

Forest Forum

Washington County Small
Woodlands Association

May, 2007

WCSWA Awards Two Scholarships

This is the first year that WCSWA has awarded college scholarships directly to applicants. Two \$1,000 scholarships were offered for students sponsored by WCSWA members. Four applications were received, all from worthy individuals.

The WCSWA Scholarship Award committee selected two of the four students to receive the scholarships: **Amanda Jones**, sponsored by Tom Nygren; and **Joshua Howell**, sponsored by Richard and Anne Hanschu. Both students will attend our summer Tree Farmer of the Year Picnic and/or the Annual Awards Banquet in November, so you will get a chance to meet them.

Amanda attends Seattle Pacific University majoring in Psychology with a career interest in criminal justice. Joshua attends Oregon State University majoring in Animal Science with options in Beef and Equine Productions with a career interest in this field or possibly law enforcement.

Congratulations to both of these fine young people!

Magness Tree Farm Tour and Potluck

The May 22nd meeting of the WCSWA will be held at the Magness Tree Farm. The tree farm was established as a "living exhibit" by the World Forestry Center to provide visitors with an understanding of forest ecology and sustainable forest management practices appropriate for small woodlands.

Land for this unique farm was donated by local residents Howard and Panzy Magness in 1977 with later additions donated by the Robert Heater family. The farm is certified by the American Tree Farm System.

The tree farm will be open for WCSWA members at 4:30 PM. This will be a "potluck" meeting - bring your favorite dish and we'll hope to get a variety of salads, main dishes, desserts, and other meal complements. If you plan to bring enough for yourself and two to three others, we should have enough!

Rick Zenn, Educational Director for the World Forestry Center, will be our host. Many of you will remember Rick's tour of the "new" World Forestry Center Museum. Rick will start the meeting at 5 PM with his usual warm welcome and briefing on the tree farm's revised 20 year management plan.

Dinner will be from 5:30 to 6:30 PM. If the weather permits we can use an outdoor picnic shelter or if we have "normal" Oregon weather we can eat indoors with the comfort of a wood stove. A kitchen with a microwave is available.

At 6:30 PM we will be offered the option of a short tour along the hard surfaced Nagle Trail (1/2 miles) or the long tour on the Woods Trail (2 miles). Rick will provide refreshments for us after the tour. Rain gear may be appropriate.

This will be a fun and informative meeting. See you there!

Directions to the Magness Tree Farm on the next page

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Notes from the President

by Dallas Boge

Last January, Sharon and I attended a one day seminar on fertilization of Christmas trees in Salem. It was organized by several of the extension agents in northwest Oregon, with the help of several of the fertilizer vendors.

Our take-away message from this was the importance of monitoring the nutrient level in Christmas trees, the emphasis being placed on Noble fir. Our seven acres of Christmas trees have been in continuous cultivation for almost 45 years. We began to notice about 25 years ago that the color of foliage was not up to expectations. At that time we began fertilizing every few years with the result that the expected color returned. We have used a mix of ammonium sulphate and urea to provide the desired color. All of this was done using visual measurements, no other testing was done.

Trees require more than just nitrogen to grow well, but that was what we gave them primarily. We learned in class that the ideal time to take needle samples for nutrient level is in March. While I was busy preparing taxes, Sharon spent a long morning collecting a large sample of needles from our Noble firs. These were sent away for analysis while we waited for the results to come back. We like to celebrate the end of tax season (yes, it has a federally defined time) by applying our yearly quota of fertilizer. The past had us applying one ton of fertilizer to our seven acres. The mix was three quarters urea and one quarter ammonium sulphate.

The time for the sample results to come back arrived and to our surprise, the nutrient levels were in the mid to high range, including the minor elements. It cost us \$100 to attend the seminar and about \$50 to have the analysis done, but we were spending \$450 on fertilizer every year. I think we came out ahead. We also now have a benchmark of fertility for our plantation.

For those of you who do not raise Christmas trees and have stuck with me so far, it might be prudent to do something similar to your timber trees, if they are not growing to your expectations.

Here in Gales Creek it is early May and many of the Douglas fir trees are beginning their annual growth cycle. Some of the young seedlings had a difficult time late this winter, with the quick switches the temperature made. Hopefully, the summer will have enough moisture to help these thru their first growing season.

We hear the roar of chain saws and growl of skidders as the windstorm damage from last December is cleaned up. That's all for now.

Dallas

Directions to World Forestry Center's Magness Memorial Tree Farm

From I-5:

Take I-5 to exit 283. Turn west on Wilsonville Road Drive four miles to Ladd Hill Road.

Turn right and travel 1.3 miles up hill to intersection of SW Ladd Hill Road. Turn right at stop sign on Ladd Hill Road. Travel 1/2 mile down the hill to tree farm entrance located just beyond intersection of Heater Road.

From Newberg: Take Hwy. 219 1.3 miles south to Wilsonville Road. Left on Wilsonville Road 6.5 miles to Ladd Hill Road. Turn left on Ladd Hill Road. Follow above from there.

Parking is VERY limited. Please carpool whenever possible.

WCSWA Leadership

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Ron Larson; 503-775-3223

WCSWA Website

www.homestead.com/WashCntyOSWA/

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. Contact Tom Nygren, 503-628-5472. 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)

For Sale: Shindaiwa brush cutter C-35 with 8 inch circular chain saw teeth blade. Will cut scotch broom and vine maple up to 3 inches in diameter. Comes with shoulder harness. Re-built carburetor, new fuel line and filter, and cutter head guard. Runs good. Replacement cost \$499; my price to you \$325. John Helmer, 503.222.4614

For Sale: Utility Poles, new, treated and ready to put into the ground. Two 45 foot poles and two 40 foot poles. Asking price is \$250.00 each. Call 503-357-2551, or e-mail at netvetrdh@gmail.com

For Sale: Portable sawmill - custom, horizontal band mill. Good working order. \$3,400 OBO. Contact Peter Hayes 503-241-6479

Wanted: Used Farmi - or Farmi-style, logging winch. Contact Peter Hayes, 503-241-6479

Wanted: Stihl chainsaw, Model 036/360 or larger. Will consider any and all. Also need parts for two of our older ones that accidentally got in the way of the truck! Call Don or Steve at 503-357-2942.

Event Calendar

May	22 WCSWA Monthly Meeting Monthly – Magness Tree Farm Potluck. See page 1. 19 Conservation Forestry: Managing Oak Habitats for Wildlife and a Sustainable Future – 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Cooke Family Forest, Yamhill Co. Contact Mike Barsotti 503.945.7385, or www.conservationforestry.org
June	19 Van Loo Sawmill tour – 5:30 p.m., Banks area. Details in June newsletter. 22-23 Pacific Northwest Christmas Tree Association Summer Meeting and Tour Embassy Suites, Portland Airport. Contact PNWCTA at 503.364.2942 for information
July	28 WCSWA Tree Farmer of the Year tour , at the Dirk and Liz Jacobs tree farm, in the Gales Creek area. Details will follow in a later issue.
August	18 Tree Farm Tour, Jim Brown's tree farm near the Washington-Yamhill County border
September	15 Log Scaling and Bucking – Common Mistakes – Log roll-out at Stimson Mill, with instruction by Tom St. Laurent of Yamhill Scaling Bureau. 9:30 a.m.
October	23 WCSWA Monthly Meeting – VARPLOT, timber cruising software – Steve Bowers, the "Tree Man".
November	13 WCSWA Annual Meeting - speaker, Martin Goebel, president of Sustainable Northwest

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Sharing Success Stories in the Gales Creek Watershed

The Gales Creek Watershed Conference (April 6-7) was a good event for story telling and story sharing. Over 65 people shared stories about how their actions improve watershed conditions in the local Gales Creek and larger Tualatin River watersheds. Will Hornyak, a local storyteller, reminded the *Celebrating Successes, Finding Solutions* conference attendees about how working together and each person speaking up can collectively make a big difference in watershed health.

The Tualatin River Watershed Council, its partners and conference sponsors presented the Friday evening and Saturday day long conference focusing on the Gales Creek sub-basin. April Olbrich, the Council coordinator, said, "Many Gales Creek residents are concerned about watershed health and that is reflected in their practices and actions. From our story sharing, I learned about perma-culture farm practices, organic forestry practices and weed control, and how fish can now access Bateman Creek because two fish-passage barriers were removed and bridges installed. We are all learning from one another."

For information on the conference and future watershed events and volunteering opportunities contact April Olbrich at trwc@easystreet.com or visit the website www.trwc.org

Washington County Small Woodlands was a sponsor of the Conference, and had an exhibit. About a dozen members also attended.



One of the four field trip groups explores a restoration site along Gales Creek as part of the Gales Creek Watershed Conference. Paul Sansone, Tom McCall MS students, Madi Vanderzanden and Bailey Turpin, teacher Charlie Graham, Richard and Anne Hanschu, and Ted Delamarter are shown looking at the Rippling Waters site on Gales Creek.

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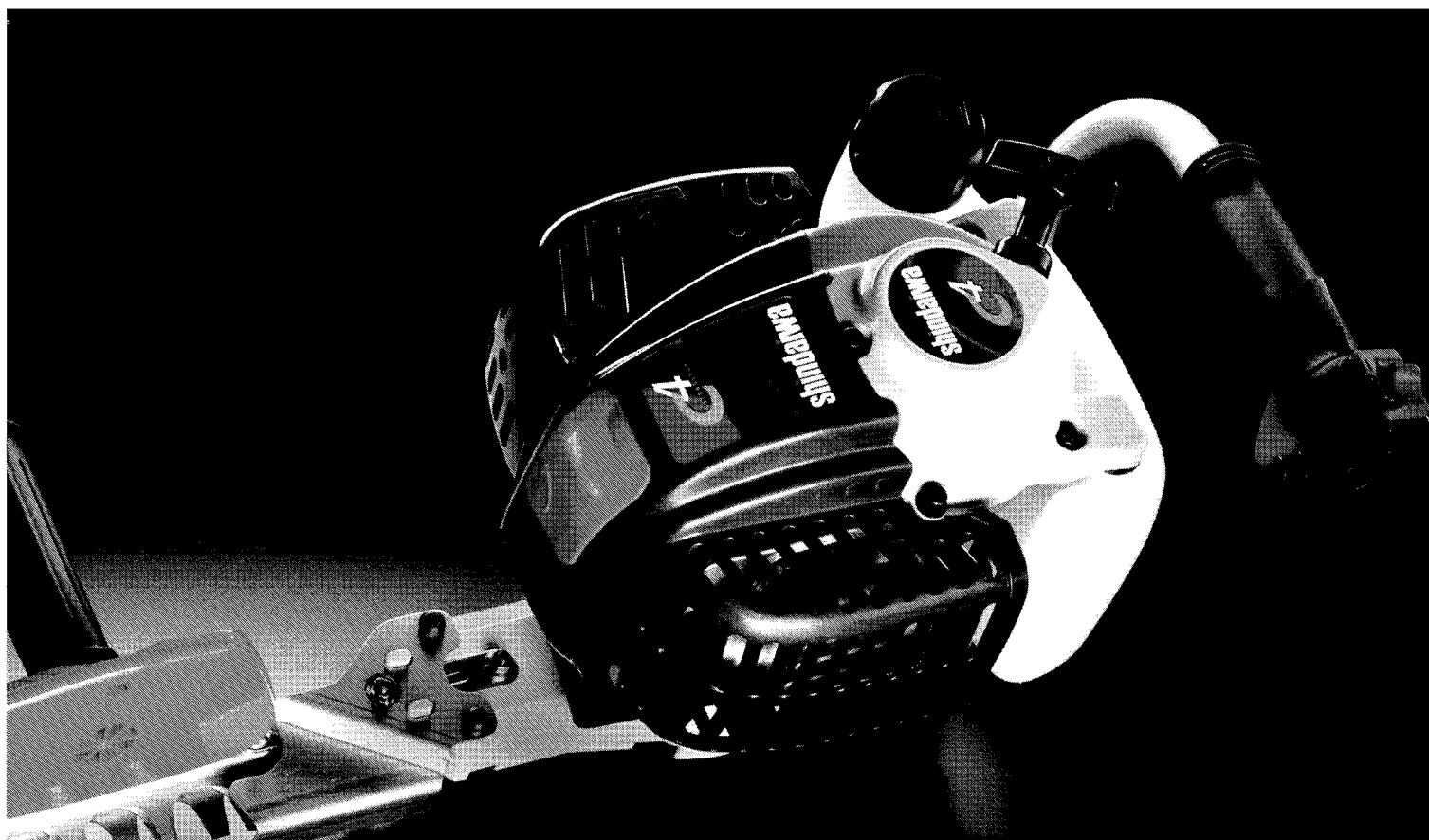
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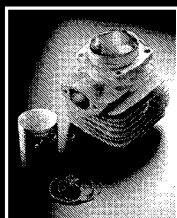
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Tree Talk

by Bonnie Shumaker

A sometimes focus of this column is an interview with a WCSWA tree farmer. This month, Elouise Binns and I “talked trees” at her tree farm just west of Scholls.

Bonnie: Could you give us a short history of your tree farm

Elouise: When I moved here in 1988, this almost 10 acres was a filbert farm that was suffering from Eastern filbert blight. I had someone dig out most of the diseased trees and had even purchased new varieties that were disease resistant, although none are immune. Then I decided, “I’m going to build me a woods”. When my children were growing, we lived on fourteen acres in Pennsylvania that was mostly wooded, and at the top of the property was public land that included part of the Appalachian Trail. It was a wonderful place to live.

Bonnie: How did you find out about building your woods?

Elouise: I got in touch with OSU Extension and Chal Landgren who gave me a list of tree nurseries and told me about OSWA. My first trees were Douglas fir from Brooks Nursery. It was late in the season and the trees were three feet tall when I planted them. They have grown well.

Bonnie: Tell us more about building your woods.

Elouise: I love Madrone and planted 100’s of seeds – I got 10 trees. Then many more volunteered. I planted lots of varieties of evergreen and deciduous trees. 90-95% of the trees are natives. My eastern view of Mt. Hood is all planted in deciduous trees to preserve the view. I dug out the filberts on the more level part of the acreage, but on the steeper slope, I just had them cut down to prevent erosion. I’m still fighting suckers from those filberts.

Bonnie: You have been very helpful at the WCSWA Plant Sale. Can you tell us about your horticultural training?

Elouise: In my 50’s, I took horticulture classes at Temple University working toward an Associate Degree.

Bonnie: You have told me before about an internship you had at an arboretum. Would you share that experience with Forest Forum readers?

Elouise: It was the best year ever. After my classes at Temple U, I was an intern for a year at the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. It was seven 20 and 30 year-olds and me. The arboretum is over 100 acres and is divided into different sections. I started out on the farm. Here I learned how to drive a tractor and climb a tree using a harness and hard hat which I did just once. Then I spent time in the English Garden, greenhouse and Oak Allee. We visited gardens all over the Philadelphia area. The second half of the year, we each had our own project. Mine was “Hill and Cloud” a Japanese garden. I researched the original design work and was able to make improvements including getting the water flowing again.

Bonnie: Your woods remind me of an arboretum. What are your future plans?

Elouise: I’m finishing my management plan and will take the Master Woodland Manager class this spring. I’ve been investigating Conservation Easements with Three Rivers Conservancy. I’m still not sure how I want the easement to conserve these few acres. I know I want to do what’s best for the land and my neighbors. This may easily include selective logging sometime down the road.

Eloise and I then took a walk between spring showers. She showed me one of her giant sequoia (*Sequoiadendron*) which is ten years old and growing by leaps and bounds. She opened my eyes as to how even on this young sequoia the bark is so beautiful, including on the branches. It was an afternoon well spent with a woman who truly loves the woods she helped build.

Getting Recognized For The Other Things We Grow

Bobby Cochran, Clean Water Services; Denise Pranger, Northwest Natural Resource Group; and Jayne Cronlund, Three Rivers Land Conservancy

Forest and farm landowners have known for a long time their lands produce clear, clean water, habitat for fish and wildlife, and places people can enjoy. Now, other people have lumped these long-time values under the heading of "ecosystem services" and are working on mechanisms to pay landowners who provide them.

These people include developers who impact wetlands, wastewater treatment plants whose discharge is too warm, companies who want to say their operations are carbon-neutral, and a rapidly growing number of others. Often mechanisms are couched within market-like terms. Landowners go above and beyond what they have to do to create environmental benefits and are awarded credits. These credits can be sold in a market to organizations who can't quite meet their requirements or who want to voluntarily offset their impacts. Current markets exist in Oregon for water quality, wetlands, and carbon sequestration. The costs of getting the information and paperwork together to certify credits, find potential buyers, and maintain environmental benefits can be difficult for many landowners. There are groups working throughout the Northwest to lower these barriers of entry for interested landowners. Their challenge is finding interested landowners. This article is a test balloon of sorts to find those interested people.

Clean Water Services is a wastewater and stormwater utility serving urban Washington County, but we realized some time ago that it made sense to invest resources in the ecosystem services provided by rural landowners rather than sole investments in concrete and steel solutions to improving water quality, restoring salmon runs, or supplying water. Clean Water Services launched the Enhanced Conservation Reserve Program for farmers in partnership with the Farm Services Agency, the Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District, and others to pay farmers to restore riparian habitat to increase shade. Groups like the Northwest Natural Resource Group (www.nnrg.org) are exploring how to assist forest landowners in accessing growing carbon markets and receiving recognition for exemplary forest management certified by the international Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). Three Rivers Land Conservancy (www.trlc.org) works with landowners to explore options for protecting the conservation value of their lands.

See "Getting Recognition", on page 9

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Getting Recognition, from page 8

Conservation easements are a tool that can provide long term protection of forest, riparian areas, and open space, particularly after an investment has been made in these resources. There are also new (and potentially expiring) tax benefits for donating conservation easements. Landowners can now deduct the value of a donation up to 50% of their adjusted gross income per year, up from the previous ceiling of 30%. That means if your adjusted gross income is \$100,000, you are now eligible for as much as a \$50,000 tax deduction a year, instead of \$30,000. And if your income is too low to deduct the full amount of your gift in one year, you can now carry forward the deduction for 15 additional years, up from five years previously. The benefits are due to expire December 31, 2007 unless the law is extended.

All of these opportunities combine to give landowners new short-term and long-term options to get recognition for the other things they grow like clean water, habitat, clean air, and open space. If you and others are interested in learning more, please contact Tom Nygren, and we can explore options of a workshop or information session. Thanks!

Interested In Tapping Those Maples?

We are all familiar with the maple syrup we know comes from New England. But, what potential is there to tap our home-grown Oregon Big-leaf maple for syrup? It has been done, but is not widely known. There is a growing effort to do so on Vancouver Island, B.C. Deirdre Bruce, a University of Victoria graduate student, is leading research and development support to help advance this emerging industry with university, government, industry and First Nations partners.

Are you interested in pursuing this idea? If you are, contact Tom Nygren, 503-628-5472, tnygren@juno.com, and let him know. Oregon Wood Innovation Center and the Institute for Culture and Ecology are also interested, and an exploratory group may be formed.



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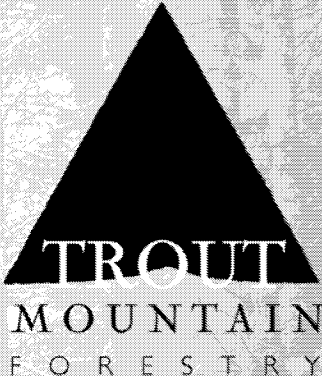
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Chip Shortage in Northwest

Numerous mills in the Pacific Northwest were reported running out of chips in late spring, according to the trade journal, *Pulp and Paper*, March 2007. The shortage was due to the collapse in U.S. panel and lumber prices, resulting in the curtailment of mill residues. Chip inventories had plunged 60% over the last 18 months, but recovered slightly by the end of 2006.



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1st Qtr Log Prices – NW Oregon and Willamette **(Oregon Dept. of Forestry)**

Douglas-fir:

2 Saw	\$610/mbf
3 Saw	570
(5-7")	555
(8-11")	585
4 Saw	555

Western red cedar:

2 Saw	\$1150*
3 Saw	1150*
4 Saw	1150*
Wormy	350*

Red alder:

2 Saw (12"+)	\$945*
3 Saw (10-11")	895*
4 Saw (8-9")	830*
Pulp/Utility	385*

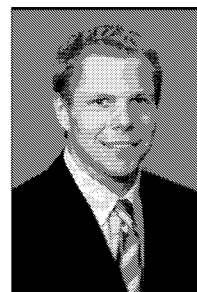
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Extension Leader Shares Thoughts

Jim Johnson, Associate Dean and Program Leader for Forestry Extension, spoke to WCSWA members at their April meeting. He shared his thoughts about the differences between forestry issues in Virginia – where he came from (Virginia Tech) – and Oregon – his new home. He has 2 children currently attending Virginia Tech – and was very thankful they were not directly involved in the recent tragedy there.

Jim described his first Oregon experience - participating in 1972 as a forestry student in the western forestry student conclave, a competition of forestry skills. The conclave that year was held at OSU's Peavy Arboreteum. Little did he realize he would be back as an OSU forestry dean in 2007 – 35 years later!



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The "Bigs" Are Getting Into Bio Energy From Cellulose

Oil major Chevron Corp. and timber outfit Weyerhaeuser Co. on Thursday said they will look into jointly commercializing the production of biofuels from cellulose, the basic material of all green plants. The companies said they will focus on researching and developing technology to convert wood fiber and other sources of cellulose into clean-burning biofuels for cars and trucks.

Weyerhaeuser would supply materials from its forest plantations and mills; Chevron would provide product engineering and fuel manufacturing and distribution. The companies have signed a letter of intent to "assess the feasibility" of commercializing biofuels from cellulose. Financial terms were not disclosed.

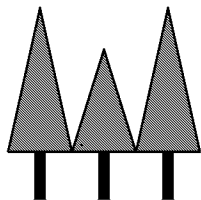
The process to produce ethanol and other biofuels from cellulose has yet to be commercialized, but the idea represents a potential alternative to making biofuels from food sources, such as ethanol from corn.

Demand for corn from ethanol producers in the U.S. has contributed to a near doubling in corn prices and has raised debate about what part of the nation's crop should go toward fuel versus food. (*Associated Press, April 12, 2007*)

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Forest Forum



COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE
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Potpourri

WCSWA Awards The Board of Directors has decided to institute a set of awards to recognize the people or organizations that have made significant contributions to WCSWA. Two types of awards would be considered: one to partners or cooperators who have been important to WCSWA programs and events, and one to recognize WCSWA members who have made significant contributions to WCSWA through their leadership, time, and energy over the years. These awards would be recommended by an Awards Committee, for final decision by the Board. The awards would not necessarily be given every year. Awards would be presented at the annual WCSWA Banquet.

Awards Committee members needed! If you would like to participate on the Awards Committee, please let Bonnie Shumaker know (503.324.7825). The Committee will determine if there are appropriate candidates for awards at the annual WCSWA Banquet in November.

WOW Events The Women Owning Woodlands Network has scheduled some events "in the neighborhood" of Washington County in May and June. On May 14th in Polk-Yamhill County, "Tools 101" will provide instruction in the use of a compass, clinometer, increment borer, and other tools. Contact Sarah Duemling at 503.585.6380 (pollicino@igc.org) if you are interested. On June 21st, Native Plant and Tree ID will be the topic of instruction. This event will be held at the Hopkins Demonstration Tree Farm in Clackamas County. Nicole Strong is the contact, at 541.766.3552 (Nicole.strong@oregonstate.edu).

Interesting Etymologies of Forestry Terms "Forests and Chases in England and Wales, c. 1500 to c. 1850 - A Glossary of Terms and Definitions". <http://info.sjc.ox.ac.uk/forests/glossary.htm>