

Forest Forum

Washington County Small Woodlands Association

December, 2015

How Many Small Woodland Owners Can Fit Into a Banquet Hall? Almost 100!



Roger VanDyke presents Stimson Lumber history

Ninety eight people filled the banquet hall at Meriwether Golf Club on November 21st to enjoy good company, good food and an equally good presentation by Roger VanDyke about Stimson Lumber and its history. Roger has worked for Stimson for 40 years in various capacities. One claim to fame is that he bucked the logs that you see on "Peggy" the steam engine at the World Forestry Center.

T.D. Stimson began his lumbering career in Michigan in 1850. In the 1890's, he followed the trees to the Pacific Northwest. He and his son, W.H. Stimson, bought timberland and mills in the northwest. In 1933, his grandson-in-law, Harold Miller built the mill in Forest Grove. He

managed to hold on through the depression and the Tillamook Burn until the boom years of WWII turned things around. Currently, Stimson's timberland is comprised of 500,000 acres in the western United States. They own seven mills in Oregon and Idaho all adjacent to their timberland holdings. In Oregon, their 177,000 acres of forest consists of nearly 50% Douglas-fir and 50% Hemlock. *See "Banquet", page 7*

January 26 WCSWA Meeting to Feature Tamara Cushing North Plains Fire Station, 7:00 p.m.

Tamara Cushing is an Assistant Professor, Starker Chair and Extension Appointment for the College of Forestry. She arrived at OSU from Florida over a year ago. Cushing says the Pacific Northwest is the most exciting place because the trees grow big and there are big operations unlike Florida where everything is flat ground based and routine. Tammy states, "in Oregon, there is something special about seeing a cable logging system with logs flying through the air!

Cushing was led to Oregon State University and the College of Forestry because it is well known that it's the best Forestry Program in the country.

Tammy's presentation will compare and contrast the life cycle of growing trees for harvest in the southeast U.S. versus the Pacific NW (specifically Douglas-fir). She will describe the current advantages each region has for growing trees for wood products and the potential for shifts in those advantages in the future. Wood quality and certification (including non-wood products), methods of production and genetics will be included.

WCSWA Leadership

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 cannbuckley@hotmail.com

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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

December		No Meeting Scheduled	
January	26	7:00 p.m. North Plains Fire Hall	OSU Tamera Cushing compares and contrasts life cycle of growing trees for harvest in Southeast U.S. vs. Pacific Northwest

The Woodland Beat

The end of the year seems an appropriate time for a retrospective look at what has been accomplished over the past year and what we have to look forward to in the coming year.

With respect to our tree farm, it has been an unusually busy year. Since we don't live on our property, we track the number of trips we make to work and check in on things each year. This year we will probably make 40 trips, more than double what we've averaged in past years. Most of the visits have either been to prepare for a pre-commercial thinning operation, which should be completed by the time you read this, or to get things ready for the Howdy Neighbor tour that we hosted back in August. I haven't done any calculations on this, but even after the thinning I think we're ahead in terms of carbon sequestered versus carbon emissions.

As an organization we've been busy as well and have a lot of fantastic things to celebrate. One of our scholarship recipients spoke briefly at the annual banquet of her experience and her gratitude to our organization for helping fund her study of Forestry at Oregon State University. Our Native Plant Sale has been very successful at raising funds for the scholarships, as well as an activity that brings us together as a group and provides a venue for gardeners to ask questions and discover the advantages of planting native plants. Our seedling sale continues to be a great way to offer seedlings for reforestation projects to our members and provide funds for our operation. Programs at our meetings have been and continue to be a great way to stay on top of issues of interest to small woodland owners and learn about new things that we might not otherwise be exposed to. We also continue to represent the interests of small woodland owners in Washington County through involvement in the Tualatin River Watershed Council and at various events.

In addition to all these activities we are, as small woodland owners, stewards of the land. Regardless of our individual goals and objectives, we have a link to the land that we own and manage. The work we do on our property can be difficult and there is certainly value in the work itself, but there is so much more to it than that. I see the long-term planning and commitment associated with growing trees as a stabilizing force in a world that could use that. The work we do requires that we have hope for what is to come. 2016 is sure to offer challenges with the new riparian rules, fluctuating log prices, a presidential election and the potential for further terrorist attacks. The new year also offers us another year of growth as we move forward into the future of our small woodlands.

Until next time – Peace on Earth and Happy Small Woodlanding!

John and Cathy Dummer

*The land is the hardest
university I've ever attended.”
Ken Kesey*

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Tree Talk

by Bonnie Shumaker

I received an email last month from American Tree Farm System.org which said, "We all have a story to tell and as landowners, you have a special story about your connection to your land. Why is this story important? Your story can help you engage with your family, grandchildren and friends, highlighting why your land is important to you and why you work so hard to make it better than when you started.

Bob and I sat down to write our story. Why not write yours? If your tree farm is certified through American Tree Farm System, email your story to info@treefarmssystem.org. I'd love everyone to send their story to me bshumaker@coho.net, and I will see that it gets printed in the Forest Forum!

When Bob and I were married in the mid-sixty's, we set our sights on owning land someday. In order to afford this dream, we worked our way up through fixer-upper houses, using the profit ultimately to buy forty acres west of Banks in 1977. The real estate company advertised just forty acres and a barn, but there was a dilapidated house there too that we thought we could save – and we did! The land was mostly cleared, and we raised sheep for twenty-five years while holding jobs in town and raising two fine sons. Our first forestry endeavor was in 1980 when we replanted five brushy acres using an Oregon Department of Forestry grant. We did an early commercial thin in 2005 and another thinning in 2015.

When an adjacent forty acres came up for sale after it was clear-cut in 1997, we jumped at the chance to expand our acreage. We had already begun afforestation on most of our pastures as markets and coyote problems made raising sheep less desirable. We chose to take on the responsibility of replanting our new "south forty." The impetus to learn a lot more about forestry was at hand. In 2001, we wrote a stewardship plan and joined ATFS. We had observed ATFS signs on forestland that we admired and felt that practicing and demonstrating to the public good stewardship was something we wanted to do.

All this coincided with our early retirement; me from teaching and Bob from accounting. We were excited about starting this second career. A leap in knowledge came in 2002 as Bob and I completed the Master Woodland Manager course for which we continue to volunteer our time. We learned much from membership in Oregon Small Woodlands Association, attendance for ten years at Tree School, and utilized the available knowledge of state and industry forestry programs. We actively participated in the updating of ATFS standards and our own management plan. We were awarded Washington County Tree Farmer of the Year in 2007 and in 2008 we were 1st runner up for Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year.

We are crazy "hands-on" tree farmers and have limbed-up most of our young forest. We calculate an average of 60 limbs per tree, 400 trees/acre on 60 acres = 1,440,000 cuts! Besides eliminating the necessity for a gym membership, this cuts down on fire danger and lets us walk into the forest and see what we've got. In another ten years when a serious thinning is needed, it will be easier to mark the trees to cut.

A favorite place for us to sit and contemplate is on the banks of a quarter-acre pond that we built in 1980 which is smack dab in the middle of our forest. This pond is also much loved by the schoolchildren we have hosted for thirty+ years on field trips. This fall we built a floating dock on the pond and by next spring there will be a bench on which to sit and fish or just listen to the forest. A favorite activity is our daily walks along the forest paths which are insisted upon by our dogs and to which we heartily agree. One more delight is having a son participate in our stewardship of the land.

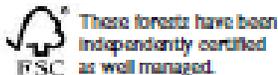


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The old is new again with Nail Laminated Timber

 [Lloyd Alter \(@lloydalter\)](#)

November 25, 2015 (excerpts from the article)

We get so excited about Cross-Laminated Timber (CLT), the fancy plywood on steroids. But in fact, there is a much older technology for building with wood those warehouses and factories were built out of 150 years ago with a fancy new name: Nail-Laminated Timber, or NLT. It used to be known as heavy timber or mill decking and is drop-dead simple: you just nail a pile of lumber together and voila.



Because while CLT is great stuff, it's pretty new in North America, it's expensive, and it's not fully understood by the building inspectors. Whereas if you are doing a simple span, NLT does the job just fine, it's cheaper, can be made by anyone with a hammer and has been in the building codes forever. NLT qualifies as Heavy Timber as long as it is "well-spiked together" and meets depth specs. It does not require an "alternative solution" application.

It's now being used in a 210,000 square foot, seven story office building in Minneapolis, where the developer, Hines, wanted "the warmth of wood and the embrace of green construction techniques and materials" to attract the tech and creative sector of the market. It also goes together much faster than a conventional steel or concrete building.

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"Banquet" continued from page 1

Stimson practices "high yield" forestry with a goal to occupy all productive land with good species. Since 1980 their tree improvement program for Douglas-fir uses seed from ODF's Schroeder Seed Orchard in the third generation of seed improvement. After harvest, site prep readies the land for replanting within twelve months. 60% of harvested acres can be replanted "as is." On the remainder, the slash is piled and burned. In 2014-15, 1.63 million seedlings were planted. To maintain optimal conditions for survival and growth they use helicopter spraying for vegetation control, pre-commercial thinning and some experimentation with fertilizer. Stimson is a participant and supports the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®). SFI is an independent organization comprised of conservation, forest products and academic groups dedicated to promoting sustainable forest management. Roger summed up by saying that Stimson is a "timberland company that has mills." They have a commitment to the local community to provide jobs, and as long as they have timberland, Stimson will have mills.



Anya Hall, scholarship recipient with Doug Eddy and Vic Herinckx

In addition to Roger's presentation, Anya Hall, WCSWA's scholarship recipient last year told about her move to Oregon which brought her to discovering and loving OSU and the College of Forestry. She much appreciated WCSWA's support of her education. WCSWA's annual Native Plant Sale and a portion of the seedling sale profits provide scholarships at OSU's College of Forestry

Door prizes were also appreciated by many throughout the evening.



Door prizes galore are always fun

Got questions? Get answers.

KnowYourForest.org

It's easy. Tap into a wealth of information, to help you manage your forestlands. Best of all, the website's updated regularly and ready when you are.



Family forestland owners Dale Cuyler and Brenda Woodard.

Tax Time Approaching

The end of the year may be too late to take some actions that may reduce your tax burden for 2015. There are a couple of on-line sources of help and tips to check out now to see if you can take advantage of any opportunities to reduce your taxes. One is the U.S. Forest Service's National Timber Tax Specialist Linda Wang's tax tips, which can be viewed on-line at www.fs.fed.us/cooperativeforestry/programs/loa/tax.shtml. The other is information found on the www.timbertax.org website.

A silhouette of a tall, thin evergreen tree.

LONE CEDAR
Mark Dreyer
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Our own Cathy and John Dummer receive their plaque for being 2015 Tree Farmer of the Year for Washington County at the Oregon Tree Farm Luncheon on November 23rd.

Weyco-Plum Creek merger will cement arrogance

Editorial: The Daily Astorian November 30, 2015

Combined company will be nation's largest private landowner.

Studying a map of Weyerhaeuser and Plum Creek's timberland ownership is like trying to read tea leaves in an effort to discern the future of forest communities. Across large swaths of rural America, the proposed merger of these huge landowners will have very tangible consequences.

Post-merger, the combined company will be the nation's largest private landowner.

Weyco's Doyle Simons will be president and CEO, while Plum Creek's Rick Holley, who is nearing retirement, will continue in a leadership position as non-executive chairman, according to Barron's magazine.

"The deal is a testament to Weyerhaeuser's transformation under Simons in the past two years and his drive to unlock value," Barron's gushes. If regulators OK the deal, "Plum Creek's expertise in real estate and optimizing land values" will be beneficial to Weyco's growth. Other analysts expect the combined firm to immediately shave \$100 million annually in what are euphemistically called "hard synergies" — cost savings in the form of layoffs and other cuts in operating expenses.

From a purely capitalistic standpoint, shareholders will see more money squeezed from the company's more than 13 million acres. This will include incremental gains for all who carry a sliver of Weyco-Plum Creek stock in their retirement portfolios. Employees who survive the merger will likely be more secure in a corporation that has solidified its global competitiveness.

For local communities, the process of "unlocking value" promises to continue Weyerhaeuser's march away from paying anything more than lip service to corporate citizenship. In northwest Montana, where Plum Creek has large holdings, this sparks concerns about having to pay for recreational land access — a policy much beloved by Weyco.

This is a long way from the Weyco's postwar advertising as "the tree-growing company." Weyco's switch to the real estate investment trust form of organization minimizes federal tax payments while increasingly turning forests into fungible assets, easily sold or converted to other purposes. With the population expected to rapidly increase west of the Cascades this century, Weyco will doubtless maximize profits by converting some lands in the Columbia-Pacific region to housing. There are communities in which this will be welcome — a growing population needs more housing. Such transformative land-use changes should be decided upon by local citizens and agencies, but they will find it difficult to contest proposals by a corporate behemoth.

(For a historical perspective on these timber companies, see George Ochenski's column in The Missoulian: tinyurl.com/nsr97wr.)

Weyerhaeuser is already so big it effectively doesn't care what anybody thinks. The long history of concentrating land ownership in fewer hands strongly suggests that such arrogance will be further cemented by this marriage between two giants of America's corporate "landed gentry." There will a relentless focus on the bottom line, forest access will be restricted, workers will be squeezed and state legislatures will comply with what Weyco wants.

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Congress should support fire prevention on family forests (OPINION) –The Oregonian, Nov. 17, 2015

By Scott Hayes

The recently ended fire season, for private landowners, was the third most expensive in the last 10 years. It managed to touch almost every Oregonian. Some Oregonians were directly impacted by one of the many blazes. Road blockages, campground closures and days of unhealthy, smoky air over Portland and many other urban and rural areas were just some of the inconveniences.

As a result, policymakers are scrambling to find ways to avoid a repeat next year. They would do well to review a new report from the American Forest Foundation (AFF). AFF is a non-profit that helps private and family owned forests meet Americans' needs for clean air and water. AFF's report, using state and federal data, identified 145 million acres of forest and other land across 11 Western states that are threaten by catastrophic wildfire. But, contrary to popular perception, not all this land is public land.

More than a third of these acres, some 52 million acres, are private and family owned land. Oregon families own more than 4.3 million of these acres. As a retired forester, I own 40 of those family owned acres on a woodland about 35 miles outside of Portland.

Anyone looking at a map of Oregon's forests will see a mosaic of checkerboards and jigsaw puzzles. Pieces intersect with one another in strange shapes. In some cases, small tracts of private and family owned land exist within larger sections of public land. And, as all landowners know, fire doesn't respect property lines. As Oregon State Forester Doug Decker recently said, "Working successfully across ownership boundaries is critical when responding to an active fire and it's just as important when it comes to addressing the causes of fire over the long term."

However, Oregonians need to work harder on fire prevention, mitigation and restoration, on all ownerships and across all boundary lines. There are currently about 30 projects taking place in Oregon that support wildfire mitigation and restoration. Most do not involve cross-boundary work. Instead, they only address public lands. As a result, our efforts are uncoordinated and the results are, at best, uneven.

What's more, AFF's analysis shows that most of us small, family landowners (70 percent) want to take action against wildfires and are eager to help. The problem is an even more of us (77 percent) don't have the resources to do it. With family landowners ready to take action, we need Congress to do more to encourage both public and private owner involvement in wildfire mitigation and restoration activities.

AFF's report makes several recommendations addressing cross-boundary activities that deserve bipartisan support from our Oregon congressional delegation. For example, there are a few cross-boundary projects underway in Eastern Oregon. In the Blue Mountains surrounding La Grande, the Oregon Department of Forestry, AFF, the U.S. Forest Service and others are working together to reduce fire risk across 140 square miles.

The Blue Mountains project is evidence that cross-boundary programs work. With the right outreach and follow-up to private and family landowners, progress is being made. But we can do more. We need Congress to give the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management the authority to make these cross-boundary projects a standard tool in their tool box. These agencies – our neighbors - can then use these programs where they are most effective.

In addition, Oregon's family landowners need more funding support for cross-boundary work to address the catastrophic wildfire threat. As long as lightning and stupid people start fires, wildfires will always be a part of life in Oregon. While we can't stop lightning and, as much as we try, we can't fix stupid, we can do something to help mitigate the threat and reduce the costs to landowners, communities and Oregon taxpayers. To truly lower the wildfire threat, a cross-boundary approach is essential.

Scott Hayes is the incoming chair of the Oregon Tree Farm System and past president of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association (and a WCSWA member). The views he expresses are his own. He lives on Arbor House Tree Farm, located northeast of Forest Grove.

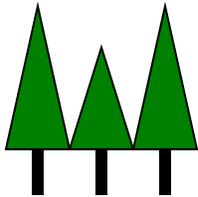
New Watershed Extension Specialist

On October 1, Dr. Jon Souder joined the OSU Extension Forestry and Natural Resources faculty to serve as our Extension Specialist in Forest Watershed Management. For the past 15 years, Jon was the Executive Director of the Coos Watershed Association, one of the top watershed councils in Oregon. Jon also spent seven years on the faculty in the School of Forestry at Northern Arizona University and 12 years as a Biologist and Water Resources Planner with the US Fish & Wildlife Service. He holds a BS degree in Biology from Marlboro College (Vermont), an MS and Ph.D. in Wildland Resources Science from the University of California – Berkeley. Jon has a strong background in watershed management and restoration. His areas of interest include: prioritization of watershed restoration projects, riparian silviculture, salmon life cycle analysis, and sediment effects from forest roads. Look for opportunities to visit with Jon at education programs and watershed management events in 2016.

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Forest Forum



COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE
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Potpourri

New Members Welcome to Tom and Becky Mehringer of Hillsboro and Walt and Debi Lorence also of Hillsboro. 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.

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>

Scandinavian Tour: Visit this link on the OWC website to find 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.

Winter Trees

***All the complicated details of the attiring and the disattiring are completed!
A liquid moon moves gently among the long branches.
Thus having prepared their buds against a sure winter
The wise trees stand sleeping in the cold.***

William Carlos Williams