

Forest Forum

Washington County Small
Woodlands Association

June, 2008

Raines Tree Farm – 50 Year Celebration and Founder Birthday

The Raines family invites small woodland owners to come help celebrate two significant events: 50 years of consistent tree farm ownership and accomplishments, and the 88th Birthday of Ralph Raines Senior. Ralph Junior has invited all comers to the Tree Farm on June 12th. In typical Ralph Junior fashion, visitors have a lot of leeway in choosing when they wish to attend. Ralph says that the Tree Farm will be open from noon to midnight on the 12th, and food and refreshments will be served

Ralph plans to show visitors a bald eagle's nest (be sure to stay back 300 feet if the nest is active), thinning in planted stands, and a road rebuilding project.

The Raines Tree Farm is located at 7400 SW Summit Avenue. To get there, proceed down (or up) Hwy 47 and turn west on Cherry Grove Road (about a mile north of Gaston). Proceed about 5 miles to Cherry Grove. Go thru Cherry Grove until you reach Summit Avenue. Proceed north on Summit Ave to Raines Tree Farm.



Jim Reeher talks to a group of hearty, rain-resistant WCSWA members

Reeher Family Homestead Tour

By Elouise Binns and Ardis Schroeder

Our May meeting was held at Lee's Camp in the Tillamook Forest, hosted by Jim and Ann Reeher in the Reeher Family Corporation forestlands. The evening began with a delicious potluck dinner served in the original mess hall built by the logging company that harvested the salvage from the Tillamook Burn. Many historic photos of the three generations of the Reeher family and their homesteading efforts were displayed on the mess hall walls.

Jim Reeher's entertaining slide show and commentary followed dinner. Jim traced the efforts of his predecessors with photos of the families and their increasingly modern buildings. The first cabin was completed in April of 1889 and the family moved up from Tillamook, taking two days for the trip of 20 miles. A few years later James (the first Jim Reeher) built a house from the best parts of a big cedar tree *see "Reeher", page 5*

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Notes from the Vice-President

by *Jim Brown*

As usual, I am behind schedule on my farm work. I can report, though, that I applied Garlon 4 to some persistent blackberry vines during a dry period in March; propped up the seventy-odd 5-year-old saplings which were pushed from the vertical by snow, ice and wind; and cut down the many 12-foot-high blooming Scot's broom (which I had cut down in fall of 2005). This year, the Scot's broom WILL be sprayed after it sprouts, so hopefully no more 6-foot tall leaders! Got some other things done, too, but still much more to do. Since the farm has always been forest, there are many native plants growing and blooming this time of year. I try to take a little time to enjoy the ambience.

Dallas mentioned carbon credits in his *Notes* last month, and I want to pass on some thoughts and information that you may find useful.

Information: Earlier this month, OSWA submitted a business plan for the formation of an Aggregator Organization to the American Forest Foundation (parent organization of the American Tree Farm System). If approved, the AFF will provide a **substantial** grant to OSWA to set up a pilot project to implement the plan. Certified forests would be eligible to participate. Participating forests would have to be appropriately stocked, and guaranteed to remain so for a set period of years. If the AO pans out, many of us will have an opportunity to benefit financially from what our forests would be doing anyway.

Thoughts: At first, it goes against my better instincts to get paid for something that will enable some factory to produce carbon emissions above its allotted cap by purchasing my credits. On the other hand, my sale of carbon credits makes it more expensive for that factory to continue to emit carbon. This additional cost of production is expected to motivate industries to phase out older carbon-intensive processes in favor of cleaner ones, and to phase them out more quickly. This is a good thing.

O.K., so why do I get to collect dollars for no additional work? Is it right to take free money? Fact is, I will limit my options for marketing timber during the time I commit my forest to carbon sequestration. It is also true that carbon credits are market-traded, so the value will vary, and could drop significantly as industry switches to cleaner processes. If I still feel a bit guilty about collecting cash from carbon credits, I could dedicate the ill-gotten gains (after taxes) to reducing my own carbon footprint by outfitting my home for passive solar heat and photovoltaic electricity, driving more fuel-efficient vehicles, and using more efficient equipment and methods on the farm.

In the next few months, carbon credit opportunities and choices will become clear. Tom Nygren tells me there will be a Co-op event coming up on June 21st that will cast more light on the subject. In the meantime, I guess I'll tackle my ivy patch next (**See page 9**).

Keep 'em growing! We all know that's a good thing.

Jim

"The reasonable man adapts himself to the world; the unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself."

George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950)

WCSWA Leadership

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www.wcswa.org

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Contact Tom Nygren for web postings and information.

Forest Forum Newsletter

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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: No items were submitted

Wanted: No items were submitted

Event Calendar

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| June | 12 50th Year Celebration of Raines Tree Farm and 88th birthday of Ralph Raines Sr. (and WCSWA field tour) – An open house event, from noon to midnight – if you can last that long! See article with directions on page 1.
21 Woodland Owner Opportunity Day – Open to all woodland owners. 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., followed by potluck. Kinton Grange, Scholls Ferry Road |
| July | 26 Tree Farmer of the Year Tour – Bob and Bonnie Shumaker's |
| August | Field tour planned; to be announced |
| September | Field tour planned; to be announced |
| October | 21 WCSWA Meeting – Roy Anderson, marketing specialist for The Beck Group |
| November | 18 Annual Banquet |
| December | No WCSWA meeting |



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Biodiversity Key To Ecosystem Productivity

Scientists from Brown University have discovered that an ecosystem's productivity is directly linked to its diversity of plant species. The discovery has granted biodiversity new importance in the fight against climate change: the more productive the ecosystem the more carbon it captures.

"It's a double whammy," Osvaldo Sala explained. "We not only are disturbing our planet by putting more carbon into the atmosphere, but we're reducing the ability of ecosystems to capture and store it." Sala is the director of the Environmental Change Initiative and the Sloan Lindeman Professor of Biology at Brown University.

The Brown scientists conducted their study for six years in Patagonia. They divided an area into ninety plots and then began to systematically remove native species from each plot and chart the changes in the plot's productivity. Productivity dropped as species were removed.

The scientists believe that productivity is linked to the diversity of species because of "niche complementarity". In other words, in an intact environment each species has evolved its own niche without interrupting other species' niches. This harmony between species allows them to positively interact with each other and fully utilize the resources of a given space.

In the experiments "the water is the same, the nitrogen is the same, the sunlight is the same, what is different is the diversity of the plants," said Sala. Artificial landscapes proved far less productive than natural ones. According to the paper: "In contrast [with artificial landscapes] natural ecosystems presented mature individuals, populations, and species coexisting for long periods of time in natural soils without chemical treatments and low artificial disturbance regimes."

The findings appear to have important ramifications beyond plant species, since high biodiversity of plants depends on non-plant species. Insects, birds, and bats are major pollinators for plant species; some plant species depend on a single insect or animal species for pollination. Therefore, to have a truly productive ecosystem all of the region's biodiversity must be retained.

Proceedings of the National Academy of Science in the United States of America, April 22nd 2008.

For full story, please see

http://news.monqabay.com/2008/0429-hance_biodiv.html

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“Reeher”, from page 1

he had saved. The floor joists, the wall studs, the siding and the flooring were all split by hand. In a letter to an old neighbor in Kansas, James wrote of a tree that he felled that “when it was on the ground you couldn't see over the log . The man from the prairie could not imagine such a tree and told a neighbor, 'That Jim Reeher has gotten to be an awful liar since he went to Oregon.' “ J James' wife, Jennie, wrote in her memoirs about the first house, “Our heating stove was a piece of sheet iron, an enlarged stovepipe with a door on one side, set in a large square box of rocks and gravel. Our cook stove was taken apart and packed in on muleback.”

The final house built by James, with the help of carpenters, was completed in 1904. It had 20 rooms and a large fireplace and was known as “The White House on the Wilson River.”

The evening concluded with a tour of the memorial garden and sites of the structures we saw in the slides. Finally we saw a replica of the original stage stop building which Jim and Ann have constructed to house the Reeher family memorabilia. This museum contains artifacts, letters, photos and video tapes all catalogued with love and care to encourage coming generations to treasure their heritage.

A 100-Mile Wood Products Market

The notion of the “100 mile diet” is a concept whereby a family would attempt to purchase its food from close by, thus saving the varied costs of energy. The same constraints of rising and volatile transportation costs could apply to the forest industry as well. Keeping things simple, building real relationships based on real interests and needs, a shared connection to a place and its people may be the source of something more lasting and hopeful.

From an article by Peter Marsh in the NWOA Woodland Report, Spring, 2008

Birds and Burns Network: Prescribed Fire versus High Severity Wildfires

Although prescribed fire is increasingly being used in ponderosa pine forests as a management tool to reduce the risk of future high-severity wildfire, its effects on wildlife habitat have rarely been examined. The Birds and Burns Network was created to assist managers in planning prescribed fire projects that will reduce fuels and enhance bird habitat. Researchers have established a network of study sites across eight Western States to analyze changes in fuels, downed wood, forest structure, bird habitat and populations of birds within 1 to 2 years of prescribed fires. Additionally, studies conducted on the Birds and Burns Network evaluate some of the ecological tradeoffs associated with managing for wildland fire, prescribed fire, or fire exclusion.

Issue 103 of the US Forest Service's Pacific Northwest Research Station publication *Science Findings* contains information from the Western Regional Birds and Burns Study. Go to <http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw>. Station website for the full publication, and also sign up to receive *Science Findings*.

Advertising Opportunity:

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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

On May 22, we had a delightful group of second graders from Banks Elementary School visit our farm for a field trip as part of their study of forests. Besides having lots of fun, the children experience eight different stations. With WCSWA's Master Woodland Managers assisting at each station, the children learn about the forest from the practical to the aesthetic. Pat Nygren helped at the "Poetry" station and solicited from the children the following insightful Haiku poems based on different senses of the forest. I hope you enjoy them as much as I do.

ANIMALS

Birds, chipmunks, squirrels
Dogs, ants, butterfly, deer,
salamanders
Eggs, spider, skippers
Habitat

POND

Salamanders, fish, newts
Tadpoles are fast baby frogs
Reeds, fish heads
Wet

FOREST

Ferns, squirrels, chipmunks
Face on a tree, stump
Twigs, spider, moss
Trees

TREES

Nests, birds, nature
Pine cones, quiet, ferns, stumps
Animals, branches, leaves
Bark

SOUNDS

Wind, rushing water
Birds, rain, woodpeckers, leaves
rustling
Branches, snapping, cracking
Peaceful

STUMP

Rough, roots, round
Lots of animals live there
Rotten, moss, dead
Bugs

NATURE

Salamanders, trees, pond
Bee nests, old man, twigs
Dog, stump, needles
Wildlife

HABITAT

The forest floor
Trees, plants, nest, sky, pond
Deer, holes, bunnies
Homes

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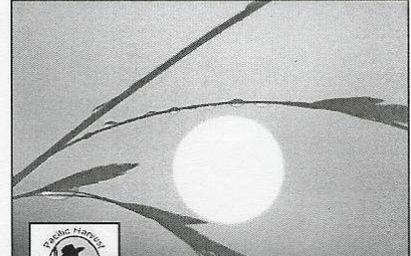
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From Douglas Co. Woodlander, Summer '08

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Opportunity Day for Small Woodland Owners – June 21st

Come join the Oregon Woodland Cooperative (OWC) in a special educational opportunity.

Logs and lumber are not the only products of value in the forest, today value can be found in every needle and plant, and in the forest as an ecosystem. The Oregon Woodland Cooperative brings to you an opportunity to learn about the many new and innovative ways small landowners can utilize their resource.

Carbon Management – Dr. Mark Harmon, OSU

Dr. Mark E. Harmon, Richardson Chair and Professor in Forest Science of Oregon State University will present a lecture on the role of forests in mitigating climate. Specifically, the lecture will explore carbon management in forests and forest products.

Ecosystem Services – Dr. Bobby Cochran, Clean Water Services

Dr. Bobby Cochran of the watershed management staff of Clean Water Services will present on a variety of ecosystem service programs, where incentives and payments are available for landowners whose property provides clean water, wildlife habitat, scenic views, and other benefits.

Non-timber Forest Products – Pat Mooney

Pat Mooney will give a presentation on the wide variety of non-timber forest products available from our forest. He will discuss the many opportunities these products offer, and some of the potential challenges involved in their harvest and sale.

Family forestry is important to the OWC and its membership so we would like to invite you to bring your husbands, wives, children, anyone you want involved in the future of your forest. A "lunch table" will be provided, with sandwich "fixins", fruits and other goodies.

When: June 21st 8:30 am – 12:30 pm

Where: Kinton Grange (www.kintongrange.org) 19015 SW Scholls Ferry Road, Beaverton

Info and RSVP

While you don't need to RSVP to attend, we would appreciate it if you let us know you are coming, it will help us be better prepared. To let us know, or if you have any questions call 503-647-7425 or e-mail: louis@orwoodlandco-op.com. Website: www.orwoodlandco-op.com

Schedule:

8:30 – Introduction
9:00 – Carbon Management
10:00 – Ecosystem Services
11:00 – Break
11:15 – Non-timber products
12:15 - LUNCH



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Coastal Studies Test Assumptions About Harvest Effects

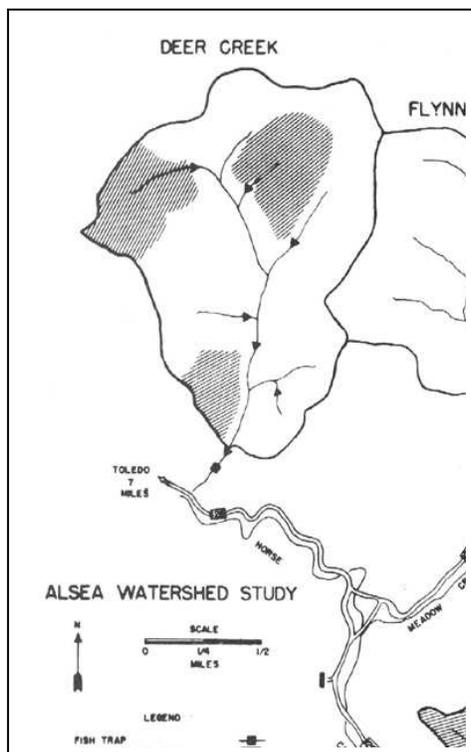
Watershed Research Cooperative

The Alsea River Revisited Watershed Study (Mid-Coast) is part of a research cooperative including two other watershed studies in Oregon- Hinkle Creek (Cascades) and Trask River (Northwest Coast Range). This collaboration of three watershed studies under one research cooperative (Watersheds Research Cooperative) provides greater ecological context to address forest management effectiveness questions.

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. By looking at a record of watershed data that was collected over a 50-year period and using a control watershed that has not experienced significant human impacts since before the 20th century, the study will investigate how the impacts of forest management compare to natural disturbance and variability.

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.

The Alsea Watersheds provide an opportunity to compare water resource responses to current forest practices with those resulting from an extreme manipulation in the 1960s. The original Alsea Watershed Study assessed the effect of timber harvesting on water, aquatic habitat, and salmonid resources using a paired-watershed approach. Flynn Creek was an undisturbed control watershed in the original study and remains an undisturbed Natural Research Area under management by the USDA Forest Service. Deer Creek was partially cut and demonstrated the effectiveness of streamside management zones. Needle Branch was impacted by nearly complete clearcut timber harvesting and subsequent slash burning, with no streamside vegetative buffer. It experienced dramatic water quality responses for temperature and dissolved oxygen. Changes in discharge, sediment, and nutrients were also noted, although these were somewhat more subtle, if more prolonged. The water quality impacts observed for Needle Branch are sometimes erroneously cited as the inevitable consequence of clearcutting.



Study Leaders: George G. Ice, NCASI; Jeff Light, Plum Creek Timber Company; Stephen Schoenholtz, Oregon State University and Virginia Tech; Arne E. Skaugset, Oregon State University; John D. Stednick, Colorado State University]

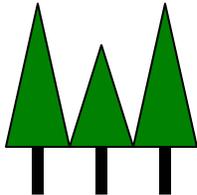
The three studies complement each other by conducting research using similar designs and methods, in different watersheds.

The Alsea Watershed Study is part of the Watershed Research Cooperative at Oregon State University (<http://watershedsresearch.org/>) and receives in-kind and financial support from Plum Creek Timber Company and the National Council for Air and Stream Improvement, Inc.

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Forest Forum



COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE
OREGON SMALL WOODLANDS
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Potpourri

WCSWA President Named 'Firefighter of the Year' for 2007

Dallas Boge, WCSWA President and past Tree Farmer of the year (with his wife Sharon), was awarded the 2007 Firefighter of the Year Award in April for his work with the volunteer fire department. Dallas has been a faithful member of the rural fire department (RFD) for over 18 years. In addition to serving with RFD, Dallas has hosted the RFD wildfire school for 10 years on their tree farm, working with the Oregon Forestry Department to train volunteers.

Sharon has done her part for the community also. Sharon has served on the Forest Grove Public Safety Commission, and has been active in the Neighborhood Watch program in the Gales Creek area.

Good Work, Dallas and Sharon!

OSWA Full Spectrum Forestry at WFC

On Saturday June 7 from 9am to 1pm there will be a Full Spectrum Forestry field day at the Western Forestry Center. The event is free and sponsored by the Oregon Small Woodlands Association. The tour will start with an interactive question and answer session about full spectrum forestry, hosted by Forest Dan! Every aspect of forestland ownership will be touched upon, including best practices in planting, wildlife management, streams and water protection, with references to further information, as well as the combined knowledge of helpful volunteers to help guide you on your quest.