

# Forest Forum

## Washington County Small Woodlands Association

March, 2015

**March 24<sup>th</sup> WCSWA Meeting**

### **Pulp And Export Markets Demystified!**

Small woodland owners in Washington County have a variety of choices when it comes time to sell their logs. The pulp and export markets, two common destinations for our logs, are often tied to factors other than housing starts, our common indicator for domestic sawmills. In our increasingly globalized economy, these markets are often difficult to track. The ultimate fate of the export and pulp logs we sell, and the products made from them can also be a bit more mysterious.

**Join us March 24<sup>th</sup>,** when local log buyers **Paul Hadaller (PacFibre)** and **Eric Recht (Pacific Lumber and Shipping)** will shed some light on these questions, and more! The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the North Plains Fire Station on Commercial Street.

### **Scoggins Creek Fire: “Bad Day In A Bad Spot”**

With that opening statement at the February 24<sup>th</sup> WCSWA meeting, Mike Cafferata, District Forester for the Oregon Department of Forestry at Forest Grove, presented a detailed account of the fire and efforts to contain it last summer. The Scoggins Creek Fire was reported at approximately 2:30 p.m. PDT on Friday, September 19. Burning two miles northwest of Hagg Lake, the fast-moving blaze was casting embers ahead of the flame-front and starting new spot fires, and fire-fighters were seeing fire whirls – evidence of extreme fire behavior.



The fire was unusually large for the Forest Grove District, according to Mike. The average acreage burned annually for the District over the last five years has been 52 acres. However, the conditions were right for this fire to exceed the average, in spite of rapid action by District fire crews. The fire started in a 2 year-old Douglas-fir plantation on Stimson Lumber Company land. It was called in by a watchman on another nearby Stimson harvest operation. At this time the cause of the fire is still being determined. It grew quickly; by 9 p.m. it had reached a size of 150 acres. It burned into a young Stimson Douglas-fir plantation. Eventually other crews and overhead teams were brought in to relieve the District fire team.

A little over an hour into the suppression effort, the District ordered in a helicopter with a water bucket, and began water drops on the fire – supplied by water from Hagg Lake. The fire had moved into a 15 year-old plantation, creating a difficult suppression challenge. A pre-planned and equipped fire team was ordered and arrived the next morning to take over the

*(continued on 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@oho.net

### **Board of Directors:**

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

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

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

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

douglas.eddy@upwardaccess.com

Pos. #6: Karen Graham, 503-647-0310, [kgraham@duckswild.com](mailto:kgraham@duckswild.com)

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**Membership Committee:** Stuart Mulholland, 503-985-3168

Program Committee: Bill Triest – 503-626-1838; John and Cathy

Dummer – 503-970-8789, Mike Messier, 503-233-2131, [mike@troutmountain.com](mailto:mike@troutmountain.com)

### **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

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bshumaker@oho.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:**
- 1) Caretaker-Renter at Gales Creek timber property. Call 503-357-4258.
  - 2) Computer savvy WCSWA member to monitor and suggest changes/updates to our website [www.wcswa.com](http://www.wcswa.com) Contact either newsletter editor (see Forest Forum newsletter box above)
  - 3) Alternative representative from WCSWA to Tualatin River Watershed Council – contact Tom Nygren, 503-628-5472 for more information
  - 4) Brush hog in good working condition for mowing grass and knocking down blackberries. It needs to be 5 to 6 feet wide and able to connect to the three point hitch on a tractor. 971-678-6705.

**For Sale:** Chicago Electric dual mg welder (\$500), RADOR cutting torch with cart (\$500). Handley Tree Farm LLC, [kinghandley@gmail.com](mailto:kinghandley@gmail.com), 503-319-1727

## **Event Calendar**

<b>March</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>WCSWA Native Plant Sale, Bales Thriftway, Aloha, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.</b>	WCSWA's 15 <sup>th</sup> Annual Native Plant Sale – all profits go to scholarships for OSU Forestry students
	<b>24</b>	<b>WCSWA Monthly Meeting, 7 p.m. North Plain Fire Station</b>	Log Sales, see article on page 1
<b>April</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Soils School: PCC Rock Creek, 8 am – 2 pm</b>	\$30 per person or \$50 for two people, breakfast snacks and lunch provided. <a href="http://www.wmswcd.org">www.wmswcd.org</a>
	<b>18</b>	<b>Jackson Bottom Wetland Preserve Native Plant Sale &amp; Fair, 9 am – 3 pm</b>	For more information, contact jacksonbottom.org, or call 503-642-7272 or 503-806-6799.

## **The Woodland Beat**

Passing a piece of small woodland property from one generation to another seems like it should be so easy. Given that the next generation likely spent some time on the property, one would think that there might be a bond that would more or less automatically be formed between it and the land.

Cathy and I have owned our property for almost 7 years now, which is not all that long in the grand scheme of things. We've created a bond with our own land, but part of what helped make that bond was my experience growing up in a small woodland family. My parents own 50 acres in Yamhill County and had 60 more there until a few years ago. What I've come to realize is that it isn't necessarily the specific piece of land that is important to me, but rather the idea of giving something new a try and figuring it out by experimenting and picking up what I can from others. That spark of creativity, desire to learn, pride of ownership and recognition deep down that there is a piece of the planet I'm responsible for is what motivates me on our property.

Recently my nephew joined me for a day in the woods as he has periodically done over the past few years. He's helped out with building trails and this time transplanted a number of trees for us and helped out with some thinning and limbing. Soon he'll be off to medical school and might not ever get the chance to have a piece of property, but I hope he sees what it is that motivates me. It is okay if he doesn't necessarily apply it to property ownership, but I hope he finds something that does for him what small woodland ownership is doing for me at this point in my life.

My parents purchased their small woodland over 4 decades ago. They have asked that my generation take it over. For me that means taking what motivates me as a property owner and turning some of that energy into helping manage the place with my siblings. Given that I don't have a particular connection to my parents' property I didn't really see the importance of keeping it in the family. (On the Ties to the Land Heirloom Scale I was pretty low.) More recently I've come to realize that even if my siblings and I are tremendous failures at actually managing the land, we will be better for trying.

My Mom has always said that she didn't want to see the property come between us. None of us wants that either and one of our goals is something like making sure the property brings us together. The thing that I've realized is that I'd rather try this and have something to work on with my siblings than to not try and maybe have less in common with them. This probably wasn't what my parents envisioned happening when they decided to purchase the property, but we are becoming a forest family and that they might have envisioned. It isn't going to be easy, but I'm optimistic about how this will all turn out and look forward to the opportunity to get to know my siblings better through the experience.

Until next time – Happy Small Woodlanding!

*John and Cathy Dummer*

**Paid Your OSWA Dues Yet?**

*Being part of an organization that represents your interests, provides educational opportunities and offers the chance to regularly meet up with some of the coolest people in the county who are also small woodland owners is something you wouldn't want to miss out on. If you haven't done so already, please renew your membership in OSWA/Washington County Small Woodlands Association for 2015. Thank you!*

## 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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Thank you for supporting Washington County Small

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Interactive website that connects forest landowners with seedling growers, forest management vendors & other technical assistance resources

## **Truffling? It's Just Like Fishing**

If you've ever fished for the elusive trout, you know that you can arrive at the right river at the right time of day, have the right lure, find the perfect riffle that flows into an attractive pool, cast your line and come up empty-handed. Of course, it can go the other way, too, which explains the optimism of fisher-folk.

After the WCSWA Potluck last May and the talk and demonstration by Alana of the "Truffle Dog Company," with help from Anne and her dog Cooper, we decided to investigate whether we had nuggets of fungi gold beneath our trees. We have about 20 acres that are afforested pasture or crop land planted with Doug-fir 15-25 years old - perfect for truffles. We know it is important to harvest truffles at the correct ripeness. We even at one time read about how to train a dog to sniff out ripe truffles and tried it on our son's young Labrador. We bought a bottle of truffle oil, dabbed it on a cotton ball and let the dog take a sniff. Then we hid the infused cotton ball and turned the dog loose. She ran around all excited, eventually found the ball and gulped the whole thing down. To protect her intestinal tract, we then put the cotton ball in an old 35mm. film container with holes punched in the top. That wasn't nearly as exciting to find, and we all lost enthusiasm. The other challenge was marketing. I like to think that Bob and I have many skills, but marketing isn't one of them. When you hire "The Truffle Dog Company," they will help you find, harvest and market your truffles.

The first work the Truffle Dog Company did was an analysis and map survey of our property to determine promising areas. Then, during the truffle season (December – March) they came out to see what was there. Anne and Cooper came in February, later than expected due to the lateness of finding ripe truffles this year. After about an hour of following Anne and Cooper through the most promising spots on the map, the fishing analogy came to mind. Everything was there: the right soil, 19-year-old Doug-fir planted on former ag-land, and a dog to sniff out the truffles. We found a total of 4 truffles and they were all under one tree. It was disappointing, but Anne encouraged us to keep looking in case our 1100 foot altitude made the season even later. I may do that, but am more inclined to think this strange winter weather may signal a bad year for truffles and next year may be a bumper crop. Who knows? After all, woodland owners are often heralded for their optimism, too.



**Cooper enjoying a beautiful day in the forest looking for truffles.**



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**Coming together is a beginning,  
Keeping together is progress,  
Working together is success**  
Henry Ford

## New Tree Farm Standards in Effect

The American Forest Foundation (AFF) announced the release of its updated Standards of Sustainability for Forest Certification under the American Tree Farm System (ATFS). The Standards, which are revised every five years, are the result of a rigorous, multi-stakeholder process and based on international guidelines for sustainable forest management and conservation.

The American Tree Farm System works to sustain America's family-owned forests and the clean water and air, wildlife, wood products and recreational opportunities these forests provide. ATFS does this by empowering woodland owners to be effective stewards of the land and by setting sustainable forest management standards that are used by thousands of owners of family forests certified by ATFS.

An Independent Standards Review Panel (ISRP) developed the revisions based on an extensive public feedback process. The revised Standards include several core revisions to ensure long-term stewardship of America's forests, including expanding best management practices to encompass water, air and soil, and clarifying management needed to protect threatened and endangered species and forests of recognized importance.

The revised Standards will govern ATFS certification for the next five years, beginning on January 1, 2015. The ATFS community and certificate holders will have one year to transition to any revisions to the Standards.

Detailed information on the new Standards, including a timeline of key dates in the transition process, can be found on the ATFS website, [www.treefarmsystem.org](http://www.treefarmsystem.org).



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### Scoggins Fire, continued from page 1

operation. The firefighting was complicated by the presence of rural homes in the area – 30 homes were evacuated by Sheriff's Deputies and Rural Fire District firefighters as a precaution during the early stages of the fire.

Good aerial video coverage of the fire was obtained by local news helicopters, and Mike showed the audience an “up close and personal” view of firefighting by the bucket helicopter, ground crews, and a dozer.

The last time a similar fire occurred in this area was in the 1990’s, but was only 110 acres in size. The cost of fighting the Scoggins fire was about \$2 million, the majority of which was paid by the harvest assessment tax (\$1.7 million). Mike pointed out that the key to making good firefighting decisions is knowing when to call in resources – understanding the balance between keeping costs low by using only District crews, and bringing in higher cost firefighting resources which could prevent a much larger fire and higher costs.

#### Defensible fire space

Nate Agalzoff, Stewardship Forester on the Forest Grove ODF District, discussed the status of the fire hazard reduction program that has been implemented over the last few years on the District. This program provides technical advice, and some funds, for forest landowners to create “defensible space” around their forest homes and property values. The grant runs out in 2016, so there is still time to participate. Cost-share funding will cover fuel reduction activities such as thinning, pruning, chipping, burning, and other actions to reduce fuel. The cost-share amount is 75%, based on a flat rate per acre for the activity. \$500-600 per acre is the range of costs used in calculating the cost-share.

Technical advice from ODF foresters is available in determining the need for fuel reduction amount and methods. A Forest Stewardship Plan, which is also cost-shared, can help make decisions about the need for treatment. The minimum for participating in a fuel reduction activity is 1 acre. Any Stewardship Forester can help you with this program. Nate’s number is 503-536-3348 (north half of Washington County). Kevin Nelson’s contact number is 503-359-7493 (south half of Washington County). Brent O’Nion’s number is 503-359-7442 (Yamhill County)



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## **OSU Natural Resource Center Plans Announced**

Oregon State University, internationally recognized as a leading natural resources university, has begun an initiative to build a \$60 million complex to accelerate its forestry education programs and research on advanced wood products.

The Oregon Forest Science Complex will encompass renovation of existing OSU campus facilities as well as new construction, and showcase innovative uses of wood in building design.

The project includes a \$30 million fundraising goal, and matching bonding for the project was included in the governor's capital budget for consideration in the upcoming legislative session.

The Oregon Forest Science Complex illustrates the university's commitment to invest in its programs of greatest distinction and potential for local and global impact, said OSU president Ed Ray. "Sometimes people think that forestry was important for Oregon's past but don't realize that it remains critical to our economy today, and may become even more important in the future. We are very proud of OSU's contributions to the sector and are eager to build on this rich heritage, carrying out our mission as a 21<sup>st</sup> century land grant university."

## **New OFRI Ads Out**

Oregon Forest Resources Institute begins a new round of advertising this month to educate Oregonians about the laws that help sustain Oregon forests. OFRI will run two ads that have proved effective – one titled "[Amazing](#)" and another called "[The 4 R's](#)." The spots call out the varied uses of Oregon forests – from camping to wildlife habitat to harvesting trees for forest products – and point out the strong laws that govern forest practices. The new versions of "Amazing" and "The 4 R's" can be viewed at [OregonForests.org](http://OregonForests.org).

## FORESTLAND FOR SALE in OREGON & WASHINGTON

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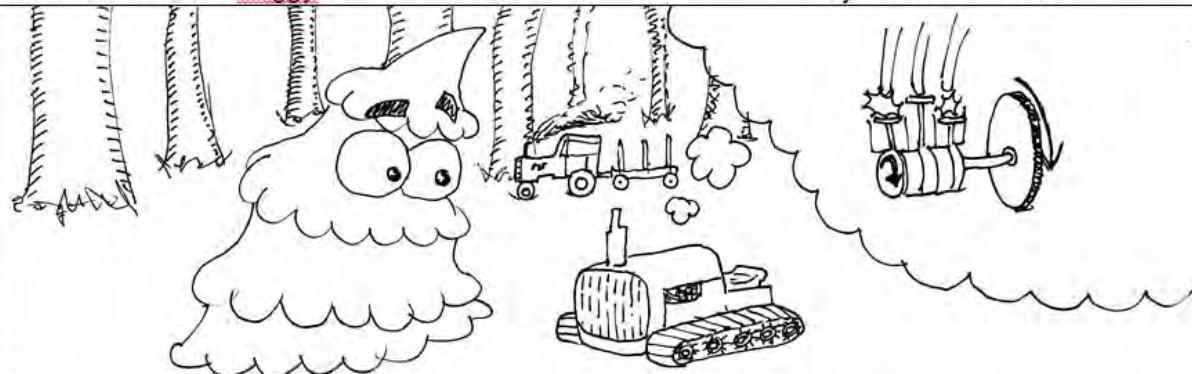
### Trees Planted Here! Let the Public Know

Tree-planting season is here, and it's a good time for forestland managers to remind the driving public that trees are always replanted on private forestland. Managers are encouraged to [order free signs](#) from the Oregon Forest Resources Institute and to erect them along well-traveled highways or county roads.

OFRI offers the signs not just for plantings this winter, but for any year – even stands planted 20 or 30 years ago. "This is one simple thing any landowner can do to make sure the public sees that replanting is a routine part of what we do," says OFRI Executive Director Paul Barnum. "I urge landowners to sign older stands, too. It helps people easily understand that what is today a thriving, mature forest was once a harvest." Order signs at [knowyourforest.org/learning-library/landowner-signage](http://knowyourforest.org/learning-library/landowner-signage). You'll just have to specify the planting year. The durable signs are 5 feet wide, come with nuts and bolts, and are shipped free of charge. Landowners need only supply two metal posts to erect the signs.

### The Adventures of Duggy Fir

by Thomas Perkins



Duggy Fir decided to learn more about tractors. He asked many questions about how they work. "You don't drink water like us trees, do you?" asked Duggy. "Oh no," said Carl, a small but smart tractor. "Like pickups and cars we tractors burn fuel such as diesel or gasoline. Fuel explodes in our engines pushing tiny pistons that make our wheels move."

# Salvaging the Ecosystem after Salvage Logging

After a forest fire burns a large swath across timberlands, salvage logging is often not far behind. It sounds like a good idea, since even the timber from burned trees can be used for lumber. Economic benefit can come from otherwise devastated land. Even the name has a warm, fuzzy ring to it: *salvage* logging. However, the ecological effects need to be considered.

For over a decade, Joseph Wagenbrenner, assistant professor in Michigan Technological University's School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science, has been examining salvage logging at four forest fire sites in Montana, Colorado and Washington. He and his research team studied the effects of salvage logging on the ground cover, soil compaction, sediment in water runoff and regrowth of vegetation, compared to control plots that were not logged after a fire.

Specifically, they looked at the impact of various salvage logging practices, including the trails made by the most commonly used equipment: feller bunchers—heavy machines that drive uphill, cutting and piling up trees—and skidders, which pick up the piles of trees and drag them back downhill.

They found that the amount of sediment in runoff water increased measurably on the smaller plots, but the increase was not consistent on larger tracts of land. The amount of sediment running downhill and the compaction of the ground was greater where the feller bunchers and skidders were used. The more firmly compacted ground becomes, the less water can soak in and the more runoff and erosion can occur.

Why is sediment an issue? It can cause flooding, when streams and reservoirs get clogged. At one of the study sites, where the Hayman fire burned 140,000 acres of the Pike-San Isabel National Forest in central Colorado, the sediment runoff was so bad that one of the main reservoirs serving Denver had to be dredged.

Sediment can also damage fish habitat, raising water temperature and killing food sources. And it fills pools and streams with organic matter that is hard for water treatment plants to process, Wagenbrenner explains.

Sometimes salvage logging operations leave the small branches and treetops on the ground. This material, called slash, helped ameliorate the erosion and sediment problem, the researchers found.

His team's recommendations for best management practices for salvage logging include:

- Leave slash on the ground
- Break up long feller-buncher and skidder trails with "water bars"—mounds of dirt that slow and divert runoff.
- Decompact the soil after heavy equipment is used.
- Consider replanting vegetation, which works better than slash because it roots in the soil.

Wagenbrenner and colleagues published results of the US Forest Service-funded study in the January 2015 issue of the journal *Forest Ecology and Management*.

*Excerpted from an article by Jennifer Donovan of Michigan Technological University*

## Rules to live by

The Oregon Forest Practices Act requires that all the benefits of the forest be sustained for future generations. Our new special report, *Rules to Live By*, describes how Oregon works to do that.

Order a copy and learn more at:  
[OregonForestLaws.org](http://OregonForestLaws.org)



## Electronic Notification for FPA – or “FERNS”

Kevin Nelson, one of three Stewardship Foresters based in the Forest Grove ODF office, gave a short presentation at the February 24<sup>th</sup> WCSWA meeting on “FERNS”, (Forest Activity Electronic Reporting and Notification System) the electronic reporting system for Forest Practices Act notifications. Kevin said FERNS is now fully operational, but you must register as a landowner or operator to use it. Once you have done that, you can set up a “dashboard” of your entries to complete the notification. You can work on your notification in more than one sitting. Drop down screens (using the “Legends” icon, which looks like a little stack of paper) allow you to access different entry locations. If you need help, there is a “Help” tab to access it. To access FERNS, you can go to the ODF website and use the FERNS notification code. Or, you can access FERNS directly at <https://ferns.odf.state.or.us/E-notification>. Remember, notification is required for forest operations, and use of fire or power driven machinery.

Some helpful hints:

- Your particular site conditions may call for a written plan (talk to your Stewardship Forester)
- To get a waiver on implementation time, call or e-mail your Stewardship Forester
- A Stewardship Forester can help you make changes or edits
- You can attach PDF's with additional information
- There is a comment section on the site where you can get additional information that Stewardship Foresters put on
- Additional upgrades and changes to improve the system are coming! Stewardship Foresters: Nate Agalzoff's number is 503-536-3348 (north half of Washington County). Kevin Nelson's contact number is 503-359-7493 (south half of Washington County). Brent O'Nion's number is 503-359-7442 (Yamhill County)



**Left:** Nate Agalzoff,

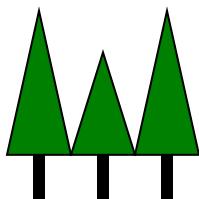
**Center:** District Forester Mike Cafferata,

**Right:** Kevin Nelson

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## Forest Forum



COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE  
OREGON SMALL WOODLANDS  
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### Potpourri

**New Member** Welcome to **Chad Mitchell** of North Plains and **Darren Goodding** of Tualatin! 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.

#### **Firewood: Bark Up or Bark Down?**

"It would be humorous if it was all semantics," says Mark Knaebe, natural resources specialist with the Forest Products Laboratory's Forest Products Marketing Unit. But it does make a difference, he says. If split wood is stored outdoors, stacking it with the bark side down can allow water to collect in the u-shaped trough. This moisture retention can prolong drying and accelerate decay, says Knaebe. Stacking it outdoors with the bark-side-up, on the other hand, can help protect the pile of wood below from rain and other weather. If stored under shelter, the bark up-or-down debate becomes fairly inconsequential, says Knaebe. With even a slight breeze moving through the shelter, he says, drying occurs considerably faster than in a dead-air space.

In the end, an answer to the "bark up or bark down" question seems to be: it depends. When storing split wood under shelter, where air-flow becomes more important, bark up or bark down seems to be a matter of personal preference. There is also the question of ease of handling.

#### **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>