

Forest Forum

Washington County Small
Woodlands Association

July, 2009

Tree Farm Tour Brushes up Measurement Skills



On Saturday, June 27, twenty-five enthusiastic WCSWA members met at Dallas and Sharon Boge's Lone Fir Tree Farm to sharpen up on or learn new skills in forest measurement. An accurate measurement is needed in a management plan required for certification and cost sharing programs.

Dallas and Terry Howell showed us tools of varying sophistication that measure tree height such as the woodland stick shown above. We then migrated into a stand to measure plots, **See "Tour," page 4**

Annual Tree Farmer of the Year Tour – Arbor House

Scott and Marge Hayes will host an open house tour of their Arbor House Tree Farm on Saturday, July 18 starting at 9am. Guests are encouraged to arrive and take a self-guided tour of the 2008 Washington County Tree Farm of the Year. Lunch will be served from noon until 1pm. Please RSVP by July 13 so Scott and Marge can plan for the food. Call 503-992-1509 or email at scotthayes@wildblue.net

Take Hwy 6 west from Banks passing mile marker 44. Turn right on Parson Road. Tree Farm Tour signs will guide you north, then west, on Parson Road, then north on Orchardale Road to 14710. Visitors may drop off folks at the house and then park along the driveway or in the designated parking area.

This 40-acre tree farm is part of the original Timmerman homestead and was purchased in 1996 by Scott and Marge. Immediately they began managing the land under their Tree Farm system management plan. In 1999 they built a custom home on the property with passive solar features, biomass-fueled radiant heat, and fire resistant materials. Architects Dave Giulietti and Tim Schouten will be on hand to show features and answer questions.

In the 1960s the previous owner managed Christmas trees on about 20 tillable acres. The key theme of the tour is "Christmas Trees Gone Wild!!!" There will be a demonstration using low-cost equipment to thin and harvest double stem, triple stem, and even quad-stemmed 45-year-old Christmas trees. Other points of interest include a stand planted in 1993 with cost share funds and an adjacent "dog hair" thinning project, experimental plantings of hybrid poplar, Western White Pine and Ponderosa

See "Hayes", page 2

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Notes from the President

by Dallas Boge

At the most recent board meeting, the Board discussed what to do with left over grant monies from several years ago. The monies were for paying expenses related to preparing management plans for forest properties. Part of the monies remains unspent.

Now the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NCRS) has grant monies available to prepare management plans. They have some specific requirements that have to be met; the complete details of these are still being worked out.

Neil Schroeder has agreed to coordinate a management plan series for anyone interested in putting together a management plan. There are a number of very good reasons for having such a plan in place. An added reason is coming to fruition now, the possibility of selling carbon credits from growing forestland. Woodland Carbon Company (WCC) will be the vehicle most of us can use. One requirement is that a participating woodland owner be certified under OTFS.

Neil and I have met with Amy Grotta, our new extension agent. She is actively pursuing the formation of a class schedule. Right now it looks like the sessions will start this fall. Tentatively, the hope is that OWSA members will qualify for the NCRS grant and get any needed supplemental funding from the OSWA grant. Non-OWSA members would be welcome, as well.

The local office of ODF applied for and received a federal grant for wildfire mitigation. The purpose of the grant is to reduce the fire danger to rural residences by "fireproofing" adjoining forest land. Successful applicants receive a 50% cost share for the approved work. Most of the work consists of pre-commercial thinning and pruning, as well as mitigation of slash buildup.

Sharon and I applied for and were granted funding for seven separate projects on our property. Work is underway on one; if you attended the June meeting, you saw it coming in the main road. I will keep you up to date as the projects progress.

That's all for now.

Dallas

Hayes, continued from page 1

Pine, defensible space landscaping, Victor's garden railroad (under construction), emergency water storage, band-tailed pigeon forage and watering spring development, and big game management.

Marge and Scott married in 1978 when they worked for the Oregon Department of Forestry, he as a Service Forester (now called Stewardship Forester) and she as a fire dispatcher. They moved to Salem where Scott's ODF staff work included resource site management (streams, eagles, osprey, pigeon mineral springs) while Marge completed an OSU degree in apparel design. Her career work with Nike took them to Singapore for 3 years after which they returned to their tree farm. After both retired in 2005, the REAL work began! Scott's father Victor lives and works with them on the tree farm.

WCSWA Leadership

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WCSWA Website

www.wcswa.org

Website Manager: Kathy Scott

Contact Tom Nygren for web postings and information.

Forest Forum Newsletter

Editors: Tom Nygren 503-628-5472 and Bonnie Shumaker 503-324-7825

e-mail: tnygren@juno.com or

bshumaker@coho.net

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: *This space is reserved*

Wanted: *for you to help yourself and others -*

Trade: *USE IT!*

Event Calendar

- July**
- 18 WCSWA Tour** – Annual Tree Farmer of the Year Tour at Scott and Marge Hayes' Arbor House Tree Farm, 9:00am – 1:00pm RSVP 503-992-1509 or email at scotthayes@wildblue.net
 - 25 Alder Tour** – (tentative) sponsored by Columbia County Small Woodlands Association. Will possibly be held in the Apiary and Camp Wilkerson areas. Will be led by Glenn Ahrens, OSU Extension Forester (Astoria), and Amy Grotta, OSU Extension Agent (Columbia and Washington Counties). Call Lydia Stennick at 503-556-2014 to arrange attendance.
- August** **22 WCSWA Field Tour** – Zena Tree Farm – details to follow
- September** **No meeting is scheduled**
- October** **27 WCSWA Monthly Meeting** – Don Rice, Managing Director, Resource Management Group of Greenwood Resources, Boardman, will discuss their hybrid poplar plantation management.

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Please send this form, ad copy, logos, photos, etc. to: **Dallas Boge, 10735 NW Thornburg Rd, Gales Creek, OR 97117**

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“Tour” continued from page 1

find the tariff tree (taper and radial increment factor, i.e. tariff) and then measure all trees in the plot. The figures from this measuring can be used with various software to determine the density of the stand. “Varplot” is public domain software that can be downloaded for free.

Terry Howell (shown at right) then demonstrated precision falling of a tree. After falling, he bucked it and discussed the why’s and where’s of log length that would bring the best price to the timber owner.



Tree Talk

by Bonnie Shumaker

Bob and I enjoy sharing our tree farm with others. This spring we led two school tours with the help of other Master Woodland Managers. The first tour was for third graders from Terra Linda School in Beaverton. The second was for second graders from Banks Elementary. We managed to have decent (although a bit wet) weather for the Terra Linda folks and “only in your fondest dreams” weather for the Banks group. We had seven stations set up around the tree farm with booklets for the students to write responses for the different stations.



After visiting the Magness Tree Farm several years ago and taking to heart Rick Zenn’s advice, we have felt even better about the children’s experience on the tours. Rick Zenn is the Education Director for the World Forestry Center. His statement can be summarized as follows: “Educators always want to stuff as much science as possible on tours and while that is important, the most important thing is that the kids have fun! Walking lock step in a line should not be required. If there is something interesting off the trail, encourage the children to investigate.” We believe the wisdom of Rick’s words and tell the children that they are free to investigate whatever interests them. The energy and questions from the groups lets us know this has the desired effect of learning and having fun.

I’d like to share with you some of the comments on “Thank You” notes we received from the students. This first one is for you, Rick Zenn.

“Here we could wander off trails...it was freedom!! When we are usually on trails we wonder what else is in the woods. This time we could explore in the woods.”

“We went through the black forest and it was like a scary story and I like scary stories.”

“The trees with the cut bottom branches were cool because you could see through them. It was like a window and you could see from the beginning to the end!”

“I learned a lot about trees. This field trip was super fun.”

“It was so fun to explore your tree farm.”

“The station I liked the most was learning about stuff that comes from trees.”

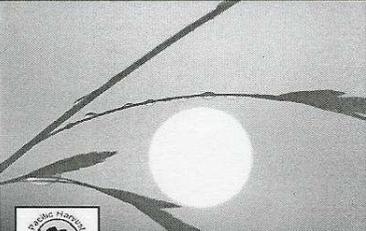
“I thought the valley view was very fun and I also liked the tree poetry!”

“Thank you so much! My teacher said you did it for free. I think that is a lot of work for free!”

“You are so kind. I don’t know very many people who would just let little kids roam around their farm all day.”

On another note, we recently visited our “Sunset Property” where we planted 1700 seedlings this spring. While we did lose a few, most are surviving nicely. The area where the grandkids helped us plant looks good and the weed control measures we used around the trees are working well. We know that the hot summer is just ahead and is a stressful time for new seedlings, so a friendly word to the trees and a prayer for a little summer rain are in order. Personally, this spring has been especially busy for us, so we haven’t spent the time we’d have liked on the property, so we put on blinders when we checked out the seedlings to avert our gaze from the scotch broom which we will tackle later.

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John Helmer displays woodland equipment at WCSWA's first ever Swap Meet.

John Helmer is downsizing his woodland operation and suggested a swap day for WCSWA members to bring items they would want to buy, swap or trade to the June tour at Dallas and Sharon Boge's Lone Fir Tree Farm.

Members enjoyed looking over and buying some of the items John brought and hearing about the innovations that John and others have discovered.

This could become an annual summer event if members desire.



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Legislative Update reported 6/29/09. See entire Update at OSWA.org

Forestry Budget Bills Advance

The ODF budget after being adopted by the Ways & Means Natural Resources Subcommittee on June 19, passed the Senate last week, carried by subcommittee Co-Chair Sen. Vicki Walker, D-Eugene. It is now waiting for approval in the House. HB 2214, the Forest Products Harvest Tax, FPHT, carried by subcommittee Co-Chair Rep. Bob Jenson, R-Pendleton, passed the House and now awaits Senate approval.

The Fire Protection budget was changed to maintain the 50-50% split of emergency fire costs between the General Fund and forest landowners, remove Administrative costs from forest landowners' share and reduce landowners' maximum emergency fire costs back to \$10 million.

Forest landowners agreed to maintain their current Forest Practice Act share of the FPHT for 2010 and 2011 as long as the extra funds supported field administration of the FPA and didn't change the historical 60-40% split between the General Fund and timber harvesters.

HB 2214, being a revenue generating bill, requires a super majority, 36 in the House and 18 in the Senate, to be approved. The FPHT passed unanimously in the House after legislators double checked with forest landowners to insure that they supported the tax.

One beneficiary of the end of session trading was the adoption of HB 2940, a bill that passed the House 59-0 last month before environmentalists became concerned over it. The bill requested by the Oregon Forest Industries Council, would allow biomass co-generation plants built before 1995 to qualify as renewable under the Renewable Portfolio Standard the legislature adopted in 2007. After House passage, environmental and wind energy advocates felt that the change would undermine Oregon's RPS goals.

The biomass renewable energy plants constructed prior to 1995 would add only 7% renewable electricity towards meeting the 25% renewable goal by 2025. Failing to stop the legislature from penalizing biomass early adopters, the opponents will now turn to Governor Kulongoski and ask for a veto of HB 2940.

Follow-up on the “What’s This” picture from June Forest Forum

No one got it right. Responses were all that the picture showed porcupine damage. Actually, the damage is from squirrels eating the cambium layer. The picture was taken on the Rod Nstrom tree farm in Columbia County. Rod started noticing damage to his trees – mostly pine but also including maple, oak, and sequoia. He lost over 300 trees to this damage. The county trapper told him the damage was from porcupines, but Rod’s intensive attempts to find porcupines failed to turn up any. Finally he caught some squirrels in the act. He began hunting squirrels, and after eliminating nearly fifty squirrels the damage stopped. The squirrels involved included the Douglas (red), Willamette silver-gray, and a strange large squirrel Rod had never seen before. Rod stated that he had never before had this kind of damage.

Similar damage has been noted on the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge, near Sherwood. Oak tree limbs there showed similar girdling during the past few years.

The cause for such squirrel interest in the cambium layer, when there seems to be no past record of such damage, is not known. Another mystery to solve?



New “What Caused This”

Oregon white oak trees, and some other species, commonly have large “apples” hanging from their limbs, like the ones shown in the picture.

Do you know what causes these apples to form? Send your answer to the Forest Forum, tnygren@juno.com or call Tom Nygren at 503-628-5472. The answer will appear in the August issue of Forest Forum.



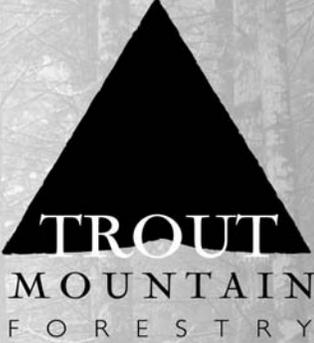
Congress Needs Your Help to Understand Forest Needs

The biomass portion of the energy bill making its way through Congress needs fixing.

- Biomass must get the same treatment as other renewable fuels for incentives
- Federal forests and mature forests must not be excluded from biomass development

The Society of American Foresters has written a letter outlining the importance of not diminishing market incentives or management options. Treatment of forests by clearing dense brush and overgrowth will improve resiliency and federal forests are in dire need of this.

The measure as written is expected to be approved by the House, but there is hope in the Senate. Write or email Sen. Ron Wyden who chairs the Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee if you agree with these concerns. Contact him at 223 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON DC 20510 or wyden.senate.gov/contact/



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Survey Set for Small Woodlands

Small woodland owners in Washington and Columbia Counties are invited to participate in a survey by OSU Extension. The survey seeks to find out what landowners are interested in and how OSU and other agencies can best serve them.

Our new OSU Extension Forester, Amy Grotta desires input to help her shape educational programs.

Owners of woodlands of all sizes – from a few acres to the hundreds – are invited to take the survey. Some surveys have been mailed to selected woodland owners, but others are invited to request a copy by calling 503-397-3462. It can also be taken online at

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/columbia>.

So, if you have received a copy of the survey, give Amy a hand and fill it in and mail it (or do so online).

If you didn't receive a copy, have lost your copy or know a woodland owner who did not receive a copy, follow the instructions above.

WCSWA did a survey of just Washington County woodland owners a few years ago. We know from the work we did that the higher number of copies received equals more statistically viable information from which Amy can plan programs that will enhance our knowledge and that of non-WCSWA members.

Forest Chief Vows Quick Spending

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) – New Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell says he will move quickly to ensure that his agency spends its \$1.15 billion share of federal economic stimulus funding.

The Forest Service has spent \$643 million of its stimulus money so far, including \$228 million in projects announced this month to repair forest roads and bridges in 31 states. Tidwell said even more projects should be approved in coming weeks.

"We're focused on doing the ones that have been selected and letting the contracts so people can get back to work," Tidwell said. "That's our first priority."



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<http://www.orforestdirectory.com>.
You may find just what you're looking for!

Own a Piece of the Woods

(reported in the Capital Press, June 26, 2009)

Weyerhaeuser is selling permits for the right to hunt, fish, hike and mountain bike on Weyerhaeuser's 57,000 acre Molalla Tree Farm. For a fee of \$250 per year, the holder and his or her immediate family and up to six guests have access to the farm.

One benefit of the program according to Shelley Tschida, CEO of Quality Services Inc., a company managing the recreational-access program, is that permit holders take a vested interest in the land. Vandalism and property crimes tend to go down.

The program also has provided Weyerhaeuser good public relations and the timber company is getting some extra revenue at a time when timber revenue is hard to come by.

Vehicles are allowed on the tree farm from May 23 to Nov. 29 from sunrise to sunset on weekends and from 5 to 10 pm weekdays so that the company can conduct business during weekdays on this working tree farm. Motorcycles and ATV's are prohibited.

Prior to last year, Weyerhaeuser allowed only non-vehicle access, which was free.

The diverse habitat awarded hunters with 54 deer last fall and the Molalla River and two lakes provide optimum fishing opportunities.

Editors' Note:

Yes, the apostrophe is in the right place. There are now two editors of the "Forest Forum."

Bonnie Shumaker has agreed to help Tom Nygren as an additional editor. This month is Bonnie's first issue. Normally Bonnie and Tom will alternate the editorship each month.

If you wish to comment on the newsletter, suggest articles or contribute articles to "Forest Forum," you may call or email either or both editors. Contact information is found on page 3.



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Oregon Woodland Co-op Has Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Oregon Woodland Cooperative was held on June 13 at the Kinton Grange near Scholls. About 50 members and partners were in attendance. The accomplishments of the past year were discussed in the “State of the Co-op” report. Among the accomplishments were:

- Initiation of a value-added bundled firewood program
- Special milling of value-added products for niche markets
- Floral greenery for value-added retail marketing
- Custom milling and sale of commodity wood
- Purchasing advantages for Co-op members

New Board members and officers were elected. Board members are Neil Schroeder, president; Mike Barnes, vice-president; Anne Hanschu, secretary-treasurer; Barrett Brown, Don South, Marilyn Richen, Lynn Baker, and Dan Grimm. Tom Nygren, immediate past president, will continue on the Board for one year.

A panel discussion of non-timber products led by Eric Jones and Rebecca McClain of the Institute for Culture and Ecology and Barry Simms of Trout Mountain Forestry followed. Non-timber forest products will be a new focus of the Co-op this year. Eric and Rebecca also presented an interesting display of non-timber forest products.

Eric Perkins of the Oregon Department of Forestry described the Department’s fire hazard reduction program, complete with an interactive display showing how important it is to protect rural homes from fuel hazards.

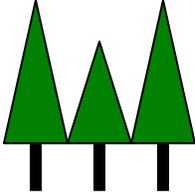
Mark Havel (aka “Forest Dan”), demonstrated his “beta version” low tech-high efficiency firewood processing machine. He devoured a load of logs brought in by the Hanschus, and also reduced a “horrible example” pine chunk provided by Neil Schroeder to firewood size pieces. With typical Mark Havel efficiency he impressed Co-op members with the speed and efficiency of his machine which relies on mechanical advantage and design to quickly produce a pile of firewood.



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Forest Forum



COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE
OREGON SMALL WOODLANDS
ASSOCIATION

Potpourri

WATERSHED SCIENCE AT WORK IN OREGON'S FORESTS is a new OFRI publication with an updated report on the three paired watershed studies now taking place in Oregon. A copy was sent to all OSWA members. Be sure to read this important study and share it with others. It would be good to spread this information beyond the small woodland community. Watch for a more detailed report on this publication and the Watersheds Research Cooperative who designs and conducts the research in next month's newsletter. Extra copies can be obtained from oregonforests.org either by ordering a hard copy or in downloadable PDF format.

INDUSTRIAL FIRE PRECAUTION LEVELS – be safe out there!

Working in the woods this summer requires us to adhere to the rules governing fire precaution.

- **Closed season.** Fire precaution requirements are in effect. A fire watch/security is required at this and all higher levels unless otherwise waived.
- **Partial Hootowl.** The following may operate only between the hours of 8 pm and 1 pm local time: Chainsaws (except at loading sites), cable yarding, blasting and welding or cutting of metal.
- **Partial Shutdown.** The following are prohibited except as indicated:
 1. cable yarding – except gravity-operated systems using non-motorized carriages may operate between 8 pm and 1 pm when all blocks and moving lines are suspended 10 feet above the ground except the line between the carriage and chokers.
 2. chainsaws – except at loading sites and on tractor/skidder operations between 8 pm and 1 pm local time.
- **General Shutdown.** All operations are prohibited.

Note: Where hauling involves transit through more than one shutdown/regulated use area, the precaution level at the woods loading site shall govern the level of haul restriction, unless otherwise prohibited by an entity other than the industrial precaution system.