

Forest Forum

Washington County Small Woodlands Association

April, 2015

Pac Fibre: “Bottom Feeders of Forest Industry”



Paul Hadaller

Paul Hadaller, manager of the Pacific Fibre Products chipping plants in North Plains, Oregon and Longview, Washington, presented a view of the lower end of the wood products spectrum at the WCSWA March meeting, using the term “bottom feeders” to describe their role. Pac Fibre has created an important niche for itself – and for woodland owners – by procuring wood from the otherwise unusable wood grown on forest lands, and from the “fall-down” wood from the harvest and manufacture of higher value wood products. Pac Fibre began as a result of the Mt. St. Helens eruption in 1980. Tremendous quantities of unusable wood were generated by searing pyroclastic flows and heat. Much of this wood on private lands was salvaged for existing mills, but the remainder was either not of suitable quality, or exceeded mill needs. Pac Fibre was established to take advantage of the available salvage material.

The North Plains facility was established in 1987, and marked expansion into the normal wood supply chain in Oregon. The two mills, North Plains and Longview, currently have 150 employees. Pac Fibre produces primarily lower grade papers such as that used in cement and feed bags, but still requires a good fibrous chip to provide the strength needed for the bags. In 1994 Pac Fibre started processing yard waste and other low quality woody material for use as hog fuel, mulches, and garden amendments. Basically, Pac Fibre produces two products: clean wood chips, and “dirty” chips and waste. Though most of their wood comes from whole tree boles, they have been buying “chunk wood” – such as butt cuts that may only be 75% chippable with a minimum length of 3 feet.

(See “Pac Fibre,” page 8)

Riding the Waves – Overseas Markets

Eric Recht of Pacific Lumber and Shipping (PLS) brought WCSWA members up to speed on the good, the bad, and the ugly of overseas markets for wood products. Eric has worked for a variety of forest industry companies in his career, including Interfor and Caffall Brothers. PLS was founded in 1932 to fill a niche created by expanding foreign interest in the huge potential of the Pacific Northwest to produce quality wood. PLS initially exported poles, piling, and lumber. PLS was purchased in 2005 by Port Blakely, a family owned timber company with properties in Washington and Oregon. In addition to the North Plains mill, PLS has a mill in Longview, Washington, on 45 acres close to the Weyerhaeuser facility.

(See “Overseas Markets,” page 6)



Eric Recht

The inner workings of Douglas-fir revealed!

April 28th, 7:00 PM, North Plains Fire Hall. In addition to being the backbone of our forest industry and the most abundant conifer west of the Cascades, Douglas-fir is a remarkable species that has been the focus of decades of fascinating research on its inner workings and interactions with its environment. Join WCSWA on April 28th, when Professor Emeritus and wonderful speaker, Dr. Barbara Bond, PhD, will share what she and her colleagues have discovered about our state tree.

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Contact Tom Nygren or Bonnie Shumaker for web postings and information.

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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 Contact either newsletter editor (see 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. Must be 5- 6 feet wide and able to connect to the three point tractor hitch. 971-678-6705.

For Sale: No new For Sale ads

Event Calendar

April	18	Jackson Bottom Wetland Preserve Native Plant Sale & Fair, 9 am – 3 pm	For more information, contact jacksonbottom.org , or call 503-642-7272 or 503-806-679
April	28	WCSWA Monthly Meeting, 7p.m. North Plains Fire Station	Dr. Barbara Bond, OSU to talk about the biology of Douglas-fir.
May	2	WOW (Women Owning Woodland) meeting - Clatskanie	Walk in the Woods and Potluck. RSVP to Tiffany Fegel, WOWnet coordinator, tiffany.fegel@oregonstate.edu .
May	19	WCSWA Annual Potluck- 5:30 Tualatin River Farm (south of Hillsboro)	Our annual potluck will feature highlights of OSU Extension Forestry Tour of Chile.
August	15	TFOY Annual Tour and Picnic at the Dummers	John and Cathy Dummer invite you to their tree farm on Pumpkin Ridge Road north of North Plains

The Woodland Beat

Over the past several weeks we've taken advantage of a couple of educational opportunities that we thought we'd share with you. First off I went to the Oregon State University College of Engineering Research Expo 2015 at the convention center in Portland on March 4. I heard about it at the last minute and Cathy was out of town on a business trip. There were over 250 graduate students standing next to posters that told a little bit about their research. Most of the students were there and were happy to share their experiences. There was everything from biological and ecological engineering to nuclear engineering and radiation health physics represented. There were a couple of research projects that caught my attention. The first was titled "Field Investigation of Driven Timber Pile Ground Improvement." What they are doing is testing timber piles as a way to mitigate the potential damage from liquefaction (loss of strength in soil most often associated with earthquakes in sandy soils). An interesting approach, and, if successful another use for timber products.

Another study that was interesting to learn more about was titled "Effect of Cross-Laminated Timber Floor Diaphragm Orientation on Shear Stiffness and Strength." Cross-laminated timber (think 2 x 6's perpendicularly stacked on top of each other and glued together) provide the structural strength and stiffness to potentially compete with steel and reinforced concrete for mid-rise and high-rise buildings and do it in a more environmentally sustainable manner. There is a plan for a pilot manufacturing line for cross-laminated timber (CLT) at Johnson Lumber Co. in Riddle, Oregon. This could be yet another use of timber products coming from Washington County small woodlands.

Tree schools also had a few interesting items. I took a course on plant propagation. It was about half lecture and half hands-on learning. We planted some Douglas-fir seeds that had been appropriately prepared, and also planted some red osier dogwood live stake cuttings that were cut earlier in the winter, chilled and then we cut them and dipped them in rooting hormone and planted them. I've had mixed results in the past with plant transplanting and plant propagation so the information was welcome. My latest flowering red currant live stakes that my neighbor shared with me worked at 80% success. Not bad. I also took a weed control class that was pretty good – figuring out what chemicals might work best for what I'm looking to control and when and how to apply it.

A surprise was a class on soils. I don't even think it was my first choice, but the instructor was very enthusiastic and described what is in the soil and how important it is. I think the biggest takeaway was to minimize disturbance to the soil and think about what you are doing, once you've compacted the soil it is difficult to go back. The other class I took was on selling timber property. I'm not looking to sell, in fact if anything we're looking to buy, but at some point we likely will sell and I was curious to see what they had to say. One interesting point from that was how few pieces of timber property are sold in a typical year. The estimate was only about 30 pieces of property in Clackamas County. And there are a lot of people looking to buy right now.

There is so much to learn. It is fantastic that there are so many avenues of information available and how enthusiastic and knowledgeable some people are about their own little corner of it.

Until next time – Happy Small Woodlanding!

John and Cathy Dummer

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Signs of Spring



Johnny-jump-up (woods violet)



Red-flowering currant and rufous hummingbird

The emergence from winter with its awakening signs of spring always brings feelings of joy and wonder. I try to record in my journal the first sightings of trilliums, Johnny-jump-ups and Calypso orchids.

Other noteworthy signs are the return of the red-winged blackbird whose “oak-de-lay-oh” call catches my ear before I ever see the bird. The first blossoms on the red-flowering currant have me looking for the return of the rufous hummingbird. I don’t know how the hummingbirds know when the blossoms will open as it varies from year to year, but they do. The red blossoms even have a white target-like center beaconing the hummingbird’s beak to take a sip. Bud swell and then bud-break on the Douglas-fir follow. All are early this spring due to our warm winter.



Trillium




Calypso Orchid

There is one sign of spring that you can count on to come exactly on the second Saturday of March. This is WCSWA’s annual Native Plant and Tree Sale. Karen Graham has done an

excellent job chairing this important fund-raiser and outreach to the community for the last two years after I retired from this job. The sale was started in 2001 by Chuck Price and Lyal Purington. When completing the Master Woodland Manager Program, they wanted to support the quality education offered by the OSU College of Forestry. They also wanted to bring woodland folks and city folks together – to put a face of the woodland owner before the urban public to help bridge the urban-rural divide. Doing this through the shared love of native plants was the culmination of their idea, and it has continued now for fifteen years.

All the profit from the plant sale goes to the OSU Forest Legacy Scholarship Fund to provide college scholarships for Department of Forestry students with a preference given to students from Washington County.


Having a successful plant sale in March (or anytime in Oregon’s spring) depends partly on weather. We are established enough now that people look forward to our sale, but rainy weather will put a damper on sales. The day before the sale was beautiful. Overnight, the rains came, and we were nervous. But rainy or not, the customers came and we were able to garner a profit of \$2,700. Thanks to everyone who helped or supported our sale.



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Imagination is as important as knowledge. For while knowledge defines all we currently know and understand, imagination leads us to all we might yet discover and create. (Author unknown)

“Overseas Markets,” continued from page 1

Eric described the three primary Asian markets for Pacific Northwest wood: Japan, South Korea, and China. Over the years, these markets have had good years and bad years in terms of export volume. Japan initially was the major market; they sought quality, tight grain Douglas-fir, hemlock, cedar, and white woods (the species du jour depended on the type of products their internal markets were seeking). The Japanese used these products for their unique architecture, such as post and beam construction, as well as in other aspects of residential and commercial buildings. The Japanese have a high appreciation for wood exposure in their buildings.

China and South Korea came into the game later, and their interests were different. They tended toward more construction grade dimension stock and plywood veneer, which they used in concrete work. Species was not as important – white woods were fine. The Chinese are the “bottom feeders” of the wood export market. They accept low quality logs, any species, any diameter, any length (fixed metric lengths, with average length generally 34 feet). However, all logs for the Chinese market must be debarked – ostensibly for preventing importation of insects and disease.

The South Koreans have more specifications on their import logs, particularly in log lengths destined for different South Korean ports. This has been a tight year for Chinese log imports (which is by far the largest importing country). So far the export pace has been about one-half of that experienced over the past 4-5 years. Chinese markets can fluctuate rapidly; a further drop in Chinese exports is very possible.



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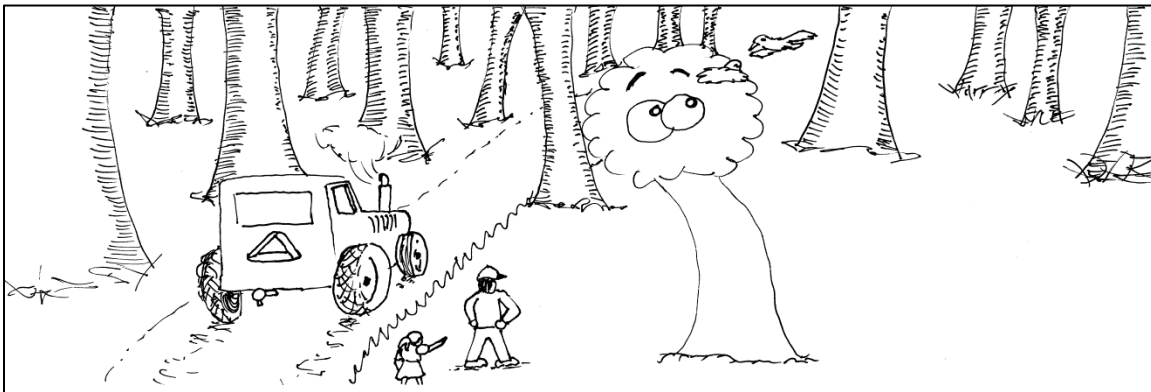
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The Adventures of Duggy Fir

by Thomas Perkins



Orion enjoyed the dawn of spring the most because his new leaves were green. Spring also brought many flowers and baby animals.

One day Sam came to see him. He brought a tractor and his daughter. "How are you doing?" asked Sam. "I am doing fine!" said Orion happily. Then Sam asked, "What is that in your branches? It looks like a nest."

It was a nest. It had one egg that later hatched open and a small bird flew out from it. Orion was happy to see that he provided a home for wildlife.



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You are Important!

OSWA and WCSWA want to thank all of you who have renewed your membership for 2015. We are glad you want to be part of this unique organization that offers educational opportunities, a collective voice for the interests of small woodland owners that is heard by lawmakers, and abundant networking opportunities.

If you haven't renewed, there is still time before the benefits run out on April 30. Send in your renewal form, go to www.oswa.org or call 1-503-588-1813. Your membership adds to the strength of OSWA and WCSWA.

“Pac Fibre” cont'd from page 1

Logs purchased must also be 75% chippable, but must have at least a 3 inch top diameter and at least 10 feet long. Material with metal or charring are not accepted. There is no upper limit on log size.

The average log load coming into the mill weighs 26 tons. Wood coming into the mill needs to be sorted by species, so mixed species loads are paid for at the price of the lowest value species in the load. The logs are debarked using a drum debarker, and the goal is to have a 90% recovery rate for clean wood. All wood species are accepted, but current prices vary from \$40 (hemlock) and \$38 (Fir) a ton, to \$24 (cedar) and \$26 (cottonwood) a ton. Chunk wood is slightly lower per ton. Clean chips are sold to Weyerhaeuser, Georgia Pacific or Capstone for their mills.

Pac Fibre is a supporter and promoter of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) – the largest forest certification in the country that is primarily composed of forest industry lands. The American Tree Farm System (ATFS) for non-industrial forest lands is a partner with SFI in their certification system. Pac Fibre requires that the wood they purchase come from a certified source such as SFI, ATFS, Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) or be harvested by an Oregon certified logger (through the Association of Oregon Loggers).

A Win-Win for WCWA Members and Clean Water Services

Clean Water Services is a water resource management utility committed to protecting water resources in the Tualatin River Watershed. One of its efforts each year, is to distribute hundreds of thousands of bare root plants as part of the Tree For All program which this season exceeded 1 million. A slight surplus of 2,155 trees was thankfully picked up by members of the Washington County chapter of OSWA.

The 16 landowners who requested and picked up Oregon white oak, Doug-fir, red alder, Valley ponderosa pine and grand fir represent an important piece of the planting and appreciation of trees in our watershed and community. Sincerest thanks to all who answered our call and to your organization for your hard and important work.

Margaret Wagner, Water Resources Specialist, CWS

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OSU Graduate Student Heads for South Africa

Here is an update from Joey Hulbert. He was one of the OSU graduate students who presented his research on sudden oak death (*Phytophthora*) to the WCSWA annual picnic a couple of years ago. He's off to South Africa to start his PhD and has started a crowdfunding initiative. Here is the information Joey has provided about *Phytophthora* and the importance of his project.

Phytophthora, the Greek term for "plant destroyer", is a group of plant killing microbes that threaten forests and agriculture around the world. More than 100 species have been discovered and between 100-600 species are estimated to remain unknown. Discovering new species improves research and regulations to protect our forest and agriculture systems. The native forests of South Africa are remarkably diverse and have not been surveyed for *Phytophthora* species. We want to survey the native forests for *Phytophthora* species with the help of the public!

Help us engage South African communities in science to discover new species! The purpose of this campaign is to raise support for a citizen science program that provides opportunities for South Africans to learn and participate in the scientific process! By backing this research you are supporting awesome research and helping hundreds of individuals participate!

The below link will take you to the project. There is a less than 5-minute video that I put together to summarize the scope and value.

<https://experiment.com/projects/discovering-plant-destroyers-in-south-africa-with-citizen-science>

Editors Note: I viewed the above site and am impressed with Joey's project. To view the above website easily, go to www.wcswa.com, open the April Forest Forum and go to page 9. Then you can "Ctrl+click to open the website."

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

 Oregon Forest Resources Institute

Chiefs' Joint Restoration Projects have Meaningful Impact on Family-Owned Forest

EXERPTS FROM FEBRUARY 19, 2015, WWW.FORESTFOUNDATION.ORG

WASHINGTON – The American Forest Foundation (AFF) today applauded the United States Forest Service (USFS) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for their new round of projects as part of the Chiefs' Joint Landscape Restoration Partnership. The effort aims to improve the health and resiliency of forest ecosystems where public and private lands meet across the nation.

"Taking an 'all lands' approach ensures that all of our forest resources are being protected and put to work in improving ecosystems," said AFF President and CEO Tom Martin. "We cannot address landscape-scale goals without family forest owners. We applaud the USFS and NRCS for bringing together this public/private partnership."

Among the projects being funded are Oregon's Elkhorn Mountains and Wisconsin's Lake Superior watershed. As part of its place-based conservation work, AFF is active in both areas in engaging family forest owners to help reduce the risk of wildfire, improve habitats of threatened fish and animals, ensure clean water, and other critical outcomes.

In Oregon, funding will be targeted on the landscape to augment and increase fuels reduction activities on adjoining private, state and federal lands. The East Face area contains high wildfire potential on both public and private land. This goal of this work is to reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfire to a number of private residences across three separate Wildland Urban Interfaces. This will also reduce the threat of wildfire to the watersheds that contain the municipal water supply for La Grande and Baker City. The project area also contains key habitats for federally threatened bull trout, and steelhead and Chinook salmon.

Inside Ikea's Globe-Spanning Project to Make Solid Wood Furniture

From an article by Adam Clark Estes, Gizmodo.com 2/16/15

Last month, we learned that Ikea is bringing a new solid wood line to the US—a big change from the traditional way Ikea makes its products using particleboard made from an aggregation of wood pulp and other materials. The new line is called Nornäs, and according to Ikea, it's all inspired by the forests of Northern Sweden from where the furniture is sourced. Why does Ikea want to change the way it builds its products? In short, customers are demanding it. As we've gotten more interested in the provenance of the stuff we buy, we've begun to pay more attention to what our belongings are made out of and where they come from. Now, that might not sound like news. But consider that Ikea uses around one percent of the world's total supply of lumber.

The Complexity of Simplicity

The unifying principle behind Ikea's new solid wood initiative is simple in theory, complicated in practice: It's all about efficiency. "We don't own any forests, but we're very close," Ikea's wood guru Henrik Andersson told Gizmodo in a recent email. "The Nornäs family comes from the northern part of Sweden." As such, the wood is almost all Swedish pine, a slim, slow-growing tree that's known for its light beauty and durability.

More surprising? The nuanced the art of picking—and cutting—the trees. Andersson says that the key to optimizing Ikea's lumber use is picking different parts of the log for different parts of the furniture. Selecting the right logs is essential, since many of the boards will be visible on the finished, unpainted piece of furniture (normally, particleboard pieces are finished with a faux wood veneer).

Timing is Everything

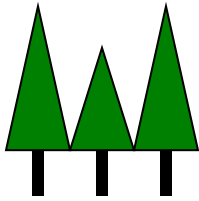
Knots can be a problem, and the age of the wood is crucial in this regard—not to mention the price of the lumber. Long story short, old wood means dark knots in Swedish pine. And dark knots don't look good on visible parts of the furniture. With the right amount of planning, you can buy old trees, utilize the bottom part for the visible parts of the furniture and use the old, knotty—but strong—wood at the top for load-bearing supporting structure. It's also possible to time the cutting so that the trees are as strong as possible. The wood that grows in the early summer months grows faster, so it's lighter density. Late summer and autumn growth is more dense and strong. This is what Ikea likes to use.

And what about the rest? Well, what isn't actually turned into solid pieces of furniture is recycled. Andersson said that Ikea sells its sawmill waste like sawdust and pulp to the paper industry and uses the bark to fuel the drying kilns. Again, efficiency is paramount.

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Forest Forum



COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE
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Potpourri

New Member Welcome to Anita Bumgarner, Gaston, Oregon! 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.

Women Owning Woodlands Network (Columbia/Washington region) – Saturday May 2nd, 11:00 am walk in the woods and 1:00 pm potluck discussion. Take a walk in the woods at WOWNet member Linda's property. After attacking Scotch broom that took over a 2001 clear cut, the property is now home to many beautiful wildflowers that should be in bloom at the time of our walk. RSVP to Tiffany Fegel, WOWNet coordinator, tiffany.fegel@oregonstate.edu.

Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District

If you are a Washington County resident, we would like the feedback from Washington County residents on natural resource concerns. Please take a moment before April 16, 2015, to take our online survey: www.surveymonkey.com/s/8DQC2MD.

Thanks!

The editors of the Forest Forum wish to say “**Thank you**” to Lon and Laura Rankin for their kind words and support of the Forest Forum.

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>