

Forest Forum

Washington County Small Woodlands Association

March, 2022

February 22 WCSWA Meeting in Person



Ashwin Datta, Vic Herinckx and Mike Cafferatta

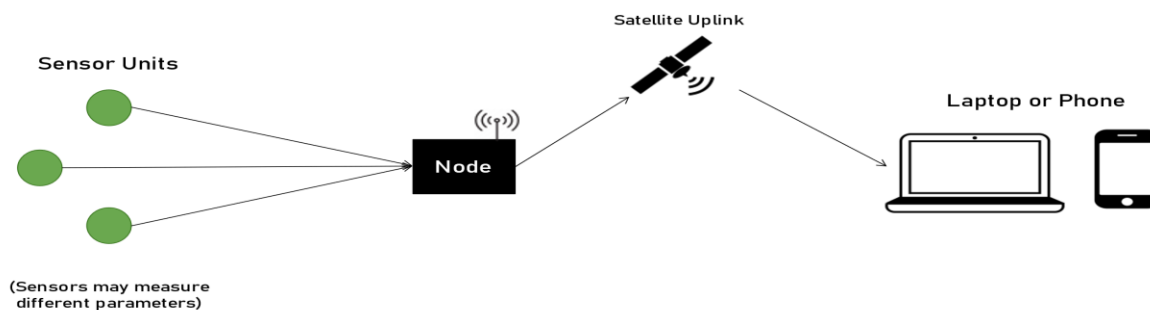
Mike Cafferata, ODF District Forester and Ashwin Datta, co-founder of INSTINCT, offered good new information to a crowd happy to be meeting in person after 2 years. This year we are meeting at 30780 NW Highland Ct. N. Plains. There is lots of space, and we wore masks.

Mike introduced Ashwin who calls Hillsboro home and is a recent graduate of MIT in Environmental Engineering. His co-founder Trevor Bachand, is an electrical engineer. Their company brings real-time environmental monitoring to forest management. The ground-based network can

detect wildfire when sensors detect a rise in temperature and decrease in humidity. Sensors can also be programmed to monitor a wide range of conditions such as moisture, herbicide, controlled burns, slash pile flare-ups and more. While not in production yet, they have two seasons of prototype real fire field testing. Weyerhaeuser is their first paying customer. The graph below shows how it works. This is a company and concept to watch. Ashwin invites WCSWA members to contact him with questions or follow-up at Ashwin.datta@instinctenvironmental.com.

How It Works

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Continued on page 4

WCSWA Leadership

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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)

For Sale: No new items.

Wanted: No new items.

Event Calendar

March	12	Native Plant Sale	Our 20 th Sale! Thank you to all who helped. Results will be published in April Forest Forum.
	22	WCSWA monthly meeting: Salvage Logging from 2020 Fires	30780 NW Highland Ct. N. Plains 7:00pm. Trout Mountain Forestry – Mike Messier will give information on salvage logging from the 2020 fires. See article on page 3
April	26	WCSWA Monthly meeting: Re-Thinking Future Forests	30780 NW Highland Ct. N. Plains 7:00pm. Glenn Ahrens, OSU Extension Forester, Clackamas, Marion, and Hood River Counties
June, 2022	23-25	OSWA-OTFS Annual Family Forest Convention	Benton County Fairgrounds – put the dates on your calendar!

It's so nice to start meeting in-person again. Thanks to our presenters and attendees for a spirited discussion at the February program meeting.

After a 1-year hiatus from the Native Plant Sale, it's great to be able to hold this popular event again this year. Those of you that volunteered or attended the plant sale in 2020 will recall having a good venue, turnout and successful sale just before everything started closing down as we started this COVID journey.

Now, there should be a lot of pent-up demand that brings us a lot of buyers and another successful event. Thanks to the Plant Sale Committee, volunteers and to Tony and Mary Spiering for providing a location for this year's sale. This year's date is March 12, 9:00am – 3:00pm at 30780 NW Highland Ct., North Plains.

The WCSWA Bylaws state one of our chapter's objectives is to "Educate and inform the general public regarding the challenges of small woodland management." This objective broadly covers educational grants and scholarships where we recently contributed \$7,000 to the Oregon Natural Resource Education Fund (ONREF) to support natural resources education opportunities in Oregon high schools.

Before that, contributions were directed to building a significant endowment fund at Oregon State University that will direct at least \$2,000 in annual scholarships to forestry students into perpetuity.

The WCSWA board is actively looking at new opportunities to direct profits from the seedling sale and native plant sale to organizations or venues that support our public education objective. This could include the Tillamook Forest Heritage Trust, Rubie P. Matteson Demonstration Forest and others. If you have ideas where we can direct funding to support this objective feel free to call me or any board member to discuss.

Until next time continue to stay safe!

"Salvage in Santiam Canyon"

Our March 22 meeting will feature Mike Messier, consulting forester with Trout Mountain Forestry. The meeting will be held in person at 30780 NW Highland Court, North Plains.

Mike will share his story of salvaging burned timber on a 225-acre private forest property in Santiam Canyon following the 2020 Beachie Creek Fire. Along with plenty of pictures, topics will include the observed effects of the fire on forest vegetation, the unique challenges associated with marketing and harvesting burned timber, developing a rock pit on-site, winter road construction, and more.



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If we knew what it was we were doing, it would not be called research, would it?

Albert Einstein

Continued from page 1

Mike Cafferata then brought us up-to-date on several issues.

- The Private Forest Accord is expected to be passed with SB1501 and SB1502. Then rule making by ODF is expected to be completed by the end of 2022. Stream buffers will change. OSWA will be keeping us up-to-date as rules are implemented.
- Fire Protection: Increased funds will enable ODF to hire a dispatcher, training specialist, finance person and aviation position. Learning the ropes: Mike told us if we know anyone 18+ years old interested in learning about firefighting to apply now. Jobs are there.
- State Forest Land Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) is progressing. The HCP seeks to provide a more holistic and cost-effective way to comply with the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), while managing state forests for economic, environmental and social benefits. ODF will write up their Forest Management Plan to incorporate the HCP.
- Mike spoke highly of our new State Forester, Calvin Mukumoto. Calvin is a former member of the state Parks and Recreation Commission and Board of Forestry and the U.S. Board for the Forest Stewardship Council. He will lead the agency's 1,200 employees and a budget of nearly \$500 million. Mukumoto spent 30 years working in the forest products industry, and served on the board of six Tribal enterprises in Oregon and Washington.



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2022 Starker Lecture Series

Women of Forestry: Inspiring Leadership

The 2022 Starker Lecture Series, focuses on women in forestry who act as agents of change. 3:30pm – 5:00pm

March 9: Pyrocultural Forestry

Speaker: Amanda Rau ODF

April 20: The Road Less Travelled

Speaker: Edie Sonne Hall, Founder & Principal, Three Trees Consulting

Registration is required:

forestry.oregonstate.edu/starker-lectures

May 10: Capstone Workshop, Keynote speaker Nalini M. Nadkarni Univ. of Utah

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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- Refer to forest practice laws
- Register for classes



Beaver Dams Help Wildfire-Ravaged Ecosystems Recover Long after Flames Subside

from Scientific American by Isobel Whitcomb, February 7, 2022

Oregon endured the third-largest wildfire in its recorded history last summer. The Bootleg Fire tore through the Upper Klamath Basin, an ecologically sensitive area. The fire left behind a charred landscape more than twice the size of New York City.

After the local fire season ended in autumn, Bill Tinniswood, a fisheries biologist with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, went out to survey the damage. Ash from the fire, which burned for more than a month, had clogged formerly pristine tributaries and turned them into black slurries. Thriving trout populations had disappeared, presumably choked to death by waterborne debris particles that deprived the fish of oxygen. “I was in total shock,” Tinniswood said. “It just looked like devastation.”

Then Tinniswood and his team stumbled upon something even more surprising, and somewhat encouraging: roughly five acres of pristine greenery amid an otherwise burned-out area along Dixon Creek, a tributary in the Sprague River watershed. At the center were roughly eight active beaver dams. But this was more than a refuge from fire, which hundreds of beaver dams are known to have afforded to other riparian areas. Whereas fish seemed to have disappeared upstream of the Dixon Creek dam site, the downstream water was crystal clear—and trout were thriving as though the fire had never happened. The dams and ponds appeared to have altered the hydrology of the landscape around them, Tinniswood says. The beavers had effectively built something like a water treatment plant that staved off fire-related contamination.

Similar dam-driven refuges have been documented from Colorado to California, Idaho to Wyoming. Now, scientists are discovering that these green sanctuaries are part of a larger story of how beaver dams contribute to fire resilience. Along with deterring the flames themselves, beaver dams and ponds also function as filters for ash and other fire-produced pollutants that enter waterways—thus maintaining water quality for fish, other aquatic animals, and humans—emerging evidence suggests.

The filtration provided by dams is crucial for the surrounding ecosystem. In the aftermath of wildfires, autumn rain and spring snowmelt wash sediment into waterways—including ash and other debris, and soil that vegetation normally would hold in place. This pulse of pollution can be deadlier to aquatic life than the fire itself, Tinniswood said. Just as humans struggle to breathe air that's thick with smoke, fish can't take in enough oxygen from water laden with sediment that their gills are not designed to block.

For riparian habitats in the Klamath Basin, some of the worst effects of the Bootleg Fire could still lie ahead, Tinniswood says. Heavy snows have blanketed the region this winter. When all that snow melts in spring, new pulses of ash and other sediment could wash into the rivers. “It could be really bad,” Tinniswood adds. A solution could come in the form of human-made structures called beaver dam analogues (BDAs) and post-assisted log structures (PALS). The latter are designed to mimic the natural buildup of woody debris in a healthy river system and function similarly to BDAs. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and nonprofit conservation group Trout Unlimited, in collaboration with private landowners and river restoration firm Anabran Solutions, has already placed 41 BDAs and 66 PALS on the North Fork of the Sprague River, abutting Bootleg Fire's burn scar.

BDAs are certainly not a replacement for beavers, notes Joe Wheaton, a fluvial geomorphologist at Utah State University and one of the scientists who developed the analogues. They are “leaky sieves” that should be thought of only as a temporary solution, he adds. “If they're not maintained, they don't have the same benefit.” Without beavers around to do this work, the structures will eventually wash away.

The hope is that by creating a riparian area that more closely resembles beaver habitat, BDAs will attract the animals to the area or allow them to be readily introduced.

Just what is a 'resilient' forest, anyway?

Science Daily, January 20, 2022

What does a "resilient" forest look like in California's Sierra Nevada? A lot fewer trees than we're used to, according to a study of frequent-fire forests from the University of California, Davis.

More than a century ago, Sierra Nevada forests faced almost no competition from neighboring trees for resources. The tree densities of the late 1800s would astonish most Californians today. Because of fire suppression, trees in current forests live alongside six to seven times as many trees as their ancestors did -- competing for less water amid drier and hotter conditions.

The study, published in the journal *Forest Ecology and Management*, suggests that low-density stands that largely eliminate tree competition are key to creating forests resilient to the multiple stressors of severe wildfire, drought, bark beetles and climate change. This approach would be a significant departure from current management strategies, which use competition among trees to direct forest development.

Competitive nature

The study compared large-scale historical and contemporary datasets and forest conditions in the southern and central Sierra Nevada, from Sequoia National Forest to the Stanislaus National Forest. It found that between 1911 and 2011, tree densities increased six- to seven-fold while average tree size was reduced by half. Most people would be surprised to see what these forests once looked like when frequent surface fires kept them at very low densities. But taking out smaller trees and leaving trees able to get through fire and drought leaves a pretty impressive forest. It does mean creating very open conditions with little inter-tree competition. But there's a lot of historical data that supports this."

"We think resilient forests can be created, but it requires drastically reducing tree density until there's little to no competition," said Brandon Collins of UC Berkeley, another co-author on the paper. "Doing this will allow these forests to adapt to future climate."



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WCSWA 2022 Seedling Sale

by Don Sohler, Seedling Chair

The 2022 seedling sale was completed on February 18th, with a total of 53,160 Douglas-fir and 5,100 western red cedar sold to 33 customers.

My days running a fire crew remind me of a mantra that I used to use: "Many hands make light work." I would like to thank the following WCSWA members that donated their time, trucks and trailers to help load, transport and unload the seedlings: Ray Brock, Gordon Dana, Wally Dodge, Rich Gaebel, Mike Jamieson and Steve Pentkowski.

In addition, I would like to thank Susan Vosburg and Paul Sansone for the use of their cooler. And last, a non-member, BJ Underwood for keeping tally of the 494 bags of seedlings as they were loaded at the nursery and unloaded at two different coolers.

And a special thanks to Dave Perdue, Jamea Schlegel and the fork lift operators at Lieb foods of Forest Grove for helping the association with cold storage and transporting the 33,000 seedlings with their fork lifts.

Thank you,
Don Sohler



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Tree School Online

A new year of Tree School Online has begun. The first class, on Prescribed Fire, occurred on February 8th. The following classes are the next in the 2022 series:

March 8, 3:00—4:30 PM

Using Nature as a Model for Forest Management: The case for ecological forestry

April 12, 3:00—4:30 PM

Healthy streams: a family's journey toward fish habitat restoration

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/tree-school/tree-school-online>

Tree School Online is brought to you by [OSU Extension Forestry and Natural Resources](#) and [Oregon Forest Resources Institute \(OFRI\)](#) with the [Partnership for Forestry Education](#)

Contact Tree School

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Extension
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109 Richardson Hall
[541-737-1727](tel:541-737-1727)

Northwest Woodlands Magazine Is Searching for a New Editor

The Oregon Small Woodlands Association, Idaho Forest Owners Association, Montana Forest Owners Association and Washington Farm Forestry Association are seeking a contractor to provide editing, writing and administrative services for *Northwest Woodlands* magazine. The quarterly publication reaches 3,500 members and stakeholders of these four nonprofit organizations. It has been a recognized Northwest publication since 1985.

The future editor should demonstrate qualifications to perform the work, including strong writing, editing and organizing skills, comfort talking with advertisers and the ability to work independently. An understanding of family forestry issues and the goals and missions of the small woodland associations will be considered in the selection. Technical knowledge and understanding of Pacific Northwest forests is a plus.

The publisher (Washington Farm Forestry Association) estimates work requires an average of 12-15 hours per week. Due to the nature of publication deadlines and for travel to five annual meetings, more hours will be required during certain times; the contractor will provide their own office and schedule their own time to meet these deadlines. The initial term of the contract is anticipated to be one year with extension based on mutual agreement between the parties.

A copy of the Request for Proposals (RFP) is available by contacting Anne Maloney at: annewithnww@gmail.com or by visiting the recruitment webpage at: www.wafarmforestry.com/RFP-Editor-NWWmagazine. The RFP is open until April 22, 2022, and top candidates will be interviewed in May. Work orientation begins with the outgoing editor on August 1. Full responsibility begins on October 1.

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10 Funky Facts About Skunks

MENTAL FLOSS.COM BY HANNAH KEYSER, APRIL 23, 2015 (UPDATED: JAN.14, 2022)



You had best be avoiding this skunk right now

Skunks get a bad rap, but there's amazing chemistry and crazy behavior behind these adorable animals.

1. A SKUNK'S STRIPES POINT OUT ITS SPRAYER. Better to intimidate a predator away than need to spray him which would render them helpless until they can "reload."
2. SKUNKS DO A LITTLE WARNING DANCE. If the stripes don't work, a skunk will try to scare off a predator with a complex warning dance.
3. SKUNKS EVOLVED THEIR SMELLY SPRAY BECAUSE THEY'RE NOCTURNAL. Animals that are awake during the day tend to rely on a lookout to scour the skies and call out warnings in the event of danger. Skunks, however, are nocturnal and solitary, putting them more at risk.
4. A SKUNK'S SPRAY IS POWERFUL STUFF. Skunks can shoot their sulfur-smelling defense mechanism up to 10 feet out of their anal glands. It can cause temporary blindness.
5. THEY'RE IN A FAMILY NAMED FOR THEIR BEST-KNOWN ATTRIBUTE. Skunks belong to the family Mephitidae, which means "stink."

Continued next page

6. SKUNK SPRAY IS HIGHLY FLAMMABLE.

7. YOU CAN FIGHT SKUNK SMELL WITH CHEMICALS. To fully banish the smell, you need to alter the chemical makeup with a mixture of baking soda and hydrogen peroxide.

8. SKUNKS ARE SEMI-POPULAR PETS. Or at least, they have a devoted domestic following. It's illegal to own skunks in more than 33 states and territories, Still, the people who manage to own skunks (with their scent glands removed) as pets are adamant about the animal's appeal. Skunks are smart and curious and exhibit individual personalities, just like a dog or cat.

9. SOME PEOPLE CAN'T SMELL SKUNKS AT ALL. Specific anosmia, or insensitivity to a particular smell affects one in every 1000 people who have no ability to detect skunk spray.

10. CAPTAIN JACK SPARROW IS LOOSELY BASED ON A SKUNK. At least, a cartoon skunk. Johnny Depp once said that he imagined *Pirates of the Caribbean's* Captain Jack Sparrow as a blend of Keith Richards and Pepé Le Pew.

US plans \$50B wildfire fight where forests meet suburbia

OPB, January 30, 2022 By MATTHEW BROWN (Associated Press)
BILLINGS, Mont. Jan. 18, 2022

The Biden administration plans to significantly expand efforts to stave off catastrophic wildfires that have torched areas of the U.S. West by more aggressively thinning forests around areas called “hotspots” where nature and neighborhoods collide.

As climate change heats up and dries out the West, administration officials said they have crafted a \$50 billion plan to more than double the use of controlled fires and logging to reduce trees and other vegetation that serves as tinder in the most at-risk areas.

They said work will begin this year and the plan will focus on regions where out-of-control blazes have wiped out neighborhoods and sometimes entire communities — including California's Sierra Nevada mountains, the east side of the Rocky Mountains in Colorado, and portions of Arizona, Oregon and Washington state.



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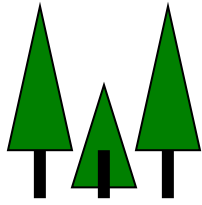
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Stay Up-to-date on the Forest Practices Act Requirements

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 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