

# **Forest Forum**

## **Washington County Small Woodlands Association**

**May 2025**

### **Annual WCSWA Potluck, May 20, 2025**

**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**

**5-6pm arrival. Come early if you want to walk around Jackson Bottom Wetland**

**6-7pm Potluck Meal**

**6:45-7:30pm Speaker and Presentation**

This will be an old-fashioned potluck with no main dish provided. WCSWA will furnish plates, cups, eating utensils, napkins, lemonade, water, and coffee. Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve (Hillsboro Parks) has a no-alcohol policy.

Presentation: The speaker will be Tom DeLuca, Dean of the Oregon State University College of Forestry. His talk is titled “Roots to Robotics: Past, present and future of forestry at OSU.” He will also discuss some history, current information, and future activities of the college. Tom is a forest soil scientist whose long research career includes more than a decade in Sweden and the United Kingdom. He holds a Ph.D. in soil science from Iowa State University and was the University of Montana’s Forestry Dean for three years. Also attending will be Zak Hansen, Senior Director of Development, College of Forestry and Melanie Ellis-Roach, Assistant Director of Development, College of Forestry.

Looking forward to a good time with friends, food, and a discussion about what’s happening at the Oregon State University College of Forestry. Questions? Contact Tony Spiering at (503) 680-8112.

### **2025 WCSWA Monthly Programs**

<b>May</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>WCSWA Annual Potluck</b>	5:00pm. Jackson Bottom Wetlands
<b>June</b>	<b>19-20</b>	<b>OSWA Family Forest Convention</b>	Thurs., June 19 through Sat., June 21. Family Forest Convention and the Tree Farmer of the Year Tour at Pam & Jock Dalton’s Tree Farm in Benton County. If you did not receive the registration form, go to <a href="http://oswa.com">oswa.com</a> .

**DON’T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP. Go to [OSWA.org](http://OSWA.org) to renew. If you have already renewed, thank you.**

## WCSWA Leadership

**President – Dan Shumaker, 503-680-8943**

**Vice-President – Vic Herinckx, 503-645-9434**

**Secretary-Treasurer – Melinda Shumaker, 503-260-2885**

### Board of Directors:

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

Pos. #2: Ashley Tibbs, 503-358-7645

Pos. #3: Dave Rabon, 503 686-3039

Pos. #4: Jonathan Ciampi, 971-867-0912

Pos. #5: John Bucsek, 503-830-0258

Pos. #6: Mary Spiering, 503-680-8051

**Legislative Committee Chair:** none

**Membership Committee:** WCSWA Board members

**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](mailto: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 an advertisement in *Forest Forum*. This is 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](mailto:washcosmallwoodlandsassoc@gmail.com).

**Wanted:** No items this month

**For Sale:** No items this month

## Free Workshop: Emerald ash borer: identification, reporting, and weighing management options

**June 6, 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.**

**Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District, 22055 S Beaver Creek Road, Beaver Creek**

Join us for a hands-on, informative workshop focused on emerald ash borer (EAB), an invasive pest threatening ash trees in Oregon. Participants will gain valuable knowledge on EAB identification, effective reporting methods and management options. This workshop will also include practical learning rotations where attendees will explore various aspects of EAB detection and control through interactive stations, expert demonstrations and discussions.

This workshop is hosted in partnership between OSU Extension - Clackamas County, Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Oregon Department of Forestry. *Participants do not need to be located in Clackamas County.* Please note this workshop will be most relevant for small woodland owners.

To register Contact: Jean Bremer at [jean.bremer@oregonstate.edu](mailto:jean.bremer@oregonstate.edu) or [503-655-8631](tel:503-655-8631)



## Leadership Notes

by Dan Shumaker

Melinda and I left home on April 3rd for our two-month trip to Maine and back. We went through much of western California visiting Lassen Volcanic National Park which still had mountains of snow at the lodge. From there we drove near Yosemite National Park but were not able to go into the park due to the roads being closed with snow. We then headed to a warmer climate at the Mojave Desert. No snow there. From California we headed through Arizona and then on to New Mexico. We stayed at Melinda's aunt's house in Nogal, New Mexico for 5 nights. This is an area that has both deserts with sage brush and juniper but also pines.

Last year in Ruidoso, New Mexico they had a huge wildfire that burned many homes and forest acreage. We travelled through the area this year and saw they were using timber harvesters to cut down the burnt trees as part of the restoration project. It was interesting to see how they placed the burnt trees they cut down perpendicular to slopes using stumps to keep the logs from rolling down the hill. This method helps reduce soil erosion and the ash from getting into streams and rivers. If there weren't enough stumps they would pound stakes into the ground. I think this method could be useful in our area as well in areas affected by wildfires. You can go to the following link to see more on contour log felling at: <https://nmfwri.org/news/contour-felling/>

By the first of May, we will be in Maine. We have made reservations at a 6th generation maple syrup farm in Sidney, ME, called Bacon Farm Maple Products. This should be an interesting place to learn more about this process and the methods they use. We will keep you updated.



### WCSWA April Meeting: Climate Smarter Forestry in Washington County

Forest Grove District Forester Mike Cafferata has been working with a multi-agency team that includes forestry professionals from Oregon Department of Forestry, Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District, Oregon State University Extension Service, private forestry consulting firms and landowners from Washington County Small Woodlands Association. Climate Smarter Forestry in Washington County is the project and its goal is to offer forest owners and forestry professionals information on the anticipated changes in climate and what the implications of those changes might be on forests regardless of where a forest is in terms of development. They want to help landowners prepare local forests for forecasted climate changes and reduce impacts through forest management while sustaining forest benefits.

The overview of anticipated changes involves annual temperature increases of 5 degrees Fahrenheit by the 2050's with a decrease of summer precipitation. Extended wildfire season is projected to begin earlier and end later in the year with more intense fire behavior, leaving local forests showing more stress in the form of insect damage and disease leading to mortality. Project topics include establishing forests, site assessment, managing young forests, managing mature forests, preparing for wildfire and long-term strategies.

Since this is a unique project and not been done before, the group hopes it will extend beyond Washington County. We are looking forward to seeing the innovative project at completion later in the year.



Mike Cafferata receiving speaker gift from Vic Herinckx

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**Forest Pubs, A World Forestry Center Program**

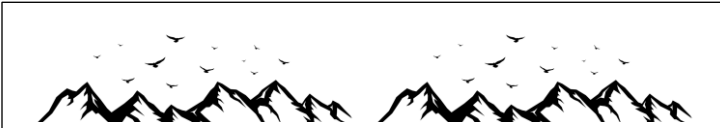
Step into the world of our forests at *Forest Pub*, a program brought to you in partnership with McMenamins History at the Mission Theater in NW Portland. Tickets are on a sliding scale – \$5, \$7, or \$11. Location is Mission Theater 1624 NW Glisan St, Portland, OR 97209.

**May 12 at 7:00 pm: Reading Tree Rings with the OSU Tree Ring Lab**

For more information and to buy tickets, go to <https://worldforestry.org/forestpub/>

All important ideas must include the trees, the mountains, and the rivers.

-Mary Oliver





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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

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.

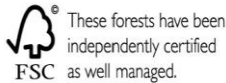
- Search by County for local resources
- Find educational materials in the Learning Library
- Refer to forest practice laws
- Register for classes





A BALANCED APPROACH

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AND RESTORATION  
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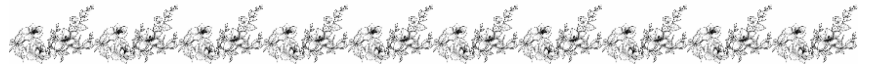
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## Retreat planned for women woodland owners

Oregon State University Extension Service's Women Owning Woodlands Network (WOWNet) program will host a retreat in June designed for women who own or manage woodlands or are forestry enthusiasts. The WOWNet Retreat, planned for June 2-4 at Camp Colton in Colton, will offer opportunities for participants to connect with other women in forestry, learn from experts and gain hands-on experience in sustainable woodland management. To learn more about the retreat and register, contact Erin Giebner by email at [erin.giebner@oregonstate.edu](mailto:erin.giebner@oregonstate.edu).



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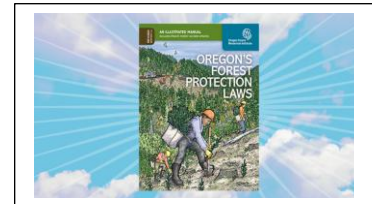
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**Printed copies of the new Oregon's Forest Protection Laws: An Illustrated Manual are now available**

The hard-copy version of the updated *Oregon's Forest Protection Laws: An Illustrated Manual* is now available to order free from OFRI's website.

The revised fourth edition, published in 2025, includes Private Forest Accord updates. Since it was first published in 2002, *Oregon's Forest Protection Laws: An Illustrated Manual* has become a standard reference for those planning and executing timber harvests. The publication fosters easy understanding of the Oregon Forest Practices Act and Rules, and the other best management practices, laws and rules that apply to Oregon's forest landowners. This Revised Fourth Edition was necessary following major changes to the Forest Practices Act resulting from the Private Forest Accord agreement between the timber industry and environmental groups. This includes new rules regarding riparian management, logging on steep slopes, and forest road construction and maintenance.



To order a copy, go to <https://oregonforests.org/publication-library/oregons-forest-protection-laws-an-illustrated-manual-2025>

**Forest Foraging Tour -A joint event with Yamhill and Columbia County chapters**

Forest Foraging with Michelle Schmitz  
Date: Saturday August 9, 2025  
Time: Noon to 2pm  
Location: 23515 Beaver Falls Rd Clatskanie, OR 97016  
Potluck lunch  
RSVP to [darcyDavis4oswa@gmail.com](mailto:darcyDavis4oswa@gmail.com)

## Oregon Department of Forestry seeks nominations for forest operator of the year

SALEM, Ore. – The Oregon Dept. of Forestry (ODF) is seeking nominations from across Oregon for forest operator of the year. Anyone can nominate. Deadline to nominate is 5 p.m. on Wednesday, June 25.

“ODF wants to recognize operators working in the forest whose practices ‘go the extra mile’ to protect Oregon’s natural resources,” said ODF’s Greg Wagenblast, who heads up the recognition program. “Any size of forest practices operation is eligible, and companies, contractors or individuals may be recognized.” Wagenblast said nominations don’t have to be limited to timber harvesting. Thinning operations, culvert replacements, and bridge building over forest streams are examples of other kinds of acceptable nominations. He added that landowners may be recognized if the landowner is the entity performing the work, or the landowner provided significant direction of a larger project.

“Winners are selected by Oregon’s Regional Forest Practices Committees from northwest, southwest and eastern Oregon. Nominees are evaluated on an operator’s consistency of positive performance, innovation in project design, relative difficulty of the harvest or other operation and commitment to protecting Oregon’s natural resources, such as water quality, soils, and wildlife,” said Wagenblast.

Nomination forms can be found at <https://www.oregon.gov/odf/pages/recognition-and-awards-programs.aspx>



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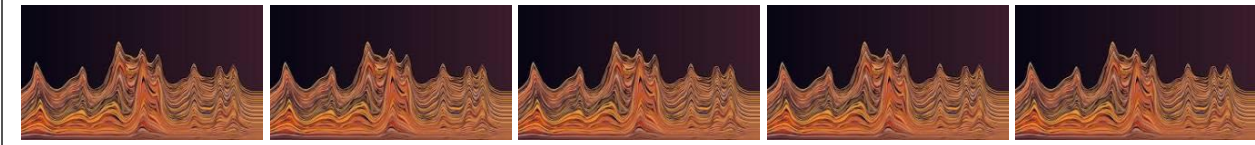
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## Some Oregon State College of Forestry Research Projects

### Exploring How Oregon Forests Could Dampen Seismic Waves

The Cascadia Region Earthquake Science Center is measuring whether certain types of forests can act as natural shock absorbers during earthquakes. Following the last Cascadia earthquake, which triggered few landslides, researchers are asking if forest structure plays a role in dampening seismic waves. Professor Ben Leshchinsky, the Richardson Chair in Forest Engineering, Resources and Management, is working with his team to test this hypothesis by installing SmartSolo 3C seismic sensors, which are all-in-one devices that record ground motions, in the McDonald-Dunn Research Forest. The findings of this study could provide insights into how forests and landscapes interact during major seismic events and shed light on strategies to enhance landscape resilience.



### Renewable Diesel From Forest Biomass

The OSU Clean Fuels Project, led by Kevin Lyons, the Wes Lematta Professor of Forestry Engineering, is exploring how forest biomass residues can be used to produce renewable diesel for internal combustion. This project analyzes how factors such as moisture content, particle size and tree species affect the quality of fuel produced through pyrolysis. It will also measure the environmental impact of these fuels on air quality, water resources and wildfire risks in Oregon. Findings aim to provide data that will inform policy and support cleaner fuel production with a focus on reducing carbon emissions.



### Conducting Research Amid Wildfires

Nina Ferrari, a Ph.D. student in forest ecosystems and society, conducts bird research by climbing towering trees and joining the birds in their own realm — high up — rather than on the ground. In 2022 and 2023, she climbed 14 Douglas-firs in the H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest multiple times, studying how songbirds like hermit warblers and chestnut-backed chickadees divvy up vertical territories in multi-layered ancient forests and younger canopies planted 60 to 80 years ago. Recent inquiries at the Andrews have indicated that older complex forests offer cool pockets for songbirds to escape heat in a warming climate. Though half of Ferrari's study trees burned in the 2023 Lookout Fire, she remains optimistic, believing her work will contribute to science amid climate extremes. Ferrari's work was recently featured in *National Wildlife Magazine*.



## Browse Part 8 by Susan Schmidlin

Over the last month the inklings of changing seasons have begun. We mowed our lawn for the first time since winter, spring bulbs have been bursting from the ground with welcome colors, the deciduous trees are showing life with new buds and leaves, green growth has been spotted in the grass of the pastures/hay fields, some of the lower level skid roads have become drive-able with the water bars smoothed out and we finished this year's worth of seedling planting in the forest.

With the last seedling tucked in, it was like a dinner bell sounded throughout the area and the hungry elk showed up in droves. The first of our three roving herds, about 20 in size, hit the area we describe as the open benchmark of the hillside. It was barely 24 hours after we had finished planting. Over the next week, the group of about 30 and the one that is 70+ swooped in to nibble in every spot we had planted.

An acquaintance had mentioned that we should invest in a goose cannon. Many people refer to them as a propane noise cannon. When visiting Sauvie Island many cannons can be spotted and heard as the farmers try to keep valuable crops from getting cleaned out by flocks and flocks of geese. When harvesting blueberries at a local U-Pick farm I heard chirps, warbles, clicks and clacks coming from the middle of the field. The farm owners had set up electronic devices that make odd groupings of sounds at random times in an effort to dissuade potential bird feeding. I tried an electronic unit that offered different frequencies of tones that, in theory, would notify the deer and elk that something in the area was annoying. The cannons and electronic signals work for a while, until the animals of all varieties realize the threat is not dangerous and the feed lot is open for the taking.

We have taken to making ourselves a nuisance, riding around in the John Deere Gator at odd hours. In addition to using an air horn, whistles, a spotlight and a personal pocket siren have been deployed singly or in multiples to irritate the would-be diners. I have been spotted running around banging pots and pans just to make noise. The air horn and whistle both blare at approximately 120 decibels (about what you would expect from thunder) while the pocket siren is closer to 130 decibels (closer to ambulance volume). It could be that the herds are now beginning to take the hint, or it could be that it is closing in on time for them to hunker deeper into the forests for calving, but after a 3-week effort of irritation, the ravenous elk have seemed to taper off in their quest to decimate our seedling patches.

I read about the George O. White State Forest 100-acre tree nursery that is owned and operated by the Missouri Department of Conservation. They send out about 2 million tree seedlings a year to assist landowners in reforestation.

As for keeping wildlife from eating on the plots of snacks the nursery unintentionally makes available for them, the forest technicians use diluted Frank's RedHot sauce sprayed over the fields. (They buy it by the case but have never had anyone ask why they buy so much hot sauce!)

The whole article can be read at <https://www.kcur.org/arts-life/2025-04-18/missouri-state-tree-nursery-george-o-white-state-forest>



Noisemakers



Electronic devices

## Joint effort towards a healthy forest

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) is committed to managing state forests to provide the Greatest Permanent Value including economic, environmental, and social benefits. This social component includes recreational opportunities, which provide personal health benefits, such as relaxation, rejuvenation, and connection. To preserve this ability to improve your health and wellness, the landscape must remain healthy and adapt to changes. Trees surrounding the Tillamook Forest Center (TFC) are adversely impacted due to offsite seed sources planted after the Tillamook Burn, and we must take necessary steps to maintain a healthy, hardy landscape for the benefit of current and future generations of visitors.

A 2024 TFC forest health review by Gabi Ritokova (ODF Pathologist) and Christine Buhl (ODF Entomologist), revealed evidence of root disease, drought stress, and some evidence of opportunistic native Douglas-fir and fir engraver beetles finishing off these damaged trees. Efforts to remove affected trees and replace them with more disease and drought-tolerant options can prevent the further spread of both diseases and insect pests to surrounding trees.

Following the scientific evidence provided by these experts in their field, the TFC is working with several districts and associates to mitigate the danger, provide training opportunities, and showcase the diverse work of the agency. Those involved include the ODF Forest Grove fuels reduction crew, ODF South Fork Forest Camp, ODF Tillamook reforestation and recreation teams, and ODF retirees Bob Teran and Joe Travers, who are providing initial remediation of hazardous trees, a future reforestation effort, and a localized Forest Management Plan.

Completed at the end of February, 60 diseased trees were felled by crews led by Collin Neys (ODF Forest Management Technician) and Peter Kaiser (Wildland Fire Supervisor) while ODF biologists Micheal Davis and Matt Aberle of Salem, were in attendance to ensure integrity of possible wildlife habitat. South Fork adults in custody have been working with crew boss Scott Jewel to remove logs which will be utilized for firewood at nearby Jones Creek Campground. Next, we'll be working with Trever Madison (Tillamook Reforestation Unit), who'll be providing native trees, not typically bothered by the fir engraver beetle, for the Arbor Month Tree Planting event in April. This project highlights the incredible talent and diverse work of the agency, and we are grateful for the collaboration.

To learn more about these beetles visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sLG7O499UGo>  
Or <https://www.oregon.gov/odf/Documents/forestbenefits/Douglas-fir-beetle.pdf>

### **Forest Conservation Specialist Brandy Saffell leaving Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District**

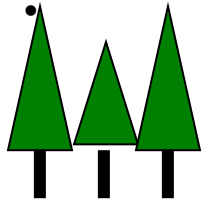
It was announced at our monthly meeting that our well-beloved connection at Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District, Forest Conservation Specialist Brandy Saffell, is in the process of transitioning from her position. "In the process" means that she is continuing to assist in several projects such as getting Andrew Felton (the new guy on the block) up to speed with Washington County and woodland owners. She is still collaborating with Mike Cafferata and the team working diligently on the Climate Smart Forestry Initiative in Washington County. Brandy has worked one-on-one with many WCSWA members, attended and led many of our monthly meetings and helped us secure our meeting room at the TSWCD office. She will be missed for her big picture approach to some of our issues and for never being afraid to get into the thick of the forest to assess strengths as well as problems.

Thank you for your service, Brandy.  
We will miss you and you are welcome to attend our meetings anytime.



**Brandy Saffell**

# Forest Forum



**NONPROFIT ORG  
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ASSOCIATION

## Potpourri

**New Members:** We welcome 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! Questions? Contact any of the Directors, Officers, or Newsletter Editors listed on page 2.

### **Helpful Links:**

#### **Oregon's Forest Protection Laws: An Illustrated Manual 2024**

*This edition is available as a digital download (PDF) and you can now order print copies at [Oregonforests.org](http://Oregonforests.org).*

**Forestry for the Birds: Western Oregon** was produced by the Forest Stewards Guild. Download at: <https://foreststewardsguild.org/foresters-for-the-birds>

#### **Recommended Fire Related Brochures:**

**Initial Attack Fire Equipment for Woodland Owners Booklet:** [www.wcswa.com](http://www.wcswa.com). About us/links.

**Firewise Landscaping:** [Firewise Landscaping Basics | OSU Extension Service \(oregonstate.edu\)](#)

**Wildfire Prevention:** [Oregon Wildfire Response and Recovery: Wildfire Prevention : State of Oregon](#)

#### **Other Helpful Links:**

- [www.oregonwoodlandcooperative.com](http://www.oregonwoodlandcooperative.com) learn about the Oregon Woodland Cooperative
- <https://www.facebook.com/WashingtonCountySmallWoodlandsAssociation>
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