

Forest Forum

Washington County Small Woodlands Association

May, 2022

Annual WCSWA Potluck, May 24, 2022

Location:

Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve, 2600 SW Hillsboro Hwy, Hillsboro, OR 97123

Meeting Place:

Main Visitors Building in Multipurpose Room, Parking in Front of Building

Agenda:

- 5 to 6 pm Arrival and Socialize
- 6 to 7 pm Potluck Meal
- 6:45 to 7:30 Speaker and Presentation: "Forestry for the Birds in the Pacific Northwest". A voluntary program that offers resources and insights for augmenting bird habitat on working lands. **(See details on page 8)**

What to bring:

This will be an old –fashioned Pot-luck with no main dish provided. Always lot of choices!

WCSWA will furnish plates, cups, eating utensils, napkins, lemonade, water, and coffee. Hillsboro Parks has no-alcohol policy.

About Jackson Bottom:

Located minutes south of downtown Hillsboro, [Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve's](#) 635 acres are a quiet sanctuary for both people and wildlife. Over 211 species of birds are sighted annually at Jackson Bottom, including Bald Eagles, Great Blue Herons, and thousands of Tundra Swans and Northern Pintails, making Jackson Bottom a haven for bird watchers. The Preserve is home to deer, otters, beavers, and thousands of other species. [Wetlands Nature Center](#) includes an exhibit hall filled with interactive exhibits on wetlands and natural history, and the only bald eagle nest on display in the continental United States.

New Tri-County Extension Forester Named

Alex Gorman has been selected as OSU Extension Forester in Columbia, Washington, and Yamhill Counties. Holly Ober, Associate Dean for Science Outreach and Forestry and Natural Resources Program Leader of the College of Forestry, Oregon State University said that Alex will begin his new job on June 30, 2022. The tri-county Extension Forester position has been vacant for the past two years, following the untimely and deeply felt loss of Amy Grotta, who had been Extension Forester for the area since early 2009.

Alex grew up in northern California, where he spent his childhood among the wildland urban interface and the forests of the Sierra Nevada. Alex received his Bachelor of Science in Forestry from California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt, where he focused his studies on the interface between forest health and active forest management in Douglas-fir and redwood forests. After Cal Poly Humboldt, Alex worked for Green Diamond Resource Company (GDRC), where his main role was to manage crews as they carried out active forest management practices in the form of vegetation management, burning, and planting. Afterwards, Alex went to work for Foothill Horizons Outdoor School. There, Alex learned how to apply tools such as the Universal Design for Learning and the Extension Logic Model to educate and connect with audiences.

See "Alex Gorman", page 6

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: Kathy Brock, 503-702-7620

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 – <https://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: 1941 Model A Farmall tractor, with disk and plow. In operating condition. Asking \$900. Contact Jim Evans by voice or text at 503-490-0558.

Wanted: No new items.

Event Calendar

May	24	Annual WCSWA Potluck	Location: Jackson Bottom Wetland Preserve, Hillsboro – see page 1
June	18	Oregon Woodland Cooperative Annual Meeting	See page 5 or call 503-357-2551 for more information
	23-25	OSWA-OTFS Annual Family Forest Convention	Benton County Fairgrounds – put the dates on your calendar!
July	16	2021 Tree Farmer of the Year Tour and Picnic	Lee and Nancy O'Banion's tree farm in Gales Creek. Details will be coming soon.

Nature will bear the closest inspection. She invites us to lay our eye level with her smallest leaf, and take the insect view of the plain

Henry David Thoreau

Hopefully the freakish April snowstorm didn't inflict too much pain on your timberlands. Certainly the number of power outages and road closures are a telltale sign that there will be some storm cleanup need. In the hills south of Hillsboro there were a good number of Douglas-fir tops on the ground and cherry that couldn't handle the heavy wet snow. With that behind us we can look forward to the flourishing growth that late spring provides.

The WCSWA board met in April both in-person and online for the first time since COVID started. Our main revenue sources include the seedling sale and native plant sale and thanks to the outstanding efforts of our members both were very successful this year. We have always donated 100% of the native plant sale proceeds to education and typically include about ½ of the seedling revenue. With about \$12,000 to contribute this year the board made a decision to add \$4,000 to our Oregon State University scholarship endowment. We are about 2/3 of the way to the endowment being funded to a level where the earnings will generate 2 x \$2,000 scholarships per year.

The board also approved the formation of a Community Investments committee and confirmed board member Kathy Brock to chair the committee. The committee will be exploring options for continuing investments across a variety of programs that could include high school, community college, demonstration forest or collaborations with partner organizations. If you are interested in learning about or participating on the committee or have ideas to consider please give Kathy a call.

Don't miss the **Oregon Family Forest Convention** June 23 - 25 in Corvallis. This is a chance to connect with OSWA members across the state, learn from experts and tour local attractions. There should be registration information coming in the mail but you can also register right now and find the latest information on the Eventbrite website. Search "Eventbrite Oregon Family Forest Convention" or use this URL. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2022-oregon-family-forest-convention-registration-registration-304314883007>. The early registration price is \$89 until May 25.

Until next time continue to stay safe!

“Superwood” – The Build Better Alternative

Steel and concrete are being seriously challenged for use in civil infrastructure, as well as in manufacturing sectors such as automotive, aerospace, and manufacturing of all types. It was announced recently that Professor Thomas Lin of Louisiana State University Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering is developing timber that has high stiffness and strength, and is durable and cost-effective. This “superwood” is a densified wood material produced by partially delignifying natural wood and subsequent densification through “hot pressing”. The strength and elastic modulus of superwood are not only superior to natural wood, but could also exceed those of concrete – while providing advantages of sustainability and low energy requirements.

But how new is this technology? More than 50 years ago, engineers came up with a way to increase the strength and stiffness of wood. By applying steam, heat and pressure, they increased strength by about 250 percent. Problem was, strong wood was in plentiful supply. So, except for some minor applications, the technology languished.

In 2007 Fred Kamke, professor in the OSU Department of Wood Science and Engineering, improved the process, achieving strength increases up to 400 percent, taking less time and using less mechanical force. He applied for a patent on the technique, known as viscoelastic thermal

See “Superwood”, page 4

Advertising Opportunity: The Forest Forum is a monthly newsletter sent out to over 300 members and friends of WCSWA. Advertisers receive free newsletters for the duration of their ads. ADVERTISING RATES (PRICE INCLUDES TYPESETTING & AD PREP)

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Thank you for supporting Washington County Small Woodlands Association!

	1 issue	4 issues	12 issues
1/12 page	\$20	\$40	\$100
1/6 page	30	60	150
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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



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“The general formula of (ecological) management for the future might be, think globally and act locally”

Rene Jules Dobos
Microbiologist

“Superwood” from page 3

compression, or VTC. The strength and stiffness of VTC wood is better than the best available Douglas-fir. He has experimented with a lot of wood species and the gains (proportional increase in density and hence stiffness) are greatest when starting with low-density species like hybrid poplar.

But times are changing. This time around, the stars may be aligned for wood processed in this manner. Demand for wood products is rising, and supplies of high-strength timber are dropping. New emphasis on sustainability, and low carbon emission, is changing the name of the game. **Superwood** may be an important response in the future.

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



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Oregon Woodland Cooperative Annual Meeting - June 18th

Outdoor Event - Equipment Demonstrations

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OSU Extension Podcasts Available

In the Woods is a podcast series hosted by OSU Forestry & Natural Resources Extension. Recent episodes include "Small Landowner Management" and "Mass Timber" with Scott Leavengood. Listen at <https://inthewoodspodcast.com/episodes/>



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Alex Gorman, continued from page1

For the past two years, Alex has been a graduate student at the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities, where he is earning his Master of Science in the Natural Resources Science and Management Program. Alex's thesis research focused on the role that eastern spruce dwarf mistletoe plays in forest regeneration and management of black spruce, as well as the influence fungal root pathogens have on aboveground disturbance agents. His thesis was part of a collaborative and multidisciplinary research group looking at the intersection of forest biology, management, health, and socioeconomic outcomes related to forest health phenomena.

Alex looks forward to working with, learning from, and educating those who live in Columbia, Washington, and Yamhill counties.





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Ecosystem Services – The Benefits Nature Provides Us

Over time, humans have altered the ecosystems we live in to establish communities and livelihoods. These changes, however, have come at the cost of diminishing the services those ecosystems provide. The world as we know it today would not exist without ecosystem services. The world we live in tomorrow is determined by our ability to restore the ecosystem services that have been lost.

Ecosystem services are any benefit ecosystems provide to people. These benefits can take many different forms. They can be tangible or intangible. They can be delivered to us directly or appear indirectly through a chain of events. Some are easy to spot while others are noticed only after they disappear.

Ecosystem services are categorized into four groups:

Provisioning services are products that are extracted from nature. In early civilization, these were primarily food that was gathered, animals that were

See “Ecosystem Services”, page 8

Forestry for the Birds

The *Forestry for the Birds* program provides foresters and landowners the tools and benefits of managing forests with bird habitat in mind.

Essentially, the program lets birds tell the story about how forests can benefit from thoughtful management, engaging woodland owners to take steps to further support forest health on their property.

Maura Olivos, PNW Region Coordinator, The Forest Stewards Guild, will be our speaker at the May 24 Potluck. She will give a little background of the ***Forestry for the Birds*** program across the country and the new guide in development, soon to be released for Western Oregon.



Ecosystem Services, from page 7

hunted, and plants that were used to make tools and structures. Today, provisioning services include crops, timber, drinking water, fish, precious metals, stone, fibers, and non-renewable energy sources like natural gas and coal.

Regulating services are processes that maintain environmental conditions that support life. Plants clean the air, microorganisms decompose dead matter, insects pollinate plants, healthy soil stores carbon and cleans water. These processes happen simultaneously, working together to regulate the ecosystem so it continues to function well.

Cultural services are the non-material benefits people receive from nature. Cultural services are wide-ranging influences on the human mind, social systems, and spirituality. They include recreation, cultural identity, aesthetic experience, art and engineering inspiration, and religious or spiritual enhancement. Cultural services are strongly determined by place and represent a diverse realm of influence.

Supporting services are the fundamental processes that allow Earth to sustain both basic life forms and complex ecosystems. They include nutrient cycling, water cycling, the creation of soil, the creation of the atmosphere, and photosynthesis. No other ecosystem service could exist without supporting services.

By Annie Bronez, Education and Outreach Specialist,
Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District, in The
Conservation Connection, Spring, 2022



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Longtime Members Passing...

During the past month, word came of the passing of two long-time WCSWA members:

Joanne Dummer Joanne was the wife of the late long-time member Art Dummer, and mother of current member Tom Dummer.

Steve Bateman Steve was also a long time member, though he lived in British Columbia, he often participated in WCSWA events..

Both Steve and the Dummers were past Tree Farmers of the Year in Washington County and both had tree farms in the Gales Creek area.



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“Re-Thinking Future Forests”

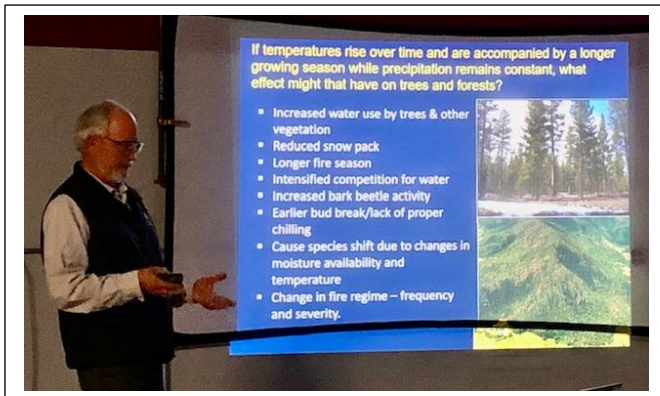
WCSWA Monthly Meeting

reported by Mary Spiering

Glenn Ahrens, Extension Forester from the Oregon State University Extension and Natural Resources Department, presented “Re-Thinking Future Forests” at the April 26, 2022 Washington County Small Woodlands meeting. He began his discussion by pointing out that forests are always growing and changing. With the recent extremes of heat and drought, however, there has been subsequent tree decline.



How can forestry practices adapt with the current climate changes and what are the scientific considerations for forest regeneration? One approach is to look at geology and soils of the area. The Paleo botanical records can identify what trees were abundant 10,000 years ago, during a much warmer climate than today. The last 6000 years there has been more moisture, so Douglas-fir was one the prevailing species. Even looking at the difference in temperature the past 20 years, there have been changes. In Oregon for example, the temperature has been ½ degree to 1 degree higher, which may not seem like much, but that one degree can make a difference in the trees.



Although rain is another factor in tree mortality and outcome, there is no consensus on trends or changes from 1930-2015. For example, why are the cedars dying that are characteristically near a stream? At this point, it is thought that the vapor pressure deficit with the warm, dry atmosphere is a contributing factor. In addition, cedar trees planted in shallow, wet soil may drown the roots and when the water level drops, they don't get enough water and die. Red alder is another tree that cannot handle moisture stress.

The vapor pressure deficit with the warmer, earlier spring & pervasive warming also contributes to chronic tree stress and shut down, so they are not able to hold off disease or bugs. Opportunistic canker fungus can take over and kill the stem, or bark beetles invade. White alder and big leaf maple are much more heat and drought tolerant as well as incense cedar, ponderosa pine & Oregon white oak.

Bottom line, look at the seed zones when planting as these are based on genetic adaptation. To reduce heat burden on those little seedlings, try to plant on north slopes, or behind stumps, and if that is not available, make a little protective plant wick to shade them from the hot sun.

The current population of trees is expected to be poorly adapted to future climates so may need to adopt lessons learned from drier regions by protecting seedlings with shade, pre-planting weed control along with post-planting maintenance to conserve soil moisture, retaining dead shade and mulch provided by woody and herbaceous weeds that have died, and planting species mixtures that include more heat and drought tolerant choices.

Glenn concluded with these thoughts: know your land, soils, topography, climate, hydrology, vegetation, insects & disease. Observe and assess variability and changes such as climate, wildfire risks, insects, disease. And finally, he said to stay tuned for updated science and management guidelines.

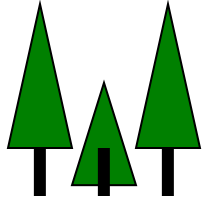


Glenn Ahrens with Cathy Dummer of the Program Committee

It's Great To Meet In-Person Again!



Forest Forum



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Potpourri

New Members: Welcome to 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.

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://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