

# **Forest Forum**

## **Washington County Small Woodlands Association**

**October, 2021**

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### **Saturday, October 16: Stole Property Tour** **Sherwood 1:00pm *Registration Required***

Lori and Jerry Stole have been busy on their property near Sherwood and have generously offered to host 3 informative presentations at sites around their property this fall. The Stoles live on 19 acres – part of the farm Jerry’s family has had since 1967. The property includes a creek surrounded by 90-year-old forest, a 25-year-old Douglas-fir forest (former Christmas trees), and an organic hazelnut orchard.

#### Truffles



Ava Chapman and her dog Joey, the Dirt Dogs Truffle Team, are a Hobby Culinary Truffle pair, who have honed their skills and knowledge for 5 years. They won the Joriad, a Truffle Dog Team competition, two years in a row (2019 and 2020); smashing the record of the most truffles ever found in competition (a stunning 77 in an hour!).

The pair offer forays, property surveys, educational talks, truffle demos, and make a case for why to use dogs to hunt for truffles over pigs or rakes! Learn all about truffles: what they are, where they’re found (maybe in YOUR woodlot?), how they should be harvested, and what to do with them, plus watch a truffle dog at work.

#### Biochar

Lori and Jerry have been using an onsite kiln to convert the branches from forest thinning into biochar, a useful product. Learn what biochar is, why they choose this option over standard burn piles, what one can do with biochar, and how to make it.



#### Beavers



Vanessa Petro, OSU College of Forestry Senior Faculty Research Assistant, will be sharing her knowledge of the American Beaver. She will be talking about their habitat and behavior and what role they play in the ecosystem. The discussion will include beaver management strategies. We’ll have the opportunity to see the beaver dam on the property and how well Lori and Jerry’s new fence is working to keep the resident beaver away from the hazelnut orchard...

The event will start at 1:00 pm and last approximately 2 hours. Tour attendees should dress for the weather as we will be outdoors with only minimal cover in the event of precipitation. We will follow whatever COVID guidelines are in place at the time of the event. Children are welcome.

***See Tour, page 5 for registration***

## 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:** No new items

**Wanted:** No new items.

## Event Calendar

Tree School Online		Outline of Programs	<a href="http://www.knowyourforest.org/TreeSchoolOnline">www.knowyourforest.org/TreeSchoolOnline</a>
October	2,3 9	Amy's Trail Work-Party Amy's Trail Dedication	10/2-3: 9:00am – 2:00pm, 10/9: 10:00am – 2:00pm.
November	16  Schedule Not Available Yet	WCSWA October Event	1:00pm – Lori and Jerry Stoles' tree farm. Truffle dogs, biochar and beaver. See page

# Leadership Notes

Vic Herinckx

A big thank you to Barrett and Susan Brown and all the rain ready attendees who got to enjoy a really nice tree farm tour on 9/18. The tree farm setting, trails and especially the rainy weekend reminded me of all the Labor Day weekends I spent with the aunt's, uncle's and cousins on my mom's (Vanderzanden) side of the family group camping, motorcycle and ATV riding off the Wilson River Hwy or Jones Creek Rd. Somehow back then we **regularly** had rain Labor Day weekend, sometimes the entire weekend!

A couple of highlights for me from the tour were seeing the dramatic effects of the pre-commercial thinning completed over the last year and hearing Barrett describe how the tree farm looked when they purchased it and at various points along the way. The experts were all there to share their knowledge and experiences. Here's a picture of Tom Nygren answering questions and sharing thoughts on thinning.



Thinning has gotten good press as an effective tool for protecting residential areas around the Caldor fire in California and for protecting the giant Sequoias in Sequoia National Park. Here a link to a recent Wall Street Journal article for more information <https://on.wsj.com/3zQNrMo>

Conspicuously absent in this newsletter is the registration form for our annual meeting and banquet in November. Meriwether Golf is not booking events at their facility and of course we have ongoing Covid-19 challenges so our annual get-together will be deferred until at least the spring. We will still have the annual business meeting and elections in November with the following nominations:

Board Position #1: Marc Ahrendt

Board Position #2: Kathy Brock

President: Vic Herinckx

Vice-President: Barrett Brown

Treasurer: Bob Shumaker

The format for the meeting and voting process may be a Zoom or in-person meeting or both. Look for more details in an email blast and/or the November newsletter.

Lots of opportunities to gather in October to work, learn and celebrate outdoors with events on Amy's trail or at the Stole property in Sherwood. Hope to see you all there.

Until next time, continue to stay safe!

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### Who Owns What Forest and Why?

How much of our forests are privately owned? What are the forests used for? What are the ownership demographics? The [National Woodland Owner Survey](#) answers these questions, and more. Together with the [Forest Inventory and Analysis \(FIA\)](#) and the [Timber Products Output](#) studies, these Forest Service programs provide a comprehensive view of the nation's forests in terms of biophysical as well as economic and social dimensions. The latest [National Woodland Owner Survey analysis](#) was published this year, revealing the majority of forest land in the U.S. (about 60%) is privately owned. It also offers a deep-dive into family forest ownerships with over 10 acres of forest land. The most common reasons for owning family forests are "To enjoy beauty or scenery," "To protect or improve wildlife habitat," "To protect nature or biological diversity," and "For privacy."

*Googling the underlined references above will take you to the documents*



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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



*“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**  
*The Sand County Almanac*

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**Tour**, continued from page 1

**Registration is required for this tour.** To register please send an email to [washcosmallwoodlandsassoc@gmail.com](mailto:washcosmallwoodlandsassoc@gmail.com) or leave a message at (503)703-6573 with the following information: Name(s) of attendees and contact information (phone or email). Please register by the end of the day Sunday, October 10.

**The tour address will be provided in response to your registration.** We will send a follow-up email the week before the event with additional directions regarding parking and current COVID requirements.

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**Soil Sustainability and Harvest Operations: A review**

Soil productivity is essential to the sustained production of forest ecosystem goods and services. Timber harvests may lead to negative ecological impacts to the soil environment, thus reducing both soil and forest long-term productivity. Impacts caused by timber harvests are site-specific, and soil monitoring at various times post-harvest is critical to understanding both short- and long-term damage. **Soil compaction** is one of the most important issues that arise from harvest operations because it can alter many soil properties and processes including soil bulk density, gas diffusivity, and water holding capacity. Changes in these factors, and others, can lead to lower plant productivity. Additional impacts from timber harvests include **soil displacement, rutting, and puddling (smeared soil pores)**. Soil and site characteristics influence the degree to which the soil is prone to disturbance, as well as rock-fragment content. Understanding the degree, extent, distribution, and duration of soil disturbance is key to determining how long the impacts may last and whether soil restoration activities are needed.

*Crawford, Leslee J.; Heinse, Robert; Kimsey, Mark J.; Page-Dumroese, Deborah S.  
Gen. Tech. Rep. RMRS-GTR-421. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service*

## 2020 Tree Farmers of the Year Barrett and Susan Brown Host an Outstanding Tour!

Over 35 WCSWA members and others got an in-depth Look at what a Tree Farm of the Year looks like on September 18<sup>th</sup>. No one seemed bothered by a gray and drizzly day, with some sprinkles (though welcome!).

Barrett and Susan led the walking tour through their property, providing commentary on their work over the past almost 30 years – extensive trail system, multiple cultural activities - including reducing and controlling vegetative competition, planting, thinning, harvest – as well as wildlife habitat improvement and stream restoration.



Barrett and Susan Brown, just after presentation of their 2020 Tree Farmer of the Year for Washington County

Perhaps a good way to capsulize the experience of those attending might be to feedback some of their observations:

- The amount of learning – from experts, experiences, and published sources that Barrett and Susan gained from their tree farm life was impressive! It was obvious that they had not only put “sweat equity” into their tree farm, but they had achieved their goals. They have much to be proud of!
- When they acquired their property, they did their “due diligence”. Facing a variety of legal entanglements and daunting restoration tasks, they were successful in avoiding legal problems and were able to leverage available resources (from expert sources and cost-share opportunities) to help them overcome the poor condition of their newly acquired forest. Barrett said they had a lot of “luck” – but those attending realized that the Browns’ hard work as a family lay behind that assertion!
- It was apparent that over the years the Browns broadened their knowledge of, appreciation – and passion – for their tree farm. They acquired and built on the diverse values of their property, such as:
  - the extensive trail system they built for their personal use (hiking and trail bikes) – and which they shared with other like-minded groups
  - The stream restoration project they participated in on Dairy Creek, which resulted in the placement of large logs in the stream to create improved fish habitat
  - The creation of “habitat piles” for wildlife use in conjunction with thinning operations
- Barrett and Susan are truly partners in the creation and operation of their tree farm. Barrett told the story that when they acquired the property, they had to decide who was going to build the house, and who was going to provide the food! Barrett built the house, and Susan was very successful in a career that provided the food.
- There is an interesting history for the property, and Barrett was a good “professor” in laying it all out for the audience. No doubt their experiences are adding a rich and valuable chapter to the history book for their property (called “Snoosville” for an old logging camp on and near the property).

Everyone at the tour seemed to be enjoying it – and won’t soon forget what they saw and heard at “Snoosville”. It’s also worth noting that - after the past two years of semi-isolation – getting back in the woods with peers and neighbors was much appreciated!

For a pictorial look at the tour, see page 11.



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### **Fire-Fighting on the Ground**

We've all had a thorough exposure to the media's take on our past two fire seasons – but do we really understand what happens “where the boots hit the ground”.

Check out this You Tube video to get a close-up look at the effort that goes into fighting fire on the ground:

#### **“Unskilled Labor – A Season with the Hotshots”**

You can access by just googling the title and You Tube.



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## **Rick Zenn New OSWA Executive Director**

Rick Zenn took over the reins as OSWA's Executive Director Monday, Sept 27<sup>th</sup>. As was discussed at the OSWA Sept 16<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting, Zenn was one of three finalists from the succession planning committee's selection efforts, and with the resignation of Amy Jahnke, he has been offered the Executive Director position. Rick has accepted.

Rick is well known in Oregon's forestry community and nationally among forest educational professionals. He was employed by the nonprofit World Forestry Center for many years. His knowledge of nonprofits and educational organizations in Oregon will help OSWA to continue moving forward. He has also worked with the Oregon Legislature dealing with forest related issues. The Executive Committee is convinced that he brings the maturity and knowledge needed to guide OSWA.





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### **Forest Health in Oregon : 2020 Report Highlights Areas of Concern**

The August issue of Forest Forum discussed the primary forest health concerns in Oregon – drought (climate), weather (snow, ice), fire, and pests. A recent publication of the US Forest Service, Oregon State University, and Oregon Department of Forestry – *Forest Health Highlights in Oregon – 2020* provides a more complete look at these “Four Horsemen of the Forest Apocalypse”.

The document can be accessed at the following link:

[https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd947558.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd947558.pdf)

The 42 page comprehensive publication begins with the following:

***Insects, diseases and abiotic disturbance agents cause significant tree mortality, growth loss, and damage in Oregon forests each year. Many of these insects and diseases are native and are always present on the landscape but only become a problem when populations increase, often due to a buildup of trees stressed by some other primary stressor. In recent years a primary stress on trees has been hot droughts, which weaken trees and make them less tolerant or resistant to insects and diseases. Normally, native insects and diseases can play a critical role in maintaining healthy, functioning forests by weeding out unhealthy trees, contributing to decomposition and nutrient cycling, and creating openings that enhance forest diversity and wildlife habitat. A healthy forest is never totally free of insects, diseases, and other disturbances.***

The publication includes information about forest damage and mortality, surveys and monitoring results, and a discussion about the following causes of damage and mortality in Oregon forests: abiotic agents (climate and drought, storms, and wildfire), forest insects, forest diseases, exotic invasive plants, and a guide to forest insects and diseases by host plant species.

# Brown Tree Farm Tour Pictorial



Barrett – Trail Machine



Barrett the “Professor”



On The Trail



Sam Sharka – TRWC



Brandi Saffell – TSWCD



The Classroom



Past Thinning



Recently Thinned



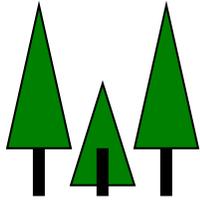
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And The Fog Returns



# Forest Forum



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OREGON SMALL WOODLANDS  
ASSOCIATION

## Potpourri

**New Members:** Welcome to our new members: **Jared Sam** of Scappoose, **Christiana Logan, Dan and Lillian Logan** of North Plains, **Chad Mitchell** of North Plains, **Kyle Abeln** of Gaston, and **Gary and Julie Morrison** of Gales Creek! 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.

Get a free (shipping free) copy of the updated Third Edition of the OFRI publication *Oregon's Forest Protection Laws* from <https://oregonforests.org/node/549>

Tree School Online webinars. [www.knowyourforest.org/TreeSchoolOnline](http://www.knowyourforest.org/TreeSchoolOnline)

### Recommended Fire-safe Brochures:

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

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

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

### 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