

# **Forest Forum**

## **Washington County Small Woodlands Association**

**September 2025**

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### **OSU College of Forestry and McDonald-Dunn Forest Tour September 27, 2025**

During the WCSWA Potluck in May we heard a lot about OSU College of Forestry happenings from Dean Tom DeLuca. He also extended an invite for us to come down to Corvallis and check out what's new and what they have going on. Please plan to join us as we take him up on that offer on Saturday Sept 27 for a tour of the new Peavy Hall and the Emmerson Wood Products Testing Lab and make a visit to the McDonald-Dunn Research Forest. The plan is to meet at 10am at Peavy Hall in Corvallis (corner of SW Jefferson Way and SW 30th Street, Corvallis, Or), take in the building and lab and then head to the McDonald-Dunn Research Forest, have our lunch (bring your own lunch and a chair) and then see and learn more about what is happening at the forest. We should finish up at the forest at 3pm. You won't want to miss this opportunity.

If you are interested in carpooling, meet at 8:00 in North Plains at 30780 NW Highland Court (formerly The Hub). Parking is available at OSU in the "B" parking lot between Peavy Hall and the Emmerson Lab. You can enter "Peavy Forest Science Center, 3100 SW Jefferson Way, Corvallis OR 97331" in your navigation app. Drivers should either call Melanie Ellis-Roach, at 541-223-3398 for a parking permit or purchase a "B" Visitor parking permit on OSU's parking webpage: <https://transportation.oregonstate.edu/parking/visitors>.

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### **2025 WCSWA Monthly Programs**

<b>September</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>OSU School of Forestry, Corvallis</b>	10:00am - 3:00pm Peavy Hall, Emmerson Wood Products Testing Lab and McDonald-Dunn Research Forest.
<b>October</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>Amy's Trail Maintenance</b>	9:00am – 12:00 with lunch provided and Matteson Forest update. See page 2 for details.
	<b>28</b>	<b>Lindsay Davis, Hampton Lumber, Habitat Enhancement After Harvest</b>	7:00pm Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District Office. 7175 NE Evergreen Pkwy, Ste. 400, Hillsboro
<b>November</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>Annual Meeting and Banquet</b>	Location: Embassy Suites in Hillsboro Speaker: To be announced Look for registration insert in October FF

## 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

**EMAIL FOR ANYONE ON THIS PAGE:** [washcosmallwoodlandsassoc@gmail.com](mailto:washcosmallwoodlandsassoc@gmail.com)

**Tualatin River Watershed Council Representatives:** Tom Nygren, primary, 503-628-5472, Eric Chambers, alternate, 503-647-2458

**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).

### For Sale:

Pneumatic pruning system package for sale. Includes portable air compressor with 4HP Honda engine, 50 ft. air hose reel, & lopping shears on extension pole (2.25 in. cut capacity). Photos and product info available. \$900 OBO. Call or text 971-285-6960.

**For Sale:** 2023 LoadRunner single-axle enclosed trailer \$4500 OBO Contents inside trailer are not included. Contact Dan Shumaker 503-680-8943.



## Matteson Community Day

Date: Saturday, October 18th, 2025

Time: 9am to 1pm

Location: Matteson Demonstration Forest

Lunch will be provided

Join OSU College of Forestry, Forestry and Natural Resources Extension and Friends of Matteson for the annual Matteson Community Day. We will work from 9am to 12pm and have a discussion over lunch from 12pm to 1pm, with time for questions, socializing, and connecting.

Bring appropriate clothing and footwear for trail and landscaping work, water, sun/rain protection and a camp chair for lunch. To register contact Jake Barker at [jake.barker@oregonstate.edu](mailto:jake.barker@oregonstate.edu), 503-397-3462 or [beav.es/xpy](http://beav.es/xpy). Please include your name and number of people.

## Leadership Notes

*by Dan Shumaker*

I hope everyone is having a great summer and getting all your projects completed before the rainy season starts. Our firewood is now finished for the season, and it feels great to have that project done.

I have been acquiring trees from friends to use on my sawmill. We have an abundance of Douglas-fir on our tree farm, but not much in the form of hardwoods or redwood trees to mill. Unfortunately, when hauling the trees home for the mill I damaged a couple of the boards on my flatbed trailer, but it gave me an opportunity to cut 17-foot 2 x 6 Douglas-fir boards to replace the damaged boards. The other tree species I started milling this month is maple. It was a lower trunk piece of the tree with a branch coming out of it. The slabs I cut really had some unique grain patterns. After the slabs dry, I am sure it will make some beautiful wood projects.

On another note: There will be a business meeting at the November 22<sup>nd</sup> banquet where we will elect officers and board members. Nominations for positions are listed below. There are two board positions open. Please consider being nominated for a board position. Contact me at 503-680-8943 to find out more about the duties of a board member.

**President:** Dan Shumaker  
**Vice President:** Vic Herinckx  
**Treasurer:** Melinda Shumaker  
**Board Position #3:** TBA  
**Board Position #4:** TBA



Douglas-fir used on trailer repair



Maple Slab

### Ties to the Land: Succession Planning for Forestland Owners

Date: Friday, Oct 24, 2025

Time: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Location: Sunset Room 4077 SW Research Way Corvallis, OR 97333

Cost: \$40 per family

This workshop is designed for forestland owners interested in planning for the future. We will cover a succession planning framework designed to meet your own vision and goals for your rural property. Learn tips for dividing the succession planning process into manageable sections. We will cover considerations for holding family meetings, developing a succession plan timeline and strategies for engaging your successors.

Pre-registration is required! Multiple generations for each family are encouraged to attend this workshop. Snacks and drinks provided!

To register or for questions, contact Crystal Kelso: [crystal.kelso@oregonstate.edu](mailto:crystal.kelso@oregonstate.edu) or [541-730-3539](tel:541-730-3539)

**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

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Please send this form, ad copy, logos, photos, etc. to:

**Melinda Shumaker, 52490 NW Cedar Canyon Road, Banks, OR 97106. Thank you for supporting Washington County Small Woodlands Association!**

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1/6 page	30	60	150
1/4 page	40	80	200
1/3 page	50	100	250
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Douglas-fir-\$98 per bag (approximately 120 trees per bag)

Western red cedar-\$88 per bag (approximately 100 trees per bag)

If you are interested, contact Don Sohler at 503-260-6188 or at [meercatfan@frontier.com](mailto:meercatfan@frontier.com). Don has order forms that he can provide you with.





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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](http://KnowYourForest.org)

All the resources and  
assistance to manage your  
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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

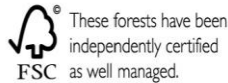


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## **Emerald Ash Borer Update**



A few years after emerald ash borer (EAB) arrives in a new region its population builds up and expands rapidly in all directions. As expected, that appears to be happening in northwest Oregon.

This summer the invasive insect was found a mile west of Beaverton's city limits in the Hazeldale Park area. It was also found in western Washington County in Killin Wetlands Nature Park near Banks. Yamhill County Soil and Water Conservation District turned up an EAB in a trap 5 miles northwest of the town of Yamhill. EAB were also found in Clackamas County just east of Oregon City and on BLM land not far from Scotts Mills. All five sites are within the existing EAB quarantine zone set up by the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture to slow the spread of this tree-killing pest. For more information about EAB and to see a map of where it has been found in Oregon, visit [OregonEAB.com](http://OregonEAB.com)



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## Tree School Field Day

Location: Hopkins Demonstration Forest 16750 S Brockway Rd, Oregon City, OR 97045

Date and time: Saturday, September 27, 2025, 8:00 am - 4:15 pm

Cost: \$35 per adult or \$20 per youth (includes lunch).

Tree School Field Day will include a schedule of field classes and learning opportunities throughout the forest for attendees to choose from. You can hit the trails or take the shuttle to navigate the woods. The wide variety of forest types and demonstrations at the 140 acres of Hopkins provides diverse learning opportunities for woodland caretakers and tree enthusiasts.

Likely topics include

- Basket weaving
- Bigleaf maple sugaring
- Enhancing bird habitat in your woods
- Forest insects: pests and non-pests
- Growing Christmas trees
- Increasing seedling survival in a changing climate
- Woodland spoon carving demonstration
- Riparian restoration
- Sawmill demonstration
- Thinning your forest
- Understory vegetation
- Weed management principle

To register or with questions, contact: Jean Bremer: [jean.bremer@oregonstate.edu](mailto:jean.bremer@oregonstate.edu) or [503-655-8631](tel:503-655-8631)

## Slant Fence to Keep Deer Out of Your Garden by Miles Merwin, Ridgeback Tree Farm

Both deer and elk are frequent visitors to our small tree farm in NW Multnomah County. Limiting the damage they do to young seedlings and older trees is an ongoing challenge. In addition to protecting the trees we've planted for timber, wildlife, etc., we also need to protect our garden and landscape around the house. One of the barriers we have used is a slant fence.

The slant deer fence I built in 2016 was modified from an electric deer fence with high tensile wire described in a West Virginia University Extension Service publication. It consists of tilted panels that open to the outside of the area to be protected. The idea is that deer can't jump over it because it is too wide front to back, nor can they crawl under it. It's more suitable for protecting relatively small areas of high value trees and plants rather than large forest units (home landscapes, gardens, orchards etc.). Besides deer, it might also be effective against elk.

Instead of long runs of electrified high tensile wire as described in the extension publication, I built separate panels out of field fencing. Each panel is 10 ft long X 80" wide. The sides are pressure treated 2x2s, ripped from 2x4s. The top and bottom supports are EMT conduit, 10 ft long, inserted in holes drilled in the wooden 2x2s. The panels are covered with 7 ft tall woven field fencing, cut down to 80 inches, and attached with staples and wire to the panel frame. They are supported by 6 ft. T-posts spaced approx. 11 ft apart. The panels are attached to the T-posts so that the top of the frame is 4 ft above ground and the bottom, resting on the ground, is 56" behind the T-post.

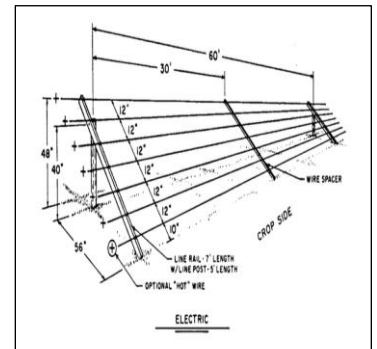
I used long, sturdy threaded rods drilled through the 2x2s to support the panels. The rods are positioned 42" above ground and are attached to the T-posts with brackets or by drilling a hole through the post. Each threaded rod is secured by nuts and holds two adjacent side rails, creating a pivot point so each panel can be raised separately for mowing the grass underneath them. Where there is a bend or corner in the fence line, triangles of field fencing were cut to fill the gap between the panels.

Since it was Installed 9 years ago, we have had no deer or elk intrusions into our home landscape and garden. But it's one of four different fence types around the perimeter of our landscape, including a three-wire offset electric fence, an 8 ft vertical wire fence and a tall wooden fence, all of which have kept large animals out.

While not my design, this site illustrates the slant fence concept, using electrified high tensile wire:

<https://covercropsincorporated.wordpress.com/2018/05/16/deer-damage-prevention/>

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at [mlmerwin@gmail.com](mailto:mlmerwin@gmail.com).





## Forest Foraging Tour by Susan Schmidlin

If there ever was a summer day that was not long enough it would have been Saturday August 9<sup>th</sup>. That was the day the Forest Foraging Neighbor-To-Neighbor Tour sponsored by Oregon Small Woodlands and OFRI was held at the Schmitz Tree Farm in Clatskanie.

OSWA members from Columbia, Yamhill and Washington counties joined special guests from Columbia County Master Gardeners, the Clatskanie Farmer Collective, Down to Earth Truffle Dogs and the Executive Director of OSWA, Mike Cafferata. Mike mentioned that he is beginning to do monthly zoom meetings where OSWA members can discuss matters that pertain to them and special interests of the association. Calls will be on a varied schedule, so check the OSWA website calendar under “Meet with the Executive Director” for more information.

Michele Schmitz gave a talk on “Cottage” Forest Foraging, the integrating of natural plants that are already growing in your forest plots or ones that were introduced to your acreage. She stressed to always check with health professionals for plant and pharmaceutical drug interactions.

Her philosophy on foraging is based on four basic ideas.

1. Home-based, herbal practices, emphasizing practical knowledge and personal experience.
2. Using permaculture techniques.
3. Exploring different ways of using and preserving plants.
4. Common sense approaches: Always start with tiny portions, assess any reactions/allergies, determine how to proceed further.

The featured plants for this talk included plantain (both narrow and broadleaf), clover (red and white), nettle, red huckleberry, self-heal, yarrow, meadow pea, pineapple chamomile, salmonberry and St. John's wort, but these are only a few of the useful items that can be foraged for home use. A self-guided tour showed off many of these varieties and more. Michele set up stations along the path with useful information on each variety. We were treated to some of Michele's homebrewed tea with both herbal fireweed and cucumber/water mint. They were delicious, as well as caffeine free. Tinctures, glycerin-based tinctures, salves, and dried plants and their medicinal uses were discussed.

Another highlight of the tour consisted of a community potluck with Michele's husband providing a superb well-crafted smoked brisket for the group. The tables were set up beneath the shade of a lush oak grove along the banks of Beaver Creek. It made for a comfortable time on a very warm weekend albeit several days could have been spent with the exceptional guests from all the parties.



Huckleberry



Self-heal



Foraged tea

## Better Watch Your Backyard: Tracking Oregon's Seasons

### Free Webinar

Tuesday, Sep 9, 2025 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm PDT

Changes in things like bloom timing, the amount/type of precipitation your area receives, or other seasonal phenomena are exactly the kinds of things the folks behind Oregon Season Tracker are trying to understand. This ongoing community science project teams up volunteers, natural resource managers, educators, and researchers to further the understanding of weather and climate and their effects on our local environment. You can support its efforts simply by reporting precipitation and seasonal plant changes from your own home, farm, woodland, ranch, or school—watch this webinar to learn more!

This webinar is being recorded and will be available to view on the website

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/garden-future> within two weeks of airdate.

To register contact: Brooke Edmunds: [Brooke.Edmunds@oregonstate.edu](mailto:Brooke.Edmunds@oregonstate.edu) or 503-877-2505





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## Forestry's new regional air-attack platform sees immediate success

SALEM, Ore. Oregon's wildfire response continues to evolve with the Oregon Department of Forestry's (ODF) recent addition of regional air attack and ongoing investment in severity aircraft.

Deputy Director of Fire Operations, Kyle Williams, explained, "the severity aircraft and regional air attack gives us a huge advantage, both are excellent investments. These help us fight wildfires with surgical precision, quickly cutting off wildfires in critical locations."

In terms of geographical scope, ODF is the state's largest fire department. The department typically responds to more than one thousand fires each year. Most fires you never hear of because ODF's fast, effective response keeps most wildfires under 10 acres.

Chief of Fire Protection, Michael Curran, explained, "this takes a coordinated effort using aircraft and on-the-ground firefighters to quickly stop these fires. ODF has hundreds of firefighters and multiple aircraft strategically located across the state to do this work."

Air attack is the airplane and crew that fly above a wildfire to coordinate aircraft and groundwork to stop a wildfire—a flying air traffic control center. Air attack has three primary responsibilities—keeping firefighters safe, ensuring accurate drops of water or retardant, and giving incident commanders a full, clear picture of the fire.

Safety takes priority. Keeping firefighters and air crews safe requires maintaining space between aircraft and coordinating precise water drops. Air attack monitors and directs flight paths based on multiple factors. The key factors are spacing and whether the pilot can drop the water on target while keeping on-the-ground firefighters safe.

Hitting the target keeps fires smaller. Accuracy depends on clear communication from the firefighters to air attack about target coordinates and timing. The firefighters determine the spot to hit, which can change quickly based on the speed that a fire spreads, winds, and aircraft.

Air attack calculates and coordinates based on how soon the aircraft can be on location, whether it is an airplane or helicopter, where the firefighters are, and how many parts around the fire need help. Air attack looks at the whole picture, triages the requests and details, determines which aircraft are best used where and when, then directs drops to stay on target.

While an aircraft drops water or retardant on the leading edge of the fire to check it, this allows on-the-ground firefighters to suppress the fire's push by digging and creating a fireline, a non-flammable, mineral soil buffer around the fire. This early stage takes clear communication and coordination for precise water drops and keeping firefighters safe and out of the drop zone. Keeping everyone safe and maximizing the effectiveness of this oft called "airshow" on a wildfire takes calm disposition, clear communication, strategic thinking, and decisive action—that's air attack.

Historically, when a wildfire started, aircraft, let alone air attack, were not readily available. When the wildfire grew to a size that warranted air attack, then the dispatcher would order it from a central location. The response time slowed the effectiveness, because of the limited air response and support. Even if an aircraft and firefighters arrived, the lack of big-picture coordination stifled the work.

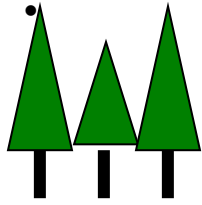
Recent investments by Oregon's legislature gave ODF two regional air attack teams.

Williams explained, "now, dispatchers can send air attack during the initial attack phase of emergency response. It's a game changer." The regional air attack builds on the "severity aircraft" program to better use state resources. Over the past couple of decades, the legislature has continued investing in firefighters and technology that return great results.

Curran concluded, "we're seeing a huge return on investment using these aircraft early—cutting costs, keeping wildfires small, and better protecting natural resources and the public."



# Forest Forum



COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE  
OREGON SMALL WOODLANDS  
ASSOCIATION

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## 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 2025**

***This edition is now available as a print copy. You can order at [Oregonforests.org](https://oregonforests.org). We will also have print copies available at WCSWA meetings.***

**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 \(oregonstate.edu\)](https://oregonstate.edu/extension/landscaping)

**Wildfire Prevention:** [Oregon Wildfire Response and Recovery: Wildfire Prevention : State of Oregon](https://oregonwildfire.com)

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

- [www.oregonwoodlandcooperative.com](http://www.oregonwoodlandcooperative.com) learn about the Oregon Woodland Cooperative
- <https://www.facebook.com/WashingtonCountySmallWoodlandsAssociation>
- For E-Notification: [FERNS - Welcome \(oregon.gov\)](https://ferns-welcome.oregon.gov) or visit an ODF Office