

# **Forest Forum**

## **Washington County Small Woodlands Association**

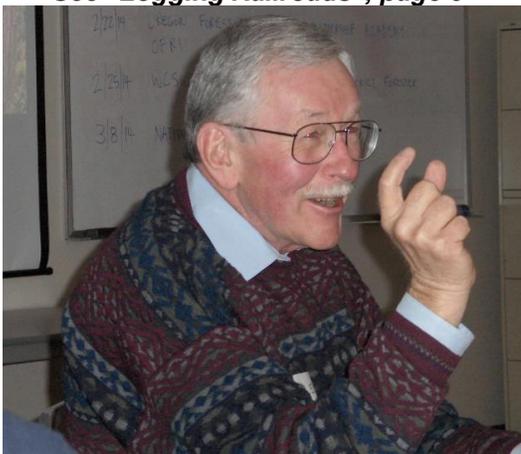
February, 2014

### **Beyond the Last Spur: Logging Railroads on the Pacific Slope**

Ed Kamholz, noted author of logging railroad history, was the featured speaker at the January 29<sup>th</sup> monthly WCSWA meeting. Ed, who grew up in Vernonia, a major railroad logging hub in the Pacific Northwest, has a passion for the subject. A major point of his presentation was the important role of logging railroads in the socialization of Northwest Oregon. They brought supplies, mail, and people into the forests, and brought out wood products to national and international markets. Some interesting facts about the railroad logging days:

- Most current forest roads originated as railroad lines and spurs
- Logging spurs generally only lasted 6 months to 2 years – then the rails were pulled and used elsewhere
- 1800 miles of roads built on rail lines

**See “Logging Railroads”, page 5**



**Ed Kamholz emphasizes a point in his entertaining and educational presentation**

### ***ODF Forester to Brief WCSWA on Trail Project:*** **WCSWA February 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting Topic**

Oregon Department of Forestry District Forester **Mike Cafferata** will visit with WCSWA members about the Salmonberry Rails and Trails Project, the idea of developing a recreation trail from Banks to Tillamook along the damaged railroad line, at the monthly meeting of WCSWA on February 25<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will be at the usual meeting place – the North Plains Fire Station on Commercial Street. Mike will share information about the schedule for the project (multi-generational), concerns and impacts on local landowners, project goals, and next steps.

The trail has both supporters and detractors. A recent op-ed in the Oregonian pointed out that the rail should be retained for possible future use.

Mike can also provide updates on electronic filing for notification of operations, a re-cap of the 2013 fire season, stories from Astoria's fires of 2014, and the potential for the upcoming fire season. Of course, questions about working with ODF and other forestry topics are always welcome.

**H1N1 Flu Caution: *Our meeting place is graciously provided by the North Plains Fire Station. We've been asked by the Station to keep in mind that the flu season is in full swing. For the sake of the fire station employees and the public they have asked that only folks who are fully healthy come to the fire station.***

## WCSWA Leadership

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### 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

Editors: Tom Nygren & Bonnie Shumaker  
503-628-5472 or 503-324-7825

e-mail: tnygren@juno.com or  
bshumaker@coho.net

Proofreaders: Bonnie Shumaker, Dan Hundley, Tom Nygren, Ardis Schroeder  
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 Karen Graham at 503-647-0310 or kgraham@duckswild.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.

## Event Calendar

<b>February 25th</b>	<b>7:00 P.M.</b>	<b>North Plains Fire Station</b>	<b>WCSWA Monthly Meeting - Mike Cafferata – ODF District Forester: Banks – Tillamook trail and other updates.</b>
<b>March 8th</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Bales Thriftway, Farmington/Kinnaman Roads, Aloha</b>	<b>WCSWA Native Plant Sale</b>
<b>March 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:00 P.M.</b>	<b>North Plains Fire Station</b>	<b>WCSWA Monthly Meeting - Jen Nelson, Tualatin SWCD and Bruce Alber, Wilbur- Ellis– Invasive Weeds: Dealing with Your Most Unwanted List.</b>
<b>April 22nd</b>	<b>7:00 P.M.</b>	<b>North Plains Fire Station</b>	<b>WCSWA Monthly Meeting - TBD</b>
<b>May (TBD)</b>			<b>Annual WCSWA Potluck (tentative)</b>
<b>Summer</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>Tours of Woodlands and Other Sites of Interest</b>

# The Woodland Beat

Soon after we purchased our small woodland, about 5 years ago, we noticed there were patches of tree mortality that seemed a little abnormal. When he came out for an inspection for American Tree Farm certification, Tom Nygren shared our concern. We led him to a patch of dead or dying trees and his comment was something like “something isn’t right here”. Taking that as a hint to do a little more research we invited David Shaw and Amy Grotta from the OSU extension service to check it out. Alas, they diagnosed the area as having laminated root rot, which we’re told is common in our area of Washington County. We found some strategies to deal with it: hardwoods are not affected by it and some conifers are less susceptible than others.

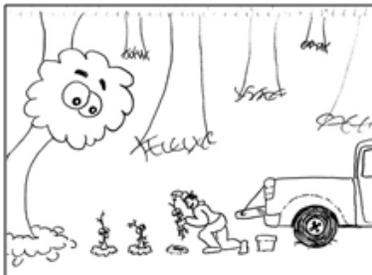
Last summer our extension forester, Amy Grotta, gave us a call and asked if we’d mind hosting a Master Woodland Manager class at our property so they could see what a classic case of laminated root rot looked like. No problem, with some assistance from Richard and Ann Hanschu with some benches, and with a porta potty coordinated by Amy we were all set. Except, using the knowledge they had gained in the class and the expertise of their instructors, while they were there the class identified not only phellinus (laminated root rot), but also black stain and armillaria in the same vicinity. At the time we also had a good number of alder that had evidence of alder flea beetles and a number of our grand fir had fir-bracken rust. The latter two aren’t fatal. The Douglas-fir issues however are an issue and our approach to the dead tree areas has changed a little as a result.

So why bring all this up now? Well, first this is a good reminder that there are some really good resources to help with diagnosing what might be going on in your woods and it is better to know what is going on than not know. Second, it illustrates the importance of flexibility and patience in tree farming; sometimes doing nothing until you have more information is a good strategy. Finally, I wanted to remind myself that these diseases are just nature’s way of suggesting that we try something a little different. This article is a little self-serving in the therapeutic writing department. I apologize for that.

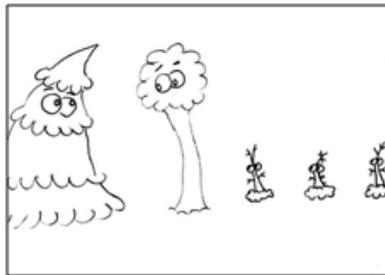
Until next time – Happy Small Woodlanding!

*John and Cathy Dummer*

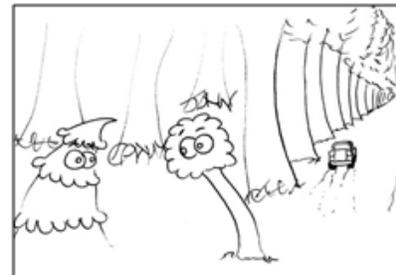
## The Adventures of Duggy Fir by Thomas Perkins



Orion the Oak, one of Duggy Fir’s friends, looked on as new trees were planted in the Oregon Forest. “I see they’re planting more trees like you out here”, said Orion.



“Don’t worry,” smiled Duggy “You are an Oregon White Oak, your family is deeply rooted in these parts and the management plan that Sam the woodcutter has for us makes your family a priority.”



“That’s a relief,” said Orion, “I don’t have many relatives around here, perhaps Sam will review his management plan tonight and plant a few more Oak trees tomorrow.”

## 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.

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## Logging Railroads, from page 1

- 70% of the cost of logs at the mill was from transportation (rail or water)
- Locomotives changed over time from small engines to large geared locomotives (Shays) and disconnected engines and log “trucks” (rail cars – 5-8 mbf per each))
- Log loaders and rail-mounted cable systems became common
- Efficiencies improved when engines went from wood to coal power
- The Oregon-American Logging Company built the rail system serving their mill at Vernonia. This system in Northwest Oregon was one of the heaviest concentrations of rail and cable systems in Oregon
- Over the life of the Vernonia mill 2 ½ billion board feet of lumber was produced (it closed in the 50’s)
- Stands logged in the Vernonia area were very productive – 100,000 board feet per acre or more – some up to 200,000!
- Oregon-American began in 1920, logging the large area known as the Dubois tract
- Much of the Dubois tract area burned over in the Wolf Creek fire in 1939

Ed closed his presentation by posing a question about the future of logging in the forests of Northwest Oregon: Will they be managed on short rotation industrial forestry (today’s model); allowed to revert to resemble the historic stands over the long term; or managed in some combination of the present and the past that creates/retains some large tree stands, but intensively manages others to provide economic benefits?

Following a career in telecommunications, Ed was a marketing consultant before co-authoring *The Oregon-American Lumber Company: Ain’t No More*, an award-winning company history published by Stanford University Press in 2003. He is an institutional and corporate history author, graphic designer, and book producer. He currently serves as chair of the Oregon State Forests Advisory Committee.



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

**Tualatin SWCD Events**

**Tiny Talk: Dead Wood for Wildlife**

Location TBD, Washington County, Oregon

Although the location hasn't been set, mark your calendars for **March 20 at 6pm**, when Sarah L.

Pinnock, wetlands education specialist at Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve, will help us understand why it is so important to leave dead wood lying about (or in the case of snags, standing about) for wildlife of all sizes.

Details at: <http://www.swcd.net/event/tiny-talk-dead-wood-for-wildlife/>

**Streambank Erosion Control Workshop**

**April 26, 2014 9:00am-1:00pm**

Understand how and why erosion occurs, what the options for engineered solutions are, and how streamside restoration can help.

Details at: <http://www.swcd.net/event/streambank-erosion-control-workshop/>



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Co-President John Dummer presents speaker Ed Kamholz with the WCSWA Speaker mouse pad gift.

## ***Tree Talk***

*by Bonnie Shumaker*

### **Impressions from Panama and Costa Rica**

The purpose of this “bucket list” trip in January was to visit the land of Bob’s forebears. Bob’s grandfather, a plumber from Vermont, was one of the early employees of the Canal Zone in 1904. Among other things, he worked with Dr. Gorgas, instituting sanitation measures to control malaria and yellow fever. He married a Panamanian woman, and Bob’s mom was born and raised in Panama. The trip was great; we learned a lot more of the history of this country and of its many climates including rain-forest, cloud-forest, dwarf-forest, rain-shadow and dry forest. The forest part always intrigues us, so I will share some of the forest highlights.

The Panama Canal is surrounded by approximately 50 miles of rainforest on either side. This large area of forest covering the Panama Canal Basin acts like a huge sponge that receives heavy precipitation in the rainy period, protecting the soils from erosion, preventing excessive sedimentation in the lakes and returning much of the retained water to the rivers. Considering that 52 million gallons of fresh water is used to fill the locks for each ship’s transit, keeping the rainforest intact is essential. Successive Panamanian governments have set up a network of national parks and other protected areas in the Canal Basin. The aims are to ensure that the hydraulic resources function well and to host high biodiversity. The new lock being built to accommodate larger ships will recycle 60% of the water used for transit in holding basins.

There are many diverse species of trees in Panama. I asked one of the naturalists aboard our ship about which was native. He told me most of the native flora were shrub species; the tall trees we saw had all been introduced. There are many kinds of palm trees, with the coconut palm probably being the most important. Another palm-like tree produces the tagua nut, that when dried can be carved and is known as vegetable ivory. I asked if any of the introduced species have become invasive and was told that the main invasive species is a grass in estuary areas.

Part of our trip was by motor coach across both Panama and Costa Rica. On a lunch stop in Costa Rica, atop a ridge, I walked along a path trying to get a good view of the central valley below. First there were too many bushes to get a good view, and as I kept going, a stand of pine trees were in the way. I was surprised to find pines, but learned they were another introduced species, Australian Pines.

Another interesting tree we saw was the Rainbow Eucalyptus, which was very reminiscent of our Madrone with a smooth trunk, but its trunk was colorfully streaked and had smaller leaves. At La Paz Waterfall Gardens, I took pictures of beautiful cascades of water surrounded by green rainforest. I wondered how different the pictures would be from waterfall pictures I have taken in Oregon. My conclusion: It’s hard to differentiate the flora in photographs, but both are beautiful.

A final fact that I still have a hard time getting my head around has nothing to do with trees: Due to the reclining “S” shape of the Isthmus of Panama, the sun rises from the Pacific Ocean and sets in the Atlantic Ocean. Go figure!

**“Complexity is the prodigy of the world. Simplicity is the sensation of the universe. Behind complexity, there is always simplicity to be revealed. Inside simplicity, there is always complexity to be revealed”**

***Gang Yu***



**LONE CEDAR**

**Mark Dreyer**

*Forestry & Logging Consultant*

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mdreyer51@msn.com

## Lumber Futures Slide as Weather Curbs Demand *Wall Street Journal, January 28, 2014*

CHICAGO--CME lumber futures extended their recent slide Tuesday, as a more sluggish pace to new-home sales reported this week renewed concerns that freezing, icy weather conditions could crimp demand for wood in the weeks ahead.

CME March lumber ended the session down \$3.20, or 0.9%, at \$351.20 per 1,000 board feet, the lowest closing price for a front-month contract in seven weeks. Lumber for May fell \$3.30, or 0.9%, to \$355.60 per 1,000 board feet.

Demand has slowed for wood to be delivered across the country during the weeks ahead, as cold winter weather has brought construction to a halt. This hit to building and buying was reflected in weaker-than-expected new-home sales data released by the Commerce Department on Monday. Sales of newly built homes fell 7% to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 414,000 in December, from 445,000 in November, amid unusually cold weather, adding to pressure on lumber futures.

Industry watchers said deliveries also have been delayed by the weather, backing up supplies headed to parts of the Midwest and Northeast. Since mills continue to produce wood in the interim, some see this potentially weighing on prices after the ice and snow melt.

At the mill, lumber was priced Friday between \$370 and \$380 per 1,000 board feet.

## Tualatin Basin Weed Watcher Workshops Coming Up

Free workshops on the invasive weeds in our area will be held on February 20<sup>th</sup> and April 7<sup>th</sup>. The workshops, sponsored by the Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District, Tualatin River Watershed Council, Clean Water Services, and the Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District, will give you the information needed to identify new invaders, and report them before they become a problem. No registration is required. The workshop information follows:

**Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup>** – 6:30- 8:30 p.m. Tualatin Hills Nature Park Interpretative Center, 15655 SW Millikan Way in Beaverton.

**Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup>** – 6:30-8:30 p.m. Clean Water Services Administrative Building Complex, 2550 SW Hillsboro Highway (Highway 219), Hillsboro.

*For more information, contact [tualatinswcd@gmail.com](mailto:tualatinswcd@gmail.com)*



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## Logger Lingo

Nicole Strong of OSU Extension recently shared some sources of Logger Lingo with the WOW network (Women Owning Network). Here they – check them out, you may be surprised at some of them!

1. History Channel. Yes, it is from Ax Men, but it's a good list! <http://www.history.com/shows/ax-men/articles/logging-lingo>
2. This site has old terms, and a pretty cool interactive Tour of a historical Camp (hint: click on Walkthrough, then click on buildings and objects): <http://www.camptocommunity.ca/english/lingo.html>
3. Pacific Forest Foundation has a pretty extensive list: <http://pacificforestfoundation.org/glossary.html>

## Clematis: Friend or Foe?

Also known as Old Man's Beard, clematis is the subject of much controversy, highlighting the fact that a "weed" is definitely a subjective and circumstantial thing. Although the native varieties are beloved by many, this invasive varietal smothers the trees and shrubs that wildlife in our region depend on.

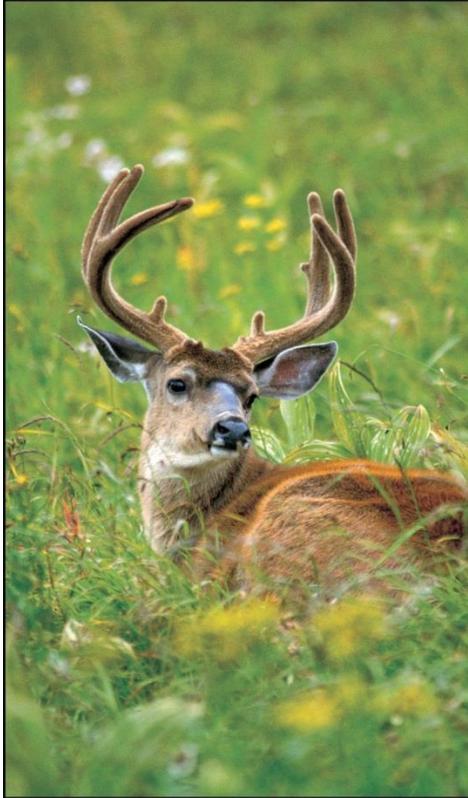
Look for:

- A vine that tightly twists around any object it can climb, including trees, up to 6" thick and possibly exceeding 100 feet long,
- Loss of leaves (in clusters of 5) in fall and winter,
- A seed with a long feathery tail resembling a beard in the summertime.

Quick Control Tips:

- For rural properties, grazing sheep may help in control efforts.
- Hand pulling must be done with great care to prevent spreading fragments of the roots and stems.
- Mow young seedlings in the spring, or using appropriate tillage methods can work for home and field.
- After removal, consider replanting the area with native trees and shrubs, especially in streamside areas, to create a thick canopy of shade under which clematis will have difficulty growing and which will limit seed dispersal and germination.
- If mechanical methods do not work, seek professional advice on selecting an appropriate herbicide. As always, follow label instructions for safety, to reduce cost and waste, and to minimize environmental impact.

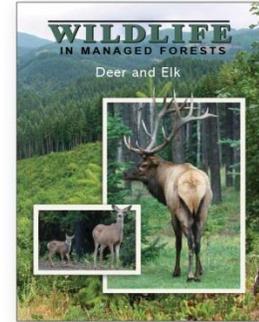
Want to learn more about this and other weeds in our area? Visit <http://www.swcd.net/invasive-noxious-weeds> or email me, Jennifer Nelson, at [tualatinswcd@gmail.com](mailto:tualatinswcd@gmail.com) for information on reporting weeds and technical assistance on weed control and natural area restoration!



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### Wildlife in Managed Forests: Deer and Elk

is your guide to managing these animals in your forest. Fully updated with the latest scientific research, it explains behavior, how to encourage a vibrant population, and how to tackle the challenges they pose to timber production.



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It's free, in printed or digital form. Go to [OregonForests.org](http://OregonForests.org)

## WCSWA Priorities Established

The Board of Directors has established a set of priorities to guide activities and use of WCSWA resources. If you have thoughts on how WCSWA can best respond to these priorities, contact an officer or Board member.

**Priority 1** - Educate, recruit and support small woodland owners as they address the challenges of small woodland management, including:

- a. Encourage the sustainability of small woodlands within Washington County as viable economic and socially responsible components of the community.
- b. Provide a medium for exchange of ideas concerning woodlands by landowners, public agencies, consultants and timber industry personnel.

**Priority 2** - Represent the interests of owners of small woodlands before legislative bodies and administrative agencies especially as they relate to property rights. Submit issues to the Oregon Small Woodlands Association for their consideration for legislative or other action.

**Priority 3** - Educate and inform the general public regarding the challenges of small woodland management.

**Priority 4** - Represent the Oregon Small Woodlands Association within Washington County.

## ***What Is That Tree, Really?* An Explanation of Tree Name Confusion** From Oregon Wood Innovation Center newsletter, Winter, 2013

For example, have you ever wondered where hem fir lumber comes from given there's no such thing as a hem fir tree? Or why do we call white fir a 'true' fir? Is there such a thing as a false fir (perhaps artificial Christmas trees)? And what about poplars? People are often baffled when they call us and say, for example, they are having trouble with poplar lumber and we ask if they mean a poplar species like aspen or cottonwoods, balsam poplar, hybrid poplar, or perhaps yellow -poplar. The properties are very different between these 'poplars' partly because, for example, yellow-poplar isn't actually a poplar. Confused yet?

Foresters and lay people often name trees based on physical appearance. For example, they may call a young ponderosa pine a 'blackbark pine' due to its appearance. In the wood products industry, species are often named due to how similar they are to another well-established species. We get a great example of that from Australia. There are 2 species of eucalyptus that go by the common name Victorian ash (or simply 'Vic ash'), when sourced from the Australian state of Victoria. The same species from Tasmania is called Tasmanian oak. So is it an ash or an oak? Neither. It's a eucalyptus - and in fact, 2 different species of eucalyptus!

To avoid confusion, scientists use Latin scientific names, for example *Abies grandis* (grand fir). The first word in the scientific name refers to the genus, and the second word refers to the species. Trees in the same genus are closely related and have similar characteristics. Trees in the same species are capable of interbreeding.

To put it simply, if you want to know whether a tree is a true fir, pine, cedar, or other type of tree, check the genus name. For example, unless a tree is in the genus *Abies* it is not a true fir, and unless a tree is in the genus *Cedrus*, it is not a true cedar. To read more about Oregon species, see our publication on [Understanding Names of Oregon Trees](#).

### ***Farm Bill: Why Should You Care?***

The House-Senate compromise to the Farm Bill affects much more than just farms. In addition to farm programs, and SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), the Farm Bill has many programs that woodland owners find important. These include:

EQIP – Environmental Quality Incentive Program, which among other things provides cost share with landowners for tree planting, pre-commercial thinning, slash treatment, access roads, and other activities.

WHIP – Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program, aimed at creating and improving wildlife habitat on small private ownerships.

HFRP – Healthy Forest Reserve Program. The purpose of the HFRP is to assist landowners, on a voluntary basis, in restoring, enhancing and protecting forestland.

FIA – Forest Inventory and Assessment. The new Farm Bill calls for more focus on small private forestlands.

Biobased Markets Program – Market improvement for biobased products – and the new Farm Bill expands the program to explicitly include forest products.

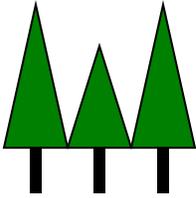
In addition to these programs, there are other forest-related programs aimed at the general forest needs, such as research and development.

One of the biggest achievements of the new Farm Bill is compromise language that permanently bars permit requirements for forest roads and silvicultural activities. The inclusion of this requirement stems from the recent judicial decision on a lawsuit against ODF for runoff from forest roads. The judicial decision vacated an EPA regulation which had stood for over 40 years (known as the silvicultural stipulation to regulations EPA had promulgated for the Clean Water Act), and could have led to a permitting process for all forest roads and other forest activities.

Newsletter Editor  
19022 SW Finnigan Hill Road  
Hillsboro, OR 97123

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## ***Forest Forum***



COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE  
OREGON SMALL WOODLANDS  
ASSOCIATION

### **Potpourri**

***New Members*** Welcome to **Amber McKinnie** of Beaverton! We are here to help you achieve your management goals for your woodland. To get the most out of your membership, come to the meetings and tours that are scheduled throughout the year. 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.

### ***Help Wanted – Native Plant Sale!***

The WCSWA Native Plant Sale is coming up on March 8<sup>th</sup> – and your help is needed! Help will be needed on Friday afternoon, March 7<sup>th</sup>, and on the day of the sale, Saturday March 8<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (morning or afternoon shifts, or both). Contact Karen Graham at 503-647-0310, or [kgraham@duckswild.com](mailto:kgraham@duckswild.com) if you can help.

### ***Helpful Links:***

- <http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/treetopics> to read Amy Grotta's "Tree Topics" blog
- [www.oregonwoodlandcooperative.com](http://www.oregonwoodlandcooperative.com) to learn about the Oregon Woodland Cooperative
- <https://www.facebook.com/WashingtonCountySmallWoodlandsAssociation>