

# Forest Forum

## Washington County Small Woodlands Association

December 2025

Stewardship | Advocacy | Fellowship | Education



**Dan Newton**, OSWA President, spoke at the banquet about what OSWA offers county chapters such as ours and the importance of all members. He gave us the acronym SAFE to help us remember OSWA's shared values: Stewardship, Advocacy, Fellowship and Education. Dan shared his excitement about OSWA's new Executive Director, Mike Cafferata, and the positive legislation passed this year regarding estate taxes and fire funding. To make OSWA stronger in its role as the voice of small woodland owners, invite others to join and don't forget to renew your membership.

### January 27, WCSWA Monthly Meeting, 7:00pm

#### Nuts and Bolts of Thinning

Many people who responded to the survey sent out last December indicated that they were interested in learning more about thinning forest stands. Jake Barker, OSU Extension Forester for Washington, Yamhill and Columbia Counties, will address this important issue at the January 27 meeting.

Jake will review the concepts of forest stand thinning, including competition and density, timing, and operations. He will also discuss the logistics of how to implement a thinning project on your property as well as the different equipment used and how to schedule thinning in your management cycle.

### 2025-26 WCSWA Monthly Programs

December		No Program in December	
January	27	The Nuts and Bolts of Thinning, Jake Barker, OSU Extension Forester	7:00pm Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District Office. 7175 NE Evergreen Pkwy, Ste. 400. See above for details
February	24	"Under Our Feet: Exploring the soils of our forests," with Dean Moberg	7:00pm Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District Office. 7175 NE Evergreen Pkwy, Ste. 400.
March	24	Margaret Miller, Forest Landowner Education Manager, OFRI	Margaret will give an OFRI agency update and an overview of landowner-focused projects currently in the works. (TSWCD)
July	11	TFOY Tour and Picnic	<b>SAVE THE DATE!</b> Dave & Leslie Rabon's tree farm, Banks, OR

## 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: No items this month**

**Wanted: No items this month**

## Did You Know?

There are scientific terms that describe whether a tree's branch grows out or up. When a tree's leader grows upwards or a branch grows up to take a broken leader's place, it demonstrates:

**Gravitropic growth:** defies gravity (grows up)

Branches growing out to the side demonstrate:

**Phototropic growth:** affected by gravity (grows out)

## Now You Know



## Save the Date: Tree School Clackamas

**March 21, 2026, 8:15 am–5:15 p.m. Clackamas Community College, 19600 Molalla Avenue, Oregon City**

Tree School planning is underway! You can expect the Tree School Catalog to be available in early January, with registration opening on Tuesday, February 3. Google Tree School/Clackamas for further details.

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 goals and challenges of forest landowners. Classes are typically around 90-minutes long meaning you can participate in up to four during the day.

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.

## Leadership Notes

*by Dan Shumaker*

This month Melinda and I have been doing a lot of foraging and gathering in the forest. Chanterelle continue to keep growing at a steady pace. We found the best way to preserve the mushrooms is to dry sauté and then vacuum pack into meal size packs and freeze.

We found a very interesting edible mushroom on a stump in our forest called a cauliflower mushroom. The article I found stated to use cauliflower mushrooms where you would use egg noodles. Melinda and I sautéed up some venison, chanterelle mushrooms and the cauliflower mushroom in some olive oil and it was delicious.

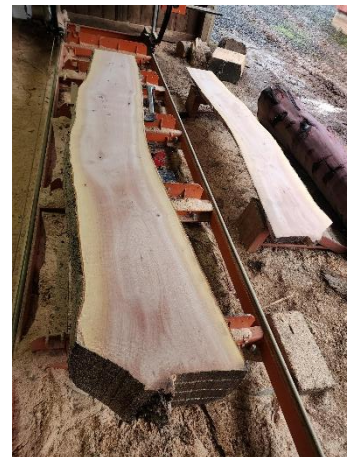
The other project I worked on this month was milling a very nice madrone tree I received from our neighbor. This wood is beautiful, and I have now stickered the slabs and put them in the barn loft to dry. According to the information I read, you need to air dry hardwood for a year per every inch of slab. I made both 2 ¼ inch and 1 1/8-inch madrone slabs so it will be awhile before I make them into furniture, etc. Maybe my next project will be to build a wood kiln to speed this process up.



Cauliflower Mushroom



Chanterelle Mushroom



Madrone Milling

## Annual Banquet and Awards, November 22, Hampton Inn, Hillsboro

We had a great WCSWA annual banquet this year with almost 90 members in attendance. Thank you all who attended. We elected two new board members: Susan Schmidlin and Amanda Henderson. President, vice-president and treasurer were re-elected. We thank all who volunteer to keep WCSWA strong.

Our speaker for the evening was Bill Sullivan who presented an interesting speech on a variety of experiences he had living in Oregon. (See page 11 for more information on Bill).

The volunteer of the year award went to a well-deserving Susan Schmidlin. Dave and Leslie Rabon were announced as 2025 Tree Farmers of the Year. The summer tour and picnic will be held on July 11, 2026. See page 9 for more information on the Rabon Family Forest.

The raffle of eight delightful items donated by members brought in \$975 to add to our OSU College of Forestry Endowment Scholarship Fund which now totals over \$100,000. Four percent of the total endowment is marked for scholarships each year, making \$4,000 available in 2026. To apply, the student must be enrolled in the OSU College of Forestry with preference given to a student from Washington County.



**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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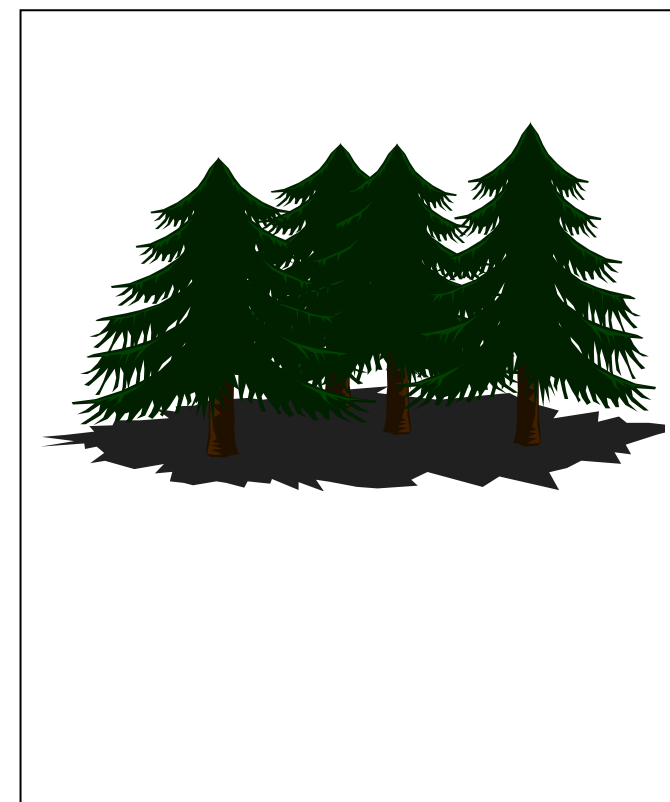
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## Fall. 2025

### 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](http://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
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- Refer to forest practice laws
- Register for classes



Oregon Forest  
Resources Institute





A BALANCED APPROACH

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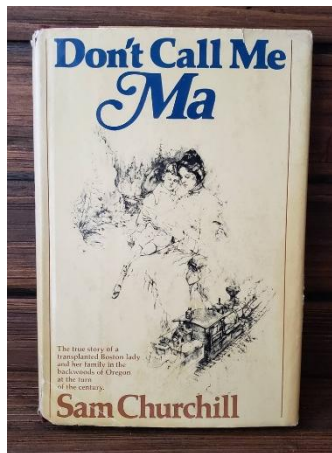


*Helping woodland owners achieve  
their management goals.*



## “Don’t Call Me Ma” – book review

by Bonnie Shumaker



Thank you, Mary Spiering, for recommending this book. It is the true story of life in a logging community in Clatsop County along the Columbia River in the early 1900's and is told by Sam Churchill who was born and

grew up in such a camp. His father, “Big Sam” started logging in Maine, met and married a proper Bostonian woman, Caroline, and brought her to Oregon where Sam was born in 1911.

The book is written with humor and the realities of life that still resonate today. Check it out. It is at the Banks Library. Equally enjoyable is his first book, “Big Sam.”

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***Every leaf speaks bliss to me  
Fluttering from the autumn tree***

***Emily Bronte***





**Tad and Pops**

## Chanterelle Conversation

by Bonnie Shumaker

*"One inch of rain at end of summer brings a cheer  
In 10 days, chanterelle mushrooms will appear."*

*The poem above puts rhyme to what Susan Schmidlin told me years ago. It has proven quite factual.*

*Disclaimer: While I am not a fan of anthropomorphism, or putting human characteristics on inanimate objects, it can be fun. I hope you enjoy this conversation between Tad and Pops.*

**Pops:** My goodness, Tad, your mycelium mat looks good. I've known you since you were a spore; then a network of hyphae; then you made a sheath around the live root tips of this healthy Douglas fir. Over time, your hyphae grew into a mycelium mat. We supply the tree with water and nutrients, and Doug gives us carbohydrates. We cannot thrive without each other. It's called a symbiotic relationship. I latched on to Doug decades ago. As long as this tree stays healthy, we will keep growing together.

**Tad:** You do use big words, but I think I get it. But how did I know how to do it all?

**Pops:** Since the beginning of creation, a tree knows how to be a tree and us fungi know how to be fungi. That's all we need to know.

**Tad:** What did you mean my mycelium mat looks good. Good for what? I do feel a bit different.

**Pops:** It is late summer, flowering time for fungi that are old enough. Our flowering part will push up through the dirt to get above ground and become what humans call mushrooms. We are a special variety called chanterelles, a cherished mushroom of humans. They love to cut us at our stem and take us home to eat. We are easy to identify with our golden funnel-shaped cap and ridges on the underside that extend down the stem. Lots of animals love to eat us, too.

**Tad:** I'm not sure I want to be cut or eaten! Does it hurt? Will it kill us? And what about the other fungi that are kind of like us, but different? Do they do the same thing and push up above ground?

**Pops:** You won't feel much, and it does not kill us. Our underground mycelium is not harmed. Mushrooms are a flower and can be picked without harming the rest of us. The only thing you won't be able to do is release your spores to make more of you. You can do that another year when nothing finds you. Many of the other fungi also flower into mushrooms. They come in all shapes and colors and decorate the forest floor. Some are poisonous, which is why humans need to be able to identify us and other edible mushrooms.

**Tad:** I feel better now, but I can't wait to see what above ground is. Let's hurry up and get up there.

**Pops:** Hold on, Tad. You don't realize how soft a mushroom is and that we are 90% water. You would turn to mush before you got above ground. We must wait for end-of-summer rains. Then after ten days of growing upwards, we will be above ground. It's what we do.

**Tad:** Okay, I remember. "A fungus knows how to be a fungus." I'll wait.

### Ten days after an inch of end-of-summer rain

**Tad:** We're up! I love seeing all that is above ground. I'm still growing, too. Wait, here comes a small human. She's talking. "Pops, is this one big enough?" He answers, "It's a tad small, but let's cut it and the big one, too." She used both our names; that's incredible.

End of conversation

Scientific information from [The Oregon Encyclopedia](#), by Dale Bair and [The Life Cycle of Chanterelle Mycelium](#), [amhuru.com](#)





## Rabon Family Forest Chosen as 2025 Tree Farmer of the Year

The Rabon's 153-acre family forest is located six miles west of Banks, Oregon on NW Cedar Canyon Road.

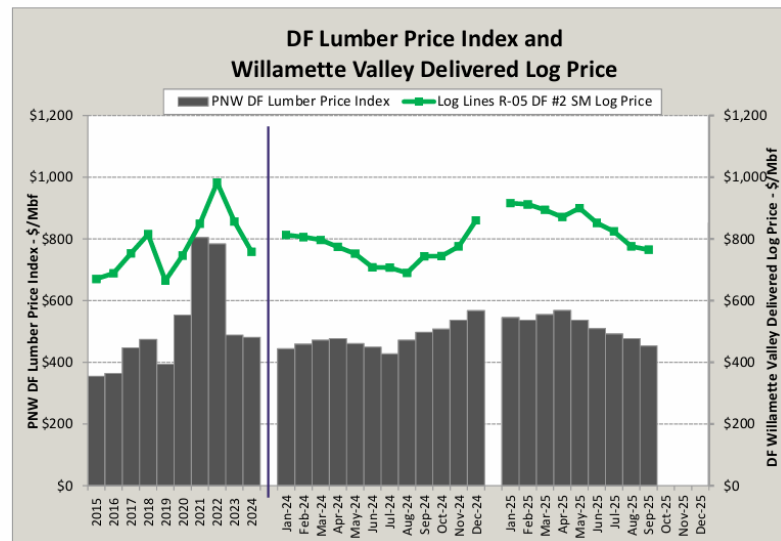
The property passed to David by inheritance in 1997 is a diverse forest with trees of various ages and species, primarily Douglas fir, western red cedar, and red alder. Cedar Canyon Creek flows through the property on its western boundary.

Creating a place for recreation and wildlife habitat is the family's vision for the property.

Walker Rabon, Dave, Leslie and Jamie (Rabon) Caulley to come.

A day to visit the forest is planned for Saturday, July 11, 2026. More details

## From Mason, Bruce & Girard, Natural Resource Consultants, News for Family Forests, Market Watch, September 2025



### September 2025 Douglas-fir Prices

	Sept 2025	Aug 2025	Change from Previous Month	Sept 2024	Change from Previous Year	5 Yr Annual Average	Current Month Compared to 5 Yr Annual Avg
Logs	\$ 765	\$ 776	-1.4%	\$ 744	2.8%	\$ 823	-7.1%
Lumber	\$ 453	\$ 477	-5.0%	\$ 497	-8.9%	\$ 622	-27.2%

## Habitat Enhancement After Harvest October 28 monthly meeting

by Susan Schmidlin



**Lindsay Davis receiving speaker gift from Melinda Shumaker and Cathy Dummer**

Habitat enhancement after harvest was the topic discussed by Lindsay Davis from Hampton Lumber at our October WCSWA meeting.

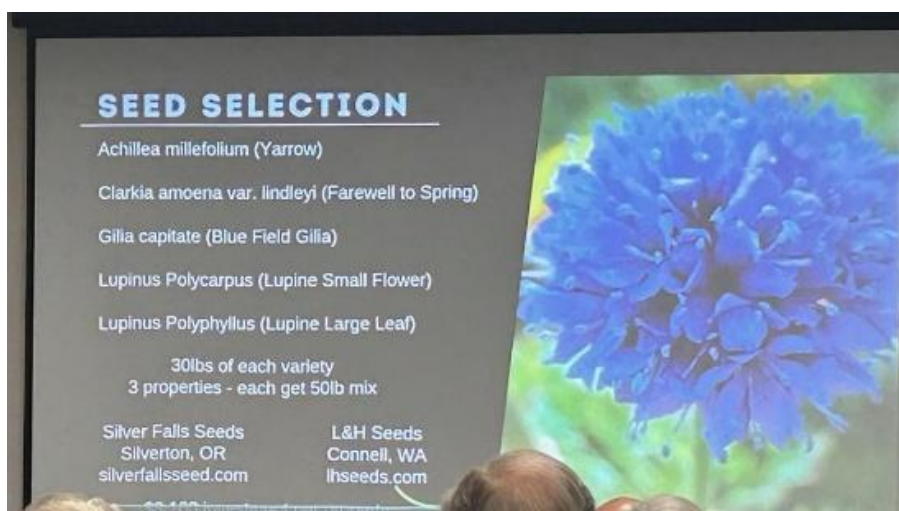
Back in 2016 a presentation about the decline of native pollinators created a new job for which Lindsay was hired at Hampton Lumber Company. In 2017 she was charged with finding and managing one-acre plots selected for pollinator seed placement with GPS tracking the coordinates.

Lindsay began spreading seed in multiple areas around harvested areas of Hampton's managed forest. Much of her initial work was finding spots where a stand of flowering plants could survive. Natural problems like birds picking up the seeds as fast as they were spread, crews spraying or burning slash where tiny seedlings had been established, and soil conditions had her trying new ideas as she learned.

Early on, spreading seed by hand rather than with a broadcaster showed targeted areas improved with much closer attention to detail of seeding. By 2018 and into 2020, Lindsay concentrated on planting the native seeds in burn/slash piles. The piles were used as incubators for the seeds to establish a thick patch where they then could reseed surrounding areas as the winds and wildlife spread seeds in following years. She selected burn/slash piles directly adjacent to tracts of clear cuts. By concentrating on the piles, Lindsay was able to reduce the cost of the program and reduce waste while lowering the risk of herbicide exposure to the tender plants emerging from the seeds sown. The piles were also easy to monitor and maintain as the seeds spread without more human intervention. Other viable alternative areas are buffers, cut banks, bridges/culverts areas and the center of forest roads with minimal traffic.

Lindsay uses 6 to 10 ounces of mixed seed per burn pile. If spreading seeds around unburned piles, the seeding can begin soon after harvest in late fall. Burned slash piles should be seeded about a year after burn.

The US Forest service recommends flowers with lots of nectar, areas for landing platforms for the pollinators, plants with ultraviolet markings, brightly colored blue or yellow flowers, sweetly aromatic and open flowers during the day. The common mix that Lindsay likes to use includes vetch, poppy, phacelia, blue Gilia, Clarkia amoena, and Lobularia.



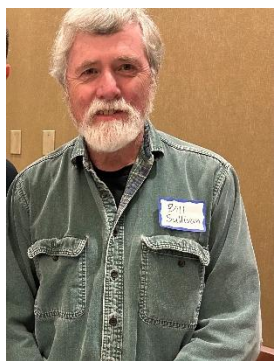
A 5- and 10-year plan is good. Documenting at planting and observing at yearly intervals are important to see what works on your forest. Maintenance includes reseeding as needed to provide food and habitat for pollinators to thrive,

WCSWA thanks Lindsay for the gift of seeds suited to our area given to banquet attendees, Nov 22.

More information can be found on Hampton's website, [www.hamptonforests.com](http://www.hamptonforests.com).



## WCSWA Annual Meeting, November 22, 2025



Bill Sullivan, author and fifth generation Oregonian, was our featured speaker. He gave an entertaining speech outlining his outdoor hiking life as well as his experience building a log cabin forty years ago. He and his wife had only hand tools and no experience. Many of us could relate when he read from his book about how they started cutting down the small trees in a dog-hair overgrown patch that seemed perfect for use in the log cabin. They just don't fall! The cabin still stands today with some improvements to the original.

Bill has written many books about Oregon history. His "100 Hikes" series covers best loved trails in all of Oregon and his "Atlas of Oregon Wilderness" covers more challenging hikes. Fifteen of his books are also available as audio books.

### Scenes from WCSWA Banquet - 2025



**Susan Schmidlin receiving her "Volunteer of the Year" award**



**Connie and Rich Gaebel with Connie's beautiful quilt that she donated for the raffle**



**Being with friends is a big part of getting together**



**Thank you, Delilah Marvelle, for coordinating the banquet**

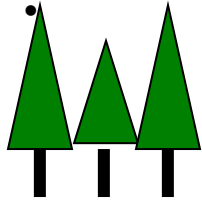


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## Forest Forum



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### Potpourri

**New Members:** Welcome to **Corey Achziger**, Pacific Tractor, Hillsboro; **Steve Beard** of Portland and **Linda Rad & Lior Aflafi** of North Plains. 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](http://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 \(oregonstate.edu\)](http://Firewise Landscaping Basics | OSU Extension Service (oregonstate.edu))

**Wildfire Prevention:** [Oregon Wildfire Response and Recovery: Wildfire Prevention : State of Oregon](http://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>
- For E-Notification: [FERNS - Welcome \(oregon.gov\)](http://FERNS - Welcome (oregon.gov)) or visit an ODF Office