

# Forest Forum

Washington County Small  
Woodlands Association

April, 2008

## ***Helmer Tree Farm Tractor Theft***

Sometime during the period of March 17-20, someone stole John Helmer's red Yanmar 33D tractor from his property on McCormick Hill Road, south of Hillsboro. The tractor, which was equipped with a front-end bucket, skidding winch, and brush cage, was driven to McCormick Hill Road (as shown by drag marks from the winch, which the thief apparently did not know how to lift). John and his grandson noticed the theft on Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, when they went to use it for work on the property.

***John is looking for help in locating his tractor and winch. He is offering a \$500 reward for information leading to the recovery of the tractor. Contact John at 503-222-4614 if you have information that may help in the search for the tractor.***

Crime in rural areas occurs, especially when equipment, houses, and other buildings are not occupied or in regular use. Keep your eyes open and report any suspicious activity!

## **Those Other "Critters" – Topic of April WCSWA Meeting**

Susan Barnes, Wildlife Diversity Biologist for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, will be the featured speaker at the April 22<sup>nd</sup> monthly meeting of WCSWA. Susan will discuss the recently completed Oregon Conservation Strategy – a nationally mandated but state prepared strategy for conserving the diversity and quality of habitats for wildlife species. Susan will describe the habitats – and the focus species that live in them – for Washington County and Northwest Oregon. She will provide information about how woodland owners can incorporate wildlife habitat features into their management, describe the key invasive species threatening wildlife habitats, and describe how to "live with wildlife" – common situations and recommended actions. The WCSWA meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Capital Center, OSU Extension office, at 185<sup>th</sup> and Walker Road in Beaverton.

Susan is an easterner by birth, but since acquiring her wildlife biology degree from the University of New Hampshire (minor in forestry), she has moved west for practical, on-the-ground experience. Susan worked for the Audubon Society and Forest Service doing habitat surveys (loons, amphibians, insects, small mammals, spotted owls), before landing a permanent job with an environmental consulting firm. This led to a position with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, where she has worked with private landowners in habitat assistance and hunter access. Her current position as Wildlife Diversity Biologist takes her over northwest Oregon, where she is the main point of contact for non-hunted (non-game) wildlife species and their habitats. Susan points out the 88% of all Oregon wildlife species fall into this category, so she is kept very busy!

*See "Wildlife", page 2*

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## Notes from the President

by Dallas Boge

As I write this at the end of March, the snow still is flying regularly and the sunshine seems but a distant memory. We managed to get the Christmas trees sprayed for weeds recently, but I worry about the short time the spray stayed on the plants before rain removed it into the soil profile.

OSWA is asking for county chapters to volunteer to host the annual meeting. Washington County hosted it last in 2001. I have offered to Mike Gaudern our services to host either 2010 or 2011. After having the 2008 national convention of the American Tree Farm Society in our back yard, we deserve a year off, so someone else will have to do 2009.

The annual native plant sale creates a lot of conversations among the helpers. Out of one conversation came the idea of looking at some of our wonderful supply of native plants in bloom in their natural habitats. As a consequence of this, a field trip has been proposed for early July in the Detroit Lake area.

I became interested in native plants a number of years ago. A friend, since passed away, and I applied for a grant from the American Rhododendron Society, and got it. The grant was for the exploration of the native *Rhododendron macrophyllum* growing in the Detroit Lakes area to see what variations the plant exhibited in bloom and plant growth. The grant went on for three years. We would spend a week camping at the campground at the lake, and spend the days driving the Forest Service roads looking for rhododendrons.

In the process, we also ran across many lovely native plants. My friend, a landscape designer was familiar with the plants and their characteristics. Thus, I absorbed a great deal of his knowledge.

By early July, the snow is gone, mostly, and the vast array of flowers is wearing their finest blooms. Being patriotic, they bloom in red, white and blue. If you are interested in a day in the mountains appreciating some of the most beautiful flowers Oregon has to offer, let me know.

That's all for now.

Dallas

**Wildlife** continued from page 1

She is responsible for knowing what these species need to survive and persist, where they occur (range and specific habitat requirements), and techniques for protecting and conserving them into the future. She must know all the laws and regulations that affect these species and their habitats, and provides advice, technical information, and analysis of proposed actions and their potential impact on wildlife and their habitats.

Susan grew up with a love of the outdoors, and spent many hours outside playing in the woods and in the creek behind her house. These earlier experiences led her to a career in wildlife biology. Her dream is to own some land and ensure its protection for wildlife for the future.

## WCSWA Leadership

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### 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)*

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

## Event Calendar

<b>April</b>	<b>22 WCSWA Monthly Meeting</b> Susan Barnes, Wildlife Biologist, Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife. Details later. OSU Extension office, Capital Center, 185 <sup>th</sup> and Walker Road, Beaverton.
<b>May</b>	<b>20 WCSWA Potluck</b> at Reeher Family "stage stop" and "woods camp". Details later
<b>June</b>	<b>12 WCSWA Twilight tour</b> at the Raines Tree Farm to celebrate 50 year anniversary
<b>July</b>	<b>26 Tree Farmer of the Year Tour – Bob and Bonnie Shumaker's</b>
<b>August</b>	<b>WCSWA Tour (to be announced)</b>
<b>September</b>	<b>Tour or Meeting</b>
<b>October</b>	<b>28 WCSWA Meeting</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>Annual Awards Banquet</b>

## ***May 20 Potluck – Reeher's Homestead – Coming Up!***

Those looking at their calendar for May need to be sure and schedule the May 20 WCSWA Potluck Tour of the Reeher Homestead on Highway 6, just east of the Lee's Camp Store. The Reeher Homestead is both a modern recreational attraction, and a historic landmark.

Jim Reeher of the Reeher family has offered WCSWA the opportunity to meet at their Homestead. The Reeher family originally settled on the Homestead in 1889, having come from eastern Kansas the previous year. In April, 1889 James, Jennie, and their five children (the oldest 9 years and the youngest 5 months) moved onto the homestead at the mouth of the North Fork of the Wilson River. The pioneer family lived in the area until 1918, when a wildfire burned their fourth home. Some land ownership changes occurred, but in the mid-1940's a family corporation was formed.

During this period all of the land had been burned over twice and some three times. Over succeeding years logging and reforestation occurred. During the 50's much of the area was planted to fir, with alder filling in the unplanted areas. The corporation has started harvesting some of those trees.

Jim Reeher has a forestry related background: planting trees on the Tillamook Burn, and assisting with management of the family corporation. He was born in Forest Grove and graduated from Forest Grove High School. He spent over 3 years in the Coast Guard, and graduated from Oregon State with a degree in Fish and Wildlife Management. He had a 28 year career with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Jim has served for 44 years on the Board of Directors of the corporation – 31 of those years as chairman. During this time the area has changed from a burned over, logged over brush and snag covered land to a green managed forest.

There are now eight families living on the homestead lands, with 25 families with summer cabins or sites.

Details on the Potluck Tour will be in the next newsletter. For now, suffice it to say that besides good food, there will be a program on the early settlers, and a tour of the camp. In the meantime – get the date on your calendar!



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## 7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL NATIVE PLANT SALE A SUCCESS

Submitted by Bonnie Shumaker

When WCSWA sets its sights on a project, success is almost a given. This is the seventh year of our Native Plant and Tree Sale, and thanks to the hard work of many of our members, we are able again to give two \$1,000 scholarships to deserving students sponsored by our members. The recipients will be chosen this month and will be announced in next month's Forest Forum.

The weather wasn't the best and we had an exciting squall that blew a lot of things around on the cashier's table (thank heavens the cash boxes were closed), but the buyers came anyway. This was thanks to the best advertising coverage ever. Art Dummer shared his experience from last year and Jolene Adams added that to her previous experience and then added more. Every radio, TV, newspaper or garden club within a fifty mile radius was advised of our sale. We also thank Paul Stormo of Champoeg Nursery and Daral and Virginia Pearson for the excellent quality of the plants we had to offer. Bales Thriftway on Farmington Road provided the space once again and our continued presence is generating many people who look forward to our presence in March. Chuck Price and Lyal Purinton started this sale seven years ago as a way to make money for our organization while at the same time presenting the friendly face of the family tree farmer to the urban community and offering them native plants that were displaced by urbanization.

As chair of the plant sale for the last three years, I'd like to thank all who helped and purchased plants. Those directly involved were:

Ardis and Neil Schroeder    Ron Larson    Jim Brown  
 Eloise Binns    Lyal Purinton    Jim Bays  
 Jolene Adams    Chuck Price    Don Moore  
 Art Dummer    Paul Sansone    Bill Triest  
 Bonnie and Bob Shumaker    Linda Martin    Beth Adams  
 Sam Sadtler    Dallas and Sharon Boge Tom and Pat Nygren

### Thieves Target High-Value Decorative Wood

To the untrained eye, it looks just like any other maple tree. But a peek beneath the bark can reveal a piece of wood that is potentially worth good money in the music industry - where it's used for guitars and similar instruments. Unfortunately, that tree is also probably standing in a remote forest, completely vulnerable to illegal harvest by thieves.

<http://blog.carlsguitarcorner.com/?p=327>

from *Entrepreneurial Forester*,  
 4-3-08, edited by Kirk Hanson

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([http://oregon.gov/ODF/STATE\\_FORESTS/TIMBER\\_SALES/logpage.shtml](http://oregon.gov/ODF/STATE_FORESTS/TIMBER_SALES/logpage.shtml)).

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

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

## Tree Talk

by Bonnie Shumaker

Some people call it a memory lapse or “senior moment”. Supposedly all that we learn resides somewhere in our brain; the issue is in the retrieval. Whatever the research shows, the one thing I do know is that I’m not alone. Does anyone else search their brain for statistics and facts about Oregon’s forests when talking to others or just talking with each other? Bob and I often try to remember where we read about how much of Oregon’s land base is forested or how much of that is owned by federal, state and local governments. Then how much of that is family forestland?

I’m pleased to announce that OFRI (Oregon Forest Resource Institute) has come out with a publication from which I can easily retrieve the information I’m seeking. If you don’t know about OFRI, the Oregon legislature created the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) in 1991 to improve public understanding of forests, forest products and forest management and to encourage sound forestry through landowner training. In keeping with this mission, OFRI sponsors classroom and field programs for K-12 students and teachers and produces educational publications that generally can be obtained at no cost.

The OFRI publication to which I refer is entitled “The Oregon Forest Book: Ecology, Economy and Society”. If you went to Tree School, 2008 on March 29<sup>th</sup>, a copy was included with your registration packet. Also, I have ordered 50 copies that will be available at WCSWA’s monthly meetings, or you can call OFRI direct at (971) 673-2944 to order this or other publications.

To answer the questions I pondered above, here are the answers. Maybe you’ll remember them without the booklet, but I know where mine is, and know I’ll be pulling it out again and again.

- Forests cover almost half (45%) of Oregon
- The federal government (BLM and USFS) holds 59%
- Private landowners hold 35% of forestlands (about half of that is family forest owners). Currently, these private landowners contribute 80% of Oregon’s timber harvest.
- The Oregon Forest Practices Act passed in 1971 was the first of its kind in the U.S. and mandates replanting after harvest, restricts clear-cut size and protects water and wildlife resources.
- Oregon currently harvests about 4 billion board feet of timber per year. This harvest is less than half the total growth in forest timber in Oregon each year.

The items above are just a small sampling of the information provided in the booklet. It covers most of the ecological, economic and social benefits of forests. Remember: WOOD IS GOOD!

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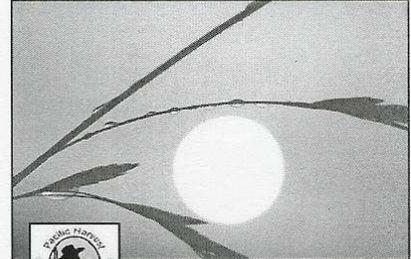
### Landowner Preference Tags – In Peril or Promise!

There has been concern in the forestland owning community over an earlier news report that the Fish and Wildlife Commission was going to change the basis for landowners preference tags (deer and elk) from 40 to 640 acres. Paul Nys of Columbia County SWA has been tracking this issue, and reports: “I received a call from ODFW representative Craig Ely yesterday and he clarified the earlier statement which was to “change the acreage for LOP tags from 40 to 640 acres”

“There will be NO change for LOP tags on the westside. Craig explained that a committee of four landowners and four hunters went through the entire LOP program. This committee, it was pointed out, is advisory and the recommendations may not have surfaced with the Commissioners. It is RECOMMENDED that for BULL/BUCK LOP hunters only, the minimum acreage be increased to 640 acres on the **eastside**. There will be no change for the antlerless LOP hunters (which remains at a minimum of forty acres).”

“A few other possibilities are being considered: The LOP tags could be increased for those providing additional habitat, hunter access, youth hunts, terminally ill youth hunts, etc. A new table to permit additional LOP tags for those landowners with 20-40,000 acres is also being proposed. In addition, in the category of immediate family, daughters-in-law and sons-in-law may be added.”

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## Trask and Alsea Join Hinkle Creek As Watershed Studies

The Watersheds Research Cooperative (WRC) has gained two multidisciplinary watershed studies – the Trask Paired Watershed Study and the Alsea Watershed Study Revisited. Both studies, now underway in Oregon, are examining the effects of contemporary forest practices on hydrology, water quality, fish, and other aquatic biota. These studies join the Hinkle Creek Paired Watershed Study under the WRC umbrella, a collaboration that provides greater ecological context to address questions of contemporary forest management effectiveness. The three studies, using similar study designs and data collection methods, are geographically distributed throughout western Oregon – Alsea in the Mid-Coast Range, Trask in the North Coast Range, and Hinkle in the Cascades.

At the Trask, the research is being conducted at two spatial scales – within the immediate area of harvest treatments and at downstream locations throughout the watershed. The Alsea Watershed Study Revisited provides a unique opportunity to compare the environmental response of contemporary forest practices with the environmental response of the unrestricted logging that occurred in the 1960s. The Alsea study complements the WRC efforts at Hinkle Creek and the Trask by providing a 20-40 year record over a 50-year period and by comparing drastically different treatments on the same watershed.



*Editor's Note:* the Hinkle Creek Study is a major effort to compare a control watershed that has not been logged, with a comparable watershed that has been logged under contemporary forest practice standards. The Trask and Alsea Revisited studies will add significantly to the body of knowledge initiated by the Hinkle Creek Study. Future issues of Forest Forum will present additional information on these important studies.

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## Timberland ownership moving from regional to global

Although the total investable timberland (forestland) universe in the United States is only a microscopic percentage of the total institutional asset base (about 0.2%); in the last decade institutional and private equity timberland investments have graduated from being an obscure asset class pursued by only pioneering investors, to rapidly becoming a semi-mainstream investment for an increasing number of pension funds, university endowments and private equity/hedge fund firms.

In the United States there has been a massive swing away from C Corp company ownership of timberlands. In just three years from 2004 to 2007, the area of timberland owned by forest products companies halved, while areas managed by Timber Industry Investment Organisations (TIMOs) increased by 120%, by private investors almost 110% and T-REITS by 35%. Of the top 10 company timberland owners in 1981, only one (Weyerhaeuser) had any significant core holdings left by early 2008. TIMO-only investments have increased three-fold from \$9 billion in 1997 to more than \$29 billion in early 2008. On top of that Endowment and private equity funds have also invested - and so the total new ownership investment is perhaps more than \$50 billion; out of a total timberlands investment space of \$70 billion.

The biggest challenge facing the investment timberlands industry in 2008 is a lack of affordable properties on the market. The excess liquidity searching for timberland deals has driven up timberland prices by 2-3 times over the last several years. For instance, timberland values in the US South, which averaged only about \$500 per acre in the late 1980s, now sell for in excess of \$1,500 per acre; and the most recent large- tract transaction in February this year went for almost \$1,900 per acre. Incidentally the very highly geared investment in this 900,000 acre property (purchased by TimberSTAR in mid- 2006) returned an estimated annual equity Internal Rate of Return (IRR) approaching 90%. This compares with fundamental annual returns on timberlands of perhaps 5-8% in the US PNW, and 4-6% in the US South.

By early 2008, a number of TIMOs had become the largest landowners/managers in the United States. Several manage more than 1.0 million acres and some more than 2.0 million acres. One TIMO now manages more than 2.5 million acres in the USA; and the largest TIMO, counting its international assets manages more than 3.5 million acres. This compares with the largest truly private landowner in the United States (Sierra Pacific) with only about 1.8 million acres under (timberlands) management. Plans to establish a number of country specific timberlands investing funds have been developed in 2007-2008 including in Russia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Japan. *(Editor note: this summary from Australia is an excellent summary of TIMOs)*



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## *John Krause - Stewardship Forester in the Middle*

John Krause, Stewardship Forester for the Oregon Department of Forestry, explained to those attending the March meeting of WCSWA how he works with forest landowners to both meet their management goals, and provide the necessary oversight of Forest Practices Act regulations. John's philosophy is: focus on the prevention of problems, rather than correct problems or enforce regulations. According to John, there are two primary bottom lines: keep mud out of the creek, and put trees in the ground! He works with landowners to meet these bottom lines, and finds that everything else usually falls into place.



John's area of responsibility includes that part of Washington County north of Highway 26, and he works out of the Columbia City ODF office. Eric Perkins of the Forest Grove office works south of Highway 26.

Some cautions about getting trees in the ground (after logging). John explained that often a landowner will have the logger do the reforestation – sometimes that works and sometimes it doesn't. Sometimes the reason it doesn't is that the reforestation is not a high priority for the logger, and the job doesn't get done. Also, the landowner needs to understand that just planting is not enough – the trees must become established. Often this means both pre- and post-planting in order to reduce vegetative competition. Buyers of cut-over forestland also need to understand that they become responsible for reforestation. The realtor is required to inform buyers, but often the buyer doesn't understand what this means.

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A rule change for fish streams: classification as fish-bearing now includes a stream length up to the first natural barrier, based on fish habitat characteristics. If an artificial barrier exists downstream, then the stream is still treated as fish-bearing (however – exceptions can be made, see your stewardship forester).

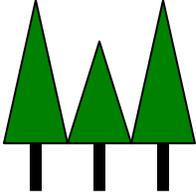
Finally, fire protection is an important responsibility for forest landowners. Requirements for "fireproofing"

equipment used on forestlands during critical fire danger periods, as well as keeping appropriate fire tools and water handy during forest operations, monitored by stewardship foresters. Consult with your stewardship forester as fire season approaches, and protect yourself and your forestland!

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## ***Forest Forum***



COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE  
OREGON SMALL WOODLANDS  
ASSOCIATION

### ***Potpourri***

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

Bill Zander has 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).

#### ***Keeping Records of Forest Management Activities***

Tree farmers need to keep records of their operations, expenses, accomplishments, and other features of their tree farm ownership and management. Records are needed to establish “active management” for tax purposes, to document the basis (value at purchase) of the timber and land to reduce future taxes, to determine the expenses of operating a tree farm business, and practice intelligent adaptive management of valuable natural resources. Several good record-keeping systems are available (OSU Extension publication EC 1187, for one).

#### ***Wise Words – A Commentary On Why Woodland Owners Need To Work Together***

**Now this is the law of the jungle,  
The law it runs forward and back...  
The strength of the pack is the wolf,  
And the strength of the wolf is the pack.  
- Rudyard Kipling**