facing areas are most affected. “What we don’t know is what the long-term significance of this heat wave will be. While we can see the scorching already, we cannot yet see some of the other damage which may have happened that would affect a tree’s long-term health, vigor or survival.”

Brad explains that trees and other plants depend on a water delivery system that lifts water from the roots to the leaves, cooling the stem, leaves and allowing photosynthesis to happen so plants can grow. Extreme heat and drought put this system under stress. When hot or dry enough, bubbles can form in the channels of that system which stops the upward flow of water in those channels. We cannot see this happen, but it can lead to scorched foliage like we are seeing now. This damage (called cavitation) can also cause branches or tops to die. These are the signs of drought that we have been seeing in Valley in recent years.

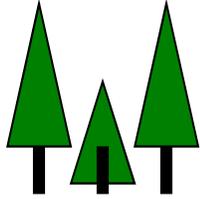
Washington County Drought Index – Recent Past (Source – NDIS – NOAA)



Back to our woodland owner: He consulted with a local ODF Stewardship Forester, and got some practical advice: *I do believe that you are on the right track thinking about some alternate species for the south exposures. Right now, Valley pine seems to be the best bet for long term survival. The incense cedar is also a very hardy tree that does well. We are not to the point yet where we are completely questioning the long - term survivability of fir at low elevation, but strategic planting and replacement seems very prudent. What I’ve been recommending is to be very careful with thinning on southern and western exposures, and planting a mix of fir and pine on the tough sites. Also retaining some hardwoods for shade relief seems to help instead of clearing them all during harvest. They won’t survive long term, but they give the seedlings a better chance in the beginning. So, careful thinning of fir - don’t go too thin, and begin replacing fir in areas where they are showing weakness with the Valley pine. We need to be more strategic now. I’m thinking of the pine as a shelterwood break on the marginal sites to shield our primary fir stands from the worst of the sun and wind.*

Editor’s note: Have you noticed heat scorch on your trees? OSU Forestry Extension is working with other scientists to investigate this phenomenon. If you have experience with it on your property, please take the survey at <https://tinyurl.com/heat-wave-foliage-scorch>

Forest Forum



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COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE
OREGON SMALL WOODLANDS
ASSOCIATION

Potpourri

New Members: Welcome to our new members! 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.

Long-time Ad Closes – Bob McNitt ran an ad in the Forum for many years for his company Forest Seedling Network. Bob's Network was very helpful to woodland owners seeking sources for tree seedlings. Bob has now "hung up his hat" and his ad will no longer run in the Forum. Thanks, Bob – you provided a great service!

Recommended Fire-safe Brochures:

[NFPA - Preparing homes for wildfire](#) (Home Ignition Zone)

[Defensible Space - Ready for Wildfire](#) (Defensible Space)

Firewise Landscaping Checklist: [checklists \(oregon.gov\)](#)

[FireWise: Living With Fire | OSU Extension Service \(oregonstate.edu\)](#)

Fire Resistant Plants for the Home Landscape: [Fire-Resistant Plants for Home Landscapes | OSU Extension Catalog | Oregon State University](#)

Also, Aaron Groth and ODF Forest Grove are planning to offer defensible space workshops in the near future.

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