

# Forest Forum

Washington County Small  
Woodlands Association

October, 2013

## Schroeder Seed Orchard Tour



Larry Miller, Oregon State Geneticist, guided our group of 15 hardy souls on a windy and rainy Saturday on September 29<sup>th</sup>. Schroeder Seed Orchard in St. Paul has been operating for the Oregon Department of Forestry since 1973. A large percentage of the Douglas-fir seed grown in Oregon comes from here. Western Red Cedar and Valley Pine seed are also grown. Additionally, Schroeder manages some orchard plots for timber companies according to their specifications. Six percent of seed is set aside each year for small woodland owners to purchase at a reduced rate.

### Raingear and eager minds absorb information

resulting seedlings are available to WCSWA members for planting through our seedling sale

WCSWA buys this improved seed to be grown at Lewis River Tree Nursery. The

A seed orchard uses classical plant breeding to develop improved seed. The basics of seed orchard management are to have a plantation of selected clones or progenies which is isolated or managed to avoid or reduce pollination from outside sources and managed to produce frequent, abundant and easily harvested crops of seed.

The process can be divided into research and development, and production. The R&D incorporates progeny testing which uses replicated field trials to determine the genetic worth of parent selections by the performance of the children. At ages 7 and 12, performance is measured for height, volume and form (sinuosity, forks and epicormic or sucker branches).

See "Seeds", page 6

## October 22 Meeting, "Fun in the Forest" 7:00pm – North Plains Fire Station

WCSWA's October meeting will focus on ways to have fun in your woods. There will be three speakers, including Jennifer Nelson from the Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District. She will talk on recreation practices and how to protect plants, water quality and wildlife as well as the TSWCD's recent activities. Look for more information on our Facebook page in coming weeks - see the link on the back page of this newsletter.

## WCSWA Leadership

**Co-Presidents – John and Cathy Dummer, 503-970-8789**  
 cannbuckley@hotmail.com

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

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

**WCSWA Website**

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

**Website Manager: Lia Boyarshinova**

Contact Tom Nygren or Bonnie Shumaker for web postings and information.

**Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/WashingtonCountySmallWoodlandsAssociation>

**Forest Forum Newsletter**

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Distribution: Doug Eddy and his Team

### 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)*

**Wanted: WCSWA NEEDS YOU!** To join the Native Tree and Plant Sale Planning Committee, call Bonnie Shumaker at 503-324-7825 or email at [bshumaker@coho.net](mailto:bshumaker@coho.net)

**LOCAL NURSERY** looking for a place to dig Sword Fern this winter. Would prefer to work with a local, small woodland owner as this has worked out well in the past. Please give Endre a call at 503 516-9129 for more information.

**For Sale: Got something to sell?**

## Event Calendar

<b>October</b>	<b>22</b>	7 pm	<b>Fun in the Forest</b> , North Plains Fire Station. See article on page 1
<b>November</b>	<b>23</b>	5:30 – 9 pm	<b>Annual WCSWA Banquet</b> , Meriwether National Golf Course. See enclosed flier for information and to send in your registration
	<b>25</b>	9:00am – 2:00pm	<b>American Tree Farm System Annual Meeting</b> , World Forestry Center, see article, page 11

## THE WOODLAND BEAT

With the help of John's nephew Thomas Perkins, who frequently spends time at his grandpa's small woodland and is a budding artist, we thought we'd try something that might engage the next generation, educate and get a chuckle or two. Enjoy!



This is Duggy Fir. Now, Duggy was a douglas-fir tree, as are Christmas Trees. He has green needles that stay green all year round. He lives in a dense Oregon forest with other trees.



On a late autumn day, Duggy was scoffing at an oak tree. "Why are your leaves brown and ugly?" Duggy asked. "My fir needles never brown, and yet your leaves turn color and fall off you."

"I'm a deciduous tree," said Orion the Oak. "My leaves just do that naturally. I don't know why."



Orion continued, "Besides, children love to play in my fallen leaves, and once the artist who comes up here to paint us called me 'visually attractive' for my different colors."

"Well," replied Duggy, "I like staying green all year". "Maybe green is the ugly color!" remarked Orion. "I say-"



"SILENCE!" called a familiar voice. The artist was standing and watching these two trees fight. "You're both beautiful in your own way. I like painting both of you and all other trees."

**Happy Small Woodlanding!  
John and Cathy Dummer**

## 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.

### ADVERTISING RATES (PRICE INCLUDES TYPESETTING & AD PREP)

YES! I want to advertise in the WCSWA Forest Forum. Ad size: \_\_\_\_\_

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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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**“Stewardship – leaving the land better than you found it – and passion for what you’re doing are the keys.”**  
 John Burke, Virginia tree farmer who inspired the article, “Turning a Logging Deck into Wildlife Habitat”



**Bags of cones drying at Schroeder Seed Orchard. 35,000 seeds/lb. for douglas-fir**



**Mature seed tree showing girdling marks**



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## The Importance of Sharing

*From Tree Topics, September/October 2013*

*By Brad Winthrow-Robinson, OSU Extension Forester*

I was visiting recently with Dave Thompson (Polk Co. Stewardship Forester) talking about the surge in harvest this spring and summer. This is no surprise, given the long-awaited rise in log prices. Dave thought many family forest landowners, including many first time sellers, were able to catch the wave and sell some logs at good prices this year, not just the large companies. Dave remarked that he's likely to be busy making planting inspections in the next couple years and a bunch more "free to grow" checks several years after that. It had us both thinking "I hope people remember the basics".

My point is, successful planting and establishment is neither mysterious, nor rocket science. Success comes from understanding some basic principles (well-understood), and by paying attention to details. It is my observation that experience is also a very helpful ingredient. This does not mean everyone has to suffer the same setbacks, nor re-invent the wheel. Happily, experience and knowledge can be shared. So, if you are an "old hand" offer to share some of what you learned with a neighbor starting out. If you are new to planting trees, don't be shy. Try to avail yourself of the knowledge and experience of others. It could save you years.

### *Editor's note:*

The above information is very important and one of the reasons an OSWA membership and attendance at WCSWA meetings and tours are helpful. At each meeting, in addition to a speaker, we have informative literature and "Got Forest?" cards for you to take home and hand out to neighbors or friends. Let's spread the word and share our experiences as Brad suggests.



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**Answers to last month's crossword**

For those of you who worked the educational crossword in the "Woodland Beat" last month and want to check your answers – here they are:

**Across:**

1. Three
2. Essential
3. Grant
4. March
5. Seedling
6. Thirty-three

**Down:**

1. Resources
2. Profit
3. Gold Statue
4. Potluck
5. Seedling

**"Seeds" from page 1**

Clones are taken from selected trees and grafted onto compatible rootstock. Clones are small (4-6") cuttings taken from the desired parent. Don Copes is the scientist credited with developing rootstock that will take a graft, a difficult and vital step. Detailed records are kept for each grafted tree. Grafting can be done either in the greenhouse or field, with most done in the greenhouse. When the trees in the orchard are young, drip irrigation is used. Cone and seed insects are controlled with helicopter spaying, and a crop of glyphosate-resistant (classically bred) hard fescue produces an excellent, low growing cover crop between rows of trees.

Production starts at age 7, the earliest that the trees will produce measurable seed. Seed production is enhanced by "double overlapping partial girdling", a process which stresses the tree, but does not kill it. The tree is girdled just through the cambium layer part way around and then again a few inches higher around the other side. These stressed trees react by producing cones. The different blocks of trees at the Schroeder Seed Orchard are girdled and "cropped" for seed every two years and adjacent blocks are cropped on different years to help keep the pollination truer within the block. Peak production for cones is between 12 and 18 years. Blocks are replaced when better genetics are available.

The genetically improved seed can increase a tree farm's volume per acre by 10 – 20 percent. There was much more information than can fit in this newsletter. Larry Miller welcomes any questions or comments.

Larry Miller, Geneticist  
Phone: 503-945-7389  
Email: [lmiller@odf.state.or.us](mailto:lmiller@odf.state.or.us)

# TREE TALK

by *Bonnie Shumaker*



I had to share this photo we took at Pictured Rocks, Munising, Michigan. It is a white pine and I'm guessing it has a very tight ring count. Not only is it seemingly planted in rock, but the rock has been mostly washed away by water and weather, so that the roots had to seek nourishment elsewhere.

I remember a lesson from my Master Gardener's course years ago stating that a plant's roots do not gravitate toward water; you have to be sure the water gets to the roots where they are. I'm sure this is valuable information, but try telling it to this white pine!

Tree farmers need to understand and embrace patience and perseverance. There are years to wait and obstacles to surmount while a forest matures. This white pine reminds us of that lesson. Below are quotations from some famous people that speak of patience and perseverance. They are valuable, too, but a more familiar adage for whom the origin is unknown, "a picture speaks a thousand words," probably says it best.

"Water is fluid, soft & yielding but water will wear away rock, which is rigid and cannot yield ... what is soft is strong."

— Lao Tzu

"When you reach the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on."

— Abraham Lincoln

"Knowing trees, I understand the meaning of patience. Knowing grass, I can appreciate persistence."

— Hal Borland



## Looking for direction?

Find the help you need at [KnowYourForest.org](http://KnowYourForest.org)

Learn how to ...

- keep your forest healthy
- improve wildlife habitat
- reduce wildfire risk
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KnowYourForest.org was created in cooperation with the Partnership for Forestry Education, a collaboration of state, federal and private forestry organizations.



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*Questions: call Don Scott, 503-359-5983*



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**Turning a Log Deck into a Wildlife Habitat**

An article in the ATFS Tree Farmer Bulletin suggested rather than leaving the land required for log decks unutilized until the next harvest, it might be better to remove the debris, loosen the soil and plant cover crops. The article stated NRCS might be a source for financial assistance, so I called our local office and talked to Amy Fisher. She agreed to research the idea, and I received the following from Amy Grotta.

**Developed by Jim Bottorff, wildlife biologist for Washington Dept. of Natural Resources (now retired)**  
**Wildlife Forage Seed Mixes**

Several mixes of legumes and grasses will increase wildlife forage on disturbed sites such as logging roads, landings, and slash-burn sites. They supply forage to big and small game species while reducing erosion on road cuts.

**WEST SIDE-Shade Mix**

Species Pounds/acre-22 lb. /acre total  
Fine Fescue 17

Big Trefoil 2  
Annual Rye Grass 1  
White Dutch or  
Subterranean clover 2

**Clear-Cut Areas – 20 lb. /acre total**

Perennial Rye Grass 2  
Annual Rye Grass 2  
Orchard Grass (dwarf is available) 4  
Fescue 1  
Yellow Sweet Clover 4  
White Dutch or Subterranean Clover 2  
Birdsfoot Trefoil 5



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## New Booklet for High Schoolers Highlights Forest-Sector Careers

As part of its work to recruit bright Oregon students into the forest sector, the Oregon Forest Resources Institute has just published a fully updated and redesigned careers guide.

Titled "Find Your Path," the guide profiles 19 men and women working in forest-related jobs in Oregon, from a journeyman millwright in Tillamook to a forest economist in Portland. The profiles describe what each person does and how they got where they are. Also profiled are a firefighter, foresters, an engineer, an ecologist, loggers and a wildlife biologist.

"With an aging workforce and many boomers set to retire over the next decade, we are in a pitched battle with other sectors for tomorrow's talent," said OFRI Executive Director Paul Barnum. "It's up to the entire sector to get the word out about rewarding careers in forest-related occupations, including the skilled and professional jobs that will be needed in logging, forestry and manufacturing."

*Free copies of "Find Your Path" are available at [OregonForests.org](http://OregonForests.org).*

Related to this, it is encouraging to note that the Oregon Legislature this year passed Senate Bill 498 which expends \$7,500,000 to the Department of Education for the purpose of awarding grants under the Career and Technical Education Revitalization Grant Program. It might be wise to see if your local high school has applied for one of these grants.



[www.ForestSeedlingNetwork.com](http://www.ForestSeedlingNetwork.com)

Bob McNitt, Forester

[bob@forestseedlingnetwork.com](mailto:bob@forestseedlingnetwork.com)  
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Interactive website that connects forest landowners with seedling growers,  
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## New Publications

EM 9063-E, Identifying and Managing Mountain Beaver Damage to Forest Resources (Available only online)  
<http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/1957/41675/em9063.pdf>

EM 9064, Growing Your Peer Learning Network — Tools and Tips from Women Owning Woodlands Network  
[http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/em/em9064\\_toc.pdf](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/em/em9064_toc.pdf)

## Oregon Tree Farm System Annual Meeting

The Oregon Tree Farm System along with partners Oregon Small Woodland Association, Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Forest Resource Institute, OSU Forestry & Natural Resources Extension, and U.S. Forest Service will hold their Annual Meeting, Workshop, and Recognition Luncheon on **Monday, November 25th**. The location is Cheatham and Miller Halls at the World Forestry Center in Portland. This year's workshop is from 9:00 – 11:00am and will focus on Forest Management Planning Tools.

Amy Grotta (OSU Extension), Jim Cathcart (ODF), and Mike Cloughesy (OFRI) will present the latest tools available to assist landowners in preparing a forest management plan. The workshop is free.

OTFS will recognize the 2013 Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year. The cost of the awards luncheon is \$25. Registration is required and requested by November 20<sup>th</sup>. Call (503) 357-2551 or email: [netvetrdh@gmail.com](mailto:netvetrdh@gmail.com) to register

# Using foliar herbicides: Getting the bang for your buck

*from Tree Topics, September/October 2013, Brad Withrow-Robinson*

In recent entries in this series on the basics of herbicide use in weed control, I have reviewed how some foliar herbicides work, and the relationship between the plant's physiology and the herbicides' behavior. Now I want to illustrate how that information translates to what gets done in the woods, looking at controlling blackberries, a frequent target of foliar herbicides.

Confronted by this situation (and assuming for this example it is a pre-plant, site preparation situation), many people begin by spraying the vigorously growing berries in the spring. Or by mowing them down in the summer, then starting to spray them when they reemerge later that year with glyphosate or triclopyr. Yes, it sure improves the looks of the place, and often seems to solve the problem for a while...but it is not generally a highly effective approach. The roots are not killed and the plants soon come charging back.

Why do these treatments not work very well? There are two issues involved here: timing and coverage. Let's begin with timing. As discussed previously, foliar herbicides need to be carried down to the roots to kill the plant. In the spring and after a disturbance like mowing, the plant is pushing reserves up to support growth rather than stockpiling them. Spraying a translocated herbicide (such as glyphosate or triclopyr) at that time tends to kill the tops, but not the roots.

Now let's talk about the target. To be effective, you need to get enough herbicide absorbed by the plant to kill it. Mowing has some clear advantages, but reduces the target. The plant has a much smaller canopy, fewer leaves, so less surface area to catch and absorb the herbicide. But the roots are still about the same size, so you get a much smaller relative dose carried to the roots. Spring spraying generally burns the top without killing the plant. Think of it as "chemical mowing". Like mechanical mowing this makes subsequent sprays later in the season less effective than they might be.

So what are the alternatives? Generally, your first chance is your best chance. Make it count. Take advantage of timing and coverage. Avoid mowing berries before you spray and spray when the blackberry plant will do some of the work for you and carry the herbicide to the roots. For triclopyr that is probably from flowering to the first frost. For glyphosate, there is a narrower window in the late summer and fall.

"But my blackberries are much too big for that!" you say. Probably not. A blackberry patch is often really many small patches, with some paths and alleyways. And besides, a surprisingly large patch can be treated from the edges with a wand and a small ATV-mounted sprayer, or even a back pack sprayer and an adjustable nozzle. Stand up on an ATV or truck, or lay a couple 2x12 down in the patch to help you reach farther in. This way you can take advantage of the surface area there, and get good spray coverage on the leaves when it can be most effective. You can mow dead canes the following spring to give better access, but allow a full summer for re-growth before treating again, to allow them to build target and begin translocating downward. You can also treat plants at the center of the patch you could not reach the first time. This way you are using both the plant's physiology and the herbicide's activity to your best advantage, improving the effectiveness of the spray and also reducing the time, effort and amount of chemical used.

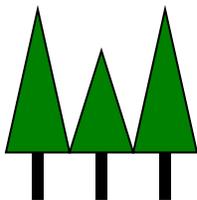
I hope this gives you some useful insights to the effective use of herbicides, should you choose to use them. The attention given to herbicides in this series does not indicate an advocacy for their use. I'll continue this series later in the year. Many thanks to Bruce Kelpsas and Ed Peachy for their help and review of this series.

More articles from "Tree Topics" on use of herbicides can be acquired by using "Helpful Links" on page 12.

Newsletter Editor  
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## Forest Forum



COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE  
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### Potpourri

**New Members** Welcome to Eldon Boge of Hillsboro. 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 2 of this newsletter.

**Check out this video:** Sam Hagglund is a recently returned Peace Corps Volunteer who worked in Zambia on Forestry/Agriculture. His parents are the co-presidents of the Yamhill County Chapter. This video is one he brought to the attention of the Yamhill County members, and it is worth passing along. It tells an interesting story about forestry in Zambia <http://vimeo.com/59481411>

**Temporary web address change:** Due to issues with our web host, we need to temporarily change our web address to: [www.wcswa.com](http://www.wcswa.com). After January 1, 2014, we should be able to return to [www.wcswa.org](http://www.wcswa.org). I have asked OSWA to change the link on their website, too.

**WCSWA Now On Facebook** Here's the link:  
<https://www.facebook.com/WashingtonCountySmallWoodlandsAssociation>

### **Helpful Links:**

<http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/treetopics> to read Amy Grotta and Brad Winthrow-Robinson's "Tree Topics" blog.  
[www.orwoodlandco-op.com](http://www.orwoodlandco-op.com) to learn about the Oregon Woodland Cooperative