

Forest Forum

Washington County Small
Woodlands Association

December, 2009

Annual Awards Banquet Features Great Food and Perspective

The banquet served by the Jennings-McCall Center was well-prepared and well-received – as was the perspective offered by the evening’s speaker, **Peter Hayes**. Peter, the son of longtime WCSWA member Ned Hayes, offered his thoughtful analysis of the historical relationship between the European settlers of this country and the forests they found when they came, and how that relationship has changed over the past 200 years.

Peter has graciously provided the Forum with his notes for his presentation (*page 8*). An educator by profession, Peter sees the people-to-forest relationship as a long-term learning experience. As small woodland owners, Peter and the rest of us are part of this evolving relationship. Peter sees the future as one of coping with competing economic strategies, and he raises the question: “Can we learn to recognize multiple resource opportunities, and capture multiple resource streams, to build a positive for our forests and for us?”



John Mulholland Named Washington County Tree Farmer of the Year

John Mulholland earned the 2009 Tree Farmer of the Year award and was presented with a beautiful carved sign (above, being presented by Kelly Evers, Stimson Lumber Company) at the WCSWA Annual Awards Banquet November 17th at the Jennings-McCall Center in Forest Grove. Several members of John’s family were present to participate in honoring John for his achievement (see picture on page 4). (*Photos courtesy of Bonnie Shumaker*)

Along with the Tree Farmer of the Year award, **three Tall Tree awards were presented:**

- **Kathy Scott** – “Webmaster extraordinaire for WCSWA”
- **Mike Heath** – “For support of the small woodland community with knowledge and integrity”
- **Art Dummer** – “For continuing support of WCSWA with enthusiasm and outreach to new members”.

All three of the Tall Tree winners have been instrumental in advancing WCSWA programs, and providing exceptional service to the small woodland community. *Thanks!*

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Notes from the President

by Dallas Boge

This is my forty-sixth and last column as your president. In January, a new president takes over to continue this association. It has been a joy and pleasure to serve you the last four years. I have presided over other groups in the past, but this is the best!

Much has changed in the last four years. Four years ago no one had heard of carbon credits. Now it is a very viable new source of new revenue for forest landowners. If the Congress passes cap and trade (not looking likely just now) the market will get real active. If not, we will probably be in a good position to serve smaller businesses that need smaller quantities than what are traded on the Chicago Climate Exchange. The future will be interesting, and may lead to selling other environmental services, such as clean, cool water and clean air, and who knows what?

Four years ago LNG was something that the gas company stored on the Portland waterfront and at Newport. Now it is a very hot topic in Northwest Oregon and on the south coast. Only a small number of our members are directly affected by the proposed pipeline routes, but those affected would be seriously damaged if the construction of either line went ahead. Washington County chapter took the lead in passing a resolution against the projects. However you feel about the prospect of importing LNG into the United States, the issue with forest landowners is a property rights issue, that is, the taking of private property for the enrichment of another private organization. The Supreme Court decision in the *Kelo* case allows such to happen, but the decision is almost universally thought to be wrong.

One never knows if writing this column stimulates thinking, but a few years ago a column did. I wrote about the reasons, as I saw them, of pruning crop trees. I got a lot of feedback on that topic. Maybe it is symbolic that I close my time in office in the middle of a pruning project which encompasses nearly a third of the farm. There is still money available from ODF to do wildland fire mitigation. Much of that work entails pruning to eliminate fire ladders. You have until next October to finish the projects.

This issue of *Forest Forum* contains a ballot for officers and directors for the next year. Please fill it out and return it as soon as you get this issue. I would be remiss if I did not thank all of the other officers and directors and members who have made my job easier. Neil Schroeder has finished his term as director, and has elected not to run again. Last spring when the resource management class became a real possibility, I asked him to take the lead, which he willingly did. Thank you, Neil. During my term, both Mel Mortensen and Jim Brown have served as vice president. Jim is now ready and willing to move up to president. Thank you both for your service. Bob Shumaker stepped into the treasurer's office when Wendell Walker stepped down, and subsequently ran for the office. That is a job which people tend to stay in almost for life. Thank you Bob, and I know you will continue to do an outstanding job. As president, I get to see a copy of every newsletter issued by the chapters all around the state. There is no better newsletter anywhere, thanks to Tom Nygren, with the assistance now of Bonnie Shumaker. Thank you both. Thanks goes to Beth Adams and her committee for putting on such a fine annual banquet. It went so smoothly, thank you, Beth.

Sharon and I will continue to be an active part of the organization, we aren't going away. In the mean time, I wish the officers and directors Godspeed.

That's all for now.

Dallas

WCSWA Leadership

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

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

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Neil Schroeder; 503-628-2344

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Contact Tom Nygren for web postings and information.

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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)

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Event Calendar

December

No meeting is scheduled

January

26

WCSWA Monthly Meeting, 7:00 p.m., OSU Extension office, Capital Center 185th and Walker Road, Beaverton. Speakers will be Dean Moberg, NRCS District Conservationist, and Gail Stinnett, Manager, Farm Services Agency, on new opportunities for small woodland owner programs.

February

23

WCSWA Monthly Meeting, 7:00 p.m., OSU Extension office, Capital Center 185th and Walker Road, Beaverton. Speaker will be Paula Sweeden, PhD, a private consultant and senior policy analyst with Pacific Forest Trust. She will speak on the topic of conversion of plantation forests to more diverse forest models, and provide insights into financial mechanisms for accomplishing such conversions.

March

23

WCSWA Monthly Meeting, 7:00 p.m., OSU Extension office, Capital Center 185th and Walker Road, Beaverton. Program details will be provided later.

April

27

WCSWA Monthly Meeting, 7:00 p.m., OSU Extension office, Capital Center 185th and Walker Road, Beaverton. Program details will be provided later.

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Thank you for supporting Washington County Small Woodlands Association!

Oregon Woodland Co-op Expands Firewood, Bough Operations

The Oregon Woodland Co-op (OWC) has expanded their bundled firewood and custom floral bough operation, building on the initial test effort in 2008. These operations are built on the concept of “value-added”, but offering customers (retail markets) a higher value product at a value-added price:

Firewood - high quality wood packaged and labeled for its sustainable forest origin and sold in high-end retail grocery outlets.

Floral material (boughs) – specific retail customer ordered and delivered material, cut and packaged in ready-to-use bundles. Specific specie, bough size, quality, and conformation are delivered to meet customer needs, at value-added prices.

Tree Farmer of the Year John

Mulholland (far right),

with (from left) **Kelly Evers**,
Stimson Lumber Company,

son **Stu Mulholland**, and

daughter **Janet Vannoy**.

Thanks to Stimson Lumber Company for providing the Tree Farmer of the Year signs that are presented to annual winners!



The Top Ten Environmental Benefits of Forestry *(Courtesy, Society of Am. Foresters)*

Forestry is bringing back forests. - Until the 1920s, forests were often logged and abandoned. Now, across the country an average of 1.7 billion seedlings are planted annually. That translates into six seedlings planted for every tree harvested. In addition, billions of additional seedlings are regenerated naturally.

Forestry helps water quality. - Foresters carefully manage areas called watersheds (areas where we collect our drinking water) and riparian zones (land bordering rivers, streams, and lakes). These are places where maintaining water quality is the primary concern for foresters. Forests actually help to clean water and get it ready for us to drink. The trees, the soil, and bacteria are all part of this process. Forest cover protects and nurtures the soils that are the key to water retention, filtering, and quality.

Forestry offsets air pollution. - Foresters nurture forests, which are sometimes called "the gills of the planet." One mature tree absorbs approximately 13 pounds of carbon dioxide a year. For every ton of wood a forest grows, it removes 1.47 tons of carbon dioxide and replaces it with 1.07 tons of oxygen.

Forestry helps reduce catastrophic wildfires. - At the turn of the century, wildfires annually burned across 20 to 50 million acres of the country each year. Through education, prevention, and control, the amount of wildfires has been reduced to about two to five million acres a year--a reduction of 90%. By marking and removing excess fuels, such as underbrush and some trees, foresters can modify forests in order to make them more resilient to fire.

Forestry helps wildlife. - Foresters employ a variety of management techniques to benefit wildlife, including numerous endangered species. For example, thinning and harvesting create conditions that stimulate the growth of food sources for wildlife. Openings created by harvesting provide habitat for deer and a variety of songbirds. Thinning can be used to accelerate growth and development of older trees that are favored by owls and other species. In order to enhance salmon habitat, foresters also carry out strategic tree plantings and monitor forest health along streams in order to keep the water cool and reduce sediments.

Forestry provides great places to recreate. - Foresters manage forests that provide recreational benefits to communities. Forests are important areas for such recreationists as birdwatchers, hikers, nature photographers, horseback riders, skiers, snowmobilers, and campers. And because foresters put water values high on their list of priorities, the rivers and lakes in forested areas provide such recreational opportunities as fishing, canoeing, and rafting.

Forestry benefits urban environments. - Urban foresters manage forests and trees to benefit communities in many ways. Forests in urban areas reduce stormwater runoffs, improve air quality, and reduce energy consumption. For example, three well-placed mature trees around a house can cut air-conditioning costs by 10-50 percent.

Forestry provides renewable and energy-efficient building products. - Foresters manage some forests for timber and produce a renewable resource because trees can be replanted. Other building materials, such as steel, iron, and copper, can be reused and recycled but not replaced. Wood is a renewable resource which, in addition to being recyclable, can be produced anew for generations to come on sustainably managed forestlands. Recycling and processing wood products also requires much less energy than does the processing of many other non-renewable materials.

Forestry helps family forests stay intact. - Foresters help family forestland owners, who own 54 percent of all the forests in the US, understand the benefits of managing their forests in an environmentally friendly manner. Better management of private forests means that those forests will remain healthy and productive. Many endangered species spend at least part of their time on private land, more than 80 percent of our nation's total precipitation falls first on private lands and 70 percent of eastern watersheds run through private lands.

Forestry is good for soils. - Foresters and natural resource managers are dependent on forest soils for growing and managing forests and, to a large extent, forest soils are dependent on resource professionals and managers. Foresters' success in growing forests and producing forest products is dependent on their ability to understand soil properties and to then match species with soils and to prescribe activities that not only promote forest growth but also enhance and protect soil productivity and prevent soil erosion.

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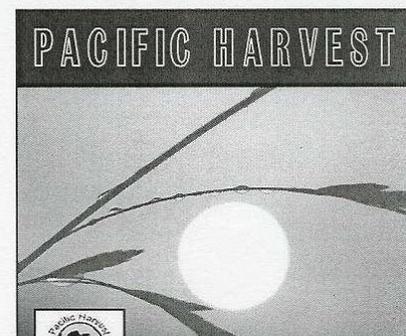


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Bits & Pieces

Lumber industry sees hopeful signs of slow recovery in 2010

Western sawmills, mired in historic lows in housing and lumber demand, should see signs of recovery in 2010 after five straight years of losses, according to a new WWPA forecast. Sawmills in the 12 Western states weathered a rough year in 2008, according to final production figures compiled by WWPA. While the difficult conditions for mills are continuing into 2009, the start of a recovery is expected in 2010. Source: *Western Wood Products Association*

Truffles – A symbiotic relationship with the forest, and an economic opportunity for woodland owners

The Pacific Northwest Forest Experiment Station has published a 194 page report that documents 350 truffle species, and how they are an indispensable link in the long chain of ecosystem processes that insure forest health. Understanding these relationships is also necessary in order to capture the growing economic value of truffles in the marketplace.

The report is entitled "Diversity, Ecology, and Conservation of Truffle Fungi in Forests of the Pacific Northwest" (PNW-GTR-772). The report is available from the Station; a summary is available online in Science Findings, at <http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/publications/scifi.shtml>

Our Evolving Relationship With Forests by Peter Hayes

A Presentation to the Washington County Small Woodlands Association Annual Awards Banquet on November 17, 2009

Through the roughly five hundred years that Euro-Americans have lived with forests in North America, our relationship with these forests has evolved. The forests have changed, we have changed, and our understanding of our interdependent relationship with forests has changed. As one whose life and livelihood is directly dependent on forests, I try to make sense of how these relationships change, and will continue to change. My current efforts are focused on trying on the hypothesis that our relationship has evolved through a progression of five phases, with shifts from one phase to the next being driven by unacceptable shortcomings of the previous phase. Is this approach to understanding the evolving relationships between people and forests valid – and potentially useful? I welcome your help in sorting this out. Summarized below are the five phases, key lessons learned from each, and questions raised that are significant to the future of our relationships with North American forests. To create a forestry that works as well in the long run as it does in the short, it behooves us to better understand where we're headed, where we've come from, where we are, and how we got here.

Phase 1 – Forest as Problem – When Europeans arrived in North America, forests presented a barrier to settlers needing to clear land on which to live and grow food. Serious work was invested in converting forested land into the cleared land on which survival depended.

Lesson Learned – In addition to being a barrier, forests provided resources that were important to the settlers.

Phase 2 – Forests as a Resource to be Mined – Taking advantage of what forests had to offer, our ancestors extracted what they wanted and needed, with little attention to maintaining the forest's ability to continue to provide. Forests were cut, converted to non-forest uses, or left to regrow, and the extractors moved on to new forests. Many claimed that the continent's forests were too vast to be exhaustible.

Lessons Learned – 1) forests are exhaustible, 2) western migration ran into the Pacific Ocean, and 3) we need forests.

Phase 3 – Single Resource/Single Revenue Stream – With a commitment to using forests in ways that allowed for their perpetuation in the same landscape in perpetuity, focus shifted to successfully growing a forest's most obvious resource – trees.

Lessons Learned – Forests are more than trees; they are an interdependent web of organisms and functions, many of which are directly, or indirectly, important to humans. Failure to accept this may lead to social and/or ecological problems.

Phase 4 – Multiple Resources/Single Revenue Stream – The logical response to the problems raised with phase 3 was to shift to management committed to sustaining multiple resources from the forest, even though the landowner might only be compensated for one of them – the sale of wood.

Lessons Learned – There are limits to the number and level of contributions to the common good which landowners are willing to provide without compensation. The upper limits of what landowners may be willing to provide, either through regulation or encouragement, may fall short of the minimum needed to maintain land health over the long haul. Accordingly this phase is likely to be both socially and ecologically vulnerable.

Phase 5 – Multiple Resource/Multiple Revenue Streams – Due to the shortcomings of phase 4, we are seeing many efforts to develop approaches that compensate landowners for the multiple resources that we hope their forests will continue to provide. Some are market driven, such as carbon credits or certification programs that create premiums for wood grown in forests managed to standards higher than the legal minimum, while others come in the form of government incentives. Time will tell how successful we can be in developing phase 5 forests on the scale that circumstances demand.

(See "Hayes" on page 10)

Tree Talk

by Bonnie Shumaker

Our tree farm is certified by the American Tree Farm System (ATFS). As members we look forward each year to the ATFS Annual Meeting in November. There is always an informative session and business meeting in the morning followed by a delicious lunch and the presentation of each county's nomination for Oregon's Tree Farmer of the Year. Scott and Marge Hayes were there to receive their award as winners from Washington County, and while the Melcher family's "Fun Forest Tree Farm" from Linn County took the high honors, the video taken at Scott and Marge's tree farm was excellent. All the videos are now professionally done and are a joy to watch.

For "Tree Talk" this month, I will focus on the session held before lunch which introduced the "Stewardship Planning Template" for writing woodland management plans. Besides being very helpful for succession planning, it is intended to be used for Forest Stewardship Plans developed for one or more of the following purposes.

- Forestry Financial Assistance administered by the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)
- Certification through the Oregon Tree Farm System (OTFS)
- Forestry Financial Assistance administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Amy Grotta, OSU Extension Forester for Columbia and Washington Counties, has made the template available at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/columbia/forest-stewardship>. You can download the regular Word document or a fill-able template form in either PDF or Word. If you don't like that long web address, you can easily navigate to the template by typing extension.oregonstate.edu/columbia.

Last year ATFS certification obtained global recognition through PEFC. The third party audit that substantiates this certification requires not only a management plan, but an updated one. The requirement is understandable not only for the legitimacy of ATFS certification, but also for the usefulness of the plan to the forest-land owner.

We were informed that if you already have a written plan and it is more than five years old, it is probably time for revision. That perked up my brain since our plan is seven years old. The other item that hit home is how essential it is to keep the plan updated. Bob and I strive to update our plan annually, but our method has both straightforward and awkward features. Bob keeps a daily journal of any work we do in the woods. It is simple in that he has a notebook by his easy chair and at the end of the day, in less than a minute; he writes down the date, stand number, type of work and hours spent. If it were I doing the writing, I would also have to have a map showing which stand is which in the front of the notebook.

The awkward part is summarizing all this data to update our management plan. In my mind, I have now devised a way to facilitate this. I will create a stand summary sheet with columns showing various activities such as planting, pruning or thinning. Then the activities could easily be accumulated for each stand. The second awkward part is entering the data in our management plan. We usually hand-write the data into the plan and then when it gets looking ugly, I type up the scribbles. Hence my excitement with the new fill-able template that is now available. My vision is that I can type directly off the summary sheet onto the plan and skip the hand writing part. Sound good? I'll let you know if the idea in my head actually transfers onto paper.

Are Timberlands Worth Less Now?

With the drop in lumber and log values in the recent past, you may wonder if your timberland is now worth less. Not so, says The Beck Group, a forestry consulting firm. They point out that three factors point toward maintaining or increasing timberland values: a) indications that log and lumber prices will start an upward trend in 2010, b) forecasts for a large future market for energy in the form of biomass, and c) continued upward pressure on wildland values for second homes and urban expansion.

Beck Group Newsletter, Fall, 2009

“Hayes”, continued from page 8

Questions Raised - Applying this hypothesis to our current circumstances causes a host of important questions to rise to the surface. Three of the most significant are:

1. How successful can we be in developing phase 5 forests, and how can we best do this?
2. In the public debate over the best management of both private and public forests we have participants whose worldviews are solidly grounded in phases 3, 4, and 5. Given this, how will we develop the levels of understanding needed to build the shared commitment needed to create a positive future for our forests and forest-dependent communities?
3. Though North American circumstances motivate us to develop phase 5 forests, our wood products increasingly compete in a global marketplace with products coming from countries that will continue to be phase 2 “miners” for some time to come. The conversion of natural capital to private wealth allows these products to come to market with artificially low prices. How will this region create phase 5 forests when we must compete with wood from places where phase 2 continues to prevail?

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The Lacey Act – What Does It Mean to FFOs?

Most woodland owners haven't heard much about the Lacey Act. However, a recent amendment to the 100 year old Act designed to restrict illegal species harvest (in this case, curb illegal logging in developing countries) through strict importation regulations, could have a beneficial effect on U.S. woodland owners.

By restricting the import of illegally logged wood (which undercuts U.S. wood), there could be a positive effect on market prices for wood from woodland owners in the U.S.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service administers the Lacey Act, along with the Endangered Species Act.



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Climate Change Poses Challenges To U.S. Forestry

One-third of U.S. lands are covered by forests, making forest ecosystems one of the nation's most prominent natural resources. In addition to their contribution to biodiversity, water quality, and recreation, forests also play a significant role in the U.S. economy, and forestry or forestry-related enterprises are the dominant industries in many U.S. communities. According to a new study by the Pew Center on Global Climate Change, the U.S. forestry sector will face a number of challenges in the next century due to the impacts of climate change.

The Pew Center report, [Forests and Global Climate Change: Potential Impacts on U.S. Forest Resources](#), explores the challenges climate change will pose to forest ecosystems and related economic enterprises over the next century.

"Changes in forest productivity, the migration of tree species, and potential increases in wildfires and disease could cause substantial changes to U.S. forests," said Eileen Claussen, President of the Pew Center on Global Climate Change. "Moreover, these ecological impacts will have direct implications for our economy. The timber industry in the southern United States is particularly vulnerable."

The key conclusions of the report include:

Forest location, composition, and productivity will be altered by changes in temperature and precipitation. Climate change is virtually certain to drive the migration of tree species, resulting in changes in the geographic distribution of forest types and new combinations of species within forests. In addition, climate change is likely to alter forest productivity depending upon location, tree species, water availability, and the effects of carbon dioxide (CO₂) fertilization.

Changes in forest disturbance regimes, such as fire or disease, could further affect the future of U.S. forests and the market for forest products. Increased temperatures could increase fire risk in areas that experience increased aridity, and climate change could promote the proliferation of diseases and pests that attack tree species.

U.S. economic impacts will vary regionally. Overall, economic studies indicate that the net impacts of climate change on the forestry sector will be small, ranging from slightly negative to positive impacts; however, gains and losses will not be distributed evenly throughout the United States. The Southeast, which is currently a dominant region for forestry, is likely to experience net losses, as tree species migrate northward and tree productivity declines. Meanwhile, the North is likely to benefit from tree migration and longer growing seasons.

As a managed resource, the implications of climate change for the forestry sector are largely dependent upon the actions taken to adapt to climate change. The United States currently has vast forest resources, and more timber grows within the United States than is consumed each year. If professional foresters take proactive measures, the sector may minimize the negative economic consequences of climate change.

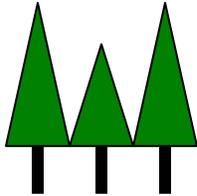
A number of challenges currently limit our understanding of the effects of climate change on forestry. Existing projections for future changes in temperature and precipitation span a broad range making it difficult to predict the future climate that forests will experience, particularly at the regional level. Thus, current projections could fail to accurately predict the actual long-term impacts of climate change for the forestry sector.

[Forests and Global Climate Change: Potential Impacts on U.S. Forest Resources](#), was prepared for the Pew Center by Herman Shugart (University of Virginia), Roger Sedjo (Resources for the Future), and Brent Sohngen (The Ohio State University).

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Potpourri

We Need New Members!

WCSWA can help small woodland owners achieve their management goals, as well as make them feel welcomed into the woodland community. As members, we can help other small woodland owners get the most out of their membership by inviting them to meetings and tours that are scheduled throughout the year. New members will find many kindred spirits among our diverse membership – and many opportunities to learn and share together! If you know a small woodland owner who is not an OSWA/WCSWA member – perhaps a neighbor or acquaintance – invite them to a meeting or event, and explain how membership can help them!

Ballot Enclosed – Do Your Duty And Vote!

A ballot for the election of new officers and directors is enclosed with this issue of Forest Forum. The nominations committee has put forward a slate of candidates, but there is also the opportunity to write-in candidates. If you know of a good candidate who is willing to run for one of the positions – please write their name in the ballot. If you want to “campaign” for your-write-in, please feel free to do so. If write-in candidates aren’t successful, their names will at least provide the nominating committee with some ideas for next year!

Anne Hanschu named to Oregon Forest Resource Institute Board – Congratulations!

Anne Hanschu, who with her husband Richard own and operate the Little Beaver Creek Tree Farm in the Gales Creek area, has been named to the small woodland owner position on the OFRI Board of Directors. Anne and Richard have been leaders in the Oregon Tree Farm System, OSWA, and WCSWA for years and have created an outstanding tree farm tour venue for education and demonstration of sustainable forestry on small private woodlands.