

# ***Forest Forum***

## **Washington County Small Woodlands Association**

**January, 2022**

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### **WCSWA Monthly Meeting – January 25<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm** **Funding Your Forest Projects**

We are still hoping that our January meeting will be a chance to say hello again... in person! Watch for an email a few days prior to confirm the meeting and give COVID guidelines. The program will give updated information from our funding partners. Presenters will outline resources for financing projects on your property. A panel of sources will discuss programs they have which may meet your needs:

- ***USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA): Kaycee Shockey, County Executive Director***
- ***USDA Natural Resource Conservation (NRCS): Jessica Wells, District Conservationist***
- ***Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District (TSWCD): 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. 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, so: **Please bring a chair for yourself.**

And of course, COVID logistics: We will follow whatever 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.

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### **WCSWA February Meeting – February 22, 7:00pm** **Wildfire Detection and ODF Updates**

Mike Cafferata, Oregon Department of Forestry, Forest Grove District Forester, will provide some updates and answer questions on current forestry issues in Oregon – Climate Change, Wildfire, the new State Forester, the Private Forest Accord, Salmonberry Trail Update, etc.. He will have a few prepared remarks and is happy to answer questions and have discussion.

He will also introduce our guest speaker Ashwin Datta, a local entrepreneur from Hillsboro, OR, who recently started **Instinct**, a company working to build wildfire detection and forestry/environmental monitoring sensors. This system provides forest landowners with peace of mind in the face of the growing wildfire threat and helps them use data-driven approaches to managing their lands. Plan on joining us to learn about this new technology, its vast potential and what it could mean for you and your lands.

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## 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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**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	1/11 2/8	<u>Outline of Programs</u> Amphibians Prescribed Fire	<a href="http://www.knowyourforest.org/TreeSchoolOnline">www.knowyourforest.org/TreeSchoolOnline</a>
January	25 26	WCSWA Monthly Meeting – in person! Funding Forest Projects Starker Lecture Series	Funding Your Forest Projects – 7:00pm. New location, see page 1 Women of Forestry. See page 5
February	22	Wildfire Detection and ODF Updates	Wildfire Detection from <b>Instinct</b> with Co-Founder and CEO Ashwin Datta and ODF Updates from Mike Cafferata. See page 1
March	12 22	Native Plant Sale Salvage Logging from 2020 Fires	Our 20 <sup>th</sup> Sale! See article page 6 Trout Mountain Forestry – Mike Messier will give information on salvage logging from the 2020 fires
June, 2022	23- 25	OSWA-OTFS Annual Family Forest Convention	Benton County Fairgrounds – put the dates on your calendar!

# Leadership Notes

Vic Herinckx

2022 has arrived with a lot of the same storylines and concerns that existed at the beginning of 2021, but a key difference is we have stronger resolve to move back to in-person meetings that will follow all state required safety guidelines. Looking forward to seeing everyone on a regular basis.

The first meeting in January will offer potential cost sharing opportunities to address the other main storyline – fire risk and fuel reduction. If you have overstocked stands, ladder fuels or need to improve defensible space around structures, now is the time to make specific plans to get these issues addressed in 2022.

I spent 6 days in Sunriver over Christmas and it snowed every day. It was great to get out and do some snowmobiling and cross-country skiing in the Deschutes National Forest. Thinning, slash piling/burning and prescribed burning are all tools used to improve forest health in that area. I saw many slash piles waiting for the next burn opportunity and even some smoldering from earlier burns.

The Sunriver community has been impacted by new wildfire risk models that have increased the area's risk score from 50 to 80 (on a scale from 1 to 100) making it more difficult and 2-3 times more costly to insure the common structures of the community such as the administration office, recycling center, shopping/dining areas, etc. Fortunately, this risk and cost adjustment has not made its way to individual homeowner policies – yet! Sunriver has had a long-established ladder fuels reduction plan that visits all common areas of the community on a rotating 6-year cycle giving it the look and fire resilience of a well-thinned pine forest.

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

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## Why the US Navy Manages Its Own Private Forest

Military.com | By [Blake Stilwell](#), 9/29/2021

Maintaining a forest for ship building would make a lot of sense if ships were still made of wood. But they aren't. So why does the U.S. Navy maintain a white oak forest in the middle of Indiana?

The white oak tree might have been the most fundamental building block of the young United States -- literally. White oaks were used to conquer the frontier, enforce U.S. foreign policy and kick the Royal Navy out of our waters. The USS Constitution, the only still commissioned ship in the U.S. Navy that has sunk another vessel, is made from that same white oak. And the Navy needs to repair her from time to time.

When Constitution was launched in 1797, it was one of the most formidable ships of its time, During its famous encounter with the HMS Guerriere in the War of 1812, it's said the ship's 22-inch-thick hull caused British cannonballs to bounce off its sides. When the U.S. sailors saw this, they were said to have shouted, "Huzzah, her sides are made of iron!" From that day on, she was known as "Old Ironsides."

At Naval Support Activity Crane, near Bloomington, Indiana the U.S. Navy maintains "Constitution Grove," where a forest of white oaks is grown for the sole purpose of restoring and refitting the USS Constitution. Three Navy civilian foresters help maintain the wood and ensure that no tree removed from the ecosystem will have an adverse effect on the grove's biodiversity.

So, while old growth forest is removed from the grove from time to time, the Navy will continue to make sure middle-aged trees (70-80 years old) are in good health for the future and that the North American white oaks will create new saplings for as long as Constitution is afloat.

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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***

## Silvaseed purchased by DroneSeed

Earlier this year, DroneSeed completed the acquisition of Silvaseed, becoming the largest private seedbank west of Colorado, growing millions of trees per year, and planning to double capacity by mid next year.

DroneSeed has kept 100% of Silvaseed’s legacy team, and is looking to hire a variety of industry professionals and new talent from agritech, horticulture, and other similar industries to help modernize and scale Silvaseed’s growing facilities in Roy, WA. DroneSeed has also announced its plans to ramp up local hiring for seasonal and full-time work at Silvaseed.

Currently, Matthew Aghai serves as the General Manager of Silvaseed, overseeing all their operations and the recent acquisition. A veteran of the reforestation industry, he is taking the reins from Silvaseed’s former owners of 55 years, David and Mike Gerdes, who now serve as advisors. In addition to Matthew, Senior Operations Manager Kea Woodruff leads and manages all of Silvaseed’s onsite reforestation operations. Woodruff, a Washington native, previously spearheaded production operations for the Center for Forest Nursery and Seedling Research, in Moscow, ID. She is assisted by fellow Washingtonian Travis Gamin, who has been the lead grower at Silvaseed for 5 years.

By acquiring Silvaseed, DroneSeed has created the first and only company that manages the entire forest regeneration lifecycle, from collecting cones to extracting and supplying seeds to growing seedlings to direct seeding, while also providing capital solutions to landowners. DroneSeed hopes to partner with private landowners to evaluate and increase collections of seed resources throughout the American West. In addition to expanded seed banking and nursery capacity, DroneSeed is adding automation and state-of-the-art upgrades that improve reforestation response after wildfires.

*Editor’s Note: Silvaseed is a long-time advertiser in the Forest Forum*



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## **2022 Starker Lecture Series**

### **Women of Forestry: Inspiring leadership**

On Jan. 26, Robin Wall Kimmerer, author and professor, kicks off the 2022 Starker Lecture Series, which focuses on women who act as agents of change within the forestry and forest products sector as well as within their communities.

This series will educate and explore the triumphs of women as well as the myriad of challenges they face in forests, mills, research labs and beyond.

For more information, visit <https://www.forestry.oregonstate.edu/starker-lectures>

**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



## Welcome Kathy Brock to the Board of Directors, Position 1



Kathy and her husband Ray, moved to Banks, Oregon in 2017 where they were introduced to forestry and the Washington County Small Woodlands Association. They are currently managing a reprod forest that they planted in 2018 on 37 acres of their property. Kathy retired from Nike after 31 years in 2019, and Ray recently retired from Leupold and Stevens.

Kathy has been inspired and thankful for the support of many members of the association and is looking forward to volunteering her time to WCSWA. Kathy is also a member of the Plant Sale Committee.

Kathy and Ray have 3 adult children and are expecting their first grandchild in January. Welcome Kathy!

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## NATIVE PLANTS--THEY MAKE PEOPLE SMILE

SATURDAY MARCH 12, OUR 2022 NATIVE PLANT SALE



Where's the sale? 30780 NW Highland Court, North Plains, OR. (That's also where we hold 2022's monthly meetings.) Spread the word to friends and neighbors and volunteer to help at the sale.

History of WCSWA's Native Plant Sale. **This is our 20<sup>th</sup> annual sale!** It is always held on the second Saturday in March. All profits fund scholarships for natural resource education.

When can I **sign up to help at the sale**? At the regular monthly in-person meeting, January 25. (Or e-mail [NORDBERG@AOL.COM](mailto:NORDBERG@AOL.COM) to let us know you'd like to help)

Do I have to help the entire sale day? No, even a couple hours help!

Do I need experience? No. Return volunteers and new members--all are welcome.

It's a perfect opportunity to make friends with members. **Remember-Native Plants make people smile**

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### Year End Videos from November Annual Meeting

If you haven't seen the slideshows or want to re-watch them there are links at [www.wcswa.com](http://www.wcswa.com) on our [Gallery](#) page or go directly from here:

[2021 Year End Review](#)

[October 2021 Amy Grotta Trail Dedication](#)



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## Meet the Opossum, Nature's Friendly Sanitation Worker

Special to the Abilene Reporter-News, Jared Rhoton, November 7, 2021

Most of us have heard the phrase “playing possum,” whether we know what a possum is or not. What many Americans call a possum is in fact an opossum. While that “o” might not seem like a big deal, it is. In the United States, our opossums are unique because they are the only marsupial N. of Mexico. There are over 60 opossum species in the world, but only one in North America, the Virginia Opossum.

Most people assume opossums are related to rodents because of their vaguely rat-like appearance. In fact, as a marsupial, they are more closely related to a kangaroo or koala bear. Marsupial species carry their young around with them in a pouch to nurse and develop. Opossums’ gestation period is between 11-13 days, and at birth they are so small that 20 opossum “joeys” could fit in a teaspoon. After they have grown enough to fill the pouch, they ride on their mother’s back until they can live on their own.

Opossums’ toothy grins have 50 teeth – a record for any land mammal in the United States. The house-cat-sized adults are not aggressive, but showing those sharp teeth, hissing and growling are their first fierce-looking line of defense when facing a predator.

“Playing possum” comes from another of the opossums’ defensive tactics – pretending to be dead. This reflex is completely involuntary, and the ensuing paralysis can last anywhere from a few minutes to several hours. Their breathing slows, mouth drools, anal glands release a foul-smelling green slime and bodies stiffen. This defensive trait works well because most predator animals assume dead prey animals are diseased and will often leave the catatonic opossum alone.

Opossums play an important role in our ecosystem because their diet consists of insects, rodents, poisonous snakes, grubs, frogs, carrion and overripe fruits and vegetables. This helps mankind in many ways. All of these beneficial eating habits earn opossums the nickname of nature’s sanitation workers.

One very cool fact: they are one of the oldest living species on the planet – they wandered the Earth when dinosaurs were alive. The species is believed to be more than 70 million years old.



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Desired species: Douglas fir

## Biochar Use in the Livestock Industry

Dovetail Partners, November, 2021

Biochar has been successfully used in livestock operations as a feed additive and as a manure management tool. As a feed additive, it is widespread in Europe; its use is limited in the US due to current FDA's feed additive regs.

Regarding the manure management aspect, no approvals are needed. There is a large body of research supporting biochar's benefits in bedding, manure management, anaerobic digestion, and compost.

Most biochar will end up in the soil, where its benefits are supported by extensive research and practice. Biochar has shown to reduce ammonia levels and retain nitrogen compounds in manures, and it provides increased water holding capacity and soil organic matter in soils. An additional benefit to an investment in biochar is its longevity—measured in decades to millennia—which also opens the potential for economic benefit from the developing carbon credit markets.

## Still Missing and Endangered: Ralph Brown

Ralph Brown, former mayor of Cornelius, drove away from his home in Cornelius, Oregon on May 16, 2021 in a dark blue/green 2014 Nissan Sentra, OR Plate 319KQV. Ralph is 76, has Alzheimer's and may have trouble finding his way. His cell phone pings indicate that he traveled Highway 47 through Gaston to McMinnville with the last ping putting him in the Newberg area. Volunteers have spent countless hours searching through the area of those cell phone pings and far beyond with no success.

There is a chance that Ralph Brown became lost on a forest landowner's road, so volunteers are asking us to spread the word for landowners to look for and report any out-of-the-ordinary sightings on our forest roads since last May. Please consider all possibilities where gates might have been temporarily opened allowing access for someone who may have become lost and then trapped behind the gate. His car may be far off the road in a ravine or in bushes.

If you find the car, please report to local law enforcement immediately and reference Ralph Brown. If you recall something unusual, spot broken branches, or tire tracks, please share tips with Dirk Knudsen @ 503-799-8383 or email tips to [findralphbrown@gmail.com](mailto:findralphbrown@gmail.com).

**Pre-order  
OSU Master Gardener's New Book**

OSU Master Gardener, Elizabeth Price, has written a book 'Native and Ornamental Conifers of the Pacific NW' that OSU Press will be publishing in the spring of 2022.

**More good news!** You can now pre-order Elizabeth's book! **Use Promo Code SP22** when you order online, for **20% off** and **free shipping** (offer expires **May 15, 2022**).

Most conifer guides available for the Pacific Northwest focus on native species observed in the wild. *Native and Ornamental Conifers in the Pacific Northwest* presents an integrated perspective for understanding and identifying conifers in any landscape where native and ornamental species grow alongside each other.

Elizabeth Price has developed Jargon-free photographic charts, which allow for side-by-side comparison of conifer features and guide the reader to species identification.

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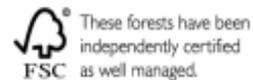
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## News Flashes!

**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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## Snow Cover Critical for Revegetation Following High-severity Forest Fires, OSU Study Shows

November 22, 2021, Oregon State University Newsroom, Steve Lundeberg



CORVALLIS, Ore. – How much and how long a severely burned Pacific Northwest mountain landscape stays blanketed in winter snow is a key factor in the return of vegetation, research by Oregon State University and the University of Nevada, Reno shows.

Published in the Journal of Geophysical Research: Biogeosciences, the findings are

important because the severity and frequency of wildfires in the Northwest are increasing, the blazes carry many short- and long-term impacts, and the length of those impacts is linked with vegetation's re-establishment and recovery. "As wildfire activity continues to increase and intensify in the Northwest, understanding what shapes revegetation on severely burned forested landscapes is vital for guiding management decisions," OSU College of Forestry researcher Kevin Bladon said.

Postfire revegetation in the forested mountain regions of the Pacific Northwest is a complicated puzzle, the scientists say, but snow cover is a crucial element especially in the Cascade Range in Oregon and Washington. More than 80% of wildfires in the western United States from 2000 to 2012 burned within a seasonal snow zone, a time period that overlaps with the years studied. "Snow matters to regrowing vegetation following fire, and with double impacts of declining snowpacks and increasing wildfires it is critical that we understand how these changes are affecting Pacific Northwest forests," said Anne Nolin, who led the study, which began while she was a researcher at Oregon State; she is now a geography professor at the University of Nevada, Reno.

The study showed summer precipitation consistently was the most important variable driving postfire revegetation across all four of the subregions examined, said Bladon, who has been studying wildfire's effects on water quality for nearly two decades. Variables such as snow cover frequency, pre-fire forest composition and elevation were also shown to be significantly influential for revegetation in the Oregon and Washington Cascades and the western Montana Rockies.

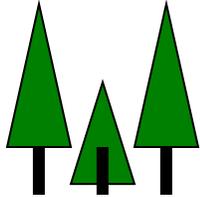
Climate change has already increased the percentage of winter precipitation that falls as rain rather than snow, reduced the spring snow-water equivalent – a metric for how much water snow contains – and caused snowmelt to begin earlier in the spring than it used to, Nolin said. Pacific Northwest snowpacks have seen the greatest declines of any seasonal snow region in the West.

With current climate change projections, snowpacks' role in aiding revegetation will become increasingly important across the West, Nolin said. And where snowpacks have declined, there likely will be ecosystem transitions that look like a shift from forest to non-forest, from evergreen to deciduous vegetation.

Bladon suggests fire can be looked at as an opportunity for forests to reassemble into ecosystems better suited to survive warmer winters, longer fire seasons and more drought stress.

"That's at the heart of the challenge of reconciling a changing climate's ecological forces with postfire forest management goals – the goals are often oriented toward re-establishing forests as they existed before the fire," he said. "But with shifting climate trends in the region, that might not be the most adaptive path forward for forested landscapes."

# Forest Forum



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## Potpourri

**New Members:** Welcome to our new members: **Kyle Apein** of Gaston, and **Dean and Josie Moberg and Trevor Newhart** of Portland. 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.

## Don't forget to renew your membership. Renewals due by Jan. 31, 2022

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 \(oregon.gov\)](https://www.oregon.gov/forestry/landscaping/checklists)

[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