

Forest Forum

Washington County Small
Woodlands Association

December, 2010



Terry Howell Named Tree Farmer of the Year

Terry Howell of Gales Creek has been named Washington County Tree Farmer of the Year for 2010. The Howell Tree Farm, located on Gales Creek west of Forest Grove, has long been known as one of the better tree farms in Washington County, having previously won the Tree Farmer of the Year honor when owned by Terry's late father, Bud Howell.

Look for the opportunity to visit the Howell Tree Farm next summer, when the Howells will host a summer tour.

WCSWA Annual Banquet Held In November

Woodland owners always enjoy getting together and WCSWA's annual banquet on November 16th at Jennings McCall was a very enjoyable time with good food and good friends. We were pleased to have a lot of representation from OSWA as we visited with Jim James, OSWA Executive Director, Nancy Hathaway, OSWA President, David Ford, L&C Carbon Director, and Zack Hanson, OSU Foundation Director. Jim James gave a short talk about challenges facing small woodland owners in the upcoming legislative session. He encouraged us to contact him with ideas and concerns. His email is jimjamesoswa@yahoo.com.



A highlight of the evening was the announcement of the Howell Tree Farm as the Tree Farmer of the Year for 2010. The Howells were presented with a beautiful sign donated by Stimson Lumber Company. Our speaker for the evening was Bob Browning, who has a law practice in Forest Grove and is a frequent presenter at Tree School. While Bob does not now own

See "Banquet", page 4

IN THIS ISSUE

Page 2	President's Notes
Page 3	Events
Page 7	Tree Talk
Page 9	USGBC vs AFF
Page 10	Rock Roads?
Page 12	Potpourri

The Prez Sez: May We Help You?

That's the friendly greeting when you enter a store – meaning "What can I sell you today?" In the instance of your Washington County Small Woodlands Association, you've paid your dues, so there's no extra charge! How may we (which includes you) help you? Here is a partial list:

- ❖ Provide meetings which include informative speakers.
- ❖ Sponsor local field tours to learn from each others' experiences.
- ❖ Send you a monthly newsletter and provide a roster for contact information.
- ❖ Make convenient quantities of tree seedlings available to members.
- ❖ Operate a native plant sale every March.
- ❖ Award scholarships to deserving young people for post-secondary school education.
- ❖ Your request goes here!

This adds up to opportunities for you to discover different approaches to managing your forest so you can choose the way to make the vision you have for your forest become reality. An important component of this help is your ongoing opportunities to meet with other family forest owners to compare notes and exchange ideas. After decades of working in my own woodland, I am still learning new ways to manage more efficiently and effectively.

But wait, there's more! Statewide Oregon Small Woodlands Association provides:

- ❖ Professional representation before Oregon State Agencies, the Legislature, Governor's office, etc.
- ❖ The OSWA website containing information for family forest owners.
- ❖ Available group fire liability insurance through J.D. Fulwiler.
- ❖ Publications related to forestland ownership and management.*

*Thanks to the Marion-Polk Chapter Newsletter for most of the items on the above lists.

As you can see, there is much you can gain from membership, especially considering the nominal cost. As you might suspect, the nominal dues do not pay for all of the services. In fact nearly all of your membership dues go toward operating the statewide organization, which operates quite frugally! Currently, our local chapter is largely financed by seedling sales, newsletter advertising revenue, and native plant sales. The work is done by local members who volunteer their in-kind donations, time, and skills. Use of our meeting space is kindly donated by the Oregon State University Extension Service. The Extension Service also provides our local Extension Agent, Amy Grotta, and covers the cost of training Master Woodland Managers – of which there are more than two dozen in WCSWA ready to help you – at no cost.

I think you can see where I'm going with this, but please keep reading anyway. WCSWA is well-regarded among the OSWA chapters throughout Oregon. I was certainly impressed when I joined this chapter. In order to keep any organization functioning well for the benefit of its members, a sort of succession process both in leadership and committees is essential. WCSWA works pretty well in this regard, but there are some very competent, good-natured members who have willingly served several years in leadership and committee positions. These folks would now welcome competent, good-natured apprentices, helpers, etc., who would eventually be able to assume these roles. With a plentiful supply of volunteers, the task of keeping WCSWA working well for its members will not be burdensome. In fact, many assignments require less than a dozen hours per year.

On the horizon is the OSWA State Convention to be hosted by our very own WCSWA in 2012. I would like to see the county-specific parts of the event (tours, etc.) emphasize what is unique about Washington County tree farms and the people who care for them. Preparation for this event does not require rocket science. It has been done for many years, and the OSWA office will be of considerable help. That said, there will be more to be accomplished than usual. Your ideas and your efforts will be more welcome than ever in the coming months. Contact anyone on the Board to see how you can help.

My best wishes to you and your families for a happy holiday season – some good times shared.

Jim Brown

WCSWA Leadership

President – Jim Brown, 503-284-6455 jimbrownorch@msn.com

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

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bshumaker@coho.net

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WCSWA Website

www.wcswa.org

Website Manager: Kathy Scott

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

December

No Meeting Scheduled

January, 2011

12

Woodland Information Night

6:30-8:30 pm OSU Extension Service - Washington County

25

Ties to the Land, Part Two of the September class, 6:00pm, OSU Extension, Capital Center, Walker Road and I85th, Beaverton

February, 2011

1

Ties to the Land, Part Two of the December class, 6:00pm, OSU Extension, Capital Center, Walker Road and I85th, Beaverton

22

WCSWA Monthly Meeting, OSU Extension. Topic to be announced

March, 2011

12

10th Annual Native Tree and Plant Sale

22

WCSWA Monthly Meeting, OSU Extension. Topic to be announced

April, 2011

26

WCSWA Monthly Meeting, OSU Extension. Topic to be announced

May, 2011

WCSWA Potluck – date and place to be determined

June, 2011

Summer tour season begins – tours to be determined

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Banquet, continued from page 1 forest land, he is a devoted reader of Scientific American magazine and picks up on the forest related articles such as the bioecology of the truffle and its symbiotic relationship with Douglas-fir. On the subject of grizzly bears and salmon he answered the age-old question, “What does a bear do in the woods?” The answer is the bear fertilizes the woods by eating the salmon. He recognized tree farmers as stewards of the earth and hopes to see unproductive land throughout Washington County converted to forest. He encouraged us to reach out to others about the value of forests, and to “be curious every day.”



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Trees Are The Culprit, Wind Experts Say

Around the world, surface winds are slowing down, a new study says. Strangely enough, the alleged culprits aren't new buildings but new trees. (National Geographic News, October 18, 2010)

For the new study, published by the journal Nature Geoscience, scientists analyzed nearly 30 years' worth of wind speed data collected from more than 800 land-based weather stations, mostly in the Northern Hemisphere, where long-term wind-data collection has been most reliable.

The average annual surface wind speed in countries in mid-northern latitudes—including the United States, China, and Russia—had dropped by as much as 15 percent, from about 10.3 miles (17 kilometers) an hour to about 9 miles (14 kilometers) an hour, the study found.

The regions with the most wind stalling also saw the greatest increase in plant growth during the three-decade period—suggesting trees and shrubs in these regions are acting as windbreaks, the study team says. In North America and Europe, deliberate reforestation drove the plant surge. In Russia and other parts of Eurasia, the tree boom is likely due to abandoned farmland reverting back to wilderness after the collapse of the Soviet Union, the scientists say.

But reforestation can explain only about 60 percent of the wind speed reductions, the study says. Changes in air circulation due to global warming may be responsible for the rest, but more studies are needed to be sure, according to the experts, who say they have not completely attributed the phenomenon. They caution against prematurely linking changes in wind speeds to climate change. They believe we should be very careful in the way we interpret studies on wind climates; this type of research is really nascent, and it may be many years before we can say something concrete about the ways in which wind climates may alter in a warmer world.

Also unclear is whether surface wind speeds will continue to decrease in the coming decades. That will depend on what the major driving factor turns out to be. If the major driver is cropland abandonment in Eurasia, then I do not expect much more future decay," because the great post-Soviet farm abandonments are over, the study leader said. "But if the driving factor is climate change, then it's a different story."

If winds at higher altitudes are also found to be decreasing, that may have implications for the generation of electricity through wind power, since most wind turbines are located high off the ground. Wind energy experts have a reassuring consensus, however, that wind speeds at the height of modern wind turbines, several hundred feet above the Earth's surface, have not declined.



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TREE TALK

by Bonnie Shumaker

I feel like I've fulfilled a New Year's resolution before 2011 has even started! Although, to be honest, I've probably finished a 2010 resolution just in the nick of time.

Bob and I have been talking about updating our management plan for some time. The importance of this was pushed up a notch because our tree farm is certified under American Tree Farm System's standards and there were some necessary updates. Since ATFS is now an internationally recognized certification system by PEFC with third party verification, there were a few added items since we were certified in 2001 and recertified in 2006. To make matters a bit more urgent, Oregon is the state chosen for ATFS audit in 2011. ATFS has compiled a two-page form showing what needs to be in your plan for it to be up-to-date with links for verification. If everything on the form is already in your management plan, there is nothing to do. If not, the two-page form is not that complicated and filling it out will insure that you are current in case your tree farm is one of the ones in Oregon chosen for audit. However, the main value of a management plan is not to satisfy some auditor. Its value lies in how it works for the forest owner in helping make management decisions. Originally our plan covered mostly the pasture areas we afforested on our north forty acres. We did a bit of changing here as we combined some smaller stands. The south forty was purchased in 1997 as a clear-cut and planted in 1998 (and 1999 and 2000). We have treated it as one parcel for these early growing years. Our long-term goal is to thin and harvest these forty acres so that eventually we have forty acres comprised of smaller stands of different ages. We have talked and walked the south forty with various ideas for how to accomplish this change, but it was the grant we received from NRCS that necessitated actually dividing these forty acres into different stands to show how we were going to achieve the conifer release over a five year period which is the purpose of the grant. This now satisfies our long term goal as well.

Two other items needed to be addressed. The first was how to easily record activity on different stands. We created a simple fill-in sheet for each stand. We will fill it in yearly by hand from our daily woods journal. If we feel the need at some point to have it in the computer, it can be typed. The second was getting an up-to-date map. We purchased the map for our 2001 plan. It was a fairly costly aerial photo taken in 2000 and we painstakingly created overlays showing soil types, topography and more. This time, we went to NRCS and asked if they could help us with a more recent map. Their aerial was taken in 2009 and the soil types and topography were inserted on the computer map and printed out for us. At times, I rail against technology, but in this case I certainly was impressed. I was impressed as well at the change in the photos as our young forest grows.

So now I am pleased to announce that we have a plan that first of all works better for us and secondly is in compliance with the ATFS standards. It took a few rainy days to complete. We used a template available through OSU Extension that is very helpful. If you need to create a plan or update your existing plan for whatever reason, I recommend using the template. If you want to procrastinate just a bit, the template which is now in draft form is expected to be finalized this spring. The changes will be few, so you can use the draft form now with confidence.

The Answer: (See "Question" in Potpourri, page 12)

The largest living organism is a mushroom! You may have already encountered a smaller version in your backyard – the honey fungus (*Armillaria ostoyae*). One found in the Malheur National Forest in eastern Oregon covers 2,200 acres, and is estimated to be at least 2,400 years old. You won't see it all at once because most of it is underground, disguised in a large mat of mycelia. Unlike most mycelia, it's not good for trees, however, as it sucks water and nutrients from their roots. The forest openings created do add some diversity to the forest that benefits some species of wildlife, though at the cost of some trees.

Lumber sales up, but industry still cautious

Lumber production at Western sawmills rose 9.2 percent during the first nine months of 2010, compared with the same period last year.

Although the increased production is a hopeful sign, "We're not out of the doldrums yet," said Butch Bernhardt, a spokesman for the Western Wood Products Association, which tracks mill activity in 12 Western states.

New home starts, a driver of lumber sales, remain weak nationally, he said.

In 2009, lumber output at Western sawmills dropped to the lowest level since the trade association began keeping records in the late 1940s, Bernhardt said. Since 2005, output from Western lumber mills has fallen by nearly 50 percent,

Through Sept. 30, Western mills produced 8.6 billion board feet of lumber this year, compared with 7.9 billion board feet for the same period in 2009.

Becky Kramer Spokesman-Review, Nov. 12, 2010

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New publications are: *Federal Forestlands in Oregon*, *Wildlife in Managed Forests*, and an updated version of the illustrated *Oregon's Forest Protection Laws Manual*.

US Green Building Council Makes Decision on Certification Criteria

The US Green Building Council has issued its benchmarks for eligibility to claim one point toward LEED building certification (upcoming decision discussed in the November Forest Forum). It had become increasingly clear that the criteria would not result in significant changes from their previous criterion – which simply accepted Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification as the basis for a certified wood LEED point. However, the change to a standard based, rather than FSC based, criterion would not make either FSC, SFI (forest industry based certification system), or the American Forest Foundation (Tree Farm) happy. FSC initiated a coalition building effort to enlist environmental support for rejecting the proposed criteria, and SFI and American Forest Foundation denounced the proposal as inadequate. Nevertheless, USGBC accepted their proposed benchmarks as final. Tom Martin of American Forest Foundation released the following statement:

Statement from Tom Martin, President and CEO, in Response to: LEED Vote on Forest Certification Benchmarks and Revisions to the Certified Wood Credit

"We are deeply disappointed."

Washington, D.C. - "We are deeply disappointed that the LEED certified wood credit will continue to be driven by politics rather than science. If the USGBC wants to encourage sustainable forestry, they should recognize all third-party audited, internationally-endorsed sustainable forestry standards for certified wood credit. Unfortunately, this will not allow sustainably managed, family-owned woodlands to participate fully in creating a greener future.

What's more, this latest vote only compounds the existing problem that USGBC discriminates against wood as an energy-efficient and environmentally-friendly building material. When compared with other materials like steel and concrete, wood results in significantly lower carbon emissions, reduced energy use, and reduced air and water pollution. Wood products also store carbon, which helps mitigate climate change."

"The American Forest Foundation voted no because the forest certification benchmarks didn't address the unique situation of family forest owners. The benchmarks harm the ability of more than 96,000 family forest owners sustainably managing millions of acres of third-party certified forest land in America to participate in the green building market. This has consequences for families and for America's forests. Family forest owners, who own most of America's forests, need a strong wood products market to be able to invest in their land and keep their forests as forests."

Election of Board Members

A ballot for WCSWA Board members and officers is enclosed with this issue of Forest Forum. Serving WCSWA in one of these positions can be rewarding and informative – a chance to get to know other members as well as to help influence how WCSWA can serve members better. Service as a Board member or an officer deserves the appreciation of all members. Show this appreciation by filling out the ballot and returning it (fold, tape, stamp, and mail!). If you wish, indicate a write-in candidate for one of the positions. Even if that person does not get enough votes this time, your suggestion will be considered when next year's candidates are selected.

Rock Roads: Should I or Shouldn't I? by Steve Bowers

Most logging operations conducted by woodland owners occur during the “dry season.” The primary reason is because many of us do not have rock roads, or roads capable of withstanding the rigors of a harvesting operation that includes 80,000 pound log trucks. The vast percentage of logging operations are conducted during the warm/dry months for that very reason: it is warm and dry and much preferred over the wet and cold, irrespective of access issues.

So if everyone is logging during the summer months, why not rock your roads and log during the winter months when prices are higher. Or are they? Douglas-fir log values were examined over a 15-year period, beginning in 1994 and concluding in 2009. 1994 was chosen as the beginning point because it was the first year in which Federal timber harvest volumes more closely resemble their percentage of total harvest levels in western Oregon at the present time.

The wet months are considered to be from January through May, while the dry months include June through October. It is important to note that over the 15 year span of the study, early June and late October would have been officially noted as a “wet month” with woodland owners unable to access timber stands if relying on un-surfaced roads. If we consider January through May as wet months and June through October as dry months, the percentage difference in log values is 2.1%. Using real log values for each year, unadjusted for time, the result is a net increase of 13/MBF. Ok, so can I afford to rock my road?

Rock roads can be constructed with varying sizes and depths. For the purpose of the study, costs of upgrading a pre-existing road consisted of applying a total of 12 inches of durable rock which oftentimes will consist of a total of 8 to 9 inches of 3 inch open and a surface coating of 3-4 inches of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch minus. Various factors affect the depth of rock necessary for a logging operation, input ranged from 9 to 14 inches, with the 12 inch depth being the most accepted level by industry and the average of a report by the Oregon Dept. of Forestry. A 12 foot running surface was the minimum running surface suggested by all the contacts, thus a 12 foot road with 12 inches of aggregate, including turnouts and widened turns, results in a total of 50 yards of rock per station (100 feet).

Every operation is unique, but for the purpose of the report, we decided a quarry was within 10 miles of the operation, trucks cost \$60/hour and rock \$7.50/ton, thus an average cost of \$155/load. A pre-existing road needs some preparation for the rock, a \$100/station cost, so the total cost of the road is now \$875/station or \$8.75/foot. For example, if you had to rock a quarter mile of road to access the timber, you would need 875 MMBF of wood, a half mile would require 1.75MMBF and so on... You might “get by” with substantially less cost and volume of rock than was discussed in this study, but don't count on it. While many woodland owners do not have sufficient timber volumes to pay for these roads, the environmental considerations of durable, rocked roads is something to consider. Additionally, rock roads enable woodland owners year-round access for reforestation projects, timber stand improvement activities, fire protection and suppression, and recreational opportunities. There is also a growing interest and potential for fee operations involving recreation and fishing and hunting activities during wet weather. Finally, regulations governing the use of woodland roads are becoming more restrictive, primarily due to water quality, so looking at the “big picture” these rock roads may well be a factor in future governmental regulations/restrictions on woodland road usage.

OSU Extension Forester, Douglas County, from *The Douglas County Woodlander, Fall, 2010*

What's Your Nature Index? *Edmonton Journal, October 25, 2010*

Do you know what the Nature Index of your woodland is? Norway has taken a step to "index" nature as a first step toward valuing "free" services such as insect pollination or forest growth. Norwegians say this is a radical shift in economics. The index could be a step toward valuing nature in statistics of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) -- a rethink of conventional economics.

The "Nature Index of Norway," worked out this year and to be presented at UN talks on biological diversity in Japan next week, shows that seas, coastal waters, freshwater and mountains are in a good state, but forests and lowlands are suffering. Oslo says it has used 309 indicators to get what it calls the "world's first official index of nature" comparing 2010 to 2000 and 1990. Scores for 2010 range from about 0.8 for freshwater, where 1.0 is ideal, to just above 0.4 for forests. "Bioindicators" are used by many nations, such as the United States, to assess nature.

The Netherlands, Britain and other European Union states, Mexico or Uganda are among those that have set up indicators to track diversity. However, few countries have attempted to aggregate their indicators into a single index.

A UN-backed report on Wednesday estimated that damage to natural capital, including from wetlands to coral reefs, totals \$2 trillion to \$4.5 trillion annually. Such losses are not included in economic data such as GDP.

Under usual accounting, a nation could -- at least briefly -- boost GDP by felling all its forests for timber or dynamiting reefs to catch fish. A revision to include the value of natural capital would reveal a sharp decline in GDP.

Oregon has had Indicators of Forest Sustainability since 2000. The 19 indicators are used by the Board of Forestry in their annual assessments, and in preparing the Forestry Program for Oregon. The draft Program for 2011 is now out for comment (until December 31st). You can view the Program at the ODF website by navigating to the page for page for "Indicators of Forest Sustainability", or go directly to the draft 2011 Forestry Program for Oregon on the home page.



Greg Thompson 503-710-0545

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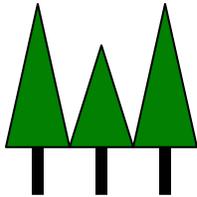
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Forest Forum



COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE
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Potpourri

Welcome to New Members!

Peter Bours, Joan Moss, and Will Bours (all one family) are new WCSWA members. Their woodland is a bit west of Forest Grove.

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 Directory Addendum

An addendum to the last Directory is included with this issue of Forest Forum. Members found that they didn't recognize some of their fellow members by their company, LLC, or other woodland name! The addendum should be kept with your Directory to alleviate this problem - it lists members by their personal name as well as organizational name. The 2011 Directory will have the personal names listed in the alphabetical sort, along with the organization name

Question: What is the largest living organism on the Earth?

Hint: It's not a whale, and it lives in Oregon. Stumped? See the answer at the bottom of page 7.

Do You Get Tall Timber Topics?

Tall Timber Topics is a newsletter produced by the Washington-Columbia County Extension Forester, Amy Grotta. If you aren't on the e-mail or land mail distribution, you can view it on the web at <http://oregonstate.edu/columbia/forestry>. It's worth your time! This month you can see the 2010 tax tips for forest landowners, and other goodies.