

# Forest Forum

Washington County Small  
Woodlands Association

February, 2008

## ***Monthly WCSWA Meeting: Douglas-fir Forests Change Over The Eons***

The February 26<sup>th</sup> meeting of WCSWA will feature a look at the past through the science of today. Dan Gavin, Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Oregon, will explain how the science of paleoecology can show us how forests have changed over thousands of years in response to changing climate and frequency of fire. His presentation will reveal how natural archives stored in lake sediments and tree-rings show that forests are dynamic and constantly responding to a variety of types of events. The title of his talk is "Forest Fire and the Development of Douglas-fir Forests in Western Oregon over the past 12,000 years".

The regular monthly meeting is held at the OSU Extension office, Capital Center, 185<sup>th</sup> and Walker Road, in Beaverton. The meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.



Chal Landgren, OSU Forestry Agent, accepts a "wall tree" from the 2007 MWM class

## **Master Woodland Manager Class Graduates, "Ready for Duty"**

Sixteen small woodland owners from Washington and Columbia County celebrated their graduation from the Master Woodland Manager curriculum on January 25<sup>th</sup>. The curriculum, which is sponsored by Oregon State University Extension Service, is an intensive 80 hours of classes in many aspects of practical forestry for woodland owners. Those who have attended MWM classes praise the professional level of instruction – primarily by OSU forestry agents. In return for this quality forestry instruction, graduates agree to volunteer for at least 80 hours of service to the woodland community. OSU forestry agents provide the direction for this volunteer service.

Subjects in the curriculum include inventory, taxes and record-keeping, management planning, wildlife habitat, watershed protection, fire protection, insects and diseases, and silviculture. (Class list on page 6)

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## Notes from the President

by Dallas Boge

January 25 marked the final chapter in the training of the latest 16 master woodland managers from Washington and Columbia County. Big congratulations to those who have completed the course, adding to the pool of managers available to assist their fellow woodland owners. A huge "Thank You" also goes to Chal Landgren for organizing and teaching this lengthy course. Chal is a master at scheduling classes. At every class that required us to be outside, the weather was perfect. The only time we got rained on was when we met with Mike Bondi's group from Clackamas County.

This is just a reminder for anyone talking to any prospective members that we have coupons for a \$25.00 discount for the first year of membership. I have the coupons, you can send me the completed membership application and payment, less the \$25.00, or send it directly to Salem. They in turn will contact me for the coupon. Please take advantage of this generous program that Stimson Lumber has made available.

In last month's notes I indicated that OSWA at state level would come out opposing the LNG pipeline projects. There is something about the proper time to count chickens when one is staring at eggs. Needless to say, the state Executive committee declined to take a position on this issue. I am not in a position to put words in their mouths as to why they took their position, but as it was explained to me, the committee, and the board, has to limit their actions to issues which affect OSWA members on a statewide level. They certainly have no problem with us at county level taking a position on the issue.

This column being the President's notes, I get to express my opinion on issues if I wish. It seems to me that OSWA is an advocacy group for woodland owners, people who grow trees. Running a pipeline easement thru our private property is inconsistent with our ability to grow timber. We hear about a 120 foot wide construction easement. This may work on level ground. Much of our properties are on moderate to steep ground. Installing the pipe in the ditch requires a very large crane. Even the lightest wall pipe weighs 100 pounds per foot and lifting the pipe into the ditch requires lifting many hundreds of feet at a time. These cranes can move ahead easily on level ground, but on slopes, will require switchbacks since they cannot move up a steep slope. The switchbacks will require construction (destruction) easements many times wider than the stated 120 feet.

The WCSWA board will meet this month and the issue will be on the agenda. This meeting, as always, is open to any and all. It is at the Hitchin Post in North Plains at 7:00 am on February 26. If you cannot make it to the meeting, your calls and e-mails are welcome.

That's all for now.

*Dallas*

## WCSWA Leadership

**President – Dallas Boge; 503-357-7688**  
**Vice-President – Jim Brown; 503-284-6855**  
**Secretary-Treasurer – Bob Shumaker; 503-324-7825**  
Board of Directors:  
Dick Courter; 503-297-1660  
Art Dummer; 503-357-4258  
Tom Nygren, 503-628-5472  
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](http://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](mailto: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:** 800-1000 Western Red Cedar potted in 7 gal. cans, ¾" – 1" caliper at base, 3-4' high. \$12.50 each or \$10 each for 6 or more. Neil Schroeder, 503/628-2344.

**For Sale:** About 20 6-8' cedar fence posts, some treated. \$6 each. Neil Schroeder, 503/628-2344.

**Wanted:** We'll recycle your old 5-6' fencing wire (not barbed) to cage seedlings from deer damage. Will pick up at your place. Neil Schroeder, 503/628-2344

## Event Calendar

- February**
- 26 WCSWA Board of Directors Meeting** - 7:00 a.m., Hitchin' Post restaurant, North Plains
  - 26 WCSWA Monthly Meeting** – Dan Gavin, Department of Geography, University of Oregon. Subject: How this area was formed over the eons. OSU Extension Service office, Capital Center, 185<sup>th</sup> and Walker Road, Beaverton.
  - 27 Ties To the Land Workshop** – McMinnville, 2 part workshop; second part on March 26<sup>th</sup>. See article on page 5
- March**
- 15 WCSWA Annual Native Plant Sale** - see article on page 8
  - 25 WCSWA Monthly Meeting** John Krause, Stewardship Forester, Oregon Dept. of Forestry. Details later. OSU Extension office, Capital Center, 185<sup>th</sup> and Walker Road, Beaverton.
- April**
- 22 WCSWA Monthly Meeting** Susan Barnes, Wildlife Biologist, Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife. Details later. OSU Extension office, Capital Center, 185<sup>th</sup> and Walker Road, Beaverton.
- May**
- 20 WCSWA Potluck** at Reeher Family "stage stop" and "woods camp". Details later
- June**
- 12 WCSWA Twilight tour** at the Raines Tree Farm to celebrate 50 year anniversary
- July**
- 26 Tree Farmer of the Year Tour** – Bob and Bonnie Shumaker's



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## *Oregon Woodland Co-op Progress Report*

### Things are moving in the Co-op!

- The Oregon Woodland Co-op now has an office – located in North Plains in the North Plains RV and Self-Service Storage complex, adjacent to the New Holland dealer on West Union Road.
- An OWC website is being developed and will be available soon. The website will provide timely updates on Co-op progress, market opportunities, and an opportunity for new members to sign up. The website should be operational later this month.
- The Co-op has three new staff Coordinators - Kent Goodyear, Scott Zimmerman, and Louis Leatherman. They have been contacting members to see what Co-op activities members are most interested in. They are also available to get information about Co-op activities, and to discuss Co-op membership. Their contact numbers are:  
Kent Goodyear – 503-341-6130  
Scott Zimmerman – 360-281-6666  
Louis Leatherman – 503-522-7154

If you wish to meet with one of the Coordinators, give them a call, as they may not always be at the Co-op Office.

The results of the Coordinators' member interest contacts so far show that a coordinated *firewood project* could help members capture value from timber harvest "fall down" and thinning, salvage, and stand improvement is of interest to many members. *Discount purchasing* – particularly for vegetative control chemicals, and fertilizer (Fenns' special blends) is also seen as a project that could serve members immediately. Work is also underway to increase the number of *service providers* (consulting foresters in particular), and set up an aerial spray project for this year. The Coordinators are also doing *market research* for a variety of products, both timber and non-timber. Members have expressed interest in exploring a variety of opportunities to capture income during these times of low market prices for commodity wood. Marketing non-timber products, such as Oregon grape, salal, and other floral greenery and medicinal plants – as well as truffles – may be important sources of regular income for some woodland owners, and the Co-op can provide the information, skilled labor, aggregating capability, and marketing assistance.

The Co-op is seeking new members. If you might be interested, give one of the Coordinators a call.

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## ***“Ties To The Land”, Intergenerational Succession Workshop Planned for February 27<sup>th</sup>, March 26<sup>th</sup> in McMinnville***

*Ties to the Land* is an interactive, DVD-based succession planning workshop open to all landowners interested in passing their family land-based business (farming, forestry, vineyard, nursery) on to succeeding generations. The workshop focuses on intra-family communication, expectations, and roles and provides a comfortable framework for discussing the BIG, uncomfortable issues-- like what happens when Mom and Dad die.

The workshop will be held at the County Public Works Auditorium behind the Extension office, 2050 Lafayette Avenue, McMinnville, from 6:30 - 8:30 pm in two parts, February 27 and March 26.

Presenters (on DVD) are two nationally-recognized experts, Clint Bentz, Salem accountant, former National Tree Farmer of the Year, and current chief operating officer of American Tree Farm System, and Dr. Mark Green, former director of the Austin Family Business Program at OSU.

The workshop is free, but the companion book, which includes a DVD with printable worksheets and additional presentations and resources, costs \$45.

The workshop is the upgraded version of one put on in McMinnville in fall 2004 that drew 130 people. Intergenerational succession is a big issue for an aging landowner group, in Washington County, Oregon, and nationwide. American Tree Farm System is investing time and money in this and related programs. A workshop was also held in 2005 in Washington County. Additional workshops may be planned in the future in Washington County, if there is sufficient interest.

**Registration:** by Friday, February 15 (not absolutely necessary to reserve a space, but good to let us know who's coming and to order workbooks, which are \$10 for the first book for Yamhill County Small Woodlands members, \$45 for others; call OSU Extension to register and order workbooks, 503-434-7517)

**First part of the workshop:** Wednesday, February 27, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

**Second part:** Wednesday, March 26, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

More information about the Ties to the Land program is available online at [www.familybusinessonline.org/resources/ttl/home.htm](http://www.familybusinessonline.org/resources/ttl/home.htm).

## WCSWA College Scholarships Available

To further the benefits of our membership, the Washington County Small Woodlands Association has established two \$1,000 college scholarships. A current member of WCSWA must recommend/sponsor an applicant. The scholarships will be available to graduating high school students and college students through their senior year and are not specific to the student's county of residence, field of study, college, university, or trade school. Full time enrollment will be required for release of funds to the educational institution.

The scholarship application form will require personal and educational information, but no financial data. Two letters of recommendation are required, one of which must be from the WCSWA sponsor. The applicant must also submit a 500-word essay explaining his or her distinguishing qualities, educational and life goals and experiences with his or her family's forest activities or those of the WCSWA sponsor.

**This year's deadline for applications is April 4, 2008.** Winners will be notified as soon as possible and then introduced to our membership at the annual November Awards Banquet or the Tree Farmer of the Year summer picnic.

Please call or email Bonnie Shumaker for a copy of the application at (503)324-7825 or [bandbshu@aol.com](mailto:bandbshu@aol.com). The scholarships are funded from proceeds of the WCSWA Native Tree and Plant sale which is held this year on March 15, 2008.

### *2007 Master Woodland Manager Class*

Elouise Binns

Joanne McGilvra Rose

Brian Hoyt,

Bill Triest

Jim Brown

Neil Schroeder

Dallas and Sharon Boge

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### *Checked Your Roads Lately?*

The recent rains may have created some problems – or simply made existing problems more evident! Grab your shovel and check them out – are the culverts clear? Do you need some water-bars to get the water off the road? Where are the areas you need to do more substantial earthwork and cover seeding next spring?

## **Storm Damage on the North Oregon Coast: A Potential Business Opportunity?** *(from the January, 2008 Oregon Wood Innovation Center newsletter)*

The storm of December 2-3, 2007 was not just another strong winter wind on the N. Coast of Oregon. The zone of severe winds was relatively narrow, but within this zone, sustained winds and repeated gusts over 100 mph during a 2-day period produced stand-replacement blow-down in many forest stands. (I live on Young's River near Astoria and many of the "old-timers" say it was the worst they have seen.)

Initial estimates of the total forest damage approach 400 mmbf across the predominant industrial and state forest ownership in Clatsop and Tillamook Counties. Most of this is commodity wood – small to medium size sawtimber - and it comes all at once during a very poor timber market. While there is hope of an improving wood market in the 10-year outlook (OWIC Dec. 2007 Newsletter), the outlook is poor for the 12- to 18-month window for salvaging the timber blown down last month. Any help to broaden market options and improve salvage recovery values would be very welcome in north coast communities. Larger private and public timber owners within the severe damage zone are looking at the equivalent of 1 to 2 years' timber harvest on the ground. It's a very different story for some small-acreage forest owners.

Stand-replacement blow-down occurs in patches of 5 to 100 acres, which can constitute the majority of a smaller parcel, depending on vagaries of topography and wind behavior. For example, at least 30% of city and county-owned forest within 2 miles of Astoria appears to be down. There is as yet no good assessment across family forest lands. These lands cover about 16,500 acres across 425 different landowners within the zone of severe wind damage.

Forest damage on Oregon's north coast included a rather large portion of the older and larger timber in the area – timber that stood through many a strong wind until now. Larger, older trees (>40 inches dbh, > 80 years) are a small portion of the forest here, but their importance is inordinately large in the realm of family forest owners and also smaller public owners (City, County, Parks). Relatively diverse management goals result in these owners having much of the larger timber that occurs in the area.

Lack of markets for large timber has been an increasing concern. Before the storm, owners of large trees could enjoy the non-timber benefits or view the timber as an asset with hope for the future.

### **Regardless of the reasons for retaining such trees, now that the wind has blown them down, can we do anything to recover value from the good wood that is in many of these larger trees?**

Extension Forestry, along with the Clatsop Forestry and Wood Products Economic Development Committee are looking into a variety of topics related to storm-recovery and a better future for the forestry/wood products sector in general, as highlighted below. Some companies have been able to utilize forest debris for biofuels and they are processing storm debris and delivering hogged fuel. A \$10/ton tax credit is available for this material.

### **What will it take to continue this and reach deeper into the woods?**

Blow-down includes millions of board feet of timber 80-140 years old and some true old-growth. Better assessment of potential volume of higher grade logs is needed.

### **Is there potential for local sort yards to make better use of the full range of timber quality? Could portable mill capacity and even local drying capacity be deployed to improve utilization of larger, higher-quality logs?**

A variety of public and private cooperators have an interest in economic development efforts to increase local manufacturing, which could be facilitated by grants or loans for rapid-response business enterprises. If any of the above catches your interest, or if you have other ideas that may be of help, please contact Glenn Ahrens, OSU Extension Forester for Clatsop and Tillamook Co.

**Glenn Ahrens, OSU Extension Forester, Clatsop and Tillamook Counties  
(503) 325-8573 glenn.ahrens@oregonstate.edu**

## WCSWA Native Tree and Plant Sale *by Bonnie Shumaker*

It's hard to believe that WCSWA's seventh annual plant sale is upon us. The date this year is Saturday, March 15 from 9:00AM – 3:00PM at Bales Thriftway on Farmington Rd. at its intersection with Kinnamon Rd. close to 185<sup>th</sup> in Aloha.

For those of you who aren't aware, the sale was started by Chuck Price and Lyal Purinton as a project after they completed their Master Woodland Manager training course. Their idea was to reach out to the community to share with city gardeners the native plants we enjoy in our woodlands. Putting a familiar face with the tree farmer image helps build understanding between urban and rural communities. When Chuck handed the logistics of the plant sale over to me, it was an event eagerly anticipated by many gardeners.

This year, we have a huge selection of over 2000 plants with fourteen new varieties. All plants are quality, certified nursery grown. There will be landscaping tips and handouts for a suggested butterfly or meadow garden. April Olbrich will be on hand to offer "Naturescaping" advice and materials. Native Mason Bee houses and the book, "Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast" will round out the offerings.

We have expanded our advertising this year and urge WCSWA members to tell their friends and come themselves, too. If you would like to help at the sale, please call Sharon Boge at (503)357-7688. This is a fun event and a good opportunity to get to know fellow WCSWA members.

Proceeds are used for scholarships and other educational purposes. This is the second year that WCSWA is offering scholarships to students sponsored by a WCSWA member. Please see the article in this month's Forest Forum for details on the scholarships.

***A Plant List and Invoice is included with the Forum: pick out your favorite plants!***

### Advertising Opportunity:

The Forest Forum is a monthly newsletter sent out to over 250 members and friends of WCSWA. Advertisers receive free newsletters for the duration of their ads.

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

**Dallas Boge, 10735 NW Thornburg Rd, Gales Creek, OR 97117**

**Thank you for supporting Washington County Small Woodlands Association!**

## Tree Talk by Bonnie Shumaker

Once each year, around the forth of July, I take my familiar woods walk with notebook and camera. I write down what I see, hear and remember from the past year. In 2007, I made the walk a bit late, on July 30. Keeping with the late pattern, I am just now taking my notes and writing them down. I'll share with you some of the highlights. I'm sure they will stir memories of your own.

Major work on the tree farm was minimal this year. We did sell two truckloads of logs by combining blow-downs and removal of pasture trees. We had more pasture than was needed, so by moving some fence, we opened up a new area for trees. This was in keeping with the tree farmer's mantra, "There's always some place to plant a tree".

We felt good this year to be able to share our love of trees with a wider audience. Grant McOmie did a piece on our tree farm highlighting stewardship and native plants which was aired on a news segment of "Grant's Outdoors". We also hosted two school tours and have four scheduled for spring, 2008. But the best woodland news is that Bob and I had the honor of being selected as 2007 Tree Farmers of the Year for Washington County by the American Tree Farm System. We are very excited and are making plans for the picnic we will host on July 26<sup>th</sup>.

This reminiscing leads me into my walk. As we pass the vegetable garden, I applaud the deer fence surrounding a total of four raised beds, two of them new. Bob and I put the fence up this spring and except for a raccoon and coyote sneaking under to steal green strawberries, the garden is thriving. I admire the two bean pole teepees made from cedar I thinned from our forest with my very own chain saw. I also used my chain saw to cut logs of the size that would hold down young Madrone saplings so they would curve back up on their way to becoming walking canes in ten years or so. I'd like to say that using my chain saw gave me great confidence and I cut a lot of firewood, but that would not be true. I will probably never be great with a chain saw.

As I enter the south 40, Queen Anne's lace and the last of the Ocean Spray greet me. My walk is about a month late this year; so much of the wildflower splendor is over. Birdsong with answering calls delight my ear. At the trail junction lays a stack of cedar from winter's blow down. I'm reminded that the hemlock tree in stand 1B and the maple tree in the corral both split it half in the same storm. The hemlock makes a great wildlife tree, but the portion of the maple that didn't blow over had to be removed by an arborist in order to save both the barn and Bob and Dan who contemplated all sorts of ways to get it down before admitting an expert was needed.

The two acre clear-cut by the pond planted in 2006 looks good, and the cedar tree at pond's edge that the beaver chewed several years ago is now seven feet tall with five stems. The redwing blackbirds have enjoyed nesting in the cattails. We even heard their "oak-de-lao" call in the winter. The driveway trees are still a topic of discussion about when, how or if to thin them before they become commercially viable. This summer at the Tree Farmer of the Year picnic, this pre-commercial thinning vs. early commercial will likely be a topic.

The trail through the big woods sports the new chips we put down and a tree near the entrance wears an old man visage that Pat Nygren helped us put up for the field trip kids to enjoy. It's now a favorite tree for the whole family and watches over our forest. Coming back to the house, the one tiger lily I spotted in the woods this year has a few blooms left. Before returning home, I stop to take a picture of the RTV we bought last spring. We've named it "Tigger" for its color and how it moves us happily through the forest. Bob added a windshield to cut the wind. It has a dump bed which makes it useful for gardening and firewood hauling. Bob mounted a winch on it just recently, which should help in that pre-commercial or early thinning we'll need to do.

It always brings contentment to me to walk through our woods. When we count our blessings, this tree farm ranks high.

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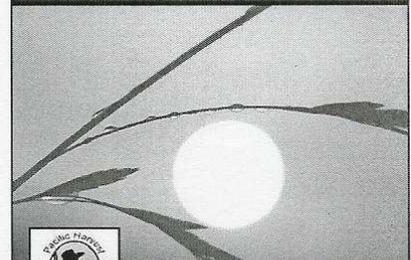
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## Oak Restoration – Getting to the “Core” of the Problem by Tom Nygren



Julie Reilly, Natural Resource Specialist for the Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District (THPRD), contacted me last summer concerning a project she was working on. The District is trying to restore some native Oregon white oak stands in their Nature Park in Beaverton. The Nature Park is a large forested area (222 acres). It lies in the valley bottom, and has a high water table throughout much of the area. It has been logged at least twice in the past, with the latest being in the 40's and 50's. The trees are a mixture of Douglas-fir, Oregon ash, alder, and white oak. There are a few remnant large oaks, but most are smaller, and severely crowded by the other species.

Julie is interested in getting small woodland owners involved in the restoration. She asked me to help her determine the ages of the white oak, so on a cold, wet, January day she and I bored some trees with my increment borer. Julie then spent some time counting tree rings. We only had good cores for seven trees – 8 to 10 inches in diameter. Ever try to get a borer into an oak tree? She counted 65 rings in 4.625 inches (14.05 rings/"), 82 rings in 4 inches (20.5 rings/"), 54 rings in 3.75 inches (13.87 rings/"), 83 rings in 5.75 inches (14.43 rings/"), 22 rings in 1.625 inches (13.54 rings/"), 33 rings in 3 inches (11 rings/") and 36 rings in 2.5 inches (14.4 rings/"). This averaged out to 14.48 rings/inch. She then applied the rings per inch to the tree diameters we measured to get an estimate of the tree's age. The result: the smaller oaks were 63 and 67 years old – they probably originated at the time of the last harvest. The old remnant oaks and Douglas fir obviously predate everything else in the Park.

The District has been removing fir and other competitors around the surviving oak trees – this will be an interesting experiment to watch over the next few years, and will be an opportunity to educate the public, as the treatment areas are near the many hiking trails in the Park.



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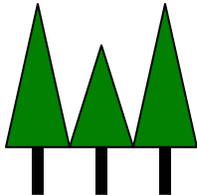
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## ***Forest Forum***



COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE  
OREGON SMALL WOODLANDS  
ASSOCIATION

### ***Potpourri***

#### ***Welcome to New Members!***

**Brian Hoyt** of Salem, **Vic Herinckx** of Bethany, **Lars Larson** of Oakland, CA, and **Anja Larson** of Vancouver, WA, 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).

#### ***Thanks to the Rankins!***

Lon and Laura Rankin of Lebanon have again provided the WCSWA with some additional resources for the Forest Forum. Thank you, Lon and Laura – we appreciate your support! Perhaps most important is knowing that you find the Forest Forum useful!

#### ***Oregon Logging Conference Coming Up***

Each year the Fairground in Eugene is the scene of the Oregon Logging Conference – one of the largest forestry equipment and technology exhibits in the country. The Conference runs three days, starting on Thursday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, through Saturday, the 23<sup>rd</sup>. While a fee is necessary to participate in the Conference itself, the exhibits and demonstrations are free to the public on Saturday, which is a family day. There are interactive exhibits and activities for younger members of the family, and the whole family will enjoy some of the competitions, such as the High School Forestry Skills competition. Small woodland owners will be amazed at some of the equipment displayed – from firewood processors and portable mills, to huge machines used on industrial operations. To find out more about the Conference, go to [www.oregonloggingconference.com](http://www.oregonloggingconference.com) on the internet.