

# **Forest Forum**

## **Washington County Small Woodlands Association**

**May, 2014**

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### **Annual WCSWA Member Potluck on May 20th**

Please join us for the annual Washington County Small Woodlands Association Potluck. Plan to meet at 5:15 pm on May 20, 2014 at Stephen and Karen Graham's place. Directions for driving to their location follow at the end of this article. A presentation by the Truffle Dog Company will begin at 5:30 pm followed by the potluck dinner.

#### **Schedule of events:**

- \* **5:15** *Happy hour begins - arrive and put food in fridge or oven or plug in crock pot*
- \* **5:30** *Presentation on Truffle Dogs begins in the field on the hill*
- \* **6:15** *Potluck - Burgers and Dogs provided, please bring a salad, main dish or dessert to share.*
- \* **7:00** *Clean-up*

Truffle Dog Company (TDC) is a global source for online truffle dog training, native truffle sales, harvesting services for orchards and timber land, consultation services and in-person training for professional and recreational truffle dog teams. TDC specializes in working with small woodland and timber lot owners to evaluate land potential for commercial or education streams of revenue in the lucrative and growing truffle industry. TDC believes in sustainability through working forests and strives to educate woodland owners about truffles and the industry and how that may play a role in the future of working forests.

Truffles are fungi that grow underground in association with certain trees. Culinary species of these highly prized fungi are found all throughout the Pacific Northwest and many landowners are unaware they are present as it takes trained dog teams to locate and harvest them with efficiency. Alana McGee, co-founder of Truffle Dog Company, will be discussing native commercial culinary species of truffles, habitat, and commercialization and she will be available to answer any questions you may have about truffles in general. Truffle Dog Company will also, weather permitting, provide a glimpse into the world of working with dogs to find truffles through a demonstration. *(See page 11 for directions)*

### **Managing For Wildlife At All Stages of Forestry**

The April meeting of WCSWA featured **Fran Cafferata Coe**, certified wildlife biologist, who gave an informative and entertaining presentation on how managing wildlife can, and should, be something that small woodland owners are interested in. Fran first defined "wildlife", by categorizing them as 1) animals we eat, 2) animals that cause damage, 3) high profile species (think spotted owl), or 4) other species we generally either don't know about, or ignore - those that exist in small niches, such as salamanders, newts, rodents, etc. Fran, who is an independent consultant, is also the current president of the Oregon chapter of the Oregon Wildlife Society, member of the Oregon Society of American Foresters, and designated liaison between the two organizations.

With wildlife defined, Fran posed the question, "Where do you start in managing

**See "Wildlife", page 10**



## WCSWA Leadership

**Co-Presidents – John and Cathy Dummer, 503-970-8789**  
[cannbuckley@hotmail.com](mailto:cannbuckley@hotmail.com)

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

**Secretary-Treasurer – Bob Shumaker; 503-324-7825**  
[bshumaker@coho.net](mailto:bshumaker@coho.net)

### Board of Directors:

Pos. #1: Deb Kapfer, 503-628-6349 [kapfer@upwardaccess.com](mailto:kapfer@upwardaccess.com)  
 Pos. #2: Sam Sadtler 503-324-0223 [samsncee@gmail.com](mailto:samsncee@gmail.com)  
 Pos. #3: Bonnie Shumaker – 503-324-7825 [bshumaker@coho.net](mailto:bshumaker@coho.net)  
 Pos. #4: Scott Hayes 503-992-1509 [scotthayes@wildblue.net](mailto:scotthayes@wildblue.net)  
 Pos. #5: Doug Eddy, 503-628-1468  
[douglas.eddy@upwardaccess.com](mailto:douglas.eddy@upwardaccess.com)  
 Pos. #6: Bill Triest – 503-626-1838 [whtriest@gmail.com](mailto:whtriest@gmail.com)

### Legislative Committee Chair:

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

### Membership Committee:

Stuart Mulholland, 503-985-3168  
 Howell Hughes, 503-201-3748

### Program Committee

Bill Triest – 503-626-1838; Beth Adams – 503-341-4943, Marge Hayes – 503-992-1509;  
 Terry Howell – 503-357-2882, John and Cathy Dummer – 503-244-3812

### WCSWA Website

[www.wcswa.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](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)*

**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](mailto:kgraham@duckswild.com). The Program Committee is also in need of a new member. Call John or Cathy Dummer at 503-970-8789.

**For Sale: Native plants from WCSWA plant sale** - 1 gal mock orange, vine maple, western spirea, sequoia, white oak, pacific yew are \$4 each or 3 for \$10. 5 gal vine maple and white oak are \$6 each. 5+ gal larch and Rocky Mtn maple are \$15. Contact Karen Graham at 503-647-0310, or [kgraham@duckswild.com](mailto:kgraham@duckswild.com).

## Event Calendar

May 19th	7-9:00 p.m.	McMenamins Grand Lodge, Forest Grove	Native Fish Survey Results, Tualatin Basin, presented by Tualatin River Watershed Council
May 20th	5:15 – 7:00 p.m.	Stephen & Karen Graham's place	Annual WCSWA Potluck and Truffle Dog Demonstration. See article on front page, and directions on page 11.
June 26-28th	See schedule	Seven Feathers Casino, Canyonville	OSWA Annual Meeting & OTFS Tree Farmer of Year Tour
July 12th	TBA	Chuck Price Tree Farm	Annual Tree Farm of the Year Tour
September 25-26	TBA	Port Blakely Mollala Tree Farm	Pacific Logging Congress – Clackamas Co. Volunteers needed. Contact Julie Woodward, <a href="mailto:Woodward@ofri.org">Woodward@ofri.org</a> or 503-807-1614.

# The Woodland Beat

It seems to me that tree farmers are so good at planning for the future that there should be a special name for it, like “extreme planners” or “hyper-visionaries”. Who else makes and executes plans for events that are 50 years away? Or for things that will likely happen after their own demise? I’m sure there are lots of examples, but planning that far ahead is certainly not common in our society.

We recently had the opportunity to learn about how some long-term planning paid off at the Grand Coulee Dam. William Clapp first envisioned a dam and irrigation system for central Washington in about 1918, but the first drop of irrigation water wasn’t distributed until 1951. The results were, to some at least, worth the wait: the project now provides irrigation for more than 600,000 acres in central Washington.

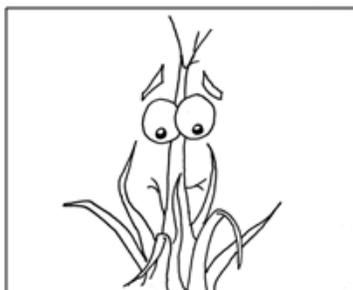
And speaking of long term planning... Your Board of Directors is having a special board meeting in May to discuss two important issues. The first is updating the by-laws of the organization. The last update was in 2002. The updates will reflect the way the organization is being run in practice but will also include an appropriate amount of flexibility for future activities. It is something that the board has been working on for a couple of years and we’re working to wrap it up. The second thing we’re working on is a welcome packet or letter for new members. We gain new members at a rate of about one per month. We want to help new members get up to speed on the resources WCSWA offers and get them engaged and active in the organization, or at least as active as they want to be. These two board issues are linked in that the efforts need to have a consistent message in terms of clearly stating the goals and objectives of our organization and both documents will attempt to do that. You’ll be hearing more about these items in the coming months.

We hope to see you at the Washington County Small Woodlands Annual Potluck on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to Stephen and Karen Graham for generously offering to host this event at their place near North Plains.

Until next time – Happy Small Woodlanding!

*John and Cathy Dummer*

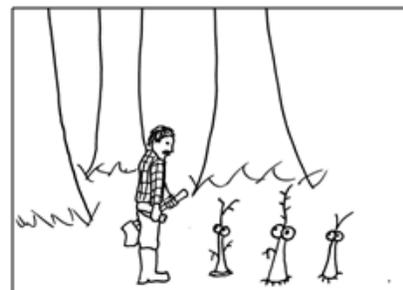
## The Adventures of Duggy Fir by Thomas Perkins



“Help me!” A sapling in Duggy’s Forest was being overgrown by grass. “Don’t worry,” reassured Sam the Woodsman, “I will release you soon, after I help this sapling here.”



“Releasing is when a human like me cuts away grass and other plants to free smaller trees, helping our friends like Duggy to grow,” explained Sam as he moved from tree to tree.



So Sam cut the grass and the sapling thanked him. “Now water can reach our roots,” sang the saplings, “and the sunlight can get right to us so we can grow big and strong.”

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

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# Tree Talk

by Bonnie Shumaker



You probably remember the Aesop fable concerning a grasshopper that has spent the warm months singing while the ant worked to store up food for winter. When winter arrives, the grasshopper finds itself dying of hunger and begs the ant for food. The grasshopper is rebuked for its idleness and the ant advises it to dance during the winter after the work is done.

We are reminded of this story each year about this time as we count the rows of firewood we used during the winter. A few damaged or cull trees have already been cut and dragged up near the garage. Now we just have to wait until firewood burning season is over so we can split and stack this new wood in the garage beside that which has been aging for a year designated for the coming winter's warmth. We are feeling very "antish", in a good way.

Steve Bowers, OSU Extension Agent from Douglas has written various articles on firewood. Since we all have various kinds of wood on our tree farms, Steve's knowledge may be helpful. This is from an article published October 31, 2005.

"If you can cut it and split it, you can burn it," quipped Steve Bowers. Dry, seasoned firewood burns most efficiently, giving the most heat and the least smoke. In an ideal world, you'd buy your own firewood about a year before burning it. Dense, small diameter material – such as branches from oak or madrone trees, (small unsplit rounds) – may need more than a year to be fully cured.

**Douglas-fir:** This ubiquitous tree has medium heating value, doesn't make too much ash, and is probably the best of the conifers for firewood. Older trees or tight grain Doug-fir is easy to split. But some of the younger, second growth, smaller diameter trees can be extremely difficult to split.

**Red alder:** Seasoned alder burns warm, but fast. Wet alder puts out a lot of ash and very little heat. Alder cuts and splits easily with an axe.

**Lodgepole or ponderosa pine:** From the east side of the Cascades, lodgepole burns hot and fast, and it cuts and splits easily. Ponderosa from the west side burns hot and fast, but may be difficult to split and full of pitch.

**Oak:** Properly seasoned oak is hard to beat. It holds a fire, doesn't spark, and much of it splits moderately well. Be careful, as oak often grows where poison oak is rampant. If your wood comes in contact with the resin from this pernicious plant, you can develop a rash.

**Oregon ash:** Wet or dry, ash wood will produce a decent fire, but with a lot of ash. Most ash cuts and splits relatively easily as long as it is still green.

**Big leaf maple:** Maple is pretty close to the quality of ash and has similar cutting and splitting characteristics. It burns slightly cleaner, sparks a lot more and doesn't heat quite as well.

**Madrone:** When seasoned, this hard, dense wood burns very hot and produces long-lasting coals. Having little bark, madrone is clean to bring indoors. Some madrone is knotty and difficult to cut and split.



Do you like to see students learning in the woods? Would you like to spend a few hours helping students learn about forest management or watching an active logging operation? If your answer is, “YES”, we need your help! The Pacific Logging Congress’ In the Woods Show is coming this fall, to Port Blakely’s Molalla Tree Farm (Clackamas County).

Over three thousand fourth- through 12th-graders are expected at the September 25-26 event. These students will see the most high-tech, environmentally advanced logging methods available. Various forestry organizations and associations are hosting education stations for students to learn about the science, practices and stewardship of forestry. We need volunteers to guide student groups along the trail.

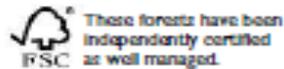
***The Pacific Logging Congress, which happens every four years, is working to sign on about 400 volunteers to lead students through tours. Anyone interested please contact the Oregon Forest Resources Institute, Julie Woodward, [Woodward@ofri.org](mailto:Woodward@ofri.org) or 503-807-1614. We***

“I encourage people to give a few hours of their time. It’s important to our entire forest sector to help future citizens understand what happens in the woods.”  
Duane Evans, Port Blakely Tree Farms and PLC President.



A BALANCED APPROACH

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***Thought for the Day:***

**“Life on Earth is inconceivable without trees”**

*Anton Chekhov*

## **Backpack Sprayer Calibration Workshop Tuesday, June 10th, 5:00—7:00 pm, Gales Creek**

OSU Extension's Chal Landgren will instruct this hands-on workshop. Applying herbicides at the correct rate is essential to their effectiveness and safety. With a backpack sprayer, the application rate depends on your equipment and walking speed. In this class you will learn how to correctly calibrate a backpack sprayer to ensure that you apply herbicides at the correct rate. Bring your own equipment (sprayer and nozzles) if you have them and a calculator. Space is limited to 20 people and RSVP is required. To register call Vicki Krenz at the OSU Extension Office, 503-397-3462. Directions will be provided upon RSVP.



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## **Thinning Best Fire Severity Treatment**

Wildfires only reduce subsequent fire severity for <10 years after the initial fire. Prescribed fire was ineffective unless combined with thinning treatments. **Thinning as a stand-alone treatment was the most consistent treatment for reducing fire severity** with treatment effectiveness lasting longer than 10 years after implementation.

*Estimation of wildfire size and risk changes due to fuels treatments, by M.A. Cochrane, et al , International Journal of Wildland Fire 2012*

[https://www.firescience.gov/projects/06-3-3-11/project/06-3-3-11\\_06-3-3-11\\_cochrane\\_etal\\_IJWF\\_2012.pdf](https://www.firescience.gov/projects/06-3-3-11/project/06-3-3-11_06-3-3-11_cochrane_etal_IJWF_2012.pdf)

## **OFRI Issues 2014-15 Edition of "Family Forests: Your Guide to Technical, Financial, and Educational Resources for Oregon's Family Forest Landowners"**

Oregon offers many sources of assistance for landowners like you. Expert technical advice, classes, grants and person-to-person counsel from peers—as well as online resources—can help families as they develop long-term plans for their forestland. This guide organizes these resources geographically and in other logical ways for easy reference. To obtain a printed copy, contact Mike Cloughesy at Oregon Forest Resource Institute, 971-673-2944 or see the online version at [www.knowyourforest.org](http://www.knowyourforest.org).

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## EPA Proposes New Rule

**Audubon Society Newsletter, 4-11-14** After years of confusion about which streams and wetlands are legally protected under the Clean Water Act, the EPA has announced a proposed rule to clarify which waters will receive protection. This rule will preserve vital safeguards for our nation's waters by ensuring that all streams, and the wetlands in their floodplains, will be covered under the law. It will protect water health and habitat for the vast majority of bird species that depend on clean water, from raptors and rails to plovers and pintails, and yield significant benefits to our communities and economy.

Since its passage, the Clean Water Act has applied to most waters, including lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands. But, major Supreme Court cases in 2001 (*SWANCC v Army Corps of Engineers*) and 2006 (*Rapanos v United States*) called the Act's extent into question because it applies to "navigable waters." The upshot from these cases is that waters must have a "significant nexus" to traditional, navigable waters. The EPA has determined that all streams and their associated wetlands have this connection, including the seasonal or intermittent streams that cover about 60 percent of the nation's tributaries. The new rule limits pollution and infill in these waters and allows for enforcement action, including civil or criminal penalties.

Traditional farming and ranching, as well as dozens of conservation practices, are exempt under the rule, so these landowners will not be subject to new regulations. Wetlands that are isolated from rivers and streams, such as prairie potholes, will be handled on a case-by-case basis, but the EPA is looking for input on whether these wetlands should be consistently covered as well. The EPA will begin accepting public comments in the coming days. Look out for the next Audubon Newsletter to take action on this critical issue for birds and the health of our ecosystems and communities.

### Editor's note:

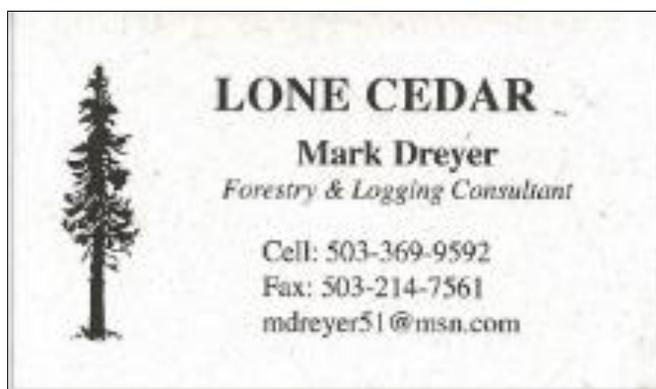
The above Audubon newsletter item reflects the EPA news release announcing the proposed rule. Though the news release presents the proposed rule as the solution to past misunderstandings and confusion, the proposed rule actually takes a strong step to set new regulatory precedent by applying Clean Water Act standards to all streams and associated wetlands, including seasonal and intermittent streams. How will this play out in Oregon? EPA has anticipated pushback from farming and agriculture interests – and conservation interests who might find it applying to conservation practices – by a degree of exemption from the rule. Will this lead to more permitting of activities in forestlands with these seasonal and intermittent streams? How will states that rely on forest practices acts to meet requirements of the Clean Water Act reconcile their regulations with EPA regulations?

The proposed rule will be closely examined by forestry organizations and state agencies when it is released!

### Use Wood, Reduce Fossil Fuel Use

*Increasing the wood harvest to the equivalent of 34 percent or more of annual wood growth to meet construction demands worldwide could drastically reduce the global reliance on fossil fuels while protecting biodiversity and carbon storage capacity, according to a new study.*

Chadwick Dearing Oliver, Nedal T. Nassar, Bruce R. Lippke, James B. McCarter. **Carbon, Fossil Fuel, and Biodiversity Mitigation With Wood and Forests.** *Journal of Sustainable Forestry*, 2014





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**New From OFRI – “The Oregon Way”**

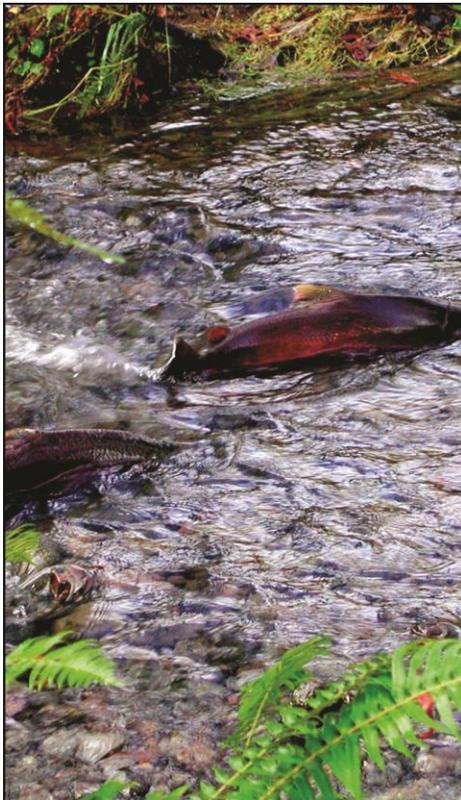
The Oregon Forest Resources Institute has issued a new publication dealing with forests and fish – protecting aquatic habitat in Oregon’s forests. The beautifully illustrated publication leads the reader through Oregon’s history on land use law, Forest Practices Act, the Oregon Plan, and how research is leading the way to keep fish and forests as Oregon’s premier resources. Copies of the publication and accompanying DVD are available from OFRI at [www.OregonForests.org](http://www.OregonForests.org), or call at 971-673-2944.

**Something’s in the Water!  
Fish Survey Results Are In For  
Local Streams**

Native fish populations in the upper Tualatin River, Gales Creek, and Dairy-McKay Creek watersheds were surveyed during the summer of 2013. The results of these surveys will be presented on **Monday, May 19th, from 7 – 9 pm, at McMenamins Grand Lodge**, 3503 Pacific Avenue, Forest Grove, OR.

The event will be hosted by the Tualatin River Watershed Council. It is open to all - an RSVP is not required but will be appreciated, [trwc@trwc.org](mailto:trwc@trwc.org) or 503-846-4801. For more information, check the Tualatin River Watershed Council website, [www.trwc.org](http://www.trwc.org) or contact the Council at 503-846-4810 or [trwc@trwc.org](mailto:trwc@trwc.org).





## A fish story Oregon can be proud of

Over four decades, Oregon has used science, laws and volunteerism to continually improve the ways it protects water quality and fish habitat in private forestlands.

Spread the knowledge using the Oregon Forest Resources Institute's newest public education project: "The Oregon Way."

- A 16-page publication, featuring an introduction by Governor John Kitzhaber
- An eight-minute video, with scientist George Ice and others



Find them at  
[OregonForests.org](http://OregonForests.org)

### ***Wildlife, continued from page 1***

wildlife". She then answered the question with another, "What do you want", and another, "What will your forest support, now and in the future?" Once you've thought through those questions, she said you are ready to deal with the basics of managing wildlife in all aspects of your forestry operations.

"Think habitat" – Fran laid out the basis for managing wildlife – where they live, eat, reproduce, and protect themselves. Habitat concepts extend across a variety of forest management situations, but she focused on those that maximize effects for large groups of wildlife:

- Snags and downed wood
- Deciduous trees and shrubs
- Leave trees
- Other special habitats, such as rocks and cliffs, marshes, riparian areas.

**Snags and downed wood** 25 to 70% percent of all species of wildlife use snags and downed wood at some time or in some way. 93 species of birds use snags; 83 species of mammals and amphibians use downed wood – making these habitats important across all regions and in all seral stages.

Snag management strategies include retaining, growing, and creating snags – generally of a size 12" in DBH or greater. Snags may be retained, grown, or created in groups or clumps, or single trees. Snags in riparian areas are good, but snags in upland areas are also important for species not normally found in riparian areas.

**Deciduous trees and shrubs** Like snags, a wide variety of species rely on deciduous trees and shrubs, and across all forest types and seral stages (70 species or more). Food and cover are the primary values. Heavily used shrubs include oceanspray, hazel, cascara, and berry shrubs. Oregon grape and salal, though

common, are not preferred. Trees include bigleaf maple, alder, cherry, oak, and madrone. Even as small a forest component as 7% can have high value to wildlife.

The key to maintaining deciduous trees and shrubs during forestry operations is to treat them as a high value resource. Avoid damaging shrub patches during harvest; leave “skip” areas and keep heavy equipment out of them. Valuable deciduous trees and shrubs are easier to retain than to create. Thinning to favor key species, and gap creation to allow deciduous species to establish are other techniques. Forage mixes of herbs and shrub species can be seeded on disturbed areas as well.

**Leave trees** The Oregon Forest Practices Act provides for leaving some trees standing in clearcut areas, and the placement of these trees can be done to best benefit wildlife (large, poor quality for timber but good for wildlife trees).

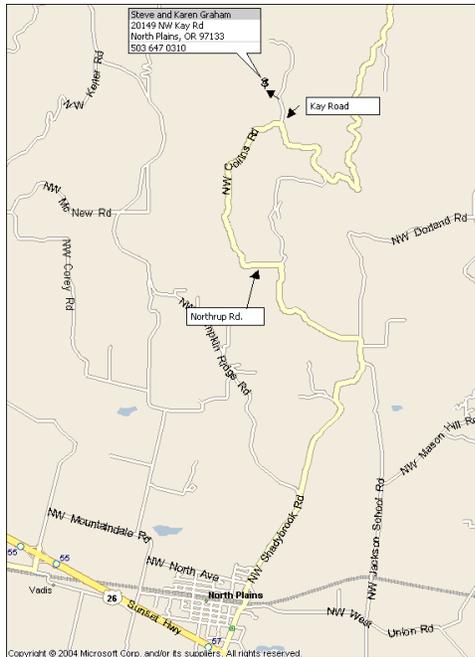
**Special habitats** The best strategy is to retain these areas: stream headwaters, seeps, springs, meadows, wetlands, rocky outcroppings – leaving a buffer around them, and keeping heavy equipment out of them. Fran also pointed out the usefulness of game cameras set on trails, water sites, and wildlife use area to help determine what species use the areas.

**Summary:** Wildlife management covers a wide range of species and situations, and all management and disturbance in the forest has impacts on some species – good and bad. For forest owners, the key is to be **intentional**, not **accidental**, in how they choose to create these impacts. There is room for consideration of wildlife at all stages of forest management. Snags, dead wood, and deciduous species are aspects of wildlife habitat that are of high importance to wildlife at all stages.

Resources that Fran pointed out that would be helpful to forest owners are:

- Oregon Conservation Strategy – a compendium of information about wildlife species and habitats of importance in Oregon. This was the data base that OFRI used for their popular guide for woodland owners, “Identifying High Priority Plants and Animals and their Habitats”. (Note – if you would like a copy, contact April Olbrich of the Tualatin River Watershed Council, 503-846-4810 – she has copies and would like to find homes for them).
- OFRI website, “Know Your Forest”, <http://knowyourforest.org>
- OSU website “Woodland Fish and Wildlife Group”, <http://woodlandfishandwildlife.com/publications.htm>

## Directions To Grahams, WCSWA Annual Potluck



Grahams' address: 20149 NW Kay Rd which is 12 minutes north of Hwy 26 Home phone is 503-647-0310 email is [kgraham@duckswild.com](mailto:kgraham@duckswild.com) to obtain map and directions.

From Hwy 26 go north on either Glencoe Rd. or Jackson school road. Glencoe becomes Shadybrook or turn right from Jackson School onto Shadybrook (as if you were going to Dixie Mtn. Grange). Turn left onto Dixie Mtn Road, turn left onto Northrup Road at the Blueberry Farm, cross bridge and turn right onto Collins road-(gravel from here on).

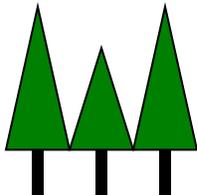
After passing Bamboo Garden and crossing two one way bridges, turn left onto Kay Road, cross small bridge, turn left onto driveway and stay to the right of the Logan's white house and go up the hill to our house which is on small lake. If parking around the house is full, drop off food and continue up to upper shop where there is plenty of parking in front and behind shop. Park neatly so that space is used efficiently, and driving lane is kept clear so people can easily depart.

Warming ovens, fridge will be available to hold food during presentation.

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## Forest Forum



COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE  
OREGON SMALL WOODLANDS  
ASSOCIATION

### Potpourri

**New Member** Welcome to **Felix Smith, of Lynnwood, Washington**. 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.

**Silent Auction Items Needed** OSWA relies on the silent auction event at the annual meeting (coming up in June) for support for several important activities, including the legislative program. Ilene Waldorf, coordinator of the event, has put out a call for items to be donated for the auction. There will be more details in the April OSWA newsletter, but if you have something to donate, or an idea for acquiring donations, **contact Ilene Waldorf at (503) 829-3181 or [iwal@molalla.net](mailto:iwal@molalla.net)**

**Did You Know** The massive genome of the loblolly pine -- around seven times bigger than the human genome -- is the largest genome sequenced to date and the most complete conifer genome sequence ever published. This achievement marks the first big test of a new analysis method that can speed up genome assembly by compressing the raw sequence data 100-fold. Conifers are the predominant members of the 300 million year old Gymnosperm clade. Conifers are also distinguished by their leviathan genomes. Loblolly pine is the most commercially important tree species in the United States and the source of most American paper products.

*Science Daily, March 10, 2014*

#### 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>