

# Forest Forum

Washington County Small  
Woodlands Association

October, 2012

## **ANNUAL BANQUET COMING UP - Don't Miss It!**

The Annual Banquet of the Washington County Small Woodlands Association will be held on **November 17<sup>th</sup>** at the Meriwether National Golf Club.

There are changes from past years: location and day of the week. The new location at Meriwether National Golf Course will offer more flexibility in closing time. Moving to a Saturday will reduce the strain of getting to a week-day evening event on the "non-retired" members of WCSWA.

A special speaker has been obtained for the Banquet. Representative Susan Bonamici (1<sup>st</sup> District) will our guest for the Banquet. She will address some of the current legislative concerns and opportunities important to the woodland community.

## **Join your fellow woodland owners! See insert to make your reservation.**

\*\*\*\*\*

### **MAKE SOMEONE HAPPY!**

#### **BRING A DOOR PRIZE TO THE BANQUET.**

It can be useful, funny, or even edible. We appreciate everything! Surprise us! Previous prizes have included plants, work gloves, candy, chain saw oil, birdhouses, etc.

You may bring your items with you the night of the banquet.

**\*\*THANK YOU!!\*\***

(It would be reassuring to know that we'll have plenty of door prizes, so please call or leave a message for Beth at (503) 341-4943.

## **How Secure Is Your Woodland?**

One of the deep-down anxieties of woodland owners is the knowledge of how **vulnerable** your property is to the criminal or thoughtless actions of other people. Fire (arson or thoughtlessness), vandalism, theft, drug manufacture and use, trespass and other activities have the potential to cause significant loss of resource value, disrupt management activities, and cost the landowner a great deal of valuable time.

**The October meeting of WCSWA offers a chance to learn more about these threats, and what you can do to minimize them.**

### **"Securing Your Woodland Property"**

**When: 7:00 p.m. October 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Where: North Plains Fire Station (on Commercial Street)**

The Washington County Sheriff's Office will present a panel program of officers well versed with these threats. Darlene Schnoor, Crime Prevention Specialist; Deputy Mike Womer, Drug Prevention Team; and Sgt. Mike Alexander, Beat Sergeant for western Washington County. These officers have experience and training to share with woodland owners. Whatever situation you have, it is likely that these officers have seen or know of similar situations in the County, and can offer valuable advice to prevent and deal with the threats. This will be a panel program, with short presentations by the officers, followed by time for woodland owners and others to ask questions about their particular situations, threats, or concerns.

# **Volunteers – Heart of OSWA**

**By Scott Hayes, OSWA President**

The Oregon Small Woodlands Association is successful because of its volunteers.

Statewide our 15 active chapters are made up of about 1,600 memberships, so my ballpark guess is we have at least 3,200 potential volunteers. (I like numbers, so bear with me.) Our Washington County chapter has 185 memberships, so we probably have over 350 volunteer candidates. It's safe to say the chapter currently has about 50 active volunteers, plus another 100 "retired" volunteers. Retired volunteers are dedicated, long-term members who in the past have led the chapter.

Going forward we have three challenges: attracting new volunteers, keeping them involved and recognizing their service. To help recruit new volunteers, the board is developing short 'job descriptions' for board member and committee positions. Committees such as programs, membership, plant sales, and seedling sales help spread the work around.

A decade ago I served on the board, juggling a full time job. At first the time commitment was a concern, but the board was (and still is) well organized and filled with committed woodland owners. Today our board meets about 4 times a year for a breakfast meeting. The board is large enough with various skilled volunteers that the shared work is actually a lot of fun.

To train volunteers and members, the Partnership for Forestry Education is hosting the 2013 Pacific Northwest Forestry Leadership Academy. It will be held January 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> at the Oregon Garden Resort near Silverton. This is a great opportunity for you. Read about the details of page 9 of this issue.

At the November 17, 2012, Washington County Small Woodlands Association annual meeting at Meriwether National Golf Club we will recognize our volunteers. This popular dinner meeting will be even more exciting this year, providing a great opportunity to celebrate our chapter's successes. And it will be fun! We look forward to seeing you there.



Halfway, Oregon--August 26, 2012-- Anchored to a steep slope in a bed of limestone 8,000 feet up Cusick Mountain in Oregon's Wallowa Mountains, this ancient limber pine could be the oldest living thing in Oregon. It's impossible to say exactly how old because the heart of the tree is rotted away. However, the tree is still alive and continues to produce cones. Most of the tree is without its bark and is weathered from centuries of exposure. Jamie Francis/The Oregonian

## WCSWA Leadership

**Interim President – Vic Herinckx, vic.herinckx@gmail.com**

**Secretary-Treasurer – Bob Shumaker; 503-324-7825**

**bshumaker@coho.net**

### Board of Directors:

Pos. #1: Tom Nygren, 503-628-5472 [tnygren@juno.com](mailto:tnygren@juno.com)

Pos. #2: Sam Sadtler 503-324-0223 [samsncee@gmail.com](mailto:samsncee@gmail.com)

Pos. #3: Bonnie Shumaker – 503-324-7825 [bshumaker@coho.net](mailto:bshumaker@coho.net)

Pos. #4: Scott Hayes 503-992-1509 [scotthayes@wildblue.net](mailto:scotthayes@wildblue.net)

Pos. #5: Doug Eddy, 503-628-1468 [douglas.eddy@upwardaccess.com](mailto:douglas.eddy@upwardaccess.com)

Pos. #6: Bill Triest – 503-626-1838 [whtriest@gmail.com](mailto:whtriest@gmail.com)

### Legislative Committee Chair:

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### Membership Committee:

Stuart Mulholland, 503-985-3168

Howell Hughes, 503-201-3748

### Program Committee

Bill Triest – 503-626-1838; Beth Adams – 503-341-4943, Marge Hayes – 503-992-1509;

Terry Howell – 503-357-2882, John and Cathy Dummer – 503-244-3812

### WCSWA Website

[www.wcswa.org](http://www.wcswa.org)

**Website Manager: Kathy Scott**

Contact Tom Nygren or Bonnie Shumaker 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, 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)*

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**Wanted: Volunteer trained in "Excel"** to help set up WCSWA files for 2013 Native Plant Sale. Call Bonnie at (503) 324-7825

## Event Calendar

October	13		<b>Rural Living Field Day</b> – Glen Echo Farms, North Plains. Sponsored by Tualatin, West Multnomah, and Columbia SWCDs. See article on page 6.
	23		<b>WCSWA monthly meeting</b> – Panel from Sheriff's Office. Subject: Securing Your Woodland Property, 7 p.m., North Plains Fire Station.
November	17		<b>WCSWA annual banquet meeting</b> – 5:30 p.m., Meriwether National Golf Course.
	19		<b>Oregon Tree Farm System Annual Meeting</b> See page 12 for details.
December			<b>No regular meeting</b>

**Advertising Opportunity:**

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Please send this form, ad copy, logos, photos, etc. to:

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**Thank you for supporting Washington County Small Woodlands Association!**

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**Aldo Leopold, “The Conservation Ethic”**

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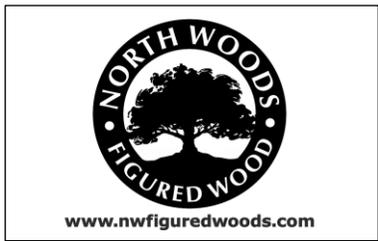
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### **Fewer Dead Trees in U.S. in 2011**

The number of dead trees on 750 million acres of public and private forests across America is on the decline for the second straight year, with most of the reductions seen in western states where bark beetles have infested millions of trees, according to a report by the U.S. Forest Service. The report, *Major Forest Insect and Disease Conditions in the United States: 2011*, shows that damage caused by the mountain pine beetle is on the decline largely because the insect is running out of its favorite food source: lodgepole pine. Acres of forests with dead trees due to the mountain pine beetle declined from 6.8 million acres in 2010 to 3.8 million acres in 2011 in western states.

"Native insects and diseases run in cycles, and right now we are grateful the trend is downward," said U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell. "While the news is good, we are certain to continue to face challenges, such as the effects of climate change and the introduction of invasive species. We must manage our lands across all boundaries to ensure the vitality and health of our natural resources."

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### **What are some examples of ways landowners can manage for aesthetics?**

**Answer:** Forest aesthetics considerations can be incorporated into management planning with little cost to the forest owner. Employing forest aesthetics considerations into the management plan can produce a much more visually appealing experience on the property for owners, their guests and passers-by using nearby public roads. Some examples might include placing log truck-loading zones out of public view, leaving islands of mast or roost trees within harvest areas, including a bend in the entrance road to block view of tract interior and following contour lines and timber type margins with roads and harvest boundaries. Forest owners can access a very good Forest Aesthetics Guide at <http://www.aces.edu/forestry/aesthetics/>.

*American Tree Farm System. Sightline Express. August, 2012*



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Willa Cather  
O Pioneers!

## Rural Living Field Day

Join the West Multnomah, Tualatin and Columbia Soil & Water Conservation Districts and your neighbors at **Rural Living Field Day, Saturday, October 13, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Echo Glen Farms, 15150 NW Echo Glen Lane in North Plains.**

***Experts from a wide variety of non-profit and government agencies will be on hand to teach and answer questions about issues on your land, including forestry, pastures, livestock, wildlife, invasive weeds, and conservation planning.***

This is a wonderful opportunity for you to talk with your neighbors about the issues they face on their properties, learn about the types of conservation projects that have been completed in your neighborhood and discover what might be possible for you and your woods, farm, garden or natural area. You can also learn about the variety of funding sources available for the projects you have in mind.

**Cost is only \$10 per person or \$15 per family. Lunch will be provided.** Lots of information, brochures and guides will be available free of charge. **Registration is required.** Just click "Events" at [www.wmswcd.org](http://www.wmswcd.org) and select the Rural Living Field Day. Please fill out the form and send it in with your check to WMSWCD, 2701 NW Vaughn Street, Ste. 450, Portland, OR, 97210. Call Forest Conservationist Michael Ahr (503/238-4775, ext. 109) or Rural Conservationist Scott Gall (503/238-4775, ext. 105) for more information.

Attendees will choose which classes they wish to attend during each of three sessions during the day. Each session will be led by local resource managers and professionals. Partners for this comprehensive educational event include the Oregon Forest Resources Institute, and the Oregon Small Woodlands Association.

# TREE TALK

by **Bonnie Shumaker**

Bob and I just returned from a week-long trailer trip which of course included staying in some beautiful forested areas. Our first stop was Belknap Hot Springs, a spot often recommended to us, but this was our first time there. The pool was relaxing and the gardens were lovely. Since we travel with two dogs, we are always looking for a good “off-leash” area, and we found it on the Mackenzie River Trail which winds above the river through a beautiful old-growth forest. We walked until the trail touched down at a calm part of the river and the dogs (especially the puppy) reveled in playing in the water.

From this happy start, we traveled to a favorite spot of ours at Camp Sherman on the Metolius River. We were concerned that the fires in Central Oregon might interfere with this part of the trip, and we did have to abort our plan of a day hike to Little Three Creek Lake because the road was closed due to fire, so we stayed around the Metolius. There is a two-mile trail (another dog friendly one) along the Metolius from our campsite that goes almost to the headwaters. Along the trail there is signage about the work of the Metolius Basin Forest Management Project in placing logs in the river and not removing ones that fall in to help improve spawning and feeding grounds for fish. It is recommended that rafters scout out the river before starting their float. There are definitely areas to avoid. This got us thinking about the OFRI sponsored tour we took shortly after the B & B Fire of the summer of 2003. The devastation from this is still clearly evident along the Santiam Highway. The optimistic part of that tour was an introduction to the Metolius Basin Forest Management Project.

The Metolius Basin Forest Management Project was in its infancy at the time of the B & B Fire. It is a collaborative effort between the USFS (Sisters Ranger Station) and citizen groups. The project was approved in July of 2003. There are four project goals:

- Reduce the risk of catastrophic fire, insects and disease
- Protect safety of residents, visitors, firefighters, property, tribal and natural resources
- Restore and protect late-successional (Old Growth) forest conditions
- Protect and restore water quality

This is accomplished by thinning, mowing brush and prescribed fire; protecting stream sides; evaluating the road network; working collaboratively with the community and the forest industry and focusing on what we leave in the forest rather than what we take.

The work is ongoing and it shows. We could see areas that had prescribed burns, as well as thinning efforts and stands that were left purposely untreated. As fires burned not that far from us and the destruction of the B & B fire was still so evident, the Metolius Basin again bolstered my optimistic nature. Let success such as this spread.



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## Logging Debris Matters: Better Soil, Fewer Invasive Plants

Recent field studies by the Pacific Northwest Research Station have determined that keeping logging debris in place improved soil fertility, especially in areas with coarse-textured, nutrient-poor soils. Soil nitrogen and other nutrients, and soil water availability, increased due to the debris' mulching effect. The debris cooled the soil, slowing the breakdown of carbon into the atmosphere. It also helped prevent invasive species such as Scotch broom and trailing blackberry from dominating the sites.

The two research sites which were studied over a five year period were near Matlock, Washington, and Molalla, Oregon. The logging debris retained at the sites was 6 to 12 inches deep.

Bottom line - Retaining logging debris will:

- Conserve water
- Accumulate carbon, nitrogen, and other nutrients
- Improve growing conditions for young trees
- Reduce competition from invasive, non-native plants

Harrington, Slesak, and Schoenholtz

Science Findings, PNW Research, August, 2012



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## Forest Leadership Academy January 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013

By Jim James, OSWA Exec. Dir.

The Partnership for Forestry Education will be hosting the 2013 PNW Forestry Leadership Academy on January 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> at the Oregon Garden Resort in Silverton, Oregon. Partners include Oregon Tree Farm System, Oregon Small Woodland Association, Oregon and Washington Society of American Foresters, Oregon Forest Resource Institute, OSU Forestry & Natural Resource Extension, Cispus Institute, Washington Farm Forestry Association, and Washington Tree Farm Committee. The academy begins with lunch on Friday January 18<sup>th</sup> and concludes at 2:00 pm on Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup>. The program and all meals are included for a registration fee of \$25 for woodland owners, \$75 for forestry students and \$125 for SAF members. Rooms at the Oregon Garden Resort are available at \$69 for a single and \$89 for a double room. Both OSWA and OTFS have scholarships available to cover the cost of rooms. The first 45 OSWA and/or OTFS members to register will receive a scholarship to pay for their lodging. Contact Jen Rains at OSWA ([jenerains@gmail.com](mailto:jenerains@gmail.com)) if you would like to attend and to request the OSWA or OTFS scholarship. The official registration form will be available soon.

## **Kitzhaber Asks For A More Sustainable Forest Strategy**

**By Andy Giegerich**

**Business Journal staff writer**



Kitzhaber wants better coordination for sustainable forest management.

Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber wants the state's Forestry Board to develop "a more sustainable forest management strategy."

Doing so would better meet Oregon's economic, community and conservation goals, Kitzhaber told the Board on Thursday. His presentation included calls for improvements in mill infrastructure, rural community economies and habitat health.

Specifically, Kitzhaber told the board he wants both a stable timber production system while maintaining the environment.

"First, we must view our state forests not in isolation but rather in the context of the larger forest landscape of which they are a part," Kitzhaber told the board. "This means that in addition to the management policies set forth by the Board of Forestry for state lands, we must aggressively pursue the latitude to engage in environmentally sound, active management to restore the health of our federal forest lands."

Kitzhaber wants:

- Stronger environmental performance measures.
- A new "land allocation approach" that provides "certainty for conservation and timber production interests."
- Clearly defined conservation and timber production areas.
- Diversified income streams

***Editors' Note: Oregon forestland is 60% federal, 3% state, 2% tribal and other – and 35% private. Small woodland owners make up almost one-half of the private land (industrial forest land is the other half).***

## **New Study Shows that Fuel Reduction Treatments Pose Little Risk to Forest Ecology**

During the last century, fire suppression and the removal of large trees, among other factors, have increased forest fuels and changed overall forest conditions leading to larger and more severe wildfires in some forests. To reduce the risk and severity of wildfires, fuels treatments, such as prescribed fire and mechanical thinning, are now commonly used to treat stands in order to increase their resiliency to wildfires.

A recent paper in *Bioscience* co-authored by USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station researcher Dr. Chris Fettig and scientists from six universities in the U.S. and Australia have shown that these fuels treatments can, indeed, be implemented with few unintended consequences. The scientists analyzed a broad spectrum of ecological markers, detailing the effects of fuel-reduction treatments on vegetation, soils, wildlife, bark beetles and carbon sequestration, while relying heavily on data from the U.S. Fire and Fire Surrogates Study, in addition to other research.

Key findings include:

- Both prescribed fire and its mechanical “surrogates” are generally successful in meeting short-term fuel-reduction objectives with few unintended consequences.
- Most ecosystem components (vegetation, soils, wildlife, bark beetles, carbon sequestration) exhibit very subtle effects or no measurable effects at all.
- For the first five years after treatment, some birds and small mammals that prefer shady, dense habitat move out of treated areas, while others that prefer more open environments thrive.
- Fuels treatments tend to increase the overall diversity of vegetation.
- An increase in bark beetles, insects that prey on fire-damaged trees, was short-lived and concentrated in the smaller diameter trees. Researchers noted that thinning a dense forest stand improves tree vigor and ultimately increases its resilience to other forest pests.

As a fuel reduction practice, prescribed fire is a useful alternative to wildfire because it is thought to best emulate the natural process it is designed to replace. However, the use of prescribed fire has been constrained by social concerns in many locations, particularly in the western U.S. As a result, fuel reduction “surrogates,” such as forest thinning and mastication, have become attractive, especially if forest managers can use such treatments to accomplish similar stand structure goals as those obtained by prescribed fire.

“A combination of thinning and prescribed fire has been shown to be highly effective for reducing the severity of wildfires in treated stands” says Dr. Fettig. “Furthermore, designing more fire resilient forests will increase their resiliency to changes imposed on them by climate change.”

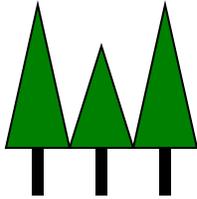
To read the full report, “The Effects of Forest Fuel-Reduction Treatments in the United States,” go to: <http://treesearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/40902>.

***Pacific Southwest Research Station/USDA Forest Service***

Newsletter Editor  
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## ***Forest Forum***



COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE  
OREGON SMALL WOODLANDS  
ASSOCIATION

### **Potpourri**

***New Members*** Welcome to **Cris Sandberg** of Hillsboro (primary membership Columbia County). We are here to help members achieve their management goals. To get the most out of your membership, come to the meetings and tours that are scheduled throughout the year. (You're always invited to the WCSWA meetings!). 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 listed on page 3 of this newsletter.

### ***Boardman Poplar Tour – Sawmill, Plantation***

The Columbia County Small Woodlands Association has graciously invited other woodland association members to a tour they are planning on November 1<sup>st</sup>. The one-day guided tour will be by motor coach, and will feature the **GreenWood- Boardman Tree Farm**. The tour includes the modern sawmill and a box lunch guided tour of the plantations, followed by a **narrated drive through the Port of Morrow** on the way home. (Bring your hard hat). Call or email Jen at OSWA – 503-588-1813 or [jeneraines@gmail.com](mailto:jeneraines@gmail.com). Give her your name(s), address, telephone # and email address. **Make your check out (\$57 per person) to CCSWA** and mail to Paul Nys, 68800 Meissner Rd., Rainier, OR 97048. Deadline is October 15, 2012 or when tour is full. **SPACE IS LIMITED. MAKE YOUR RESERVATION NOW.** (Cost includes transportation, guides, morning refreshments, box lunch, and gratuities).

### ***Tree Farm Recognition Luncheon November 19th***

Time: 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Place: Miller Hall, World Forestry Center  
The workshop will be followed by a brief Oregon Tree Farm System business meeting and then a lunch honoring the County Tree Farmers of the Year. The high point of the day will be the showing of a video featuring all of the county tree farmers of the year and the announcement of the Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year for 2012. The workshop is free and the luncheon cost is \$25 per person. For more information, contact Anne Hanschu, at (503) 357-2551 or e-mail: [netvetrdh@gmail.com](mailto:netvetrdh@gmail.com). Details on program in November Forest Forum.

**Helpful Links:** (<http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/treetopics>) to read Amy Grotta's "Tree Topics" blog.