

Forest Forum

Washington County Small
Woodlands Association

December, 2007

“Tall Timbers”, WCSWA Awards Announced At Annual Meeting

OSWA announces the Riggins’ Slinger Award each year at its annual meeting to a worthy member who has gone above and beyond the call to enhance OSWA. The Board of Directors of WCSWA decided our county chapter needed a like award. Committee members Bob and Bonnie Shumaker and Dallas Boge decided that since an award of this kind is long overdue, this first year we would give three awards, all for different areas of service. The awards consist of a tree wall hanging carved by “Bear” with a plaque acknowledging the recipient’s service. The 2007 Tall Timber Awards were presented at WCSWA’s Annual Banquet and the winners and plaque inscriptions are as follows:

“Wendell Walker, for his years of service in building up WCSWA.” Wendell served many years as treasurer and is currently a board member. When Wendell started with WCSWA, the treasury was bleak; now it is solvent. He started our Seedling Sale as a service to members and as a fund raiser. The apple cooler on Wendell’s tree farm enables us to store seedlings so that members can collect

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Shumakers Earn TFOY Honor



Bob and Bonnie Shumaker, of Cedar Canyon Road seven miles west of Banks, were announced as the 2007 Tree Farmers of the Year for Washington County during the WCSWA Annual Banquet on November 16th. The Shumakers purchased their farm (not yet a tree farm) in 1977. The gradual transition to a tree farm occurred over many years, as did the growth of Bob and Bonnie as tree farmers. As he has done in the past, Tree Farm selection committee chairman Mike Heath presented the Shumakers with a beautiful carved wooden sign announcing both their tree farm and the honor it has earned. Bob currently serves as treasurer of WCSWA and chair of the seedling committee. Bonnie writes the monthly “Tree Talk” column in “Forest Forum” and chairs the Native Plant Sale committee.

The story of the development of Cedar Canyon Tree Farm, and the making of tree farmers Bob and Bonnie, is best told by Bonnie:

“When we purchased our first forty acres seven miles west of Banks in 1977, we called our farm “Canyon Meadow Farm”. Its steep grassy hillsides called for raising sheep and we sank our energies into

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Notes from the President

by Dallas Boge

December finds those of us who grow Christmas trees busy harvesting, although by the time you read this, most of the work is done (I hope). Sharon and I have limited ourselves to you-cut harvesting for many years now. With our small land base, we cannot compete with the big growers, so we don't.

Over the past twenty or so years one of our daughters has built up a busy business making Christmas wreaths. The wreaths require a lot of base material, namely Noble fir. Since we have many very overgrown Noble fir trees, we have for years furnished most of her needs. This in turn keeps us very busy for about six weeks each year. This process has allowed us to remove a number of the large Noble firs to convert the boughs to wreath material and the stems to firewood, which we pile in the field until it is dry in the summer. We then gather it (now much lighter), split it and sell it for firewood.

Since tax time starts again in January, we like to replant before the end of the year. Our seedlings are due to arrive about the time you read this. It usually takes us a week or two to get them all planted. Since we didn't do any logging this year, we need to only replace the Christmas trees cut or expired from the recent dry summer.

Every year the American Tree Farm System holds its annual convention somewhere in the United States. Most of the time, they are in the Midwest or the east coast. In 2008, the convention is coming to Portland. The dates are October 16 thru 19. The field day will be held at Anne and Richard Honschu's Little Beaver Tree Farm in the Gales Creek valley. The planners expect 400 to 600 to attend. This will require many volunteers to help with all sorts of tasks. I have committed our chapter to furnishing many volunteers to make this event a success. This message is an advanced "heads up" because you will see a sign-up sheet at a future meeting when tasks are better defined.

It has been an interesting year. We have seen the housing market dry up, causing log prices to plummet to unhealthy levels. On the positive side, at least the trees keep growing if they are not cut.

At this ending of the year, I wish to thank all of you who make this chapter what it is, a vibrant and healthy organization. May the blessings of the season be upon you and all your kin, and may you all have a happy new year.

Dallas

Handy Aids for the Tree Farmer

Have you ever wondered how trees there would be in an acre if you planted at an 8' by 10' spacing? How about at 11' by 12'? Or, what the radius of a 1/10th acre plot is? Or... the list goes on. Atterbury Consultants, Inc. has offered some valuable forestry aids online at no cost. They are in the process of developing a new field book with this information and more, and until the book is available, they are providing a lot of the information in an on-line format. Some of the field aids offered are:

- * Basal area * Equivalent table * Fixed area plot sizes * Map scale * Pacing
- * Plot grids * Scribner volume table * Scribner volume by dia. * Section map
- * Stems/acre by BF & dia. * Strip cruise % & blow-up * Trees per acre

Web link: www.atterbury.com, and click on "Free Field Aids"

WCSWA Leadership

President – Dallas Boge; 503-357-7688
Vice-President – Mel Mortensen; 503-647-0804
Secretary-Treasurer – Bob Shumaker; 503-324-7825
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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

- 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.
- July** **26 Washington County Tree Farmer of the Year Tour** – Bob and Bonnie Shumaker are the hosts and 2007 Tree Farmers of the Year.
- October 16-19** **Annual American Tree Farm System Meeting – Portland, Oregon**

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Wendell Walker
accepts Tall Timber
award – WCSWA
Banquet



April Olbrich accepts Tall
Timber Award from
Bonnie and Bob
Shumaker, WCSWA
Banquest

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Tree Talk

by Bonnie Shumaker

If trees could talk, they'd definitely say, "Thanks, we're honored", as Bob and I did after receiving the Washington County Tree Farmer of the Year award for 2007 at WCSWA's Awards Banquet. It makes us regard our forest in a slightly awed manner now that our passion for the forest has been recognized with this award. We're mulling over ideas for the Tree Farmer of the Year picnic next summer that we hope many of you can attend. When you get your 2008 calendars, we hope you'll mark Saturday, July 26, and come to the picnic at our place.

In this season of dormancy for our trees, we've started pruning again. In fact, we finished one two acre stand that got its first pruning this year. The first pruning is the hardest with a lot of hands and knee work burrowing through the branches to get to the trunk. Bob discovered two yellow jacket nests, thankfully before they discovered him. One was huge, so eliminating it may bring fewer of the striped beasties next summer. The next stand we'll prune is a level area in the "South 40". The "South 40" is a 40 acre stand that we bought as a clear-cut in 1997. It was all planted in 1998, but as it matures, we plan to divide it into several stands with varied thinning and harvest dates so that it has a more patchwork effect allowing for smaller clear-cuts when it is time. There are steeper slopes around the creek that may grow nice poles and not need thinning. There is at least three to four other areas separated by the logging road that can be thinned more easily, some we'll prune, and some not. Of course we recognize these trees are young and we're old (in tree years), so a generation or two down the road will have the excitement of actually carrying out most of the plan. Right now at age nine, very few of the trees have even graduated from sapling to tree (7 inch d.b.h. being the magic number), but they're getting close.

The much anticipated first snow hit our place last week with three inches of the gorgeous white stuff. The grandkids came home from school and before it got dark, they quickly built a huge snowman, which we were called out to admire. Later that evening, Bob was returning from the garage with an armload of firewood when he slipped on the snow and broke a bone in his foot! He's laid up for a few weeks, so our pruning plans may be scaled back this year. He has always been a fast healer, so we're expecting him to be "back on both feet" in no time. The biggest challenge of this event has been mastering the art of using crutches.

The trees may be dormant, but other work Bob and I have accepted is heating up. As chair of the seedling committee, Bob has received orders for almost all the trees grown for WCSWA from Vernonia elite seeds at Lewis River Reforestation in Woodland, WA. Depending on the weather, these seedlings will be available sometime between the middle of January and the middle of February. I am chair of the Native Plant Sale and we have already had a meeting of the planning committee. By the time you read this, the plants for the sale will be ordered. Right after the first of the year, activity speeds up on reserving the space and the tent, followed by that most important work - publicity. The sale will be held on Saturday, March 15th and any way you can get the word out is appreciated. If you have ideas or would like to help with the planning or at the sale, be sure to call me at (503)324-7825.

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Science Findings, Sept. 2007. quote from article by Jonathan Thompson

"Between trees and man there is a rift in the perception of time, and forest managers have no choice but to yield to the pace of the trees." "This can make innovations in forest management difficult to evaluate. Nonetheless, innovation is key to meeting society's changing expectations. It is not just timber anymore. Biodiversity, recreation, aesthetics, and clean water all share top billing with a sustainable crop of timber. And although novel silvicultural strategies are being promoted to meet these complex demands, without the benefit of time, it is difficult to know exactly how well they will achieve their goals."



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See pictures, page 5

them when the weather and planting crew are ready. Without Wendell's determined efforts and willingness to tackle any job, WCSWA would not be the vibrant chapter it is today. Thank you, Wendell

"April Olbrich, for community support of the mission of WCSWA." April is the coordinator for the Tualatin River Watershed Council. She attends many of our functions and is the go-to person for finding contacts in the natural resource area. She is a great liaison when working on or finding funding for a project or researching volunteer possibilities. Thank you, April

"Tom Nygren, for his visions in advancing WCSWA." Tom's visions launched the publication "A Green Tapestry" funded by a grant obtained by Tom. The publication summarizes a survey WCSWA undertook of small woodland owners so we can know more about their needs and desires. Another grant allowed group certification and help with inventory and management planning. Tom is the editor of "The Forest Forum, our monthly newsletter which helps to educate members as well as keep them up to date on happenings. Tom helps bring woodland perspective to outside agencies as well. Thank you, Tom

TFOY, continued from page 1

learning their wooly ways. At the same time, the five acre patch of logged over brush in the NE corner called for fixing and through a cost share in 1980, we inexpertly planted seedlings. The ten years it took for the trees to conquer the wild sweet pea vines let us know there was more to learn. In 1996 when we began afforestation of the steepest pastures, we found that grass can be even crueler to seedlings than brush and improved brush control entered our knowledge base."

"In 1997 we had the opportunity to purchase an adjoining forty acres to the south which had just been clear cut, and we took on the responsibility of replanting. This was the deciding factor in the direction that our continuing education would take. We joined OSWA and WCSWA and with the mentorship, encouragement and wealth of experience members of these groups offered, we started a sharp learning and volunteering curve. "

"Retirement in 2000 gave us time and inclination for learning more and we served as co-presidents of WCSWA for four years. We also joined the Master Woodland Manager class of 2002 in Yamhill County which brought us more knowledge and confidence that we could improve our farm and help others as well. The sheep are now gone and all but five acres have been planted to forest. Trees have become our passion for the present and the future. Most of

continued on next page

our forest is young and it excites us that the next generation in our family shares our enthusiasm. We would love for them to carry on with its stewardship. We also have plans for the "South 40" to be thinned and harvested in varying stands rather than in the forty acre block in which it was planted. There is always more to learn and share, and we try to keep abreast and involved in local, state and national issues involving forests."

History of the Christmas Tree

Chal Landgren, Oregon State University, Extension Forester and Staff Chair, Washington (503.725.2102) and Columbia Counties (503.397.3462)

Historians love to trace traditions back to some point of beginning. For those who study such beginnings, the "American" Christmas tree tradition seems to have begun, as so many traditions, with immigrants. In this case, German settlers in Pennsylvania, Michigan and Illinois seem to have brought the tradition from Europe. During the Revolutionary War, the British purchased the services of 30,000 German mercenary soldiers from 1776-1782 for \$150,000, all of which went into the coffers of the German princes. These troops were called Hessians and around 4800 remained in the America after the war. Early written accounts of Christmas trees show up in 1781 in Montreal and in 1804 in Fort Dearborn, now Chicago, Ill.

Yet the tradition has much older roots than these. Martin Luther is often credited with starting the tradition of using lights (candles) on trees. As the story goes, these lights represent the night sky at Christmas. Estonians claim to have displayed evergreen Christmas trees since 1441. An evergreen tree was decorated on Christmas Eve in Riga, Latvia, 1510. "No burgher shall have for Christmas more than one bush of more than eight shoes' length," Forest Ordinance of Ammerschweier, Alsace, 1561. Clearly Christmas vegetation, probably decorated, was being put in homes by this time. First recorded tree referred to as a Christmas tree was at Strasbourg, Alsace, in 1604. It was called a "Paradise Tree ". Christmas trees were common throughout Germany, from Alsace-Lorraine area, by early 19th century. (Swartz, B.K.)

By the beginning of the 1800's the tree tradition was an accepted custom in Scandinavia, Great Britain, and much of Europe. In Communist Russia Christmas trees were banned or called "New Years Trees". Christmas Trees were also part of the tradition in The Eastern Orthodox church, though the timing of display is different as the Julian calendar is 13 days "behind" the Gregorian calendar.

It may be the British royalty that really got the tradition moving ahead. In 1848, Queen Victoria's husband Prince Albert (a German) had a 4-foot tree at Windsor Castle. The illustration of the tree appeared in the U.S. in and number of illustrated magazines. By 1851 a commercial market for trees was open in New York City by Mark Carr. There was a Christmas tree in the White House of President Franklin Pierce in 1856. Calvin Coolidge started the annual lighting of the Christmas tree at the White House with a tree from his native state of Vermont.

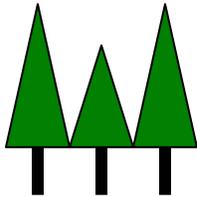
This year somewhere around 35 million American homes will have a live tree.

Adapted from - The origin of American Christmas Tree Myths and Customs by B.K. Schwartz- (<http://www.bsu.edu/web/01bkswartz/xmaspub.html>). Christmas Trees- the tradition and the trade. Agricultural Information, Bull. #94 by A.M. Sowder 1957.

Washington County Small Woodlands Association
Newsletter Editor
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COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE
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Potpourri

Carbon Markets are big news nationally – and organizations such as American Tree Farm System, public forestry organizations, Ecotrust, and others are working to earn carbon mitigation payments for their lands. The question comes up frequently – will this mean that no or little harvest will be allowed in order to qualify for the credits?

Recent research in New Hampshire explores the tradeoff between resource extraction and net carbon sequestration in managing representative timber stands in the state of New Hampshire in the northeastern United States. In the absence of policies to promote forest carbon storage, land owners have incentives to employ clear-cut harvesting regimes with relatively short rotation periods. Under conservative assumptions regarding the social benefits of carbon storage, optimal rotation periods are extended by between 16 and 133 years depending on the forest type under consideration. If policy-makers pursued a cost-effective strategy to stabilize atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations at twice the pre-industrial norm, optimal rotation periods would be extended by a full 180-347 years. The analysis suggests that partial harvesting regimes (in which approximately 35% of timber volume is removed at 15-year intervals after the timber stand reaches an initial age of 45 years) provide relatively high net benefits under a variety of circumstances. This finding is relevant because partial harvesting is an accepted and relatively common practice that could be adopted more widely.

From an abstract of research by Gutrich, J. - Howarth, R.B., and published in *Ecological Economics*. 2007; 62(3/4): 441-450