

Forest Forum

Washington County Small
Woodlands Association

August, 2007

Jacobs TFOY Tour: Diverse Owner Management Goals



The annual Tree Farmer of the Year (TFOY) Tour gives WCSWA members and others interested in outstanding tree farm management a chance to see what their peers are doing on their tree farm. The 2006 Tree Farmers of the Year, Dirk and Liz Jacobs were this year's tour hosts. They treated a large gathering of local tree farmers to some very interesting presentations and demonstrations at their tree farm on Shearer's Hill Road in the Gales Creek area. *See "TFOY", page 10*

IN THIS ISSUE

Page 2	President's Notes
Page 3	Events
Page 5	WCSWA Board Meeting
Page 7	Tree Talk
Page 11	Tree Farmer of the Year Photos

Next WCSWA Tour – August 18th, Jim Brown Tree Farm

The August WCSWA tree farm tour will take place on the Jim Brown tree farm west of Cove Orchard. Jim has shared his adventures as a tree farmer with us over the years – now we get to see it!

(Rather than write up a bland article, I thought you'd like to hear about the tour in Jim's own inimitable words – following. Ed.)

"Start time is 9 a.m. to beat the heat, if necessary. Coffee-and tea will be available, (along with restroom facilities, complete with hand washing!)."

"The address of the farm is 24555 N.W. Russell Creek Road. To get there, travel south on Highway 47 through Gaston. About 6 miles south of Gaston is Cove Orchard. There is a sign warning drivers they are in Cove Orchard. The next road to the right past the sign is Lincoln Avenue. Turn right (west) on Lincoln. Turn right (north) onto Russell Creek Road at the end of Lincoln Avenue. My green double farm-gate is about a half mile past the end of the blacktop on the left. The address is on the gate. If you get lost, call my cell, 503-320-7236."

"Examples of good and bad results of my 35 years of managing this property will be shared. There will be a demonstration of operating a Farmi winch, hopefully without incident. The famous water barrels will be on display, and we'll have a look at the 2003 re-plant which benefited from the barrels. Most of my forest is 50 to 60-year-old trees, with some areas untouched for the last 25 years. The farm is NOT park-like; more like wilderness. *see "Brown Tour", page 2*

Notes from the President

by Dallas Boge

Our experience with plug seedlings still looks good. The small quantity of moisture that the recent rain left behind may keep a few more of the trees alive until the fall rains come in a couple of months. With the very limited experience with plugs that we have had, it is probably too soon to come to any conclusions. This may be just an exceptional year; the year is hardly over yet and the weather may not co-operate from here out.

The latest reports in the popular press are that the spotted owl is in serious and maybe terminal decline. It seems that its relative the barred owl is displacing it in its historic range. The mechanism is not understood at this time, but the process is very far advanced.

The scientists doing the studying of the spotted owl were aware that the barred owl was moving into the range normally occupied by the spotted owl, but assumed that this invasion would not cause a problem for the spotted owl. Rather, it was thought that the lack of old growth forest was causing the owl to decline. We now know that the spotted owl does just fine in younger forests.

In the mean time, logging has been just about stopped in all the national forests, which comprise nearly 60 percent of the forest land in Oregon. The state, industrial, and private forests have had to pick up the slack in supply, in order to keep mills running. Those of us owning private forest land need the mills for a dependable local market for our occasional harvest.

My only hope is that those responsible for studying and recommending the actions taken on behalf of the spotted owl recognize what enormous collateral damage that resulted from their actions. We will all be paying for this in the future in the form of lost opportunity for selling our logs and fighting the fires that will inevitably come from not harvesting and caring for our public forests.

That's all for now.

Dallas

Brown Tour, continued from page 1

The trails will be cleared out for driving or hiking. Every sort of weed abounds, including poison oak, so long pants and maybe long sleeves and boots are advised. If you own an "experienced" 4x4 or pickup, please drive it to this tour. It could be useful."

"There has been some talk of bringing a picnic lunch. There are limited areas of shade near the house, and no outdoor tables or chairs. It would be fun to socialize a bit over lunch, but it will take some preparation. If you would like to do that, please call me at home a few days ahead (503-284-6455), and we'll get something figured out."

Editor's note – If you are so inclined, pack a lunch and bring it along. Perhaps you might want to bring along a folding chair and drinking water also. Sounds like Jim has a vigorous tour planned; a drink of water and a place to sit might feel good about noon!

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. 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: Chainsaw sawmill, contact Carol Pelster at 503-429-0437 or 503-803-7511 or at carolpelster@yahoo.com.

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Event Calendar

- August** **18 Tree Farm Tour, Jim Brown's tree farm** near the Washington-Yamhill County border
23-25, Master Woodland Manager Mini-College, Corvallis.
28 – Oregon State Fair, WCSWA day to man the OSWA, OTFS, ODF and SAF booth at the Fair (in the Natural Area, the old ODF-ODFW-BLM exhibit space)
- September** **5 Tualatin River Watershed Council** – monthly meeting, 7 p.m. at Clean Water Services on Hwy. 219 just south of Hillsboro
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. Jennings-McCall Center, Forest Grove. Details will be in the October issue of the Forum.
- December** **No scheduled WCSWA meeting**
3-6 How To Dry Lumber For Quality and Profit Workshop – Corvallis. Contact <http://woodscience.oregonstate.edu/continuinged.php>
- January** **25 WCSWA Monthly Meeting – Invasive Plants** – Lacey Sullivan, Resource Technician at the Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District, will help us know how to identify and treat invasive plants on our woodlands. 7:00 p.m., at OSU Extension office, Capital Center, 185th and Walker Road, Beaverton.

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Please send this form, ad copy, logos, photos, etc. to:

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**Thank you for supporting Washington County Small
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WCSWA Board of Directors Meeting, July 31, 2007

The Board met at the usual and accustomed place (The Hitchin' Post in North Plains) for the quarterly meeting. Committee reports were presented.

Program Committee – Mel Mortensen discussed the option of providing drinks and cookies or muffins at meetings and tours. For some tours, providing water would be especially useful, as many tour sites do not have potable water on site. The Board agreed to provide the Program Committee with funds for that purpose as needed. Funds for facility rental and speaker fees were also discussed as a possibility.

The Program Committee is looking for good program prospects; contact Mel or Jim Brown if you have suggestions.

Seedling Committee – Bob Shumaker led a small group to the nursery to check out our seedlings for this winter. Bob reports the seedlings look good! Problems with seedbed location from last year have been corrected. So far orders have been received for 5,000 seedlings, and an order for 20,000 more is expected. An order blank for seedlings is enclosed with this newsletter.

Treasurer's Report – Bob Shumaker reported that the financial situation for WCSWA is good. A 5 month Certificate of Deposit has been purchased at a favorable rate, so that the WCSWA funds on hand will be earning before they are needed this fall for seedlings, annual meeting, and other purposes. WCSWA has been subsidizing the meal cost for the annual meeting in order to make it more affordable for members, and this will continue.

Tree Farmer of the Year – Dallas reported that the selection committee is gearing up to review candidates.

Nomination Committee – It's time to identify candidates for Board and Officer positions. Dallas suggested, and Board concurred, that non-Board members should be solicited for the committee. Younger members, and those not traditionally involved, would be good sources.

Finally, the Board discussed how to get more member involvement in WCSWA activities. If you are interested, contact a Board member.

Shindaiwa Ad

Tree Talk

by Bonnie Shumaker

It's 9:30AM on July 30th and I just finished my "official" yearly walk around the place with notebook and camera in hand. It's a path Bob and I traverse most mornings and often again in the evening and of which we never tire.

This morning, my official walk has two purposes, the scientific and the aesthetic, a combination that provides much of the allure of tree farming to me. Today, I actually write down what I see, hear and feel as well as take pictures from the same areas each year to compare to past years. I could increase the scientific by placing stakes to mark the exact places to take pictures. I had every intention of doing this after feedback on the article I wrote on monitoring systems, but that hasn't happened yet.

As I start my walk, I proudly take pictures of the new deer fence and raised beds that comprise half my vegetable garden. No deer or elk have entered the garden's safe haven, but the strawberries suffered horribly from raccoon and coyote invasions until I added bird netting over that bed. The rest of the veggies are doing fine and the bean plants are happily climbing my beautiful cedar pole teepees.

Other items of note are evidence of the December windstorm. There's a small pile of cedar logs waiting for the addition of thinning from our cedar grove so we can have Lyal Purinton come with his portable mill to make lumber to replace a rotting deck. Adorning the path are the remains of a burn pile from the trimmings of a fallen maple after firewood was salvaged. I'm reminded that we did take almost a full truckload of fir blow down to Banks lumber. I know many tree farmers can relate to this winter's storm clean up.

There is pruning evidence as well. The trees along trail through the south forty were trimmed to make walking pleasant on wet days and mowing possible at other times. We also pruned 6+ acres of eleven year old trees as high as we can reach. The "fines" (needles) from the pruning are carpeting the ground with red needles that will compost over the year to return nutrients to the soil.

Flags along the trail remind us of the field trip we held this spring for the second grade class at Banks Elementary. Flags are such a great way to let the rambunctious kids run ahead and stop at the next flag to let the leaders catch up. I'm reminded of a tee-shirt I was given once when I led a running club at school which read, "I must hurry and catch up, for I am their leader." The "tree face" that Pat Nygren gave us for the field trip delighted participants and now wisely watches over the trail through the older woods. The trail is well marked with new chips that were added from our clean up operation of the thinning from the year before.

My madrone "canes" are indeed turning up toward the sky after I weighted them down with logs to make the curve of the cane. The two small clearcuts that we planted in 2006 have good survival as does the pasture conversion we did this winter.

Birdsong, bee and butterfly accompany me on this lovely sunny day. The floppy new growth of spring has turned sensible green and some trees are starting a second flush which reminds me that it's about time to start watching for an upstanding specimen to enter in Stimson's tall leader contest. We've accomplished much this year and this annual recorded walk already has us musing on the coming year's projects too.

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New or Updated OSU Extension Publications, available on the web or at the Extension office:

EC 1526, Federal Income Taxation for Woodland Owners: An Overview
Authors: Norman E. Elwood, Susie R. Gregory, and Chal G. Landgren Revised June 2007, 8 pages <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/ec/ec1526.pdf>

EC 1587, Selling Timber and Logs
Authors: Bowers and Punches. May 2007. 20 pages
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/ec/ec1587.pdf>

EC 1607-E, Sudden Oak Death *Phytophthora ramorum*
Author: D. Shaw, June 2007, 2 pages AVAILABLE ONLINE ONLY
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/ec/ec1607-e.pdf>

EC 1608-E, Stop the Spread of Sudden Oak Death (Pamphlet)
AVAILABLE ONLINE ONLY
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/ec/ec1608-e.pdf>



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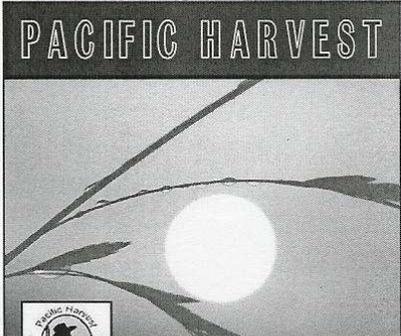
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Get Involved in WCSWA!

Your talents are needed to make WCSWA even better for members. You can serve on an action committee, help with the newsletter, provide information for the website, help with the annual native plant sale, provide ideas for meeting programs... the list goes on and on. You can even think up your own way to contribute!

Contact Dallas Boge, WCSWA president and volunteer! 503-357-7688



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Do Forestry Incentive Programs Really Work?

A recent study by a group of researchers found that financial incentive programs have a limited effect on forest owner's decisions regarding management and use of their land. The study was based on results from focus groups of forest owners, and a mail survey of state forestry administrators, in four regions of the country. Recommendations were developed for increasing the effectiveness of these programs in the future, elevate the concept of sustainable forestry among the nation's forest owners, and address concerns about existing programs. The recommendations include:

- * Increase funding and availability for one-on-one technical assistance from State Service Foresters
- * Emphasize technical assistance rather than certification to convey the forest sustainability concept
- * Require a written forest management plan for participation in financial incentive programs
- * Design Incentive programs to put forest owners in direct contact with a forester/professional
- * Design financial incentive programs to address regional differences in forest characteristics and forest owner objectives
- * Link financial incentives directly to stewardship practices
- * Fund cost-share applications according to expected environmental and economic benefits
- * Maintain adequate funding and stable program requirements
- * Coordinate the administration of financial incentive programs

Source: article in the June 2007 Journal of Forestry, by Kilgore, Greene, Jacobsen, Straka, and Daniels



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TFOY

The morning started off with an intriguing presentation on truffle growing by Charles Lefevere, a local expert in truffle growing, harvest, and marketing. Charles caught the audience's attention early by stating that a revolutionary event occurred recently: Oregon truffles were shipped to French markets! In the past Oregon truffles were not thought worthy of European palettes, but now the European markets are beginning to show interest in our local truffles. Charles explained that there are three types of native Oregon truffles: 2 white truffles and one black. The value of Oregon truffles varies considerably according to the species, ripeness, and other factors, but can range from \$150 a pound to over \$800 a pound.

Truffles are harvested by raking in the duff beneath fully closed forest canopies. Douglas-fir is perhaps the most common location for truffle patches. In Europe, dogs or pigs are used to sniff out the ripe truffles (from pea to baseball sized) beneath the duff layer. In the U.S., raking is the method most used, but it does unnecessarily disturb large areas in order to find the truffle patches. Truffle hunting may occur from mid-December through May, depending on the species of truffle.

Small woodlands are excellent places to grow and harvest truffles, according to Lefevere. The 15 to 30 year old plantations found on many small tree farms that used to be pasture land are ideal places for truffles to grow. On these better sites, 10 pounds per acre may be harvested regularly, with up to 50 pounds per acre if the site is managed. There have been cases where 250 pounds per acre have been produced. Jory soils are well known for truffles. Moisture is important, so on some sites some irrigation may increase yields. Higher Ph's are also better.

Charles explained that truffle hunting is characterized by a "cult of secrecy", where truffle locations, harvest methods, and even markets are closely guarded in order to reduce competition. However, he offered his web site (www.truffletree.com) as an information source.

Bob Browning, a Forest Grove attorney who deals extensively with *land and property law*, also gave attendees a lot to think about. Bob likened property law as akin to a "teeter-totter", where finding a balance is important. In the case of property law, both the rights and responsibilities of the property owners must be considered. Bob explained that finding that balance, one that leaves both parties in a state of mind that allows them to continue to co-exist side-by-side, is important. He explained that in the world of property law, *reality* often trumps *legality*, where winning may actually make you a loser. Bob encouraged property owners to get advice on problems early, before the situation escalates, or options are lost.

Liz explained the retail *grocery market firewood* operation that she and Dirk operate. They noticed after their first thinning operation that once the logs were hauled off, they were left with a lot of wood still on the ground. They also knew that blow-down and other silvicultural operations would generate even more wood that was not suitable for the mill. Liz came from a family background in the grocery business, and knew the ins and outs of marketing to grocery owners and managers. The answer – create a value-added firewood bundle that could be distributed at groceries. Over time they have added supporting equipment, such as a flatbed truck, a log splitter, and a plastic wrap machine. They now market to a group of groceries, delivering on an as-sold replenishment basis. Liz estimates they have turned the previously near worthless wood to firewood worth about \$435 a cord.

Dirk then demonstrated how he creates personal use lumber from small diameter bolts using a portable, electrically powered band saw that slices boards from a bolt, using a guide to keep the saw aligned and at the proper thickness. Liz provided the lubrication for the band saw with their son's "Super Squirter" water gun! Dallas Boge brought his Alaskan chainsaw type mill along, and demonstrated a similar operation for creating boards for personal use.

Tours of the diverse timber stands on the Jacob's 14 forested acres followed. The diversity of the stands matches the diversity of the Jacobs' management goals, demonstrating that even small woodland properties can provide many opportunities to generate income while satisfying their owner's desires to live and work on their woodland.

Thanks to Dirk and Liz for putting on a great tour! Thanks also to those who helped them.

Tree Farmer of the Year – Photos



Charles Lefevre, the
"Truffle Man"



Bob Browning, attorney, explains
the difference between "reality"
and "legality"



Liz and Dirk display their
firewood bundling operation



Split firewood drying – the
"natural kiln", 3-6 months



Dirk and his "RIP" band saw –
with a creative squirt gun side
kick (Liz) to keep it cool.



Dallas shows how to "make
lumber" with your chainsaw



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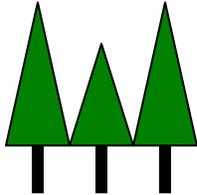
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Forest Forum



COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE
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Potpourri

Welcome to New Members!

Ralph Tonges of Gales Creek and **Craig Anderson of Sherwood** 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).

Dave Johnson, ODF District Forester, Retires

Dave Johnson, District Forester out of the Forest Grove Oregon Department of Forestry office, retired in early July. Dave has been a strong supporter of small woodland owners. He has provided information for the *Forest Forum* many times, and his contributions will be missed. However, Dave will remain on the distribution list for the electronic version of *Forest Forum*

Full Spectrum Forestry Field Tour

The OSWA-sponsored full spectrum forestry tours will be held in Clackamas County on September, in Yamhill County on September 29th, and in Polk County on October 6th. These events will be held on family forests, and are free. Mark Havel, known to many family forestland owners in Oregon, will play the role of "Forest Dan", and provide both information and demonstration of forest ownership and management.

To get more information and register, visit www.oswa.org, or call Mike Gaudern at 503-588-1813/e-mail at oswaed@oswa.org. (Registration forms were also included in the latest OSWA Update).