

# Forest Forum

Washington County Small  
Woodlands Association

August, 2009

## Resource Management Planning Class Scheduled For Fall

Have you thought about how your woodland assets should be managed? Your woodland, no less than your IRA, 401k, or other asset, deserves your attention if it is to best serve your future, and conserve the woodland.

A series of classes has been scheduled this fall to help you learn about forest resource inventory techniques, develop a management plan, and learn how a plan can help you make sound decisions about your woodland.

The Resource Management Planning course developed by OSU Extension will include a series of six classes that will be held on Wednesdays, 6:30 – 9 p.m. The first class will begin on October 7<sup>th</sup>, with five other classes and a field day to follow. The Field Day will be on Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>. The primary instructor will be Amy Grotta, OSU Extension Forester, with assistance from OSU Master Woodland Managers.

The classes will be held at the Washington County Extension office. A \$50 course fee

*See "RMP", page 2*

## Zena Timber Is Focus Of August Tour

The August 22<sup>nd</sup> tour of Zena Timber will take WCSWA members a bit south of their normal stomping grounds – to the Eola Hills northwest of Salem. The tour will begin at 9:30 a.m.

*Directions to Zena Timber are on page 7. If you want to carpool, meet at McMenamins parking lot, Forest Grove, at 8:30 a.m. on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.*

Zena Timber is a 2000-acre FSC-certified forest in the Eola Hills west of Salem, Oregon. It produces primarily raw logs of Douglas Fir, Oregon white oak, Oregon Big Leaf Maple, Grand Fir and Cherry. Zena Timber also produces clear and character grades of Oregon white oak flooring and is considering the production of maple and cherry lumber or flooring. The national Forest Stewards Guild has designated the Zena Forest as a Model Forest representing its high standards of sustainable forestry

Sarah Duemling is the owner-manager of Zena Timber. Sarah grew up on farm and forest land in the Cascade foothills east of Molalla. She earned a BA in Political Science at Whitman College in Walla Walla and her MAT at Reed College in Portland. Sarah spent three years teaching and many years as a mother, homemaker, gardener, and farmer. In 1987, Sarah and her husband took over management of the 2000-acre Zena Forest in the Eola Hills. Sarah's husband died in 1996 and she assumed sole responsibility for forest management of Zena. Zena Forest attained FSC certification in 1998, and remains certified today. Currently, one of Sarah's sons is home, running a small sawmill on the forest property.



*See "Zena" on page 7*

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# Notes from the President

by Dallas Boge

Last month I wrote about a grant through ODF that we got to do fire mitigation work on the tree farm. We have been working on two of the projects and are as complete as time and weather permit. The first is a 3 to 4 acre stand of mostly 10 to 15 year old Douglas fir planted about 13 ½ feet apart. The requirements are to trim them up 6 to 10 feet and reduce the limbs to less than one foot deep. The limbs have been removed except for those with west exposure. Removing these at this time of year promotes sun scald. The remaining will be removed in October or November. We tried running the 5 foot rotary mower over the limbs and that seems to do a good job. The only remaining limbs are those which lie against the tree trunk. I am trying to get a stewardship forester out to check the job before the stewardship foresters all disappear.

The second project entails just over one acre of Douglas fir about 20 to 25 years old. These trees were originally planted as Christmas trees. Some years ago, they were spaced to about 15 feet apart. The requirements here are to pre-commercially thin as needed and limb the trees to 15 to 20 feet. This is being done in three steps, after the PCT is complete. Step one is hand lopping the lower limbs up to about six or seven feet. This is done. It was mostly done years ago, but a few younger trees were not quite there. The second step consisted of pruning with a power pruner up to ten or eleven feet. This pruner is a Poulan with a fixed shaft. It is light and easy to handle (for an old man). This step is also complete. The final step is getting the limbs trimmed up to 15 or 20 feet. For this, we purchased a Stihl telescoping pruner, considerably heavier than the Poulan. This step will have to wait until fall, as Christmas tree culturing is now the current task.

Fall will be a very busy time as management plan classes will require the assistance of many of us. Those classes are scheduled to start in October, more details next month. On the farm, there are the Christmas trees to finish, boughs to harvest, firewood to split, trees to prune, and a building to put up to house the Christmas tree shaker.

That's all for now.

*Dallas*

## ***RMP, continued from page 1***

per family covers all materials and map sets for your property. (WCSWA members receive a 50% discount on the fee). The class schedule is:

**Session 1 (10/7):** Introduction, Plan Structure, Setting Goals and Objectives

**Session 2 (10/21):** Mapping Your Property

**Field Day (10/24):** Inventory Techniques

**Session 3 (11/4):** Assessing Water Resources, Riparian Areas, and Roads; Forest Practice Considerations

**Session 4 (11/18):** Assessing Wildlife Habitat

**Session 5 (12/2):** Cultural and Aesthetic Resources, Business and Legal Considerations, Developing an Action Plan

**Session 6 (12/16):** Putting Your Plan to Work, Graduation

**Registration Deadline:** Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009. To register, contact Amy Grotta, (503) 397-3462 or [amy.grotta@oregonstate.edu](mailto:amy.grotta@oregonstate.edu). Send registration fee to Columbia County Extension Service, c/o Vicki Krenz, 505 N. Columbia River Hwy, St. Helens, OR 97051.

## WCSWA Leadership

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

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## WCSWA Website

[www.wcswa.org](http://www.wcswa.org)

**Website Manager: Kathy Scott**

Contact Tom Nygren for web postings and information.

## Forest Forum Newsletter

Editors: Tom Nygren & Bonnie Shumaker

503-628-5472 or 503-324-7825

e-mail: [tnvaren@iuno.com](mailto:tnvaren@iuno.com) or

## The Tree Farm Tradin' Post

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## Event Calendar

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <b>August</b>    | <b>22 WCSWA Field Tour</b> – 9:30 a.m. Sarah Duemling's Zena Tree Farm. The tour will feature Sarah's management of this Willamette Valley foothill woodland, and especially her oak management, milling, and marketing.                               |
|                  | <b>27-29 Master Woodland Manager Mini-College</b> – OSU campus. Contact Nicole Strong for information. <a href="mailto:Nicole.Strong@oregonstate.edu">Nicole.Strong@oregonstate.edu</a> , or 541-829-1270  |
| <b>September</b> | <b>No meeting is scheduled</b>   |
| <b>October</b>   | <b>27 WCSWA Monthly Meeting</b> - Don Rice, Managing Director of the Resource Management Group of Greenwood Resources. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m., at The OSU Extension office, Capital Center, 185 <sup>th</sup> and Walker Road, Beaverton. |
| <b>November</b>  | <b>17 WCSWA Annual Awards Banquet</b>  |
| <b>December</b>  | <b>No meeting is scheduled</b>   |

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## SEEDLING UPDATE, 2009-10

*by Bob Shumaker, Chairman, Seedling Committee*

It is time to start thinking about your seedling requirements for 2009-10 winter planting. WCSWA offers a seedling program to its members. This year we will have available approximately 40,000 DF Vernonia Elite 1 + 1's, and 5,000 Western Red Cedar 1 + 1 seedlings.

The Vernonia Elite DF seed is from ODF's Vernonia Seed Orchard and is the second generation of their breeding program. The seedlings are grown for WCSWA at Lewis River Reforestation in Woodland, WA.

These seedlings have superior growing characteristics and are intended to maximize the growing potential of your site. They are not genetically modified organisms, but are the result of breeding parent trees with superior growing characteristics from trees selected from our area.

Here's how our seedling contract works with Lewis River Reforestation, Inc. in Woodland, WA. Generally every seedling crop involves a two year contract. The seeds are sown in a bed in the first year. The second year, one year old seedlings are transplanted from the seed bed. In the transplant bed, they put on another year of growth before they are lifted and sold to us for planting as a 1 + 1 seedling (1 + 1 meaning, 1 year in the seed bed and 1 year in transplant bed). To help clarify, a 2 + 0 seedling would be one that remained two years in the seedbed and was never transplanted.

This seedling program is an important service to members and a fund raising source for WCSWA. We take the risk of planting these trees two years before we know your needs and also provide pick up and cold storage through volunteers in our organization.

A seedling reservation request form is included in this newsletter. If you wish to order, please complete the form and return it as soon as possible.

### ***Forest Health and Human Health – Connected?***

Health care and health insurance are much in the news these days, but did you realize they are connected in a vital way to forest health? Catherine Mater of the Pinchot Institute has been studying this connection as a part of her research into succession patterns of forest land ownership. She has found that a fifth of rural landowners are uninsured (health), and many more are underinsured. Thirty percent of rural children are uninsured. Land resources are often the only assets available to pay for sudden and significant health problems. This is a particular concern of the next generation of family forestland owners.

Apart from the obvious connection between forest health and human health – the loss of forestland to pay for health care, there is another potential connection. Forest product income and carbon sequestration programs may provide income sources that both sustain human health and forest health.

Mater and the Pinchot Institute are continuing to look at the potential role forests can play in "health insurance", as well as maintaining the quantity and quality of family forestlands in the United States.

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# Tree Talk

by Bonnie Shumaker

If you are a “child of the Depression” or a “child of a child of the Depression, you will relate to this. I’m talking of the big “D “ Depression of the 1930’s of which I am a “child of a child”. The motto in our family for two generations has been “use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without”. “Waste not, want not” is another favorite. I’ve noticed that the enthusiasm for this motto has decreased in the next two generations, but that is beside the point.

This spring, it was necessary for Bob and me to move and change the dimensions of a rather large fenced deck which we originally built eighteen years ago. The deck boards were cedar and were nailed down. The nailing presented a problem when it came to removing the boards and as a result we felt we couldn’t reuse the compromised old decking on the new deck. However, we were able to use the deck framing. Many hours were spent observing the pictures we were foresighted enough to take of the original deck framing before deconstruction and figuring out how to use the lengths without creating waste in the new configuration. The framing was finally finished. The only purchase we needed to make for the framing was for new bolts. New decking also had to be purchased as well as deck screws – no nails this time.

The fence around the deck best illustrates our use of the second family motto of not wasting anything. We needed vertical slats for the new deck fence - 300 of them. At Home Depot we priced them at \$3 each. Instead of this investment, we bought a planer for \$200 and using the old 2 x 6 compromised cedar deck boards, we cut them into 2 x 2 slats and put them through the planer and an edger. With a coat of deck stain they are now beautiful and sport a slightly antique look. The deck rail and support we purchased from Tom Nygren who had rough cedar boards for sale from a blow down cedar that Lyal Purinton had milled for him. These too went through the planer and the edges were smoothed by a router. We were happy to include local wood into our project.

There was one more deck that it was necessary to move and reshape only slightly. Fortunately this deck was newer and we had learned the value of deck screws. So we took it apart, planed down the boards to look like new and easily reassembled it. We do have one more deck at the front of our house. It was built with 2 x 4 fir and nailed down quite a few years ago. It probably has a few years left in it, but we still had some of the 2 x 6 compromised cedar deck boards left. Since this is a small deck, we’ve picked the boards where the old nail holes don’t show much, have planed them down and will replace the fir deck with cedar boards soon. The discarded fir boards will undoubtedly warm us this summer in the wood stove.

In recalling this series of events, I realize the one thing we never opted to do was “do without”, but we are very pleased with the result. It is also evident that the carbon that was sequestered in the growing of the trees that were made into lumber is still sequestered in the boards that were used and re-used. Keeping carbon sequestered is a much more modern theme than the Depression motto, so I guess we’re up-to-date as well as old fogies which may be a good thing.

## *Zena, continued from page 1*


Sarah is a member of Northwest Sustainable Timber Growers, Build Local Alliance, Forest Guild, Women Owning Woodlands (WOWnet), Oregon Woodland Cooperative, and the Farm Bureau. She also participates in Willamette University’s sustainability seminar, using Zena Forest as a working example of sustainable forestry. Sarah considers herself, first and foremost, a forest manager interested in the long-term health and vitality of Oregon’s forests.

### **Directions From Forest Grove**

Drive south on 99W through McMinnville and Amity. Several miles south of Amity turn left at a yellow blinking light onto Old (?) Bethel Road. In a mile or two turn right onto Oak Grove Rd. which is a gravel road. Ignore a left turn onto Oak Grove and go further to a right turn on Oak Grove. Go south on Oak Grove for a mile or two until you go uphill into the woods. On the left you will find mailbox 4550 with flowers growing in it. Turn left up the 1.3 Mile driveway. Follow the main drag and keep left at the "Y" (there is a sign "Y") Actually I will likely meet you at the "Y" and we will go to the house later.

### **Or From I-5**

Go south from Portland on I-5. Take the Salem Parkway exit at the north end of Salem. Follow it around to the Marion St. Bridge which you cross in one of the two left lanes which puts you on Hwy. 22 W going toward the coast. In 5 or 6 miles (at the Rest Lawn Cemetery) turn right/north onto Oak Grove RD. In a couple of miles you will come to a stop sign where you turn right to stay on Oak Grove. You pass a church and school and grange, the road turns to gravel, you enter the woods and find mailbox 4550 on your right with flowers planted in it. Turn right up the driveway. Call Sarah at 503 585-6380 if you need help.



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## Lumber market shows hope

The U.S. timber industry's economic slide appears to have bottomed out, with modestly increasing lumber prices and housing starts portending a gradual recovery.

Prices for Douglas fir lumber have crept up to about \$217 per thousand board feet from a low of \$205 in March, and the composite price for all framing lumber rose from \$195 per MBF in March to a mid-July price of \$238 per MBF.

That's still quite a bit lower than in 2004 - when the price per MBF nearly hit \$500 - but the price stability indicates that supply is finally coming into balance with demand, according to Butch Bernhardt, director of information services for the Western Wood Products Association.

"We're seeing a little light at the end of the tunnel," said Tom Partin, president of the American Forest Resources Council.

Looking at historical trends, though, it's likely the demand for lumber will drop again in autumn and winter, when home construction traditionally slows down, Partin said.

"We think there's room for more optimism in 2010, more than in 2009," he said.

Housing construction, which consumes much of the timber industry's output, is still weak but has been showing signs of improvement. In June, housing starts increased 3.6 percent, to about 582,000 units, according to U.S. Commerce Department statistics.

When the downturn began three years ago, housing starts were at about 2 million units, Bernhardt said. "We're a long ways away from where we were." (see below)

Lumber consumption in the U.S. dropped by about 35 billion board feet during the last three years, he said. To compare, consumption dropped by about 11 billion during the timber recession of the early 1980s. Bernhardt said "Our anticipation is the recovery will be a slow one".

The improvements in housing and lumber prices have not yet translated into increased log prices, but at least the price declines have become less steep, said Dan Corgan, contracts team leader for the Oregon Department of Forestry's state forests division. "Before, we were seeing dramatic drops". For example, in the third quarter of 2008, the pond price for most Douglas fir logs ranged from about \$400 to \$500 per MBF, depending on quality, according to ODF statistics. By the first quarter of 2009, prices ranged about \$300 to \$350 per MBF. Prices were only slightly weaker in the second quarter of 2009. Volume for logs is calculated differently than lumber volume.

*Mateusz Perkowski, Capital Press, July 23, 2009*



## ***Board of Directors Meeting Summary***

The WCSWA Board of Directors met on Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup>. The following items were discussed:

- Treasurer's Report: Bob Shumaker reported that WCSWA is in good financial shape, with a healthy reserve fund, and adequate funds to pay foreseeable expenses. The Board discussed the seedling sales financial situation (see Bob's report on page ), as well as the opportunity to provide some funding for the preparation of management plans in cooperation with Amy Grotta, new Washington-Columbia County Extension Forester.
- With the legislative session ended, Dallas reported that there were both positive and negative results. On the positive side, SB 3058 did not make it out of committee, so siting projects like the current LNG proposal will not be able to initiate certain activities (affecting property owners) prior to acquiring land use approval. The negative effects are severe – many Oregon Department of Forestry Stewardship Foresters will be affected by layoff or reassignment.
- Management planning classes (mentioned above) will begin this fall. Neil Schroeder and Dallas Boge have been working with Amy Grotta in planning the program (see article on page ).
- It's time to get nominations for two Board of Director positions. Dallas will solicit member interest in serving.
- Annual Meeting – the annual WCSWA Awards Banquet will be held on November 17<sup>th</sup>.



### ***Did You Know What This Is?***

The July issue of Forest Forum offered this challenge. Mike Heath correctly identified these “apples” on Oregon white oak as galls resulting from the California Gall Wasp. The galls are formed by the trees reaction to eggs laid in the fall by female wasps. The galls form in the spring, and by fall, adult wasps emerge from the apples and seek new twigs to lay eggs in.

The wasps lay only unfertilized eggs in the twig, and only females emerge. Salivary secretions from the wasp larva stimulate the plant to produce the gall, so the insect actually modifies the plant's normal response to injury, resulting in food and shelter for the larva.

The galls made by gall wasps provide resources and refuge for many other creatures. These include parasites of the gall wasps themselves, weevils and their parasites, solitary bees and wasps, spiders, and other small arthropods.

## ***Wonder What's Happening down at OSU?***

To get a quick glimpse into some of the research going on at the OSU College of Forestry, click on the following website: <http://www.cof.orst.edu/cof/extendedK-12/notablenotes/index.php>

These “Notable Notes” are very interesting, and can be used for a variety of audiences, from grade-schoolers to adults.

## ***Back to the Future – Tires from Trees?***

Automobile owners around the world may some day soon be driving on tires that are partly made of trees – which could cost less, perform better, and save on fuel and energy.

Wood science researchers at Oregon State University have made some surprising findings about the potential of microcrystalline cellulose – a product that can be made easily from almost any type of plant fibers – to partially replace silica as reinforcing filler in the manufacture of rubber tires. A new study suggests that this approach might decrease the energy required to produce the tire, reduce costs, and better resist heat build-up. Early tests indicate that such products would have comparable traction on cold or wet pavement, be just as strong, and provide even higher fuel efficiency than traditional tires in hot weather.

Cellulose fiber has been used for some time as reinforcement in some type of rubber and automotive products, such as belts, hoses, and insulation – but never in tires, where the preferred fillers are carbon black and silica. Carbon black, however, is made from increasingly expensive oil, and the processing of silica is energy-intensive. Both products are very dense and reduce the fuel efficiency of automobiles.

In the search for new types of reinforcing fillers that are inexpensive, easily available, light, and renewable, OSU experts turned to microcrystalline cellulose – a micrometer-sized type of crystalline cellulose with an extremely well-organized structure. It is produced in a low-cost process of acid hydrolysis using nature's most natural polymer – cellulose – that comprises about 40-50% of wood. In this study, OSU researchers replaced up to about 12 percent of the silica used in conventional tire manufacture. This decreased the amount of energy required to compound the rubber composite, improved heat resistance of the product, and retained tensile strength.

Traction is always a key issue with tire performance, and the study showed that the traction of the new product was comparable to existing rubber tire technology in a wet, rainy environment. However, at high temperatures such as in summer, the partial replacement of silica decreased the rolling resistance of the product, which would improve fuel efficiency of rubber tires made with the new approach.

Kaichung Li, OSU associate professor of wood technology and engineering in the OSU College of Forestry, and graduate student Wen Bai, conducted the research. Li also recently developed a non-toxic adhesive for production of wood composite panels that dramatically changed that industry, and in 2007, he received a Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Award at the National Academy of Sciences for his work on new, sustainable and environmentally friendly wood products.

*Working Forests newsletter, July 21, 2009*

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## Arbor House Tree Farm – A Labor of Love

The annual Tree Farm of the Year tour took place at Scott and Marge Hayes' Arbor House Tree Farm on Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup>. It was not your normal Tree Farmer of the Year tour – though it did feature good food and good company, always a tradition. Scott and Marge have devoted much time and energy into creating a learning environment in the form of a working tree farm. The tour itself was an “open house”, with an excellent guidebook to lead visitors through the tree farm from learning point to learning point. Fellow tree farmers and others arrived throughout the morning, but all enjoyed a fine meal at noon, provided by the Hayes with some assistance by WCSWA.



Left picture: Steve and Lynn Harrel, Neil Schroeder, Bethany Schroeder (2009 WCSWA Scholarship winner), Bryce Schroeder, Ardis Schroeder, and Beth Adams

Right picture: Mike Heath, Stimson Lumber Company, and April Olbrich, Tualatin River Watershed Council

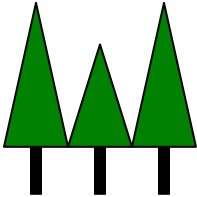
The walking tour highlights were:

- The Hayes home, which was built to incorporate fire defensible and resistant features, including a 1500 gallon emergency water tank, fire-resistant building materials, fire-resistant landscaping materials, and a green buffer.
- Wildlife habitat improvements, including late summer and early fall forage for band-tailed pigeons, a feeding station for band-tails during their migration season, and perching and staging trees.
- “Christmas trees gone wild” – a stand originally planted for Christmas trees was harvested, but some branches on each stump were left to grow new Christmas trees. Plans changed, and the stand was left to grow naturally in 1993, resulting in multi-stemmed trees. Some of the stand was commercially thinned by the Hayes in 2005-2007, removing many of the multiple stems. Additional similar stands are being calibrated to demonstrate thinning options using Stand Density Index (SDI) guidelines.
- Salvage logging and “double-down” planting – after harvesting some poor quality large Douglas-fir trees, an area was replanted with 2 trees at each planting spot, 2 feet apart. This experiment is intended to mimic the double-stemmed escaped Christmas trees, with the “extra” planted trees commercially thinned in 15 years.
- Ponderosa pine and western white pine planting – a small experimental plantation has shown that “blister-rust resistant” white pine isn’t necessarily resistant, and elk like to rub on pine stems that have been pruned!
- Hybrid poplar – a small hybrid poplar plantation has shown good growth, but also has suffered elk damage. Scott is testing the potential for poplar lumber.
- Two other Douglas-fir areas, one planted and one naturally regenerated are slated for thinning in the next few years. The planted stand contains wild Oregon truffles – another study opportunity for the Hayes!

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## ***Forest Forum***



COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE  
OREGON SMALL WOODLANDS  
ASSOCIATION

### ***Potpourri***

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

**Howell H. Hughes, Jr. of Sherwood** 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).

#### ***What is This?***

A tree sticking it's tongue out at you? A strange sort of fungus? Your imagination can run wild!

If you know what is happening in this picture, let an editor know – we'll see how many folks have the right answer.

Do you have an interesting or unusual picture to offer to test Forest Forum readers? If so, please send it to Tom Nygren ([tnygren@juno.com](mailto:tnygren@juno.com)) or Bonnie Shumaker ([bshumaker@coho.net](mailto:bshumaker@coho.net))

