

Forest Forum

Washington County Small
Woodlands Association

July, 2011

Tree Farmer of the Year Tour WCSWA and TSWCD Saturday, July 23, 2011, 9:00am

The Howell Tree Farm in Gales Creek is this year's WCSWA's Tree Farmer of the Year which gives them the privilege of hosting the Tree Farmer of the Year Summer Picnic. This year, the picnic will be held in conjunction with Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District's Annual Conservation Tour and OSWA's Howdy Neighbor Tour, sponsored by OFRI. The groups have planned a full day and hope for a large crowd.

Enjoy seeing the riparian restoration project on the Howell Tree Farm along Gales Creek, a no-till presentation by NRCS and a variety of forestry demonstrations by WCSWA.

Tours and demonstrations start promptly at 9:00 am with a barbeque lunch at 11:30am. There will be a silent auction with funds from the auction going toward financing TSWD's event next year. No RSVP is required. Simply come and enjoy the fun. For directions to the Howell Tree Farm see "**Howell's**" on page 7

Trail Building Know-How

The trail building tour at Doug and Pat Eddy's on June 18th was extremely successful with 29 people present including woodland members, guests, and two dogs. Gordon Dana who coordinates workers of the South Fork Forest Camp (one of Oregon's minimum security prison facilities) was our instructor. Working for the state of Oregon, he has had much experience supervising crews that build and maintain trails on government property, fight forest fires, and build wilderness firefighting roads and fire breaks.

The tour started soon after 9:30 AM in a meadow near Burris Creek on the Eddy's property. Gordon presented an overview of trail building starting with the purpose of the trail, what kinds of traffic it would receive, and general planning, and trail layout. He talked about "pioneering" the trail on the Eddy's property following the natural shelves, animal trails, and open areas from the beginning to the end. The trail starts near the Eddy home and drops approximately 200 vertical feet to the creek.

Next Gordon covered trail building tools; what tool to use for what purpose and generally when in the trail building process to use it.



Gordan Dana (white shirt) and tools of the trade

See "Trails", Page 6

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The Prez Sez

Prez Goes to the Correctional Institution!

I hope you have taken the opportunity to get your planned projects going. One of our tour hosts at the OSWA Annual Meeting in Baker County mentioned their three seasons. It got me to thinking we have three seasons in Western Oregon, too; Mud, Dry Enough to Operate, and Fire. The middle season may be shorter than usual this year, so enjoy it while you can. I spent a few hours on the Fourth mowing my landings and roads for the third time. The turf is tough and stable and they look great! But all that turf is still very green. Now I hope I can put my roads to use before the third season arrives. The long wet, cool period has produced substantial growth - in all plants. It's worth mentioning that in Baker County forest floors were still green in late June this year, not the customary tawny hue.

Tour season is well under way. The Washington County Small Woodlands tour at Eddy's was well-attended, fun, and informative. The Annual Meeting in Baker County was great. We have the tour/event coming up at Howell's, which you won't want to miss. Finally, we will visit Chehalem Ridge Site, purchased by Metro in late August.

Another tour is sponsored by the Northwest Oregon Forest Protective Association each year. NWOFFPA is the organization that coordinates with the Oregon Department of Forestry in managing wildfire protection in our area. I have been a member of NWOFFPA for about 20 years and usually attend. The tours always focus on just what the organization's name indicates, and the perspective is clearly industrial. This year's tour, on June 30th, started off at the Tillamook Forest Center with some background information, a brief presentation by yours truly, a presentation on landslides and public safety, and a little time to look at the displays. We then visited the site of the Hoskins landslide, which put debris onto Highway 6 when it occurred. A geotechnical expert and an Assistant District Forester explained the cause, effect, and response to the hazard.

After a good box lunch, we proceeded to the site of a cable-logging operation. Here, we observed a complete Industrial Fire Inspection. Periodic inspections are routine to be certain operators are in compliance with fire safety regulations. Non-compliance can mean shut-down. Last stop on the tour was the South Fork Inmate Camp. Gordon Dana, who so ably demonstrated trail-building at our June 16th tour, explained how all the work gets done at South Fork. The inmate work crews help to maintain State campgrounds and such, but they are most well-known and highly regarded for their fire-fighting effectiveness. Despite the hard work, assignment to the South Fork minimum-security facility is coveted and valued by inmates.

I was honored to be invited to speak on the small woodland owner's perspective. I asked some WCSWA members for suggestions, and appreciate the ideas I got from Neil Schroeder, Scott Hayes, and the Shumakers. My remarks were too lengthy to include here. My focus was on number of members, and of members who carry insurance versus total number of small woodland owners statewide, the great variety of management goals we have, and the varied number of acres owned. I told them about the ways we learn from each other and the educational opportunities members enjoy. The message *from* NWOFFPA was they would welcome more participation and communication from small woodland owners. I will be more than happy to discuss this with any WCSWA member.

See you at Howell's place on July 23rd!

Jim Brown

WCSWA Leadership

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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: 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

- | | | |
|-----------|----|--|
| July | 17 | Celebration of Life for Liz Jacobs at the Jacobs farm. 1 to 4 p.m. at their tree farm - 12350 NW Shearer Hill Road. RSVP at 503-359-1510, or dirkcj@aol.com |
| July | 23 | Washington County Tree Farmer of the Year Tour - in conjunction with the Tualatin SWCD Annual Conservation Tour and OSWA's Howdy Neighbor Tour. The combined event will be held at Terry Howell's tree farm. Details on page one and seven. |
| August | 27 | WCSWA Field Tour – Chehalem Ridge Metro property tour near Gaston led by Metro's forester Kate Holleran. |
| September | | No meeting or tour scheduled. This is our regular "take a break" month. |

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Herding Cats Video

At OSWA's Annual Meeting, Irene Jerome of Blue Mountain Forest Products ended her presentation which stressed the need for and challenges of collaboration with divergent groups by showing a You Tube video on herding cats. It is great and sure to bring a chuckle. You can access it at Youtube.com and search for "herding cats."

Celebration of Life

As reported in the June Forest Forum, Liz Jacobs, wife of Dirk and mother of Carl has passed away. This news saddened us all. Now it is time to celebrate her life well- lived.

Dirk Jacobs has planned a gathering to celebrate Liz's life on July 17th (Sunday) from 1 to 4 p.m. at their tree farm - 12350 NW Shearer Hill Road. Dirk would like to know how many people plan to come, so please RSVP at 503-359-1510, or dirkcj@aol.com



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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).





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Environthon Results

This spring, WCSWA gave a cash donation of \$300 to the Hillsboro High School Envirothon team. This was the first year that Hillsboro High School competed in the Oregon Environthon which is sponsored by OSU, OFRI, Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District and others.

John Staples, Hillsboro High School's FFA Advisor who led the team reported that their team placed 15 out of 42 teams. They are looking forward to competing next year. They have an environmental science class in which the course content for the Environthon will be taught.

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After 43 Years, New Leader at Stuntzner

After 43 years at the helm, founder, Ron Stuntzner (Coos Bay) steps back to concentrate on forestry projects and mentoring the next generation. Eric Urstadt, from the Forest Grove branch, was unanimously voted in as the new managing partner. Urstadt and Stuntzner see big changes in the industry, and to continue to prosper Stuntzner engineering and forestry, LLC must be ready to adapt to these changes.

Urstadt, began working at Stuntzner in 1973 and has been responsible for all engineering and surveying at the Forest Grove office.

Stuntzner has offices in Coos Bay, Forest Grove and Dallas and provides land use planning, engineering, forestry, surveying and water right development.



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"Trails," continued from page 1

For example, to pioneer a trail he recommends the Swedish Brush (Sandvik) Axe, a hand tool longer than a hatchet, but shorter than a standard axe. It has a removable stainless steel blade that can cut through a 2" alder, which he demonstrated later in the tour. His favorite tool was a hazel hoe that is used to cut into the hill on the upside of the trail. It can break sod clumps when constructing a new trail or leveling an existing trail tread. He demonstrated the safe operation of many tools for chopping, grubbing, digging, brushing, and moving soil as well as how to keep the tools sharp and operating effectively. More on the tools can be found at the Federal Highway Administration's Recreational Trails Program Website at <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/fspubs/index.htm>. This is a 31MB PDF document that can take several minutes to download.

After the lecture portion of the presentation, Gordon took the participants along portions of the trail demonstrating the use of some of the tools. He indicated where steps were needed because the slope was too steep, or cutting into the hillside was not advised because the soil was loose and would wash away with the rain. He described how hollows could be created to hold half cedar logs for steps. He demonstrated how difficult transitions from one area to the next could be made by moving soil from one area to another and then packing it down. Also how the trail tread should be out-sloped whenever possible to remove water without causing erosion. Throughout his talk, Gordon answered questions from the participants.

The tour ended at the top of the trail at 11:45. Everyone hiked back to the meadow below for a picnic lunch by the creek. Everyone felt like they had learned important trail building skills, what tools to use, and when in the trail building process to use them. WCSWA thanked Gordon for his excellent pedagogical techniques. Additional information can be found quickly online in the Trail Construction and Maintenance Notebook at <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/fspubs/07232806/toc.htm>.

Doug and Pat Eddy



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American Forest Foundation News

AFF is the umbrella organization covering American Tree Farm System and Project Learning Tree. They presented at the OSWA Annual Meeting their policy and legislative agenda. Priorities:

- Stem the loss of America's woodlands
- Enhance the quality of America's woodlands
- Ensure decision makers and educators understand and value America's forests

Priority issues:

- Enact green building policies
- Strengthen federal conservation program's ability to improve forest health
- Improve tax incentives for woodlands

Make Your Voice Heard

Visit www.familyforestaction.org and join the American Forest Foundation's Grassroots Action Network. Receive updates on policies and legislation that affects family forest owners and detailed alerts to write to your members of Congress. You can have a say in the decisions Congress makes. The grassroots Action Network makes it easy for you to get your voice heard!

Join today! Visit www.familyforestaction.org.

Howell's, continued from page 1

Directions to Howell Tree Farm:

From Hillsboro, go west on SW Baseline St (OR-8W)/Tualatin Valley Hwy) toward W Main St., continue to follow OR-8W through Forest Grove and towards Gales Creek (approximately 12 miles). Turn left onto NW Cox Rd. (There is a big Howell Tree Farm sign on main road.)

From Hwy 26, take Hwy 6, go 9.37 miles, make a sharp left turn on NW Gales Creek Rd. Go 3.82 miles, turn right on NW Cox Rd. (There is a big Howell Tree Farm sign.)



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Eastside – Oregon’s Other Forest

As small woodland owners, we are all aware that Oregon has two distinct types of forests, east side and west side. The west side’s predominate species is Douglas-fir and the east side’s is pine. Crossing over Mt. Hood on Hwy 26, you can see the change almost instantaneous after cresting the pass. We west side folks love to go to the east side where we can find sun more consistently and the forests provide more open scenic views.

Most of us are also aware that much of Oregon’s federal forests are on the east side, and due to severe reduction in harvest on these lands over the last several decades, the forest harvest infrastructure has diminished as well.

At the OSWA Annual meeting in Baker City, all this became apparent. First was the fact that over 150 people attended the meeting – yes, all of us forest owners do love those piney woods! What became all too apparent during the meeting and tours was that the economics of these forests is dire, but not without hope.

The theme of the meeting was “Dealing with Changing Realities in Woodland Management.” At the close of the meeting Rick Fletcher was able to summarize the many excellent presentations with these thoughts.

- Active management is required to deal with fire hazards, insects and disease. This demands either markets or welfare payments.
- No management has its own consequences
- Biomass is one potential market, but it is not yet economical. We need to work together and form partnerships with public, government and environmental organizations.
- A new term has been coined “cooportition” which would meld collaboration with making markets competitive as well.
- Integrated campus is another idea where all except sawlogs would be transported to a campus and either processed or sorted (something like a co-op model).
- Tell your story: Host a legislator, join AFF Action Alert, speak up, force yourself to listen to those with whom you may not agree.
- Use your land, story and treasure to educate others.

TREE TALK

by Bonnie Shumaker



The highlight of the month of June was our attendance at the OSWA Annual Meeting in Baker City, OR. We have been to Baker City several times and love that part of Oregon, so different from the west side. It beckons with lots of sun and more open forests, predominately Ponderosa Pine. This year, OSWA and Oregon Tree Farm combined their annual events since the Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year for 2011 was Harry Merlo, whose tree farm and ranch are not too far from Baker City.

Harry Merlo, whose background from a family of poor Italian emigrants to President and CEO of Louisiana Pacific, first leased the land for hunting purposes and later bought the 12,000 acres that constitute Merlo Ranch. He has owned it for approximately ten years. It was previously owned by a timber company who had high graded the forest leaving the less desirable trees. Harry has worked hard to improve the stand with thinning for fire prevention, replanting of desired species and improving the grazing areas of the forest to allow agroforestry with the leasing of land to cattle ranchers. This has increased the quality of grazing land for both cattle and wild game. Harry states that the land supported approximately 150 elk when he purchased the property ten years ago. Now there are 350 elk!

In replanting, Harry concentrates on Ponderosa Pine and Western Larch. Western Larch was discovered in 1806 by the Lewis and Clark expedition in western Montana. It is the largest of the American larches. In summer they are distinguishable at a considerable distance by their light, lustrous green foliage, in fall by their yellow hue before dropping their leaves, and in winter by their bareness. There are several giant larches that serve as sentinels over the ranch, surviving logging and even a fire or two. Larch was cut heavily during the gold rush years for shoring up mines and building fences. In today's market it is valued above Ponderosa Pine equal to Douglas-fir quality and prices.



Western Larch

Fire is a prevalent hazard in Eastern Oregon. On the Merlo ranch, slash from logging is mulched or sent away as biomass, a developing, but not yet profitable option. If left on the ground, slash not only is a fire hazard, but also harbors bark beetles an additional hazard.

Another improvement Harry has made on the ranch is to his year-round, fish bearing creek. A new bridge was installed replacing an improper culvert. Now the creek is channeled into its original course and an overflow channel showed its worth in this high water spring by diverting the excess creek flow around the bridge and back into the creek.

Harry will be the first to divulge that his improvements have not yet paid for themselves, although the value of the property has increased. He hopes to have the land's legacy continue with his grandchildren. He also uses his ranch as a learning environment for the World Forestry's International Fellowship program where foresters from around the world spend time learning and sharing their knowledge. We were fortunate to meet many of them on the tour of Harry's ranch.

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The "How" and "Why" of Pollinators
West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District recently gave a guided Pollinator Tour. Following are highlights from the tour.

There has been a decline of bee species in the United States, native bees in particular.

Landowners are encouraged to plant native plant species for pollinators as well as leave some open ground for bees that build their nests there.

Beyond the importance of pollination activity for our local food and crops, pollinator plants are ideal for wildlife habitat.

A wide variety of native trees, shrubs and wildflowers can be used to attract pollinators. However, native plant species have different requirements. Know your site and what grow will grow well there.

Lists of pollinators and their requirements are available at NRCS, OSU Extension and WMSWCD websites.

Crosscut Saw History – The Two-Man Saw

Copied from Cross Saw Manual by Warren Miller

The two-man crosscut saw was known by the Romans...but not until the middle of the 15th century did the tool come into fairly common use in Europe. Records exist of the crosscut being used for cutting logs in the United States between 1625 and 1681. About 1880 Pennsylvania lumbermen began felling trees with the crosscut, the two-man saw. Before that time all trees had been ax-felled.

By the time the crosscut was at its peak, a large number of tooth patterns had been developed, each presumably suited to a particular set of conditions. In the case of *plain*, *M* and *Great American* tooth patterns, each tooth both cuts the wood and clears out the shavings. In the case of the *champion*, *lance* and *perforated-lance tooth*, however, cutter teeth cut the wood fibers and the rakers remove the scored wood from the newly sawn cut.

The saws can be divided into two types: Two-man saws and one-man. Generally speaking, a one-man saw is shorter, but its defining characteristic is that it is asymmetric. Both types of crosscuts can be used by either one or two persons.

One-man crosscuts have been made in lengths from 3 to 6 feet. Two-man saws were produced in lengths from 4 to 12 feet for the Pacific Northwest, and 16 feet for the California redwoods. If a longer saw was needed, two shortened blades were sometimes brazed together.

There are two basic saw patterns for the two-man saw: the felling type for felling trees and the bucking pattern for cutting up trees once they are on the ground. The felling saw has a concave back and is relatively light and flexible. It is light so that less effort is needed to move it back and forth when felling a tree. It is flexible to conform to the arc a sawyer's arms take when sawing...and it is narrow tooth-to-back, enabling the sawyer to place a wedge in the cut behind the saw sooner than with a wide saw. The bucking saw has a straight back. It is much thicker tooth-to-back than the felling saw, so it is heavier and stiffer. A bucking saw traditionally is run by one person, and its stiffness helps prevent buckling on the push stroke. The more weight put on a saw, the faster it will cut, so the weight of a bucking saw is an asset.

The teeth of nearly all cross cut saws lie on the arc of a circle. The result is an easier and faster cutting tool than a straight saw. A circular contour is much simpler to maintain than a curve of any other shape.

There are three ways that the sides of a saw are finished (ground) when manufactured...each affects the thickness of the saw in a particular way. A flat-ground saw is one whose thickness is the same everywhere. A taper-ground blade is thicker on its tooth edge than on its back edge, and has an advantage over a flat-ground implement: It is not as likely to bind in a cut, especially if the kerf is closing behind the saw (as will happen if the wood being cut is under compression). Also, a taper-ground blade requires less set than one that is flat-ground. The crescent-taper differs from the straight taper in that the lines of equi-thickness for the straight-taper are straight and those for the crescent are concentric to the circle of the saw. This means that the teeth of the crescent-taper-ground crosscut are all the same thickness, whereas the teeth of the straight-taper-ground saw are thicker toward the center of the blade.

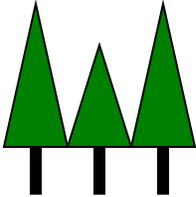
The uniform tooth thickness of the crescent-taper-ground saw is an obvious advantage over the varying tooth thickness of the straight-taper-ground type. Therefore, the best saws are crescent-taper-ground. These are indicated by the trademarks "Crescent Ground", "Precision Ground", "Segment Ground", and "Arc Ground."

The chainsaw was invented in 1935 by Stihl, in Germany.

Washington County Small Woodlands Association
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Forest Forum



COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE
OREGON SMALL WOODLANDS
ASSOCIATION

Potpourri

2012 OSWA Annual Meeting: Do you know who will be hosting the 2012 OSWA Annual Meeting? It is us! WCSWA will be the host for next year's meeting. Serious planning will be postponed for a bit, but brainstorming ways to express the uniqueness of Washington County is needed, and we want your help. Ideas that have been batted about are: Tillamook Forest Center and Tillamook State Forest compared to ten years ago when WCSWA last hosted the Annual Meeting; winery tours, World Forestry Center, agri-forestry (forests and livestock), goods from the woods. What do you think of these ideas? What are your own ideas? Please let Jim Brown, jimbrownorch@msn.com or any board member know. Remember, this is brainstorming. Any idea, no matter what, is good.

THE TUALATIN BASIN PENSTEMON – Become a detective!

A penstemon species, thought to have become extinct, was re-found on the Tualatin River National Wildlife refuge in 2008. I believe it arrived here on the Missoula floods as *P. rydbergii* over 10-15,000 years, evolving into something new. The major differences are that it is twice as tall as Rydberg's penstemon, grows easily here in Washington County and has a mouse-tailed calyx with hairs, like no rydbergii! As caretaker of two plants rescued along Herman Road in Tualatin, it is easy to grow, giving up lots of seeds which I have put out into Wetland Conservancy areas. My appeal to you is to hunt along any lands you have in private ownership where it hasn't been plowed. Land may have been logged or had livestock on it and the plant survives. Look near the Tualatin River or its tributaries where the plant could have come on floods. It likes sandy loam. It will have 3 foot tall bloom stalks from mid-June to about mid-July (with our cool summer). The flowers are small, about 1 centimeter (1/3"-1/2" inch) long, but with many, covering the stem in bright-blue clusters. This blue is like no other flower blooming now and will catch your eye. The leaves are mostly at the base, elliptic, smooth-edged and about 3" long, but will come up the stem and **always** appear opposite each other. They turn maroon in cold weather, but are green now. If you see it, you might send a photo or just email me at vmaffitt@gmail.com or call at 503-625-6384.

Thanks you so much, Ginny Maffitt