

Forest Forum

Washington County Small
Woodlands Association

June, 2011

Happy Trails To You!

Build a Trail? How, when, where, and why! Join us Saturday, June 18th at Doug and Pat Eddy's home, 14180 SW Stickney Dr., Hillsboro. We will learn from professionals about trail building. You can watch or briefly be involved. Gather at 9:30 a.m., dressed for the sloped terrain and unknown weather (long sleeves, long pants, boots, cap, gloves). Don't miss this! Gordon Dana will be our instructor. Gordon coordinates workers of the South Fork Forest Camp, one of Oregon's minimum security prison facilities. He regularly supervises crews which build and maintain trails, fight fires, maintain wilderness trails and even run a fishery. He will be teaching us useful methods and caveats of building our own trails. We are lucky to have him as a presenter. See you there! If you can stay afterwards, bring a picnic! We'll provide lemonade, dessert, and a few folding chairs. If some of you could bring your own folding chairs that would help. There will be a Port-o-potty on site.

Directions to the Eddys on page 6

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The Long Term Value of Timber – What Does It Mean For Small Forest Landowners?

Last year's "bump" in log prices – followed by a drop-off in early summer – was matched again this year by the same pattern. Forest landowners who don't feed their own mills, or have large volumes that command preferential treatment on the open market, find themselves asking, "Will the market for my logs ever stabilize, at least to the point that I can know that my investments in management will be worth it?"

Most of us believe that it is worth it. We have faith that such a valuable natural resource as a forest, in a nation of increasing population and shrinking available land base, will continue to be the most useful raw material that can be used with new technology to provide economically sustainable value.

However, blind faith does look askance at the question – what is the long term value of timber? Roy Anderson, senior forestry consultant with The Beck Group, a forest products planning and consulting firm in Portland, Oregon, offered his thoughts on this subject in the May issue of *The Forestry Source*, a periodical published by the Society of American Foresters. He noted the fact that softwood lumber production in Oregon peaked in 2005 at 7.43 billion board feet, but production had dropped to nearly half – 3.83 billion – by 2009. Mills have been closing, raising the question – will the surviving mill capacity create enough demand to match the output of the state's highly productive forests?

See "Anderson," Page 8

The Prez Sez: Risks and Rewards

Seems to me I read in this very column in last month's *Forum* that somewhat drier weather had finally arrived. The opportunity would soon arrive to spray the Scotch broom. I must have missed that opportunity. Since it has turned to Scotch *bloom*, I am doing the more labor-intensive process of cutting the big ones and pulling the little ones. Other work on the farm has been favored by the continued damp. I have been able to transplant tree seedlings and some native flowering plants into the seedling beds in recent days. After a year or two in the more controlled environment of the beds, the plants will be moved into the forest to fill spaces and add diversity. Although this way of obtaining plants is work-intensive, the price is right and the plants are all natural to the site.

Eventually, we will find ourselves beset by our annual summer drought. Besides creating yet another barrier to some kinds of forest work, dry weather brings increased risk of wildfire. Every forestland owner should be aware of the risks and the responsibilities that go with ownership. You will find more information on this topic than you ever wanted to know by typing "ODF" into your web browser and exploring the site. A brief overview regarding your responsibilities can be viewed by searching on the site for *Landowner Fire Liability*; this will access a copy of a four-page leaflet published by ODF, OSWA, Oregon Forest Industries Council (OFIC), and Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) and paid for by OFRI. Unfortunately, printed copies of the leaflet are in short supply.

It is important for you to know that very few wildfires start on small woodlands. It is also good to know that group insurance, for OSWA members only, is available from JD Fulwiler & Co. Unless you are responsible for a fire as a result of negligence, the insurance provides appropriate wildfire coverage. Limited logger's broad-form can be added to the policy for a reasonable cost. The policy is not cheap, but rates have been gradually coming down over the years, and the cost is tax-deductible. Another kind of policy to consider is to refrain from using power equipment in your forest during dry weather! Of course, if you hire any work done, be sure to get a certificate of insurance from your contractor's insurer.

Be sure to check the *Calendar* on the opposite page so you can add WCSWA summer events to your calendar. The trail-building how-to at the Eddy's place should be instructive and fun. The Chehalem Ridge tour will be interesting and fun. The July combined event at Howells' farm will be interactive and family-oriented with demonstrations, displays, and a great lunch. More details about that event in next month's *Forum*. With several organizations sponsoring and participating in the July 23rd event, we anticipate attendance to be great enough to require volunteer help guiding folks to parking, facilities, etc. and answering a few questions for our city cousins. You probably are planning to attend anyway, so why not spend some time that day making our guests feel welcome? Contact any Board member to volunteer.

See you at the Eddys on June 18th!

Jim Brown

Announcement – Sad News

As this issue of Forest Forum goes to press, we learned of the passing of **Liz Jacobs**. Liz and her husband Dirk have been innovative and industrious members of the woodland community in Washington County. Their tree farm was selected as the Washington County Tree Farm of the Year in 2006. The summer tour they hosted in 2007 displayed their creativity, with a demonstration of firewood bundling, truffle information, and even a zip line! They also tapped maple trees and created their maple syrup. Liz will be sorely missed; she inspired us all with her energy and enthusiasm. In the words of one member, "I will remember Liz as joyful, realistic, beautiful, and smart."

WCSWA Leadership

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bshumaker@coho.net

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Terry Howell – 503-357-2882

WCSWA Website

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 or

bshumaker@coho.net

Proofreaders: Bonnie Shumaker, Dan Hundley, Tom Nygren, Ardis Schroeder

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: Washington County tree farm for sale. 37 acres on county road
19 year old planted forest, Doug fir with alder, maple, 2 streams border property, run about 9 months/year. Probably buildable. Will be sold subject to life estate for seller on a small portion. 503-659-5003 (principals only)

Wanted: (none)

Trade: (none)

Event Calendar

June	18 WCSWA Tour: Trails for Woodlands - How to build a trail, from an expert! Eddy Tree Farm, 9:30 a.m. See article on page one, and directions to the Eddys on page 6.
	23 Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year Tour - Merlo Tree Farm, in conjunction 24-25 with OSWA Annual Meeting , Baker City. Details at www.oswa.org
July	23 Washington County Tree Farmer of the Year Tour – in conjunction with the Tualatin SWCD Annual Meeting and OSWA Howdy Neighbor tour. The combined event will be held at Terry Howell's tree farm. Details in July Forest Forum
August	27 WCSWA Tour – Chehelem Ridge Metro Purchase. Details in August Forest Forum.
September	No meeting or tour scheduled

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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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.ificae.org/wildforestgoods).





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Amy Has A Blog!

Amy Grotta, OSU Extension Forester for Washington and Columbia Counties, now has a blog to bring us timely and user-friendly information. Her blog will bring information as it happens, and can be accessed at

<http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/tree> topics.

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Trail Tour - Driving directions to Doug and Pat Eddy's

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- N 1ST AVE becomes SW HILLSBORO HWY/OR-219. 5.0 mi
- Turn RIGHT onto SW BALD PEAK RD. 0.5 mi
- SW BALD PEAK RD is just past SW FARMINGTON RD
- Turn SLIGHT LEFT onto SW CAMPBELL RD. 1.3 mi
- Turn RIGHT onto SW LAUREL RD. 0.7 mi
- If you reach SW HOLLY HILL RD you've gone about 0.2 miles too far
- Take the 1st LEFT onto SW STICKNEY DR. 0.1 mi
- If you reach SW 325TH PL you've gone about 0.2 miles too far
- 14180 SW STICKNEY DR is on the LEFT.
- If you reach the end of SW STICKNEY DR you've gone about 0.3 miles too far

DIRECTIONS FROM GASTON:

1. Start out going NORTH on ONION LN toward E MAIN ST. 0.06 mi
 2. Turn RIGHT onto E MAIN ST. 0.2 mi
 3. E MAIN ST becomes SW GASTON RD. 0.7 mi
 - Turn RIGHT onto SW SPRING HILL RD.
 4. If you are on SW HARDEBECK RD and reach SW DIXON MILL RD you've gone about 1.8 mi
0.4 miles too far
 5. Turn LEFT onto SW LAURELWOOD RD. SW LAURELWOOD RD is 0.5 miles past SW 3.2 mi
HILL CEMETARY RD
 6. Turn LEFT onto SW BALD PEAK RD. 1.3 mi
 7. Stay STRAIGHT to go onto SW LAUREL RD. 1.0 mi
 8. Take the 2nd RIGHT onto SW STICKNEY DR. If you reach SW BROWNS DR you've 0.1 mi
gone a little too far
 9. 14180 SW STICKNEY DR is on the LEFT. If you reach the end of SW STICKNEY
DR you've gone about 0.3 miles too far
- To contact the Eddys, phone [503.628.1468](tel:503.628.1468) Wk/Hm or [971.678.6705](tel:971.678.6705) Cell

The Hedgehog Concept

There's a new term currently making the rounds in the business community, the "Hedgehog Concept." It's a simple concept that basically asks three questions:

- 1. What are you (we) passionate about?***
- 2. What are you (we) best at?***
- 3. What drives your (our) engine?***

Answering these three questions will help you (us) develop profitable direction and use of our time and talents (From a talk to the Oregon-Washington Section of the Society of American Foresters, May, 2011, by Roger Djiengeleski, President).

TREE TALK

by Bonnie Shumaker

May was a busy time for Bob and me. We had four events scheduled and spent the two weeks prior sprucing the place up getting ready for company. It is important to us to share the excitement small woodland owners have for their land and to let folks know that growing trees for eventual harvest and profit is sustainable while offering economic, social and environmental benefits.

The first event was a field trip for 90 third graders from Terra Linda School in Beaverton. Bill Triest made contact with this school several years ago when he volunteered to teach them about forestry. A field trip was a necessary extension, and we agreed to host one. The teachers and students have been returning each spring ever since. We welcome this well-prepared and enthusiastic group. Helping on the tour were Master Woodland Managers Sam Sadtler, Dallas and Sharon Boge, Kathy Cvetvo from "Talk About Trees", Bill Triest, and Mary, a retired teacher from Terra Linda.



Bonnie and Bob give introduction

Our next field trip was a group of first graders from City View Charter School in Hillsboro. The teacher contacted me to help with a field trip to the Tillamook Forest Center. She won me over by saying she wanted her students to learn about the three-legged stool of forestry (slightly revised for six-year-old understanding): economics, habitat and recreation. After the TFC tour, I invited her class of 24 to visit our farm. Since it was a small group, Bob and I each took half and took them to all seven stations. It was fun for us to be with the kids at every station.



Terra Linda students explore beaver chewed sapling

only day all week without rain! Finally, a message to the many MWM's who helped on the tours – THANKS!

Our last field trip was for 90 second graders from Banks Elementary. BES is where I used to teach and we have had tours from there for over 30 years – first as a farm tour during lambing season when we raised sheep and lately as a forest tour. The students were curious and very respectful. One teacher told me they had been drilled on their role as "guests." One comment was made at my Art Station: "I just realized that I'm drawing with a pencil onto paper in a forest, and they are all made of wood!" Jim Brown, Eloise Binns, Tom and Pat Nygren, Kathy Cvetco and Sam Sadtler helped on the Banks field trip. The last event was the WCSWA potluck and BBQ. We had a great time visiting with so many friends – and were doubly blessed with the



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Anderson.... Continued from page 1

Anderson then lays out the factors that help answer this question:

- There are **24.4 million acres of timberland** in the state, with a net standing volume of roughly **450 billion board feet** in trees larger than 5 inches diameter breast height. And, about **11.7 billion board feet of new growth** are added each year. (US Forest Service statewide inventory)
- Mills in the state are capable of **consuming about 6.1 billion board feet** (at full capacity). During the 2005-2009 period, mills operated at 60% capacity. (Random Lengths).
- Without considering exports and imports, (or differing growth rates between forest land growth), **annual growth exceeds log demand by a ratio of over 2 to 1**. This suggests that an oversupply of logs may drive prices for logs and timberland down.
- Financial strength of mills is another factor, and **capital investment in mills** has dropped considerably during the past two years, with the only major investments in upgrades and new scanning and optimization systems.
- **Lumber prices** are another factor. Framing lumber composite price has been about \$300 per thousand since January (but may have slipped recently). This is about 20% higher than in 2010. Exports to China (and recently Japan) have increased. (Random Lengths).
- Recent **high log prices** in Oregon are in sharp contrast to log prices in the Inland West – by 17 to 68% (excepting dropping prices in the last few months), reflecting the opportunities for export and the price defining grading system in Oregon. A major reason for these high prices is the **China market**, where the demand for raw materials is outpacing its supply, along with Russia's import tax which is diverting some of its traditional sourcing to the U.S. and Canada. China's potential fiber

V

supply gap is projected to reach 150 million cubic meters by 2015 – an amount more than the entire Canadian timber harvest in 2009.

Anderson's conclusion is a story of good news/bad news for forestland owners in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. **Good news:** Offshore demand will likely remain strong, keeping log prices relatively stable (or at least not suffering severe drop-offs). **Bad news:** High log prices hurt mills that have already endured 3-4 years of very difficult conditions. **Anderson's final observation:** He will be an interested observer as the competing forces of offshore log demand and stagnant domestic lumber prices play out over the next few years.

Green Alder Sawfly – A New Invasive

By Paul Oester and Dave Shaw, OSU Extension Service

History

A native of Europe, North Africa and the Near East, the green alder sawfly (*Monsoma pulveratum*) (Hymenoptera: Tenthredinidae) was first found in North America in eastern Canada in the early 1990's, then in Alaska in 2004. More recently, the green alder sawfly was identified in trap samples in nine Washington counties and one Oregon county (Multnomah). Examination of insect collections at Western Washington University indicates that this insect has probably been present since 1995. It was first detected in the contiguous United States on understory shrubs in Vancouver, Washington in April 2010. We don't know a lot about this insect but we are beginning to tease out how it operates.



Figure 1: Green alder sawfly larva
(photo by Jim Kruse)



Figure 2: green alder sawfly adult
(photo by Andrei Karankou)

See "Invasive", page 11



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West Coast's Log, Lumber Exports Increase in First Quarter of 2011

ForestIndustry.com
A total of 413.1 million board feet of softwood logs and 224.9 million board feet of softwood lumber were exported from Washington, Oregon, northern California, and Alaska in January, February, and March of this year. (U.S. Forest Service).

Forest Service Unveils First Comprehensive Forecast On Southern Forests

USDA.gov
According to the report, urbanization, bioenergy use, weather patterns, land ownership changes and invasive species will significantly alter the South's forests between the years 2010 and 2060. About 23 million acres of forest land are projected to decrease. People are also expected to influence water resources, wildlife, recreational opportunities, fire and other issues.

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New Trend Maps About Oregon Forests

The Oregon Department of Forestry has released new map data presentations that tell the story of how the state's forest economics; conservation laws; and insect, disease, and wildfire impacts on forests have shaped Oregon's forests during the past few decades.

These map presentations are part of the *Oregon Forest Atlas* released last year as a way to visualize current conditions in Oregon's forests. The new maps now show how some key forest trends have shaped the past and future of the state's 30.5 million acres.

The *Oregon Forest Atlas*, 2010 edition with the new maps, can be found on the web at www.oregon.gov/ODF/RESOURCE_Planning/orestatlas.shtml

Invasive, continued from page 9

How do you identify this critter?

Adults emerge from overwintering sites in the soil or dead wood in the spring and lay eggs on expanding alder leaves. New larvae are very pale green and 2-3 millimeters long. Over time, as the larvae mature, they become a vibrant green (Figure 1) and feed on alder leaves through the spring and early summer, then typically drop to the ground to pupate in the soil. When fully grown, larvae are about 15-18 millimeters long, a little more than ½ inch. The adults look like a small wasp, and the females (males have not been recorded in North America or the UK) have a black head and antennae. The middle (thorax) of the adult insect is black, sometimes with some yellow or brownish coloration; their legs reddish brown to black and abdomen black with the margins of the segments white to yellow (Figure 2).

Life history

A pre-pupal stage overwinters and pupation occurs in the spring. In Europe and recently observed in Alaska, these insects have been reported to also burrow into rotten wood to pupate (Figure 3). This is just another reason not to move firewood interstate.

What about potential impacts?

Not much is known about how this insect will fare on red alder in western Oregon and Washington, as well as other species throughout these two states. In Alaska, this species has been feeding primarily on thinleaf alder (*Alnus tenuifolia*). There is some concern that the feeding of the green alder sawfly, woolly alder sawfly and the striped alder sawfly combined with stem cankers may lead to reduced nitrogen inputs by alders and perhaps alder mortality.

In the Pacific Northwest, several insects feed on alder species and may compete for host foliage and the additional feeding by the introduced sawfly may have a minor effect. However, the green alder sawfly begins feeding earlier in the spring than other species and could effectively out-compete native species if foliage becomes limited. Another concern is the native parasite/predator complex: will these make the switch to the new invader?

What to do?

Efforts by federal and state agencies will include trying to delimit the extent of the sawfly's distribution and encouraging more monitoring as well as research and education. The US Forest Service point person for this invasive insect is Kathy Sheehan, based in Portland. She is coordinating the effort to determine the distribution of the green alder sawfly in Oregon and Washington. They have already set up trapping sites throughout western Oregon in particular. Eradication is not a feasible option because of the widespread distribution of detections in Washington and Oregon. The fact this invader can potentially pupate in dead wood is another reason to manage the distribution of firewood and keep it local.

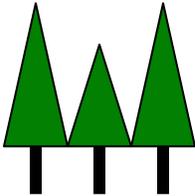
The bright green larvae are distinct. If you are out and about in your forest, look for these critters on alder leaves and if you find any likely suspects contact Amy Grotta at the Extension office, 503-397-3462, Dave Shaw, OSU Extension Forest Health Specialist (dave.shaw@oregonstate.edu) at 541-737-2845, or Kathy Sheehan (ksheehan@fs.fed.us) at 503-808-2674. For more information, go to <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/nr/fid/invasives/green-alder-sawfly.shtml>.

Washington County Small Woodlands Association

Newsletter Editor
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Forest Forum



COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE
OREGON SMALL WOODLANDS
ASSOCIATION

Welcome to New Members!

Welcome to new member **David Barnes** of Banks. 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.

Tualatin River Watershed Council – What It Means to WCSWA

Recently the WCSWA Board was asked to submit a letter of support for the Tualatin River Watershed Council. During the Board's deliberation, it became apparent to me that perhaps the relationship between TRWC and WCSWA is not understood by many members, so here are my thoughts: WCSWA is one of the original charter members of the Council (20 members representing a widely diverse set of interests/entities in the watershed – economic, environmental, and governmental. The Council is primarily a non-governmental forum for discussion, support, and actions to protect and enhance the Tualatin River Watershed and its many values – a unique mission not performed by any other organization. WCSWA participates in this forum, representing the interests for small woodland owners, and the forests they own and manage. TRWC also does many on-the-ground projects with interested and willing landowners. There are always opportunities to participate in these activities!

It is supported by Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board grants (lottery money), and other sources. I serve as the WCSWA primary representative, and Neil and Ardis Schroeder are the alternates. I encourage you go to the Council website, www.trwc.org, and learn more about this organization. April Olbrich, Council Coordinator, is a regular participant in WCSWA activities, and she will be happy to give you more information (503-846-4810), or contact Neil, Ardis, or myself.

Tom Nygren