

Forest Forum

Washington County Small
Woodlands Association

November, 2008

Stimson Annual Harvest Banquet Highlights

The annual Stimson Harvest Banquet on October 26th at the World Forestry Center featured comments by Andrew Miller, President and CEO of Stimson concerning the future for the wood products industry, as well as a presentation by Paul Barnum, the new Executive Director of Oregon Forest resources Institute.

Stimson President Looks Ahead

Andrew Miller has a somewhat pessimistic view of the national wood products economic situation. However, he said “We will survive”. He noted the continual ups and downs of the market, but reminded the audience that “trees on the stump will continue to grow”, adding 7-8% in volume per year through growth. He stated that current national lumber production is under 40 billion board feet a year, down from a high in the recent past of 60 billion board feet a year. He stated that our consumption rate may not recover to those previous highs – certainly not in the next 2-3 years.

See Stimson, page



Bryan Beck With WCSWA Speaker Gift

From Stump To Boards – Where’s the Value?

Bryan Beck of The Beck Group was the featured speaker at the October meeting of Washington County Small Woodlands Association. The Beck Group is an international planning, consulting, and benchmarking firm to the forest products industry. They provide professional marketing analysis, capital planning, supply and demand analysis, and legal expert witness. One of their most important roles, however, is “benchmarking” – establishing factually based information about the production capability of manufacturing and milling facilities.

See “Beck”, page 10

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It’s Not Too Late!

If you haven’t yet sent in your reservation form (enclosed with the October and November Forest Forum) for the WCSWA Annual Awards Banquet on November, you need to do so by Friday, November 14th. The meeting will be at the Jennings-McCall Center in Forest Grove. Social hour begins at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner and program. This year’s speaker is Jim Cathcart, Forest Trust Manager for the Oregon Department of Forestry.

Notes from the President

by Dallas Boge

The big event is now behind us. The ATFS convention went off without any apparent hitch. To say that Dick Courter did a masterful job of putting this event together would be the understatement of the decade, if not the century. Under Bonnie Shumaker's able direction, 70 volunteers from all over Oregon and Washington were recruited; each and every one of them appeared on Saturday! Anne and Richard Hanschu deserve the thanks of a magnitude that is inexpressible. The amount of work that they did personally and oversaw is on the borderline of unimaginable. But the results showed how well it was done, since the whole event went off perfectly.

The state executive board has decided to raise dues by \$10.00 per year beginning with renewals after November 1, 2008. This is the first increase in many years and will help offset the effects of inflation and the broadening of services provided by OSWA. Discussion among the state leadership and within several counties centered on the idea that acreages smaller than 40 (or some other figure in that area) might stay at the lower dues rate of \$75.00 per year is on-going. That has not yet been finalized; a state-level committee is studying this and hopefully will come to a decision soon. There are still a number of \$25.00 coupons courtesy of Stimson Lumber for new members, take advantage of them.

I have praised the work of *Evergreen* magazine for its clear and in depth writing on issues important to the forest industry. The downturn in the timber market and the number of mills and associated forest industries supporting the magazine has been declining and this trend has caught up with the funding for it. It was no longer possible to publish a magazine of the quality of *Evergreen* which accepts no advertising. Recently former supporters received a letter indicating the resumption of publication, but with a difference. The magazine will now be published on the internet, eliminating the printing and postage costs. I hope that you will join me in supporting them. You can go to their website and download a membership form. Just go to: evergreenmagazine.com.

Finally, by the time that you read this, the election will be over. But, another election is just around the corner. (Oh no, not more commercials!) Just as important to us is the election of officers and directors. There is one open position for director of Washington County Small Woodlands Association. Nominations will be open at the annual awards banquet this month. The directors serve a three year term. The board meets quarterly. Anyone interested can get nominated and run.

That's all for now.

Dallas

Project Budburst, Continued

Last month Forest Forum described a nationally based tree phenology* monitoring program. Peter Hayes responded with the following question: "I am interested in the piece about Project Budburst. Do you know of anyone who is participating? I am working with the Forest Grove Community School on a number of things and I know that one of the teachers is interested in phenology. If Washington Co. folk are getting involved perhaps the school could serve as some sort of coordinator of local participation?"

How about it, WCSWA members – anyone interested? Contact Peter at 503-241-6479

** Phenology – the scientific study of the annual recurrence of plant and animal phenomena as effected by seasonal and other environmental change*

WCSWA Leadership

President – Dallas Boge; 503-357-7688

Vice-President – Jim Brown; 503-284-6455

Secretary-Treasurer – Bob Shumaker; 503-324-7825

Board of Directors:

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Art Dummer; 503-357-4258

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Neil Schroeder; 503-628-2344

Bonnie Shumaker – 503-324-7825

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)

Forgot to order seedlings? For Sale: 2200 Douglas Fir seedlings ordered from the Washington County Small Woodlands Seedling program but have decided to wait a year to plant. If interested call Richard Hanschu 503-357-2551.

Event Calendar

- November** **18 Annual Awards Banquet** – Jennings McCall Center, Forest Grove. Social hour begins at 5:30 p.m. See Page 1.
- December** **No WCSWA Meeting Scheduled**
6 Diversifying Income Opportunities – PCC-Rock Creek. West Multnomah SWCD. Contact Kammy Kern-Korot, 503-238-4775, x108, or www.westmultconserv.org
8-11 How To Dry Lumber For Quality and Profit – OSU Extension, Corvallis. Contact OSU Conference Services, 541-737-6439, or toll-free at 800-678-6311
- January** **26 WCSWA Monthly Meeting.** Meetings are held at the OSU Extension office at 7:00 p.m. Location: Capital Center at 185th and Walker Road in Beaverton. Details to follow
- February** **19-21 Oregon Logging Conference** – Eugene. Call 541-686-9191, or go to www.oregonloggingconference.com
24 WCSWA Monthly Meeting
- March** **24 WCSWA Monthly Meeting**
- April** **28 WCSWA Monthly Meeting**
- May** **26 WCSWA Monthly Meeting**
- June** **Beginning of Field Tours – Schedule not yet developed**

Nature loss 'dwarfs bank crisis'

Losses are great, and continuous, says the report. The global economy is losing more money from the disappearance of forests than through the current banking crisis, according to an EU-commissioned study. It puts the annual cost of forest loss at between \$2 trillion and \$5 trillion. The figure comes from adding the value of the various services that forests perform, such as providing clean water and absorbing carbon dioxide.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7662565.stm>

USDA and USFS Release New National Woodland Owner Survey Data

October 17th- The report includes information about 10 million family forest owners who currently own 264 million acres of forest land in the United States. The research examines history of forest lands and the distribution of forest lands owned by these land owners who own 35% of the forest land in the United States. "The Family Forest Owners" and "Who Owns America's Forest" reports are available on the web: <http://www.fia.fs.fed.us/nwos/results/>

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2008-2009 WCSWA Programs being developed

The monthly meeting programs for the 2008-2009 program year are being developed by the program committee, headed up by WCSWA Vice-President Jim Brown. Members of the committee are Jim, Beth Adams, Bill Triest, Terry Howell, and Ralph Raines. October's program is described on page one.

November is not a regular meeting date, due to the Annual Awards Banquet (November 18th), and no meeting has traditionally been scheduled for December due to the press of holiday activities. The primary monthly meeting season runs from January thru May, with May being a pot luck affair. Field tours begin in June, with the tour of the Tree Farmer of the Year tree farm (announced at the Annual Awards Banquet) included.

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Stimson, continued from page 1

He noted that currently mills are only able to sell about 70% of their weekly output, mills are closing or “mothballing”, and the resultant price squeeze will continue to cause adjustments. Miller stated that after the wood market collapse in 1981 and 1982, markets didn’t start recovering for 2-3 years, and likened the current situation to those times.

However, Miller also gave reason for some optimism, particularly in biomass utilization for power, fuel, and carbon sequestration. Increasing demand will likely come in the form of “cap and trade”, where carbon emission regulation will increase markets for the sequestration of carbon in the form of trees, or from increased reliance on wood biomass to fuel power plants or produce fuels such as cellulosic ethanol or methanol. In fact, the use of wood for pulp is beginning to show signs of competition from these “green” alternatives. This “competition in the value stream” offers some potential for markets that woodland owners can tap.

Finally, Miller noted that the shrinking mill capacity can offer opportunities for improvement in technology, resulting from the “creative destruction” of existing mills.

New OFRI Executive Director Offers Vision

Paul Barnum, the new executive director of the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) presented his view of the challenges facing OFRI. These challenges are particularly significant, since OFRI is funded from a portion of the harvest tax in Oregon. OFRI is likely to be considerably affected by reduced logging activity resulting from market downturn. Barnum noted that OFRI has recently reduced their budget by one-third, and more cuts seem likely in the future. However, he stressed that the basic K-12 and small woodland owner programs were given priority.

OFRI was born out of confusion about forestry in the minds of Oregonians, Barnum noted. Issues such as clearcutting, use of herbicides, conversion of forestland to other uses, and the financial effects of national economic and governmental changes created misunderstandings about the science of forestry, economic values associated with forests, and the management of Oregon’s forests. The Legislature created OFRI in 1991 to provide a factually based information resource about forestry in Oregon. They prohibited the new organization from trying to influence legislation, and charged it with providing information to inform issues without bias.

Barnum stressed that OFRI’s most valuable asset is its reputation, which is based on its role as an unbiased provider of scientifically based information. OFRI strives to provide factual, accurate, representative information that tackles the tough issues surrounding forestry in Oregon. To that end, a large portion of their energy goes to education, particularly in K-12 grades, to supporting research efforts through information dissemination, keeping woodland owners abreast of good stewardship practices and in assisting the small woodland community in “telling its story”.

The vision of OFRI is shared, according to Barnum by an effective Board of Directors and an engaged and competent staff who have an unassailable reputation, and who foster and protect relationships. This vision, realized, will create trust in OFRI by people. Barnum realizes that achieving this vision requires some basics. Like mountain climbing, Barnum said OFRI must have the training, equipment, and resolve to get the job done.

Barnum comes to OFRI with a strong educational and experience background, including previous service (president) on the OFRI Board of Directors. He has worked for Weyerhaeuser, served as president of SOLV, worked with University of Oregon and Oregon’s community colleges, and in private industry.

Tree Talk

by Bonnie Shumaker

"Where the Tall Trees Grow". Whoever came up with that title for the American Tree Farm System's National Convention should be applauded. In fact, everyone involved in the Herculean task of putting on the convention should be applauded. The honor of hosting the convention rotates between states each year, but perhaps in keeping with the "Tall Trees" theme, Oregon's plans had the potential to be the biggest and the best, especially the Field Day – and from all reports, it earned that label. Using old time logging terms from "crummies" to Candy Side" added to the fun.

I'm sure when Anne and Richard Hanschu offered up their "Little Beaver Creek Tree Farm" for the Field day, they weren't anticipating 700 people, but when OFRI (Oregon Forest Resources Institute) saw the opportunity to educate a wider group of people about forests by offering the Field Day as a free event and providing buses for transport, the numbers and opportunity grew.

So – How do you get 700 people to your tree farm, move them around the property and avoid crowded conditions?

- You shuttle them from convention headquarters and Banks Elementary School to the tree farm. You also shuttle them in "crummies" (buses) around the property.
- You have 70 volunteers eager to guide and chat with guests about Oregon's unique tree growing country
- You have 50 stations offering varied interests
- You have the ODF Fire Kitchen which is adept at serving good meals to many folks, quickly
- You have a dry day!

Bill Schlegel, one of the volunteers sent the following feedback from his 85 year old parents who don't walk or get around that well any more. They said:

"Yesterday was a momentous day for us. It was a great adventure and we enjoyed every minute of it.

There were so many interesting things to do and see and experience.

Everything seemed to be organized perfectly which made for a smooth and calm day (for us)

I'm sure the volunteers were exhausted when it was over, but you would never know it from their patience and cheer in dealing with people."

Since I was the volunteer coordinator, I will admit to being tired at the end of the day, but also elated with how smoothly everything went and how enthusiastic both guests and volunteers were about their experience. I want to give a huge THANK YOU to all who participated. Tree farmers are truly a wonderful group of people.

Do Old Growth Forests Store More Carbon Dioxide Than They Release?

Sooner or later in discussions among foresters and others the question comes up: Do old growth forests store more carbon dioxide than they release? Does the decomposition of dead and dying vegetation release more than is stored? Now there is an answer: Old growth forests bank carbon dioxide. A group of forest scientists from the United States and Europe reports that a growing body of evidence settles an old question over whether old growth forests store more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere than they release. Based on a review of research from more than 500 forest sites of all ages around the world, the answer, published today in an online edition of the journal "Nature", is that most of the sites between 15 and 800 years old do, and the total amounts to about 1 billion metric tons a year, or about 10 percent of the net carbon uptake worldwide.

<http://www.forestrycenter.org/headlines.cfm?RefID=103929>

Tall Leader Winners Named

A regular feature of the annual Stimson Harvest Banquets has been the Tall Leader contest. Through diligent search by Mike Heath, Managed Forest Program Manager for Stimson Lumber Company, woodland owners compete for recognition for the tallest leader – the new yearly growth on Douglas fir, four years old or less. Winners have traditionally received a chain saw, and runners up get cash prizes or gift certificates.

This year's winners were:

- 1. Mike Jamieson and his daughter Maryann, with a tall leader of 64 inches.*** Mike and Maryann received a new Stihl chainsaw. The Jamisons have been winners in the past, but Mike Heath observed that "Maryann has now grown to chain-saw using size".
- 2. Dwaine Steinbrenner, with a tall leader of 60 inches.***
- 3. Dale and Judy Thornton, with a tall leader of 54 inches.***

WCSWA Native Plant Sale – Get It On Your Calendar!

The 2009 WCSWA Native Plant Sale is scheduled for March 14th, 2009. Possibly new this time – an on-line pre-order option.



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GROWING TREES WHERE TREES GROW BEST

Short-term research sheds light on long-term productivity, by Bonnie Shumaker

The following article is the summary of the October 2008 issue of PNW "Science Findings". The purpose of PNW Science Findings is to provide scientific information to people who make and influence decisions about managing land. It is published monthly, and is free. Send new subscriptions to pnw_pnwpubs@fs.fed.us or find it online at <http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/>

The article was of particular interest to me, since we had just visited the Olympic Peninsula. The study site in Washington is owned by Weyerhaeuser Company and is typical of many coastal sites used by forest industry for intensive management in the region. The soil is particularly rich in nutrients and organic matter and can hold water like a sponge, meaning it's a great place to grow trees. Annual rainfall is almost 90 inches. The Fall River study is one of more than 40 affiliate research sites throughout the United States and Canada in the Long-Term Soil Productivity (LTSP) program initiated by the Forest Service in 1989.

IN SUMMARY: "In 1999, the Fall River Long-Term Site Productivity study began in coastal Washington to investigate how intensive management practices affect soil processes and forest productivity. By comparing conventional harvests to more intensive wood removal treatments, researchers are answering long-standing questions about how residual organic matter influences future growth. Also by using herbicides to control competing vegetation, they are quantifying the influence other vegetation has on tree growth. Finally, they are measuring soil properties and tree growth on plots where the soil was not compacted during harvest and comparing results to those on plots that were either compacted by logging equipment or compacted and subsequently tilled to restore physical properties.

Several interesting findings have emerged after 8 years of measurements: Nitrogen pools in these soils are so high that conventional clearcutting and whole-tree plus coarse-woody-debris removal only reduced the total site nitrogen pool by 3 percent and 6 percent respectively. That's a very small percentage reduction that is unlikely to affect long-term productivity. Vegetation control reduced competition for water during the dry growing season and doubled aboveground tree biomass at age 5 compared to the plots where vegetation was not controlled. Soil compaction did not reduce tree growth. These findings suggest that this site is very resilient to intensive forest management."

These findings reinforced my observations of life in the temperate rain forest. These soils are super nutrient rich. Leaving residual organic material was not essential here, but would be an important source of nutrients, especially nitrogen, if the soil is nutrient-poor. Recognizing that even in a temperate rain forest there is a predictable drought during most summers, explains the findings about controlling competing vegetation which compete for water during the summer drought period.

I speculate how our tree farm with an average of 60 inches of rain compares. We know controlling competing vegetation which competes for water is essential for the first two years after planting. We also know that compaction can be a problem here and work to avoid it. So, we temper these science findings with our experience knowing our amount of water and soil characteristics differ some from the temperate rain forest. We also are thankful that given slightly less growth, we can actually walk through our forest.

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Synthesis of Knowledge from Woody Biomass Removal Case Studies

ALEXANDER EVANS/FOREST GUILD AND USFS | SEP. 1,
2008

Interest in woody biomass from forests has increased because of rising fuel costs, concerns about greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels, and the threat of catastrophic wildfires. However, getting woody biomass from the forest to the consumer presents economic and logistical challenges.

Read the report at

<http://www.forestrycenter.org/index.cfm?RefID=104166>

Beck, continued from page 1

Bryan described how this process reveals where the value in trees resides – information that is valuable in log purchasing, timber valuation, and marketing. Understanding where this value resides can assist woodland owners and consulting foresters in marketing their timber for highest value.

Bryan used a case example of residual value appraisal – objectively assigning value to a tree – to illustrate the process. Though he used data from eastern Oregon, the southern U.S., and western Oregon and Washington, the principles remain the same – and the valuation lessons were equally valid no matter where the data came from. The process Bryan described, called a *log test*, ties logs to end products. Bryan's example was based on a 200 log sample going through the mill. Logs are first scaled using appropriate scaling techniques (in the West, it may be the Scribner log scale, while in the South, it is likely in tons). The logs are then milled for products, and a lumber scale done on the result. The difference between the log scale and the lumber scale is the overrun. It is often expressed as a percentage, and varies depending on the product, size (diameter and length) of the logs, and other factors. By-product volumes are also measured – bark, chips, planer shaving, and sawdust – as they contribute to the total value of the trees.

In the case of a mill efficiency objective, the machine center utilization may also be measured. For the different machine operations performed on the lumber, such as edging to remove wane, a correlation may be analyzed that determines how efficiently these operations relate to the primary milling operation. With this analysis, potential “bottlenecks” in the process can be identified.

Once the logs have been “broken down” through the milling process, the values of different diameter and log lengths can be determined, based on their end products – lumber scale and by-products. The result is the relative value of the logs, based on product recovery. This information can be used to identify log value, “best log” specifications, and answer other “what ifs” concerning particular logs.

"Given that the state of the soil determines what can be grown and how long, preserving the basis of wealth of future generations requires intergenerational land stewardship."

David R. Montgomery, in *"Dirt: The Erosion of Civilizations"*



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Oregon Woodland Co-op Completes Grant

The Oregon Woodland Cooperative (OWC) successfully completed their USDA Value-Added Program working capital grant last month. The grant was awarded to assist the Co-op in implementing their recently completed business plan. The list of accomplishments under the grant is just a beginning for the future for the Co-op, but still will provide significant benefits for Co-op members. Some of these benefits are:

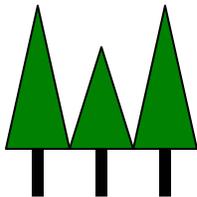
- Initiated a value-added (packaged) firewood program, with a Co-op brand, that is already in some metropolitan area markets
- Conducted a "custom cut" of member logs, and marketed the lumber for an above-market premium of 10% for participating members
- Established a working relationship with Wilco Agronomy Centers, which provides a discount for Co-op members on all farm supplies carried by the Centers – primarily fertilizers and chemicals.
- Conducted special milling of member wood for paneling, siding, and lumber markets.
- Established an office in North Plains to consolidate and coordinate Co-op business activities.
- Engaged the services of three Coordinators, each with different skills, to assist in Co-op business and marketing, provide information and services to members, and serve as contact with outside partners and business entities.
- Acquired full 2006 aerial photo coverage of western Oregon, in order to provide members with photo coverage for their management operations
- Completed contracts with two established professional forester firms, in order to offer members proven, high quality services.
- Expanded the membership by 25%, and the number of acres in the Co-op by 100%

The Co-op will continue to pursue the opportunities begun under the grant. The Coordinators have expressed interest in continuing to work with the Co-op, and appropriate avenues to do so are being developed.

Washington County Small Woodlands Association
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Forest Forum



COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE
OREGON SMALL WOODLANDS
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Potpourri

Washington-Columbia County Extension Forester Update

The list of candidates for the Extension Forester position in Washington and Columbia Counties has been narrowed to four:

- Nathaniel Anderson – currently completing Ph.D. requirements at Syracuse University, New York
- Janean Creighton – assistant professor and NE Washington Extension Educator, Spokane, Washington
- Amy Grotta – Extension Forester, King County, Seattle, Washington
- David Pilz – consultant, PilzWald – Forestry Applications of Mycology, Corvallis, Oregon

The candidates will visit the area in mid-November for a tour of local tree farms, be interviewed by a review panel, and meet with a cross section of client groups in St. Helens. Final selection by Oregon State Extension Service will likely occur by mid-December.

Think Ahead – Tax Time Is Coming!

2008 Tax Tips for forest landowners

<http://www.timbertax.org/publications/FS/taxtips/TaxTips08.pdf>

This bulletin summarizes key federal income tax provisions for forestland owners, foresters, loggers, forest product businesses, and tax practitioners