

# Forest Forum

Washington County Small  
Woodlands Association

March, 2008

## ***Monthly WCSWA Meeting: What Is The Role Of An ODF Stewardship Forester?***

The Oregon Department of Forestry has made significant changes over the past few years in how they administer the Forest Practices Act, and implement their service forestry program to assist woodland owners. How have these changes been received by woodland owners? How effective have the changes been in improving the ability of the Department to meet its dual responsibilities under the pressure of legislative budgeting?

John Krause, Stewardship Forester, Oregon Department of Forestry, will present his thoughts on what a Stewardship Forester is, and how it operates, at the **March 25th WCSWA monthly meeting**. This is your chance to find out what the Stewardship Forester faces in balancing the roles of providing service, and enforcing regulations – particularly in times of lean budgets and conflicting time demands. John will also discuss some practical considerations facing woodland owners, particularly as spring approaches, bringing with it planting site preparation, planting, (see Meeting, page 11)



## **Dead Trees DO Tell Tales!**

Just as forensic crime investigators uncover clues to piece together crime solving evidence, Dr. Dan Gavin, assistant professor in the Department of Geography, University of Oregon, uncovers clues to explain the vegetative history of the Pacific Northwest. Dr. Gavin was the featured speaker at the monthly meeting of WCSWA on February 25<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Gavin started by going back to questions that occurred to the newly appointed chief of the US Forest Service, Gifford Pinchot, on his early tours of forests in the west, shortly after the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Pinchot wondered about the vast stands of Douglas fir – how did they originate?

He speculated that fire played a role, judging by the charcoal and ash he found in the duff underneath the tree stands. . He noticed that the very old stumps showed signs of fire damage, but younger trees, in the 2 to 5 foot diameter range, did not show any fire damage.  
*(see Dead Trees, page 5)*

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## Notes from the President

by Dallas Boge

On February 26, 2008, the board of directors unanimously passed a resolution opposing the construction of LNG facilities and pipelines in Oregon. The resolution is published elsewhere in the *Forest Forum*. Some of the other counties are starting to study the changes that would be brought about by the construction project. I hope that in the near future OSWA at the state level will support us.

This time of year brings up the safety issue on our farms. The last two Februaries, natural cover fires have broken out in our local fire district. Last year's fire went on for seven hours, this year's only three. Both could have been prevented by following the rules about a firebreak around the piles to be burned. Take just a few minutes to make a break down to mineral soil. Who would think that dry grass and brush would burn in the winter? It does. As we start to become more active in our outdoor projects, we need to review, at least in our minds, how we work so that we work safely. A few minutes of review can save a few weeks in the hospital.

The state convention will soon be here in Florence. This year's convention will be more like the ones in the past, with an excellent tree school one day. With all the other events planned, this is one not to be missed.

By the time you read this, I hope that you have all your replanting done. It is almost time to spray unwanted vegetation again.

That's all for now.

*Dallas*

### ***The Ax Men Cometh***

The first-ever non-fiction series about the treacherous life of Pacific Northwest timber cutters, **AX MEN**, premieres **Sunday, March 9 at 10pm ET/PT** on the **History Channel**. Deep in the woods of the Pacific Northwest, rugged men make their living doing one of the most dangerous jobs in history... Logging. Their mission: to retrieve timber perched on mountainsides too steep to access with machines. But this is no easy task. For more than a hundred years, larger than life characters, many of whom are members of logging families that go back to the time when the West was being settled, have spent their days among towering trees and powerful machines and their nights in outposts far from the comforts of civilization. AX MEN will tell remarkable stories detailing the history of the logging industry, showing how technology has transformed life for today's logger, while the struggle of man versus nature stays the same. Over the course of thirteen episodes, AX MEN follows four logging crews through a season in the remote forests of northwest Oregon. Plagued by mechanical failures, relentless weather--including a hurricane that ripped through the area--and violent and unpredictable terrain, these brave men risk their lives retrieving the very timber we depend on to build our country. Snapped cables, runaway logs and treacherous machinery are among the many dangers that threaten their lives and safety everyday. Anything and everything can go wrong on these sites and the price of even the simplest mistake can mean death.

Member Liz Jacobs provided this information from the History Channel, along with the fact that the four crews are: Pihl Logging, Browning Logging, Gustafson Logging and Stump Branch (Mel Lardy). She notes that the crew was filming when we had the severe, crazy weather in December. Since many of us have used, or know these loggers, she thought a snippet in the WCSWA newsletter might be a good idea.

## 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.

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**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

**Wanted:** Two cylinder John Deere diesel tractor restored or restorable for display in new museum. Jeff Clevenger (503) 472-2811

## Event Calendar

- 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**      **6 Starker Lecture, OSU – See Potpourri, page 12**  
**17 Starker Lecture**  
**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.  
**24-26 OSWA Annual Meeting**, Florence, OR
- May**      **20 WCSWA Potluck** at Reeher Family "stage stop" and "woods camp". Details later  
**29 Starker Lecture Series Field Trip**
- 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***

The Oregon Woodland Co-op continues to make good progress in implementing its new business plan with the help of a USDA Value-Added Program Grant. A ***new office*** is now established, and though not open at all times, it is being used by the Co-op's Coordinators, Kent Goodyear, Scott Zimmerman, and Louis Leatherman. The office phone number is 503-647-7425, and you will reach a Coordinator even if they are not in the office.

A ***website*** has now been established for the Co-op ([www.orwoodlandco-op.com](http://www.orwoodlandco-op.com)) and it is being "populated" with information about the Co-op, member services, contact phone numbers, and other information. A Market Report, written by the Co-op marketing manager Scott Zimmerman, will be a regular feature. It will be posted weekly or bi-weekly, as market news develops. The website will be aimed at providing three types of information: Marketing opportunities, Co-op activities, and Outreach information to partner organizations, individuals, and potential new Co-op members.

Work continues on ***purchasing and contracting leverage*** opportunities. Discussions are underway to establish a cooperative purchasing account with a major supplier of supplies, equipment, and chemicals that woodland owners need. The aim is to be able to provide Co-op members with discounted prices and/or rebates for their purchases. Contract activities, such as aerial spraying and tree planting, to serve multiple members at reduced cost are also being developed.

Additional ***professional service provider*** agreements are also being developed, to enable Co-op members to meet all their needs for professional services. This will provide a range of available services, including all types of forestry consulting, wildlife management, engineering, and other professional services.

The Co-op is developing a ***bundled firewood program*** with the assistance of Lyal Purinton and Liz Jacobs. Anyone who has interest in participating in the Co-op firewood program, please call 503-647-7425 to speak with the coordinators.

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## ***Dead Trees,***      *continued from page 1*

Dr. Gavin's research has led him to using sophisticated tools to uncover clues to the past fire history of the Pacific Northwest – tools such as high-powered microscopes and carbon-dating. With these tools he has determined ***the historic rate of variability*** (HRV) of fire occurrence, which tells the story of the role of both natural and man-caused fire in establishing the Douglas-fir forests.

According to Gavin, glaciers covered the Pacific Northwest 12 to 14 thousand years ago. As they receded, small lakes were formed in their wake, known as cirque lakes. These cirque lakes have remained in an undisturbed state in many cases, and provide a repository for clues such as pollen from ancient trees, ashes and charcoal from past fires, and other bits of vegetative history. Gavin and his students have been extracting cores from these lake bottoms. Using pollen analysis, combined with carbon dating and carbonate shells (the midge-head capsules of diatoms) , they are able to track the ebb and flow of both fires and plant species distribution over thousands of years.

The result is an historical picture of vegetation changes over time: species moving their range both north and south, and even disappearing for hundreds or thousands of years – then reappearing! According to Dr. Gavin, the probable cause for these dramatic (when the time frames are condensed) changes is long term climate change.

*(Editor's note: So what's changed? We are still experiencing climate change today. Though we do not have the ability to compress these changes over time, the changes are likely just as dramatic now as they were then – if not more so!)*

## **It Was A Good Year For Planting!**

Bob Shumaker, Seedling Chair for WCSWA, reports that almost 70,000 seedlings were sold through the WCSWA Seedling Program this year, for a gross return of \$24,800. The cost of seed, and nursery sowing, tending, and lifting, was almost \$18, 300, leaving a return to WCSWA of over \$6,000.

Profits from seedling sales support a variety of WCSWA programs, and members get locally available, quality seedlings at very competitive prices – a good deal for all of us!



## 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.

### *Anyone for Dairy-aire?*

*The following is from an article by Mitch Lies which appeared in the Capital Press February 8, 2008. (Bonnie Shumaker)*

"Diary farmers can breathe easy. According to a study reported in a recent edition of "New Scientist" magazine, it turns out dairy workers are five times less likely to develop cancer than the general populace".

The findings have researchers wondering whether the higher incidence of certain cancers in affluent populations might also have something to do with sanitized, infection-free living. Perhaps adults with greater exposure to germs build up better resistance to bugs, including cancer.

Oregon Dairy Farmer's Executive Director Jim Krahn suggested that dairy farmers ought to charge city-folks to come out to the farm and breathe in some cancer-preventative dairy air: A new version of value-added or farm direct sales.

If it holds true for dairy farms, how much better might a study show of the benefits of spending time in the woods? Perhaps a "Douglas-fir delight" walk or "wildflower wellness" could be added to the dream of carbon credits for adding value to our woodlands?

The Trout Mountain Forestry logo features a black triangle with the words "TROUT MOUNTAIN FORESTRY" in white. To the right of the logo is a vertical flowchart with four upward-pointing triangles. The text next to the triangles reads: "A balanced approach", "TIMBER MANAGEMENT", "ALTERNATIVES TO CLEARCUTTING", and "FOREST PLANNING AND RESTORATION". Below the flowchart is the text "Forest stewardship for productivity and diversity". At the bottom left of the advertisement is the FSC logo with the text "These forests have been independently certified as well managed." At the bottom right is the FSC trademark information: "FSC Trademark © 1996 Forest Stewardship Council A.C. SCS-FM1COC-00062GN".

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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 this spring?

## **WCSWA Takes Pipeline Position:**

*The Board of Directors for Washington County Small Woodlands Association voted for the following resolution at their quarterly meeting on February 26<sup>th</sup>. The resolution has been forwarded to the Executive Committee of the Oregon Small Woodland Association, and will be provided to other organizations and entities who may be interested in taking a position on the proposed pipeline.*

### **WASHINGTON COUNTY SMALL WOODLAND ASSOCIATION HEREBY RESOLVES:**

WHEREAS the Washington County Small Woodlands Association is a county chapter of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association and,

WHEREAS the Oregon Small Woodlands Association promotes the sustainable growth and production of timber and other non-timber products, clean water, healthy wildlife, clean air on privately owned land and,

WHEREAS the Oregon Small Woodlands Association advocates for the use of forest bio-mass for the future energy supply for Oregon and,

WHEREAS the importation of large quantities of liquefied natural gas from unstable sources will cause the development of alternate sources of energy to decline, contrary to the mandated goals of 25% of Oregon's energy coming from renewable sources by 2025 and,

WHEREAS placing large, high pressure natural gas pipelines through such private property is detrimental to said activities and,

WHEREAS the region through which the pipelines is proposed to run are prone to landslides, earthquakes, and stand-replacing fire and,

WHEREAS the pipeline will bring no economic benefit to the affected land owners and cause harvest of immature timber, and not allow replanting of said trees and,

WHEREAS the pipeline would bring danger to the land owners affected, as well as their neighbors, in case of an incident and,

WHEREAS the construction of the pipeline would disrupt irrigation and drainage lines in field and forest and,

WHEREAS there is no demonstrated need for the additional supply of natural gas that these projects bring to Oregon,

THEREFORE the officers and the board of directors do hereby express their unanimous opposition to all liquefied natural gas projects in Oregon.

Dated this 26<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2008

Dallas F. Boge, President  
Bob Shumaker, Secretary-treasurer  
Art Dummer, Director  
Bonnie Shumaker, Director  
Wendell Walker, Director

Jim Brown, Vice President  
Dick Courter, Director  
Tom Nygren, Director  
Neil Schroeder, Director

## Wood Market Meltdown Analyzed

Non-rational behavior by lumber and panel mills is driving the wood market industry to “suicide-type pricing”, according to the February Wood Markets Monthly International Report. They point to the lowest Douglas-fir prices since the 1980’s as one example. While “Markets” acknowledges that low prices will persist until classic supply-demand pressures come into play, they point out that the speed and level of plant capacity reduction is insufficient, and there must be other factors influencing market players.

The “Markets” report states that it has been evident for some time that virtually no commodity dimension lumber or stud mill anywhere in North America is profitable or even cash-positive, and prices for most 2X4 commodity structural lumber grades are at the lowest prices since 1991 (except for southern yellow pine). In their opinion, lumber prices will begin to move up somewhat in 2008, if mills can answer these questions:

- When will prices move off the bottom and stay above their recent lows?, and
- At what price level will curtailed capacity restart to push prices back down again?

The bottom line: Lumber price outlooks were consistently over reality in 2006 and 2007. There is a perception that the current housing slump is temporary, and that it will correct itself soon. However, facts indicate that it may still be another 18 months or longer before we see a more balanced market and firm prices – unless something significant happens to change the scenario as it unfolds.

*(Wood Markets International, February 2008)*

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



## Tree Talk by Bonnie Shumaker

What do tree farmers do this time of year after the seedlings are in the ground and brush control plans made? With the trees still dormant, we might still do a bit of pruning, snipping double-tops or surveying for critter damage. We noticed that with all the snow we had in January, the only things sticking up above the snow were the terminal buds of last year's planting. Our local elk herd used our land as a B & B for about two weeks.

Beyond the actual on-the-ground work we need to do during the last of this year's tree dormancy (those brush control plans still need to be executed), there are two educational opportunities in which we plan to partake. Not only will these add to our knowledge, they offer time to visit with new and old woodland friends.

- Tree School at Clackamas Community College will be held Saturday, March 29. I'm not sure how many classes are still open, but we hope to see many WCSWA members there.
- OSWA's Annual Meeting will be held April 24-26 in Florence. Registration forms will be coming soon. It sounds like a fun event with interesting tours and classes – and a clambake on the beach.

Cozy by the fire education is also recommended. I'd like to share with you two books I've enjoyed lately. One is "Last Child in the Woods" by Richard Louv. It is subtitled "Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder". For several reasons, children are spending too much time indoors and lack un-structured time exploring nature. Rick Zenn from the World Forestry Center had similar advice when WCSWA visited Magness Tree Farm last May. He stressed that trying to stuff too much "education" into field trip recipients doesn't leave as lasting an impression as letting them explore, touch and experience a forest visit. After reading this book and remembering Rick Zenn's comments, we have encouraged the kids who come to our tree farm for field trips to feel free to go "off trail" to examine what they see and hear. There has to be a certain amount of structure to manage up to 90 kids at a time, but we try to make it a fun "walk in the woods". A booklet enhances their learning, but is secondary to the fun part.

If you are interested in native plants and wildflowers as I am, I can highly recommend two books I found this spring. One is "Wildflowers of the Pacific Northwest" by Mark Turner & Phyllis Gustafson and is published by Timber Press. It is excellent for identifying wildflowers. It has the plants and flowers organized by color and within the color by shape. It is compact enough to carry in a backpack on a hike. The second book is "Encyclopedia of Northwest Native Plants for Gardens and Landscapes" by Kathleen A. Robson, Alice Richter & Marianne Filbert, also published by Timber Press. It is a much bigger book and is organized by types of plants and alphabetized by Latin name. Fortunately for me, the index lists common names, too. The pictures are excellent and the extraordinary thing about it is how comprehensive is each plant's description. Besides a general description, cultivation and suggestions for landscaping is given along with propagation clues and other notes. Being in charge of WCSWA's Plant Sale for the last three years has made me even more of a wildflower junky than before, and I know there are readers out there who share my enthusiasm.

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### New Publication

**EC 1615-E, Forest Health Fact Sheet: Swiss  
Needle Cast of Douglas-fir in Oregon.** New,  
January 2008, 4 pages, available only online,  
no charge. Author: David Shaw.

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/ec/ec1615-e.pdf>

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### *Meeting, from page 1*

vegetation control, and other management activities.

John graduated from Washington State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Management in 1980, and began work with the Oregon Department of Forestry in March of 1980 on the Elliott State Forest in Reedsport, Oregon. He worked on the Elliott for 6 years before coming to Columbia City as a Forest Practices Forester. He has now been in Forest Practices for 22 years. John and his wife have two boys who both attend OSU. You might see John out backpacking, backcountry skiing, golfing and cycling – his favorite outdoor sports.

John's area of responsibility covers northern Washington County. He can be reached at Oregon Department of Forestry, 405 E. Street, Columbia City, OR. 97018. His phone number is 503-397-2636, and his e-mail address is [jkrause@odf.state.or.us](mailto:jkrause@odf.state.or.us)

### **National Tree Farmer Convention Coming To Portland**

The 2008 National Tree Farmer Convention, the annual meeting of the American Tree Farm System, is coming to Portland this October 16<sup>th</sup> through 18<sup>th</sup>. The Convention itself will be held in Portland, but there will be field tours to local sites of interest to tree farmers. One of those sites is the Little Beaver Creek Tree Farm, owned by Anne and Richard Hanschu, on Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. The Hanschus are past winners of the Western Tree Farmer of the Year award, and have made many improvements to their tree farm specifically designed to accommodate tours and visits. They frequently host school groups, foreign tour groups, and others to demonstrate a working tree farm.

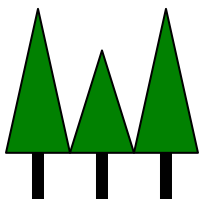
Information on the National Tree Farm Convention is available from Richard and Anne, at 503-357-2551, as well as on the Oregon Tree Farm System website, [www.otfs.org](http://www.otfs.org).

The Oregon and Washington Tree Farm Systems are hosting the Convention, and are looking for donated items for a silent auction. The proceeds from the auction will be used to support their tree farm programs. If you have an item to donate, you can get more information on how to make a donation by contacting Anne or Richard.

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## ***Forest Forum***



COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE  
OREGON SMALL WOODLANDS  
ASSOCIATION

### ***Potpourri***

#### ***Think You Have A Watershed Restoration Opportunity?***

An OWEB Small Grant may help you do it this year! **May 15-31, 2008, Lower Willamette West OWEB Small Grant Team application deadline.** For more information, call 503-846-4810 or [trwc@easystreet.com](mailto:trwc@easystreet.com)

#### ***Our Foreign Correspondent, Don Sparks...***

Don Sparks, WCSWA member, has been touring several Middle Eastern countries and shares his observations:

“Most of my observations have been from bus windows. Jordan really needs more trees, but Syria has been working. They’ve planted many miles of trees along highways, 15-30 feet wide.”

Don’s postcard carried a Syrian postal stamp – with a picture of a large tree on it!

Thanks for sharing with us, Don.

#### ***Native Plant Sale – Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>***

The 2008 WCSWA Native Plant Sale will take place on Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, at the Bales Thriftway parking lot, Farmington Road and Kinnaman, in Aloha. The sale will start at 9 a.m., and go till 3 p.m.

#### ***Starker Lectures – OSU***

By the time you get this *Forum*, you will have missed the first 2 lectures in the series, “The Role of Planted Forests in the Pacific Northwest: Meeting Societal Demands in a Dynamic Environment”. However you can still go to the next 2 as well as the field trip. These are excellent lectures, and are available to the public at no charge. The next one is on April 6<sup>th</sup>, and the topic is *Carbon Sequestration & Biomass Production in Ponderosa Pine Plantations: Does Management Really Matter?* For more information on the series, upcoming lectures and field trip, and access to archived video and live streaming audio, go to <http://www.cof.orst.edu/starkerlectures/>.