

Forest Forum

Washington County Small Woodlands Association

May 2026



Annual WCSWA Potluck will be held at Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve Nature Center

2600 SW Hillsboro Hwy, Hillsboro, OR 97123
 Parking is in front of the building

Agenda:

- 5-6pm arrival
- 6-7pm Potluck meal
- 7 to 8pm Speaker and presentation
- 8pm clean-up and depart

What to bring:

This will be an old-fashioned potluck with no main dish provided. Always lots of choices! WCSWA will furnish plates, cups, eating utensils, napkins, and water. Hillsboro Parks has a no-alcohol policy. We will eat on the covered deck –consider bringing a light coat.

About Jackson Bottom:

Located minutes south of downtown Hillsboro, Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve’s 635 acres are a quiet sanctuary for both people and wildlife. Over 211 species of birds are sighted annually at Jackson Bottom, including bald eagles, great blue herons, and thousands of tundra swans and northern pintails. The preserve is home to deer, otter, beaver, and thousands of other species. Come early to walk the trails if you want.

Presentation: Mike Cafferata, OSWA Executive Director, will introduce our presenter, Mike Haglund, OSWA member and partner at Haglund Kelley LLP. Mike and his firm have extensive experience with legal issues related to woodland ownership and management, including recreational liability. He will review Oregon’s recreational liability laws as they apply to woodland owners, including considerations involving trespassers and guests, and will take questions from the group. This session will be recorded and shared with other OSWA chapters. We’re looking forward to a good time with friends, food, and an informative discussion on issues that are relevant. Questions? Contact Tony Spiering (503) 680-8112.

2026 WCSWA Monthly Programs

May	19	WCSWA Annual Potluck	5:00-8:00 Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve
July	11	TFOY Tour and Picnic	Cancelled due to unforeseen health issues. See page 4 for explanation and new tour. See Scott’s thinning, stream restoration and coastal redwoods, planted up to 26 years ago.
	11	Scott Russell Tree Farm Tour, Scappoose	

WCSWA Leadership
President – Dan Shumaker
Vice-President – Vic Herinckx
Secretary-Treasurer – Melinda Shumaker

Board of Directors:

- Pos. #1: Kathy Brock
- Pos. #2: Ashley Tibbs
- Pos. #3: Amanda Henderson
- Pos. #4: Susan Schmidlin
- Pos. #5: John Bucsek
- Pos. #6: Mary Spiering

WCSWA Website – <https://wcswa.com/>

Website Manager: Michael Morgan
Contact Cathy Dummer for web postings and information.

Facebook:

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

To contact anyone on this page, email: wcswa.oswa@gmail.com

Note: Our Gmail address has changed to make it easier to use.

Legislative Committee Chair: none
Membership Committee: WCSWA Board members
Program Committee: John and Cathy Dummer, Tony and Mary Spiering, Tom Nygren
Tualatin River Watershed Council Representatives: Tom Nygren, primary; Eric Chambers, alternate

Forest Forum Newsletter

Editors: Norie Dimeo-Ediger and Bonnie Shumaker
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 wcswa.oswa@gmail.com.

Wanted: No items this month

For Sale: Loader bucket with Long Brothers' Twin Add A Grapple. Bucket is 66" wide, has quick attach skid steer pockets; grapple has two clamping arms with hydraulic cylinders and hoses. Fits skid steer, track loader or Kubota L series or larger tractors. Fits other tractor brands of equivalent size to Kubota L series. \$1,200. Contact Don Sohler via roster or WCSWA's email (wcswa.oswa@gmail.com)



2026 Starker lecture series — Panel discussion: Managing forests for multiple values in a changing world

May 20, 4–5 p.m.

Oregon State University, Peavy Forest Science Center Room 117 — open to the public.
Online via Zoom, register at: https://oregonstate.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_6AdrrlbtRpSu-B3dbTUxyQ#/registration.

Much has changed over the past 100 years, and lessons from the McDonald–Dunn Forest's long history continue to shape future approaches to forest resilience, habitat restoration, biodiversity conservation, sustainable recreation, cultural values, education and sustainable timber harvest. Join us for a moderated panel discussion with experts in GIS, forest engineering, silviculture, ecology and recreation management to explore how research forests help managers adapt stewardship practices to support long-term sustainability and the many roles forests play today and into the future.

Leadership Notes by Dan Shumaker

Spring has begun and many of our fruit trees and other deciduous forest trees are sprouting their leaves and many are in full bloom. There are also many native wildflowers popping up in our forest. One plant we recently identified is the Western rattlesnake orchid (pictured here).



It's just about time to begin the annual ritual of cutting, splitting and stacking firewood for the coming fall and winter. The trees we thinned as part of our pre-commercial thinning projects work great for this purpose. Many of these trees have been in log decks over the years and are partially dried. Of course, once split and stacked in the sheds the summer heat finishes the drying process.

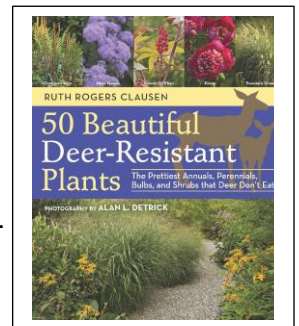
Melinda and I are planning to step down from our roles as treasurer and president of WCSWA at the end of 2026. Our older daughter and her family recently moved to Tennessee, and we need the flexibility to travel to see our granddaughters there. Melinda and I are also planning more multi-month trips in the coming years.

If any WCSWA members are interested in these positions for 2027 please let board members know. The president and treasurer positions will be voted on at the WCSWA Annual Meeting in November. Melinda and I will still participate as members of the WCSWA as we enjoy the knowledge and experiences of the other members.

We are also still in need of a volunteer to take over the seedling sales as Don Sohler is stepping down. Please contact either Don or one of the board members if you or anyone you know is interested.

50 Beautiful Deer-Resistant Plants: The Prettiest Annuals, Perennials, Bulbs, and Shrubs that Deer Don't Eat

Are deer destroying your garden? There is a solution, and it doesn't involve fencing, barriers, or chemicals. Keeping your garden safe from deer is as simple as choosing the right plants. In *50 Beautiful Deer-Resistant Plants*, perennial plant expert Ruth Rogers Clausen highlights the best, most versatile plants that deer simply don't eat. The plant choices include annuals and perennials, shrubs, bulbs, grasses, and herbs. For each suggested plant, Clausen shares helpful growing and design tips. This practical, authoritative, full-color guide is a must-have solution to a common garden problem.



New technology helps improve threatened species surveys in state forests April 15, 2026, Oregon Department of Forestry

Oregon's state forests are home to a wide variety of wildlife including two threatened bird species, the northern spotted owl and the marbled murrelet. As part of the Oregon Department of Forestry's (ODF) compliance with the federal and state endangered species acts, ODF surveys where these species are and develops a plan to protect and enhance their habitat.
(Continued on page 4)

New technology helps improve threatened species surveys in state forests (Continued from page 3)

“Right now, we use call-back surveys to determine where spotted owls are,” said Mike Davis, an ODF state forest biologist. “As the name implies, we go out in the forest and broadcast owl calls and wait for them to respond, following a protocol accepted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).” The USFWS administers the Endangered Species Act and monitors compliance with it.

Most of the field call-back survey work is done by contract biologists and has some limitations. “For owls, the surveys are conducted at night and typically for just that one night at each location,” said Davis. “There are safety concerns too: driving dark gravel forest roads, hiking into the mature forest stands where owls typically are without any trails, and traversing steep, rugged terrain. Then standing or hiking for hours, oftentimes in the rain. It is not easy work nor a fun experience some nights.”

Another recent concern that limits the effectiveness of call-back surveys is the encroachment of the invasive barred owl into traditional spotted owl areas. “The barred owls are basically bullying the northern spotted owls out of their preferred habitat,” said Davis. “We are seeing spotted owls at atypical higher elevations now and calling back less and less because that call alerts barred owls to their location.” This makes the call-back protocols less effective and had ODF looking for better methods to survey the birds.

“In 2022 we started experimenting with Autonomous Recording Units (ARUs),” said Davis. ARUs are devices that automatically record environmental sounds such as bird calls, frog choruses, or other wildlife vocalizations over extended periods without the need to have a human present. “ARUs have many advantages,” said Davis. “They can be left out in the field several weeks or more, set up and retrieved from the field anytime, record multiple species, and can be analyzed back in the office.” The units are designed similar to a trail camera, but instead of a camera they have a microphone. They also run on batteries and have removable memory cards. “We bring the cards back to our office and run specialized software that processes the audio recordings,” said Davis. “It converts the sound waves into spectrograms, which are visual representations of frequency over time. Each species’ calls produce distinct patterns on these images, allowing software to identify and differentiate vocalizations.”

ODF is optimistic ARUs could save on survey costs too. “We spend roughly \$2 million a year on northern spotted owl surveys and another \$500,000 on marbled murrelets,” said Corey Grinnell, Biological Support Unit Manager for ODF’s State Forest Division. “ARUs with rechargeable batteries, memory cards and the software costs are coming in the \$600-\$700 range per device.”

ODF currently has 23 ARUs but plans to deploy more and move away from sole reliance on call-back surveys. “We are waiting for the USFWS to approve a final protocol for using ARUs,” said Grinnell. “Once that happens, we can integrate them more into our management plans.”

Another big change for the biologists will be state forests moving to a new Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) that is expected to be approved by the USFWS and NOAA Fisheries later this year after a several years-long development and approval process. The HCP will give ODF 70 years of certainty in how ODF manages for 17 terrestrial and aquatic species, including northern spotted owls and marbled murrelets, as it manages state forests. “The entire point of the HCP is to keep this working forest working,” said Grinnell.

The HCP combined with improving technology has the potential to give managers better data to better manage the forests. State forests by law must provide social, economic, and environmental benefits to Oregonians. “Our goal is to create healthy productive forests, high-quality habitat for native fish and wildlife, clear cool water, benefits and revenues to rural communities and timber related economies, as well as recreation and educational opportunities,” said Grinnell. “To do that we embrace cutting edge technology to improve our data in the most cost-effective way. “ARUs are one tool to do that. We are always on the lookout for better, faster, cheaper ways to get biological data to help us make the best management decisions.”

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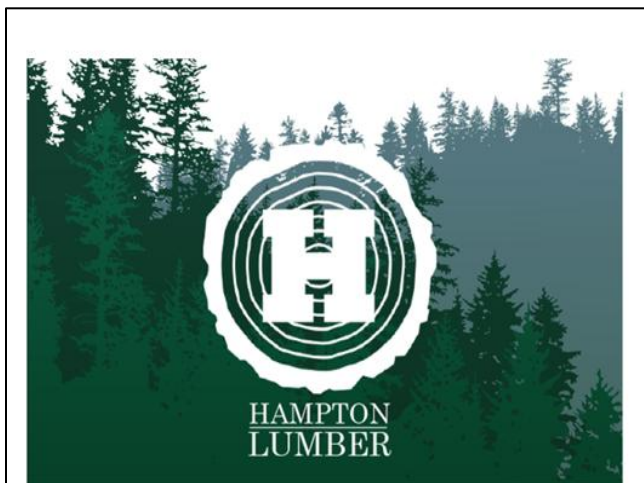
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July 11 Event Change

Due to unforeseen health issues, Dave Rabon has been forced to cancel his TFOY tour. We wish him well as he navigates the healing process. We also acknowledge his exemplary forest stewardship. His TFOY award was well earned.

Scott and Sue Russell had agreed to give a tour "sometime" and were able to fill in the July 11 spot. A big thank you to Scott and Sue. Their forest is near Scappoose, and the tour will feature stream restoration, thinning and Scott's favorite topic: coastal redwoods that he began planting 26 years ago. Be prepared to see his excellent results. More information will be in the June Forest Forum.

Character is like a tree and reputation like its shadow.
 ~Abraham Lincoln



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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

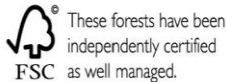
All the resources and assistance to manage your forestlands are in one easy to access location that is regularly updated.

- 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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- Barry Sims
- Mike Messier
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Growing Native Plants, a Washington County Master Gardeners Class

Date and time: Saturday May 30 10AM-Noon
Location: WCMGA Learning Garden at Jenkins Estate 8005 SW Grabhorn Rd, Beaverton, OR 97007

There is an increasing interest in growing native plants. Information will include the definition and role of native plants. What are the historical uses for native plants? What are the best native plants for your garden? Resources will be shared and there will be an opportunity to see a variety of native plants in the garden.



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IN A LANDSCAPE: An outdoor concert at Smith Homestead

45500 OR-6, Tillamook, Oregon 97141
Date: Monday July 27, 2026 Time: 5:00-6:30
Tickets: \$45 per person

Join pianist Hunter Noack for an outdoor concert where a stunning landscape replaces the traditional concert hall. Listen through wireless headphones as you wander afield with the music as a soundtrack to your experience in the wild.

Located within the Tillamook State Forest, the Smith Homestead Day Use Area is set above the rocky banks of the Wilson River. Listeners are free to gather near the piano or move quietly along the river's edge, sit on stones, or wade in the shallow water with their feet in the current as the music unfolds.

Spanning more than 364,000 acres, the Tillamook State Forest is shaped by river corridors, dense forest, and long-term stewardship of the Clatsop, Tillamook, Nehalem, and Clatskanie peoples.

For more information and to get tickets go to: <https://www.stateforesttrust.org/in-a-landscape-summer-concert>

Browse and More, May

By Susan Schmidlin

I had the good fortune to volunteer at the Columbia County Small Woodlands plant sale held March 7. Aside from the actual sale of bare root seedlings, the loads of volunteers and enthusiastic customers made for a good day all around. To top it off, Jake Barker, our OSU Extension Agent, held a zoom call that very night to help answer questions related to any planting, nursery or growing issue. Mike Cafferata, OSWA Executive Director, and Rachell from Scappoose Bay Nursery were also on hand to help field questions.

The group got to talking about browse control, my favorite subject. Rachell mentioned a long retired but very involved OSU Extension Agent from Columbia County who used spoiled milk to keep deer and elk out of a planted plot. It got me thinking just how to go about doing that. If I made a spray out of the rotten dairy product and sprayed it on my seedlings the smell would fade as the moisture dried. If I dumped a bit around each seedling, I would have a good stink going but also would invite every cat, dog, coyote and possibly other fauna in to mess with the tender plants. That is until rain washed the smell away. I came up with my own plan, and it involves using a milk jug cut with flaps above the rotten milk line to create little windows for the smell to hang around a while (my dog still wanted to get to the jug so I hung it above a big hollowed out stump). Time will tell if this works but I can use essential oils such as peppermint and clove to change up the odors as the season changes.

Shortly after the implementation of my milk jug diffuser, I stopped by the Upper Nehalem Watershed Nursery during their volunteer day. The nursery manager, Mark Hall, talked about all the seedlings that had been planted by the council and helpers in riparian restoration. He said he had been having good luck with ribbons tied onto the most delicious species that are subject to browsing, namely Western red cedar and red alder. The questioning began as to what kind of ribbon? Answer: typical logging marking tape. What color ribbon? Mark believes chartreuse is best but uses different hues of green. How long should you leave the flapping tails? Answer: just long enough to discourage nibbling because of the rustling noise it makes, but not so long that it attracts browsers from long distances.

My own attempt is in the same patch as the spoiled milk jug. I tried two different colors of green as well as our go-to color, pink. I tied some long, some short and mixed up the pattern of colors. Some have Vexar cages with bamboo stakes and some with bamboo by themselves. It is truly a mix and match of ideas and time will tell what works and what doesn't.



Jug with flaps



Jug and ribbon installed



Three spools of flagging ribbon

Ghostly UV sparks light up forests as thunderstorms pass overhead

Scientific American February 24, 2026

For almost a century, scientists have wondered how thunderstorms might affect forests below them, with many believing that a storm could ignite weak electrical discharges on plants that would catch at the tips of their leaves and along their branches. These phenomena, known as coronas, had never been seen in nature—until now.

A new study published earlier this month in *Geophysical Research Letters* reveals how the tips of tree leaves burn with ghostly ultraviolet sparks.

“These things actually happen; we’ve seen them; we know they exist now,” said Patrick McFarland, a meteorologist at Pennsylvania State University and lead author of the study, in a statement.

Before this study, scientists had observed in the lab how such electrical discharges might form.

“In the laboratory, if you turn off all the lights, close the door and block the windows, you can just barely see the coronae. They look like a blue glow,” McFarland said.

Those observations suggested that the electrical charge of a thunderstorm overhead could induce an opposing charge on the ground below. Attracted to the thunderstorm’s charge, the opposing charge would travel to the highest points it could reach. In the case of forests, this would be the tree canopy. The tips of leaves would then discharge the electricity, producing blue sparks, or coronas.

To observe the coronas in the wild, McFarland and his team fitted a Toyota Sienna with a mobile weather station, complete with ultraviolet camera. Then they went storm hunting, taking videos as they went. Analyzing the video footage revealed the coronas glowing on the tips of tree leaves and even hopping from leaf to leaf.

If humans could see in ultraviolet, McFarland said, it would likely look to observers like the entire tree canopy was aglow. “It’d probably look like a pretty cool light show, as if thousands of UV-flashing fireflies descended on the treetops,” he said.

April 28 Monthly Meeting, Bighorn Logging, Past and Present



Mark and Sarah Standley accepting speaker gift from Dan Shumaker

Mark Standley, Jr., a fifth-generation logger, gave an interesting talk on how logging has changed over several decades. Bighorn Logging was started in 1981 by Harve Dethlefs as a small cutting contractor. Mark has been with Bighorn Logging since 2002. In the past permits were easy to get and there were few technological advancements. Regulations covered safety and minimal environmental concerns. A small landowner could contact a logger and work could start the next week.

Presently there is a fifteen to twenty-one-day minimum wait period with stream and road assessments required. With this longer wait period, it is impossible to predict what the log market will offer and it takes at least a month for a logger to start work. Equipment has mechanized dramatically so that as Mark stated that “you hardly touch a log anymore.” This does make logging safer and damage to the forest is reduced, but the equipment is very expensive. The crucial part for a landowner planning to harvest is to put money aside for 2-3 years after harvest for replanting and invasive control. For more information contact Mark: Mark@Bighornlogging.com or 503-701-6069.

Grow Oregon's iconic madrone with care and patience

CORVALLIS, Ore. — Madrone, madrona, madroño, arbutus — wherever you live along the Pacific Coast, it's the same tree: *Arbutus menziesii*.

Few trees are more closely tied to the Pacific Northwest landscape than the madrone. In Oregon, it's the common name used for this native species. "Madrone don't take well to tending by overly conscientious gardeners," said Dave Shaw, retired forest health specialist with the Oregon State University Extension Service.

Madrone often thrive where other trees struggle — in rocky, arid soil, on dry slopes, or even clinging to inhospitable roadside banks. "If you do coax a madrone to grow in your garden, water it infrequently and deeply, if at all, once it's well established," Shaw advised.

If you have one growing successfully, you'll notice it's almost always shedding — leaves, bark, flowers or berries. But gardeners who've tried to transplant one without success know it's a small price to pay for such a striking tree.

Madrone are notoriously difficult to transplant because they don't tolerate root disturbance. To improve your odds, Shaw recommends buying the smallest plants you can find and handling them gently during planting. Avoid cramping the roots and consider planting several seedlings at once — you can thin them later if too many survive.

One reason madrone are so challenging to transplant may be their dependence on mycorrhizal fungi — underground networks of fungal filaments that work symbiotically with plant roots. These filaments can increase the root system's working surface area by as much as a thousandfold, helping trees absorb water and nutrients. "If you can, plant your madrone seedling in soil collected from beneath a mature madrone, where mycorrhizal relationships already exist," Shaw said. "That might give your tree a head start."

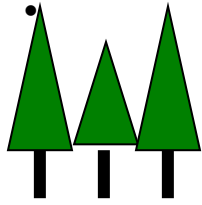
Madrone shed bark and leaves over several months in summer, so plant them where natural litter won't be a problem. Avoid manicured landscapes. As long as the fallen leaves aren't blackened by blight, let them dry and decompose in place to nourish the soil.

Leaf blight, which appears as blackened leaves during winter, can be widespread. At least some of the fungi that cause it are now thought to be endemic. Fortunately, blight usually causes only cosmetic damage — new leaves emerge just before old ones drop. To help reduce blight, remove fallen blackened leaves from the ground and from the tree as new leaves emerge. Over a few years, this can noticeably lessen the problem.

Madrone often have irregular, sculptural growth forms, sending out long, bare limbs with clusters of leaves at the tips — especially when growing among taller trees that shade them. On rocky coastal outcrops, wind and exposure can stunt and twist them into dramatic, gnarled forms. With space and light, however, madrone can grow into classic shade trees with broad canopies and thick, straight trunks. Whatever the shape, their smooth, peeling bark and vivid coloration make them instantly recognizable. The spring flowers attract pollinating insects, and their red berries feed many bird species — especially woodpeckers and thrushes — from late summer into fall. Though the berries are edible for humans, they're generally bland.

Other species of *Arbutus* grow around the Mediterranean, but *A. menziesii* is found only along the Pacific Coast of North America, from northern California to southern British Columbia.

Forest Forum



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COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE
OREGON SMALL WOODLANDS
ASSOCIATION

Potpourri

New Members: Welcome to **Mark Turner, M & GT Land Management** from Buxton. 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. 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