

# **Forest Forum**

## **Washington County Small Woodlands Association**

February, 2016

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### **Who Has the Advantage? Douglas-fir or Southern Pine?**

Tamara Cushing, our guest speaker for WCSWA's January 26<sup>th</sup> meeting, came to OSU in June 2014. She is the Starker Chair and Extension Appointment for the College of Forestry. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Forestry from the University of Florida and two Masters from Mississippi State in Forest Economics and Taxation. In addition she received a PhD in Forest Finance from the University of Georgia. Her talk compared forestry in the south vs. the northwest.



Loblolly Pine aka "money pine" is grown from the Mississippi River to Florida and north to South Carolina, a large area known for long hot summers and mild winters. The seedlings are planted in rows at 600/700 stems per acre on flat ground. Intensive site prep, herbaceous control and lots of fertilizer are used. Loblolly Pine is commercially thinned at age 15-18 for pulpwood where every 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> row is removed as well as defective trees from neighboring rows. The final harvest at age 25-35 is used for chip-n-saw. Timber, hunting leases and pine straw provide sources of revenue for these tree farms. Pine straw alone can bring up to \$1100/acre every few years.

Threats to Loblolly Pine are lightning, drought, ice, disease and insects, with drought the biggest cause of mortality. Research on this southern pine is advanced. Even faster rotations are possible, but so far quality is sacrificed.

Douglas-fir can't compete with the fast rotation or the ease in planting and harvesting of Loblolly Pine, but its quality far surpasses southern pine. This quality will always be in demand. For the future, Tamara sees continued demand for sustainable certified wood products, increasing concern over biodiversity, new wood products and genetic improvement to produce more quality wood, protection from disease and animal damage.

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### **February 23 WCSWA Meeting Hot Topics**

#### **Mike Cafferata, ODF District Forester, Speaker**

#### **7:00p.m. North Plains Fire Station**

**Stream Buffer Rulemaking:** This fall, the Board of Forestry increased riparian buffers for some streams. The rulemaking process is now underway. Mike will bring us up-to-date on the process.

**Salmonberry Trail Update:** The Salmonberry Corridor Rail-Trail is a promising project under development that will span 86 miles from Banks to the Pacific Ocean. For its entirety, the trail follows the century-old Pacific Railway and Navigation Company rail bed, which—due to its steep grades and sharp curves—gained the moniker, "Punk, Rotten and Nasty." Mike will update us on the trail's progress.

## WCSWA Leadership

Co-Presidents – John and Cathy Dummer, 503-970-8789  
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Vice-President – Vic Herinckx, vic.herinckx@gmail.com

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### WCSWA Website

[www.wcswa.com](http://www.wcswa.com)

**Website Manager: Lia Boyarshinova**

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

**Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/WashingtonCountySmallWoodlandsAssociation>

### Forest Forum Newsletter

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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](http://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

February	23	7:00 p.m. North Plains Fire Hall 31370 NW Commercial Street	Mike Cafferata, ODF, will discuss riparian rule changes, and progress on the Salmonberry Trail
March	12	9:00a.m.- 3:00p.m. Bales Thriftway, 17675 S.W. Farmington, Aloha	<b>WCSWA Native Plant and Tree Sale.</b> All profits support college scholarships. Contact Karen Graham 503-647-0310, <a href="mailto:kgraham@duckswild.com">kgraham@duckswild.com</a> to volunteer or for more information
March	22	7:00 p.m. North Plains Fire Hall 31370 NW Commercial Street	Mary Castle, Weyerhaeuser transportation and mining engineer, will discuss woodland roads
April	26	7:00 p.m. North Plains Fire Hall 31370 NW Commercial Street	Amy Grotta, OSU Extension will discuss early detection of forest pests and an update on the Hagg Lake demo. forest

## *The Woodland Beat*

One of the things we've recently done on our property is put in 10 permanent inventory plot locations, which will enable us to monitor growth in these locations over time. The plots are 1/20<sup>th</sup> of an acre each, or 52.67 feet diameter. We've got just shy of 40 acres and the 10 locations we selected for permanent plots are intended to provide us with a representative sample of the entire property.

The 10 permanent plots are a sub-set of the 200 inventory plots we established when we did an inventory and wrote our original management plan about 5 years ago. Luckily we marked all 200 plot locations and also have the coordinates from a GPS for each plot, so it wasn't too hard to find them again. Each of the permanent plots is identified in the center by a t-post or a piece of galvanized pipe that is painted silver (happen to have that in the cupboard and it looks a little like the Tin Man).

While establishing the 10 permanent plots we did an inventory. The results showed an average of about 500 trees per acre, with about 20% grand fir and 80% Douglas Fir. We also inventoried dead trees (since we've got so many of them), hardwoods, understory plants, and other items of note. Comparing inventory data from our 10 permanent plots to the 5-year old inventory data the results were very close, so we felt like we got a pretty good representation of the entire site with the 10 permanent plot locations.

Setting and collecting data on our 10 new permanent inventory plots was intentionally timed just before we started a pre-commercial thinning project. As the thinning progressed we used some of those plots to monitor the change in stand density. Now that the thinning is complete we need to finish up collecting the new data for all the permanent plots, but our density has gone down to about what we had in mind – more like 300 trees per acre on average.

Another thing that really helped out with our pre-commercial thinning was marking our property boundary. We are lucky in that we were able to identify our property corners, with the help of a metal detector, and mark them not long after we purchased the property 8 years ago. For this thinning we added t-posts as boundary markers, spaced so we had line of sight between them, and painted them orange and flagged them. (Used metal t-posts go for about \$2 each if you are wondering.) Just before our contractor began I also walked the line and flagged between the t-posts to be sure it was clear where the line was. We didn't have any problems with that and our contractor was very conscientious about not scarring any of the leave trees or wandering on to our neighbor's property.

Remember the Native Plant Sale is coming up on March 12. This is a great activity for our organization in a number of ways. It promotes planting native plants, which are adapted to live here requiring less water and fertilizer and provide habitat for birds and other animals. The sale is a great way to connect with the greater Washington County community and let our neighbors know about the Washington County Small Woodlands Association. Proceeds from the sale go to Forestry students at Oregon State University like Anya Hall who shared her story at our annual banquet. The other thing the sale does is it brings our members together. It takes solid leadership, wisdom from those who have worked on the sale in the past and a lot of volunteers to pull off what has become a community tradition. Please plan to help out or come by and support the sale by buying some native plants.

Until next time – Happy Small Woodlanding! *John and Cathy Dummer*

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# Tree Talk

by Bonnie Shumaker

I've got a new hat to wear: one day a month: in Salem.

Last November, I was asked if I would agree to be appointed to the Committee for Family Forestlands. CFF was established by the Oregon Board of Forestry in 2000 to advise the Board and the State Forester about family forestland issues. I talked to a few people who had served on the CFF and they assured me that it was a worthwhile committee and that the committee's voice was heard. So I agreed to a three-year term which began in January. I am the representative from Northwest Oregon.

The Committee for Family Forestlands researches policies impacting family forestland viability, resource protection, and forestry benefits. Based on its findings the Committee recommends actions to the Oregon Board of Forestry and State Forester.

The thirteen member committee includes seven voting and six non-voting members. Voting members include four family forestland owners (representing small to large acreage ownerships in various regions of the state), and a member representing environmental, forest products industry, and the general public communities. Non-voting ex-officio members may include representatives from ODF, Oregon State University, Oregon small forestland groups, forestry-related industry associations, and the Oregon Forest Resources Institute.

My first CFF meeting was focused on seedling availability (or lack thereof) to small woodland owners and was held at the Schroeder Seed Orchard in St. Paul. Bob was a speaker at the meeting since he has spearheaded WCSWA's seedling sale for many years. There was a lively discussion and good information.

If any readers of "Tree Talk" have issues they wish to bring up to the Committee for Family Forestlands, let me know. I will keep you informed of any actions taken by the CFF on behalf of family forestlands. Right now, as a newbie, I will be learning which ways I can best contribute to the committee.

Now for more fun "out in the woods" stuff. The weather has moderated and Bob and I have gotten off the couch and into the woods. We are doing pre-commercial thinning in the stand which used to be an alfalfa field. In 2002, we planted 400 trees per acre and then replanted every seedling that didn't make it for the next two years. Now, we're taking out the double-tops and suppressed trees to open things up a bit. OSU's Brad Withrow-Robinson has addressed this overcrowding in young stands issue in "Tree Topics" <http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/treetopics> and promises another about the how-to's of pre-commercial thinning. We have always preferred the term "early commercial thinning," but are now seeing that if trees get too crowded waiting for this time, their growth slows. New recommendations are 300 trees/acre due to seedling improvements in both growth and survivability. Too bad our trees are already planted.

Have you been seeing early signs of spring? I have and am loving it. The Lenten Rose (Hellebore) is blooming; catkins are on the filbert trees in the valley, bulbs are pushing up their leaves, rough skinned newts are crawling out of the woods toward the pond. By the time you read this, there will be many more signs, I'm sure. Can WCSWA's Native Plant Sale (March 12) be far behind? Contact Karen Graham, 503-647-0310, [kgraham@duckswild.com](mailto:kgraham@duckswild.com) if you can help. It's loads of fun and takes many hands to make this scholarship fund-raiser a success.

## Some Basic Fire Protection Ideas

*J. Larry Grant, Jan. 2016. (Larry spent 14 years with the USDA-Forest Service in Northern California, Modoc NF. He worked hand-in-glove with the district fuels technicians to create a series of shaded fuel breaks across the district). Thank you, Larry, for this article.*

I fully realize that it's difficult to think about the upcoming wildfire season when the rain-year is pushing 30 inches. However, history tells us that record rainfall translates into a bumper crop of grass. Tall grass will wither in the late summer. Add lightning or some other ignition source, and professional & amateur firefighters alike will be chasing fires all over the state.

Is your forested property in a condition that could survive a wildfire? Have you reduced the slash to the point that it's not a hazard? Could firefighters easily get to a wildfire on your property? (1)

If you answered *no* or *I don't know* to any of the above questions, early spring is the perfect time of year to add a degree of fire protection to your forested property. Unfortunately, one cannot make forested land totally fire safe but there are a number of steps that one can take to reduce the likelihood of experiencing a disastrous wildfire.

The news media likes to portray attacking a raging wildfire with dramatic aerial retardant drops utilizing multi-engine aircraft or firefighters using water from a fire hose. The boring truth is that the most effective firefighting technique is vegetation manipulation in the off-season. And further truth is that most techniques to treat vegetation on your property to attain some degree of protection are nothing but dirty "grunt work."

The two main objectives of treating brush and other forms of vegetation on your property are 1) to reduce the intensity if you happen to experience a fire and 2) give firefighters proper and safe access in & out of your property.

I have volunteered at a North Plains Christmas tree farm for about 3 years. My two main duties have been to provide firewood to the owners as well as the construction of a "shaded fuel-break." The basic concept of a "shaded fuel-break" has been around for decades. Pacific Northwest Extension Service produced an excellent source of information in PNW 618, October 2010 (link: <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/pnw618>). The authors point out that vegetation, specifically grass and brush, needs to be treated in such a way as to prevent a wildfire from reaching tree crowns. A crown fire simply cannot be fought from the ground or air. All vegetation treatment methods need to be geared to disrupting the "fuel ladder."

### Prescription for Success

\* Create fire-breaks around your home, detached buildings including garages, barns, and firewood sheds. A fire-break may be 2-15 feet wide depending upon what fuels exist beyond the break. Fire-breaks should be free of all combustible materials and be maintained to prevent invasive vegetation.

Shaded fuel-breaks:

\* Beyond fire-breaks that are created to protect buildings, modify the configuration of fuels 30-100 feet from structures in order to give firefighters an opportunity to "make a stand" in case of a wildfire.

\* Treat (i.e. mow, pile & burn, chip & scatter) grass and brush at least 30 feet back from any fire-lane access to your property. Wider fuel-breaks are necessary on steep ground due to fire behavior.

\* Thin trees along your fire-lanes and remove lower branches at least 8 feet up on the main stem. Trees can be left in groups of three to add visual appeal to your fuel-break as long as the lower limbs are pruned.

\* Provide a reliable water source. Water can certainly be a valuable component in an overall fire protection strategy but again, fuel modification can be much more effective.

\*Get to know your neighbors and make fire prevention and fuel-break construction projects a neighborhood endeavor. Create a phone-tree if you have not already done so. Share equipment. Have too many piles to burn on a DEQ prescribed burn day? Call your neighbors. Most folks are more than willing to assist when it comes time for burning activities. The real question becomes - what do you want on your hot dog?

(1) USDA-PNW 618, October 2010 <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/pnw618>.

## **Boardman Tree Farm Will Soon be Cut for Good**

By Molly Harbarger, The Oregonian, OregonLive, Jan. 25, 2016

The windblown poplars that line Interstate 84 near Boardman will soon be cut for good.

One-third of the 25,000-acre Boardman Tree Farm sold in November to a dairy. Now, a Washington agriculture company bought the rest of the land for irrigation crops, such as potatoes.

The Boardman Tree Farm is a distinct element of the Columbia Gorge landscape. Rows and rows of millions of hybrid poplar trees run next to the highway for six miles. GreenWood Resources, a firm that manages forests as investments in timber, has owned the tree farm since 2007, and it has become a community fixture.

Each year, a charity race is held on the site. A sawmill and a veneer plant are located on the farm. The East Oregonian reports that those two companies employ about 100 people.

The poplar trees are harvested on a 12-year cycle. It will take years to fully clear cut the tree farm.

## March Conference: Asia-Pacific Wood Trade Growth & Challenges

### **Is India the New China?**

With over a billion people, a rapidly growing economy, and restrictions on timber harvesting, India has seen large jumps in imported wood demand from 58 million cubic meters in 2000 to an expected 150 million cubic meters by 2018. Will India become the "new China" for softwood log and lumber import markets in the next decade? These and other questions will be discussed at our "Changing Dynamics of the Asia-Pacific Wood Trade" conference at the World Forestry Center on March 1-2, 2016.

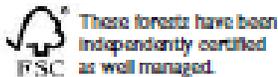


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## World Forestry Center Turns 50!

The roots of today's World Forestry Center actually go all the way back to 1905 with the Lewis and Clark Exposition and the construction of its renowned Forestry Building. More familiarly known as "the world's largest log cabin," it honored the contributions of the forest industry to the economy of the Pacific Northwest. That massive and iconic Parthenon-in-the-woods-like building became one of the most popular tourist attractions in Oregon.

After its restoration in the 1950s, its popularity soared again until, on August 17, 1964, it was completely destroyed by an enormous fire. The people of Portland grieved. But within a few months, Portland's mayor convened a group of civic leaders charged with finding a way to rebuild it. They formed a new nonprofit called the Western Forestry Center, raised funds, and secured a space in Washington Park next to the Zoo and OMSI (which relocated to the east-side in 1992). This new organization changed its name to World Forestry Center in 1986. But it was first officially recognized as a nonprofit organization in May of 1966. This, then, is the year we get to celebrate our 50th anniversary!



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My insurance company  
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Sending me a new calendar.  
As always, they've hedged their bet.  
Ms. January advises exercise.  
Other health tips follow.  
I flip to Ms. December,  
Who seems surprised to see me.

*James Fleming, Lake Oswego, from  
Lake Oswego Review, January 7, 2016*



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*"The most difficult thing is the  
decision to act; the rest is merely  
tenacity."*

*Amelia Earhart*

## Got questions? Get answers.

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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.

### **Reforestation plan in motion for burned Baker County land**

By Jayson Jacoby Baker City Herald January 7 2016

BAKER CITY, Ore. (AP) — The ponderosa pines that will transform the landscape left by the Cornet/Windy Ridge fire from black to green will start their life in a Medford nursery.

Thousands of seedling pines, enough to reforest about 1,000 acres, should be ready to be planted in the fire-scarred ground south of Baker City during the spring of 2017, said Joe Sciarrino of the Whitman Ranger District.

But that represents only a small start to a big project that probably will take three years. The Cornet/Windy Ridge fire was the combined combustion of a pair of lightning-sparked fires that burned together in early August. The blaze covered 104,000 acres, ranging from near Hereford east through the Burnt River Canyon most of the way to Durkee and as far north as Interstate 84. It was the biggest wildfire in Baker County history.



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## Tall wood building committee will work on 2021 global building codes

By [Bill Esler](#) January 12, 2016 | 11:32 am EST

**LEESBURG, Va.** – American Wood Council announced the International Code Council (ICC) Board of Directors approval of the formation of a Tall Wood Ad Hoc Committee.

The committee will be made up of stakeholders, code officials and other interested parties. The committee will study tall wood construction and may develop code changes to be submitted for the 2021 International Building Code. Tall wood is an industry term to identify the use of cross laminated timber (CLT) and other heavy timber manufactured wood products in building heights greater than six stories.

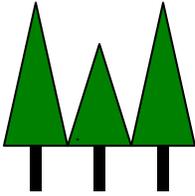
Other nations have already seen the benefits of tall wood construction – from the low carbon footprint, ease of construction and reduced construction time.

Wood products are made from renewable resources found abundantly in North America. AWC petitioned ICC for creation of the committee to research the building science of tall wood buildings, and are pleased that it is moving forward. This is an important step toward the advancement of tall wood in the United States, a carbon-sequestering alternative in construction.

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## Forest Forum



COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE  
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### Potpourri

**New Member:** Welcome to new member Margaret Mulholland from Madsville, West Virginia. 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.

**Tree Spacing and Thinning:** Read two good articles on tree spacing and thinning with a third one promised soon on Amy Grotta and Brad Withrow-Robinson's blog <http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/treetopics>

#### **New Publications and Resources from Tall Timber Topics, OSU Extension Winter, 2016 Small-Scale Harvesting for Woodland Owners EM 9129)**

By Steve Bowers and Francisca Belart. This publication mentions pitfalls to avoid and offers helpful information about small scale harvests, from making a plan and selecting contractors to determining costs and increasing revenue. New December 2015, 14 pages. Free download at: <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em9129>

**Flora of Oregon: Volume 1** For the serious botany enthusiast, *Flora of Oregon: Volume 1*, 600 p. Ordering information on the Oregon Flora Project website, <http://oregonflora.org/>

#### **Helpful Links:**

- <http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/treetopics> to read Amy Grotta's "Tree Topics" blog
- [www.oregonwoodlandcooperative.com](http://www.oregonwoodlandcooperative.com) to learn about the Oregon Woodland Cooperative
- <https://www.facebook.com/WashingtonCountySmallWoodlandsAssociation>