

Forest Forum

Washington County Small Woodlands Association

May, 2015

Hola, Amigos! Chile Trip Main Event of WCSWA Potluck – Tuesday, May 19th, 5:30 p.m.

Forestry in Chile will be the program theme of the May meeting, which will also be our **annual potluck**. The program will be presented by John and Cathy Dummer who traveled to Chile in November as part of a contingent that was coordinated by the Oregon State University Extension Service. During the trip the tourists were treated to visits to demonstration forests, working forests, a sawmill, an export facility and also got to meet counterparts who are managing small woodlands in Chile. It was an opportunity to see how forestry is approached in another part of the world and was a fantastic experience.

Due to Memorial Day the meeting will be the 3rd Tuesday in May so it will be **May 19, 2015 starting at 5:30pm**. The meeting will be held in the new pole barn at Clean Water Services Tualatin River Farm, which is at 4490 SW Minter Bridge Road, Hillsboro, Oregon 97123. From Downtown Hillsboro, head south on Highway 219 for 2.3 miles, turn east (left) onto SW Grabel Road for 0.3 miles, then north (left) onto SW Minter Bridge Road for 0.7 miles, TRF will be on the right (south) side of the road.

Please plan to bring your favorite dish and join us. You might also bring a folding chair as the facility is a little short on those. Rumor has it the Shumakers and Sam Sadtler will be grilling up burgers and hot dogs that you won't want to miss. We look forward to seeing you there.

“The Fascinating Life of a Douglas-fir”

At the April meeting of the Washington County Small Woodlands Association members were treated to a fascinating presentation on the most important and valued construction species in the world, Douglas-fir. **Dr. Barbara Bond**, retired Oregon State University forestry professor, has a made a career of studying and teaching about this unique species. As Dr. Bond described it, Douglas-fir is the “quintessential northwesterner – it typifies the best of the best” in the Pacific Northwest.

First named in 1803 as “Oregon pine,” and given a Scientific name of *Pinus taxifolia*, Douglas-fir has bounced from genus *Pinus* to *Picea* (spruce) to *Abies* (true fir) to *Tsuga* (hemlock.) Finally science Settled on *Pseudotsuga*, or “false hemlock.” The species part of its name kept changing, however, until it finally became “*menziesii*,” after an earlier scientist who described it. (See Douglas-fir, page 9)



WCSWA Leadership

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cannbuckley@hotmail.com

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

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Dummer – 503-970-8789, Mike Messier, 503-233-2131, mike@troutmountain.com

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

Editors: Tom Nygren & Bonnie Shumaker

503-628-5472 or 503-324-7825

e-mail: tnygren@juno.com or

bshumaker@coho.net

Proofreaders: Bonnie Shumaker, Dan

Hundley, Tom Nygren, Ardis Schroeder

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) Forest caretaker and home for rent 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 Forest Forum newsletter box above)
 - 3) Alternative representative from WCSWA to Tualatin River Watershed Council – contact Tom Nygren, 503-628-5472 for more information

Event Calendar

May	19	WCSWA Annual Potluck 5:30 p.m.	4490 SW Minter Bridge Road. Look for the Tualatin River Farm sign. See more detailed directions on page 1.
June	18-20	OSWA Annual Meeting and Forest Fair	Chemeketa College, Salem.
July	25	Columbia County SWA /OSU Extension Summer Woodland Tour	(Details TBA)
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

Recently I took a business trip to Louisville, Kentucky for a dam conference. I'm serious. It was the United States Society on Dams Annual Conference. While in Louisville I got to visit the Louisville Slugger factory where wooden baseball bats are made. Many major and minor league players as well as non-professional baseball and softball players use bats made by Louisville Slugger.

The tour of the factory was very interesting. Of course it all starts with the wood. The species of choice for baseball bats are ash and maple and the stock trees are grown in company owned forests in New York and Pennsylvania. The tour guides made a point about their forests in New York and Pennsylvania being the best place in the world to grow maple and ash. They didn't seem interested in buying any wood from Oregon, but they did know about myrtle wood. Turns out that one of the tour guides had recently visited Oregon and made a trip south and really liked the myrtle wood bats he saw in a small shop in Southern Oregon. They also mentioned that wood from volunteer trees seems to make better bats than that from planted trees. The tour included a display to show the process of harvesting the hardwood with a Stihl chainsaw.

There are two production lines in the factory: one for common bats like you find at Frye's in Forest Grove, and the other for bats major league players would use. Louisville Slugger produces almost 2 million bats per year in a space that is smaller than a city block. It takes about 30 seconds to turn a bat on their highly automated lathes. In the old days it took about 30 minutes to turn one by hand. They demonstrated that on the factory tour.

A few more interesting factoids: The cost of a major leaguer's bat is \$53 for ash and \$84 for maple. Maple is more brittle but is preferred by some big league ball players. They will burn the brand on ash, but maple requires a sticker decal to prevent damage to the wood. You might have noticed some bats are hollow at the end of the barrel. That is called a balancing cup and allows the bat to be balanced to the player's specification. Most major leaguers' bats are about 32 ounces. The players can detect the smallest nuances in bat production. They were making bats for Alex Rodriguez of the New York Yankees the day I was there.

It was worth a visit to see this operation and learn a little more about another timber product. Perhaps someday we'll have a Hillsboro Slugger made from Oregon Ash!

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.

ADVERTISING RATES (PRICE INCLUDES TYPESETTING & AD PREP)

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1/2 page	65	130	325
2/3 page	86	170	425
Full page	125	250	625

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

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Thank you for supporting Washington County Small Woodlands Association!



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Tree Thinning Prefixes

As you all know, forests grow slowly which gives forest owners many occasions to ruminate about what operations to do after planting the trees, when to do what and if there will be any financial payback in the owner's lifetime. One option is Pre-Commercial Thinning. If the "pre" means before and "commercial" means making or intending to make a profit, when you dissect the phrase Pre-Commercial Thinning (PCT) it indicates that any money that is made will not be made by you. Early-Commercial Thinning (ECT) on the other hand may net you a few pennies.

Many of you know that our forest is young. After purchasing our farm in 1977, we planted our first seedlings on five acres of scrubby overgrown clear-cut in 1980. The rest of the 70 acres of woodland we planted when we bought an adjacent 40 acre clear-cut in 1997 and when we converted pasture to woodland between 1996 and 2006. We did an ECT in 2005 when our first planting was 25 years old and the chip-n-saw market was hot. We had over 70 stems on one truckload and still came out on the plus side financially as well as benefiting the trees.

After that good experience, when we talk about thinning, we tend to say, "Let's wait 22 years and get another ECT." You may have noticed that we're hoping for 22 years instead of the previous 25. After all, these seedlings are from improved seed stock which advertises 10% faster growth, and we are better planters and stewards of young trees since our first endeavor.

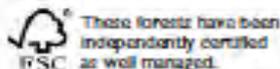
For several years, we have culled trees with blatant defects for firewood to keep us warm in winter. This spring, we realized that we needed to be more aggressive. There were trees that were never going to qualify for an ECT and they were using nutrients and sunlight that would be welcomed by the more dominant trees. In the meantime, we hired Rick Klein, an expert timber-faller to cut two spruce trees. These were living Christmas trees planted 35 years ago, had out-grown their space, were shading our orchard and needed an expert like Rick to fall them to insure that the orchard and garage remained intact. Afterwards, we talked with Rick, and he agreed with our assessment of some needed PCT and told us that on his place he girdled suppressed trees and kept them as standing dead trees. Bill Triest had told us the same thing. We agree it is certainly a good option, but demonstrating the independence of tree farmers, we instead cut down approximately 3% of the trees in two different stands. Some will be firewood, the smallest ones will compost on the forest floor. There is more sunlight coming in now. We are still thinking/hoping ECT for the rest. I wish I'd thought to take a before and after picture, but alas, the picture shows only the "after" effect. You'll have to take my word that improvement is shown.





A BALANCED APPROACH

TIMBER MANAGEMENT
▲
ALTERNATIVES TO
CLEARCUTTING
▲
FOREST PLANNING
AND RESTORATION
▲



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Mark Miller & Matt Fehrenbacher

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"If we could first know where we are, and whither we are tending, we could better judge what to do, and how to do it"

Abraham Lincoln

"Rules To Live By" – OFRI

A new Oregon Forest Resources Institute publication, website and series of videos are now available to help the public understand the rules that govern logging and forest practices in Oregon – what the rules require, how they work and how they came to be.

"The rules that loggers and forest landowners live by have been 44 years in the making," says OFRI's Director of Forestry, Mike Cloughesy. "It's an important story to tell – how Oregon has come to lead the world in producing a sustainable supply of wood products while taking care of the water, air, soil and wildlife habitat. That's the foundation of these rules. We want Oregonians to understand how they work and have accessible information about them."

The publication is called "[Rules to Live By](#)." It's a 16-page, full-color report that explains Oregon's forest practices through the eyes of about a dozen Oregonians, from a Portland developer of environmentally friendly buildings to an Oregon Department of Forestry specialist who measures how well landowners and loggers comply with the rules. It has been mailed to policymakers, media and other community leaders, and is [available free](#) to the public.

A companion website – [OregonForestLaws.org](#) – has much of the same information online. A series of 90-second videos titled "A Day in the Woods" that examines key provisions of the act can be seen throughout the website. The videos feature Oregon State University Extension forester Nicole Strong and Cloughesy, a former Extension forester. Combined they have 35 years' Extension experience.



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Balanced Supply Results in Continued Market Tension

Forests2Markets, April, 2015

Few PNW exporters are sustaining steady flows of logs into their yards. Most have tightened buying activity and are carrying limited inventories as they wait for improved market conditions. As Asia continues to source logs from alternative global suppliers (a move necessitated by the relative strength of the US dollar abroad), demand for logs from the Pacific Northwest has eased and domestic mills are benefitting due to reduced prices.

We are currently seeing a significant softening in wholesale China log markets and Japan DF exports. At the same time, overall Domestic log demand remains somewhat stable.

The imperative task for the remainder of 2015 will be balancing the existing PNW export demand and increased domestic needs with a tightening supply. We could see a reduction in harvest levels from certain private timberland owners, creating an opportunity for public timber managers to fill the need with non-exportable log and stumpage sales. As domestic mills increase lumber production to accommodate a growing (and unthawing) US construction market, we will continue to see price tension escalation as log supply tightens in late summer and early fall. As for the winter, I'd plan for more extremes.



"Don't worry, I hugged it first!"

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Snorkel Survey for Fish Abundance

The Tualatin River Watershed Council invites you to join us for a discussion about fish populations and habitat needs in our rural sub-basins.

May 18, 2015 • 7:00 – 9:00 P.M.

City of Hillsboro
Auditorium
150 East Main Street
Hillsboro, OR



Fish biologist, Steve Trask of Bio-Surveys, LLC will share highlights of the 2014 Snorkel Survey Project. The purpose was to collect information about streams used by juvenile salmon fish for summer rearing habitat in Gales, East Fork Dairy, McFee, Chicken, and Upper Rock creeks.

- See and hear about salmon habitat characteristics
- Learn about our fish populations and distributions: coho, cutthroat, and steelhead
- Find out how you can get involved in promoting stream health

Please RSVP (not required but preferred) — Tualatin River Watershed Council
trwc@trwc.org 503 • 846 • 4810

Upcoming Weed Watcher Workshops

Weed Watcher workshops are presented annually in the spring to help alert area residents to the Class A weeds considered to be of greatest concern and to train residents as "50 mph botanists", able to identify these invaders in local natural areas and along streambanks while driving throughout the county.

Each workshop consists of an introduction to invasive species control, a walk-through of the weeds of greatest concern, and time to practice identifying these plants with live samples. Participants receive a copy of our handy weed ID guide, which includes information on how and where to report infestations.

May 21 Aloha High School cafeteria, 18550 SW Kinnaman Rd

May 27 Forest Grove Community Auditorium, 1915 Main Street

**Please RSVP: Jen Nelson, TSWCD
503-648-3174 x 121**

Douglas-fir, continued from page 1

Why has Douglas-fir been so successful west of the Rockies, from northern British Columbia to southern Mexico? Dr. Bond explained that Douglas-fir found its ideal climate – wet winters and dry summers. It has adapted to this climate by starting its growth early in the year – roots are actively growing during the winter, and the tree’s growth starts early and shuts down early – before the very dry part of the summer. It also has “plasticity” – tolerance of a wide range of soil and other site conditions, such as drought, shading, nutrients, fire, and root and growth factors.

Douglas-fir is not an “isolationist.” It does not build barriers that wall it off from other species, so it can thrive in a variety of plant habitats. It doesn’t have a big root system (like an oak) or a deep tap root (like a pine) – instead it puts its energy into reaching for the sky. Douglas-fir is the second tallest species in the world, exceeded only by coastal redwood. It has a strong ability to transport water from roots to top – quite a feat when trees regularly reach up 200’ or more. Studies have shown that the tops of these tall trees create a “desert” environment – the physiology of the trees foliage is adapted to less water.

Douglas-fir is not a “climax” species. Barring fire or other major disturbance, Douglas-fir is gradually succeeded by more tolerant species such as western hemlock in the humid environment of the Pacific Northwest. In drier climates, it does behave like a climax species.

Why hasn’t Douglas-fir evolved into a species preferring more specialized habitats, like other species have? Scientists are puzzling about this question. Douglas-fir grows so well in other parts of the world – Europe, Asia, and South America – why didn’t it colonize or spread to these areas ages ago? Dr. Bond said the scientific consensus seemed to be that Douglas-fir is so successful in these other climates because there is more sun, and the possibility that as “invaders” to these new habitats, they have some immunity (at least temporarily) from the natural pests in those areas. Finally, all this leads to another question, *What will happen to Douglas-fir as the climate changes – become warmer and drier?*

Root Rot Can Give You the Blues!

So you have root rot on your property and the resulting pocket of dead and dying trees. Management guidelines to mitigate this forest health problem may include cutting all trees within the diseased center, as well as all uninfected trees within 50 feet. Then you might regenerate the site with ponderosa pine, western larch and/or lodgepole pine to replace the more-susceptible Douglas fir and true fir.

But instead of replanting, why not leave the pocket clear of trees?

Small openings in forests are known to attract deer, turkey, black bear and other wildlife. Another type of “wildlife” that you may attract to a forested opening are beneficial insects such as pollinators. Pollinators are important for plant reproduction and therefore, ecosystem health. Unfortunately, pollinators are threatened worldwide by habitat loss and fragmentation, as well as a myriad of other problems. Leaving your root rot pocket clear of trees will not only help eradicate root rot, but it may aid the conservation of pollinator species such as bumblebees, hummingbirds, moths and everyone’s favorite; butterflies.

(Melissa J. Fischer, Forest Health Specialist, Washington State DNR)



The blue copper butterfly is one of the many pollinators that benefit from foliage growing in woodland open spaces. Photo: John Stuart.

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



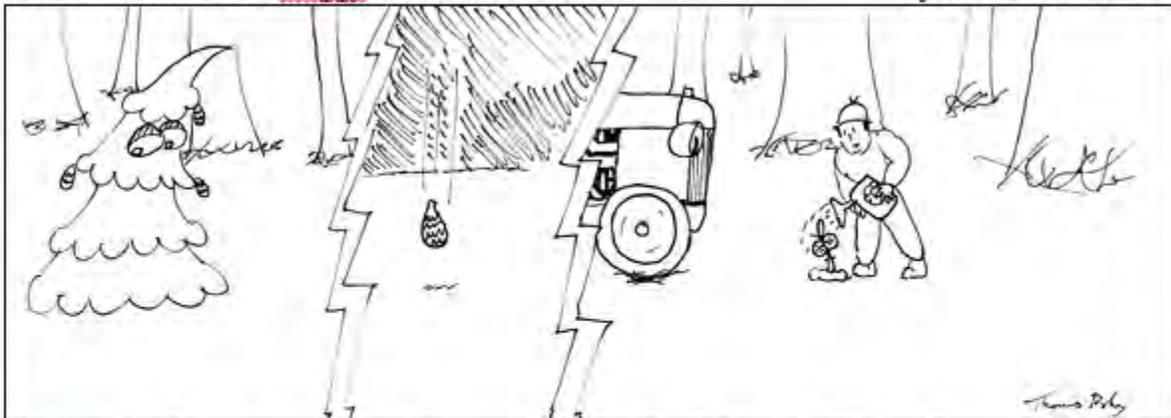
Forest, Ag Lands Decline, 1974-2009

The area of nonfederal land in resource uses (forest and agriculture) declined 2% between 1974 and 2009 in Oregon (and 4% in Washington).

Science Findings, PNW Forest Research, USFS, April, 2015

The Adventures of Duggy Fir

by Thomas Perkins



Duggy the fir tree sprouted small cones full of seeds. The seeds fell on the ground. Fir seeds that fall on the ground grow new trees. Duggy's cones fell for years but nothing grew. But on one misty day, a tiny seedling pushed through the dirt. Francis the tractor drove up. He told Duggy the seedling looked like a Nicolas. So now when the tractors drive by to water the sapling, they always say hello to their new friend Nicolas, Duggy's son.

A New OSU College of Forestry Research and Demonstration Forest in Washington County

By Amy Grotta, OSU Forestry & Natural Resources Extension – Columbia, Washington & Yamhill Counties, and Stephen Fitzgerald, Director of the College of Forestry Research Forests & Extension Silviculture Specialist

It is with great excitement that we can announce that the **Rubie P. Matteson Demonstration Forest** has been established as the newest parcel of the OSU Research Forests. The 180-acre tract, located near the west shore of Hagg Lake near Gaston, will be managed as a working forest, providing income to the College of Forestry, access to the public, and a multitude of Extension, education and demonstration opportunities.



College of Forestry Research Forests Staff and Extension Faculty getting acquainted with the new Rubie Matteson Demonstration Forest

The Oregon State University College of Forestry is extremely honored and grateful to be the new owner of this forest. Marion C. Matteson, a lifelong resident of the Scoggins Valley area, bequeathed the property to the College. Mr. Matteson passed away in December 2013 at age 94. Rubie P. Matteson, for whom the Demonstration Forest is named, was Marion Matteson's mother.

The Research & Demonstration Forests are a very important part of the College of Forestry. Together they encompass over 14,000 acres of forest land across the state, the largest being the 11,000-acre McDonald/Dunn Forests just on the north edge of Corvallis. They provide a range of teaching and research opportunities where various contemporary and new forest management methods are demonstrated. All of the lands are actively managed to maintain health, productivity, and provide income to the College of Forestry. In turn, these funds support new teaching and research initiatives within the College.

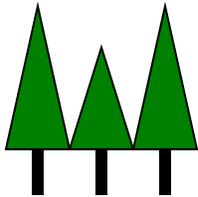
The Matteson Forest has great potential for Extension Forestry & Natural Resources programs in the local area. It is easily accessible and centrally located with respect to the private woodland owner population in Washington, Yamhill and Columbia Counties. It contains a range of stand types and ages and will serve to demonstrate how small forest parcels can be actively managed to provide income while sustaining other non-timber values over time. OSU Research Forest staff will assume most of the responsibility for management, while OSU Extension will help guide outreach activities, including tours, hands-on classes, and demonstration projects. As with all of the College's forests, the property will be open to the public for non-motorized walk-in recreation, including hikers, runners, horseback riding, and mountain bikes on designated trails and roads.

There is much work to be done to make the property more usable for management, year-round access, and public enjoyment. Some of the first tasks to be completed include rocking and improving the main road system; creating a small parking area; and installing signage and gates. A comprehensive management plan and forest inventory will also be needed. We will soon be engaging woodland owners and other local stakeholders to determine how the forest can provide the greatest benefit for education, outreach and applied research. Look for regular updates on these and other activities at the Rubie Matteson Demonstration Forest in the future. We could not be more excited about this opportunity. We look forward to sharing the Matteson Forest with woodland owners and others in our community soon!

Newsletter Editor
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Forest Forum



COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE
OREGON SMALL WOODLANDS
ASSOCIATION

Potpourri

New Member Welcome to **Lucy Jones from Banks!** 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.

That's Gold In That There Timber!

Real estate stocks have performed phenomenally well, beating the broader market by more than 11 percentage points in the past year. Great, but this means real estate is pretty pricey. Time to look beyond the 'burbs and into the forest. Investment firm GMO thinks timber, a renewable commodity that's tied to housing and economic growth, will beat stocks and bonds over the next seven years. You can invest in this asset easily through ETFs such as Guggenheim Timber (CUT) and iShares Global Timber and Forestry (WOOD)."

From Money Magazine May 2015 issue, 101 Ways to Build Wealth, "#70: INTO THE WOODS

Live in Gales, E. Fk. Dairy, McKay, Upper Rock, Chicken, or McFee Creek Watershed?

If you live or have forest land in one of these watersheds, you might be very interested in what the snorkeling surveys by fisheries biologists found in last summers' surveys. See the notice on page 8 – and hold the date (May 18th) to find out the results!

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>