

Forest Forum

Washington County Small
Woodlands Association

November, 2013



Fun in the Forest Speakers: Tom Dummer, Jennifer Nelson, Melina Neville

Fun in the Forest

For many of us, fun in the forest involves things like cutting firewood, planting trees, or removing invasives or unwanted brush. We fail to understand why others in our family look at us like we are crazy for enjoying what looks to them like a lot of work.

At the October 22nd WCSWA meeting, we had a trio of speakers who advised us on the ins and outs of actually “playing” in the woods.

Jennifer Nelson represents the Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District. The goal of TSWCD is to conserve, protect and enhance natural resources in the watershed. She delivered a message on the responsibility of everyone to protect water, soil, air, wildlife, and the environment while having fun in the forest. Some important points:

- Keep away from riparian areas when building trails or locating campsites
- Regarding invasive species: Don't hike in the weeds, be a weed watcher (report weeds to oregoninvasivespecies.org) and remove seeds from pants, pets and pickups at trailhead
- Regarding threatened species: Celebrate and monitor wildlife, adhere to hunting and fishing rules and provide a variety of habitat on your tree farm. One example: Downed woody debris is a boon to mason bees
- Regarding air quality: Reduce reliance on vehicles, avoid disturbing new tree growth, and leave forest products in place. If you harvest understory plants, be sure to do so sustainably

TSWCD is available for site visits, to help with conservation plans and offer technical and project assistance. You can find out more at www.swcd.net.

Melina Neville introduced us to fun in the forest that most of us have not done since we were kids – tree climbing. Recreational tree climbing happens all over the world and easy and safe specialty gear has been invented. You can climb with either a double or single rope technique. There are even tree boats or tree hammocks for resting in after you've climbed up high. Basic safety involves knowing that not all trees should be climbed, inspecting the canopy and trunk, and looking for bee nests and poison ivy. For more information and great pictures see:

www.treeclimbing.com; www.treeclimbingplanet.com; www.treeclimbingjp.com;
www.ascendingthegiants.com

See “Fun in the Forest,” page 6

WCSWA Leadership

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

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

Secretary-Treasurer – Bob Shumaker; 503-324-7825
bshumaker@coho.net

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douglas.eddy@upwardaccess.com

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Howell Hughes, 503-201-3748

Program Committee

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WCSWA Website

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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bshumaker@coho.net

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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! Would you like to join the Program Committee? Brainstorming meetings are held twice a year, and committee members share in making arrangements for the programs. Join this group that makes our chapter great by offering informative programs. Call John and Cathy Dummer 503-970-8789 or email cannbuckley@hotmail.com

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? Contact Tom Nygren or Bonnie Shumaker

Event Calendar

November	23	5:30 – 9 pm	Annual WCSWA Banquet, Meriwether National Golf Club 5200 SW Rood Bridge Road, Hillsboro, OR 97123
December			No meeting is scheduled for December
January	27		WCSWA Monthly Meeting – Topic To Be Announced
February	25		WCSWA Monthly Meeting – Topic To Be Announced
March	25		WCSWA Monthly Meeting – Topic To Be Announced

The Woodland Beat

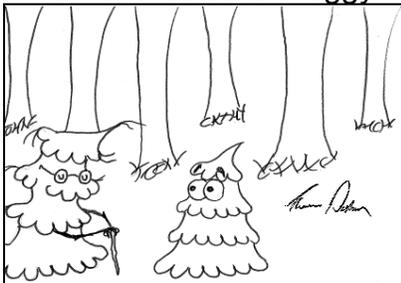
A couple of weeks ago we got a burn permit from the Oregon Department of Forestry to do some burning, like we do every year. Typically our burn piles consist of scotch broom, limbs, dead trees, and an infinitesimal portion of the slash piles left after the land was clear-cut in 2002. Burn day is pretty fun, and we occasionally invite honored (but hardworking) guests. We've gotten pretty wet a couple of times over the years, but if the fire gets hot enough it can keep us dry. That radiant heat stuff is amazing!

A few unique things occurred this year with regards to our annual burn, and we haven't even been out to burn yet. First off, the permit isn't on the pink carbon paper anymore; it is typewritten. It is easier to read and easier to keep track of, and I have to believe it is easier for ODF too. The next change I noticed, to which my attention was called by Kevin McLaughlin at ODF in Forest Grove who helped me out with this, was a website I could visit to see if it was an agricultural burn day. This is a change from the phone message that we used to call for that information. If you type burndaymessage.com into your browser you actually get sent to the City of Forest Grove's website which directs you to a link where the ODF burn message is located. The website is another improvement that makes the process a little easier. The last thing that happened this year that was unique was that I got a call not long after getting the permit that rescinded the permit. Due to dry conditions ODF decided to back off on burning. That was fine by me as it was still pretty dry out. I got a call today notifying me that the burn ban had been lifted and my permit is now effective again. We're planning to wait for a little more rain before we burn, but we'll get it done and working with ODF has been a good experience.

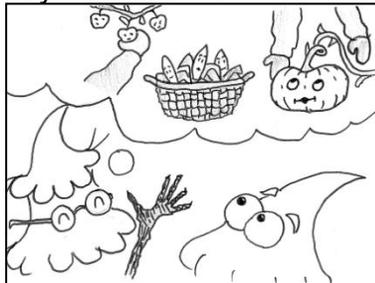
We wanted to mention the annual banquet is coming up. We hope to see you all there. It is a great opportunity to meet your fellow members, have a great meal and this year a chance to hear Grant McOmie talk about his experiences as host of the television program Grant's Getaways.

Until next time – Happy Small Woodlanding!

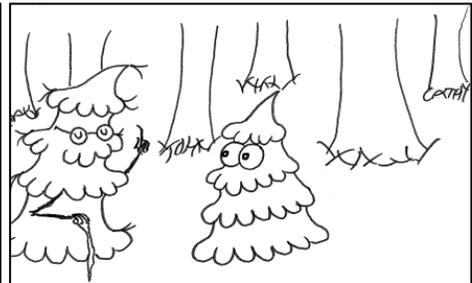
The Adventures of Duggy Fir by Thomas Perkins



Harry Hemlock is a friend of Duggy Fir and is a conifer tree just like Duggy. He is old, wise and knows a lot about the trees in Oregon. Harry was talking to Duggy earlier this month "November is upon us" Harry announced.



"Humans are harvesting plants and preparing for the winter." "Which plants?" wondered Duggy. "Plants like pumpkins, corn, and apples are picked" assured Harry. "Do trees prepare for winter too?" puzzled Duggy.



"Indeed we do. We slow the water flow in our cells so we don't freeze and become brittle and break. The humans call it going *dormant*, I like to think of it as taking a nice long nap after an active summer" said Harry.

Advertising Opportunity:

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“To achieve great things, two things are needed: a plan, and not quite enough time.”

Leonard Bernstein

Annual Banquet

Saturday, November 23, 2013

Location: Meriwether National Golf Course

5200 SW Rood Bridge Rd. Hillsboro, OR
 Free parking, ADA accessible.

If you want to car pool, or have questions call Beth (503) 341-4943.

5:30pm. Social time with no-host bar
 6:15pm. Buffet Dinner –Grilled chicken breasts and baron of beef

7:00pm. Speaker: Grant McOmie, TV host of “Grant’s Getaways” and author of a new book, “101 Grant’s Getaways.” Books will be available for purchase.

Mail check by Nov. 15th. After that, call Bob Shumaker 503-324-7825.

Make your banquet check payable to WCSWA and mail to:

*WCSWA c/o Bob Shumaker,
 52490 NW Cedar Canyon Rd.,
 Banks, OR 97106*

Enclose \$18.00 per person for first two, and \$10 each additional person.

Have an idea or item to bring that night for DOOR PRIZES? THANK YOU!



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DO CARBON OFFSETS WORK? THE ROLE OF FOREST MANAGEMENT IN GREENHOUSE GAS MITIGATION

USDA Forest Service, "Science Findings", Aug. 2013

IN SUMMARY

As forest carbon offset projects become more popular, professional foresters are providing their expertise to support them. But when several members of the Society of American Foresters questioned the science and assumptions used to design the projects, the organization decided to convene a task force to examine whether these projects can provide the intended climate benefits. The report details reasons to look for other solutions to greenhouse gas emission challenges.

After synthesizing the latest available science, the authors challenge the underlying assumptions used to establish most carbon-trading mechanisms, including the notion that lightly managed or unmanaged forests will be more effective at sequestering carbon over long periods than would a combination of managed forests and efficiently produced wood products. They take issue with the measurement systems used to determine trading parameters.

Energy benefits typically are ignored in forest carbon offset projects, which promotes misunderstandings about overall atmospheric carbon flux. The authors emphasize the carbon-storage benefits of using wood products in place of nonrenewable, energy-intensive materials and using wood-based energy instead of fossil fuels. They recommend sustainable production in forests where it supports primary management objectives and assert that well-managed production forests can promote the goals of reducing carbon emissions and increasing Earth's carbon-storage capacity.

The entire report can be viewed at:
www.fs.fed.us/pnw/science/scifi155.pdf or
search USDA Forest Service, Science Findings

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WCSWA Elections for 2014

It's that time of year again when we publish the slate of candidates for WCSWA officers and board members. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the **Annual Banquet on November 23rd**.

Current officers and board members have agreed to run again, but would step aside if someone else wanted to serve. President, Vice-President, and Secretary/Treasurer are one year terms. Board positions are three-year terms, with two board positions coming up for election each year. The current slate consists of:

President(s): John and Cathy Dummer

Vice President: Vic Herinckx

Sec/Treasurer: Bob Shumaker

Board Position #3: Bonnie Shumaker

Board Position #4: Scott Hayes

"Fun in the Forest" from page 1

Tom Dummer knows that look from the younger generation when your suggestion of fun in the forest always involves work. So, clever man that he is, he managed to get both done. His son was tired of riding his quad "around and around in circles" because that was the only open space on his granddad Art Dummer's place. So, Tom handed him a machete and he was given permission to clear a better trail. More of the same opened up a target range, fire pit and space for an annual "Pumpkin Shoot and Smash" area.

Tom is an instructor in quad safety and while his son was having the fun of creating such spaces, he also learned how to take care of himself, his quad and the trail. Safety at the target range is part of the fun as is cleaning his quad after riding. The fire pit creates great family occasions, and at Tom's wife's insistence there is now a very inventive outhouse.

Another fun addition to the land is a couple of trail cameras, and Tom shared many interesting pictures taken of animals enjoying the land while the people were elsewhere.

For Tom and his family, Fun in the Forest and Ties to the Land go hand in hand.

TREE TALK

by *Bonnie Shumaker*

With the arrival of fall, Bob and I have returned to our project in the woods. In 2010, we began our participation with the NRCS with a grant for conifer release on twenty acres in our south forty. As of last year, we had removed overstocked brush and reprod and had hacked away the Himalayan blackberries on the entire twenty acres. The shade of the now 15 year old douglas-fir and cedar seems to be keeping the unwanted stuff away, with enough brush left for critter habitat. What we are working on now is the last five acres of what is left after Bob forges through with his chain saw. While attacking unwanted brush, overstocked re-prod and invasives, Bob cuts the lower limbs off the trees. What is left we call “stubbies” and we are now trimming these to the tree trunk and limbing the trees up to about 10-12 feet. The section we are working on this winter is in the far south-east corner of the stand. When we are finished, we plan to use our GPS and measure the acreage. At this point, we are convinced it has to be more than five acres. We know that this limbing up is not absolutely necessary, but it sure makes it easy to get around in the woods and see what you’ve got. Besides, for some reason, we enjoy the work.

After we finish this task, we plan to put in more permanent plots in our stands and do some pre-commercial thinning of the cull trees – those with double tops, sucker branches or just plain under-performing and too dense.

We received an interesting telephone call the other day from Mike Gaudern. He was approached by someone looking for madrone and found our name in OSU’s Oregon Forest Directory. I had registered our tree farm at a class I took at Tree School many years ago when the website www.orforestdirectory.com was launched. It was more of an exercise to see how the website worked, but I guess I am still registered as having madrone. Anyway, we contacted the lady who wants small limbs for an artistic stairway project. Bob showed her some many-stemmed young madrone and will cut to her specifications. I hope she will send us pictures when the project is finished.

Has anyone else noticed the abundance of mushrooms this fall? I think I even spotted some chanterelles in our oldest (33 year old) stand. I’m not an expert and don’t pick mushrooms to eat, but I’m fascinated with the whole symbiotic relationship between the mushroom’s mycelium and the roots of trees. There are so many varieties and they are everywhere this year; I’ve enjoyed watching them develop. The dry October kept the mushrooms looking good. Along this line, as I was leaving to run some errands the other day, I spotted a car in our driveway with a lady standing beside it. I asked if I could help her, to which she replied that she was taking pictures of mushrooms. She had been at Hayward Cemetery which adjoins our property and thought our trail was public land. She had been coming here for three days and was very excited about how the mushrooms were developing. I advised her that she was on private land, but gave her permission to continue her picture-taking. We had a sign that said “trail” that guided field trip groups on their trek through our forest. We have now removed the sign and may put up “private property” signs at the trail entrance. The public’s perception of all forest land where you can’t see a house as public property is a continuing issue.



Chanterelle Mushrooms



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Oregon Forest Resources Institute

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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The Invisible Workforce

Excerpts from an article by Jim Petersen-Evergreen Foundation in "Loggers World", October 2013

It is 5:00 a.m. in any given time zone across the United States. A dedicated group of professionals is already on the job. They are America's loggers, harvesters of the timber that will eventually make its way in some form into every American home.

About 100,000 men and women are employed in logging and forestry in America's timbered regions. Logging, replanting and tree management are all parts of an unending cycle that insures that our nation will never run out of trees.

The nations logging and forestry annual payroll tops \$3 billion – is by far the largest "green" job we have in our country.

About 91 percent of the wood products consumed come from America's privately owned managed forests. The U.S. has 20 percent more forest than it had when our nation first celebrated Earth Day in 1970.



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The Hues of Fall

*From an article in "Woodland" magazine, Fall 2013
by Madeline Bodin*

In centuries past, the changing colors of autumn foliage were ascribed to the mythical Jack Frost. In recent years scientists have figured out most of the details of how leaves change colors in the fall. Since 1991, the state of Vermont has tracked individual sugar maples and white birches from spring bud-break to fall leaf drop both for insight into forest health and because fall foliage tourism is important to the state's economy. The average date of peak foliage is now two weeks later than it was 20 years ago. One school of thought is that the colors will be more variable because a key trigger is cold nights and those may become more erratic.

Abby van den Berg, a researcher at the University of Vermont's Proctor Maple Research Center and other researchers have uncovered the secrets of how leaves turn from green to yellow, orange, brown and red in the fall. Here are the colors of fall and the trees where you can find them:

Brown: Simply, brown is the color that chlorophyll, the green pigment in plants that turns sunlight into energy, becomes when it decays. Dead leaves are brown. Brown can also come from tannins or a mix of green and red pigments.

Superstar browns: Many species of oak which hold onto their leaves deep into fall and even winter. Young beech trees start off yellow, but hold onto their brown through the winter.



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forest management vendors & other technical assistance resources

Yellow: The same family of pigments that turn carrots orange, carotenoids, turns tree leaves yellow and gold in the fall. These pigments are in the leaf all spring and summer and are revealed when the chlorophyll fades. Mixed with red, carotenoids make a bright orange. Cold nights and short days cause leaves to turn yellow.

Superstar yellows: Quaking aspens, especially when their leaves turn the color of gold coins and are contrasted with dark mountainside evergreens. Other yellows include hickories, willows, birches, poplar, beeches, cherries, ginkgo, American elm, American chestnut, black locust, Osage orange, sycamore and pecan. Larch (or tamarack) is the only North American conifer to lose all its needles in the fall after they turn yellow.

Red or Purple: Anthocyanins turn some trees red such as maples and others purple such as ashes and sumacs. These pigments are found in just 10 percent of the trees in temperate zones, with a higher percentage of trees turning red at higher altitudes and northern latitudes. New England is an anthocyanin sweet spot, with about 70 percent of the trees having the potential to turn red. Leaves manufacture anthocyanins in autumn, apparently in response to stresses such as drought, nutrient loss and sun. Reds and purples are unpredictable, varying from season to season and from tree to tree.

Superstar reds: Sugar maples and red-osier dogwoods. Scientists study these trees to understand red in fall leaves. Other reds and purples include Scarlet oak, pin oak, flowering dogwood, Pacific dogwood, sourwood, sassafras, black tupelo (black gum), red maple and sweet gum.

Firewood Made Easy....sort of

From an article in "The Woodlander", Fall, 2013 by Steve Bowers

Everybody loves the heat generated from firewood. And some people love to cut firewood....a big chain saw... the smell of wood chips...swinging that axe and mall....bending...stretching...sweating... stacking your wood in nice, neat rows.

And there are those who cut firewood based strictly on economics. We've access to "free" firewood and utilize it to save on winter heating bills. We don't relish the amount of hard, physical labor required, but we just can't stand to see all those blow-downs and marginal quality hardwoods go to waste.

And there might be a few out there who enjoy the best of both worlds. We like to cut firewood and we're "tight" enough we want to spend our hard earned money on things we want, not things we need. Cutting firewood is a way to reduce our energy bill and perform timber stand improvement projects at the same time. Yes, we can have our cake and eat it too.

Regardless of which camp you reside, allow us to suggest a few things that will make firewood cutting easier for you. So here are some tips from someone who, after years and hundreds and hundreds of cords of firewood, has stumbled on a few things that will make cutting firewood just a little bit easier.

First: The value of good tools cannot be overemphasized. The size of your chain saw engine isn't nearly as important as the condition of your bar and chain. It's time for a "clean" chain when you find yourself pushing on the saw to make a cut. And forget the hand filing. Take your chains to your local saw shop. Absolutely, the best money you'll ever spend in your preparation.

Second: Once you've cut the tree, start at the base and work towards the top. Working from top-to-base requires you to move through already cut material. You'll have limbs and small pieces of firewood under your feet, causing you to lose your balance and, worst yet, your saw will pick up smaller, previously cut pieces of wood and send them back into your shins and knees with alarming force.

Third: Take what the tree will give you. Say what? Once the tree is on the ground, find the pressure points. Use previously cut pieces of wood and place them in areas where the stem is above the ground and more of your cuts will be off the ground and out of the dirt. And don't think each cut has to be totally severed before proceeding to the next one. You might make several cuts before you can completely sever the stem. After doing so, roll the partially cut section until the cut area faces upwards. The idea of completely severing each piece of wood before proceeding is one of the greatest mistakes. The key to keeping a sharp chain is keeping it out of the dirt.

Forth: If you can't split the wood with your mall in two or three swings, stop! First, observe the crack or seam that runs through the pith (center) of the wood: it's trying to tell you where it will split the easiest. If it won't split after a couple whacks, use your saw and cut an inch or two the length of the round. Swing your mall into the saw kerf and success is within your grasp. The key is hitting the kerf. I can't tell you how to do that....practice makes perfect.

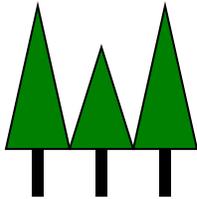
Fifth: Fall your trees up or down the slope of the hill, not side-hill. As you cut your wood, it's easier to throw or roll the pieces down the hill into a central location for splitting and stacking. You will also find it more difficult to accurately split your wood (hitting the same spot twice or thrice), plus it's more difficult to keep your balance. You can generate more force swinging your mall standing above the round: mere physics.

There are many more little words of wisdom in which we could elaborate, but time and space call for closure. Remember, saws and malls and axes can be dangerous tools. Every year the local hospitals get numerous visits from firewood cutters, so be careful out there... the (sic) limb is a terrible thing to waste.

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Forest Forum



COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE
OREGON SMALL WOODLANDS
ASSOCIATION

Potpourri

New Members Welcome to *Christine King of King Family Ranch, North Plains*. 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.

Tax Tips for Forest Landowners for 2013 Tax Year

The U.S. Forest Service has posted the annual tax tips for 2013 on the following website:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/tax.shtml>

WCSWA Now On Facebook Here's the link:

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

If you don't have a Facebook account you can only look at the page. If you have a Facebook account then you can log in and "Like" our page, which keeps you updated when things on the page change.

Helpful Links:

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

www.orwoodlandco-op.com to learn about the Oregon Woodland Cooperative