

# **Forest Forum**



## **Washington County Small Woodlands Association**

**December, 2021**

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### **WCSWA Monthly Meeting – January 25th** **Funding Your Forest Projects**

Our January meeting will be a chance to say hello again... in person! and get updated information from our funding partners. The presenters will outline resources for financing projects on your property; some help to be the good steward you want to be for your woodland. A panel of sources will discuss programs they have which may meet your needs:

- ***USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Presentation: Kaycee Shockey, County Executive Director***
- ***USDA Natural Resource Conservation (NRCS) Presentation: Jessica Wells, District Conservationist***
- ***Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District (TSWCD) Presentation: Brandy Saffell, Conservation Specialist, Forest Conservation Program***

The meeting will be located at an empty industrial building in North Plains, just off the freeway at Exit 57. The address of the building is:

30780 NW Highland Ct.  
North Plains, OR 97133, USA

Highland Court is the first Street on the north side of the North Plains Overpass. Turn right (or left if coming from North Plains) on Highland Court: it is the second building (marked Building A) on the right after the Shell station. Parking is marked around the building or if that is full, use the back parking lot.

As this is a new location for us, there are a few logistics to cover: There is ample parking around the building. We're not sure that there will be adequate chairs for everyone to sit in. **Please bring a chair for yourself.**

And of course, COVID logistics: We will follow whatever social distancing and face covering requirements are in place at the time of the event. A reminder email will be sent a few days before the meeting outlining the current requirements. Coffee, tea, and cookies will not be served. Please bring your own refreshments if desired.



**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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**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

**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)

**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**

<b>Tree School Online</b>	<b>1/11 2/8</b>	<b><u>Outline of Programs</u> Amphibians Prescribed Fire</b>	<a href="http://www.knowyourforest.org/TreeSchoolOnline">www.knowyourforest.org/TreeSchoolOnline</a>
<b>December</b>		<b>No event</b>	We always take a break in December
<b>January</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>WCSWA Monthly Meeting – in person!</b>	Funding Your Forest Projects – new location, see page 1 7 p.m.
<b>February and Beyond</b>		<b>To Be Announced</b>	
<b>June, 2022</b>	<b>23-25</b>	<b>OSWA-OTFS Annual Family Forest Convention</b>	Benton County Fairgrounds – put the dates on your calendar!

# Leadership Notes

Vic Herinckx

Hello everyone, hope you are well and have been doing your snow dances (at least enough for the ski resorts to open). We are presently enjoying record warm temperatures that feel more like fall than early winter.

The November annual meeting was held via Zoom on Nov 16 and included officer elections, a presentation by new OSWA executive director Rick Zenn, raffle items and a slideshow put together by Mary Spiering. Marc Ahrendt and Norbert LePage were recognized for their 3 years of outstanding service as board members. If you haven't seen the slideshows or want to re-watch they are on the WCSWA website at [wcswa.com](https://new.wcswa.com/wordpress/what-we-do/gallery/), then "what we do", then "gallery" or straightaway at this link: <https://new.wcswa.com/wordpress/what-we-do/gallery/>

Congratulations to the elected officers and board members:

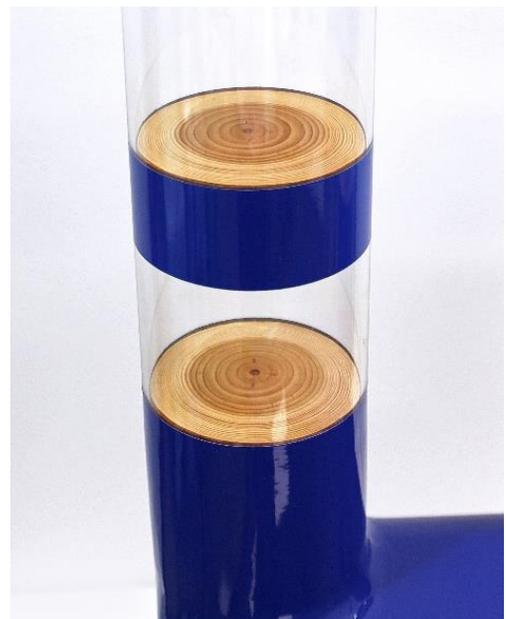
- **Board Position #1: Marc Ahrendt**
- **Board Position #2: Kathy Brock**
- **President: Vic Herinckx**
- **Vice-President: Barrett Brown**
- **Treasurer: Bob Shumaker**

Thanks to all of our volunteers that make it all happen. There are always opportunities available if you are interested in participating more actively on the board or on any of the committees let any officer or board member know.

I've written a few times about selling non-timber forest products on Etsy. One of the highlights for me is to see what creative and artistically talented people are able to create from a simple slice of wood. Here are a few of my favorites – Halloween pyrography on Maple slices on the left and Doug Fir slices incorporated into the seatback tubes of a sculptural chair on the right.



<<< **Halloween pyrography**



>>>> **Doug Fir slices incorporated into the seatback tubes of a sculptural chair**

**Until next time, Happy Holidays and continue to stay safe!**



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**“Recognize management as experiment. To do otherwise ignores reality. It also encourages unhealthy distinctions between researcher and manager”**

*Fred Bunnell professor emeritus of forest wildlife management, University of British Columbia*

## ***Tualatin SWCD – Program Update***

Brandy Saffell, Forest Conservation Specialist at the Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District, recently published her report of TSWCD forestry activities during the past year – very impressive report!

The program is based on resources concerns developed last year by a focus group of landowners and cooperating agencies and organizations. These concerns were:

- Vulnerable forest structure (such as overstocked monocultures)
- Wildfire risk
- Threats to long-term water quality for people and wildlife
- Not enough support for beginner land managers
- Loss of rare oak and prairie habitat
- Land use conversion of high-value forest habitat

Brandy and her team engaged the first five issues with **research, partnership development, and focused outreach**. In 2022, she hopes to gather a couple of smaller focus groups to help develop the vulnerable forest structure and wildfire risk initiatives.

**Ed. Note:** Hopefully we can get Brandy to present the program results and future plans at an upcoming WCSWA monthly meeting. In the meantime, you can access this very readable report at:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/1e499f6314b04840a75b6a1bbac3ad73>



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### **Woodland Community Loss – Daral and Virginia Pearson**

The Washington County woodland community lost valued members Daral and Virginia Pearson: Daral died on November 17<sup>th</sup>, and Virginia on November 19<sup>th</sup>.

The Pearsons have been regular members of WCSWA for many years. Their Firdale Road woodland was selected Washington County Tree Farm of the Year in 2002, and they have been regular contributors to making the Native Plant Sale successful by their offering of ferns and native plants including unique “mossy fern logs” – always a hit with plant sale attendees. Their son-in-law Tee has continued this tradition as their health declined.

**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



*"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.

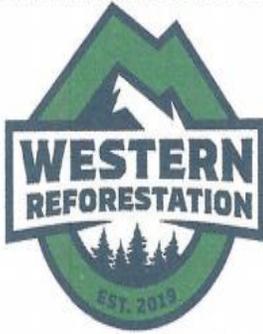
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3111 Third St.  
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### Darwin: “Mix It Up!”

More than 150 years ago Victorian biologist Charles Darwin made a powerful observation: that a mixture of species planted together often grows more strongly than species planted individually. It has taken a century and a half—ironically about as long as it can take to grow an oak to harvest—and a climate crisis to make policymakers and land owners take Darwin's idea seriously and apply it to trees.

There is no human technology that can compete with forests for take-up of atmospheric carbon dioxide, and its storage. Darwin's idea of growing lots of different plants together to increase the overall yield is now being explored by leading academics, who research forests and climate change.

Following Darwin's thinking, there is growing awareness that the best, healthiest forests are ones with the greatest variety of trees—and trees of various ages. Mixed forests are also often more resilient to disease by diluting populations of pests and pathogens, organisms that cause disease

by Rob MacKenzie, Christine Foyer, [The Conversation](#)

### ***It's Not Just the Number of Fires – It's the Severity!***

The number of wildfires and the amount of land they consume in the western U.S. has substantially increased since the 1980s, a trend often attributed to ongoing climate change.

***Now, new research finds fires are not only becoming more common in the western U.S. but the area burned at high severity is also increasing, a trend that may lead to long-term forest loss.***

The new findings show warmer temperatures and drier conditions are driving an eight-fold increase in annual area burned by high severity fire across western forests from 1985-2017. In total, annual area burned by high severity wildfires — defined as those that kill more than 95% of trees — increased by more than 450,000 acres.

“As more area burns at high severity, the likelihood of conversion to different forest types or even to non-forest increases,” said Sean Parks, a research ecologist with the U.S. Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station and lead author of the new study. “At the same time, the post-fire climate is making it increasingly difficult for seedlings to establish and survive, further reducing the potential for forests to return to their pre-fire condition.”

## Maple Decline Update

A new study led by the University of Washington, in collaboration with Washington Department of Natural Resources, has found that bigleaf maple die-off in Washington is linked to hotter, drier summers that predispose this species to decline. These conditions essentially weaken the tree's immune system, making it easier to succumb to other stressors and diseases. "These trees can tolerate a lot, but once you start throwing in other factors, particularly severe summer drought as in recent years, it stresses the trees and can lead to their death," said co-author Patrick Tobin, associate professor in the UW School of Environmental and Forest Sciences.

"These results show that summer heat and drought impact the health of iconic tree species of Washington, like bigleaf maple, even in Western Washington, a region known for abundant precipitation. Health impacts to our forests and tree species are likely to continue as we have increased periods of drought each year," said co-author Amy Ramsey, an environmental planner and forest pathologist with Washington DNR. When trees are stressed, they can succumb to diseases that normally wouldn't bother them. One of the signature signs of distress, they found, was significantly smaller leaves. In drought conditions, trees use more energy trying to survive and defend themselves from diseases and other threats.



### **Greg Thompson 503-710-0545** **EXCAVATION & BRUSH MOWING**

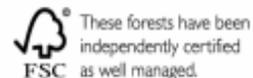
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**News Flashes!**

**OFRI** Mike Cloughesy, who retired last summer – is coming back as interim President of OFRI (until a new president is chosen)

**OSU Extension** Tammy Cushing’s replacement (Extension Economist) will soon be advertised; expected to be filled by next September

**OSU Extension** Amy Grotta’s position (Extension Forester for Washington, Yamhill, and Columbia Counties) is being advertised; expected to be filled by next spring



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## ***Chehalem Ridge Nature Park Opens***

In 2000, Metro purchased a large tract on Iowa Hill, part of Chehalem ridge, from Stimson Lumber Company. The tract was primarily young planted Douglas-fir, along with some hardwoods. Earlier in the tract's history, it was used for crops by several local farmers. After it was originally sold, it passed through ownership by Starker brothers before finally ending up as a Stimson property.

WCSWA was very interested in seeing that the property remained in forest, instead of being subdivided (once considered by an earlier owner), and began participating in the early planning by Metro for its future use. Early on Metro determined it should remain as a forest, and designated it as a Nature Park. WCSWA members encouraged Metro to consider active management of the forest for both forest health and public education purposes.

In 2013, Metro engaged a forestry consultant to conduct thinning operations in the plantations – for both forest health and biodiversity objectives. WCSWA members toured the park following the thinning and were glad to see the results.



**WCSWA members on 2013 thinning tour**



**Post-thinning, with wildlife pile**

It is now 8 years after the thinning, and the Park is now opening to the public (Metro announcement follows):

*We are excited to share that Chehalem Ridge Nature Park will be opening to the public on Monday, Dec. 13. This 1,260-acre nature park 15 minutes south of Forest Grove and Cornelius will offer visitors breathtaking views of the Tualatin Valley and the Coast Range and nearly 10 miles of trails. Chehalem Ridge is part of the traditional homelands of the Atfalati (Tualatin) Kalapuya people. It is also home to multiple types of habitat and more than 100 species of wildlife, including beavers, alligator lizards and bobcats park. Activities planned for the “grand opening week” include nature activity guides and a self-guided tour map that will be available on the [Chehalem Ridge webpage](#). There will also be a photo contest with prizes on Metro’s social media accounts, which you can follow @oregonmetro on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) to stay updated and watch videos*

This new Nature Park in our backyard is a “laboratory” where WCSWA members can see how the earlier thinning has created an alternative to standard plantations. It is also an opportunity for WCSWA to work with Metro to encourage active management of the forest, recognizing that it is constantly growing, changing, and reacting to human use and natural factors such as changing climatic conditions. Some small woodland owners also have Douglas-fir plantations that they would like to manage to increase biodiversity by judicious thinning, planting, and other management practices. The park can provide an example, now and in the future, of how plantations can be managed for other objectives.

## ***Oregon Board of Forestry Approves Carbon Plan***

The Oregon Board of Forestry has approved a new Climate Change and Carbon Plan that it says will be the vision and roadmap guiding the agency toward climate-smart forestry. The plan was approved unanimously at the Board's Nov. 3 virtual meeting.

"Our forests are already experiencing impacts from changing climate. Just this year alone Oregon has seen everything from an intense and early wildfire season to widespread extreme drought to record-shattering heat waves," said Board Chair Jim Kelly. "With this new plan, we have set forth clear guidelines and principles to help further focus the agency's response and work moving forward."• Kelly said the plan will be important as the Board revises its strategic plan, the Forestry Program for Oregon, last updated in 2011.

Kelly said he expects the Board will work with Department staff to:

- **Develop a framework for climate change assessment. The framework will be used to analyze policy changes and assess climate impacts as rules are developed or revised.**
- **Analyze the impacts on carbon and atmospheric carbon from various forest management scenarios.**
- **Work with other Pacific states and British Columbia on the Temperate Forest Memorandum of Understanding. That document deals with forest carbon co-production efforts, carbon flux in forests and how to enhance awareness of forest changes due to the changing climate.**

ODF's newly appointed State Forester Cal Mukumoto, who served on the Board of Forestry when it was last revising the Forestry Program for Oregon, said the climate plan is timely. "Oregon's forests are already being affected by changes in climate. There is evidence fire seasons have become longer and more intense, with more acres burned. Where some plant species grow is also starting to change. If greenhouse gas emissions are not reduced soon, predictions are for even bigger changes,"• Mukumoto said. He cited three examples:

- ***Forest wildfires are expected to become more frequent, severe, and burn even larger areas.***
- ***Tree deaths are expected to increase from droughts, insects, and disease.***
- ***Some landowners may find it difficult if not impossible to successfully grow to maturity the same timber species on their land as in the past.***

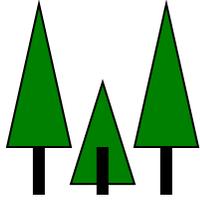
"That's why ODF, along with other state agencies, is committed to making this work a priority,"• said Mukumoto. "We'll be looking at science-based changes we can implement and doing so in a way that can help protect vulnerable communities and address inequities." The climate plan states that climate change offers an opportunity for forest landowners and managers to pursue additional voluntary measures that will benefit forests, the broader environment and people in Oregon and around the globe.

Among several ideas Kelly said the Board is directing ODF to explore are:

- ***climate-smart forest practices carried out by landowners and forest managers***
- ***economic incentives to increase carbon sequestration through easement tools***
- ***ODF support for possible forest carbon offset and finance programs***
- ***formal recognition and promotion programs to encourage adoption of best practices***

The full 49-page plan can be found on the ODF website by searching for "ODF Climate Change and Carbon Plan".

# Forest Forum



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**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>

### 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](#)

### 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