

# Forest Forum

Washington County Small  
Woodlands Association

April, 2010

## ***WRC – Tree for the Future?***

Is western red cedar (WRC) looking more and more like the tree you need to plant for the future? Lots of Oregon small woodland owners have been coming to that conclusion – in spite of the expected problems with animal browse! The WCSWA program committee has obtained a speaker for the **April 27<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting (7 p.m., OSU Extension, Capital Center, 185<sup>th</sup> and Walker Road in Beaverton)** who knows a great deal about cedar to help woodland owners pondering the future of cedar on small woodlands.

Doug Mainwaring, senior faculty research assistant at the College of Forestry, Oregon State University, will discuss western red cedar management, with a focus on cedar as an alternative – or complement – to Douglas fir. Mainwaring has extensive research experience in working with species of the Pacific Northwest, including Douglas fir, western red cedar, ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, and others. He has been a leader in Swiss needle cast research through the Swiss

*See "Mainwaring", page 9*

## **Biomass – How Does A SWO Fit Into Its Future?**



*Tim Riley of LD Jellison, Inc, shown above between Jim Brown, WCSWA President, and Beth Adams, WCSWA Program Chair*

The March WCSWA meeting featured an in-depth explanation of a much discussed term in forestry – biomass. Tim Riley, a professional engineer with the LD Jellison Company of Vancouver, presented a thorough discussion of the status of biomass-generated power and electricity in the U.S. and the Pacific Northwest, and the potential opportunities that exist and may develop for woodland owners to participate. LD Jellison has been involved in engineering and consulting for 30 years, and in recent years has been instrumental in developing biomass facilities in the Northwest.

### ***What is Biomass?***

Biomass can be residual wood from logging operations (slash, thinnings, etc), waste from primary wood manufacturing (sawmills), wood from secondary mills (furniture plants, etc), urban wood (trimmings, blowdown, tree removals), and agricultural crops/waste. Riley stated that 68.8 million tons of biomass is generated in the U.S. each year.

*See "Biomass", on page 5*

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## Notes from the President

It's March 29<sup>th</sup> and as I write this column, Oregon's rain deficit is being paid down! I hope you were able to take last week's good weather for the rare opportunity it was to get some outdoor work accomplished without getting soaked. I managed to till up a seedling bed, and to transplant some of my native Doug fir into it. They were in an area where they had no future. After a year or two, I will plant them in places where they will have room to grow. It was even dry enough to do some earth-moving with the tractor. Got a little release work done as well – a never-ending task. I suppose the rain is opportune at this point. My ambition was about to surpass my stamina; not a good prospect!

I failed to mention at our last meeting that the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary **OSWA Annual Meeting** is coming right up. It will be **April 30<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>**, conveniently located in Clackamas County this year. If you didn't receive a brochure by mail, view it on-line at <http://www.oswa.org/2010AnnualMeeting.pdf> If you don't have internet service, phone me and I will mail a brochure to you. The Clackamas County Chapter is OSWA's largest and a very active and well-informed group, so you can count on a worthwhile event. By the way, our chapter will host the 2012 OSWA Annual Meeting!

Another important housekeeping matter: The **WCSWA roster** will be distributed to members in July. Now is the perfect time to look up your contact information in the current roster to be sure it is accurate. I know from personal experience that some e-mail addresses and telephone numbers need updating. If you have revisions to make, send the new info to the OSWA office in Salem. All data in the WCSWA roster are drawn directly from OSWA records.

When it comes to making management decisions about your forest, would you sometimes like to have a "second opinion"? If you do not require the official help of an OSU Extension Forester or an ODF Stewardship Forester, you can call on one of WCSWA's twenty Master Woodland Managers (see list of names below). MWMs have undergone 85 hours of training with the OSU Extension Service MWM program, have received certification, and have a four-inch-thick binder full of useful information. The training provides useful skills and information that MWMs may use for their own benefit, but they also agree to volunteer advisory services to other woodland owners. Notice the word "volunteer"; that means the service is free to woodland owners. This you can afford!

MWMs can visit you at your woodland and supply you with useful information, demonstrate measurement techniques, and offer advice. MWMs are instructed not to give prescriptions, but to learn about the individual landowner's goals and discuss ways to achieve them. The idea is nothing new – just neighbors helping neighbors. After forty-plus years of forest ownership, I still encounter situations or come up with new ideas that require a bit of research to determine an effective course of action. Many MWMs have years of experience dealing with weeds, markets, varmints, tree diseases, mysteriously slow-growing trees, and things that go "bump" in the night. (That last one happened to me once!) Add a little formal training to all that experience and these folks constitute a valuable resource. Did I mention this is all at no cost to the landowner?

You can learn more about the MWM program at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mwm/index.php> Here's that list of WCSWA MWMs. You can find contact information in your WCSWA roster.

*Jim Bays Elouise Binns Dallas Boge Sharon Boge Jim Brown Ann Hanschu  
Richard Hanschu John Helmer Mel Mortensen Wendy Mortensen Pat Nygren Tom  
Nygren Lyal Purinton Sam Sadtler Paul Sansone Neil Schroeder Bob Shumaker  
Bonnie Shumaker Bill Triest Sue Vosburg*

A final quote of wisdom from Forester Fred, of Clark County in the 1970's referring to an alder patch, "Sometimes it's best to just work with what you've already got". See you on April 27<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)  
Secretary-Treasurer – Bob Shumaker; 503-324-7825  
[bshumaker@coho.net](mailto:bshumaker@coho.net)

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Doug Eddy, 503-628-1468 [douglas.eddy@upwardaccess.com](mailto:douglas.eddy@upwardaccess.com)  
Tom Nygren, 503-628-5472 [tnygren@juno.com](mailto:tnygren@juno.com)  
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Bonnie Shumaker – 503-324-7825 [bshumaker@coho.net](mailto:bshumaker@coho.net)  
Bill Triest – 503-626-1838 [williamht@earthlink.net](mailto:williamht@earthlink.net)

### Legislative Committee Chair:

Ron Larson; 503-775-3223 [nlarson@reed.edu](mailto:nlarson@reed.edu)

### 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: [tnygren@juno.com](mailto:tnygren@juno.com) or

[bshumaker@coho.net](mailto:bshumaker@coho.net)

Proofreaders: Bonnie Shumaker, Dan Hundley, Tom Nygren

**Board Note:** Art Dummer has resigned his Board position due to ill health. Art has been a faithful Board Member for many years. *Thanks, Art!*  
Doug Eddy has been elected by the Board to serve out the remainder of Art's term on the Board.

### 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:** 1 Box of 250 unused Terra Tech protection tubes, 4" X 30". \$75 OBO. Call Bill at 503-626-1838

**Wanted:** Ford F250 Diesel. Early 90's 4x4 preferred. Also need a 12K tiltbed trailer. Call Don at 503-357-2942.

**Trade:** (none)

### Event Calendar

- |       |    |   |
|-------|----|---|
| April | 24 | <b>WOW (Women Owning Woodlands) Meeting – 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.</b> A dual topic: basics of chainsaw safety, and inoculating logs for mushrooms. Claudia Franklin's home. Amanda Hansen and Jeff Vannatta will be the discussion leaders. RSVP Amy Grotta for directions, 503-397-3462 |
|       | 27 | <b>WCSWA Monthly Meeting, 7:00 p.m.</b> , OSU Extension office, Capital Center, 185 <sup>th</sup> and Walker Road, Beaverton. Doug Mainwaring, OSU professor, will be the speaker.  |
| May   | 18 | <b>Annual Potluck</b> at Mel/Beth Adams. Details in May Forest Forum.   |
| June  |    | <b>Normal summer tour not yet scheduled – stay tuned!</b>   |
| July  | 31 | <b>WCSWA Annual Tree Farmer of the Year Tour</b> – John Mulholland Tree Farm near Gaston. Reserve the date; details to follow.  |

## Advertising Opportunity:

The Forest Forum is a monthly newsletter sent out to over 250 members and friends of WCSWA. Advertisers receive free newsletters for the duration of their ads.

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2/3 page	86	170	425
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## **Biomass** *continued from page 1*

Power and electricity generation from biomass originated as co-generation with sawmills and wood processing operations, where the wood waste from the mills was used to generate power through steam plants to run the mills. Often the surplus steam would be used to generate electricity and sold to the power grid.

There are currently over 100 biomass plants in the U.S. and more are being built all the time. There are 8 plants in Oregon that provide biomass energy for plant operation; 2 additional plants are under construction that will also provide electric power to the grid in addition to supplying power for plant operation (Seneca in Eugene, and Collins in Lakeview). Others are in the planning stage. The breakeven cost for biomass energy is 8.5 cents per kilowatt hour (kwh). For comparison, coal is available at 4.5 cents per kwh, and natural gas for 6.5 cents per kwh.

The minimum size plant for practical and economical operation is 15 megawatts. A 25 megawatt plant will consume 250,000 green tons of biomass per year. Calculations done for a proposed plant near LaPine show that 250,000 acres per year are needed to sustain facility, based on production of 10 tons of biomass per acre. While figures are not available, it seems logical that fewer acres per plant would be needed on the more productive west side of Oregon. By locating near agricultural sources, or solar fields, synergies created would change the economic minimums for biomass. The key factors for a fuel resource supply are:

- Quality – suitability of available fuel
- Quantity – amount of fuel available
- Economics – current and future

The site requirements for a biomass facility are:

- 10 acre minimum site
- Sustainable, available fuel supply within 50 miles
- Long-term fuel supply
- Infrastructure for access – roads
- Available water supply – 300 gallons per minute
- Local, regional, and national support for renewable energy

***Currently the only reliable fuel sources of this magnitude are industrial forest lands, but in the future smaller private forestlands, packaged/ marketed in large acreages, could also be seen as reliable fuel sources. A case example might be a Forest Grove biomass facility, drawing from a 50 mile fuel source radius (economic haul distance). Within this radius, the forestland ownership is broken down by 1% county, 4% BLM, 7% National Forest, 22% State, and 66% private.***



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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](http://www.ifcae.org/wildforestgoods)).



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## Pacific University American Kestrel Study – *Can You Help Out?*

This spring and summer Rich Van Buskirk, Pacific University Assistant Professor of Biology and two Pacific University students are conducting research on American Kestrels in the western Washington County area. The research will track kestrels to better understand their nesting behavior and to collect some eggshell and feces samples to perform toxicological tests. This information will hopefully provide a better understanding to why the species population may be declining

Part of the research includes

locating nesting sites so that the researchers can capture and band adults with a federal and color coded ID tag, and also capture and band juvenile birds when they reach a particular maturity level.

*If you have spotted any kestrels on your property and are interested in allowing Rich and his students to conduct research on your property, or if you have any information on kestrels in your area, please contact Rich Van Buskirk at (503) 352-2251 or vanbuskirk@pacificu.edu or his student Seth Chicas at (515) 451-3190 or chicas82@pacificu.edu.*



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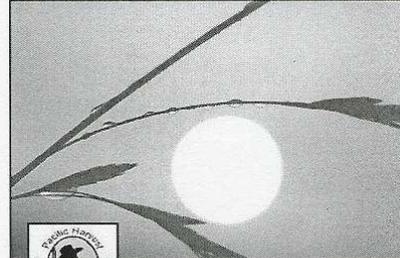
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## *What's A Corticarium? Want to Help Populate One?*

Corticarium is an important sounding word for a bark collection – which is what Delaware State University is trying to establish. If you might be interested in collecting 3 x 5 inch bark specimens for the new bark collection (corticarium) at the Delaware State University's (DSU) Herbarium then read on. This modern herbarium is the largest at a historically black college or university. It is the 87th largest herbaria among 525 in the U.S. and has dried plant specimens dating back to 1799. It is one of very few herbaria that are open to the public for study. This is an important collection and there are relatively few bark collections worldwide. It will be used for study by students and by various professions. Each collector's name will be added to the Corticarium roster.

Charlie Newlon, who worked for the Colorado State Forest Service and the US Forest Service, retired and taught forestry courses at DSU for 14 years and is on the Board of Directors for the Herbarium. He says he is honored to have the corticarium collection named after him and added that his legacy will be a collection of dead cells!

If you would like to contribute some samples of tree bark from the Pacific Northwest, contact Tom Nygren (503-628-5472, [tnygren@juno.com](mailto:tnygren@juno.com)), an old friend of Charlie.



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***Has It Been 30 Years?***

It seems like just yesterday that the great plumes of ash and smoke rose in the northern sky, as Mt. St. Helens erupted and caught the attention of the world.

In the past thirty years, many changes have taken place in the barren landscape surrounding the mountain. The National Forest land surrounding the mountain has become a world class laboratory for studying the physical and biological responses to a volcanic landscape.

A recent publication of the Pacific Northwest Research Station captures these changes.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/mtsthelens/>

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Can Be  
Counted; Not  
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***Oregon Grape Research Project Gathers Spring Samples***

Amy Grotta, OSU Forestry Extension Agent and Brad Mead, a student working for her under a study grant, visited seven Washington and Columbia County tree farms during spring break. The purpose was to establish Oregon grape research plots, collect samples for weight and chemical analysis, and determine the efficiency of various harvest methods. The plots were permanently marked for follow-up monitoring over the next few years to determine re-growth.

Chemical analysis of samples is being done by Columbia Basin College chemistry classes.

# TREE TALK

by Bonnie Shumaker

This past month I was busy with tree-related activities, but the only time I was actually in the woods was for my morning walk. That walk, by the way, now proudly displays Flowering Red Currant, Yellow Woods Violets which I know by the name of Johnny-jump-ups and the celebrated Trillium. I know many of you are shaking your heads thinking that the Johnny-jump-ups you know are purple which just goes to show the need for Latin names if folks really want to know what they are taking about. Whatever your experience is; my Johnny-jump-ups are yellow.

The first event for which much indoor planning and organization was needed was WCSWA's ninth annual Native Tree and Plant Sale held on March 13<sup>th</sup>. As usual, even with the organization all in place and everyone doing his or her job, the weather had me holding my breath all week. The weekend before had been warm and beautiful; maybe too beautiful for a plant sale considering the hordes of cars I saw heading for the beach. That beautiful stretch of weather was short-lived however, and our set-up day delivered a couple of heavy showers: one just before the plants arrived and another just as we were heading home – very good timing. The day of the sale was cloudy and a bit cool and breezy, but certainly not bad enough for people to stay home. They came; they bought and seemed to not be as cautious with spending their money this year – another sign of the improving economy?

The end result was a successful sale with gross sales of \$7,600 which netted almost \$3,200 after expenses. The scholarship committee will meet this month to determine which students will be awarded scholarships from the plant sale proceeds. I want to thank all those who helped on the sale. It was a great team effort.

Next year, we are looking at increasing our advertising for the plant sale to include more technology. That is not my favorite way to receive communication, but I know it works for many others and certainly is important. If you have any expertise, experience or ideas with using technology for advertising, please let me know. We did advertise on Craig's List this year, so that's a start.

The second tree-related event that kept me doing planning inside instead of out in the woods was co-teaching a class at Tree School with Norie Dimeo-Ediger. The class was titled "Exploring the Wonders of Forests with Children". Norie is the K-12 Program Manager at OFRI (Oregon Forest Resources Institute) and we have been good friends ever since I had her oldest child in my Kindergarten class twenty years ago. I think every teacher has favorite families, and the Edigers are high on my list; so high that I couldn't retire until I had taught all of their four children.

Norie and I designed the class for anyone who wants to bring children onto their tree farm, whether it is for tours or their own children or grandchildren. A survey of the class showed a mix of both. We stressed that the emphasis needs to be on fun with learning thrown in along the way. Trying to see the forest through the eyes of a child and opening their minds to explore the many facets of what makes a forest and why we love the work we do with trees is a worthwhile goal. Besides what we prepared, Norie and I counted on the class participants to expand our learning with their own experiences and we were not disappointed. Tree farmers have diverse forests and management plans, but all share the love of what they do. This was an enjoyable way to do just that.

## **Mainwaring, *continued from page 1***

Needle Cast Cooperative, composed of representatives from universities, agencies and industry. He has worked closely with Doug Maguire, OSU silviculture professor, and they have many joint research publications. Of particular note has been their work on the effects of stand structure on tree growth, and their "Demonstration of Ecosystem Options" study. Another area of current interest is forest nutrition.



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### ***Did You Know:***

- Retention of scattered logging debris after timber harvest reduced abundance of Scotch broom, facilitating a 90% increase in Douglas-fir survival by the fifth year after planting
- Conifer-hardwood stand structure can be shaped by maintaining hardwoods at various densities from early stages in stand development. This results in greater forest complexity, which supports biodiversity, forest resilience, and other multiuse objectives
- Retaining some hardwood competition in new conifer stands may make conifers more resilient to black-stain root disease

From ***Science Findings***, USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station, March 2010 issue, available at <http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/publications/scifi.s.html>

### ***Chilean Earthquake Creates Jobs in Oregon***

Economic aftershocks from February's devastating earthquake in Chile are now rippling across Douglas County following the destruction of many Chilean sawmills and plywood plants. Roseburg Forest Products has hired dozens of full-time workers in recent weeks to fill a gap in the supply of sanded plywood panels previously produced in the South American country and shipped to the U.S., a company official said Wednesday.

While no one is rejoicing at the devastation created by the magnitude 8.8 earthquake that rocked Chile on Feb. 27, it has created an opportunity for 84 new permanent full-time workers in Douglas County and another 23 in Coos County. "Our intention is to keep them," Hank Snow, vice president of human resources for RFP, said of the new workers. "No one really knows how long Chile will be out of the market — it could be six months, it could be the end of the year." By that time, the wood products industry is hoping the sluggish market for new homes, which is now showing signs of life, will continue recovering and increase the nation's overall demand for lumber.

***By Mark Brown, Associated Press***

### ***The Timber Recovery Is Happening***

Lumber mills are starting to emerge from the worst downturn in the history of the industry and recovery will be slow yet steady, according to a new forecast released by Western Wood Products Association. The lumber trade association forecast calls for modest gains in housing, lumber consumption and U.S. production this year after setting modern lows during 2009. While markets are expected to improve in the coming years, lumber demand and housing construction will remain far lower than what the industry saw in the mid-2000s.

Demand for lumber in the U.S. is expected to increase 6.1 percent in 2010 to 32.9 billion board feet, ending consecutive 20-percent-plus declines recorded the previous two years. WWPA anticipates lumber demand to rise to 36.1 billion board feet in 2011, up 9.7 percent.

***Western Wood Products Association, March 24, 2010***

## Let's Talk Fire ... Funding

*By Scott Hayes*

When you see "Fire Patrol" on your tax statement, have you wondered how that tax is figured? Did you know these services are paid by private forest landowners, plus state, county, city and even the BLM landowners, and the public? Here is a brief – and simplified – version of a very complex process!

Let's start by looking at your Washington County 2009-2010 Real Property Tax Statement. I'll use ours as an example. Since our home is on our 40 acre tract, we get two "split-code" statements. One includes five acres and the house and, under the Tax by District column, we pay \$356.90 to "Fire - Forest Grove Rural". (Fair enough...they earned that money when we had a chimney fire!)

Our second statement lists 35 acres and, again in the Tax by District column, we find a "Service District - Fire Patrol" for \$29.23. So what do we get for twenty-nine bucks?

First, a little background is needed. The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) started in 1911 to coordinate wildfire prevention and fire fighting on private lands. At that time there were a few private protection associations funded mostly by industrial forest landowners. (1910 was a horrible fire year in the western US - read *The Big Burn* for a great history lesson.) Today, ODF's Protection from Fire Program protects about 15.8 million acres of private, state, county and some city forestland. About 2.4 million acres of BLM lands are also protected by the State.

ODF and several fire protection associations work together to fund this very complex program. Each year a fire budget is prepared by each ODF district. The budget uses fire history and costs to project the needs for an "average bad" fire year. The budget includes costs for local employees, equipment and facilities, state-wide support (for stuff like radios, motor pool, overhead teams)... the list is long and detailed!

Draft budgets are reviewed by the local protection association. Washington County forest landowners are part of the Northwest Oregon Forest Protective Association (NWOFFPA). The association encompasses ODF's Forest Grove District, Tillamook District, and Astoria District. The NWOFFPA full budget committee met in early April and approved the 2011 budget at about \$3.47 million for all three ODF districts. This budget is divided by the acres protected in the three districts, resulting in a rate of \$1.77 per acre. This rate will be submitted to the State Forester, then to the Board of Forestry for final approval and certification back to Washington County.

But not all landowners are created equal, and as mentioned, the public also pays. The Public Share Fire Fund, from the state general fund, pays half the private landowner rate. So next year you will pay about 88 cents per acre, which is up about 10 cents per acre from 2010. City, county, state and federal landowners will pay the full \$1.77.

In the Forest Grove District, which includes Columbia and Washington Counties, here is what your \$0.88 per acre buys: 36 cents for permanent and seasonal fire fighter salaries; 20 cents for health care; 20 cents for social security, pensions and unemployment; 19 cents for vehicles, radios, travel, and office supplies; 3 cents for capital outlays; 4 cents for extra fire fighting expenses; and 6 cents for Area and Salem overhead management.

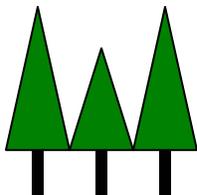
Bottom line: Forest Grove District's budget pays for part of 17 permanent fire-related managers and administrative people, 24 seasonal fire fighters, and 12 initial attack engines.

***In closing, over the past 100 years Oregon has created a complete and coordinated system of fire prevention and suppression. You can expect future Let's Talk Fire articles about fire prevention, detection, suppression, initial attack, and smoke and fuel management. In the meantime, be careful with fire!***

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## ***Forest Forum***



COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE  
OREGON SMALL WOODLANDS  
ASSOCIATION

### ***Potpourri***

#### ***Are You A WOW?***

If you are a WOW (Woman Owning Woodlands) and haven't been to any WOW events, you might want to take in the next one in this area, scheduled for **Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m. thru 1 p.m.** The subject will be safe chainsaw handling – with a postscript: using the logs cut during the session to cultivate mushrooms. The logs will be inoculated with edible mushrooms in a woodland setting. The event will be held at Claudia Franklin's home in Columbia County. Amanda Hansen and Jeff Vannatta will lead the session. If you are interested in attending, RSVP to Amy Grotta at 503-397-3462. Soup and beverages will be provided, but consider bringing a potluck item to share.

#### ***Forest Products Harvest Tax Changed in 2009***

Did you harvest timber in 2009? Though rates had not changed for a couple of years, they increased in 2009. The FPHT rate for the 2009 calendar year has been revised to \$3.8956/MBF. Logs AND chips are subject to the FPHT. The conversion factor for chips to MBF is 5MBF per ton. If the chips were generated through green logs, the conversion factor is 11. The first 25MBF of logs are exempt from FPHT. FPHT revenues are used to fund several agencies, including the Forest Research Lab at OSU, ODF, and OFRI. *Thanks to Douglas County Extension Foresters for the above information.*

#### ***Do Your Forest Roads Need Some TLC?***

Now is the time to inspect your forest roads and see how they handle the extra water we get blessed with each winter and spring. You may find that some repair work – or maybe even reconstruction and drainage improvement – is needed. OSU Extension has an excellent handbook to help you with your road inspection, maintenance, and heavier work. The title is ***Managing Woodland Roads: A Field Handbook***, and you can obtain a copy through OSU Extension.