

Forest Forum

Washington County Small Woodlands Association

November 2025

WCSWA Annual Meeting and Banquet Saturday, November 22, 2025 "Log Cabins and Coyotes"

Author William L. Sullivan will be the guest speaker at WCSWA's Annual Meeting and Banquet which starts at 5:30pm on November 22. Sullivan will fill us in on the construction of a log cabin he built by hand for \$400 on his family's forest property and the mystery surrounding it. He'll also take us on the 1,300-mile solo backpack trip he undertook across Oregon to research the state's wildlands.

Location: Embassy Suites Hillsboro 9355 NW Tanasbourne Dr, Hillsboro, OR 97124

Cost: \$35 per person

Agenda:

5:30pm Social Hour, No-host bar
6:15pm Buffet dinner and Dessert
7:00pm WCSWA Annual Meeting, 2025 TFOY Award
7:45pm Guest Speaker, Bill Sullivan, author
****Door and Raffle Prizes****

This event is for WCSWA members and their immediate family. You will have a chance to visit with friends, bid on raffle items, win a door prize, elect new officers and board members, hear the announcement of the 2025 Tree Farmer of the Year and listen to a great speaker.

Please use the insert to register by November 10th. If you have questions or need to register after that date, contact Delilah Marvelle Ahrendt at 503-312-9197 or delilah@delilahmarvelle.com.

2025 WCSWA Monthly Programs

November	22	Annual Meeting and Banquet	Location: Embassy Suites in Hillsboro Speaker: William Sullivan, author. See insert for registration.
December		No Program in December	

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

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.

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.

Save the Date

Tree School Clackamas

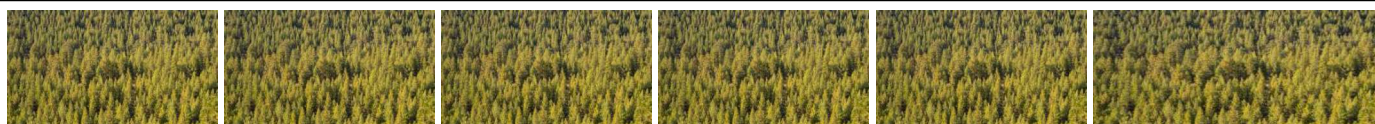
March 21, 2026 * 8:15 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Clackamas Community College * 19600 Molalla Ave, Oregon City * OR * cost TBD

Tree School started in Clackamas County in 1991 as a mini-college program designed to attract a broad audience and offer a diverse array of educational topics to address the goals and challenges facing local forest landowners. Classes are typically around 90 minutes long, meaning you can participate in up to four classes over the course of the event.

Tree School also offers other opportunities for learning and networking, including field sessions/tours, demonstrations, vendor tables and exhibits, round table discussions, and Q&A sessions.

Want to dive into Tree School sooner? Check out the Tree School Online library at <https://beav.es/xXU>



Leadership Notes

by Dan Shumaker

Preparations are underway for the Annual WCSWA Banquet. The keynote speaker will be Bill Sullivan. He has written many books about Oregon; his topic will be great and the talk interesting.

I want to say thanks to all the members that are helping to prepare for this event. If any members would like to donate items for the raffle at the banquet, please contact Mary Spiering at 503-680-8051. The proceeds help fund the endowment for the OSU scholarship.

My dad created some charcuterie boards out of various wood species for gifts for keynote speakers for our members meetings. I then used my laser engraver to engrave the OSWA / WCSWA logo on them.



WCSWA Annual Banquet, November 22 at Embassy Suites. In addition to the good food, prizes and awards, there will also be a business meeting at the banquet where we elect officers and board members. Nominations for positions are listed below.

President: Dan Shumaker

Vice President: Vic Herinckx

Treasurer: Melinda Shumaker

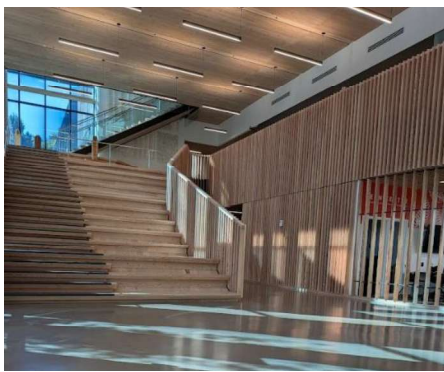
Board Position #3: Amanda Henderson

Board Position #4: Susan Schmidlin

OSU College of Forestry and McDonald-Dunn Forest Tour by Bonnie Shumaker

(continued on page 7)

On September 27, Bob and I were able to have our fall RV trip coincide with this tour. A total of 10 WCSWA members came to Corvallis for this excellent event. First, we toured the new Peavy Hall College of Forestry building which opened in 2020. It is a beautiful building that blends material from the historic Peavy Hall with mass timber. The garden outside is on the footprint of the old Peavy Hall and displays sculptures significant to Native American peoples of the area.



Stairs at Peavy Hall used material from historic Peavy Hall with mass timber.

Red alder siding on Peavy Hall. Alder was preserved in vinegar-like mixture and is expected to last 50 years.



Garden sculpture reminiscent of Native American basket.

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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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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1/12 page	\$20	\$40	\$100
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1/4 page	40	80	200
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2/3 page	100	200	500
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Washington County Small Woodlands Seedling Sale

Douglas-fir and Western red cedar seedlings still available

It is not too late to order seedlings. We typically sell out of seedlings by now, but not this year! If you are interested in either Douglas-fir or Western red cedar, we have seedlings for you.

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. Don has order forms that he can provide you.



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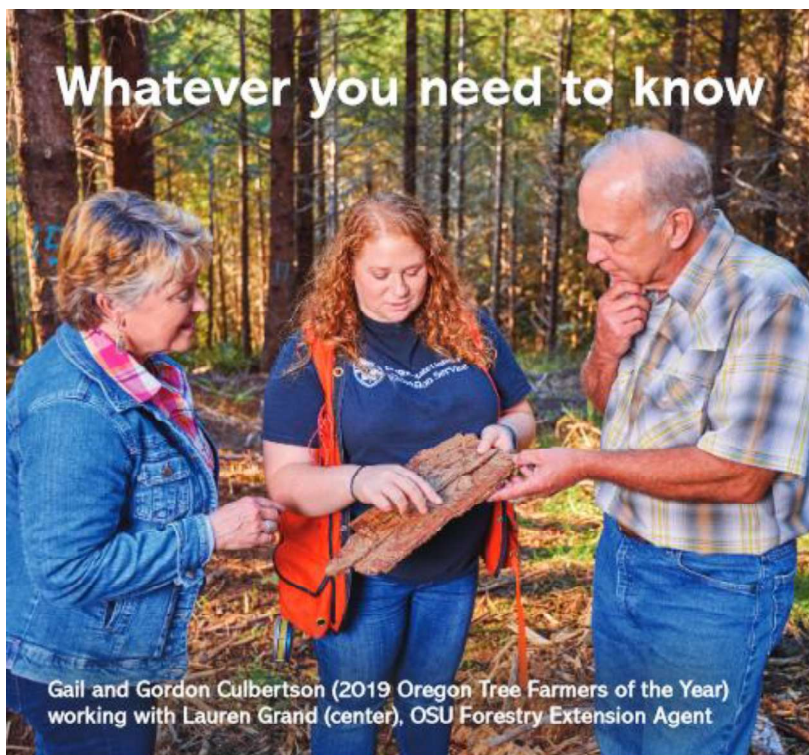
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Fall 2025

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



Oregon Forest
Resources Institute



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FALL,
2025

mark your calendar



Save the Date

Mushroom Drawing Workshop | November 1st
Rain Festival | November 15th - 16th
Holiday Wreath Making | November 28th - 30th

Fall Hours
September 3rd - November 30th, 2025
10 am - 4 pm
(closed Mondays & Tuesdays)

Take A Child Outside Week
September 24th - 30th
Exploration backpacks available!
Check out at the information desk

Winter Closure
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OSU College of Forestry and McDonald-Dunn Forest Tour by Bonnie Shumaker

(continued from page 3)

From there we went to the McDonald-Dunn Forest for lunch and a short hike through a 2024 thinning operation led by Mark Swanson, interim director of OSU's Research Forests. The McDonald-Dunn Forest is comprised of 11,000 acres of diversified forest consisting of Douglas-fir, Western red cedar, grand fir, valley pine, oak, madrone, maple, hemlock and yew trees. The miles of trails are used by many. Being in close proximity to Corvallis, all forest operations get plenty of public scrutiny. Mark outlined the educational opportunities before and after the thinning and the positive reactions from those who observed the improved forest diversity, health, and wildlife habitat.

Next year will be the 100th Anniversary of OSU Research Forests. Although the McDonald-Dunn Forest is the largest of OSU's ten research forests, WCSWA members have their own 180-acre research forest close to home at Matteson Forest near Hagg Lake.



Moon Tree planted in 1976 from seed that went up in the Apollo 14 mission. Symbolic of OSU's commitment to science and exploration.



McDonald-Dunn Forest trail

Lessons from new growth

by Margaret Miller, CF Forest Landowner Education Manager
Oregon Forest Resources Institute

As many of you know, over the past six months I've been tending to a very special seedling: my daughter, Bernadette! Some of you even had the chance to meet her at the Family Forest Convention this past June. I'm so thankful for the time I had to devote to her. Maternity leave was its own season — one of slowing down, practicing patience and seeing the world through a fresh lens.

Coming back, I can't help but notice how much caring for a baby and caring for a forest have in common. With both, you're in it for the long haul, celebrating the milestones along the way. As landowners, you know that so much of what you do is about investing in what's ahead. Planting seedlings, creating wildlife habitat and controlling invasives aren't tasks that always yield instant results. They're acts of trust that the care and attention we give today will continue to grow and provide benefits for years to come. The goal in both forestry and parenthood is to grow something strong and resilient.

As a landowner, you turn to your management plan as a compass for decision-making, just as I find myself turning to parenting books for help. Both offer direction for today while reminding us to think about the next stage. Looking ahead is where succession planning comes in. I know it isn't an easy topic, because no one likes to picture the day they won't be here. In the same way, as a new mom, I don't like to think about how quickly my baby is growing. But we know children do inevitably grow up, just as forests outlast any one generation. So, taking time to plan for the future, whether it's by talking about goals with family members or putting together a formal succession plan, helps ensure that the care we put in today carries forward.

Our forests remind us that the stewardship we practice now shapes the world our children and grandchildren will inherit. My encouragement to you is to keep being stewards of the land and to make space for bigger conversations, including succession planning, to ensure your forestry values live on. If you haven't already, please visit the Oregon State University Extension Service's events page (<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/events>), where you can find numerous trainings happening this fall as part of our Ties to the Land: Succession Planning for Forestland Owners program. You'll also want to explore the Partnership for Forestry Education's newly updated KnowYourForest.org website. It's a one-stop hub for forest landowners, offering tools, publications and information to support you at every stage of ownership.

I'm also available to help. If you have questions, feedback or need support, please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly at miller@ofri.org.

And just for fun, enjoy this photo of my baby on her very first forestry tour. growing our knowledge as we grow our forests!

Forestry Education Website Updated

The Partnership for Forestry Education has updated its KnowYourForest.org website, which serves as a gateway to the information, tools and educational opportunities available to Oregon's forest landowners.

The updated website also includes an assistance map aimed at helping landowners across Oregon easily access information about agencies, organizations and other groups offering forestry assistance in their local areas, along with a calendar of upcoming forestry education events offered by partnership members.



Browse and More

by Susan Schmidlin

Recently I had the opportunity to tour the Forest Grove Watershed located to the west of town in the Coast Range. Over 100 years ago, as the area was being developed, a lot of thoughtful planning went into the infrastructure of the town and surrounding region of Washington County with water being a priority for the current population and proposed expansion well into the future.

Land with three natural water sources had been secured by the forefathers. The headwaters of Clear Creek, Roaring Waters and Soda Springs are found in the acreage that spans more than 6 square miles. Weirs or small dams were placed in each of the streams high up in the watershed. Some of the water is diverted to one side of the weir and funneled into intake tunnels that use gravity to take the precious commodity 7 miles to Forest Grove. The streams below the weirs flow on their natural paths down the hillside with salmon spotted both downstream and above the city's intake tunnels.

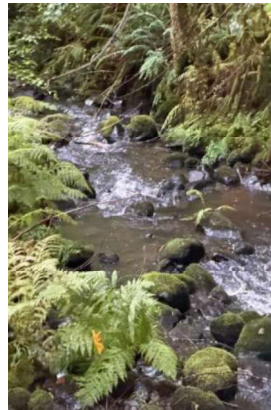
The quality of the water is a paramount concern for both the natural streams and for the water headed to Forest Grove. The Drinking Water Source Protection Award was a recent accolade from the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) regarding the work that is ongoing in the streams and the entire watershed.

Trout Mountain Forestry is in charge of the timber management in the watershed and strives for low impact and in some areas no impact at all while keeping the forest as healthy as possible for the water resource. I got to see an acre of a 15-year-old patch cut that was logged because of laminated root rot (Phellinus). The area was replanted with species that are not affected by the fungus that remain in the soil, mainly Western red cedar. The elk and deer moved in because of the delicious cedar and wiped out most of what had been planted by revisiting the spot over the years.

Since the patch is surrounded by Douglas-fir, the area is reseeded naturally. The aggressive natural fir took over and over-reached the few remaining trees that had been purposely planted. Phellinus has not yet attacked the young fir trees but will only be a matter of time before they begin to die back since the fungus remains active in the ground for years. Trout Mountain is planning on using a sheep fat-based browse deterrent spray on the new Western red cedar that will be planted in areas of the watershed, but stressed that they will be using the spray experimentally to test for effectiveness. Like many woodland owners and managers, they are searching for ways to plant and keep native species from ending up as fodder for the local browsers.



Near trailhead



Salmon spotted above and below weirs



Small stream



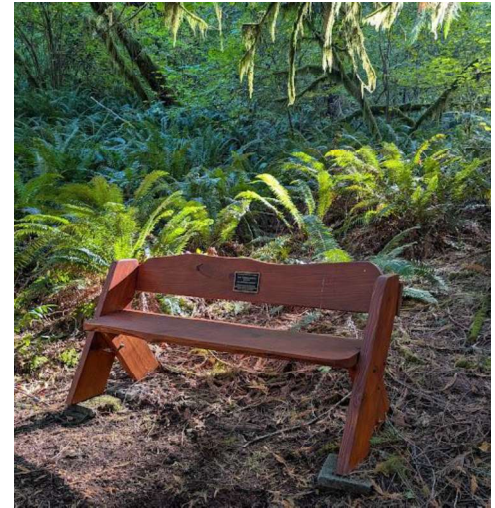
Water diverted at side of weir

Matteson Forest Community Day and Amy's Trail Maintenance, October 18

This event brought twelve people together on a lovely fall day to maintain Amy's Trail and the pollinator garden. There are plans in the future to build a short loop from the trail for groups and individuals requiring a shorter hike.

At noon, lunch was provided by OSU Extension with an annual progress and future plans report from Jake Barker, OSU Extension Forester for Washington, Yamhill and Columbia counties.

Over the past year, Matteson Forest has hosted multiple groups, organizations, and agencies. There are plans next year for an oak restoration project, two patch cuts of four acres each and continued removal of false brome and other invasives with the help of Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District.



Amy's bench in the cedar grove: a favorite place to rest and remember



Beginning to gather for lunch

A Friends of Matteson group was formed and met seven times via Zoom and once in person. Besides the forest demonstration projects, one of the primary goals of the group is to construct an educational building at the forest to provide shelter and a meeting space for groups and tours. Progress has been made. Look for groundbreaking in the summer of 2026.

If you are interested in the full report or joining the Friends of Matteson group, google OSU College of Forestry, Research Forests or email Jake Barker at jake.barker@oregonstate.edu



Amy's Trail maintenance crew hard at work. The trail is looking good.

How many lessons of faith and beauty we should lose, if there were no winter in our year! ~ Thomas Wentworth Higginson



Holiday Wreath Making

November 28th - 30th

Tillamook Forest Center, 45500 OR-6, Tillamook, OR 97141

Registration required | \$40 wreath & \$10 cone bird feeders



Bring the beauty of the forest home this winter by creating a winter wreath. Participants will use a variety of natural materials that were harvested from our very own state forests. Younger children will also be able to make cone bird feeders. All materials and supplies are included in the cost of the class.

Registration is required by Wednesday, November 26th. Please call 503-815-6807 to submit payment for registration. Note: TFC is closed on Monday and Tuesday therefore won't be able to take payment on these days

Fall weather brings the end of fire season for Oregon

On October 17, all Oregon Department of Forestry districts terminated fire restrictions, marking the end of the 2025 Oregon fire season declaration.

"Through aggressive initial attack and the dedication of our firefighters, we had a season with significantly fewer acres burned compared to last year even with more fire starts," said Kyle Williams, ODF Deputy Director of Fire Operations. Combined, lightning-and human-caused fire brought roughly 100 more fire starts on ODF-protected land compared to 2024 fire season.

"Due to the agency's aggressive approach to initial attack to preserve natural resources, protect communities, and increase firefighter safety, many fire starts that happened this year were never heard about," said Michael Curran, ODF Fire Protection Division Chief. "In 2025, 94 percent of fires on ODF-protected lands were put out at 10 acres or fewer."

Year to date, there have been 1,135 fires on ODF-protected lands resulting in 24,275 acres burned. Statewide to date, regardless of jurisdiction, there have been 2,569 fires that have burned 288,774 acres.



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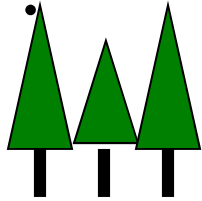
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COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE
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Potpourri

New Members: We welcome new member Pacific Tractor & Implement of Hillsboro. 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. 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 learn about the Oregon Woodland Cooperative
- <https://www.facebook.com/WashingtonCountySmallWoodlandsAssociation>
- For E-Notification: : [FERNS - Welcome \(oregon.gov\)](#) or visit an ODF Office