

Forest Forum

Washington County Small
Woodlands Association

July, 2010



Urban Timberworks Tour

It took some discovery skills Saturday June 19th to find Urban Timberworks located near SE Water Ave. and Division Place. The sawmill yard was a long and rather narrow open alley down which ran a long abandoned railroad spur line. Inside the yard were large diameter logs of many different species unlike logs seen anywhere near a sawmill. Milled lumber of different dimensions stacked with spacers for drying lined the alley walls on both sides. Scraps of corrugated sheet metal protected the stacks from rain.

A tall plywood barrier served to protect
See Timber Works, page 6

Mulholland Tree Farm Will Host Tree Farmer of the Year Tour and Picnic – July 31st

This year, WCSWA's annual "Tree Farmer of the Year" tour and picnic will be held at John Mulholland's Tree Farm on Saturday, July 31 beginning at 10:00am. Lunch will be served at noon. To help the Mulholland's plan for the picnic BBQ, please **RSVP by July 25th** to Stuart Mulholland (503)985-3168 or stuart@coho.net.

In 1943 John Mulholland moved with his dad from Los Angeles to Cherry Grove. They piled all their possessions in a trailer pulled by a 1930 Chevy which still resides in the barn. With no farming experience they learned on the ground. Acting on a neighbor's advice that dairy farming paid a check every two weeks; they built a milking parlor and acquired some cows. They kept increasing the herd and in 1979 built a new dairy (now the Cherry Lane Dairy) and installed a state of the art milking parlor. At their peak, they had 400 cows. John and his wife raised four children Stuart, Margi, Janet and Andrew who are all involved in the tree farm and helping out their parents.

Early and not so successful endeavors included strawberries, filberts (which mainly fed the squirrels and jays) and a prune orchard that didn't produce well. Douglas fir was planted in between the filberts and prunes and this proved successful. Other crop land that was too steep or hard to farm was also converted to trees. The farm now totals 650 acres, 400 acres of forest and 250 acres of farm ground which is leased out.

For years, John practiced agri-forestry by pasturing cows in the wooded areas during the summer. This helped by keeping the grasses and forbs down. Sons Andrew and Stuart had a project raising Long-horn Corrientes cattle with summer pasture in the woodlot. John's wife, Isabel hosted many school tours.

See "TOUR" page 2

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Notes from the President

by Jim Brown

By the time you read this, fire season will be officially and in reality upon us. Just a reminder to have appropriate tools, fire extinguisher, spark arrestors, etc. in play if you are working with power equipment in your forest. Better yet, maybe the next uses you have for power equipment can wait until the rains come back. It's a good idea to keep grassy areas mowed for the fire season. I have had to mow my roads and landings FOUR TIMES this year. Due to the continued rainy weather, the grass and weeds have had an extended growing season.

To reduce fire hazard and limit debris burning, I chip some limbs. The chips can be blown into the pickup bed and applied to trails, etc., or can just be allowed to disperse over the forest floor. I have even found a horticultural use for chips from maple limbs. I prop a screen of one-inch chicken-wire in the back of the pickup and allow the chipper to blow the chips against it. With the larger chips screened out, the smaller-size material becomes a convenient garden mulch. Maple breaks down fairly quickly, and since it is such a nutrient hog, supplies fertilizer in addition to keeping the soil friable.

Herbicides are best applied in the fall, but if you do use them in the summer months check the label for appropriate conditions. Some chemicals, such as Garlon 4, will volatilize when the air is warm, and can travel quite some distance – to your neighbor's multi-million-dollar vineyard for example – and cause great harm. For any time of year, I have found it most effective to apply sprays on a cool, dry evening after the sun is off the target plants an hour or so before dark. This timing allows for minimal evaporation, increasing the amount of herbicide the plants will absorb. Of course, this only gives you an hour or so to spray, but you didn't want to do a lot of work after supper anyway....

OSWA election results are official, and our own Scott Hayes is the President-Elect, due to succeed to President of OSWA in two years; and Dallas Boge is Treasurer. Congratulations, Scott and Dallas! All other proposed candidates were also duly elected, and bylaw changes were approved by the membership.

Many thanks go to Stuart Mulholland and Howell Hughes for volunteering to join the Membership Committee. It wouldn't hurt to have one more person on this committee – preferably from the north end of the County. We are still looking for a couple of our members to serve on the Legislative Committee, too. Not much to do until the next session starts in January and even then the work-load will be light. Why not volunteer? No prior knowledge or experience needed! You might find it interesting to see how the process works (or sometimes doesn't work). Call any Board member to participate.

Another thank-you goes to Paul Kunkel for suggestions about getting the family interested and involved in the tree farm. Any more ideas out there? I would like to publish several of your ideas in a future *Forest Forum*.

The Tree Farmer of the Year tour on July 31st will be interesting and fun. The Mulholland family has owned their forest since the year I was born! Come and see what can be done in 68 years. See you then.

Tour, continued from page 1

Of John's conversion from dairy to forestry, he smiles and states, "trees even grow while you're sleeping." His objective for his forest is to grow for maximum timber production. On the tour he will highlight thinning projects, share wisdom learned in a new planting and give details on his struggle with honeysuckle. There will be a sawmill demonstration and interesting displays.

Forty years ago, John built a pond and later an A-frame cabin up the road from the main house. In this idyllic setting, the "Tree Farmer of the Year" picnic will be held. Be sure to come

Directions: The Mulholland farm is located in Cherry Grove just south of Gaston. The address is: 52580 SW South Rd., Gaston, OR 97119.

From Forest Grove: From the stoplight at Hwy. 46 and Pacific Ave., head towards Gaston on Hwy 47 for 7 miles. Turn right onto Patton Valley Rd. at the "Patton Valley, Cherry Grove" sign. At the top of the hill (1/2 mile) turn left. After three miles, you will see the Cherry Grove Dairy which John used to own. Take the first left past the dairy (2 miles) onto Mt. Richmond Rd. Take the first right onto South Road and go 1/2 mile to John's house.

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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:

Wanted:

Trade:

Event Calendar

July	24	Women Owning Woodlands (WOW) Tour and Tool Sharpening – see article on page 9
	31	WCSWA Annual Tree Farmer of the Year Tour – John Mulholland Tree Farm near Gaston. See article page one. Directions on page two.
August/September		No WCSWA Meetings Scheduled
September	17	Pacific Logging Congress – Clatskanie. Details to follow
October	26	WCSWA Monthly Meeting – Ties to the Land, Part 1
November	16	WCSWA Annual Banquet – Speaker Bob Browning, Attorney
December		No Meeting Scheduled
January, 2011	25	WCSWA Monthly Meeting – Ties to the Land, Part 2

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“Tree Talk” is taking a vacation this month and will be back in August.

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Forest Forum Survey Insert

At WCSWA's May meeting, many of us were able to meet Jagdish Poudel from Nepal and hear of the focus of his year-long fellowship at the World Forestry Institute. In Nepal, he has worked closely with small woodland owners in the Himalayas and as an international fellow is very interested in learning about how small woodland owners in Oregon manage their woodlands.

Please take a few minutes to fill out the enclosed survey.



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Logging Around Ticks *from Terry Streeter, Idaho Logging Safety Ranger*

This note is worth paying attention to with all the rain of this spring/summer. Information from the Canadian Lyme Disease Foundation says ticks carry many diseases, two being Lyme Disease and Rocky Mountain Fever. Tick Paralysis is also a possibility which brings slow paralysis over a couple of days and can cause death. Apparently, individuals will recover within hours once the tick is found and removed. Diseases are less likely to occur if the tick is removed within 24 hours, so check daily.

How to remove a wood tick: DO NOT use petroleum jelly, a hot match or nail polish as these methods may make the tick vomit which increases the possibility of infection or disease. Use tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible and gently pull upward. Never twist the tick as you can leave the mouth parts in the bite site. Wash the area with warm water and soap and apply antiseptic.

Timber Works, continued from page 1

sidewalk pedestrians from flying wood chips from the sawmill. Urban Timber Works' goal is to salvage large diameter urban trees that need to be removed from their present location. Joolz Morcraft, Urban Timber Works' owner stated this is "green conservation" which utilizes material that otherwise may be hauled to a dump. A truck with a crane is used to navigate narrow residential driveways. Every tree cutting presents its own multiple set of operational concerns such as nearby power lines, commercial buildings, houses, fences, landscaping, street traffic, curious pedestrians and bicyclists in addition to the individual characteristics of that tree. The trees Joolz seeks are at least 30" in diameter in beginning decline with a good volume of solid material without significant defects. If an owner requests the removal of an otherwise healthy tree because the owner is tired of raking leaves, Joolz tells the owner to keep the tree as it is more valuable to the urban area as a tree than cut as a log.

Joolz demonstrated what he can do with his portable mill. He cut two 2" x 12" redwood planks from a huge redwood log. When he laid the two planks side by side showing the fresh coloration of both heart and sap wood, they looked beautiful. Scrap milling edge pieces are sold as bulk or strapped and banded firewood. Large diameter limbs are not suitable for milling because there are enough tension and pressure points inside the cut limb which are capable of presenting milling and drying distortions in the wood, so they are used for fire wood.

One urban tree story we heard was about a huge Deodar Cedar that after dumping a large branch on the owner's house for the second time, had to be removed or the insurance company would cancel the owner's policy. The owner had an insurance company mandate on one side of the cutting issue and a group of angry vociferous neighbors with an issue of their own protesting the tree cutting. Compromise mitigation was finally reached which mandated that all structural lumber derived from the cedar tree was to be used for the construction of a children's play structure to be built on the spot where the tree once stood.

Joolz Morecroft is in the process of developing specialty markets for some of these unique logs. He sells round table tops for indoor or outdoor tables or as round log trays for wedding cakes, as well as thick slab counter tops. One place he hopes to sell his wood is a specialty furniture factory along SE Woodstock in Portland called "The Joinery." Since this furniture factory is only a little over a mile from where I live, I visited The Joinery a few days after touring the sawmill. The Joinery specializes in very fine quality artistic wood craftsmanship. They may have a piece of furniture from Urban Timber Works wood in their showroom this fall.

Many thanks to Barbara Eigner for submitting this article



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President of Roseburg Forest Products Forecasts Slow Recovery

During a recent Roseburg Chamber of Commerce luncheon, Allyn Ford, president of Roseburg Forest Products delivered his annual State of Timber address which forecasts a slow recovery for the industry. Ford largely attributes the industry's volatility to the absence of new housing starts. Roseburg Forest Products is running at 70 percent capacity with reduced shifts, but is trying to limit layoffs. "We're trying to hang on to our people. They're our number one resource."

Within the next year, the company will also be working to utilize more of the biomass from logging sites, such as limbs and tree tops, and turning it into energy. Ford predicts this will bring a few more job opportunities to the area. "There is a light at the end of the tunnel," Ford said, "and it's not a train."



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Elk 101

From "Bugle" magazine July/August 2010 by Cody Bloomsburg, Bugle intern

"Can you teach an old elk new tricks?"

Absolutely. There's a reason it's tougher to shoot big bulls than a curious spike. Namely, all those old bulls learn to avoid predators, and they learn fast lest they don't become old bulls. Ever notice how high-pressured elk don't bugle by day? They've learned bugling equals two-legged predators.

While elk are one of the most highly evolved runners among cervids, they face some of the most difficult conditions to evade a predator. Fleeing from a wolf through a summer meadow requires an entirely different technique than cutting a trail through snowdrifts and across frozen rivers. Likewise, the hunting patterns of wolves, mountain lions, bears and people also change with the seasons, adding another variation elk must adapt to in order to survive.

Some studies suggest that relative brain sizes in cervids increase the farther they live from the equator. One possible reason for this is the need to master more skills to survive in seasonal climates. Increasing the number of skills a mammal learns, regardless of complexity, increases the density and size of its brain as well as changes its structure. Compared to more southern-dwelling cervids – such as Florida Key deer – elk are forced to pick up more skills, from eluding predation to strategies for foraging, to enduring the changing seasons.

Because elk inhabit regions with four seasons, they have to learn to find and eat a wider range of plants, as well as avoid the changing tactics of predators through varying conditions. There, it can be argued that it takes more know-how and a bigger brain to be an elk – and an elk hunter."

Editor's note: Now we know why elk are so hard to outwit in regards to our seedlings!



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The following is a "Riggin Shack Classic" by Finley Hays published in July 2010 "Logger's World", (originally published in October, 1967)

Physical fitness!

"I'm fifteen pounds too heavy, have a stomach ulcer and drink too much coffee and smoke too many cigarettes. A couple of years ago, I quit smoking for three months and got so nervous and mean that my ulcer blew up all over again.

Almost every week, actually almost every day, I make big plans to quit drinking so much coffee, cut down on the smoking and get out and work some of this blubber off and quit eating so much.... So far all I've done is make those plans. I keep on the go pretty well and work long hours. The only thing is that I don't do any work that is hard work. I have been figuring to go into the wood business because I detest exercise just for the sake of exercise. I can't get interested in playing golf or bowling or things of that sort because it always seems there is something more important to do than play games. So I figure that I should get some orders for fireplace wood and then get a place to cut wood and then take the chain saw and the pickup and go out and cut that wood. Thus, I'd be doing something that had some sense to it and still get the exercise and at least get the gas and oil money back. Think you must admit it is a good plan, but that is all I've done about it – just make the plans. Going to have to get at it – tomorrow or maybe the next day. That'll be fine!"

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Women Owning Woodlands (WOW) Network Offers Woodland Tour & Tool Sharpening at Mt Richmond Forest

July 24th, 10:00am - 1:00 pm

Keeping your tools well maintained and sharp will make your work easier, lengthen the life of your tools, and help reduce the spread of disease and invasive weeds. During this session we will practice cleaning, maintaining and sharpening our forest tools. We will also take a walk around the Mt. Richmond forest to get a glimpse into the unique Hayes management strategy.

Bring any tools or kitchen knives, something to sit on, and your willingness to practice.

There will be a potluck lunch after the session. Please bring a dish that does not require heating or refrigeration, as there is no electricity at the venue.

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Let's Talk Fire ... Evacuation!

By Scott Hayes

Fire specialists from the Oregon Department of Forestry, or the rural fire department, may have evaluated your house to see if it would survive a wildfire. Our home, evaluated in 2009, passed a Home Ignition Zone Assessment with a few recommendations to remove nearby fuels. Except for a few references in a defensible space brochures, and there is no clear homeowner guidance of the risks of defending a home, or triggers to a safe evacuation.

A wildfire emergency plan is very important. In our washroom closet hang three Fire Evacuation clipboards and marker pens, one for each family member. Duties are listed on a check-off form. When extreme fire conditions are predicted and there is smoke in the air, this family will evacuate, even though the house is defensible.

But in northwest Oregon do we need to worry about big fires threatening our homes? Catastrophic fires here are rare, but when they do occur, watch out! Valuable lessons are in two very different fires - one in Northwest Oregon in 1933 and another in 2009 in the state of Victoria, Australia. The first lesson is about local fire potential. The risk of defending a home is found in the other.

In July 1934, Charles Dague of the nascent Fire Weather Service in Portland published an obscure report titled *The Weather of the Great Tillamook, Ore., Fire of August 1933*. "Low relative humidities, fresh to strong easterly winds, and high temperatures... were just right for a blowup." His data for the Great Tillamook Fire blowup during August 24-26: relative humidity below 21%; east wind velocities 19 to 38 mph, with gale force of 39 to 54 mph at times; daytime temperatures over 100. Weather conditions can create monstrous fires in northwest Oregon. Luckily in 1933, few people lived in the path of the Great Tillamook Fire.

Australia's Black Saturday bushfires provided shocking lessons about defensible space and evacuation. On February 7, 2009, one hundred seventy-three people died. 113 died in homes, 7 in other buildings, 27 outside but near homes, 11 in vehicles, 10 near vehicles or on roads, and 5 at other locations.

We were in a Melbourne suburb that terrifying weekend, twenty miles from the nearest bushfire. The stage was set with temperatures nearing 115F, relative humidity below 10% and winds up to 60 mph. It was a day when the winds were hotter than the sun. Television warned people to stay indoors. Hundreds of firefighters were on standby. But the effects of a thirteen year drought, combined with the winds, exploded bushfires across hundreds of thousands of acres in one afternoon. Entire towns, like Marysville, burned to the ground. You can view a Black Saturday documentary at:

<http://www.abc.net.au/4corners/content/2008/s2489831.htm>

A Royal Commission took a year to investigate the disaster. A key focus in their report was a policy failure to emphasize the risks of homeowners staying and defending homes during a bushfire. Here are a few important findings:

- To defend a property successfully requires considerable physical effort and emotional strain. Often more than one person needs to be involved. It is a task for those who are physically fit and mentally strong. It is not a place for children, older people or the infirm.
- Properties need to have a range of auxiliary equipment to bushfire standards, and an ample water supply that will not be affected by a power loss.
- Determining whether a property is defensible in given conditions is, demonstrably, a complex task. Staying to defend can and did, on 7 February, involve grave risks. The CFA [fire agency] literature explaining the policy to communities was silent on the risks of physical harm, or the ultimate risk of dying, in the attempt to defend.
- The 'leave early' option requires people to know where they will go, how they will get there, and what trigger they will use to initiate their plan. The CFA

Continued on next page

does not include advice about where to go. It does not suggest when to leave, other than through use of the ambiguous term, 'leave early'. It does not identify a range of possible triggers.

- Of those who died on Black Saturday, all most likely lacked an appreciation of expected fire intensity.
- Unquestionably the safest course is always to leave early.

The lessons of these two fires can help you develop a good fire emergency plan. First, have a professional assess your home for defensible space. Ask for an assessment of your family's ability to stay and defend during a wildfire. Have them identify possible fire behaviors and tactics, plus critical equipment. Select triggers for a safe evacuation.

In closing, fire experts can help us answer several questions to lead us through more safe fire seasons:

- When evaluating defensible space, does the fire agency also provide a comprehensive assessment of the owner's ability to defend the property, and how that might be done?
- Are fire conditions clearly defined to help trigger a homeowner's decision to stay and defend, or leave?
- Are defensible homes shown on a map? If so, are the maps available to fire managers in an emergency? How will emergency equipment be deployed, and is there a pre-defined priority?
- Oregon law directs the Sheriff to enforce mandatory evacuation orders, but when a large fire is burning, who makes the evacuation order? Will communication be timely, or possible, under severe conditions?



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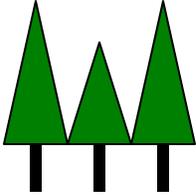
Ties to the Land coming this fall

Oregon State University and WCSWA will be co-sponsoring a two-part succession planning workshop called *Ties to the Land* this fall. Few challenges that family woodland owners face are more important than the issue of passing their land and associated business on to the next generation. *Ties to the Land* is a facilitated workshop that helps woodland owners and their family members address this challenge. *Ties to the Land* workshops will be held throughout Oregon in late October (with the follow up session in January 2011) - multiple members of the same family (parents, siblings, children, adult grandchildren, etc) are encouraged to take part in a *Ties to the Land* program closest to their home. Locally, the program will be delivered during WCSWA's regular chapter meetings on October 26th and January 25th. Registration details will follow in a later newsletter.

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Forest Forum



COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE
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Potpourri

Oregon Tree Farmer named ATFS 2010 Regional Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year:

The American Tree Farm System, a program of the American Forest Foundation, has named "Fun Forest" of Sweet Home as Western Regional Tree Farmer of the Year. Fun Forest is jointly owned by Jim Cota and the Melcher family. After working together for nearly 20 years and building a successful forestry contracting company, they had an opportunity to purchase 320 acres of timberland. Their holdings now total 1,281 acres. Cota and the Melchers have purchased 12 parcels of poorly stocked forestland and marginal farm land to convert them into highly productive forestland using their effective forestry knowledge and capabilities. They are leaders in developing techniques to do low impact logging and to utilize biomass material and are outstanding contributors to the Sweet Home community. Other regional winners are: Trevor Evans (Derby, Vermont); Robert and Ingrid Sonnenberg (New York Mills, Minnesota; Salem, Dianne and Patrick Saloom (Brewton, Alabama). These four regional winners are in contention to win the National Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year Award, which is given at the National Tree Farmer Convention which will be held this year on July 15th at Burlington, Vermont.

How you can help WCSWA

Our OSWA chapter has need of a few good people to help on committees.

- The legislative committee is open right now. This position is most active when the Oregon Legislature is in session. You do not need to go to Salem to attend the legislative meetings because they can be done through conference calls.
- Thank you to Stuart Mulholland for agreeing to be on the membership committee. Stuart could use help with another member

The program committee is seeking additional members. It is always good to have new