

Forest Forum

Washington County Small Woodlands Association

November, 2021

Annual Meeting, Tuesday, November 16, 7:00pm

While we cannot yet meet indoors in person, that doesn't mean we can't enjoy each other's company via Zoom. We will conduct the important business of election of Officers and Board Members. Then, OSWA's new Executive Director, Rick Zenn, will speak of his goals for OSWA and offer a question-and-answer time. In addition, Mary Spiering is putting together a slide show from pictures taken at WCSWA's 2021 outdoor events in June, September and October. You will be surprised at the knack she has of making people standing around in the woods come to life.

AND – There will be door prizes as well! Who knew that this could be done while Zooming? Your creative leadership found out how. Come and see what you can win. Zoom information will arrive via email a few days ahead of the meeting. "See" you there.

Busy October – 3 Events

The weather cooperated, and WCSWA members came



Dedicating Amy's Trail with a first walk

Action", the picture composite that Brandy Saffell composed, on pg. 11 and photos on page 3.

- October 2 & 3: Amy's Trail Work Party. About 20 people came to dig, hoe, weed whack, and use loppers to bring the rough-hewn trail into its glory. Two commemorative benches were also installed.
- October 9: Amy's Trail was dedicated. 50+ family, friends, small woodland owners and co-workers walked Matteson Forest roads while Steve Fitzgerald informed us of management goals in this OSU Demonstration Forest. Then, a box lunch was served and many people shared how Amy influenced their lives. Afterwards, the new trail was opened and we had a chance to walk the .8-mile trail. A beautiful tribute to our beloved OSU Extension Forester who died too young. See "Amy in Action", the picture composite that Brandy Saffell composed, on pg. 11 and photos on page 3.
- October 16: Stole Property Tour: 40-some WCSWA members learned about truffles, biochar and beavers at Lori and Jerry Stoles farm in Sherwood. See page 10 for a full report and pictures.

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

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:

1974 Ford F-700, 5 yard dump truck. Good condition – runs and dumps. \$2,500. Call Jim Evans 503-490-0558.

Wanted: No new items.

Event Calendar

Tree School Online		Outline of Programs	www.knowyourforest.org/TreeSchoolOnline
November	16	WCSWA Annual Meeting	Zoom format: Slide show of WCSWA outdoor events and a chance to meet and talk with Rick Zenn, OSWA's new Executive Director. Door prizes, too.
December		No event	We always take a break in December

Leadership Notes

Vic Herinckx

October brought many opportunities to gather to work, celebrate and learn. The first weekend was a work party for the Amy Grotta memorial trail at the Matteson Demonstration Forest. 40-50 volunteers participated over the course of the weekend, grabbing rakes, pruners and other tools to widen and do final grading on the trail. I was amazed and inspired by how hard this group worked and how quickly the finishing touches came together on the trail.

The following weekend, a similar number of people came to tour the Matteson Forest, share memories of Amy and dedicate the trail. The photo to the right is Amy's daughter AJ speaking at the event. She was very appreciative that Amy taught her about the natural world commenting that many of her peers would have trouble identifying a Douglas-fir. (Hopefully joking – it's our state tree after all).

Thanks to all who coordinated, participated and spoke at this event and to Amy for sharing her passion with us.

On Oct 16, we were greeted with a beautiful afternoon at the Stole property in Sherwood. Jerry and Lori were excellent hosts and all of the ~40 attendees learned new things about biochar, beaver and truffles.



Looking forward we have the annual meeting and elections via Zoom on Nov 16th at 7:00pm. If you are unable to attend the meeting but would like to vote for the slate of candidates you can do so by emailing WashCoSmallWoodlandsAssoc@gmail.com. The candidates were published in the last 2 newsletters.

For the first half of 2022 Tony Spiering has graciously volunteered some warehouse space in North Plains for any indoor meetings, so we will plan to start meeting in-person again. If you have program ideas and especially ones that could be done in an outdoor venue, please share them with John Dummer or any board member.

Until next time, continue to stay safe! Enjoy more pictures from Amy's Trail dedication below.



Plaque on bench



Amy's Trail meanders nicely



Deer protection is a must at Matteson

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Forest Bathing

By Susan Watkins

Shinrin-yoku is Japanese
 For what I do
 Each time I enter the forest.

I dip my toes in green,
 Wetting my arms with dappled summer light,
 My soap scented with
 Spoons and molds and duff.

I lather with the dark green of old needles,
 the fluffy lime-green of the new,
 Scrubbing my limbs with the chittering of
 squirrels, the slithering of snakes,
 The *thump, thump* of deer running
 through the brush.

I rinse with birdsong--the terrible cry of a
 hawk,
 A towhee's banal *meh*,
 A jay's raucous scolding,
 The motorboat wings of a quail.

And towel off with the coyote-like call
 Of migrating geese,
 The actual caterwauling
 Of a coyote pack on the hunt.

An elk's eerie cry calls me home.
 The moon lights my path.
 As I step from the woods, I smile.

I am clean.

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 author and The Snag, September 2021*



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Tools of the Trade

by Finlay Hays. *Loggers World*,
October 2021. (Originally published
October 1999).

“Some years ago, I wrote about the attachment that some logging and log hauling men get for their tools and machines.

I had figured out that loggers don't especially like logging all that much. What they like is the machinery and the only way they can own the machinery is to use these machines to get out logs.

I'm kidding a little bit, but there is some truth in that statement.”

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

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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



“When my information changes, I change my mind. What do you do?”

Some version of this quote, variously attributed to economists John Maynard Keynes or Paul Samuelson, should serve as a guiding principle for anyone trying to make wise decisions.

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Auburn forestry professor's new book examines revolutionary shifts in forestland ownership

August 17, 2021 Jamie Anderson, School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences

A new book by an Auburn University professor tracks the dramatic pivot in commercial forest ownership—lands once overwhelmingly owned by integrated forest products companies that have, in the past four decades or so, become the domain of institutions.

“The transformation of commercial private forest ownership in the U.S. and worldwide is an important event in the history of forestry that has significant implications on forest sustainability,” said Daowei Zhang, the Alumni and George W. Peake Professor of Economics and Policy and associate dean of research in Auburn’s School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences. (continued below)

Zhang’s new book, “From Backwoods to Boardrooms: The Rise of Institutional Investment in Timberland,” published by Oregon State University Press, investigates the history and economics of forest ownership and its significant implications.

The book reaches back to the early 1900s to track two major structural changes in forestland ownership in the U.S. and other parts of the world. The first major change, taking place from 1900 to the 1980s, was the accumulation of industrial timberlands mostly from farmers and other small private forest owners. The second—and the one most emphasized—is the four-decade shift from industrial to institutional ownership.

“The scale of the change is truly revolutionary and impacts tens of millions of acres of mostly productive private landholdings, billions of dollars of investment, as well as forest sustainability,” Zhang said of the shift. “Arguably, it is one of the top three economics and policy matters in the forest sector in the U.S. in the last 60 years.”

And while Zhang and many of his peers have observed what he calls a “revolution in ownership” and its inevitable impacts, one of the publisher’s book reviewers noted that no one had given the matter enough reasoned and thoughtful attention to tell the complex story of how it came about and where it may lead. Until now.

BIOPLASTIC THAT CAN DEGRADE ENTIRELY IN THREE MONTHS

SpringWise, by Serafina Basciano ,April 2, 2021

A simple manufacturing process generates biomass-based plastics from the wood powder typically found at lumber mills

Scientists are continuing to develop more eco-friendly forms of plastic, using materials such as eggshells, plants, and even tequila waste. A team of researchers at Yale have now joined the effort, and are developing a new durable bioplastic that can degrade entirely in three months. The simple manufacturing process generates biomass-based plastics from the wood powder typically found at lumber mills.

A biodegradable solvent is used to turn the wood powder into a slurry of organic polymers and cellulose, with hydrogen bonding and entanglement at a nanoscale level. This slurry is then cast as a bioplastic, which the team put to the test against conventional plastics. Experimenting on this new form of material involved burying sheets of it in soil, after which it started to break down after two weeks, degrading completely after three months.

In addition to being able to degrade, the material can also be returned to its original form, to be reused. Possible uses: a film for bags and packaging, or into products for construction and auto manufacturing.



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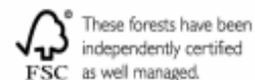
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BLM to Upgrade Hotshot Crews to Permanent Employees

Wildfire Today, by Bill Gabbert, Sept. 3, 2021

The Bureau of Land Management is implementing direction from Congress to convert hundreds of their employees who fight wildland fires from seasonal to permanent status. Historically, the BLM's wildland fire workforce was seasonally based. However, a new model is intended to address the escalating workforce needs due to climate change intensifying fire activity. In a news release the BLM said this model will also provide employees with career stability and upward mobility to promote work-life balance and long-term careers in wildfire or resource management.



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Stole Property Tour Highlights



On October 16, about 40 WCSWA members had the opportunity to tour Lori and Jerry Stoles' 19-acre parcel which sits on a hill overlooking the Cascade Range west of Sherwood. The family farm was established in 1967 and is surrounded by a 90-year-old forest, a 25-year-old Douglas-fir forest, a creek, and an organic hazelnut orchard. The tour was divided into three stations, each one with distinct character and information.

Vanessa Petro, OSU College of Forestry Senior Faculty

Research Assistant, explained the habitat, behavior, and role the beaver has in the ecosystem. Evidence of beaver activity on the Stole's property included beaver teeth gnawing on a large area of several hardwood trees, several beaver dams, and intrusion of the hazelnut orchard, which resulted in a fence to keep them out. Beavers cut the trees to form dams and lodges but do not eat the wood, instead they eat the tree bark or softer layers of wood.



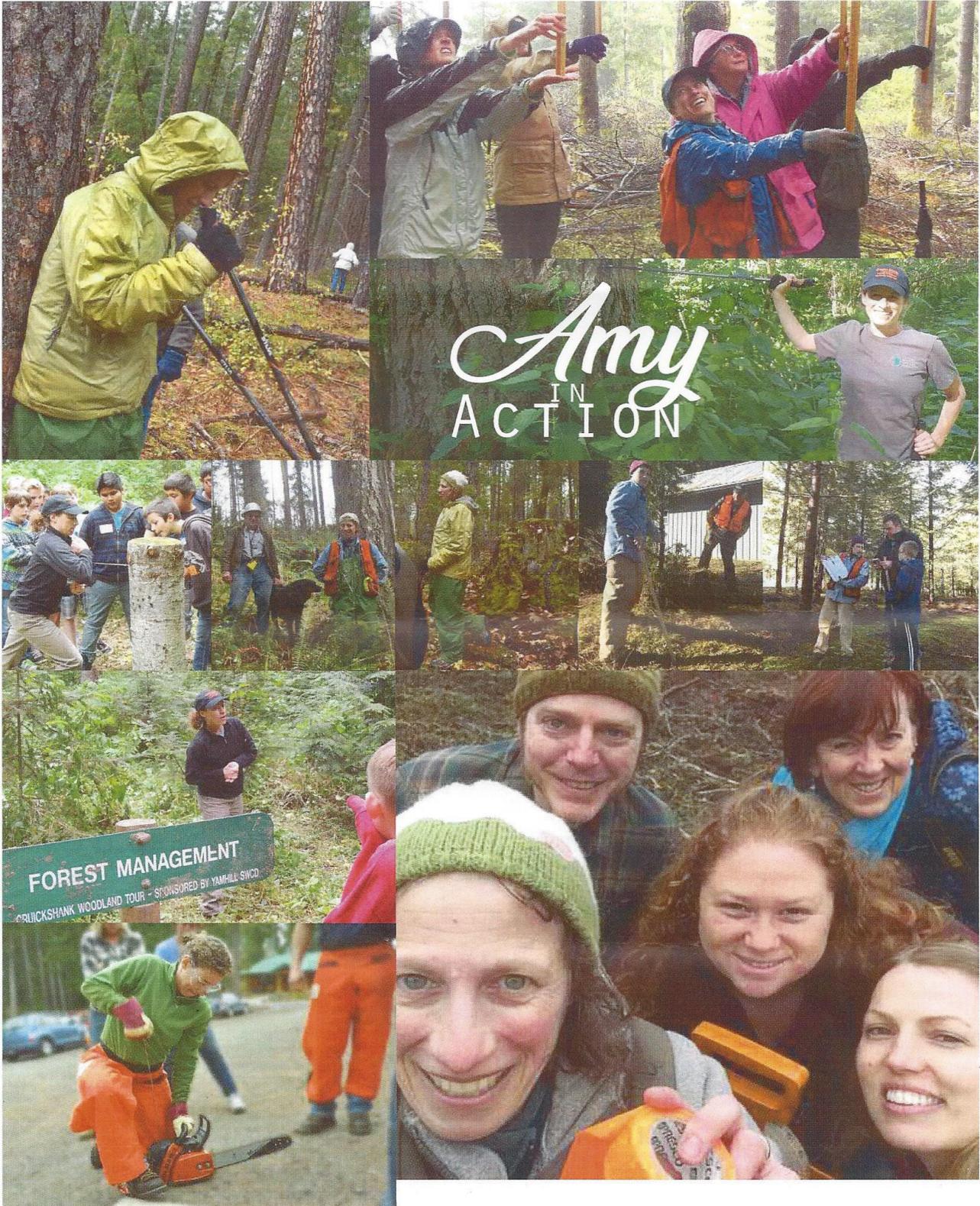
Ava Chapman and her dog Joey, the Dirt Dogs Truffle Team, are a Hobby Culinary Truffle pair, who have honed their skills and knowledge for 5 years. Ava buried truffle samples in various areas and demonstrated how Joey could find them.



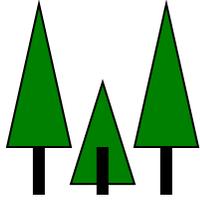
Truffles are a fungus and 4 types of culinary truffles are found in Oregon. They grow underground near Douglas-fir tree roots in the forest. Truffles are considered a delicacy. They can be shaved over pasta, risotto, or eggs, or infused into oils, adding a decadent twist to a simple dish.

Lori Stole demonstrated how to use a kiln to convert branches into biochar. The kiln is closed at the bottom. With oxygen coming only from the top, the fire stays at the top, and charcoal collects underneath without being burned to the ash stage. To start, a "rick" is built; branch layers placed first all in one direction, then the other direction, on up to the top. This is lit with a gas torch. Once the rick burns down more branches are added, one layer at a time. With plenty of air in the burn zone there's no smoke or particulate generation. The kiln fills with biochar in about 4 hours, but the burn can be ended at any time by spraying water over the biochar. Biochar retains 50% of its carbon. It's a great soil amendment, helps with odor control in animal stalls and can be used for water pollution remediation. Before adding to soil it's recommended to compost or otherwise "pre-load" the biochar with nutrients.





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.

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

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 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