

# Forest Forum

Washington County Small  
Woodlands Association

November, 2010

## ***Ties to the Land Class So Successful that Another Class is Scheduled***

By popular demand, Amy Grotta has scheduled other *Ties to the Land* class in Washington County. September's class was great - so if you missed out, there's still a chance for you to get in on this program. The class will repeat on Wednesday, December 1st, 6:00 - 9:00 pm at the Washington County Extension office at 185<sup>th</sup> and Walker Rd. Please RSVP by calling (503) 397-3462 or email [amy.grotta@oregonstate.edu](mailto:amy.grotta@oregonstate.edu) or [amy.grotta@oregonstate.edu](mailto:amy.grotta@oregonstate.edu)

Cost for the class is \$25 per family, which includes one copy of the *Ties to the Land* workbook. Additional copies cost \$25 each. Washington County Small Woodlands Association will pay for the first workbook for WCSWA member families who sign up.

This is a two-part class; Part 2 will be on Tuesday, Feb. 1st, 2011. Plan to attend both sessions.

For more information on *Ties to the Land*, visit [www.tiestothehand.org](http://www.tiestothehand.org)

## ***Two November Events***

### **WCSWA Annual Banquet**

*Tuesday, November 16, 2010*

#### ***Jennings McCall Center***

*Mt. Jefferson Room  
2300 Masonic Way*

5:30-6:15 Social Hour with no-host bar  
6:15 Buffet dinner & announcement of 2010 Washington County Tree Farmer of the Year  
7:00 Program – Bob Browning “Education and Opportunity–Succeeding in a Time of Financial Adversity”

If you lost the official form from last month's newsletter or the postcard, you can still RSVP to Pat Eddy 503-628-1468

### **Oregon Tree Farm System**

#### ***Annual Meeting, Workshop Award Luncheon***

*Monday, November 22, 2010 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM*

**Workshop:** Updates on Log Markets, Taxes & American Forest Foundation

Log Markets are very different than when the recession hit; Estate taxes, income taxes and property taxes are in flux; and the American Forest Foundation is in the process of changing its structure. This workshop will cover all of these subjects.

**Tree Farm Recognition Luncheon** The workshop will be followed by a brief Oregon Tree Farm System business meeting and then a lunch honoring the County Tree Farmers of the Year. The high point of the day will be the showing of the video featuring all of the county tree farmers of the year and the announcement of the Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year for 2010.

The workshop is free and the lunch cost is \$25 per person. For more information, contact Anne Hanschu at (503)357-2551 or [netvetrdh@gmail.com](mailto:netvetrdh@gmail.com)

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## The Prez Sez

The *Ties to the Land* course proved to be very popular with our members and their neighbors. In fact, it was so popular that the class filled to overflowing. Amy has scheduled a second two-session section to be offered the evenings of Wednesday, Dec 1<sup>st</sup> and Tuesday Feb 1<sup>st</sup>. To sign up, e-mail Amy, [amy.grotta@oregonstate.edu](mailto:amy.grotta@oregonstate.edu). For more info on *Ties to the Land*, check it out at [www.tiestotheland.org](http://www.tiestotheland.org) The session on October 26<sup>th</sup> was well-received, I am told. Actually, I was signed up for that session..... Which brings to mind other thoughts; in fact a vast and overarching principle which will be my main philosophical theme for this month's message.

Being one inclined toward efficiency of time and resources, I decided to postpone getting my flu shot until October 25<sup>th</sup>, when I was scheduled for a medical appointment. Do both in one trip and save fuel and time, right? By October 25<sup>th</sup>, I couldn't go get my flu shot, because I was sick with the flu! Of course, I missed the *Ties to the Land* class as well, not to mention two other meetings – and some other work I had planned to do. The net results of putting off the shot were about a week of discomfort, unnecessary health risk, and frustration. I did get caught up on some of my reading, though. (Thanx, by the way, to Bob Shumaker and Doug Eddy for assuming my duties in my absence!)

First principal: Pay yourself first. This is not in the sense that Ben Franklin meant – about saving money. It is about keeping healthy – your own well-being savings account. The small time and travel investment in the flu shot at the earliest possible date would probably have paid off handsomely for me!

My original idea for these notes had to do with safety. I am somewhat better at safety than flu shots. My career as a chemistry teacher, with teenagers handling chemicals, Bunsen burners, glassware, and the like, has resulted in a sort-of Murphy's Law approach to any project. I learned that if it were possible to burn a Bunsen some student would find a way to do it, so it became my job to anticipate that event and head it off. This has not resigned me to a constant sense of dread; rather it has brought about an automatic tendency to look for ways to avoid doing damage while I am attempting to accomplish something good.

Winter can be an opportune season for some woodland chores. With the leaves off and some of the brush down, it is often easier to deal with brushing, thinning, limbing, etc. There is less foliage to deal with and it's easier to see where a tree you want to fall might get hung up, to find overtopped seedlings, and to avoid hazards underfoot. If the ground is frozen enough, you can get the pickup, etc. to your worksite without tearing up the ground. Midwinter is the ideal time to plant trees and to assess your stand so you can plan for long-term projects.

There is a flip side, of course. Getting around in the woods, either on wheels or on foot must be done with extra care due to slick conditions. Working with any tools can become tricky with cold hands and wet, slippery gloves. Cold temperatures usually cause people to tire more quickly and may cause errors in judgment. Becoming wet and cold is usually hazardous to one's health. Preparation, forethought, and knowing when to quit (and quitting just a little sooner) will be "paying yourself first". Take that extra time to think ahead and be safe in the woods this winter. (A flu shot might help, too.)

In WCSWA matters, we could still use one more member to help with the Membership Committee, preferably a member from the area north and west of Forest Grove. Not much time or effort needed on this assignment and it's kind of fun. Also could use someone to help out Scott Hayes with the Legislative Committee, sort of a back-up if needed.

Looking forward to seeing you all at our annual dinner meeting on November 16<sup>th</sup>!

Jim Brown

## WCSWA Leadership

President – Jim Brown, 503-284-6455 [jimbrownorch@msn.com](mailto:jimbrownorch@msn.com)

Vice-President – Scott Hayes, 503- 992-1509 [scotthayes@wildblue.net](mailto:scotthayes@wildblue.net)

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### Membership Committee:

Stuart Mullholland, 503-985-3168

Howell Hughes, 503-201-3748

### WCSWA Website

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

Website Manager: Kathy Scott

Contact Tom Nygren for web postings  
and information.

### Forest Forum Newsletter

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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

|          |    |  |
|----------|----|--|
| November | 16 | WCSWA Annual Banquet - Jennings McCall Center, 2300 Masonic Way, Forest Grove. Speaker: Bob Browning, Attorney                             |
| November | 22 | Oregon Tree Farm System Tree Farmer Workshop<br>9:00am – 2:00 pm. World Forestry Center. Portland, OR.                                     |
| December |    | No Regular WCSWA Meeting Scheduled   |
| December | 1  | <i>Ties to the Land Workshop, part 1, 6:00pm-9:00pm, Capital Center, 185<sup>th</sup> and Walker Rd., Beaverton. See article, page 1</i>   |
| January  | 25 | <i>Ties to the Land, Workshop, part 2 of the September class, 6:00pm-9:00pm Capital Center, 185<sup>th</sup> and Walker Rd., Beaverton</i> |
| February | 1  | <i>Ties to the Land, Workshop, part 2 of the December class 6:00pm-9:00pm Capital Center, 185<sup>th</sup> and Walker Rd., Beaverton</i>   |

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### **Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga*) What's in a Name?**

Many of us know that Douglas-fir is not a true fir. Douglas-fir is the common name of an entire genus of trees that contains six species – two native to North America and four native to eastern Asia. Because of its similarity to other genera, Douglas-fir has given botanists fits. It has at various times, been called a pine, a spruce, a hemlock and a true fir. In 1867, because of its distinctive cones, it was given its own genus – *Pseudotsuga* – which means false hemlock.

#### **Don't forget the hyphen!**

The hyphen in the common name lets us know that Douglas-fir is not a "true fir" – that it's not a member of the *Abies* genus.

Only one Douglas-fir is native to Oregon and it's by far the most important member of the entire species. Its common name is identical to that of the genus, reflecting its importance.  
*From "Trees to Know in Oregon" OSU Extension*



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**Yum!**

While we were having dinner at Out-AZA-Blue on highway 6, I ordered the seasonal vegetables with my meal. They were a delicious combination of Chanterelle mushrooms, zucchini, another squash, cabbage and onions. They were sautéed and seasoned superbly. If you still have chanterelles in your woods, do give this a try.  
*(One way to tell if you have picked a chanterelle is to split the mushroom. The gills of a chanterelle are not true gills. You can see that the gills are melded right into the mushroom).*

*Submitted by Bonnie Shumaker*



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## China's Lumber Needs

By: Clearwater Times

October 25, 2010

From John Allan: President of the Council of Forest Industries

What a difference a year makes, or not. Lumber prices this fall are on average about 10 per cent higher than this time last year but U.S. housing starts continue to be relatively flat. However, for the first half of 2010, B.C. lumber production was up 21 per cent versus the first half of 2009. So with relatively flat U.S. demand and prices, and a Canadian dollar near par, what was driving the lumber production figures in B.C.? In a word: CHINA.

China's demand for lumber has taken off dramatically. In the last four years shipments of lumber from B.C. to China have increased by over 500 per cent.

This trend has in turn reshaped the North American lumber dynamic. According to Madison's and Random Lengths, this changed pattern of lumber flow from B.C. to Asia, as opposed to primarily the U.S., has provided support for the flat U.S. market. And while U.S. northwest lumber and log exports to China have also increased, U.S. south lumber producers will have to wait for U.S. recovery, which is continuing to be a long way into the future.

So what does this all mean? In five years, plus or minus, lumber supplies in North America could be very tight.

Bob and I have been hard at work executing conifer release in our south forty. These trees were planted in 1998 and have the usual complaints of a young forest with too much brush, some invasive species and natural reprod that never spaces itself nicely. We received an NRCS grant to do this conifer release over a five year period on twenty acres. The grant pays a small amount per acre each year and is designed as an incentive for well managed forests to do extra projects. We are decreasing the amount of brush; limbing the healthy trees up to about five feet and eliminating the natural reprod where it is too dense.

As I wade into this forest to do my work, I'm surprised at the height and quantity of the bracken fern and I have questions. Is it native? Is it harmful? What are its uses? So I "googled" '*bracken fern and forestry in Oregon*'. Here is a summary of what I found. I hope you learn something new, too.

**AUTHORSHIP AND CITATION** : Crane, M. F. 1990. *Pteridium aquilinum*. In: *Fire Effects Information System*, [Online]. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service

- Western bracken fern occurs throughout the world with the exception of hot and cold deserts, but does not persist in forests beyond about 200 years. Fossil evidence suggests that western bracken fern has had at least 55 million years to evolve and perfect anti-disease and anti-herbivore chemicals
- Western bracken fern is known to be poisonous to livestock throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe. Losses are greatest when livestock is fed hay mixed with western bracken fern. In humans, it has been linked to stomach cancer.

#### **MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS:**

- Nonnative grasses are often seeded onto disturbed sites to control erosion. Sites with pre-disturbance cover of bracken fern do not normally need seeding
- Competition: Western bracken fern is a competitive plant that invades cultivated fields and disturbed areas. It effectively competes for soil moisture and nutrients. When the fronds emerge, they shade the smaller plants. In the winter dead fronds may bury other plants and press them to the ground.
- On some sites shading may protect tree seedlings and increase survival. In a western Washington study, dense western bracken fern protected planted Douglas-fir seedlings from snowshoe hare and black-tailed deer browsing until the trees overtopped the western bracken fern; tree growth, however, was slower than normal.
- Control may be needed until tree seedlings are taller than the western bracken fern and sturdy enough to withstand the weight of dead fronds.
- Dead fronds form a mat of highly flammable litter that insulates the below ground rhizomes from frost when there is no snow cover. This litter also delays the rise in soil temperature and emergence of frost-sensitive fronds in the spring.
- Western bracken fern is considered a fire-adapted species throughout the world. It is not only well adapted to fire, it promotes fire by producing a highly flammable layer of dried fronds every fall. In the Pacific Northwest western bracken fern fronds grow to six feet, resulting in several tons of flashy fuel per acre.
- Most sources agree that western bracken fern's primary fire adaptation is its deeply buried rhizomes which sprout vigorously following fires before most competing vegetation is established

So – there you are. If bracken fern becomes too invasive, it can best be treated twice a year with either a manual or chemical approach to minimize fuel load and competition. In our situation, it is not so prevalent as to be a nuisance, but it sure is tall. I think ours surpass the six foot description as they snake up through the Doug-fir branches seeking light. The Doug-fir is growing well, too; so I guess there is enough sun and nutrients for both.



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## The World's lungs

By: **The Economist**    **October 12, 2010**

The summer dry-season, now drawing to an end, is when the Amazon rainforest gets cut and burned. The smoke this causes can often be seen from space. But not this year. Brazil's deforestation rate has dropped astoundingly fast. In 2004 some 2.8m hectares (10,700 square miles) of the Amazon were razed; last year only around 750,000 hectares were.

This progress is not isolated. Many of the world's biggest clearers of trees have started to hug them. Over the past decade, the UN records, nearly 8m hectares of forest a year were allowed to re-grow or were planted anew. This was mostly in richer places, such as North America and in Europe, where dwindling rural populations have taken the pressure off forestland. But a couple of big poorer countries, notably China, have launched huge tree-planting schemes in a bid to prevent deforestation-related environmental disasters. Even in tropical countries, where most deforestation takes place, Brazil is not alone in becoming more reluctant to chop down trees.

The progress made in recent years shows that mankind is not doomed to strip the planet of its forest cover. But the transition from tree-chopper to tree-hugger is not happening fast enough. Over the past decade, according to UN figures, around 13m hectares of forestland—an area the size of England—was converted each year to other uses, mostly agriculture. If the world is to keep the protective covering that helps it breathe, waters its crops, keeps it cool and nurtures its biodiversity, it is going to have to move fast.

See "The World's Lungs, page 9

**A bad old habit:** For at least 10,000 years, since the ice last retreated and forests took back the earth, people have destroyed them. In medieval Europe an exploding population and hard-working monks put paid to perhaps half its temperate oak and beech woods—mostly, as is usually the case, to clear space for crops. Some 100m hectares of America's forests went in the 19th century, in an arboreal slaughter similarly reinforced by a belief in the godliness of thus "improving" the land. That spirit survives. It is no coincidence that George Bush junior, one of America's more god-fearing presidents, relaxed by clearing brush.

In most rich countries the pressure on forests has eased; but in many tropical ones—home to around half the remaining forest, including the planet's green rainforest girdle—the demand for land is increasing as populations rise. In Congo, which has more rainforest than any country except Brazil, the clearance is mostly driven by smallholders, whose number is about to double. Rising global demand for food and biofuels adds even more to the heat. So will climate change. That may already be happening in Canada, where recent warm winters have unleashed a plague of bark beetles, and in Australia, whose forests have been devastated by drought and forest fires.

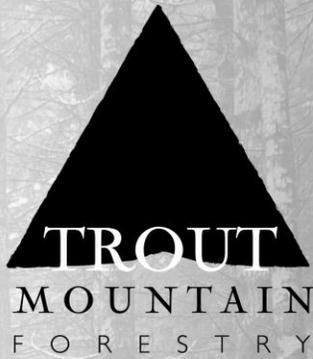
Clearing forests may enrich those who are doing it, but over the long run it impoverishes the planet as a whole. Rainforests are an important prop to continental water-cycles. Losing the Amazon rainforest could reduce rainfall across the Americas, with potentially dire consequences for farmers as far away as Texas. By regulating run-off, trees help guarantee water-supplies and prevent natural disasters, like landslides and floods. Losing the rainforest would mean losing millions of species; forests contain 80% of terrestrial biodiversity. And for those concerned about the probable effects of climate change, forests contain twice as much carbon as the atmosphere, in plant-matter and the soils they cover, and when they are razed and their soils disturbed most is emitted. If the Amazon went up in smoke—a scenario which a bit more clearance and a bit more warming makes conceivable—it would spew out more than a decade's worth of fossil-fuel emissions.

**Ready, steady, grow:** Economic development both causes deforestation and slows it. In the early stages of development people destroy forests for a meagre living. Globalisation is speeding up the process by boosting the demand for agricultural goods produced in tropical countries. At the same time, as people in emerging countries become more prosperous, they start thinking about issues beyond their family's welfare; their governments begin to pass and slowly enforce laws to conserve the environment. Trade can also allow the greener concerns of rich-world consumers to influence developing-world producers.

The transition from clearing to protecting, however, is occurring too slowly. The main international effort to speed it up is an idea known as REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation), which pays people in developing countries to leave trees standing. This is not an outlandish concept. It is increasingly common for governments and companies to pay for forest and other ecosystem services. To protect its watershed, New York pays farmers in the Catskills not to develop their land. REDD schemes aspire to do this on a much larger scale. The only notable success of the Copenhagen climate-change conference last year was a commitment to pursue them. Half a dozen rich countries, including Norway, America and Britain, have promised \$4.5 billion for starters.

The difficulties are immense. REDD projects will be effective only in places where the government sort-of works, and the tropical countries with the most important forests include some of the world's worst-run places. Even in countries with functioning states, some of the money is bound to be stolen. Yet with sufficient attention to monitoring, verification and, crucially, making sure the cash goes to the people who can actually protect the forest, REDD could work. That will cost much more than has so far been pledged. The most obvious source of extra cash is the carbon market, or preferably a carbon tax. Since saving forests is often the cheapest way to tackle carbon emissions, funding it this way makes sense.

With global climate-change negotiations foundering, the prospects of raising cash for REDD that way look poor. But the money must be found from somewhere. Without a serious effort to solve this problem, the risk from climate change will be vastly increased and the planet will lose one of its most valuable, and most beautiful, assets. That would be a tragedy.



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*Author unknown*

## For sustainable wood, a new and unloved standard

By: The New York Times      October 25, 2010

Next week select members of the United States Green Building Council will begin casting ballots on whether to overhaul how the organization awards sustainability credits for wood products.

If adopted, the standards would fundamentally alter the organization’s approach to rating forestry products. At present, only wood certified by the Forest Stewardship Council qualifies for so-called LEED credits, which are used to certify a building as environmentally sustainable and assign it a rating.

The new standards would open up LEED certification, an increasingly popular benchmark for responsible construction, to any timber certification system that meets a series of sustainability benchmarks.

The proposed standards have undergone multiple rounds of revision and public comment. In the process they have been harshly criticized both by environmental groups, which call them a step backward for sustainability, and by representatives of large corporate forestry interests, which have pushed to have the LEED standards substantially relaxed.

To Scot Horst, senior vice president for LEED at the Green Building Council, the fact that the new standards are being attacked from all sides could signal that it has hit upon a winning formula.

“Nobody likes these changes, which might mean that we’re in a fairly accurate place to be,” Mr. Horst said.

**See LEED, page 11**

## LEED, Continued from page 10

Kathy Abusow, president of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, which represents some of the country's largest timber producers and has a less rigorous standard for assessing sustainability than that currently recognized by LEED, said her group was far from pleased with the new benchmarks.

"Man, this is a complicated process," Ms. Abusow said. "There are just way too many hoops to jump through for just one credit."

Whether or not the new standards are passed, she said, her group will probably abandon its attempt to gain LEED certification for its membership's products. "We're going to put more energy into rating tools that do recognize our forest certification programs," Ms. Abusow said. "I think we've got to move away from this one credit."

Yet criticism has also come from the Forest Stewardship Council and its allies in the environmental community.

"This is absolutely a watering-down of the standard," Corey Brinkema, president of the United States office of the Forest Stewardship Council, said in an interview.

Under the new benchmarks, companies could earn LEED credits simply for clearing a "low bar" of prerequisites rather than meeting the much higher standards being practiced at the forefront of sustainable forestry, Mr. Brinkema said.

"The prerequisite level is pretty darn low," he said. "There's actually an incentive to buy more of something of a lower standard."

Among other concerns, Mr. Brinkema contends that the new benchmarks proposed by the Green Building Council loosen protections for old-growth forest and create loopholes allowing forestry companies to permanently convert forested land to other purposes.

Joining the Forest Stewardship Council in opposition to the revised benchmarks are a dozen leading environmental groups, including the Sierra Club, the World Wildlife Fund, the National Wildlife Federation, the Natural Resources Defense Council and Greenpeace, all of which recently signed a letter harshly criticizing the new standards and urging Green Building Council members to vote against them.

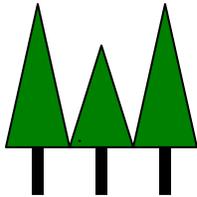
For their part, Green Building Council leaders say the new benchmarks will help bring an end to a policy impasse that has left many worthy sustainable forestry rating systems unable to obtain LEED certification. "There's an issue in the market that's not getting resolved," Mr. Horst said.

The new, more open standards will require all timber producers to meet a minimum sustainability standard, while rewarding companies that exceed this threshold, he said. The overall result would be that more timber producers being rewarded for behaving sustainably, he added. "The standard or the credit is not going to get watered down," Mr. Horst said. "It's not going to happen."

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## ***Forest Forum***



COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE  
OREGON SMALL WOODLANDS  
ASSOCIATION

### ***Potpourri***

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

Sandy Scott and Ignatius Evers who have woodland in Washington County have 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 Editors

WCSWA Seedling Sale – Sold Out.

The seedlings that WCSWA grew for planting this winter 2010-11 are sold out. If you still need seedlings, either check out the Silvaseed ad in this newsletter or go to [www.forestseedlingnetwork.com/Oregon-Seedlings](http://www.forestseedlingnetwork.com/Oregon-Seedlings)