

Forest Forum

Washington County Small Woodlands Association

December, 2014

2014 WCSWA Annual Banquet

Over one hundred people spent an enjoyable evening at Meriwether County Club for WCSWA's Annual Banquet. The event offered good food, friends, awards, and an informative program. Jim James, OSWA's Executive Director, presented Tom and Pat Nygren with the 2014 Washington County Outstanding Volunteers award. Then the 2014 "Tree Farmer of the Year" honor was presented to John and Cathy Dummer by Dallas Boge on behalf of Oregon Tree Farm



Cathy and John accept sign from Rodger Vandyke of Stimson Lumber. Dallas Boge on right.

System. John and Cathy, WCSWA's co-presidents, were presented with the beautiful sign donated from Stimson Lumber by Rodger VanDyke. Tom Nygren was the Emcee for the program which consisted of slides and a DVD of "Sights and Scenes of Scandanavia" taken during the tour earlier this year offered by the Oregon Woodland Cooperative and attended by several WCSWA members. After enjoying the show, I know many more of us wished we had been on the trip. Many door prizes were interspersed with the awards and program. Thanks to Stuart and Leah Mullholland for their work collecting and awarding the door prizes.



Tom and Pat Nygren are awarded Washington County Outstanding Volunteers by Jim James, OSWA Executive Director.

WCSWA January 27th Meeting, 7:00pm
North Plains Fire Station, 31370 NW Commercial St

Come hear about local funding opportunities and available assistance!

Local representatives from five agencies will update us on available programs for 2015 and beyond.

See "Opportunities." page 7

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

Board of Directors:

Pos. #1: Deb Kapfer, 503-628-6349 kapferd@upwardaccess.com

Pos. #2: Sam Sadtler 503-324-0223 samsncee@gmail.com

Pos. #3: Bonnie Shumaker – 503-324-7825 bshumaker@coho.net

Pos. #4: Scott Hayes 503-568-5999.scotthayes@wildblue.net

Pos. #5: Doug Eddy, 503-628-1468

douglas.eddy@upwardaccess.com

Pos. #6: Bill Triest – 503-705-5833 whtriest@gmail.com

Legislative Committee Chair:

Scott Hayes, 503-568-5999, 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, John and Cathy Dummer – 503-244-3812

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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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: Nothing submitted this month

For Sale: Protect your fire hazard. John Deere 8 foot farm disk. Call 503-357-4258.

Free: Back issues of Forest Forum – several years. If interested, contact Don Olson at 503-357-2942

Event Calendar

December			No Meetings/Activities Scheduled
January	16-17	PNW Forestry Leadership Academy-Oregon Garden Resort, Silverton, OR	Learn to take active roles in leading forestry organizations. Register by Jan 7. Questions? Amanda@forestry.org
January	26	Forest Tax Symposium at OSU – 8:30am-4:30pm	Learn about the myriad of taxes related to forests and forest ownership. Register http://taxsymposium.eventbrite.com
January	27	WCSWA Meeting, North Plains Fire Station, 7:00pm	Funding and Assistance Opportunities
February	24	WCSWA Monthly Meeting North Plains Fire Station	Mike Cafferata will be speaking on the Scoggins Valley Rd. fire.
March	14	Native Plant Sale Bales Thriftway, Farmington Rd., Aloha 9:00-3:00	WCSWA's 15 th Annual Native Plant Sale – all profits go to scholarships for OSU Forestry students

The Woodland Beat

As we come to the end of another year, this is a good time to remember and celebrate the year we've had. So... a bit like a holiday letter, here's a brief reminder of some of the activities that the WCSWA hosted in 2014:

- At our regular monthly meetings we learned about historic railroads and logging, the Salmonberry Rails to Trails Project, spraying and getting rid of invasives, managing for wildlife and harvesting equipment and methods.
- When it was time to go outside for our annual potluck we learned about truffle dogs and were graciously hosted at the Graham's place; what a fantastic setting for an early summer picnic!
- The Tree Farmer of the Year tour at Chuck Price's place was another highlight of the year. He really put on a celebration and represented Washington County well as our Tree Farmer of the Year.
- There was a tour to Lewis River Restoration to check on our seedlings in the fall.
- Several of our members traveled to Scandinavia in the spring and shared their experiences at the annual banquet.

The seedling sale was once again very successful; as was the native plant sale, all the profits of the plant sale and half the seedling sale profits went to support college students in forestry and natural resources as they further their education. Our newsletter also has continued to be a fantastic way to keep our members informed. A lot of work goes into each issue and the quality is consistently very high.

An update to WCSWA's Bylaws was adopted by the membership at the annual meeting. The approval was the culmination of a significant effort by several board members. Doug Eddy and Deb Kapfer took leading roles, and all board members were involved in this update. These changes help to better reflect how the organization is actually run and also helps spell out more clearly our goals and objectives. A special thanks to all the board members for their efforts in guiding the organization smoothly through the past year.

Just prior to the annual banquet, like about 48 hours before the banquet, Cathy and I returned from the OSU Extension Service Study Tour to Chile. We had a fantastic time and will be sharing more about what we learned on that trip with you in future. We were also honored and excited (and a little surprised) to be named the 2014 Washington County Tree Farmer of the Year. We will do our best to represent our organization well. We look forward to hosting folks at our place this summer as part of that.

It has been a very good year for the Washington County Small Woodlands Association! I apologize for the things that I've missed – I know there are some, but I wanted everyone to realize that there are definitely things going on and there is always something new to learn. I also wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped out with all of these activities. Thank you for your continued involvement; we're looking forward to another great year in 2015! Come on out and invite a neighbor to our events in 2015.

Until next time – 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.

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A Different Kind of Forest Legacy

I remember a few years back being at the funeral of a much-loved woodland friend, John Helmer. His son, John, shared his feelings about continuing the legacy of his dad's tree farm. His dad wore many hats; in fact his business was John Helmer Haberdasher. Son, John had already taken over his father's business after his dad's retirement and was continuing this legacy as the third generation in the business in downtown Portland.

We knew John, Sr. through his love of his woodland near Scholls and his active involvement in WCSWA. He was most often a well-dressed refined man of the city, but he loved exchanging that for time spent on his property. He would come to WCSWA meetings after enjoying a day in the woods wearing a ratty old sweater and jeans. I think he enjoyed the dichotomy of his days in town and getting down and dirty on his woodland.

His son, John enjoyed the woods as well, but his comment about whether or not to keep the tree farm in the family was that after taking on the legacy of the business, he wasn't sure how many more legacies he could handle. Surveys show handing down the tree farm to the next generation is high priority for most tree farmers, but is having the property stay in the family the only way to leave a legacy?

My parents never owned a piece of woodland property, and when I was growing up, we moved around a lot, mostly in the west. No matter where we lived, my mother managed to find a piece of forest in which we could hike and enjoy the surroundings. She taught my sister and me the names of wildflowers, about the wildlife in the woods, and which plants offered edible fruit. She taught us in no uncertain terms and that the trailing wild blackberries, even though they are smaller and harder to pick, offer the best flavor. All these things reminded her of her childhood in Bellevue, WA when it was a small farming community, and she passed along that love to us.



These taste the best!

My mother and father moved onto our farm in Banks in 1978, a year after we bought the place. While it was mostly cleared pasture land when we bought it, there was a patch of woods to explore. Since then we doubled the size of the farm by buying an adjacent clear-cut. We planted seedlings there and also converted almost all the pastures to woodland. After my dad died and my mother aged, I realized it was my turn to commit to memory the forest lore and wild-flower names and pass this down to the next generation or two. I'm not sure I've entirely convinced them of the benefits of the ankle-grabbing, trailing blackberries over the easier to

pick Himalayan blackberries, but I haven't given up trying.

My mother passed away this year on November 4th. She will always be with me in so many places, but especially in the forest. Her legacy does not include a piece of land, but it is no less valuable. I do not know if John Helmer's tree farm is still in the family, but I'll bet his legacy includes memories and knowledge concerning forests, too.

Perception

By Myles Anderson, Pres. Am. Loggers Council

"Perception is complex constructions of simple elements joined through association and is subject to the influence of learning. Perception can result from a catastrophic event or a description provided by someone you trust.

When it comes to professional timber harvesters, perception is all over the board. Absent education, a bad or false perception will linger forever. There are many people in this country that would be content if trees were never harvested again; they are comfortable in their perception that boards come from the lumber yards, not from the forest.

The United States has more forested acres today than 100 years ago; this can be credited to many factors including our industries interest in sustainability. Few people understand this and education is needed to change this perception."

"With the holidays upon us, I hope it gives the timber harvesting community time to think about where our industry is and where we are going. I hope that consideration will be given to educating others this coming year on exactly what it is we do out in the woods each and every day. We can be a community that cuts down trees, or we can be a dedicated industry of environmental stewards working hard to sustain a renewable resource and provide jobs that insure livelihoods to families and communities. Perception means a lot to children and adults seeking more information on this subject, and we need to do a better job of educating everyone, including those we work for, on what it is we do."

The above is taken from the American Loggers Council column "As We See It..." in "Loggers World," December, 2014.



A BALANCED APPROACH

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worries about that."**

Barbara Walker's advice to her children



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"Opportunities" from page 1

Gail Stinnett, County Executive Director for the USDA-Farm Service Agency, will share details about the Tree Assistance Program now available for Christmas tree growers, the Emergency Forest Reforestation, and the Emergency Conservation Program.

Santiago Misquez, District Conservationist for USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service based in Hillsboro, will update us on EQIP funding available to forest owners for activities such as Forest Stand Improvement, Tree and Shrub Establishment, and Weed Control.

Nathan Agalzoff and Kevin Nelson, Stewardship Foresters with the Oregon Department of Forestry, will provide a brief overview of the new notification system and updates on landowner assistance programs

Jennifer Nelson, OVE Program Manager for the Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District, will share recent successes in and changes to the streamside restoration program, and ask for input on classes and other assistance the District may provide forest owners.

April Olbrich, Tualatin River Watershed Council Coordinator will discuss OWEB grant funding.

The Adventures of Duggy Fir

by Thomas Perkins

A Happy
Holiday...



... In
the
Oregon
Forest

Best wishes for a safe and happy Holiday Season from Duggy Fir and WCSWA

Election Time

At the WCSWA Banquet, nominations were made and accepted for Officers and Board Members to serve in 2015. Enclosed in this newsletter is a ballot to be marked, folded, taped, stamped and mailed before December 31st. Officers and Board members term begins January 1, 2015. Please mail in your ballot.



LONE CEDAR

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Grant Helps Ore. Company Develop Biochar Product

From "Capital Press," November 28, 2014 by Eric Mortenson

A biochar product applied to fields increased red winter wheat yields 26 to 34 percent in preliminary trials and earned a Portland-area company a grant to pursue commercial production.

Walking Point farms, a veteran-owned agri-tech business based in Tigard, Ore., received \$91,000 from Oregon BEST, a non-profit that coordinates funding, research and development of clean-tech enterprises. Walking Point is working with Marion Ag Services of Salem to produce Pro-Pell-It, lime pellets coated with biochar, the charcoal-like substance produced by heating woody biomass such as logging slash.

Biochar is considered a quick fix for depleted soils and up to now has been favored by small, organic operations or home gardeners. It replenishes carbon in the soil, retains water and nutrients, makes soils less acidic and reduces erosion and leaching. "Biochar essentially mimics organic matter that fallow wheat fields in Eastern Oregon and Washington lack," said Stephen Machado, a dry-land cropping agronomist at OSU's Columbia Basin Agricultural Research Center in Pendleton. "Bio-char brings all that back," Machado said. As an added benefit, "Once you apply it, that's it," he said, adding that repeated applications don't appear to be necessary.

Backers also say biochar application is a way to sequester carbon that would otherwise be released to the atmosphere.

Walking Point Farms and Marion Ag plan to release the product next spring. It will be the first large-scale commercial marketing of the pellets. Summit Seed Coatings, of Caldwell, Idaho, verified that biochar coating could be done at commercial levels.

Oregon BEST, which provided the \$91,000 grant, has increasingly focused on precision ag ventures. Since it was founded by the 2007 Oregon Legislature, the agency has secured more than \$135 million for clean technology research from federal, foundation, and industry investors.



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“A Positive Mental Attitude helps us accomplish things. To me a Positive Mental Attitude simply means: Keep your mind on what you want to happen – not on what you are afraid might happen. What it boils down to is that if you believe you can do it, or if you believe you can’t do it, you are probably right.”

Finley Hays Rigging Shack “Logger’s World,” Dec. 1976 and Dec. 2014

Western Innovator – Bob McNitt

From “Capital Press,” Nov. 26, 2014

Over the course of his long career, forester Bob McNitt has witnessed a complete transformation in reforestation methods. In 2006, McNitt launched the Forest Seedling Network, a company that seeks to connect buyers and sellers of seedlings and help landowners understand which trees are the right fit for their geography.

The company has a website – www.forestseedlingnetwork.com. Landowners can select their planting sites on an on-line map and the website will generate recommended seedling types and their availability. The site features a service directory where landowners can find labor contractors, aerial pesticide applicators and equipment suppliers, among others, as well as tips on choosing the right seedlings and ensuring they get established.

Editor’s note: We congratulate Bob on being chosen Western Innovator by the Capital Press. Besides all that is mentioned above, Bob willingly advertises our Native Plant Sale on his website and is an advertiser in the Forest Forum.

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Market Potential

From American Forest Foundation, November 20, 2014

Healthy markets mean healthy forests--we know that landowners who have diverse markets and demand for their wood are better able to keep their forests as forests and keep them healthy.

But... there has been an ongoing debate as to whether using forest biomass for energy does reduce carbon emissions.

On November 19, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a long-awaited policy saying they believe forest biomass that is a residue or waste from forestry activities (i.e. mill waste), a municipal waste, or comes from sustainable forests, can help reduce carbon emissions. While there are a number of uncertainties and outstanding questions with this policy, including how "sustainable forests" will be defined, we believe this is a positive step forward for family forest owners!

We also believe there is an important role for the American Tree Farm System, as an internationally recognized, third-party audited forest certification system, in demonstrating sustainable forests. We will be working with EPA, state governments, and our partners to make this case, and the case for all the various mechanisms for demonstrating sustainable forests and hope you'll join us in these efforts.

In other news good news for growing markets, on November 18th, USDA announced the first forest products to be certified under USDA's Biobased Markets Program, following changes ATFS advocated for in the 2014 Farm Bill to ensure forest products qualify. This is great news and will lead to increased demand and market opportunities for forest products!

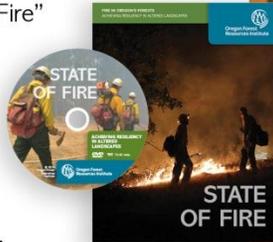
A state of fire

Oregon is coming off another brutal fire season.

What's going on in the forests? Why have wildfires grown so costly? Why have the risks worsened? What can we do?

Check out "State of Fire" to learn more – a 16-page report and a companion 11-minute video.

Find them at OregonForests.org



Friend of Forest and Trails Passes Away

Barbara Walker, widow of Wendell Walker and friend of OSWA and Portland Parks, passed away on October 26. Wendell and Barbara were both instrumental in making WCSWA the vibrant OSWA chapter it is today. Wendell passed away in 2012. Barbara is survived by her sons, Angus, Ian and Duncan Walker, their wives and grandchildren. WCSWA has been granted use of the cooler at the Walker tree farm to store tree seedlings for the seedling sale since the inception of the sale. The Walker legacy will live on in both forestry and park circles. A memorial will be held Dec. 17 at 3:00pm at the Portland Art Museum.

From "The Oregonian", Nov. 23, 2014

"Barbara was busy raising three young boys in 1968 when a friend recruited her to defend their neighborhood's wooded ravine against developers who planned to build apartments. Walker agreed to help, launching a decades-long commitment to preserving and expanding Portland's urban wilderness.

After she and her neighbors staved off the developers and secured the land now known as Marquam Nature Park, she went on to help create Tom McCall Waterfront Park, Pioneer Courthouse Square, the Springwater Corridor and the "40-mile loop" that connects them all.

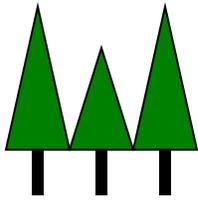
Barbara was so adamant about refusing credit for her work that, for years, her own sons had no idea how instrumental she was. Ian Walker, 50, said his mother would often discuss the Marquam group's work at the dinner table. She so seldom mentioned herself that "I thought that mom was just going to these meetings and listening."

He added: "She always told us kids not to care who took the credit – that you can get way more done if nobody worries about that."

Newsletter Editor
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Forest Forum



COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE
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Potpourri



Life on Earth is inconceivable without trees.”

-Anton Chekhov-

Helpful Links:

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