

# Forest Forum

Washington County Small  
Woodlands Association

May, 2010

## Western Red Cedar



*Doug Mainwaring receives pencil holder from Jim Brown*

Doug Mainwaring, OSU faculty research assistant, was our guest speaker at the April 27<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting. The topic was Western Red Cedar (WRC). He began by listing the pros and cons of growing WRC.

Pro	Con
High value	Slow growing
Increases species and economic diversity	Lack of experience in growing
	Difficult to establish

To establish a stand, container seedlings seem to work best, possibly because of problems with bare-root long term storage. Protecting the seedlings from deer and elk are a persistent problem. Vexar or solid tubes may work. Repellants such as "Deer Away" and "Plantskydd" work but must be re-sprayed as necessary. A late summer spray before the rains come works for the longest time frame.

*See WRC page 4*

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## WCSWA POTLUCK, PICNIC AND PING PONG May 18, 2010

Since we started our annual potluck several years ago, few can resist the good food and company of small woodland owners. Don't miss this one! Bring your favorite dish or something new to share.

**OPEN TO ALL. KIDS, FRIENDS, RELATIVES ARE WELCOME.**

**5:30pm social hour/walk/ping-pong – you choose  
6:30pm dinner: Following dinner, interns from the World Forestry Center will share their experiences.**

**Mel and Beth Adams, 12250 SW Madrona Ridge Dr. Hillsboro, OR 97123**

**503-628-0722 land line      503-504-6012 cell**

### From Hillsboro take:

Highway 219 SOUTH. Go about 6 miles.  
RIGHT on Bald Peak Road  
At the fork in the road, bear RIGHT to stay on Bald Pk. Go one and a half more miles.  
RIGHT on Madrona Ridge Dr. at the 6 mailboxes  
Drive 1/2 mile to a black chain link fence on your right. At the end of the black fence, turn right onto gravel driveway...it is gravel – not black top.  
RIGHT downhill to house with yellow door.

### From Portland take:

Highway 26 West to  
Highway 217 South to  
Highway 10 and 8 exit. Go one block past light at end of the ramp to  
Highway 10 West (RIGHT) to DEAD END. (You'll pass through Beaverton, Aloha, Farmington, etc.)  
LEFT onto Highway 219 SOUTH  
Go only a few feet to Bald Peak Road  
RIGHT on Bald Peak Road  
At the fork in the road, bear RIGHT to stay on Bald Pk. Go one and a half more miles.  
RIGHT on Madrona Ridge Dr. at the 6 mailboxes  
Drive 1/2 mile to a black chain link fence on your right. At the end of the black fence, turn right onto gravel driveway...it is gravel – not black top.  
RIGHT downhill to house with yellow door.

**DOGS ARE OKAY IN WOODS AND ON GRASS**

## Notes from the President

I hope you have taken the opportunity to get started on your woodland projects for 2010. My current effort is cutting brush in a 7-year-old stand of reprod. It has a robust mix of Scotch broom, blackberry, poison oak, and hawthorn – a true witch's brew! My farm has good soil but receives only 35 inches of rain per year. Established blackberry grow 30 feet in a season; Scotch broom about 6 feet. Low rainfall means slower evergreen tree growth, so brush is a serious problem. I cut all this stuff in 2008!

I guess I like Scotch broom best. It fixes nitrogen, has no thorns, and can be pulled up easily from damp soil as long as it isn't too large. Often, it will not re-sprout from the stump, and it decays quickly. Poison oak grows slowly and is easy to spot this time of year, but tricky to cut down - obvious from its name. The tangled growth and thorns of blackberry are harder to deal with. Hawthorn (the worst!) is slow-growing, but the stems are very hard and the thorns are downright lethal. Cutting hawthorn with a chainsaw puts one's hands close enough to the action that thorns on thrown stem material can penetrate right to the bone – even through gloves. Penetration this deep poses a serious infection hazard!

I am using a hefty brush-cutter with a cobra blade attached. The blade has chain-saw teeth welded to a main disc. The teeth are easily re-sharpened. This blade will cut off a 3-inch Doug fir sapling in an instant, so its use requires careful handling. The brush-cutter puts distance between the operator and the material being cut, so flying debris is not much of a hazard. Long sleeves, gloves, and eye protection are still essential, as well as hearing protection.

So why not spray? Answer: I failed to follow my plan to spray in fall of 2008. This year, my calendar has a note in LARGE print on September 15<sup>th</sup> to spray as soon as weather permits. I only spot-spray, and the compact growth of the re-sprouted plants will be easy to target. In spite of the competition, the trees are growing well, but it is difficult to work among these invasive, noxious, thorny, poisonous, and/or non-native weeds. A stitch in time would have.....

Important reminder: Your local woodland association needs your help! We have one new person on the membership committee, but still could use one or two more. The legislative committee is still VACANT! The seedling committee could use another member or two. Working in any of these committees requires little time and no previous experience, but their functions are vital to the interests of our members. If you think you might be interested, please contact me or any Board member and we will tell you more about it. You can still decide yes or no. For Master Woodland Managers, committee work can count toward your service time!

**ATFS:** if your farm is currently Tree Farm certified, you may need to update your management plan to meet new ATFS certification requirements for 2011. Some of our local Master Woodland Managers will soon receive training which will enable them to help you decide whether changes are needed in your plan. Amy Grotta can put you in touch with an appropriately trained MWM.

Another reminder: The **WCSWA roster** will be distributed to members in July. Now is the time to check your contact information. If you can't find your copy of the roster, e-mail me and I will e-mail your info from the current roster. Revisions should be sent to the OSWA office in Salem. All data in the WCSWA roster are drawn directly from OSWA records.

The good news: My neighbor says it's o.k. for me to cut down his hawthorn tree! Into the chipper!!

Jim Brown

## WCSWA Leadership

President – Jim Brown, 503-284-6455 [jimbrownorch@msn.com](mailto:jimbrownorch@msn.com)

Vice-President – Scott Hayes, 503- 992-1509 [scotthayes@wildblue.net](mailto:scotthayes@wildblue.net)

Secretary-Treasurer – Bob Shumaker; 503-324-7825  
[bshumaker@coho.net](mailto:bshumaker@coho.net)

### Board of Directors:

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### Legislative Committee Chair:

vacant

### WCSWA Website

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

Website Manager: Kathy Scott

Contact Tom Nygren for web postings and information.

### Forest Forum Newsletter

Editors: Tom Nygren & Bonnie Shumaker

503-628-5472 or 503-324-7825

e-mail: [tnygren@juno.com](mailto:tnygren@juno.com) or

[bshumaker@coho.net](mailto: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)*

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**Wanted:** Ford F250 Diesel. Early 90's 4x4 preferred. Also need a 12K tiltbed trailer. Call Don at 503-357-2942.

**Trade:** (none)

## Event Calendar

- |           |         |   |
|-----------|---------|---|
| May       | 15      | <b>Oregon Woodland Cooperative Annual Meeting</b> - 9:00am at the Kinton Grange   |
|           | 18      | <b>WCSWA Annual Potluck</b> at Mel/Beth Adams. 5:30pm walk in the woods and/or social hour followed by 6:30pm dinner  |
| June      | 10 & 19 | Sustainable water management in Tualatin Basin - free tours. See Forest Forum article on page 8<br><b>Thursday, June 10 1 – 5 pm</b><br><b>Saturday, June 19 8:30 am – 12:30 pm</b> |
|           | 19      | <b>WCSWA Field Trip to Urban Timberworks</b> – (near OMSI). Details and directions in June Forest Forum   |
| July      | 31      | <b>WCSWA Annual Tree Farmer of the Year Tour</b> – John Mulholland Tree Farm near Gaston. Reserve the date; details to follow.  |
| September | 17      | <b>Pacific Logging Congress</b> , Clatskanie  |

## Advertising Opportunity:

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Full page	125	250	625

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### WRC, continued from page 1

Good site selection includes root rot pockets and high seasonal water tables where Doug fir cannot grow. WRC grows anywhere doug fir grows well and may be underplanted within a Doug fir stand due to WRC's shade tolerance. Starker Forests have had success planting WRC in patches (1/2 acre or more) as long as it isn't a heavy browse area. WRC does not like large open areas as they get sun-baked easily. Choose partially shaded areas, perhaps next to an older stand. WRC is more sensitive to herbicides, so consult herbicide charts before spraying around seedlings.

Thinning is not recommended since there is very little mortality in dense stands. Commercially, WRC is grown on a 60 year rotation.

WRC grows about one-third slower than Doug fir, so in a mixed stand, the fir will overtop the cedar slowing it down. The cedar will persist, however, and may be harder for deer and elk to find. Clusters of 10-25 WRC may still be elusive to deer and elk and only the edge trees will be suppressed.

As far as wood quality, WRC generally has small knots, less sapwood, doesn't rot easily, but has more fluting and butt swell and is a more tapered tree.

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## Improbable Senate Alliance Could Create American Waste Biomass Energy Industry

From Clean Technica.com, published April 10, 2010

Freshman Democratic Senators Mark Begich (D-AK) and Jean Shaheen (D-NH) have been joined by Republican Senators Mike Crapo(D-ID) and Lisa Murkowski (D-K) in announcing breakthrough bipartisan support for a little-utilized form of renewable energy, with major implications for greenhouse gas reductions in the US in the American Renewable Biomass Heating Act.

Their legislation would expand the use of waste biomass in high-efficiency heating systems in commercial and industrial buildings, Brighter Energy reports, by expansion of 30% tax credits to exceed the \$1,500 limit, and to extend past the current expiration date of 2013.

## **Oregon Woodland Co-op Annual Meeting Features Marketing Panel, “Goods from the Woods”**

The annual meeting of the Oregon Woodland Cooperative will occur on *May 15<sup>th</sup>* at the Kinton Grange on Scholls Ferry Road in Washington County. The meeting will feature an exhibit of forest products and projects by Co-op members and a panel discussion on marketing diverse and value-added products. Here’s a good opportunity to learn about what the Co-op has been doing with bundled firewood, floral greenery, value-added special wood products, maple syrup, jams and jellies, and other products to capture economic values from their forests and supplement their normal timber harvests! The “Diverse Products – Value-Added Markets” panel of experienced and knowledgeable experts on several forest product marketing venues will share their thoughts on how owners of small woodlands can obtain the highest value from their products. Speakers will include Steve Bowers, OSU Extension Forester from Douglas County aka “Treeman”, Scott Zimmerman, well known for his “custom cut for added value” marketing and a speaker to discuss multi-forest products.

All woodland owners or those interested in Co-op activities are invited to attend. The meeting program will begin at 9 a.m. with a “meet and greet” social and “Goods from the Woods” exhibit. The main event, a panel presentation “Diverse Products – Value-added Markets” will begin at 10:30 a.m., followed by a potluck lunch at noon. Demonstrations of how some of the “Goods from the Woods” are harvested, processed, and packaged for value-added sale will follow lunch.

The Kinton Grange is located on Scholls Ferry Road, about 5 miles west of Washington Square ([www.kintongrange.org](http://www.kintongrange.org) for more specific directions).



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Funding for the OFID expansion provided by a grant to the Institute for Culture and Ecology and OSU Forestry Extension by the USDA CSREES National Research Initiative (See [www.ifcae.org/wildforestgoods](http://www.ifcae.org/wildforestgoods)).



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## Longview Paper to Build Biomass Boiler

Longview Fibre Paper Packaging Inc. filed permits to build a new 65-megawatt biomass power plant which would replace an existing 25-megawatt biomass boiler at its Longview, WA pulp mill. The \$100 million biomass plant will burn 38,000 tons of mill waste and hog fuel monthly. Scheduled to be online by third quarter 2011, it would be the Northwest's largest biomass plant and #14 in North America.



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## WCSWA Scholarships Awarded

The five member WCSWA scholarship selection committee met in mid-April to evaluate the applications for our two \$1,000 scholarships. This money is from the profit of our native plant sale held the second Saturday in March each year. This was the ninth year for our plant sale and the seventh year we have had funds available for scholarships. The first few years' funds were sent to OSU for scholarships there. This is the fourth year that WCSWA has given our funds to applicants sponsored by our members.

Our scholarship recipients this year are Bethany Schroeder and Isaac Richfield. Congratulations to both of them. They have been invited to attend either our Tree Farmer of the Year event in July or our Annual Meeting in November.

Choosing recipients for these funds is not an easy job. If there are any of our members who are experienced with scholarships and would like to help re-evaluate our application process, please contact me by phone (503) 357-7688 or email [kayboge@juno.com](mailto:kayboge@juno.com)

*By Sharon Boge, Scholarship Committee Chairman*



2010 WCSWA Plant Sale set up and ready



Customers were pleased with plants

## After Winter Solstice

Light  
Science knows  
Increases day by day  
Slow rising  
Temperature days  
Give farmers note of when to plant  
Soil warms  
Mushrooms flower  
Mycorrhizas pump nutrients from fungus to root  
Eye is beckoned  
Woodland flowers  
Trilliums, violets, hummingbirds drawn to wild currant  
Nature awakening, still  
Fir trees keep their silence  
Yet whisper a sense of stirring from root to trunk, branches and buds  
I observe carefully each day  
Looking for bud swell in the seedling  
Why must I wait so long for the luscious spring-green and this year's growth?  
Patience  
Will be  
Rewarded

### **Free Tours to Showcase Sustainable Water Management in Tualatin Basin**

Water has become a global concern and even in the Tualatin Basin, we face increasing water resource challenges. Through a partnership between the Tualatin Basin Water Supply Partnership and the Tualatin River Watershed Council, two free tours in June will focus on how water resources are managed to protect water quality in the basin. Learn how local water managers are planning for long-range water needs of fish, farms, families and factories.

The tours feature visits to Blooming Nursery near Cornelius, Scoggins Dam and Hagg Lake, and the Joint Water Commission Water Treatment Facility near Forest Grove. You will also hear how organizations and the public can protect our fragile watershed for future generations.

The dates and times of the tours are:

- **Thursday, June 10 from 1 – 5 pm**
- **Saturday, June 19 from 8:30 am – 12:30 pm**

To register for the free tours, please contact Stacy Strauss at [stra8295@pacificu.edu](mailto:stra8295@pacificu.edu) or call her cell at 541-915-1612. To learn more about our region's water supply needs, visit [www.tualatinbasinwatersupply.org](http://www.tualatinbasinwatersupply.org)



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## U.N. Releases Forest Report

A United Nations' report says forests are winning in some countries thanks to planting programs, but disappearing in parts of South America and Africa as trees are cut down for farmland.

The forestry report was released in Rome recently.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, Brazil and Indonesia, which had the highest loss of forests in the 1990's, have significantly cut deforestation rates. China, India, the United States and Vietnam are also seeing the benefits of ambitious planting programs.

Scientists say forests can help mitigate climate change effects by storing carbon. U.N. forestry official Eduardo Rojas said it's the first time experts have found the rate of deforestation decreasing globally thanks to concerted efforts.

-Associated Press

## Western Red Cedar – Polk County President shares his experience

For 10 or 15 years, I have had luck solving the "expected problems with animal browse". We (I) have fabulous success with WRC and don't have any problems with browse, though we have deer up the \_\_\_\_.

For a few years I watched the Cedar seedlings and their browse, and found a few truths.

- 1) There is nothing that can be done about Elk, fortunately Elk usually come and go. Deer are the problem.
- 2) Deer only eat Cedar in late winter and early spring - from Jan 1st to Mar 31st. There is no need to protect them at any other time.
- 3) Whole trees protected in tubes will stay in the tubes, as anything that pokes out (like a leader or branch) will be eaten. This will eventually kill the tree.

For success with WRC, only the leader needs to be protected and only from Jan 1st through Mar 31st. We want to get that leader out of 'deer range' as quick as possible, from seedling to 5' tall.

To protect the WRC leader, buy tubes in 3' lengths and cut them in half, as you only need 16" to 18" pieces. Buy 5 foot bamboo stakes. When you plant a WRC, stick a bamboo stake next to it as these are easy to pick out.

For success with WRC, here is the key! Visit each tree twice a year. At Christmas or Jan 1st, put just the leader into a tube, wherever it needs to be on the length of the bamboo. Around spring break or Mar 31st, visit the tree again and remove the tube. Leave it stuck on the bamboo to mark the tree for next Christmas. Once the trees are 5' tall, you don't need any more protection. This works, period.

Yours; Forest Dan, aka Mark Havel

## Let's Talk Fire ... Prevention & Suppression

*by Scott Hayes*

This time of year, the Oregon Department of Forestry's Forest Grove District is finishing the hiring of 24 summer fire fighters. They will be the core, front-line initial attack forces this summer. As fire season approaches, they will start their training with the permanent fire personnel.

Fire season is declared by the State Forester, usually by mid-June in our area, as forest fuels dry out and daily temperatures rise. Restrictions are placed on burning and the use of power-driven machinery. So if you have a burn barrel, you will need a burning permit! Check with the ODF Forest Grove office for regulated use details.

As the fire season progresses, you will start to see those orange-colored posters alerting us to restrictions. As fire danger increases, forest operations are restricted. Industrial Fire Precaution Level 1 requires fire equipment on operations and a fire watch after the operation ends for the day; Level 2 is called a Partial Hootowl and permits most operations only from 8am-1pm; Level 3 is a Partial Shutdown which stops or restricts many operations, with some exceptions; and Level 4 is a General Shutdown where all operations are prohibited.

About 16 forest lookouts were used to monitor and report fires, but the last lookout was removed in 1998 due to costs and effectiveness. Most fire reports are reported by cellular phones and telephones. As fire danger increases, ODF uses an aerial scout plane to patrol the forests.

What happens when prevention fails? In Washington County, most fires are reported through 911, with the emergency center dispatching the rural fire department. The ODF Forest Grove dispatch center, which monitors 911, also directs its closest engine to the fire. The person on the first engine to arrive assesses the fire's potential and notifies their dispatcher. The ODF protection supervisor or the protection unit forester may respond to a reported fire.

Additional units are requested by the incident commander, or IC, who is the person responsible for directing resources that arrive on the fire. The Incident Command Structure (ICS) is a standard adopted across emergency agencies in Oregon. (In any emergency - floods, fires, accidents - you will see an Incident Commander and other ICS positions depending on the emergency's size and complexity).

When initial attack fails and the fire grows, added forces are requested by the IC. In Washington County, they may come from surrounding ODF districts, other rural fire departments, or forest industry. The South Fork Prison Camp, located off Hwy 6 on the way to Tillamook, has crews organized to fight fires. The 200 man camp is jointly managed by Corrections and ODF, with 10 man fire fighting crews supervised by an ODF employee. Because of their excellent training and work ethic, inmate fire crews are in high demand across Oregon. Air retardant can also be ordered, but air craft are not usually close by – and it isn't cheap!

As the fire danger becomes more severe late in the fire season, the State Forester is authorized by the Legislature to hire standby "severity forces", such as helicopters with water buckets, private engines and dozers, and hand trailing crews.

Next month, I'll write about what happens when a wildfire escapes initial attack and exceeds the resources (human and financial) available at the local ODF district.

## Forest Epidemic is Unprecedented Phenomenon, Still Getting Worse

from Science Blog.com 4/5/10

CORVALLIS, Ore. -- The Swiss needle cast epidemic in Douglas-fir forests of the coastal Pacific Northwest is continuing to intensify, appears to be unprecedented over at least the past 100 years, and is probably linked to the extensive planting of Douglas-fir along the coast and a warmer climate, new research concludes.

Scientists in the College of Forestry at Oregon State University have also found that this disease, which is affecting hundreds of thousands of acres in Oregon and Washington and costing tens of millions of dollars a year in lost growth, can affect older trees as well as young stands -- in some cases causing their growth to almost grind to a halt. The newest findings were just published in *Forest Ecology and Management*, a professional journal.

Swiss needle cast is a native fungal disease specific to Douglas-fir that was first described in Europe. It rarely kills trees but causes discoloration, loss of needles and growth reduction, and is common in the Pacific Northwest wherever Douglas-fir grows. However, it caused significant problems only in recent decades along the coast. Starting in 1984, an epidemic began to develop, and it worsened after 1996.

"It's now clear that this epidemic is a new phenomenon, with far more severity and impact than anything we've observed from Swiss needle cast in the past," said Dave Shaw, an assistant professor at OSU and director of a cooperative designed to fight this disease. "We've known of this disease for decades but it was considered a non-issue in terms of forest health. A perfect storm of conditions that favor this fungus has caused a major epidemic that is still growing."

The new study concluded that warmer conditions, especially from March through August, are associated with significantly reduced growth in diseased trees, which may reflect earlier fruiting of the fungus. Wet, drizzly conditions in May through July are also important. The warm, wet conditions within 20 miles or so of the Pacific Ocean make those areas a hotspot of disease in coastal Oregon and Washington.

Another key suspect, scientists say, is the planting for decades of a monoculture of Douglas-fir in replacement of coastal forests, which previously had trees of varying ages and different species. Even-aged stands of vulnerable Douglas-fir allow the fungus to build up to much higher levels, releasing spores that can literally spread with the wind. Reductions in growth of 20-30 percent are fairly common, and sometimes higher.

It used to be thought that the disease primarily affected only younger trees, mostly less than 40 years old and predominantly the 10-30 year age group, the researchers say. This study, based on examinations of rings in naturally-regenerated trees more than 80 years old, for the first time showed that they are very susceptible as well. The findings erase any hope that older trees will "outgrow" the susceptibility to this disease, the scientists concluded.

The impact of Swiss needle cast is highly uneven, difficult to predict, and often dependent on microclimate, terrain and availability of soil nitrogen. Fungicides can control it, but cost too much to be practical and raise environmental concerns. However, OSU is developing tools to better anticipate the problems it may cause and allow forest managers to consider alternative management strategies. Planting of less Douglas-fir is one option, using more western hemlock, red alder or other species.

In some places, nature has already begun this approach.

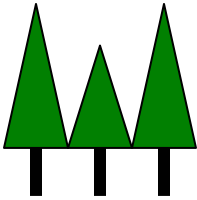
"We've seen sites where western hemlock is overtopping Douglas-fir that has almost stopped growing, and may ultimately replace it," Shaw said. "Some stands are already converting to alternative species on their own."

Work is under way to develop fungal-tolerant Douglas-fir families that may be of some value, especially in areas with low or moderate levels of the disease. Those studies will not be complete for several years.

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## Forest Forum



COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE  
OREGON SMALL WOODLANDS  
ASSOCIATION

### **Potpourri**

**Welcome to New Members!** Howard Reeher has joined OSWA and WCSWA. We are here to help you achieve your management goals for your woodland. 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 Editor

**Did you know?** America's family-owned forests filter more than half of the nation's drinking water supply and provide habitat for most of our nation's endangered species. America's forests also support more than one million family wage jobs and generate billions in economic returns for our nation's communities. Our forests sequester more than 12 percent of annual U.S. carbon emissions and already supply most of the nation's energy that comes from renewable sources. - *Statistics provided by American Forest Foundation*

### **Candidates for County Commissioner, District 4**

(District 4 covers over half of Washington County, including nearly all the rural areas)



**Richard Kidd**



**Greg Mecklam**



**Bob Terry**

The candidates for County Commissioner, District 4 spoke for five minutes each at the April WCSWA meeting prior to our scheduled program speaker. They spoke of their goals for Washington County and how their experience and vision could bring those goals to fruition. The candidates were available for further discussion and questions after the meeting.