

Forest Forum

Washington County Small Woodlands Association

August 2026



Planted and Thinned Signs Available

by Mike Cafferata

Most Oregonians get information about forests by looking out the window of their car. People lead busy lives, and while there are many excellent forestry publications, videos, and educational programs available, relatively few people take the time to seek them out.



One of the most effective ways to help the public understand forestry is through "Planted In" signs. When people see these signs, they immediately know a harvested area has been replanted. Over time, they also begin to recognize that forests are always changing and that active forest management includes growing the next forest.

The signs are also a great tool for landowners. While we usually remember planting a stand or completing a thinning, many of us eventually forget exactly what year it happened. A sign is an easy reminder for you, your family, and future generations.

There are two easy options available for OSWA members: See page 8 for details.

2026 WCSWA Monthly Programs

August		No event scheduled – Enjoy summer in your forest	
September	19	Tualatin Mountain Forest Tour with WCSWA, 9:00am - noon	Learn more about the newest OSU Research Forest, the 3,110-acre Tualatin Mountain Forest outside of Scappoose. Registration required. See page 6
October	27	Wildlife Habitat Conservation and Management Program (WHCMP) in the North Willamette Valley	SWCD office, 7175 NE Evergreen Pkwy, Ste. 400, Hillsboro Speaker: Lauri Brewster , Regional Habitat Biologist, North Willamette Watershed District, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife

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: No items for sale this month

The Basic Forestry Shortcourse: Intro to Woodland Management

Looking to build skills for caring for your trees and managing your forest? Or just need a refresher?

This five-session introductory program is ideal for people who recently acquired forest property, who are facing struggles with some aspect of their land management, or who are simply looking to learn something new. Through a combination of classroom instruction and hands-on activities, participants will learn about plant identification, assessment of soil conditions and tree health, forest development and ecology, enhancing wildlife habitat, harvesting and selling logs, and local resources for technical and financial assistance.

The Basic Forestry Shortcourse: Intro to Woodland Management teaches landowners and land stewards the fundamentals of woodland management. Topics include:

- Getting to know your forest (reading the land, plant identification)
- What's going on in your woods (forest health, wildlife management)
- Taking care of your woods (reforestation, forest management)
- Getting it done (operations, forest regulations, resources)
- FIELD DAY (activities that build on classroom topics, landowner sharing)

The field day will visit a local Washington County private forest, where participants will practice forest measurement skills, discuss the operations of thinning and harvesting, and learn more about local forest management dynamics.

The entire course is designed to be in-person so that participants can meet and learn from each other.

The Basic Forestry Shortcourse helps prepare participants for the more in-depth Master Woodland Manager Course, which will be offered in March and April of 2027 (dates coming soon!).

Questions? Reach out to Jake Barker (jake.barker@oregonstate.edu, 503-397-3462)

Leadership Notes by Dan Shumaker

The logger we hired to thin our southern property started work on July 15th. They expect the project, on the 81 acres, will take approximately 3 to 4 weeks. The price per 1000 board feet in Southern Oregon is \$525 for White Fir and \$750 for Douglas-fir.

Melinda and I attended the annual OSWA meeting in Elkton Oregon at the Big K Ranch. There was a great turnout of many members from around the state. Big K Ranch was a great place to have such a big group gathering. The family and staff on the ranch were top notch, and everyone had a great time. We took two school buses full of members to tour the ranch and see all the varying age plots of timber and the ranch's family members explained the history of the ranch.



Big K Ranch along the Umpqua River



New shed on our southern property

After the OSWA meeting Melinda and I went to our southern property. We took the load of Douglas-fir 2x6 boards for the framing and western red cedar for board and batten siding of our firewood/tool shed. We were able to build this shed with 90+ percent of wood milled on our sawmill.

Melinda and I also attended the tree farm tour at Scott Russell's tree farm. Scott and family took members on the tour, and we saw the coastal redwoods that they planted under the canopy of maple and Douglas-fir trees. It really showed how shade tolerant the coastal redwoods are.

We are still in need of volunteers to take over the Seedling Sale and Tree Farmer of the Year committees as Don Sohler & Rich Gaebel are stepping down. Please contact me or one of the board members if you are interested in either of these positions. Also, we are going to need replacement volunteers for the president & treasurer positions for 2027. See article page 4.



Walking through Sue and Scott's thriving shade tolerant coastal redwoods

WCSWA is at a crossroads and that means opportunities for you



Washington County Small Woodlands Association (WCSWA) is a strong chapter of Oregon Small Woodlands Association (OSWA). Our chapter is proud of its success offering educational programs and opportunities to get together. This requires volunteer leadership. We have been blessed with volunteers that have participated for years. To stay strong, we need new volunteers since several positions will be open next year. They are listed below followed by a short description. None of these take a lot of time but they are essential to maintaining our chapter's strength. Please consider finding out more from the current volunteer or send an email to wcswa.oswa@gmail.com to find out more. **WCSWA NEEDS YOU!**

OPEN POSITIONS

President – *(Currently held by Dan Shumaker)*. The president, co-presidents, or the vice-president in his/her absence, shall issue notice for and preside at all meetings.

Treasurer – *(Currently held by Melinda Shumaker)*. The treasurer shall be a signatory on all accounts of the organization along with the president. He/she shall provide monthly accounting of all transactions on these accounts to the president or co-presidents.

Board Member – There are six board members. Two vacancies open each year for a three-year term. Board members attend three board meetings per year for general decision-making practices not reserved for the general membership.

Tree Farmer of the Year from Washington County Selection Committee - (currently Rich Gaebel and Bob Shumaker). Solicit recommendations mainly from Oregon Tree Farm System (OTFS) inspectors. Selection is based on forest stewardship and woodland community involvement.

Seedling committee chair – *(Currently held by Don Sohler)*. Don has been the chair for ten years. And Don is ready to train someone else to take over. It is very rewarding. Contact Don from roster or email wcswa.oswa@gmail.com to find out more. We need a new seedling coordinator of 1 or 2 people

Save these dates:

November 14, 2026

Oregon Tree Farm System Annual
Members Meeting & Recognition
Celebration:
Saturday, Oregon Garden, Silverton

June 19, 2027

Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year tour at Roje Gootee's Tree Farm in
Long Valley, Grant 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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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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“To one in sympathy with nature, each season, in its turn, seems the loveliest.”

Mark Twain

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Tree School Field Day, Hopkins Forest, Oregon City, October 3

Join us for a day of learning in the woods on October 3 at Hopkins Demonstration Forest. 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. sarah.cameron@oregonstate.edu



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Tualatin Mountain Forest Tour with WCSWA, September 19



Date: Saturday, 9/19/2026

Time: **9am to 12pm** (Note time change)

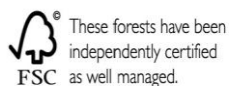
Description: Join OSU Extension to learn more about the newest OSU Research Forest, the 3,110-acre Tualatin Mountain Forest outside of Scappoose. We will discuss history of the property, recently managed stands, recreation dynamics and opportunities for research. This will mostly be a driving tour, but please wear weather-appropriate clothing and walking footwear.

Register here: <https://beav.es/fDf>



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Planted and Thinned Signs Available (continued from page 1)

Here are the two easy options available for OSWA members:

Partnership for Forestry Education signs (available to everyone)

These larger signs are intended for harvest units visible from well-traveled public roads. They measure approximately 60" x 17" and should be mounted on two 6-foot posts (not included). More information is available here:

<https://knowyourforest.org/education/get-started/tell-your-story>

OSWA fence-post signs

OSWA now offers smaller 8" x 11" signs designed for driveways, smaller roads, and within forest stands. They can be mounted to a variety of surfaces. They're a nice way to show pride in your forest, let neighbors and visitors know the stand has been replanted, and provide a handy reminder of when management activities occurred.

Rather than selling these signs, OSWA is happy to provide them to members who would like them. If someone wishes to make a voluntary donation to help cover costs, they're about \$5 each. Landowners simply add black 2-inch mailbox numbers to indicate the planting or thinning year.

Mary and Mike usually bring the signs to OSWA events when they attend or can arrange delivery. The signs can be mailed if needed.

Russell Tree Farm Tour, July 11, Scappoose

On July 11, 50 WCSWA and Columbia County woodland folks gathered at Scott and Sue Russell's tree farm. After coffee and doughnuts, some climbed aboard a hay wagon, while others followed in fully loaded pickups to tour three different sites.



Redwood Grove

Our first stop was the Redwood Grove. Scott has planted 10,000 coastal redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*) beginning in 1999 when he interplanted them in an understocked multi-species stand. Redwoods like the shade and do well. At this stop, we had a chance to walk to the "Tony Tree." A stone marker on this six-foot diameter Douglas-fir tree stated, "planted 1600."

The second stop was at Raymond Creek and Scott's gravel pit. The Russells worked with Scappoose Bay Watershed Council to improve salmon habitat on one and a half miles of Raymond Creek including 174 large wood placement were

added to the creek (75 of the trees were 24"+ dbh).

The large wood placement slows down the stream velocity and creates habitat for salmon fry. Scott added 40 yards of spawning gravel to help even more with the process. Native plants (5,700 of them!) were also added along the creek.



Gravel pit across from Raymond Creek.

The third stop showed a thinning project done two years ago on 29 – 35-year-old trees. Scott's logger stated that tree farmers have a hard time thinning since they tend to name their trees and sing songs to them as they grow. His criteria for thinning: take out defects first rather than thinking ideal spacing, then take out the suppressed and some intermediate trees and leave the good and dominant trees. It is ideal to have 50% live crown after thinning. It takes 2 -5 years for the trees to grow fast again.

Questions were asked about growing coastal redwood and sources for seedlings. There is an OSU Extension publication (EM9475) that can be downloaded as a pdf. Google [Growing redwood and giant sequoia in Oregon | OSU Extension Service](#) to access the publication. Brooks Nursery or Propagation Nation have seedlings. If we hear of other sources from our readers, we will be glad to publish.

We finished the tour by eating the lunches we brought from home and visiting with our fellow tree farmers. Thank you Sue and Scott for sharing your tree farm with us.

See more pictures on next page.



Nicole Howard, ODF Stewardship Forester, Columbia county and Jake Barker, OSU Extension Forester, Columbia, Washington and Yamhill counties



Sue Russell and granddaughter Rowen



New OSWA President, Karl Jensen and his wife Jeanne with OSWA Exec. Director Mike Cafferata and his wife Julie



Scott Russell receiving gift from WCSWA president Dan Shumaker

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



Browse and More, August

by Susan Schmidlin, photo credit, Marilyn.art_Schmidlin

For small tract owners, cleaning up the forest or DIY logging may create unwanted problems. More times than not, trees that were growing well and were to remain standing get damaged by trees being removed as they drag along the bark. Saving trees from this damage is an ongoing concern.

I was able to visit my Columbia County neighbor Doug (or DUG as he likes to refer to himself on his more whimsical days) Anderson. Doug purchased an 80-acre piece of property some years ago and aside from letting the acreage grow to 35–40-year-old predominantly Douglas-fir timber, he uses the plot to ‘keep busy’ during retirement. Doug uses simple techniques to avoid unwanted damage.

Especially during the springtime when the sap is rising, the bark is more likely to slip off trees if they are marred by dragging logs out. The marred scars do not heal smoothly and can reduce the value. To reduce scaring to remaining trees, Doug cuts a piece of 12” diameter culvert 3 to 4 feet long into three vertical sections. He uses 4” outdoor screws with washers and a small battery powered screwdriver to attach a culvert section to the tree that might be damaged by the tree being winched out. It only takes one section to protect the tree unless it is a corner, then two sections may be needed. He takes the screws out to remove the piece of culvert after he has winched out the removed tree. Doug stresses that you should use only outdoor screws so they don’t rust and can be reused time and time again. The culvert sections can also be reused,



Well-worn culvert section in place with screws and washers

With the battery powered screwdriver, screws and washers in a small satchel, he can carry them around easily throughout the forest. He uses larger diameter culvert sections on his bigger remaining trees so the rounded part stays flush to the bark as it is screwed into place. The screws are not long enough to cause damage to the tree and are not left in for long time periods. These practices show that a little effort ahead of time can save a stand from tree damage while enhancing the overall forest.

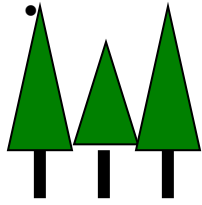


Logging winch on tractor

More ideas from Doug: With an extension ladder, manual pole saw and a battery powered chain saw, Doug has trimmed trees up to 20 feet. It is a labor of love. He likes the look of the forest with those non-producing limbs cleaned up even though it does not add much value in the long run. With his John Deere 70 hp tractor and logging winch he can do his own thinning, clearing out pockets of root rot, and cleanup of storm damage. He is trying to get the trees spaced 15 to 20 feet apart so he is inside the forest with the tractor much of the time.

It was mentioned during this visit that leaving some “porcupine” trees along deer/elk trails and around newly planted seedling spots is a good idea to discourage browse. Making a porcupine tree means leaving the lower branches or trimming them so they stick out 4 or 5 inches. The browsers are less likely to rub or browse when they have to dodge uncomfortable pokes in a cleaned-up forest.

Forest Forum



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Potpourri

Membership: Welcome to new member **Ashley Tibbs** of Beaverton 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 \(oregonstate.edu\)](http://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 \(oregon.gov\)](http://FERNS - Welcome (oregon.gov)) or visit an ODF Office