

Forest Forum

Washington County Small Woodlands Association

October, 2015

Trappist Abbey Tour Thrills Crowd



Strolling through the oak savannah

On September 26, Scott Ferguson of Trout Mountain Forestry led 35 people on an exciting tour of Our Lady of Guadalupe Trappist Abbey near Carlton. Here are some facts about the land. The trails are lovely and open to the public at any time! The monks moved here in 1954 from New Mexico looking for good growing land. The Abbey consists of 1300 acres (800 in forest). It is one of the few large acreages left in the area and in 2010 they granted a Conservation Easement to Bonneville Power for which they were paid \$10 million. The monks' operating expenses are paid from the interest on this, plus tree harvest of approximately

60 truckloads per year, the sale of fruitcakes they make, and proceeds from their bookbindery. The tree harvest is below what grows each year and the Conservation Easement insures that the land will stay in farm or forest resource management forever.

See "Abbey" page 6

"Best Practices" Panel – October 27

7:00 pm North Plains Fire Station

Mike Cafferata, ODF

Mike Messier, Trout Mountain

Peter Hayes, Land owner

Mike Jamieson, Land owner

Topic Areas:

Pre-Commercial and other Thinning to 40 years

Harvesting Options

Invasives Control

Come listen to a lively discussion of "Best Practices" as it applies to your forestry management plan. Panelists will each have a timed opportunity to throw out their input followed by questions from the audience also with an eye on the clock. There will then be a wrap-up by panelists and final questions.

Prior to the panel, Erin Morgan, a teacher from Forest Grove, will give a short presentation on her experience at the World Forestry Center International Educators Institute (IEI). WCSWA provided a scholarship for a local Washington County teacher to attend the 2015 IEI. Since 1996, leaders from 40 countries and 30 states have participated in the intensive 7-day professional development course and forest study tour designed to "significantly advance teaching and learning about the world's forests." Erin Morgan was one of 21 international participants selected this year.

WCSWA Leadership

Co-Presidents – John and Cathy Dummer, 503-970-8789
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bshumaker@coho.net

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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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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) 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)
 - 2) Alternative representative from WCSWA to Tualatin River Watershed Council – contact Tom Nygren, 503-628-5472 for more information
 - 3) Forest caretaker and home for rent at Gales Creek timber property. Call 503-357-4258.

For Sale: No new For Sale ads

Event Calendar

October	27	WCSWA Monthly Meeting 7 p.m., North Plains Fire Station	Panel discussion of “Best Practices” for forestry plus Erin Morgan shares her experience at World Forestry Center International Educators Institute.
November	19	Science to Policy Summit, Vancouver, WA	Peer-to-peer workshop on water quality. See Potpourri, page 12.
	21	Annual WCSWA Banquet, 5:30 PM Social, 6:15 Dinner, 7:00 Program Meriwether Golf Club, Hillsboro	TFOY Award, Program: Roger Van Dyke, Stimson Lumber, Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.
December		No meeting in December	

The Woodland Beat

Being a small woodland owner provides perspective on a number of fronts. When we vacation we tend to notice how forests are managed, which species are prevalent and what wildlife might be inhabiting the area. A few weeks ago we took a trip to the Steens Mountain in southeastern Oregon. It was a bit of a trek to get out there, but we were rewarded in a number of ways. On the way over we stayed on the Brietenbush River near Detroit. The Forest Service campground we stayed at was among what appeared to be a very old stand of cedar, hemlock and Douglas-fir. It was good to be able to jump right into our vacation in such a scenic spot. We also saw the water level in Detroit Reservoir, which is very low and really impressed upon us the need for some precipitation this winter to make up for the snowpack that didn't come last winter. We spent some time at the Malheur Wildlife Refuge along the way as well, which could also use some precipitation.

The Steens is quite an impressive place. The landscape is dominated by pine, juniper, and mountain mahogany and in the valleys where there is enough water, aspen. We tried to time our visit to catch the aspen changing color and we did a pretty good job of that. Unfortunately we ended up only being able to really take them in for about a half day as a storm came in and reduced visibility to perhaps 20 feet and also ended up dumping several inches of snow on the upper part of the mountain. Adjusting our itinerary a little we spent more time at the Alvord Desert, which was impressive as well despite the lack of trees. But the dark clouds rolling off the Steens were much more awe-inspiring from the desert side. We even were able to drive the Eurovan we rented for the trip on the playa (dry lakebed) which was a unique experience. The Sheldon Antelope Refuge in Nevada was another stop we made. A soak in a hot springs and shower were the highlights of that stop. Then we visited Hart Mountain Antelope Refuge and saw several herds of prong horned antelope and hiked to a place where there were some petroglyphs.

We also attended the recent dinner with the visitors from Sweden. It was great to sit down and have a meal and chat with people who live on the other side of the planet yet share so much in common with us. Language seemed to be a barrier at first, but it didn't take too long to break through that and share why we are small woodland owners, what our respective woodlands are like and what our experiences as owners are. It was fun to find out that we are doing similar things, just half a world away from each other.

A couple of other things that struck me from that evening were learning how many small woodland owners there are in Sweden....a lot, and also how many Swedish tour groups have come through this area. Again, it was a lot more than I would have imagined. They had about 50 people on this trip, and that is repeated a couple of times each year. I hope many of you take the opportunity to visit Sweden during the upcoming trip in May. A special thank you to all who attended the dinner and those that hosted the group and have hosted other groups in the past!

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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2/3 page	86	170	425
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Tree Talk

by Bonnie Shumaker



On our way home from Central Oregon in early September, we noticed some vine maple leaves already beginning to change color. We also noticed some leaf drop. Both of these things begged the question: "Will our hot, dry summer affect fall leaf color?" Another thought was, "I can't remember why leaves change color in the fall." Both of these questions led me to Google "Oregon State Extension." I clicked on "Ask an Expert" and within a day both my questions about why leaves change color and how our dry hot summer might affect the color were answered. Here is what I learned from ask.extension.org.

"The hot dry weather this summer could affect fall leaf color indirectly. A thirsty tree, a stressed tree, could be more susceptible to pests or diseases that could steal the tree's vitality and cause premature leaf drop. Fall leaf color depends more on fall weather. Sunny days and cool nights will produce the greatest variety of seasonal color. Please see the Oregon State University Extension publication "The Science behind Autumn Colors."

The science behind autumn colors, November 5, 2010

CORVALLIS, Ore. - Autumn leaves are the grand finale of the growing season. What creates all that color? It's all about photosynthesis, according to Pat Breen, Oregon State University professor emeritus of horticulture.

The word "photosynthesis" means "to transform with light." That is just what happens inside leaf cells as chlorophyll uses the sun's light to transform water and carbon dioxide into food for the growing plant.

Throughout the summer, green plants produce a continual supply of chlorophyll to keep the transformation going. But when days get shorter and nights get cooler, plants slow their production of chlorophyll. As the amount of chlorophyll declines, the green color of plant leaves starts to fade and other pigments begin to shine through.

Carotenoids, for example, are found in most green plants, and are necessary for capturing sunlight. When chlorophyll fades, the carotenoids that are left create yellow and sometimes brilliant gold color. We see carotenoids at work in big-leaf maples this time of year.

A second pigment, anthocyanin, is produced in the leaves of only a few kinds of trees. It creates shades ranging from pink to red to purple, as in our native vine maples.

When the colorful pigments finally fade, leaves turn brown from the remaining tannin. Tannins are found in almost all trees, and are especially abundant in Oregon white oak, which keeps its autumn color to a conservative brown.

Weather plays a part in the show of autumn leaves. The most vivid color tends to unfold when autumn days are sunny and nights are cool but above freezing. The red-color anthocyanins are produced in strong light when sugars are trapped in the leaf as stems begin to shut off in preparation to drop. If the weather holds, enough sugars are produced to create brilliant red and orange color in the leaf. Rainy weather blocks warmth and sunshine, and so inhibits sugar production. Leaves fade without much color change. Likewise, early frost can kill leaves, turning them brown.

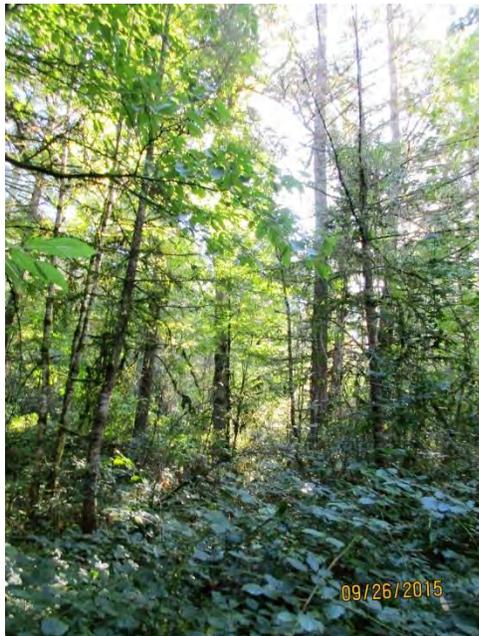
You can orchestrate your own grand finale by planting trees that promise autumn color. Many kinds of native trees and shrubs are already brightening the woods this time of year. A trip to the local nursery will reveal an even larger selection. Consider Norway maple or tulip tree for yellow and gold color; sugar maple and sweet gum for bright orange and red; and scarlet oak for deep red. All these should do well throughout most of Oregon.

Author: [Peg Herring](#) **Source:** Pat Breen

“Abbey” continued from page 1

There is also a 320 acre Conservation Easement on the land next door owned by the Warm Springs Tribe. Bonneville Power purchased both Conservation Easements largely because of the forest, especially the potential for creating a healthy oak savannah. Oak savannah supports more birds and other wildlife than a Doug-fir forest and before the arrival of white settlers covered a large part of the Willamette Valley due to summer lightning fires and the Kalapuya Indian practice of burning to keep the oak areas open for acorns and plentiful wildlife.

Beyond the parking lot, the trail led through the recently created 50 acre oak savannah which used to be blackberry, hawthorn and grass with oak interspersed. This is the low elevation part of the Abbey and is shown in the picture on page 1. The challenge here is how to keep the invasives at bay, and Scott will be weighing his options: mowing (which also kills the baby oaks), fire (really scary), spraying (sparingly) or something else. He is also planting native grasses and forbs. One invasive is false brome, an annual grass that spreads quickly. Scott cautioned us that if we got mud on our boots, we should wash it (and any false brome seed) off before walking on our land.



After climbing up from the oak savannah, we entered another type of forest which consisted of a mix of fir and hardwoods, including oak. This is lightly managed with some tree selection for harvest and is valuable habitat.

At the top of the trail, besides offering a beautiful view, we saw some of the agricultural land seeded in grass with the plantation forest beyond. This forest is under intensive management.



Because of the view it offers to the monks, this management consists mostly of thinning with small patch cuts (2-3 acres).



Our last stop was at the church building which is fairly new. The pews are made of Douglas-fir from the property and the altar, lectern, chairs and doors are from oak. The church makes wonderful use of light through many windows and radiates a very spiritual feel. It is wonderful to know that this acreage is open to the public for all that it offers.



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WCSWA at TSWCD's Annual BBQ



Deb and Tom Kapfer in front of WCSWA booth

WCSWA took their recruiting drive on the road on Saturday, September 19th, with a display at the annual Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District annual BBQ. Willing volunteers Tom and Deb Kapfer, Sam Sadtler, and Vic Herinckx recruited 5 new members. WCSWA was also able to provide information about small woodlands and the values they bring to Washington County to quite a few attendees at the BBQ. The event was held at the Lyle Speisschert farm north of Forest Grove. It marked the 10th anniversary of the annual BBQ - the first one was held in 2005 - also at the Speisschert farm!



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ANNUAL BANQUET SAT. NOV. 21st

RESERVATION TIME IS NOW!

How many small woodland owners can fit into a banquet room? Come find out! Come out of the woods to meet new friends and old, at Meriwether National Golf Course. Gather with others who raise trees and forest products. We can hardly wait. This yearly special gathering features spectacular views, a satisfying meal, door prizes, annual meeting business, and "the reveal" of the 2015 Tree Farmer of the Year for Washington County. The fun begins at 5:30p.m. for socializing, 6:15 dinner and 7:00 program.

Our speaker, Roger Van Dyke, will give us a peek at Stimson Lumber - Past, Present, and Future. Grab a pen, fill in the reservation form in this newsletter, and get ready for fun. Whether you have a few acres of trees or hundreds, this is our night to celebrate the year's work. Please join us. WE'RE EXCITED!

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MAKE SOMEONE SMILE!**

Love smiles? Contribute a door prize for our annual banquet night. Surprise us with something edible, useful, inspiring, arty, funny, it's all up to you. Simply bring the night of the banquet (Sat. Nov. 21st) To contribute earlier, leave a message for Stuart Mulholland at 503 806-0332.

Got questions? Get answers.

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Family forestland owners Dale Cuyler and Brenda Woodard.

WCSWA Slate of Officers-2016

The following have agreed to be nominated for WCSWA officers and two open Board of Directors positions. Further nominations will be taken from the floor at the Annual Banquet on November 21st and elections will be held at the Banquet.

President(s): John and Cathy Dummer

Vice President: Vic Herinckx

Treasurer: Bob Shumaker

Board of Directors:

Position #1: Deb Kapfer

Position #2: Sam Sadtler

These names should be familiar as all are willing to run for re-election and we thank them. However, if you or someone you know who is a member of WCSWA would like to be nominated, please give his/her name to any officer or board member.

Vocabulary Formed from the Woods

“From the earliest days of colonization, the prevalence of forests and trees caused settlers to face situations unknown to them in Europe. In response, these emigrants developed a new vocabulary to express their culture, an American vocabulary. The word “backlog,” for example, which now means unused excess supply, was originally a seventeenth-century term for the large log that sat in the rear of a fireplace.”

From “American Canopy” by Eric Rutkow

The countries of the world, ranked by their ‘tree wealth’

By Chris Mooney September 16, 2015, *The Washington Post* (excerpts from the article).

Earlier this month, media outlets around the world covered a dramatic study in *Nature* finding that the world contains over 3 trillion trees — but that humans have nearly halved their numbers since the dawn of civilization. But much of the coverage missed what may have been the most fascinating new data of all, which the researchers, led by Thomas Crowther of Yale University, provided in a supplement to their broader study.

There, the scientists calculated comprehensive estimates of the numbers of trees in each country of the world, and how that relates to the country’s physical size, population size and more.

This research provides nothing less than an entirely different way of looking at the world — in terms of what you might call “tree wealth” or “tree resources.” After all, having lots of trees in a country provides a huge host of benefits — trees are both a natural resource and an asset to humans. They filter water, combat air pollution, sequester huge amounts of carbon that would otherwise reside in the atmosphere, and even, it appears, contribute to human psychological and health benefits. Indeed, large parts of the world population depend on forests for food.

And then, there’s just the emotional connection to nature. “I think people inherently value trees,” said Clara Rowe, a co-author of the study and a recent graduate of the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, by e-mail. So what does the world look like when you examine it through this lens — taking a tree’s eye view, so to speak, of different countries?

Based on this approach, the world’s overall tree leader is clearly Russia, with 642 billion total trees, followed by Canada with 318 billion and Brazil with 302 billion. The United States is actually fourth overall in this ranking, with 228 billion trees. Other countries with over 100 billion trees include China, with 140 billion and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, with 101 billion. Indonesia comes in 7th, with 81 billion, and Australia 8th, with 77 billion.

Such are the top 8 countries in the world for total trees — but it’s less clear what such an absolute ranking tells us. Clearly, having a vast size, as Russia does, helps ensure that a country also has a vast number of trees.

But there are other metrics for measuring tree wealth, too, ones that might be more revealing and less dependent on sheer size. For instance, consider the world’s “tree density” — the number of trees in a given country per square kilometer of the country’s area: Desert countries naturally tend to show the lowest tree densities — Saudi Arabia and Qatar have 1 tree per square kilometer apiece. By contrast, among relatively large countries, Finland had 72,644 trees per square kilometer, and Sweden had 69,161. Also surprisingly tree dense: Slovenia, with 71,131 trees per square kilometer.

Another way to look at the issue, though, is how a country’s tree numbers relate to its population. Just as we measure the per-capita wealth of a nation, we can measure its number of trees per person.

By contrast, desert countries once again were quite low – Egypt was estimated to have only about 1 tree per person. The metric is also highly sensitive to population size, meaning that India, with a population of 1.27 billion and a tree population of only about 35 billion, had just 28 trees per person. Very high tree-to-person numbers were clustered in the northeast of South

America: Suriname had 15,279 trees per person, Guyana 14,692, and French Guiana a stunning 20,226. Of course, these countries all have populations under a million people. Simply put, some countries, due to their environments and climatic regimes, just can't host as many trees as others.

It has often been suggested – most recently in a report from the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization — that wealthier countries have more or a higher percentage of the world's trees, but this is not necessarily true. So in sum, looking at the world's nations in the context of their "tree wealth" tells you some revealing things about them — even as it also throws into question some of our assumptions about the links between a country's forests and its economic situation. As the world moves to fight climate change — and focuses more and more on restoring forests in order to do so — we can expect more research to provide a much more penetrating window on this relationship.

"Ultimately, we hope that our study encourages more specific metrics for understanding forest resources," Rowe said by e-mail. "Countries should ask themselves: How old are our forests? How much carbon do they store? How diverse are our trees and the species they shelter? But for now, tree number is a great place to start."

Can Advanced Wood Products Lift Rural Oregon?

Excerpts from The Oregonian Editorial Board, Sunday, September 20, 2015

Two recent accomplishments highlight Oregon's strong position in the developing market for cross-laminated timber, a sustainable product that could help boost the state's struggling timber industry.

Oregon's timber industry will never be what it once was. The state's annual timber harvest is about half what it was 30 years ago, and employment in the wood products industry has fallen by a similar amount. Is there a chance that what remains of the industry that once defined Oregon can reinvent itself in a way that would bring back a portion of the more than 30,000 jobs that have been lost since the mid-1980's?

Evidence that such hope exists in the form of a product called cross-laminated timber. DR Johnson Lumber of Riddle, Oregon became the first U.S. company to be certified to produce cross-laminated timber. Also, a Pearl District project was named one of two winners in the U.S. Tall Wood Building Prize Competition. The planned 12 story building will be constructed from cross-laminated timber.

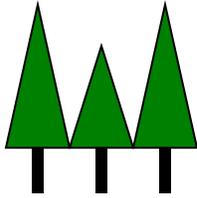
Cross-laminated timber is actually a large panel that is assembled from multiple layers of wood. The middle is made from lower-value wood with higher-value wood on the outside. Once assembled, the panels are customized with openings for windows and doors and slots for wiring and then shipped as a package.

The exciting thing about cross-laminated timber for Oregon is that it fits the state like custom rain gear. It's a sustainable product - the wood sequesters carbon. The panels also require less energy to produce than cement. The wood panels burn slowly, reducing safety concerns. Demand is strong in Europe and growing in Canada, United States and Asia. As an added bonus, the fir produced in Oregon is ideal for this new wood product.

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Forest Forum



COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE
OREGON SMALL WOODLANDS
ASSOCIATION

Potpourri

New Members: Welcome to new members ! John Myers of Gaston, Bill Sefer of Forest Grove, Kellyn Baez of Portland, Brian Lightcap of Portland and Brad Taylor of Forest Grove.

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'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.

Program ideas: Do you have an idea for an interesting forest-themed program? The Program Committee will be meeting in November or December to plan programs for WCSWA's monthly meetings in 2016. The committee would welcome your input. You can suggest a subject or an individual or group. Your idea will be considered during the planning session. Thank you for participating to make our always interesting programs even better. Call Bill Triest (503)705-5833.

Disaster Relief for Christmas Trees Loss Due to Drought: Farm Services Association is offering disaster relief for Christmas tree growers who suffered loss due to drought through their TAP (Tree Assistance Program). Contact the website below or Gail Stinnett at FSA (503) 648-3174 or Gail.Stinnett@or.usda.gov
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=diap&topic=tap>

Science to Policy Summit: Peer-to-peer workshops on water quality. November 19, 2015, Hilton, Vancouver, WA. Morning sessions will focus on foresters, farmers and growers. For more information or to register, go to www.eventbrite.com/e/science-to-policy-summit

Roster Corrections: We do our best to be accurate, but don't always succeed. Please correct the spelling of new members Rod and Esta Christiansen. If you have other corrections, please email either newsletter editor (see page 2).

Scandinavian Tour: Visit this link on the OWC website for complete information about the 2016 tour. www.oregonwoodlandcooperative.com/scandinavia-forestry-tour. If you have questions, contact Karen Graham, kgraham@duckswild.com, 503-647-0310, or Miles Merwin, ridgebacktrees@gmail.com, 971-285-6960.