

Forest Forum

Washington County Small Woodlands Association

April, 2009

WCSWA Meeting April 28th

Firewood Anatomy (How a Tree Trunk Works)

Loren Radford, a certified arborist and an Oregon licensed landscape contractor, will discuss a favorite topic of his: firewood. The anatomy of a chunk of firewood has a lot to do with its suitability as a heating fuel – whether you burn it in your fireplace, or in a wood furnace.

The April monthly meeting of Washington County Small Woodlands Association will begin at 7:00 p.m., at the OSU Extension Service meeting room, Capital Center, at the corner of 185th and Walker Road, Beaverton.

Loren has taught landscaping and arboriculture for 17 years at Portland Community College. He has also taught horticulture and arboriculture in New York, North Carolina, and South Carolina. He served a couple years stint as an Extension agent in Colorado and a forestry contractor in Western North Carolina (mostly TSI work). He burns a lot of firewood at home, hence his fascination with its anatomy.

OSWA “Kings” Speak

by Bonnie Shumaker

David Ford, Executive Director of OSWA and Mike Gaudern, past Executive Director of OSWA and now President of Woodlands Carbon Company were the featured speakers at the March 24th WCSWA meeting.



David Ford



Mike Gaudern

Since David Ford is new to his position, he gave us his background. He came from Illinois, but migrated to the west coast in 1976 with a degree in forestry. He first worked for the Forest Service, then timber companies and trade associations. In 1997 he started Metafore with a goal of having certification open the way to getting things done through sustainable forest management. He served on the committee to help form the Woodlands Carbon Company and when Mike Gaudern vacated the job of Executive Director of OSWA, David was hired for that position. He owns land in Yamhill County and resides in Washington County.

David updated us on the state of OSWA. We have 1776 members which is more than a year ago with 27 new members since January 1, 2009. His goal is to improve information and services to the chapters. A work group within the executive committee has been formed for this purpose. David also chairs the committee to update American Tree Farm System standards now that ATFS... See OSWA, page 9

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Notes from the President

by Dallas Boge

Last month was Christmas tree weed spraying time. Our Christmas tree field is small, only 7 acres, and is surrounded by streams and crop fields. The size and proximity to other crops limits our options for applying herbicides. So over the years we have been using ground based equipment to do the job. We have a small John Deere tractor on which we mount a 50 gallon tank and an electric sprayer. With nozzles on both sides, one side of two rows can be treated with each pass across the field. This gives me a chance to inspect the field at a leisurely four miles per hour. And that brings me to the point of this dialog. I noticed a lot of snow damage to trees this year. I have seen similar in the past, but nothing of this scale before. There are two or three year old Noble firs with the complete top whorl of branches broken off at the stem. I have seen damage before, but again, not on this scale. Douglas firs with small openings in the branches formed snow shelves and would break out most of a whole side. There will be many trees consigned to the burn pile this year.

Last month Mike Gaudern, president of the Woodlands Carbon Company brought us up to date on carbon in the woodlands. The ultimate goal is to provide tree growers with ongoing revenue while the trees are maturing. The Woodland Carbon Company is being financially supported by the American Forest Foundation, which is the parent of the National Tree Farm System. There has been an effort in the recent past to offer assistance to anyone wishing to have their tree farm certified, either under the Oregon Tree Farm System, or one of the other plans. Since AFF is supporting WCC, they get to write the rules; one of which is that in order to be a part of the carbon sequestering program and getting paid for it, the tree farm must be certified. The list of certified tree farms in Washington County is short, and the list of tree farms in Washington County is long. If you are not on both lists, you need to be thinking about becoming certified.

One of the major steps in becoming certified is to prepare a management plan. The state has an excellent template available that will give you a framework upon which to put together a plan for your property. You can do much of the work yourself, or farm out part of it to a consulting forester or other expert. One of the parts of the plan is to have an inventory of the timber growing on your property. This entails cruising the stand. That can be a daunting prospect, but in reality, can be done by most of us. A cruise of this quality will be fine for a management plan. In June, the monthly meeting will go through the steps of just such an undertaking. We will be going into a plot which has never been cruised. We will set up a plot and measure the trees there. Then we will go through the steps needed to determine the standing volume and growth rate of the whole stand based on the plot selected. OSU has published several extension bulletins that cover the steps we will be taking. Put June 27th on your calendar.

In closing, Attorney General John Kroger spoke to us in February. At the end of the meeting, I attempted to give him our gift of a pen and pencil holder with the association's logo engraved in it. He could not take it, because it might constitute an illegal gift to an elected official. So, for the record, and opposite of what the picture shows, he did not accept our parting gift.

That's all for now.

Dallas

WCSWA Leadership

President – Dallas Boge; 503-357-7688

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

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

Bill Triest – 503-626-1838

Legislative Committee Chair:

Ron Larson; 503-775-3223

WCSWA Website

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

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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- 2) **Organic/biodynamic finished compost**, \$100 a pick-up, loaded by appointment. Complete plant food, a little goes a long way.
Paul Sansone, 503-359-3541, psansone@pacifier.com

Wanted:

Christmas Tree Shaker

Chris King, 503-647-0007

Event Calendar

April	28 WCSWA Monthly Meeting - Anatomy of a Chunk of Firewood (How a Tree Trunk Works), Loren Radford, Arborist. 7:00 p.m. OSU Extension, Capital Center, 185 th and Walker Road, Beaverton 7:00 p.m.
May	19 WCSWA Monthly Meeting - Program: Potluck at Stub Stewart State Park. Stream improvement
June	13 Oregon Woodland Co-op Annual Meeting – Open to all. 9:00 a.m. till Noon, Kinton Grange. Presentations and demonstrations featured. 18-20 Ecosystem Market Conference – Sponsored by American Forest Foundation and Northwest Environmental Business Council, Portland 27 WCSWA Tour – Boges Lone Fir Tree Farm. 9:00. Tour topic: Log measurement, on and off the stump
July	18 WCSWA Tour – Annual Tree Farmer of the Year Tour at Scott and Marge Hayes' Arbor House tree Farm
August	Date and Tour To Be Determined

Advertising Opportunity:

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

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1/2 page	65	130	325
2/3 page	86	170	425
Full page	125	250	625

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!

Export Wood Up In 2008

According to the US Forest Service, a total of 293.0 million board feet of softwood lumber was exported from Oregon and Washington in 2008.

“The volume was up 26.6 percent from the 2007 total of 231.4 million board feet,” said Debra Warren, an economist at the Pacific Northwest Research Station. “During this same time period, Oregon and Washington imported 1.7 billion board feet of softwood lumber, mostly from Canada.”

For more information, visit the Forest Service’s [Pacific Northwest Research Station](#) website.

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Tree Talk

by Bonnie Shumaker

Bob and I are both breathing a satisfied sigh of relief at the conclusion of WCSWA's seedling and plant sales. Both endeavors (Bob is in charge of the seedling sale and I the plant sale) were successful thanks to the support of WCSWA members and the extended woodland lover's community.

I wish to acknowledge all those hardy souls who helped at the plant sale: THANK YOU!! Preparation for our 2009 Plant Sale started in November when Eloise Binns, Ardis Schroeder and I visited Paul Stormo at Champoeg Nursery to order this year's plants and instigate our first ever pre-order option. Next came advertising, securing the location and tent, additional plant orders to Daral and Virginia Pearson and Darolen Sorum. Plant lists, descriptions and pictures, postcards and fliers followed and with many willing volunteers (including our intrepid campers, Mel and Wendy), the plant sale was ready to go. Marge Hayes agreed to solicit volunteers for the sale, and although this was her first year doing this, she was gratified at the willingness of those she contacted.

Anxiety about the weather and economy were put to rest when the crowds braved the rain and wind to come and buy. Repeat customers tell us they admire the quality and diversity of our sale. Probably just as many comments relate to the helpful people (that's us!) that make it a pleasure to buy and support our goal of providing college scholarships.

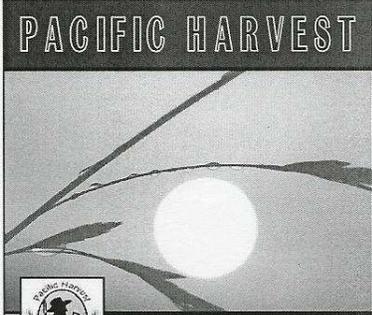
I received a phone call a couple of days after the sale from a first time customer. She made me feel all the hard work was worth it with her enthusiastic comments. She wanted a referral to someone who could tell her how to prepare the ground under her douglas firs, so her newly bought plants would thrive. I referred her to Paul Stormo at Champoeg Nursery. Her excitement for her new plants was contagious. She couldn't thank me enough. She had heard about the sale from the Hardy Plant Society, so we know that sending fliers to all the garden clubs it is a worthwhile endeavor. She also let me know the friendliness and knowledge from our members accounted for much of her enthusiasm.

Now to the bottom line for both sales:

<u>PLANT SALE:</u> Day of sale receipts: \$6,716	<u>SEEDLING SALE:</u>
Pre-order sales: \$ 647	Sales: (44,000 seedlings) \$17,970.00
	Costs:
TOTAL SALES \$7,363	Seedlings \$13,138.56
	Seed 724.00
TOTAL EXPENSES \$3,792	"Planted" signs 250.00
	Total cost \$14,112.56
NET PROCEEDS : \$3,571	NET PROCEEDS: \$ 3,857.44

Any ideas for either the plant or seedling sales are welcome. It is not too early to begin evaluating where and how many seedlings you may need for next year. Tree farmers all know that no good planting place should go unplanted.

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"Serving Many of the Reforestation Needs of the World From This Location Since 1889"

The following is a quote from "Old Growth in a New World" subtitled "A Pacific Northwest Icon Reexamined" edited by Thomas A. Spies and Sally L. Duncan regarding dealing with the old growth issue.

"To even begin preparing for the future, we need to understand several difficult things:

- Society will never agree on a definition of old growth;
- The use of icons for complex ecological/social phenomena leads to one-size-fits-all short term solutions and static thinking, and comes with ecological and social costs; and
- Current policies are layered and limiting, tattered and failing, and have many unintended consequences.

Our remaining old forests are both inspiring for the opportunity they provide for learning and humbling for revealing our inadequate understanding of the mysteries of forest ecosystems and how humans can best live with them."



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Wood Biomass – Congressional Definition Key To Energy Opportunity

The U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy & Commerce has released a draft renewable energy and cap & trade bill. The draft bill would exclude federal lands and many private lands from producing biomass for energy counting towards a national Renewable Energy Standard. The Committee is moving quickly and plans to approve this bill in the coming weeks before Memorial Day.

The definition of biomass in this bill is prescriptive and would restrict biomass from public lands and a great deal of biomass from private lands, from counting towards a Renewable Electricity Standard (RES). In turn, this would result in less energy from woody biomass rather than more.

Specifically, the Definition would NOT count biomass used to produce biomass energy from:

- 'old growth' or 'mature' forests (these terms are not defined and would likely be defined by the Dept. of Energy)
- 'plantations' (planted trees) established after the enactment of the Act (again, term is not defined)
- Naturally regenerated trees, even if they exist within a 'plantation' established before the date of enactment
- Naturally regenerated forests
- Forests identified by a State Natural Heritage Program as rare, imperiled, or critically imperiled
- Any Federal Land

To read the definition click on this link to the draft bill and go to page 7 and 8:

http://energycommerce.house.gov/Press_111/20090331/acesa_discussiondraft.pdf

Representative Greg Walden is the only Oregon representative on the Committee.

Key Points Concerning This Issue:

- **Wood is necessary to meet a renewable energy standard:** If as a nation we are to truly meet renewable energy goals—whether electricity or biofuels—wood must be allowed to make its full contribution. Renewable forest biomass will account for up to 1/3 of the energy needed to meet the RES
- **We should promote rather than discourage the use of renewable forest biomass.** Limiting renewable forest biomass harms conservation, consumers, and the climate. Foresters have the expertise to help landowners sustainably manage forests for wood products and biomass energy while still conserving the environment.
- **Federal lands must be included:** Many Federal forests desperately need treatments to improve forest health, control insects and disease and prevent catastrophic wildfire. Biomass removal in these forests could help to create renewable energy while also improving forest health and allowing forests to act as climate 'sinks' rather than 'emitters' (through insect & disease infestation and catastrophic wildfire).
- **Different regions of the country contribute different strengths to renewable energy generation.** For instance, some states have more wood than wind. Limiting forest biomass hampers some states from meeting mandates, thereby increasing costs to consumers and creating regional disparities in economic development.
- **Green jobs – Biomass energy plants create 4.9 jobs for each MW of installed capacity.** One plant can inject \$150 million in upfront construction investment with \$20 million spent in the local economy each year.
- **Definitions of eligible biomass feedstock should put working forests on an even playing field with other renewable energy sources.**
- **Sustainable forest biomass reduces greenhouse gases (GHG) because it is carbon neutral**

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Interested in Checking Out Your Carbon?

CVal: A Carbon Valuation Tool for Foresters and Private Forest Landowners

The CVal spreadsheet is a powerful tool that will help foresters, managers, and project developers work with private forest landowners to assess the economic profitability of participating in carbon markets. CVal provides a discounted cash flow analysis based on a full accounting of variables, including tract size, carbon sequestration rate, carbon price, and enrollment and trading costs. Automated, financial break-even analyses in the macros version quickly assess threshold values of key variables for profitable projects, and the program readily performs "what if" calculations after storing starting values.

CVal was designed to evaluate managed forest and afforestation projects traded on the Chicago Climate Exchange, but its methodology could be adapted for other trading mechanisms and agricultural sequestration projects. Documentation is provided in the program itself and in GTR-180. CVal was developed by Ted Bilek (USFS Forest Products Lab), Peter Becker (Eastern Ozarks Forestry Council), and Tim McAbee (LandMark Systems), and is available at no cost.

Download CVal and GTR-180 at
http://www.fpl.fs.fed.us/documnts/fplgtr/fpl_gtr180.html.

OSU and Partners Seek Biomass Research Grant

In light of concern by the horticultural industry over future supplies of peat moss and bark for their nursery operations, OSU and a team of multi-state and multidiscipline partners are seeking a research grant from USDA to investigate the suitability and economic feasibility of using local forest or biofuels as the substrate for plantings. The project will look at available alternatives to peat moss and bark, and evaluate their suitability across a broad range of characteristics, including handling and processing, physiochemical properties, stability over time, pathogen incidence, crop nutrition, water management, weed management, and socioeconomic impact. The project will also involve suppliers and growers.

The Oregon Woodland Cooperative has agreed to assist in the effort. The potential for a future market for otherwise unmarketable wood waste or thinning material offers another avenue for increasing the frequency and diversity of income opportunities for woodland owners.

Have You Checked the Oregon Forest Directory Lately?

Finding markets, services, and products can be challenging in these times. The Oregon Forest Directory is a comprehensive on-line resource to help to find what you need, or offer what you have to sell.

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OSWA, continued from page 1

is recognized by PEFC.

These days, David is spending a good deal of time at the legislature, something at which he is experienced. He encouraged our membership to participate in the Government Affairs Committee (GAC) which meets every other Wednesday and can be attended by phone. There are weekly legislative updates at oswa.org as well as a "bill tracker". Some of the proposed legislation that OSWA is tracking includes fair fire fighting costs, climate change bills and cap and trade, LNG concerns and correction of inheritance tax rules. April 28 is a legislative day for OSWA, Oregon Tree Farm and Society of American Foresters. Attending this will give you a chance to meet and talk to legislators about your forestry concerns. Look for more information at oswa.org.

Mike Gaudern then educated us about the Woodlands Carbon Company. It is owned by OSWA and has received a grant to get it started. It is a for-profit company designed to create revenue through carbon sales. It will take the yearly forest growth of certified forests and bundle them into units to be sold to purchasers. Third party assurance will be provided to assure carbon is stored as reported. By the end of 2009, The Woodlands Carbon Company is expected to be up and running. To participate, your tree farm must be certified by either FSC or ATFS, you need an inventory and commit to a 4 year contract and remain certified for 15 years. Mike provided us with an excellent handout outlining this endeavor. It will certainly be worth staying informed on the progress of the Woodlands Carbon Company which will recognize the ecosystem service of carbon storage by "marketing your carbon for profit".

IFCAE Gets Grant to Enhance Economic Diversity of Small Scale Family Forests

The Institute for Culture and Ecology (IFCAE) has received a nearly half-million dollar, four year grant to support the long-term presence of economically viable and ecologically sustainable small-scale forest holdings in rural America. The grant, which comes from the National Research Initiative of the USDA Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, has the following objectives:

1. Determine to what degree a non-timber forest products industry for small forest owners is a viable alternative and/or supplemental income source to timber
2. Develop a "Diversified Livability Profile" or planning model that identifies potential economic and livelihood strategies for small woodland owners
3. Create an infrastructure of support, information, and networks around the commercialization and marketing of non-timber forest products for small-scale forest owners

Eric Jones and Rebecca McLain of IFCAE will lead the study. Both Eric and Rebecca have a long history of working with small woodland owners, and understand their need for alternative income sources on a more frequent basis than normal timber harvest opportunities. These other income sources are not limited to non-timber forest products, but could also include environmental services.

The Oregon Woodland Cooperative has been asked to participate in the study in some manner, but the details have not been developed to this point. Other woodland owners may also be asked to participate. The Co-op is actively seeking new income opportunities, and a business plan template and information support for them would greatly assist the Co-op's effort.

OSU Grant to Help Keep Timberland in Family

by Dylan Rivera, The Oregonian

The American Forest Foundation has announced a three-year, \$510,000 grant to Oregon State University to help address the nation's 10 million family forest owners to plan their estates so that timberland is preserved and not sold off for development.

One-third of family forest owners are 65 years or older, and one of every five acres is owned by people who plan to sell or transfer some or all of their forest land in the next five years. The American Forest Foundation grant will allow OSU's Austin Family Business Program to extend its "Ties to the Land" project for intergenerational planning to a nationwide audience after recently completing local pilot tests.

"Ties to the Land comes at a critical time of intense economic pressures on family forest owners," said Bob Simpson, senior vice president for the American Forest Foundation. "Many of them are struggling to balance their love for the land with high property tax rates, highly depressed timber prices, and absentee heirs." Without good family planning for transfer of the forestland, Simpson said that families fall back on the easiest thing - selling the land for development. "With more than 1.5 million acres of forests lost to development each year, we have no time to lose in educating the next generation of forest owners," he said.

Aging landowners can easily be overwhelmed by family disputes and legal complexities of such transfers, according to Brad Withrow-Robinson, an extension forester with the OSU College of Forestry. A typical situation is when one sibling wants to hold on to the property and other siblings want to sell, he said.

"Only 30 percent of family forest landowners have any kind of management plan, let alone a succession plan," Withrow-Robinson said. "These issues are simply not being addressed with the urgency they deserve."

To address this need, OSU and its partners developed materials that are used to bring families together in workshops that walk them through their options and decisions. The goal is to create a safe forum for framing emotionally charged issues between family members with different priorities or different degrees of connection to the land.

"The reality these days is that if forest land does not stay in the family, it often doesn't end up as forest at all," said OSU extension forester Chal Landgren. "Many of these lands are on the fringes of cities and towns and get developed."

The Trout Mountain Forestry logo features a black triangle with the word "TROUT" in white serif font inside it, and "MOUNTAIN FORESTRY" in a smaller, spaced-out serif font below. To the right of the logo is a vertical flow diagram with four levels, each separated by a small white triangle pointing upwards. The levels are: "A balanced approach" (top), "TIMBER MANAGEMENT", "ALTERNATIVES TO CLEARCUTTING", and "FOREST PLANNING AND RESTORATION" (bottom). Below the diagram is the text "Forest stewardship for productivity and diversity". At the bottom left of the page is the FSC logo with the text "These forests have been independently certified as well managed." At the bottom right is the text "FSC Trademark © 1996 Forest Stewardship Council A.C. SCS-FM/COC-0006ZGN".

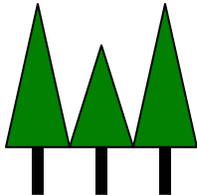
Thinking Through The Thinning Decision: Key Concepts

- Discounting future value
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- Considerations for thinning evaluation
 - growth and yield
 - product differentiation
 - logging costs
 - valuing future rotations
 - rotation ages

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Forest Forum



COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE
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Potpourri

Welcome to New Members!

John Dummer of Portland 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).

Ecosystem Market Conference

Interest in ecosystem markets, such as carbon trading, continues at a high level. The American Forest Foundation, sponsor of the American Tree Farm System, and the Northwest Environmental Business Council, are sponsoring a conference in Portland June 18-19. A field trip on the 20th to sites including the Hanschu's Little Beaver Tree Farm, and the Forest Grove Watershed will cap the conference. More information can be found at www.nebc.org.

Which State has the Most Forestland?

The answer may surprise you. Texas Has most forestland. The Texas Forest Service recently unveiled its first-ever statewide tree inventory, the results of which show that the state has 60 million acres of forestland—more than any other state in the continental United States. The inventory, which began in 2004 and ends in 2014, provides comprehensive data for local, state, and regional decision-makers to plan, set policy, and allocate resources. In addition to providing information on forested acres, the preliminary results of the inventory also show that Texas is positioned to profit from alternative energy and ecosystem service markets focused on carbon sequestration, and the conversion of woody biomass to energy.