

# Forest Forum

Washington County Small  
Woodlands Association

November, 2012

## WCSWA Annual Banquet November 17<sup>th</sup>

Our Annual Banquet and award evening is fast approaching. We have a new location this year as well as the day. Here are the details:

**Place:** Meriwether National Golf Club, 5200 SW Rood Bridge Rd. Hillsboro, OR  
**Date and time:** Saturday, November 17

**5:30-6:15 Social time with no-host bar**  
**6:15 Buffet Dinner**  
**7:00 Speaker: Rep. Suzanne Bonamici**

**Don't forget to bring a door prize if you have one to donate! If you haven't sent in your reservation yet, call Beth Adams (503)341-4943.**

Rep. Suzanne Bonamici, 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District, is the featured speaker. Suzanne is a member of the House Budget and Science, Space, and Technology Committees. Congresswoman Bonamici will give an overview of the post-election lame duck session and efforts to avoid sequestration—which has the potential for enormous impacts on Oregon and federal programs that affect forestry and agriculture. She will also cover additional federal legislation—including the Farm Bill, federal land management, and pollution control—and offer her thoughts on how local stakeholders can contribute to shaping and advocating for bills related to the small woodlands industry

Following her remarks, she looks forward to a lively Q&A session with attendees.

## Panel Discusses Woodland Security Issues



*Left to right: Darlene Schnoor, Sgt. Mike Alexander, Dep. Walt Monk with WCSWA acting president, Vic Herinckx*

At the October 23<sup>rd</sup> WCSWA meeting at the North Plains Fire Station, representatives of the Washington County law enforcement team presented information on security issues for small woodland owners.

Darlene Schnoor, crime prevention specialist, explained the Neighborhood Watch Program which is a national program to partner with law enforcement by being the eyes and ears of law enforcement. By noticing suspicious activity or anything out of the ordinary and reporting to the police, this program acts to minimize or prevent crime and also helps in disaster preparedness. It was emphasized that you should not confront or question suspects, detain or arrest - stay safe. Instead, call 911 for emergencies or the non-emergency number (503)629-0111 for Washington County.

A Neighborhood Watch Program for your area can be started by contacting Darlene Schnoor (503)846-2774.

See "Security" on page 4

The Washington County Sheriff's Office gave us a nice presentation on keeping our woodlands safe at the last chapter meeting. How about keeping yourselves safe while working on your tree farm?

There are lots of potential hazards if you are actively working in your woods and it's important to keep an eye or two towards safety. The timber and wildfire management industries have extensive training programs on timber falling, hazard trees, situational awareness, and other dangers, yet many of us have and will learn "on the job" without the benefit of professional mentoring or instruction.

If you Google "ohsu faller safety", you will find this article that outlines safety considerations for timber falling.

[http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/research/centers-institutes/croet/outreach/or-face/publications/upload/FallerSafety\\_web\\_rev\\_Feb08.pdf](http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/research/centers-institutes/croet/outreach/or-face/publications/upload/FallerSafety_web_rev_Feb08.pdf)

The article states that in Oregon between 2003 and 2005, timber falling was by far the most hazardous occupation in the state, resulting in 258 fatalities per 100,000 workers where the average rate for all workers was 4 per 100,000 workers. Also documented are some examples during that time period where, in spite of mostly proper safety procedures, experienced professionals have had their lives cut short in the woods due to the following causes:

- Saw vibrations while bucking and de-limbing cause a nearby snag top to fall
- Dead tree top hitting a danger tree and snapping back
- Cutting a tree supporting a hung-up tree
- Falling a tree into a snag and the snag springing back
- Tree kickback into faller (2 cases)
- Cutting through the hinge
- Unexpected entry into a falling zone
- Tree falling in the wrong direction (2 cases)

While some of these are obvious bad practices others can be attributed to complacency or bad luck. All but two of these loggers were 45+ years old, most with plenty of experience. What are the key lessons? First, snag trees are very dangerous – more reason to leave them alone and call them wildlife trees. Second, improper falling technique may cause the tree to fall in an unexpected direction or into a hazard tree. Third, plan and use an escape route to get well away from the butt of a falling tree.

The dangers are not limited to tree fallers. Just a few weeks ago a worker at Mary's River Lumber in Philomath cut off his arm above the elbow. The investigation is ongoing but the questions are the same ones you should be thinking about with your bulldozers, tractors, trailers, Farmi-winchies, ATV's, saws, sawmills, wood-splitters and the like. Is the equipment maintained properly? Do you know the design constraints and is the equipment being used in a safe manner? Are safety mechanisms like roll-over protection, seat belts, chain braking systems, trailer brakes and anti-sway bars in place? Are you working beyond the limits of your equipment and skill level? Is that voice in your head saying this may not be a good idea?

Tree farm safety is a lot of common sense combined with the wisdom and experience to recognize and know how to avoid unsafe conditions.

Stay safe in your woods!

Vic Herinckx

## WCSWA Leadership

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

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

**bshumaker@coho.net**

### Board of Directors:

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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)*

**For Sale: Craftsman 6-1/8 inch Jointer/Planer with stand.** 2 hp. Little used. Excellent condition. \$350. Call (503)324-7825.

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**Someone experienced in social media** to advise on how to further promote WCSWA's 2013 Native Plant Sale. Call Bonnie at (503)324-7825.

## Event Calendar

November	17		<b>WCSWA Annual Banquet</b> – 5:30 p.m., Meriwether National Golf Club.
	19		<b>Oregon Tree Farm System Annual Meeting</b> See page 12 for details.
December	8		<b>No regular WCSWA meeting</b> <b>Winter Wonderland at Miller Woods</b> , 10:00am, sponsored by Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District, <a href="mailto:admin@yamhillswcd.org">admin@yamhillswcd.org</a> or 503-472-7403
January	22		<b>WCSWA Monthly Meeting</b>

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**“Security”, continued from page 1**

Deputy Walt Monk works for the DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration). His main concern in the woodlands of Washington County is illegal marijuana grows. These can be hidden on private property. The ones of most concern can be large and dangerous and run by Mexican drug cartels. The scenario runs like this: In April, crews come in to limb trees up to 10 feet to allow enough light for the plants. In May-June, the planters will move in, typically four men who live there and tend the plants until harvest in August/September by which time the plants may be eight feet tall.

Landowners can be alerted to a marijuana grow by observing plastic tubing which can run for over a mile to supply water to the plants. Other signs are heavily used trails, garbage or piles of plastic tubing. If you see anything suspicious, back out and call it in. This is for your safety and also allows the DEA to work the site for evidence, use cameras and eradicate the site.

Sargent Michael Alexander heads up operations for Western Washington County. He introduced two deputies who help him out. He emphasized that landowners should call in any suspicious or unlawful activity so that patterns can be addressed. Don't be afraid to call!



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**TAKE A BITE OUT OF  
CRIME**

At the WCSWA meeting on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, Darlene Schnoor, Crime Prevention Specialist, talked about a "Reverse 911" program that would inform citizens to crime alerts in their neighborhood. Here is the website for more information or to sign up.

<http://www.wccca.com/PublicAlerts/>



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He must be alert when the past is unfolding at the rate of approximately twenty-five years a minute. He must stop his machine before the edge of its keen blade has been dulled on History."

*Quoted from the book, "Far Corner", by Stewart H. Holbrook*

## Oregon forest sector poised to rebound

See [TheForestReport.org](http://TheForestReport.org)

"The 2012 Forest Report – An Economic Assessment of Oregon's Forest and Wood Products Manufacturing Sector" updates a similar study by OFRI in 2004. The current report provides a snapshot of the forest sector's status and capacity. It examines the sector's supply and demand factors, as well as its operating environment. The report makes five recommendations:

- **Reshape federal policies for federally managed forests** – Current policies evolved from controversy and litigation, not sound forestry. Without a stable, dependable supply of public timber, more mills will close and forest health will continue to decline.
- **Pursue markets overseas** – A consortium of state and industry leaders could create momentum for finished wood products that would benefit the sector throughout the state.
- **Defend Oregon's Forest Practices Act** – The Oregon's Forest Practices Act works. It keeps forests healthy and timber flowing, which encourages private forest ownership and stewardship. Changes to regulations should be based on science and local conditions, not on political compromise.
- **Keep the forest sector a priority** – The forest sector can continue being a significant part of Oregon's economy, especially in rural areas. Keeping it a state priority encourages investment in mills and other infrastructure.
- **Develop "ecosystem services"** – State leaders can address how to monetize ecosystem services such as wetland mitigation banks, biodiversity, cold water production and carbon sequestration.

At nearly 200 pages, The 2012 Forest Report is the most exhaustive look at the forest sector in nearly a decade. A summary of the report is available at [TheForestReport.org](http://TheForestReport.org), and the full report can be downloaded from the website.

# TREE TALK

by Bonnie Shumaker

In last month's Forest Forum, Tom Nygren referenced a study by the Pacific Northwest Research Station that determined that keeping logging debris in place improved soil fertility. I also read this edition of "Science Findings" and had a question for the scientists. Following is the email exchange I had with the scientists:

*Bonnie:* I am a small woodland owner in Oregon and read your article on logging debris and its influence on improving soil and discouraging invasive plants. The study covered 2 years and 5 years and showed positive results on both issues. My question to you is what would be the results if the logging debris was left until the "fines" (mostly the needles) dropped off and then the larger branches removed to make planting easier while staying within the 2 year replanting deadline of the Oregon Forest Practices Act? It seems that the positive results you showed in the 2-5 year period must have been from these "fines" that drop off. In my experience, it takes many years for the branches to compost into the soil.

*Tim Harrington:* *Based on the various studies we have conducted in this area, here is my understanding of the mechanisms:*

- *The enhancement to the soil from debris seems to be driven mostly by its shading and mulching effects, which moderate temperature and reduce evaporation and probably help to accelerate root decomposition. That is what we believe is the source of added carbon, and possibly also nitrogen.*
- *In one of the studies, we added only small wood that was 2-5 "in diameter. We did not add any needles, and yet we still saw the increases in soil carbon and nitrogen. And as you point out, the wood does not break down for years, so it is not the source of the additional carbon and nitrogen.*
- *The benefit to growth of newly planted Douglas-fir (not described in the Science Findings) appears to result from a shift in competing vegetation from herb-dominated species (particularly non-natives like woodland groundsel, oxeye daisy, and spotted catsear) to native shrubs and vines. The native woody species are, at least initially, less competitive with planted seedlings because they are coming from existing rootstocks damaged from the logging. Their recovery is slow. In contrast, the herbs are completing their life cycle each year and consuming all of the easily available soil water, and probably much of the available nitrogen, too.*
- *The needles may provide a source of readily available nitrogen to stimulate growth of planted seedlings, but the additional nitrogen probably does not become available until year 2 or later.*
- *There is another benefit of debris not yet mentioned: it reduces browse from deer and elk by providing cover (i.e., a hiding place) for the seedlings.*

*I do not support the idea of waiting to plant seedlings until the debris has broken down some. All of the reforestation data I've seen indicates that plantation performance is best when you:*

1. *Leave some debris to keep out herbaceous and other opportunist invasive species! In other words, don't clean up the site!*
2. *Finish the logging by May or earlier so that vegetation has time to recover from the disturbance.*
3. *Conduct vegetation control (herbicide site preparation) in mid to late summer; the treatment will work best if the vegetation has had time to recover.*
4. *Plant large, vigorous seedlings (large caliper 5 mm or greater; many large buds and branches; large fibrous root system) through the debris as soon as possible in the following winter (probably it is best to plant no earlier than January; November and December plantings are not always better because day length is decreasing during these months).*
5. *Stand back and watch them grow! You've done everything right to this point.*

*I hope these ideas are helpful. Thanks again for your thoughts.*

Bonnie:

Tim and Robert – Thank you for your prompt reply and insights. I knew there was more to ponder. It would seem that the down side to leaving debris is fire danger, and ease in re-planting. In a tour we attended on a Port Blakely tree farm, it was recommended to leave as much slash as possible, but to keep it no more than one foot high because of fire danger. Another consideration is the trend in logging to take the whole tree out of the forest and de-limb it by the landing.

In our location (NW Oregon-Washington County), it is not possible for small landowners to harvest before May due to the cost vs. profit of rocking roads and our rainy spring. Steve Bowers of OSU Extension has a good paper on this. So our harvest is done in summer or early fall with re-planting done the next winter. In our case, we prefer to apply herbicide in a 5 foot diameter circle using a meter jet sprayer after planting. I know that a more broad-based herbicide is recommended before planting, but this seems to work for us and solves the summer/fall harvest problem. We do use large caliper seedlings, Vernonia Elite, now Vernonia Ultra. The seed is supplied by OSU and grown at Lewis River Reforestation.

Your paper and email discussion make me think messy is good, but maybe not too messy due to fire concerns and being able to walk around and re-plant. Now I just need to figure out how to do this.

## US Forest Service proposes to streamline land management process

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Forest Service today published in the Federal Register a proposed regulation that will improve the administrative review process for proposed projects and activities implementing land management plans.

The proposed rule is posted online: <http://1.usa.gov/PSepc5>.

The proposed rule for an objections process will be applied to all projects and activities that implement land management plans requiring an environmental analysis or environmental impact statement. The publication of the proposed rule will provide a 30-day public comment opportunity. All comments received will be considered before a final rule is published.

"This proposal will result in better, more informed project decisions, better documentation of environmental effects of agency proposals, and reduced regulation for administrative reviews," said US Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell.

The Forest Service has used a predecisional objection process for hazardous fuel reduction projects since 2004. This year Congress directed the Forest Service to also establish a predecisional objection process for other projects in lieu of the post-decisional appeal procedures in use with those projects since 1993.

*From Capital City Weekly, Oct. 17, 2012*





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### New Online Tree Guide

OFRI has developed an interactive website that covers 27 tree species native to Oregon. Each species includes a photo, distribution, history, management and uses. See: [oregonforests.org/content/tree-variety](http://oregonforests.org/content/tree-variety)

from Amy Grotta's *Tall Timber Topics*,  
Fall 2012



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Questions: call Don Scott, 503-359-5983

### Political Leaders Seek Fire Solution

Capital Press, October 27, 2012

BOISE – One of Idaho's worst fire seasons has resulted in the state's governor and timber industry reminding people that forest thinning and grazing can be valuable tools to help control fires.

More than 1.73 million acres have burned in Idaho this year, far more than the 384,000 acres that burned last year and the 613,000, 22,000 and 116,000 totals recorded the three years prior to 2011.

Because of the severity of Idaho's 2012 fire season, the Idaho Forest Products Commission has started a "Thin the Threat" campaign to let people know something can be done to reduce fuel buildup in forests and on rangeland.

Gov. Butch Otter said 2012 will go down as one of the state's worst fire seasons. He points out that 93 percent of the acres burned were on land owned and managed by the federal government.

In a recent op-ed piece, he blamed the situation on federal laws and policies that prevent activities such as logging and grazing in many areas.

"The existing approach to managing these lands and the fires on them is unacceptable," he said. "It's time for a new dialogue and a new approach to federal land management."



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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.

# Rural Crime Prevention

Many people imagine that life in the county is free from crime. In fact, rural law enforcement agencies are receiving more calls than ever before. Theft is one the biggest problems. Your Washington County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Team would like for you to learn more about how you can prevent rural crime.

## The Four Zone System

Zone 1: Boundary Security - Your first line of defense.

- Post warnings
- Use effective gates and locks
- Secure fences

Zone 2: Outlying Security - areas not visible from home or office.

- Keep all non-essential tools and equipment out of these areas
- Try not to leave equipment in an outlying area
- If you must, position it in such a way that is not visible from a road,
- Always remove the keys from power equipment when not in use.
- If possible, disable equipment by removing a distributor cap, rotor, tire, battery
- Secure equipment with heavy chains and case hardened locks.
- Protect batteries with lockable cases
- Gas can be secured with the use of locking gas caps
- Mark equipment in at least two places - This will help law enforcement in recovery

Timber - Very attractive to thieves

Make a record of your most valuable trees

Mark them with permanent paint using your own identification mark

Let neighbors know when timber is ready to be harvested; together you can be more aware of unexplained activity such as chain saw noise.

Zone 3: Central Work Area - the center of your operation and filled with many tempting targets

Visibility is the best defense in both daylight and at night.

Landscape should not obstruct view from key locations as the house.

Keep prime targets like fuel tanks visible to you but not from the road. Underground is better.

When equipment isn't in use, store it out of view in a barn or shed.

Gasoline and diesel theft - Common in rural areas

- The single most important thing you can do is lock your fuel tank
- Have a well-trained watch dog – Consult your insurance agent regarding liability

Zone 4: Central Storage Area - Make it as difficult as possible for an intruder to get in

- Door hinges – Mount on the inside if possible; if outside, make sure pin cannot be removed
- Reinforce the doorjamb with steel. Strike plates should be installed with 3-inch screws
- You can secure overhead rolling doors with a lock in the track
- Heavy screens and bars offer the greatest security. Use commercial lock on sliding windows

Operation Identification - Effective in recovering property; Instrumental in convicting thieves

ID Numbering System – Example: Driver's license

- Mark all tools, parts, equipment and supplies
- Keep a complete record of your marked property
- This is also a valuable record for insurance purposes
- Photographed or videotaped records further strengthen your documentation

Vehicle Theft Prevention

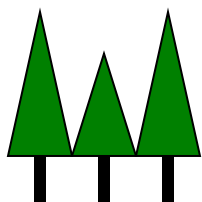
- Always lock your doors - This is good practice whether you are inside or outside the vehicle
- Never leave valuables in your vehicle such as power tools.
- If you use a toolbox, secure it with a heavy padlock

The Four Zone Prevention System provides you a useful approach to securing your personal property. If you do experience theft or vandalism, call the

Sheriff's Office immediately. The non-emergency number for Washington County is (503)629-0111

The above information is supplied by the Washington County Sheriff's Office and has been edited for space. To get the entire document, contact Darlene Schnoor, (503)846-2774 or online at [www.co.washington.or.us/sheriff](http://www.co.washington.or.us/sheriff)

## **Forest Forum**



COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE  
OREGON SMALL WOODLANDS  
ASSOCIATION

### **Potpourri**

**New Members** Welcome to Christopher Morse, Bernadette Strand and Todd Kuether. 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..

**WCSWA Roster Corrections:** In the August issue of Forest Forum, there was a member roster for 2012. In spite of using what we thought was the most up-to-date information, there were some errors. Please check the roster to see if your name, address, phone and email address are correct. If not, please let Tom Nygren know so he can publish a list of corrections next month. Tom can be reached at [tnygre@juno.com](mailto:tnygre@juno.com) or (503)628-5472.

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

Time: 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Place: Miller Hall, World Forestry Center  
The workshop (Ties to the Land) 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).

**Looking for a Good Read?** In the October, 2012 issue of "Loggers' World," a book was suggested in the Rigging Shack Classic article (originally published in October, 1973 by Finley Hays. Finley had high praise for the book, "Far Corner, A Personal View of the Pacific Northwest," by Stewart H. Holbrook. The book was published in 1952 and chronicles Holbrook's pioneering days in the Pacific Northwest beginning in the 1920's. He covers the growth of cities (and their demise), small villages, myths, forests and his time spent in logging camps. His chapter on "The Changing Forest" is of particular interest.

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