

Forest Forum

Washington County Small
Woodlands Association

October, 2010

Annual Banquet November 16th – Don't Miss It!

The 2010 WCSWA Annual Banquet at the Jennings-McCall Center in Forest Grove again calls members, partners, and friends to enjoy an evening of good food and good conversation. To top it off, the 2010 Tree Farmer of the Year will be honored, and Bob Browning, noted rural property and business law attorney, will present “Education and Opportunity – Succeeding in a Time of Financial Adversity”, a certain-to-be enjoyed program based on his many years of working with small woodland owners.

A flyer with information on the Banquet, and RSVP instructions, is enclosed with this issue of Forest Forum.

Bob Browning has been an instructor in real property law and other related topics for the “Oregon Tree Schools” since 2003. He has been practicing law in Forest Grove since his admission to the Oregon State Bar in 1979. While the primary service emphasis of Mr. Browning’s

See “Banquet”, page 8

Ties to the Land– Planning for the Future

Passing the family property on to the next generation can be a real challenge. Success in navigating that challenge is critical not just to your family, but to your property, your community, and the landscape of Oregon. Succession planning is an important tool to help families plan to successfully transfer not just their woodland, but also the passion and skills for taking care of that land to the next generation.

Ties to the Land is a two-part, facilitated workshop appropriate for all adult members of woodland-owning families (both current owners and future heirs). Washington County Small Woodlands Association is sponsoring the workshop as part of their annual monthly meeting schedule, through the cooperation of Amy Grotta, OSU Extension Forester. In our local area, ***Ties to the Land*** is scheduled for the following date/location:

Washington County (OSU Extension Service classroom, Beaverton) - Tuesday, October 26th, 2010 (part 1) and Tuesday, January 25th, 2011 (part 2) - 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

To reserve a space in either of the above workshops, please call Vicki at the Columbia County Extension office - 503-397-3462. There is a \$25 fee (per family) for the course, which includes one copy of the Ties to the Land workbook and companion DVD. Additional workbooks are \$25 each.

Course discounts are available, courtesy of Washington County Small Woodlands Association. All WCSWA members can sign up for the workshop at no charge. Please inquire about this discount when you RSVP for the class.

See “Ties to the Land”, page 4

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The Prez Sez

Welcome to October! I am hoping the relatively dry weather we experienced in late September hangs on. I expect everyone is scrambling to get things accomplished, particularly spraying. I prefer to spot-spray, so it costs me time, but saves on chemical – helps to keep the native plant population healthy, too. I was really late dealing with the driveway weeds this year; just hit them about three weeks ago. Now a patchy fuzz of beautiful green grass is coming up as the dying weeds are fading. I prefer to minimize spray use, so I guess I'll just follow the fairway to find the farmhouse this winter. The driveway on my farm gets less use than most, since I live in Portland and use the farmhouse as a second home.

As long as there is some dry weather and green leaves remain on target plants, fall is a great time to chemically control weeds and brush. Be certain to read the label, take great care, and contact your chemical supplier if you have any doubts about safety and effectiveness. The old standby, glyphosate (Accord), will kill any plant and it breaks down quickly in contact with the soil, making it pretty safe to use. However, spraying glyphosate too soon before or after a rain could result in still-effective chemical washing into a stream. There, it can remain toxic for some time, harming aquatic plants and animals. Garlon Four is wonderfully effective on non-native blackberry. But Garlon Four will volatilize and drift as invisible vapor for some distance if air temperature is too high. It can damage crops on your neighbor's place!

A ponderous thought for me as a forest owner and a gardener: For productivity and esthetics, I spend most of my working time killing and cutting plants!

The Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District BBQ and tour on September 25th was fun and interesting – and well-attended. The folks operating Blooming Nursery have found several ways to increase productivity and efficiency while at the same time reducing the environmental impact of their business. Greener greenery for landscaping! The tours were edifying and well-explained. Our own Stuart Mulholland and Pat Nygren were there with a Washington County Small Woodlands display and literature to educate folks about WCSWA and sign up new members. Several of our members were there to share their expertise and answer questions.

Remember, *Ties to the Land* will be the program for our October and January meetings, so we will start at 6 p.m. instead of 7. I am told the course is filling up fast. Amy Grotta is handling the sign-up. WCSWA will cover the cost of one set of course materials per member family. Just another benefit of membership.....

May your weed control efforts be 100% effective! (And be sure to hit the Hawthorne!)

See you on the 26th.

Jim Brown

WCSWA Leadership

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Vice-President – Scott Hayes, 503- 992-1509 scotthayes@wildblue.net
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WCSWA Website

www.wcswa.org

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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)

For Sale: (none)

Wanted: Renter-Caretaker for Tree Farm – 2 Bedroom house in Western Washington County. Call 503-357-0781

Trade: (none)

Event Calendar

October	26	WCSWA Monthly Meeting – “Ties to the Land” workshop, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the OSU Extension office, Capital Center, located at 185 th and Walker Road, Beaverton. See article on page 1. RSVP to Vicki at the Columbia County Extension office - 503-397-3462.
November	16	WCSWA Annual Banquet - Speaker: Bob Browning, Attorney. Jennings-McCall Center, Forest Grove. See insert to Forest Forum.
	17	Operational Management of Swiss Needlecast in Douglas Fir – Symposium sponsored by the Swiss Needlecast Cooperative and Western Forestry and Conservation Association. Woodburn. http://www.cof.orst.edu/coops/sncc/index.htm .
December		No Meeting Scheduled
January	12	Woodland Information Night, Washington County – OSU Extension office
	25	WCSWA Monthly Meeting – “Ties to the Land” workshop, Part II, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m., OSU Extension Office. Capital Center, 185 th and Walker Road, Beaverton.

Advertising Opportunity:

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Jacob Brownowski

Ties to the Land, continued from page 1

Other *Ties to the Land* workshops are being taught around the state at around the same time, so if you have family members in other areas, please encourage them to sign up as well. For example, a session will be held in Portland on Oct. 20 (hosted by West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District - call 503-238-4775 for details), and in Columbia County (Rainier Senior Center) on Tuesday, October 19th, 2010 (part 1) and Tuesday, January 18th, 2011 (part 2) - 6:00 - 9:00 pm. For a complete listing of statewide events, go to http://tiestotheand.org/index.php?option=com_seminar&Itemid=117.

Plan to participate in *Ties to the Land* this fall, encourage members of your family to take part where they live, and begin the conversation with your family about the future of your cherished woodland property this year.

Thanks to Amy Grotta for information on the workshop!



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Funding for the OFID expansion provided by a grant to the Institute for Culture and Ecology and OSU Forestry Extension by the USDA CSREES National Research Initiative (See www.ifcae.org/wildforestgoods).




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OWC Kicks Off NTFP Project

Over 50 small woodland owners participated in a “kickoff” event on Saturday, September 25th at the Oregon Department of Forestry office in Forest Grove. The purpose of the event was to initiate a project to help small woodland owners diversify and increase their woodland income through harvest and marketing of a wide variety of non-timber forest products. A panel consisting of Eric Jones and Lita Buttolph of the Institute for Culture and Ecology, small woodland owner Lyal Purinton, and Julie Barnes, floral designer, presented information about non-timber forest products. Eric and Lita discussed products that the Institute is researching and developing market analyses for, such as huckleberries and Oregon grape. They also will be developing market analyses for several other products. Lyal discussed the production and marketing of value-added bundled firewood, and Julie demonstrated how floral products are designed and produced from common woodland plants.

Continued on following page

Following the panel, the audience discussed products they were interested in, and shared information and questions. The Co-op collected information from those interested in non-timber products concerning the products they were interested in, and questions that small woodland owners needed to have answered about their potential participation in the project.

The Co-op has received a \$150,000 grant from the USDA Rural Cooperative and Business Department to support the non-timber forest product project.



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TREE TALK

by Bonnie Shumaker

How often does an “older” person get to experience the same level of excitement as a twelve year old? Bob and I enjoy sharing our tree farm by giving tours to numerous school groups, but this article highlights our involvement in the Pacific Logging Congress’ “In the Woods” show on September 16th. We volunteered as guides to the show and we each had a group of 30 sixth graders from Centennial School District. There was no time beforehand to view the show, so each exhibit was as new and exciting to us as it was to the kids. OFRI furnishes buses to transport the children, and according to Norie Dimeo-Ediger (OFRI’s K-12 Education Director), 1,407 students attended the show, accompanied by 153 teachers and parents, 68 guides and one dog. From our experience, the adults learn as much as the kids. From the dog’s point of view, the smells were likely more interesting than the sights.

The tour started off with demonstrations by the Knappa High School Forestry Club who kept the audience enthralled with their tree climbing, choker setting, log rolling, sawing and cable splicing skills. After that, my group came upon the monster chipper just as it inhaled several large trees and spit them out as chips. Those chips were needed and used along the trail made muddy by an overnight rain that thankfully eased off for the tour. Exciting demonstrations of equipment at the “cut-to-length thinning site” and the “full-tree site” entranced us all. Smaller exhibits offered by “Keep Oregon Green” and “Talk About Trees” provided more interest.

Along the trail was signage explaining nurse logs, snags, understory and riparian areas which gave more opportunity to engage the kids as well as keeping the different groups spread out so the demonstrations were not too crowded. We even found some fairly dry logs on which to eat lunch. We had about three hours to complete the tour, and my group was just a little late. We found the bus running and ready to take the kids back to school in time to go home.

Following are some of the comments sent to Norie Dimeo-Ediger regarding the tour:

From Pleasant Valley School: “We had a GREAT time today. Thank you for your help in making our trip possible. The kids gained a lot of new information about how logging and the timber industry function in Oregon. I can’t tell you how valuable today’s field trip was.”



From Vernonia School District (who sent almost the entire town): “Thanks so much for yesterday! I heard very positive feedback from students, staff and parents. What a great day! 7 busses and 274 students. Wow! “

From the biology teacher at Aloha High School: “Thank you a ton for providing my students with the chance to see forestry in action. This was the first time I had attended this event. Wow! You can talk to the students all you want, but nothing teaches

them like actually seeing a harvester do its job or a shredder make a tree disappear in minutes.

I really liked how the program was put together. You left having a sense that there are many support roles in the logging industry, and that it is a very well-orchestrated operation that supports a sustainable environment.

Please pass along my heartfelt thanks to everyone who made this event possible. And, again, thank you for your financial support. Without OFRI’s bus reimbursement, we would not have been able to attend.”

I know that sometimes older people don’t feel appreciated by the younger generation. The only other adult in my group was a student teacher who was in charge of most of the not-so-fun stuff like making sure our group stayed together and behaved (which they did with few problems). One slightly obstreperous boy commented to me, “I like you better than the student teacher. She’s practically a teenager. You’re older and more fun.” I guess my excitement did rub off. It was a good day.



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Banquet, continued from page 1

practice is real estate and business transactions; non-complex estate planning, trusts, probate law; and commercial landlord-tenant matters, he has counseled and represented clients with needs in most areas of the law. He is also a member of a number of other Bar Sections. He has served on several Bar task forces and committees. He was a Fellow of the Bar's 2006 Leadership College, and he now serves on the Oregon State Bar Leadership College Board.

Mr. Browning's presentations at Tree Schools have been primarily directed toward Christmas tree farmers, small woodlot operators, and timber growers. The annual Tree Schools around the state are organized and presented cooperatively by the Oregon State University Extension Service and other industry affiliated groups. In 2010, Mr. Browning will have taught courses for Tree Schools in Clackamas, Douglas, and Klamath Counties.

Mr. Browning is an elected member of the Oregon State Bar House of Delegates and was 2004 Chair of the Sole and Small Firm Practitioners Section of the Bar. He has a broad range of experience, ranging from his early days in transportation and construction, to stints as Forest Grove Planning Director, to a current role as Gaston Municipal Court Judge. As a municipal judge, Mr. Browning has officiated at over 800 weddings!

He has also been a real estate broker and developer, and still maintains his license in real estate, though he is no longer active involved in brokerage.

Sustainable Oregon Forests? *Public Views Sought*

Are Oregon's forests being managed sustainably? A set of indicators developed with broad public input suggests that they aren't, and the Oregon Board of Forestry is inviting the public to help shape a plan to improve the health and productivity of our public and private forests. "Based on Oregonians' own indicators of sustainable forest management, our forests are facing some significant challenges," said John Blackwell of Portland, who chairs the board. "We're updating our *Forestry Program for Oregon*, a broad plan to ensure that we'll always have healthy forests providing a full range of benefits. We hope Oregonians will offer their input along the way." The Board of Forestry is a citizen panel tasked with overseeing forest policy statewide. The *Forestry Program for Oregon* is maintained on an eight-year cycle, with the next update due in 2011.

A 90-day public comment period for the draft 2011 Forestry Program for Oregon will begin on Oct. 1 and run through Dec. 31, 2010. A public review draft of the document, along with supporting information and instructions for submitting comment, can be found on the board's website, www.oregonforestry.gov/.

The update comes as Oregon's forests face major challenges, including *fragmentation and conversion* of forest lands to other uses, *encroachment* of Oregon's population into forested areas, *invasive species* that compete with native vegetation, *declining health* of federally owned forestlands and large expanses in drier parts of Oregon that need thinning and other treatments to restore their health and reduce their vulnerability to severe fires, and *high unemployment and insufficient revenue* to fund local services.

The draft *Forestry Program for Oregon* update proposes specific goals and objectives to address the current problems, and to set forests on a pathway to provide a steady flow of multiple benefits for Oregonians. The document's goals are linked to 19 indicators of sustainable forest management endorsed by the board. Using available data, the indicators set desired trends and monitor progress. The indicators are intended to point to a future that includes attributes like these:

- There is no net loss in the area of Oregon non-federal wildland forest compared to 2010 levels
- Forest-related revenues and employment contribute significantly to Oregon's economy
- Water quality and the biological health of forest streams is stable or improving
- Production and commercial value of Oregon wood and paper products is stable or increasing
- The number of native forest plant and animal species at risk is decreasing.
- No invasive species on Oregon's "100 Most Dangerous List" are uncontained in the forests, and acreage affected by invasives is stable or decreasing
- Resiliency to wildfire is growing as excessive fuels are reduced on more forested acres.

State Forester Marvin Brown said Oregon is a leader in creating an overarching vision for the sustainability of public and private forests, and in using indicators to monitor conditions and trends. "I invite Oregonians to take a look at the new draft *Forestry Program for Oregon* and to offer their comments," he said. "Forests are immensely important in our state, and this is an opportunity to help make sure that they're healthy and productive well into the future."

Forestry Program for Oregon-related questions and suggestions may be directed to David Morman, Oregon Department of Forestry, 2600 State St., Salem, Oregon 97310, 503-945-7413, email: dmorman@odf.state.or.us.

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Environmental Credit Marketing? Landowners Weigh In

In April 2009, Texas Forest Service distributed a three-page survey to 5,193 landowners hoping to gain a better understanding of their perspectives on ecosystem services markets. The survey was designed to determine interest in these emerging environmental credit markets, as well as identify potential participation barriers. Results will be used to develop programs that provide technical assistance to interested landowners. Surveys were collected through August 2009. About 20 percent of the surveys (1,032) were returned. A summary of the results is provided below.

General characteristics of respondents:

- Average size of forest landholdings was 614 acres (median = 300 acres)
- Predominant timber type was pine plantation (43%)
- Most own land to enjoy scenery and protect nature, as well as for investment purposes

Observations regarding respondents' knowledge and views on ecosystem services:

- Knowledgeable about carbon markets (75%) but not other ecosystem markets
- Obtain topical information from the media (35%) and newsletters (31%)
- Interested in obtaining more information (85%) through newsletters (70%)
- Would consider selling environmental credits (82%)
- Prefer annual payments over lump sum payments (74%)

Important factors affecting market participation:

- Compensation was the largest motivator for participation *(continued on page 11)*

- Land and management restrictions (primarily timber harvesting) were the greatest barriers to participation
- Conservation easement requirements greatly affect participation

Landowners most likely to participate in ecosystem services marketing:

- Have a general awareness of carbon markets
- Own land to generate income
- Control larger forest landholdings
- Participate in state/federal cost share programs

Average price levels that encourage participation (\$/acre/year)

- \$15.15 for an annual contract
- \$19.92 for a five-year contract
- \$27.36 for a contract requiring a perpetual conservation easem

Federal Decisions May Affect Oregon Logging

Recent legal decisions have cast an aura of concern over the ability of forestland owners to manage their forestland under the current Forest Practices Act regulations. These decisions deal with federal Clean Water Act permitting procedures, Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program interpretations regarding TMDLs (Total Maximum Daily Load), as well as increasing pressure to develop numeric water quality criteria for nutrients, temperature, turbidity, and other pollutants. A brief summary of these decisions follows:

- A recent decision of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals held that logging roads are subject to federal Clean Water Act requirements regarding the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). In particular, the Court found that road ditches and other “discrete conveyances” that discharge stormwater to streams are “point sources” requiring NPDES permits. This decision conflicts with Environmental Protection Agency regulations under which forest roads are nonpoint sources not requiring NPDES permits. The decision is being appealed. (www.ca9.uscourts.gov/datastore/opinions/2010/008/17/07-35266.pdf)
- A 6th Circuit Court of Appeals decision in January held that EPA must regulate certain pesticide applications as point sources subject to NPDES permit requirements (even though EPA already regulates pesticides under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act). EPA intends to issue a General Permit starting in April, 2011 covering four categories of pesticide applications. The General permit is expected to increase cost, complexity, and legal risks associated with use of persticides. (www.ca6.uscourts.gov/opinions.pdf/09a0004p-06.pdf)
- In Oregon, EPA and NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) are withholding approval of the states Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program. They are demanding that Oregon DEQ make changes, including development of a new “prescriptive TMDL process” through which DEQ could require implementation of more stringent BMPs (Best Management Practices) than those already included in the Oregon Forestry Practices Act regulations in situations where normal BMPs are considered insufficient to achieve water quality standards.

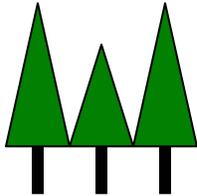
(Source: Forestry Environmental Program News, September 15, 2010)

Washington County Small Woodlands Association

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Forest Forum



COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE
OREGON SMALL WOODLANDS
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A Report from the American Forest Foundation:

Today, the American Forest Foundation released **Forest Conservation in 2009: A Farm Bill Progress Report**. This annual study shows US Department of Agriculture's Conservation programs, which are authorized by the Farm Bill, are helping to conserve America's forests.

Since passage of the 2008 Farm Bill, when forestry was fully integrated into USDA Conservation Programs for the first time, the nation has made a significant investment in the health of its forests by partnering with private landowners. Funding for sustainable forestry has more than doubled in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and nearly quadrupled in the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program, allowing landowners to improve water quality and wildlife habitat and sequester carbon in their forests.

States vary widely in their focus on forestry, and some challenges still remain. Implementation could be smoothed by:

- Increasing the availability of technical service providers
- Simplifying paperwork
- Accepting Tree Farm management plans

Using the findings of this Progress Report as a guide, AFF is working with USDA staff to ensure that the programs are doing as much as possible to promote the health of America's forests.

Further information on Farm Bill progress can be obtained at www.forestfoundation.org. The American Forest Foundation is the parent organization of the American Tree Farm System, of which the Oregon Tree Farm System is a component.