

Forest Forum

Washington County Small
Woodlands Association

November, 2007

Steve Bowers, alias "Treeboy"

Steve Bowers, forestry extension agent for Lane County, provided an entertaining and informative program to WCSWA members at the October 23rd meeting. Steve – who responded to a comment from the floor about his "Treeman" column in the Northwest Woodlands magazine, stated that perhaps he should use a less presumptive title, such as "Treeboy". The audience, however, seemed to think that his stature merited the more manly title.

Steve led the group through a demonstration of VARPLOT, a cruising analysis program developed first by Mike Cloughesy (former extension agent, now forestry director for OFRI) in conjunction with Nate Coleman (former forest industry leader). Steve has since worked with Nate to update and add new features to the program. One of the new VARPLOT features is based on the assumption that log grade can be reliably predicted from log length and diameter. This assumption has proven to be relatively accurate.

See "Treeboy", page 10

Annual Harvest Banquet Features Forestland Outlook

The annual Stimson Harvest Banquet on October 21st brought together a diverse gathering of small woodland owners, loggers, and truckers to share a fine meal and conversation – as well as to hear from two industry executives about the future for private forestry in Oregon.

Andrew Miller, president and owner of Stimson Lumber Company, opened the presentation with his analysis of log prices and how they will affect what happens in the industry over the next year. Miller stated that log prices have dropped \$100 per thousand board feet for inland markets, and he expects the same here before long. Stimson has cut their inland mills from 80 hours per week to 50. Miller expects that the "bleeding" will stop by next spring or summer, but it may be two to three years before prices return to a steady state.

The featured speaker of the evening was Matthew Donegan, co-President of Forest Capital Partners. Forest Capital Partners is a "TIMO" – timberland investment and management organization. TIMOS now own most of the private forest land in the US, as traditional, vertically integrated forest industries divest themselves of forestland. Weyerhaeuser remains as one of only two large vertically integrated timberland owners in the US.

Donegan, who is a forester by training, has "caught the tide" in this transition of industrial forestland from traditional ownership to TIMOS and REITS (real estate investment trusts). TIMOS base their management on value – where land is analyzed for current

See "Forestland Outlook", page 8

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Notes from the President

by Dallas Boge

A recent *Sunday Oregonian* article following the major burnout in Southern California hypothesized what might happen in Oregon. More and more houses are being built in the urban-rural interface, posing a danger to themselves as well as to the personnel tasked to protect them in case of fire. The article poses the question of what to do about it. It notes that large tracts of crowded forests exist, especially in the dry east side. Those of us who live west of the Cascade summit would be wise to remember the repeating cycle that was for decades the Tillamook burn fires. Can sensible fuel reduction ever be allowed on the scale that will do more than a token amount of good? Removing trees that cannot be sustained would reduce the future fire danger, reduce insect damage because of a healthier forest and at the same time, provide badly needed jobs.

A change in the tax law coming up next year may be worth a heads up. The capital gains tax rate for taxpayers in the two lowest tax brackets will go to zero for tax years 2008, 2009, and 2010. For a married couple, the limit in 2008 is about \$62,000 in TAXABLE income, not gross income. See your tax consultant for more details. The head of one of the local sawmills is forecasting a weak log market for the next few years, so timing is most important. Will the capital gains rate stay low after 2008? That will depend on what transpires next November.

Elections for officers and directors will be held in December. The nominating committee has been meeting and has selected a slate of candidates listed elsewhere in the *Forest Forum*. I would like to thank Elouise Binns, Joanne McGilvra Rose, and Don Moore for agreeing to be the nominating committee. At the annual awards banquet, nominations will be open for anyone to nominate other candidates.

If you know of anyone wanting to join our chapter, I still have coupons available that reduce the first year dues by \$25.00. A big thank-you goes to Stimson Lumber Company for their generous assistance.

Finally, on a sad note, I must report that Don Logan passed away recently. Don was state tree farmer of the year in 1969. I first met Don in the early 1960's when I first joined OSWA. It never failed that when I saw Don, he had a big smile and a hearty hand shake. We will all miss him.

That's all for now.

Dallas

New Stewardship Forester ... and Goodbye to Old Friend Jay

We now have a new Stewardship Forester in the Forest Grove District: Tom Kennedy. Tom's geographical area of responsibility includes Townships 1 South and 2 South (Eric Perkins' old area). Eric Perkins has moved further north Townships 1, 2 & 3 North but south of Hwy 26 (Jay Worley's old area, now retired). All small woodland owners in Washington County are invited to stop in and meet Tom when they have a chance.

Stewardship Foresters in the Forest Grove Office:

Tom Kennedy (Washington & Yamhill Counties)
503-359-7487, tkennedy@odf.state.or.us

Eric Perkins (Washington County)
503-359-7437, eperkins@odf.state.or.us

Brent O'Nion (Yamhill County)
503-359-7442, bonion@odf.state.or.us

WCSWA Leadership

President – Dallas Boge; 503-357-7688
Vice-President – Mel Mortensen; 503-647-0804
Secretary-Treasurer – Bob Shumaker; 503-324-7825
Board of Directors:
Dick Courter; 503-297-1660
Art Dummer; 503-357-4258
Mel Mortensen; 503- 647-0804
Tom Nygren, 503-628-5472
Neil Schroeder; 503-628-2344
Wendell Walker, 503-353-0328
Legislative Committee Chair:
Ron Larson; 503-775-3223

WCSWA Website

www.wcswa.org

Website Manager: Kathy Scott

Contact Tom Nygren for web postings and information.

Forest Forum Newsletter

Editor: Tom Nygren

503-628-5472

e-mail: tnygren@juno.com

The Tree Farm Tradin' Post

A free service to our members: List tree farm items/land to buy, sell, or trade. Got a tool or piece of equipment you don't need any more? Or maybe you are looking for tools, equipment, property, or materials? You can place a free advertisement in Forest Forum. Another way for tree farmers to help each other! (3 month limit). Contact Tom Nygren, 503-628-5472.

For Sale: (no items submitted this month)

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Event Calendar

- November** **13 WCSWA Annual Meeting** - speaker, Martin Goebel, president of Sustainable Northwest. Social hour begins at 5:30 p.m.; dinner and speaker follow. Jennings-McCall Senior Center, Forest Grove. Call Sharon Boge (503-357-7688) or Beth Adams (503-628-0722)
16 Oregon Woodland Cooperative – Meeting of members and prospective members to discuss how the new business plan and USDA grant can provide benefits. 6:00 p.m. potluck followed by presentations. OSU Extension, Capital Center, 185th and Walker Road, Beaverton. Call Tom Nygren (503-628-5472) for information.
- December** No scheduled meeting
- January** **22 WCSWA Monthly Meeting** Lacey Townsend, Resource Technician for the Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District, will give a presentation on invasive plants that threaten rural forests and fields in Washington County. 7:00 p.m., OSU Extension, Capital Center, 185th and Walker Road, Beaverton
- February** **26 WCSWA Monthly Meeting** – Speaker to be announced
- March** **25 WCSWA Monthly Meeting** - John Krause, Stewardship Forester, Oregon Dept. of Forestry; 7:00 p.m., OSU Extension, Capital Center, 185th and Walker Road, Beaverton
- April** **22 WCSWA Monthly Meeting** - Susan Barnes, Wildlife Biologist, Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife 7:00 p.m. OSU Extension, Capital Center, 185th and Walker Road, Beaverton
- May** **20 WCSWA Potluck** - Potluck at Reeher Family historic "stage stop" and "woods camp". The Reeher's will present a half hour slide program on the "early settlers" as well as a half hour "historical walk". There is an eating hall that will accommodate 40 to 50 people, with tables, chairs, electricity, water, stove, and refrigerator.
- June** **12 WCSWA Field Tour** - twilight tour at the Raines Tree Farm to celebrate 50 year anniversary. Ralph Jr. to host.

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Pop Quiz – How Many US Lumber Manufacturers are in the World's Top Twenty?

Answer – Seven: Weyerhaeuser (1), International Paper (6), Sierra-Pacific (11), Georgia-Pacific (12), Hampton Affiliates (14), Simpson Timber (15), and Stimson Lumber (20). All but Weyerhaeuser and Simpson have dropped at least one place in the ranking during the last year. *(from Wood Markets Monthly International Report, September 2007)*

Advertising Opportunity:

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Tree Talk

by Bonnie Shumaker

We're in the midst of another one of Oregon's spectacular season changes with its crisp mornings and beautiful fall colors. The trees have finished a good growing year. I'm writing this at 6 AM Sunday morning, the day of the switch to standard time. I guess I'm a bit like the dairy cows that take a few days to adjust to the time change. Standard time came a week late this fall and daylight savings time came two weeks early last spring. What's with that? It was supposed to be an energy savings move, but tell that to our grandkids who have to walk one-third mile up the driveway in the pitch dark to catch their school bus at 7 am.

Our beautiful autumn days came late this year. Just when I was trying to convince myself that I could accept Oregon's rainy season without an introductory Indian summer, a nice weather "high" settled in and we've had one glorious day after another. The leaves had a chance to dry off before turning their brilliant colors. Bob and I were taking our morning walk a few days ago, and he stopped to listen to something across the fence line in the neighbor's forest. It sounded like a deer or elk stepping carefully through the fallen leaves. We peered into the woods, but saw nothing. We knew the brush could have been hiding what we sought, so we gave up and continued our walk. When we heard the noise again we discovered it to be leaves falling off a bigleaf maple onto more leaves on the ground. There was not a breath of breeze or any sound to mask their rustling, and it really was a good imitation of a walking animal. We smiled as we recognized another one of nature's joyful whimsies.

Vine maple turns such a vibrant red this time of year. I appreciate its beauty but also acknowledge the power that builds up in those snaky trunks when pushed by a bulldozer and the danger that creates. That's why I don't bemoan the necessity of cutting them back in our woods. Instead, I transplanted one into my native garden by our picture window. This was its third year in the garden. Its leaves had yet to turn that wonderful red. I was hopeful for this year, but the color turned brown again. I think I made a mistake and transplanted a bigleaf maple instead. I dug it up and am planning to buy an accredited vine maple at WCSWA's native plant sale next March. Speaking of the plant sale, there will be a planning meeting the week after Thanksgiving. The sale isn't until the second Saturday of March, but we start ordering plants in December. When the date for the planning meeting is finalized, I'll let people on last year's committee know, but if you'd like to be part of the planning process and haven't done so before, please let me know. We can use your help, it's fun and the profits are used for WCSWA's college scholarships. My number is (503)324-7825.

Thinking of volunteers brings to mind the marathon event of last month – putting out our annual newsletter to a wider audience of woodland owners. We had 2800 newsletters to prepare for mailing. In just one hour of telephoning, I had 16 willing volunteers! On the day of the mailing, we put in two inserts, folded and put four stickers on each newsletter, added address labels and sorted the newsletters for mailing – all in four hours! Our many hands made light work, and we had the fun of camaraderie at the same time.

WCSWA Election: Nominating Committee Report

The nominating committee has met. The nominees for office in 2008 are as follows:

President: Dallas Boge

Vice-President: Jim Brown

Sec-Treasurer: Bob Shumaker

Directors: Mel Mortensen and Dick Courter

Additional nominations can be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting on November 13th

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Forestland Outlook, continued from page 1

market and investment. The land is categorized by a “Sell” versus “Hold” ratio. A value of less than 1 means it is more valuable to keep; more than 1 means it is more profitable to sell.

Over one and one-half million acres of forestland were lost to development last year. Donegan believes that keeping the land in forest is important, but TIMOs are owned by investors, who seek to maintain their profit margins, as opposed to feeding mills, so some forestland will move to higher value uses. To illustrate the effect of the “Sell-Hold” analysis, he pointed out that the Sell-Hold ratio for NE Oregon is 2.75, and Idaho and Montana is much higher. Western Oregon is 1.50. The bottom line is that pressure on timberland (poor prices, regulation, and other factors) drives the Hold value down (thereby increasing the ratio). Less regulation of land use, compensating landowners for their values to the public (such as carbon sequestration, payments for watershed value, wildlife habitat, etc) will drive the Sell value down, thereby making the ratio more favorable to Hold.

Donegan also discussed trends in the timber economy. Decreasing prices (66% of 1980 prices), global market influence, and changes in technology (oriented strand board replacing plywood favors lower quality woods from the south; higher genetic productivity in the south and foreign sources) are having negative effects on Oregon forestland opportunities. However, some of these same trends can have positive effects, along with opportunities for biomass use for energy, and certification to achieve higher values. There is a broader recognition of the value of incentives as opposed to regulation, and of the importance of “ecosystem services” provided by private lands. These trends may increase the value of holding forestland in the future. A key question, though, is how the concept of “additionality” will be factored in. For example, Oregon woodland owners are held to a higher management standard than owners in many other parts of the country. If the monetary payments for ecosystem services are based only on what a landowner provides above that already required by law, Oregon forestland owners may find themselves penalized by the marketplace.

The “triple bottom line” is the key, according to Donegan. The triple bottom line: economic values, social values, and environmental values – should be used to provide a better forestland future for Oregon. He says the three best opportunities are 1) incentives and favorable tax treatment, 2) research and technology to increase production and markets, and 3) carbon sequestration.

Another FSC Sale Planned

Washington County Small Woodlands Association helped seven woodland owners become Forest Stewardship Council certified through its certification group established with an Oregon Economic and Community Development grant several years ago. Several of these owners are members of the Oregon Woodland Co-op. An important goal of the Co-op is bringing added value to the landowners involved. One means of adding value is getting a value-added price for wood products.

Scott Zimmerman, who has an extensive background in lumber marketing, coordinated a sale last spring for several FSC certified landowners in northwest Oregon. The sale of over 300 thousand board feet achieved a premium price (5%) over the commodity market for equivalent grade and quality. According to Scott, "The successful model from last March involved custom cutting the accumulation of several FSC certified landowners log harvests, and utilizing the FSC certification as a marketing mechanism by which the landowner retains control of the manufacturing and marketing. The result is higher monetary benefits to the landowner for FSC certified logs and lumber thus a more equitable sharing of potential profits garnered throughout the supply chain. This can also provide landowner identity to the FSC consumer. The conventional method of selling logs to FSC certified mills in the region is also available as a viable choice that would be afforded by being FSC certified. This activity asks for transparency, where coordination of FSC harvests provides timely volumes of individual landowner's harvests into a single collection of logs. The collected logs provide the needed large and consistent volumes to regional large, medium and small milling facilities. This methodology can assist in raising the value of forest lands to compete with other land-use concerns amongst the many other values that are important to our communities and families."

Scott is anticipating coordinating another sale in the near future. If you are interested in participating in this sale, and you have FSC certification, contact Scott at 503-288-3512. If you are not FSC certified, but are interested in participating, there may be an opportunity to get certification assistance from Washington County Small Woodlands Association, and the Oregon Woodlands Co-op. The use of a certified group manager can significantly reduce certification costs. Contact Tom Nygren at 503-628-5472 for details.

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*State Forester Marvin Brown, in
Oregon Forests Report, 2007-2008*



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Treeboy, continued from page 1

The program begins by defining an analysis tract with one or more stands - groups of trees that are defined for analysis. The more homogenous (species, density, height, diameter) the stands are, the more statistically reliable the analysis will be. Sample plots are then selected throughout the stand, and measurements taken. For each plot, a *tarif* tree is also selected to use in determining the appropriate volume tables to use, based on the average tree's taper and growth form. VARPLOT can be used to calculate volume per acre, basal area per acre, and other information.

Steve demonstrated how the program can be used to estimate *log grade*, based on averages developed from tree diameter and *tarif* value. He pointed out that this can be one of the main values of VARPLOT, because it provides the ability to test different combinations of diameter, length, and *tarif* – and the resulting log grades. This information can be very useful in evaluating purchase quotes obtained from markets and mills –they all base their prices on different log specifications.

VARPLOT is available from OSU Extension, along with “Stand Volume and Growth: Getting the Numbers”, EC1190, which describes procedures for estimating volume.



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Want To Be A Web Wizard?

Well, perhaps that's a stretch. However, you can make an important contribution to your fellow small woodland owners by providing pictures, stories and descriptions of small woodland activities, tree farm tours (including a virtual tour of your tree farm!), and other information for posting on the **WCSWA website**.

If you are interested in contributing to the website, our webmaster, Kathy Scott, can make it easy for you. We are looking for success stories, photos (Kathy can put together the pictorial, all she would need are the pictures and captions), or other information of interest to woodland owners.

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Oregon Woodland Co-op Kick-Off Meeting November 16th

The Oregon Woodland Cooperative (OWC) is hosting a meeting of members and interested or prospective woodland owners on November 16th to present their new business plan, and highlight opportunities for participating in plan activities and projects to benefit members. OWC has just received a \$147,000 USDA Working Capital grant to implement the plan, and is anxious to get members (and new members!) involved in getting the benefits it offers. ***The meeting will begin with a potluck at 6:00 p.m. at the OSU Extension office, Capital Center, 185th and Walker Road in Beaverton. Come and find out if there is an opportunity for you!***

Plan projects discussed will include:

Niche Market and Special Milling – how to get “value-added” for your wood

Equipment Sharing/Rental – You may not need to buy it if you can rent it

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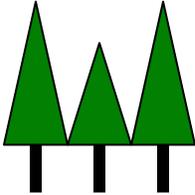
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Forest Forum



COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE
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Potpourri

Welcome To New Members!

Grant, Carol, and Cameron Davis of Cornelius, David and Kevan Hughes, Barbara Jensen, and Charles J. Merten of North Plains, Michael and Gim Deisher of Hillsboro, James and Linda Hertel of Gales Creek, and Ernest and Linda Reiben of Banks have joined OSWA and WCSWA.

We are here to help you achieve your management goals for your woodland. 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! If you have any questions, or need help, contact any of the Directors, Officers, or Newsletter Editor (listed on page 3).

Tall Leader Winners

Mike Heath, Managed Forest Program Manager for Stimson Lumber Company announced the 2007 Tall Leader contest winners at the recent Stimson Annual Harvest Banquet:

1. Mike Jamieson – 72"
2. Bob and Bonnie Shumaker – 63"
3. Dale Thornton – 54"

Tree Farm Community Loss

Don Logan, long-time tree farmer from Washington County, passed away on October 1st. Don was well known to the tree farm community, and his Dixie Mountain tree farm was a major contributor to forest product and Christmas tree enterprises. Don and his wife Elaine purchased the tree farm in 1958, and by 1969 had earned the honor of Oregon tree Farmer of the Year. Their two sons, Dan and Dave, are also successful tree farmers.

Don's presence at small woodland events and contributions to the success of the tree farming community will be greatly missed.