

Forest Forum

Washington County Small Woodlands Association

December 2023

Funding Focus for our January Meeting

Our January meeting will be a chance to get updated information from our funding partners. The presenters will outline resources for financing projects on your property. These resources can be instrumental to your efforts to be a good steward for your woodland. A panel of speakers will discuss programs they have which may meet your needs:

- USDA Natural Resource Conservation (NRCS): Jessica Wells, District Conservationist. Jessica will present several cost reimbursement opportunities that NRCS has to offer. On forest land they all start with a formal Forest Management Plan. If you don't have one or yours isn't up to date, they are currently taking signups (application cut off – 1/29/2024) to hire a Technical Service Provider (TSP) to write a plan for your property that meets your goals and objectives. They also have opportunities for implementation of practices recommended in plans.
- Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District (TSWCD): Brandy Saffell, Forest Conservation Specialist. Brandy will describe the Tualatin SWCD forest financial assistance program, which shares costs on landowner-led projects that increase forest resilience like young stand thinning, oak release, and fuel reduction. She will also briefly cover a few grant opportunities for local organizations like WCSWA.
- Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District (TSWCD): Bethany Lund, Habitat Program Coordinator. Bethany will outline the Tualatin SWCD streamside and oak habitat restoration programs which aim to establish and enhance wildlife habitat and improve water quality in rural Washington County.
- Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF): Taylor Johnson, Small Forestland Owner Forester. Taylor will discuss the grant opportunities ODF is currently offering including the Small Forestland Grant Program and the Western States Fire Manager Grant for homes in the Wildland Urban Interface. From a forestland management side, he will also talk about the Small Forestland Investment in Stream Habitat (SFISH) program available for Small Forestland Owners who have water crossings that need improvement for fish passage and stream health.

2024 WCSWA Monthly Programs

December		No program in December	
January	23	Funding Opportunities	7:00pm: 30780 NW Highland Ct. N. Plains, <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jessica Wells, NRCS• Brandy Saffell, Bethany Lund, TSWC• Taylor Johnson, ODF See front page for details. We look forward to seeing you there!
February	27	Small Forestland Maple Sugar Production	7:00pm: 30780 NW Highland Ct. N. Plains Trey Scheb outlines the Tibbs experience tapping their maple trees

WCSWA Leadership

President – Vic Herinckx, 503-645-9434

Vice-President – Open

Secretary-Treasurer – Bob Shumaker; 503-324-7825

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Pos. #1: Kathy Brock, 503-702-7620

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Pos. #5: Cathy Dummer, 503-703-6573

Pos. #6: Kent Grewe 503-701-2087

Legislative Committee Chair: Scott Hayes 503-568-9999

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Program Committee: John and Cathy Dummer – 503-970-8789,
Tony and Mary Spiering – 503-680-8112, Tom Nygren 503-628-5472

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 – <https://wcswa.com/>

Website Manager: Michael Morgan

Contact Cathy Dummer for web postings and information.

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/WashingtonCountySmallWoodlandsAssociation>

Forest Forum Newsletter

Editors: Norie Dimeo-Ediger and Bonnie Shumaker
503-432-1733 and 503-324-7825

Proofreaders: Bonnie Shumaker, Dan Hundley,
Tom Nygren, Ardis Schroeder, Norie Dimeo-Ediger

The Tree Farm Tradin' Post

You can place a free advertisement in Forest Forum. A free service to our members (3 month limit). List tree farm items/land to buy, sell, or trade. Email ad to washcosmallwoodlandsassoc@gmail.com.

ForSale: No items for sale this month

Wanted: No items wanted this month

Oregon Department of Forestry helping prepare landowners for Forest Practices Act rule changes

SALEM, Ore. — The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) is helping to prepare forest landowners for big changes to the Forest Practices Act (FPA) that go into effect Jan. 1, 2024. The changes were brought about by the landmark Private Forest Accord that brought together conservation groups and forest landowners that agreed to changes to the FPA to provide long-term regulatory certainty for landowners and new protections for wildlife with a focus on aquatic species.

The next important date is Dec. 1, when notifications can be made for forest operations that will take place in 2024 in the ODF's E-Notification system (FERNS). "There are no continuations of operations from 2023 into 2024," said Scott Swearingen, ODF's Forest Resources Division field support manager. "If operations this year are not completed, then a new notification must be filed for next year. All operations for 2024 will take place under the new rules."

To help people understand those new rules the department has developed new webpages, factsheets, and technical guidance. These are available on the [Forest Practices Act webpage](https://www.oregon.gov/odf/working/pages/fpa.aspx), <https://www.oregon.gov/odf/working/pages/fpa.aspx>. *Editor's Note: This is a great webpage! Check it out.*

"Our newest factsheet, simply titled [New Forest Practices Rules](#), gives a good summary of key changes and dates," said Swearingen. The 11 other factsheets cover a specific topic area like forest roads, steep slopes, and stream rules.

ODF also gave a series of in-person training courses over the last several months around the state and recordings of some of those will soon be available on the FPA webpage too.

The ODF website offers 24/7 access to FPA information. People can also contact their local ODF forester for information about the new rules. All information will be updated as needed on the website.

Once again it was great to see everyone and meet new members at the Annual Banquet and meeting. Much appreciation to Delilah Ahrendt and team for putting together a nice evening and thank you to Ryan Temple for his presentation. Congratulations to Tom and Julia Tibbs, 2023 WCSWA Tree Farmers of the Year! See more details below. We recognized and presented Elm wood plaques to Kathy Brock as 2023 Volunteer of the year and Bob and Bonnie Shumaker with a "Long Leader" award to recognize their lifetime of leadership contributions to WCSWA. Bob is retiring as Treasurer at the end of the year.

At the Annual meeting you elected the following officers and board members:

- President: Vic Herinckx (1 year term)
- Vice-President: Dan Shumaker (1 year term)
- Treasurer: Melinda Shumaker (1 year term)
- Board Position #5: John Bucsek (3 year term)
- Board Position #6: Mary Spiering (3 year term)

We thank outgoing board members Cathy Dummer and Kent Grewe for their 6-year run on the WCSWA board and welcome new board members and officers.

Until next time, Continue to stay safe!

Tom and Julia Tibbs named 2023 WCSWA Tree Farmers of the Year

Following is the Tibbs' history as told by Julia and Tom



Tom and Julia Tibbs accepting TFOY sign at banquet.

The Tibbs vision for the Buxton Forest and Tree Farm is to create a sanctuary for arts, crafts and ecology. A place to learn and to grow with the environment. The goal is to create and maintain a sustainable forest that will be nurtured and cared for by generations to come.

The Tibbs purchased the original 155 acres from Larkin Lumber in 1977. The second growth forest had been clear-cut in the previous 5 years. A portable mill on site cut bridge timbers that were shipped across the United States.

The Tibbs family planted approximately 52,000 Douglas-fir over the next few years. For health reasons, a "no to low spray" management plan was adopted. This created a work of nature over nurture. The result resembles a natural forest with mixed aged and mixed species present. In some areas, the alder was thinned and encouraged over Douglas-fir. However, the ice storm of 2017 destroyed large areas of alder. Those areas were salvaged and replanted with Doug-fir and Western Red Cedar.

An adjoining 138 acres of young timber was added in 2017. The Tibbs have limbed and thinned the fast growing Douglas-fir trees that were planted by one of the large fiber companies. Meanwhile, the Tibbs family has focused on things to do while watching the trees grow. Among the activities the family enjoys are growing seedlings for replanting, trail building, tree limbing, growing Christmas trees for friends, and sharing the forest experience with city folks. Trails have been built for comfortable access. The Tibbs are currently participating in the Big Leaf Maple experiment with Oregon State University making delicious Maple Sap products. The Tibbs' goal is to care for the land as best they can for future generations.

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

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	1 issue	4 issues	12 issues
1/12 page	\$20	\$40	\$100
1/6 page	30	60	150
¼ page	40	80	200
1/3 page	50	100	250
½ page	75	150	375
2/3 page	100	200	500
Full page	150	300	750

2 Master Gardener Offerings: Zoom Webinar – Registration Required Growing Peppers and Tomatoes From Seed in the PNW

Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024, 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.
The Washington County Master Gardener Association invites you to learn about growing tomatoes and peppers from seed.

The webinar will be led by Douglas County Master Gardener Bruce Gravens who will discuss tomato and pepper seeding, up-potting, soil preparation, planting, sun protection, harvest, and storage.

For more information and to register, go to <http://washingtoncountymastergardeners.org>

Mason Bees 101

Saturday, January 6th, 2024
10 a.m. - noon

PCC Rock Creek Campus,
Building 4, Room 103

**Free class, open to the public.
No preregistration required.**

Washington County Master Gardener Assoc. invites you to **Mason Bees 101**. This free public class addresses the identification and natural history of the mason bee. The class will be led by Ron Spendel, OSU Extension MG Volunteer. Attendees will gain a solid understanding of the characteristics and activities of mason bees and why they are one of the earliest and best pollinators in our area.



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Desired Species: White woods

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550 NE Skipanon Dr.
Warrenton, OR 97146
Desired Species:
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TYLER ROBBINS

503-324-2681 office
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BANKS
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Banks, OR 97106
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meaning of patience. Knowing grass, I
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Hal Borland

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Ryan Temple Featured Speaker at 2023 WCSWA Annual Banquet

Ryan Temple, founder and president of Sustainable Northwest Wood, was the featured speaker at our annual meeting and banquet on November 3rd. At Sustainable Northwest Wood, the aim is to make finding local, sustainable wood products easy and to be a bridge between responsible sourcing and the built environment. Their stated mission: *Our mission is to foster a wood products community where each purchase for the built environment ensures resilience in the natural one.*

Ryan emphasized “Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities” and community partnerships with a focus on local and sustainable wood. The key players in this market are forests, mills, architects and builders. The job of Sustainable Northwest Wood is to shepherd this local, sustainable wood through the system while adding value to the wood.

Challenges include matching buyers to the local wood and finding mills with a willingness to sort and track the wood. Ryan stated that a particular certification is not required, although the buyer may request it. Projects to recognize and celebrate are at the Nature Conservancy’s Oregon Conservation Center, the Audubon Center and the biggest one to date, the PDX renovation. Ryan showed us a video of the work at PDX. The aim was to “design it so it feels like a forest.” All the wood sourced was local and sustainable with several WCSWA members being involved.

Ryan looks for wood that tells a story and for buyers interested in the story the wood has to tell. He does not buy logs. He buys logs from mills. But he may be able to match up the buyer, mill and the logs. Contact Ryan at www.snwwood.com or 503-239-9663.

How underground fungi shape forests

by Chris Woolston, Washington University in St. Louis, NOVEMBER 10, 2023

A large study involving 43 research plots in the Forest Global Earth Observatory (ForestGEO) Network—including a swath of trees at Tyson Research Center, of Washington University in St. Louis—has helped clarify the power of underground fungi to shape forests.

From the tropics to the far north, fungi in the soil seem to directly determine the number and types of trees that can thrive in a given area, said Jonathan Myers, an associate professor of biology whose work at Tyson contributed to the global findings. Many trees depend on a special partnership with mycorrhizal fungi that grow around their roots. The fungi provide the tree with nitrogen, phosphorus and other nutrients, and the tree gives the fungi carbon in the form of sugar and lipids for energy. "It's a mutually beneficial arrangement," Myers said.

The results from this study suggest that fungi are more than casual acquaintances with their tree companions: the fungi drive diversity—or lack thereof. Specifically, the underground back-and-forth helps explain why tropical forests can support multiple species of trees in a small area, why forests in the far north and south are often dominated by just a few species. "The study really zeroed in on one of the basic patterns in ecology, which is that forests become more diverse the closer you get to the equator," Myers said.

As Myers explained, mycorrhizal fungi come in two main types: arbuscular mycorrhizae (AM) and ectomycorrhizae (EM). AM fungi—"living fossils" that are essentially identical to the fungi that partnered with the earliest plants known to science—are especially abundant in the tropics. EM fungi, a newer arrival to the scene, become increasingly common farther from the equator.

The study suggests that a shift from one type of fungi to another has had major consequences for tree diversity. AM fungi are equal-opportunity partners that will support just about any AM tree species that happen to live nearby. Because the fungi are not too picky, any AM seedling or sapling trying to grow in a given spot can expect a boost from the local mycorrhizae.

EM fungi, in contrast, are much more discerning and will only help certain tree species—spurning all others. As a result, a sapling that depends on EM fungi is more likely to thrive if it can share space—and fungi—with a member of its own species. In that way, choosy fungi encourage communities of trees of the same species to cluster together.



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Controlled Fires Cut Wildfire Risk by 60%

HealthDay | Nov. 14, 2023

Controlled forest burns can prevent the sort of high-intensity wildfires that have plagued the Western U.S. and Canada as a result of climate change, a new study argues.

A low-intensity fire in the mixed conifer forests of California provides an estimated 60% reduction in the risk of a catastrophic wildfire, and that effect lasts at least six years, researchers report in the journal [Science Advances](#).

Controlled burns also could provide a smaller but still significant reduction in risk in oak-dominated forests, researchers added.

"I'm hopeful that policymakers will rely on this work as motivation and support for the scale-up of beneficial fire as a key strategy in preventing wildfire catastrophes," co-author Michael Wara, director of the Climate and Energy Policy Program at the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment, said in a Stanford news release.

"Beneficial fire is not without its own risks – but what our study shows is just how large and long-lasting the benefits are of this crucial risk reduction strategy," Wara said.

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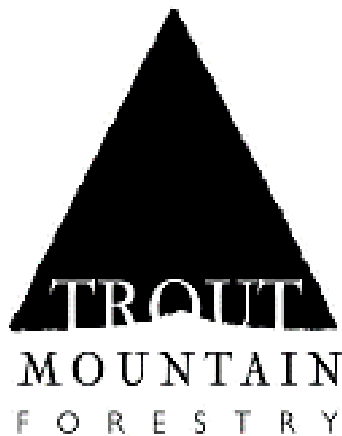


Obscurity: Life Inside the Smoke
An exhibit at World Forestry Center
Sept. 1, 2023 – Dec. 30, 2023
Wed-Sun 11am-4pm
Included with Museum Admission



World Forestry Center premieres *Obscurity: Life Inside the Smoke*, an art exhibition exploring wildfire smoke through new works by six Portland-area artists is showing until December 30. Through a dynamic mix of sculpture, printmaking, painting, and installation, these six artists reveal their unique perspectives and individual relationships with our new, smoke-filled reality.

The hope is that this exhibition brings about meaningful discussion and inspires action on behalf of our forests and our communities.



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New publication focuses on native bees in Oregon's forests

PORTLAND, Ore. – A new publication from the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) introduces readers to the vast variety of native bees found in Oregon's forests.

Wildlife in Managed Forests: Native Bees is the newest publication in OFRI's Wildlife in Managed Forests series, which offers scientific research-backed guidance on managing forests to support healthy wildlife populations. The Native Bees Booklet provides context for better understanding the roles managed forests play in providing habitat for native bees.

The reader will learn about threats to Oregon's native bees, current research findings regarding these bees' reliance on forest habitats, and forest management techniques that provide habitat for native bees.

OFRI's Wildlife in Managed Forests series includes publications focused on other kinds of forest wildlife such as deer and elk, fisher and marten, beaver, songbirds, fish, and amphibians. The educational booklets inform forest landowners, managers and others about managing forests to provide habitat for native wildlife. Printed and electronic versions of Wildlife in Managed Forests: Native Bees are available to order or download for free through OFRI's website, OregonForests.org.

Northwest Hardwoods Alder Seedling Project

We're excited to introduce the NWH Alder Seedling Program. As part of our vision, we're working to help replenish the alder tree population in commercial forests in the Pacific Northwest and British Columbia. In collaboration with PRT Nursery, we're excited to offer 35,000 alder seedlings annually—at no cost to small woodland owners.



These seedlings, sourced from Weyerhaeuser, are specifically adapted to the Pacific Northwest's unique growing zones. We're offering seedlings as container stock for better frost resistance. Plus, to aid in their care, you'll receive our Best Management Practices Guide, ensuring each seedling thrives. Why alder Trees? Alder trees play a unique and vital role in our forests. Beyond their majestic presence, they have a distinct ecological advantage. Unlike softwoods, alders enrich nutrient-poor and disturbed soils with usable nitrogen, revitalizing the soil and setting the stage for healthier forest growth. Alder trees also serve as both forage and habitat, supporting a myriad of wildlife and enhancing biodiversity. Yet, despite their benefits, alder trees have seen a decline, often overshadowed by softwoods like the Douglas fir.

Request Your Alder Seedlings Here: <https://nwh.com/alder-seedlings/>



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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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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



Sankofa Lumber's Valerie Carey repurposes wood scraps from PDX

PDX Next, November 08, 2023

When the new main terminal opens, most of the concession stands will be clad in Valerie Carey's innovative recycled-wood panels. You won't be able to see the results of her hard work, though—and that's fine by her.

Valerie owns Portland's Sankofa Lumber, a two-year-old company that collects wood waste from construction companies, then sells it back to builders in the form of pre-cut lumber and her SecondStory line of architectural panels made from recycled plywood or OSB (similar to particle board).

If this sounds a little like what you buy at Portland's ReBuilding Center, you're not wrong—Valerie actually moved to Portland in 2015 to manage the center. She has also built houses for her dad's construction firm, gotten her master's degree in sustainable development, and worked for City of Roses Disposal and Recycling. "If I look at my resume, I would never hire myself," she jokes. "What I'm doing is the only thing that I'm qualified to do."

The reason you won't see Sankofa's wood panels—which are made from scraps of mass timber left over from constructing PDX's new roof—is that they'll be covered in white-oak veneers from small family forests and mills throughout the region. But local carpenters and cabinet makers are falling in love with the way Carey's products look on their own.

WCSWA Annual Meeting November 4, Embassy Suites, Hillsboro



We filled up the room at Embassy Suites and had a great time.



Kathy Brock accepting Volunteer of the Year Award



Bonnie and Bob Shumaker accepting the "Long Leader" Award

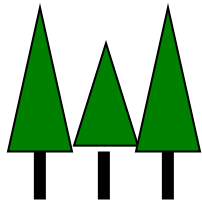


Ryan Temple of Sustainable NW Wood gave a great talk including letting wood tell its story. Here Ryan accepts speaker gift from Vic Herinckx.



Thank you Delilah for arranging a wonderful evening

Forest Forum



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Potpourri

New Members: Welcome to new members **Paul and Lisa Braem** of Manning and **Charlotte Brake** 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.

Forestry for the Birds: Western Oregon was produced by the Forest Stewards Guild. Download at: <https://foreststewardsguild.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/ForestryfortheBirdsWesternOregonGuide.pdf>

Correction to November FF: In the November issue of the Forest Forum, the October Monthly Meeting summary included a note that implied that "Do Not Drink" advisories have been issued by the JWC due to harmful algal blooms. The JWC has never needed to issue such advisories. The electronic version of the newsletter has been updated to reflect this correction on the WCSWA website. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

Recommended Fire-safe Brochures:

Initial Attack Fire Equipment for Woodland Owners Booklet. Go to www.wcswa.com. Select about us/links.

[NFPA - Preparing homes for wildfire](#) (Home Ignition Zone)

[Defensible Space - Ready for Wildfire](#) (Defensible Space)

[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:

- 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