

Forest Forum

Washington County Small
Woodlands Association

April, 2011

WCSWA's 10th Annual Plant Sale Results

We had great hopes for our tenth annual sale. The advertising was extensive, the organization was smooth and complete and the plants looked great. However, the weather was the determining factor – that and a continuing bad economy. Our sales were down significantly, about \$1,500 less than last year. However, we still managed to have a \$1,900 profit which will be used for college scholarships. The plant sale committee which consists of co-chairs Bonnie Shumaker and Marge Hayes as well as Jolene Adams, Elouise Binns and Ardis Schroeder will meet April 5th for a post-sale meeting and to plan for next year. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please contact one of the committee members.

A huge THANK YOU goes to all who helped with the set-up and sale. Everything went smoothly and the customers who braved the rain and cold certainly appreciated all the help and advice.

World Class Truffler To Speak at April 26th WCSWA Meeting

Dr. Charles Lefevre, well-known truffle expert, will be the featured speaker at the April 26th meeting of WCSWA (7:00 p.m. at the OSU Extension office, Capital Center, 185th and Walker Road). Dr. Lefevre is the President and founder of New World Truffieres, a rapidly growing company specializing in truffle cultivation and the controlled inoculation of oak and hazelnut seedlings with a range of culinary truffle species.



(No, these aren't what they look like. They are prize black truffles, worth \$80 a pound on the wholesale market, and several hundred dollars to culinary markets – photo and information from New World Truffieres website)

Dr. Lefevre has encouraged small woodland owners to grow and harvest black truffles (and the less valuable white truffle) found naturally in Oregon forests. He has been a regular speaker at the annual Clackamas County Tree School for several years, and always draws a good sized audience. Dr. Lefevre points out that the many acres of Douglas-fir plantations established on old agricultural fields are prime areas for finding and harvesting black truffles.

Born and raised in Oregon, Charles' abiding interest in forest ecosystems generally, and in wild edible mushrooms in particular, led to both undergraduate and graduate degrees in biology and mycology. He received his Ph.D. in Forest

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If March, 2011 seemed unusually wet to you, it was. Our rainfall total for the month was more than twice the average. Now that forest owners can look forward to more hours of daylight and less wet weather (fingers crossed), you are likely preparing to put your planned forest projects into action.

For many types of work you do in your forest, even a small patch, you are **required** to file a **Notification** with the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF). The form is simple to fill out, and staff will advise you. You will need to provide a map showing the areas you plan to work. Harvesting of timber, thinning, spraying of herbicides, road construction, burning, and site preparation all require official notification. Although there are no fees associated with notification, there is a tax to be paid after you harvest trees. Some activities, such as cutting firewood for your own use, road maintenance, and tree-planting do not require notification. Harvesting of trees, for example Christmas trees, up to 12 years old is considered an agricultural operation so does not require notification. Failure to file is a violation of the Oregon Forest Practices Act. If you want to check out the underlying administrative rules, you can Google them on-line, OAR 629-605-0140 and 629-605-0150.

The purpose of the notification process is to enable the ODF to do its job as required by law. Besides keeping track of who owes tax for harvest, the ODF can advise you about preventing damage to your forest. Stewardship foresters know which herbicides are not allowed, how to reduce fire danger, and how to avoid erosion problems, for example. They can also advise you on following the Oregon Forest Practices Act as you proceed, and can do on-site visitation. For Washington County forest owners, the ODF office is conveniently located at 801 Gales Creek Road in Forest Grove, phone 503-357-2191. Remember, WCSWA has more than twenty members who are Master Woodland Managers, who can provide free, on-site advice. Phone any officer or board member to find a MWM to help you with your plans.

In April, besides our meeting on the 26th, there are some events worth noting. The Oregon Woodland Co-op has its meeting on April 16th; see notice elsewhere in this issue of the *Forum*. OSWA's Day at the Capitol is April 21st; more info at the OSWA website. If this issue reaches you soon enough, an interesting event is the North Woods Figured Wood Open House on April 2nd from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This company, near Hagg Lake on Sain Creek Road, supplies usable blocks for specialty woodworking. The blocks are produced from "throw-away" wood which often has interesting grain and stain patterns. More info at www.nwfiguredwoods.com.

This isn't about trees, but it is about growing plants. For the last few years, I have planted a wide row, about 18 feet by 18 inches, of carrots in the vegetable garden. In fine soil and a bit of peat moss, I broadcast the seeds. Careful weeding and thinning results in a stand of carrots which supply us and some friends and family with fresh carrots from late summer to March! I provide protection from frost damage by piling on leaves when frost threatens then raking them off carefully when danger of frost is past. Although it takes extra care, the fresh carrots are a real treat through the winter months, and they don't cost money. The grandkids choose them for a snack! Up to now, when most of the carrots I harvest begin to grow side roots, I have harvested them all. In late March, the carrots will start to grow vigorously and become fibrous. This year, I decided to try cutting off the tops to see whether less solar input will extend the season a little longer.

See you on April 26th!

Jim Brown

WCSWA Leadership

President – Jim Brown, 503-284-6455 jimbrownorch@msn.com
Vice-President – Dan Logan, 503-647-5213, danlogan@easystreet.com
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WCSWA Website

www.wcswa.org

Website Manager: Kathy Scott

Contact Tom Nygren for web postings and information.

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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)

For Sale: Wood's Brush Bull 48" rotary cutter. Excellent condition. \$750. Contact Mel Mortensen, (503) 647-0804. wmpdx@aceweb.com.

Wanted: (none)

Trade: (none)

Event Calendar

- | | | |
|-------|----|--|
| April | 16 | Annual Meeting, Oregon Woodland Co-op - 9-noon, Kinton Grange, Scholls Ferry Road. Contact: Neil Schroeder, 503-628-2344 |
| | 26 | WCSWA Monthly Meeting – Charles Lefevre, well-known Oregon truffle expert, will speak on Oregon truffles and small woodland owners. See article on page 1. |
| | 27 | West Hills Woodland Information Night – 6:30-:30 p.m. Skyline Grange, 11275 NW Skyline Blvd. For information: 503/238-4775, ext. 109; michael@wmswcd.org . |
| May | 24 | WCSWA Potluck – Bob and Bonnie Shumaker are hosting the annual WCSWA potluck at their home in Banks |
| June | 9 | Oregon Tree Farm Inspector Training – Training to be certified as an inspector under the new standards. Aurora, OSU Agricultural Research Station. Contact: Michael Atkinson coyote8199@wildblue.net and Tristan Huff tristan.huff@oregonstate.edu |

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Small-acreage forest owners in Oregon will have an additional voice in forest policy following a decision made by the Oregon Board of Forestry.

The Board of Forestry, at its March 9, 2011 meeting, adopted an Oregon Department of Forestry recommendation to add a non-voting seat on the Committee for Family Forestlands designated for the Oregon Small Woodlands Association (OSWA), a membership association representing Oregon landowners with between one acre and 5000 acres of forest ownership in the state.



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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).





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A Spring Chorus?

Pacific tree frogs are the smallest and most commonly seen and heard frogs in Oregon and, at this time of year, the males can be especially raucous. Their call, a loud, two-part *kreck-ek* or *reb-it*, is repeated in an effort to attract females, which then stimulates other males to join in, creating the chorus that signals the start of spring in many places. **ODF&W**

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Truffles, continued from page 1

Mycology at Oregon State University in 2002, conducting research on the host associations of the American Matsutake mushroom. He was President of the North American Truffling Society for almost 10 years, and has been an invited speaker at a number of national and international conferences on the North American truffles, most recently as a plenary speaker at the 3rd International Congress on Truffles in Spoleto, Italy. He has published technical articles on the Oregon truffles and cultivation of the celebrated European species

Truffles are the “fruit” of fungi that live in mutually beneficial (ectomycorrhizal) symbioses with the roots of host trees. The truffle fungus explores the soil for water and mineral nutrients, which it passes along to the tree. In exchange, the tree provides sugars produced through photosynthesis to the fungus. The tree and the fungus depend on one another, but there are many tree species that can serve as hosts for the truffles, and many fungi that can fulfill the same role for the tree. In nature, these fungi compete for space on the host tree’s root system. This competition limits truffle production, and if conditions are poor, other fungi can displace the truffle fungus from the root system.

Some interesting facts about Oregon truffles:

1. It is not necessarily true that more trees will produce more truffles. Trees stressed by overcrowding may have fewer resources to give to the truffles and closure of the canopy is generally considered harmful to survival.
2. While root contact between trees will facilitate spread of truffle mycelium, it also facilitates vegetative spread of competing fungus species.
3. Soil pH above 7.9 is needed to give truffles the “edge” against competing organisms.
4. Truffles require well drained soils, but tolerate a broad range of soils from sandy to clay loams, including rocky soils.

TREE TALK

by Bonnie Shumaker

If you want to hear talk about trees, Tree School at Clackamas Community College is the place to be. Bob and I attended this event on March 19th. Tree School is held the third Saturday in March, just one week after WCSWA's Plant and Tree Sale, so it is a relaxing time to visit with friends, learn new stuff and just be a participant. Tree School just celebrated its 21st year and is the largest annual woodland owner education program in the U.S., according to the brochure. It is sponsored by OSU Extension Service, Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association (Clackamas County's OSWA chapter), Forests Forever, Inc. and Clackamas Community College. The amount of work it must take to bring about this one day of classes must be huge; the amount of enjoyment and education this one day provides at least matches that enormous effort.

I'll summarize some of what I learned in my three classes. I could have taken four, but we wanted to get home earlier.

Stream Logging: This class was based on the assumption that the stream buffer on most woodland owners' property is considered by the forest owner as a "no touch" zone. The reality is that within the Oregon Forest Practices Act (FPA), some management within the riparian zone is actually encouraged for streamside health, primarily through thinning or conversion from hardwoods to conifers along the stream. Gilbert Shibley taught the class. He has done both thinning and what he calls his "Fish Friendly Clearcut" on ten acres near his recreation site where he explains to family, friends and visitors that the eventual benefit to fish of conifers replacing hardwoods will outweigh some temporary loss of shade and leaf-fall. We were each given a copy of the illustrated manual "Oregon's Forest Protection Laws" which makes the FPA easier to understand. Pages 21 to 31 lay down the methods of streamside logging. Gilbert explained that it is possible to work through the pages. In his words, "I did it and I survived. I also made money and improved the stand for my future harvest and for water, fish and wildlife."

Natural Resource Report: Roger Beyer, on contract as OSWA's legislative coordinator, facilitated this class. Two senators and two representatives from Oregon's legislature formed a panel that helped us to understand how the legislative process works and which bills might affect woodland owners. The panel members were Senator Doug Whitsett, Senator Allen Olsen, Rep. Jean Cowan and Rep. Rick Gilliam. Of concern to woodland owners are bills giving more power to DEQ instead of ODF regarding water quality, inheritance tax issues, funding for ODF and percentage of fire costs borne by landowners. Perhaps the best message to come from this panel was "be involved". In Senator Whitsett's words, "be relentless". He gave examples of proposed bills that were stopped because of an out-pouring of non-support. Communicating via email or letter is the best way and we were assured that these are read. OSWA's website, oswa.org, has all the information you need on how to contact your representative or senator. You can also request to be put on the email update from OSWA's Government Affairs Committee by sending OSWA an email to jeneraines@gmail.com.

Biomass Energy and Biofuels from Oregon's Forests: Mike Cloughesy from OFRI and Paul Allen, soils specialist from OSU, gave us the why and the how of using Oregon's forests to produce biomass energy. The resource is readily available in Oregon forests, especially in southern Oregon and eastern Oregon where fuel build-up has created huge fire potential and where thinning is critical. Woody biomass conversion for heat and electricity is currently used in many lumber mills. Refining biomass into cellulosic ethanol or bio-oil, charcoal or gasification is currently not economical, but has great potential.



Oregon Woodland Co-op Annual Meeting April 16th – Open To All

The Oregon Woodland Co-op will be gathering from 9 until noon on April 16th at the Kinton Grange to celebrate successes, learn of new projects and opportunities, and share good food and conversation with old and new members, and other interested members of the woodland community!

Come at 9 to share a cup of coffee or tea – and a pastry – and meet and greet members of the Co-op and other woodland owners. A short business meeting will follow to elect new officers, review the Co-op financial situation, consider a By-Law change, and hear from members concerning their interests and concerns.

This meeting will feature the USDA Value-Added Grant program projects underway – by giving you a chance to “get involved” with the products in a hands-on way. There will be essential oil and materials to make soap and lotion available; firewood to bundle according to the Co-op standards, truffles to sniff, beautiful artisan figured wood pieces (and the kind of wood they come from), and other products and information from our non-timber projects.

Though this meeting will feature non-timber forest product opportunities, members are seeing the price of traditional forest products (lumber, poles, and export) increase as the economy here and abroad improves. OWC Service Providers (listed on the last page in the organizational block) are a good source of expert help in all phases of forest management, including timber harvest and marketing to get the highest prices for your timber. These providers will be on hand to consult if you are interested in doing a timber harvest this year.

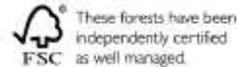
Following the meeting, there will be a potluck luncheon. Bring a salad, side dish, or dessert and join in!

The **Kinton Grange** is located at 19015 SW Scholls Ferry Road, 5 miles west of Washington Square in Washington County. Complete directions can be found at www.kintongrango.org.



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“As leaders quibble over carbon issues and what constitutes true green energy, the path seems clear. Thin overstocked forests to alleviate fire danger, use the chips for renewable energy, and in the bargain, let rural communities gain a stake in their energy and employment futures.”

Barbara Covner. *Forestnet*

"Mycodiesel"?

"Mycodiesel" is a novel name applied to the volatile organic products made by fungi that have fuel potential. The latest discovery is that of an endophytic Hypoxylon/Nodosporium species, or one that lives within a plant, that makes the compound cineole along with a number of other cyclohexanes (colourless, flammable liquids found in petroleum crude oil and volcanic gases) and compounds with enormous fuel potential.

Cineole is of special interest since it has been shown that it can be added to gasoline. Cineole, having an odour of a eucalyptus tree, had in fact been previously known only from higher plant sources. Now it seems that it can be made by fermentation. Its placement in the market will have to await fungal strain improvement, and other developmental factors needed to optimize its production. In addition, engine testing will be necessary to learn if modifications in design will be needed to handle the new Mycodiesels.

Finally, a close examination of the volatile organic products of a number of endophytic fungi reveals that these products and their related substances are the principal ingredients of regular diesel fuel. Such compounds are the cyclic and straight-chained hydrocarbons such as octane, heptane and cyclohexane followed by the benzene and naphthalene derivatives.

It turns out that many of the compounds found in diesel fuel are either directly found as fungal products or other products that are closely related. This along with a number of other arguments suggests that some or all of the world's crude oil may have originated from microbial sources. Therefore, as the vast amount of organic matter in the world began the processes of decay, the reduced organic products resulting from these processes may have been trapped in the numerous shales of the Earth. It is from these sources that crude oil is mostly recovered.

www.livescience.com/12977-micodiesel-future-fungus-fuel-ria.html



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Dow, TNC: Sustainability Partners?

Dow Chemical and The Nature Conservancy, two large international organizations, will work together to apply scientific knowledge and experience to examine how Dow's operations rely on and affect nature. The aim of the collaboration is to advance the incorporation of the value of nature into business, and to take action to protect the earth's natural systems and the services they provide people, for the benefit of business and society. One of the major objectives of this collaboration is to share all tools, lessons learned and results publicly and through peer-review so that other companies, scientists and interested parties can test and apply them.

"This collaboration is designed to help us innovate new approaches to critical world challenges while demonstrating that environmental conservation is not just good for nature – it is good for business,"

See "Partners", page 10

Big Trees + Moss = Bacteria = Nitrogen

Bacteria living in mosses on tree branches are twice as effective at 'fixing' nitrogen as those on the ground, say Zoë Lindo and Jonathan Whiteley, researchers from McGill University, Canada. There are three players in this story: large, old trees; mosses that grow along their branches; and cyanobacteria associated with the mosses. The cyanobacteria take nitrogen from the atmosphere and make it available to plants – a process called "nitrogen fixation" that very few organisms can do. Lindo's findings suggest that interactions between large old-growth trees in the coastal temperate rainforests, mosses and cyanobacteria contribute to nutrient dynamics in a way that may actually sustain the long-term productivity of these forests. It seems moss is the crucial element; the amount of nitrogen coming from the canopy depends on trees having mosses. "You need trees that are large enough and old enough to start accumulating mosses before you can have the cyanobacteria that are associated with the mosses," says Lindo.



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Partners, from page 9

Andrew Liveris, chairman and chief executive officer of The Dow Chemical Company said. "Companies that value and integrate biodiversity and ecosystem services into their strategic plans are best positioned for the future by operationalizing sustainability. At Dow, we see sustainability as an adjective that we apply to almost everything we do to constantly add to the quality of life for our communities and fellow citizens. Today, tomorrow, always."

Mark Tercek, chief executive officer of TNC, added "This project is an example of the type of cooperation required to make real, long-term progress in protecting the earth's natural systems and the services they provide people. As the world population surges, it will take public and private sector collaboration like this to make the health of the environment not just an afterthought, but a fundamental consideration in everything we do in every part of our society."

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The History – and Future? – For PNW Log Markets

Source: March 2011 Forest2Mill newsletter

Chinese demand for logs and healthy pulp and paper demand have led to a turnaround in Northwest log prices, tightening margins for saw and plywood mills. Prices have eclipsed the levels set May 2010, when a brief spike in lumber prices drove Douglas fir domestic logs over \$525/MBF for the first time in two years.

In January 2011, domestic Doug fir eclipsed \$550/MBF in Western Oregon and Washington, a response to firming lumber prices and vigorous competition from export log purchases. Whitewood, more than any other species, has attracted the attention of Chinese buyers. Average hemlock export log prices rose beyond the \$550/MBF level in January, a 30 percent increase in twelve months. Just a short time ago, hem-fir was difficult to sell. Eager to secure wood to build their growing economy, however, Chinese buyers have picked up the slack.

This growing demand from China has led to the re-opening of export yards in Port Angeles, Grays Harbor, Astoria and Coos Bay after more than a decade of relative inactivity. Local mills have become accustomed to the lack of competition from Asian exports. Because logs destined for China are of common size and quality, automated sawmills in the Northwest who favor the same logs now have to compete directly with Chinese buyers. The resulting price increases have pushed log costs higher and put pressure on margins. Several mills have recently announced limited curtailments citing high log costs.

Pulp and paper demand has been good over the past year, leaving mills with a healthy appetite for wood chips. Increased demand for fiber has driven wood chip costs from the low \$90/BDT range to over \$115/BDT during the past year. Even with the slight improvement in lumber prices, sawmill production remains more than a third below previous highs; as a result, pulp and paper mills have a deficit of residual chips in the neighborhood of 2.5 million BDT plus. Whole log chippers across the region have stepped up to meet the shortfall, but they have been taking chip-n-saw in order to do so. Pulpwood logs, mostly a by-product from saw log harvests, have been in limited supply. Instead, pulp log users are substituting 4-7" chip-n-saw normally delivered to sawmills. Pulpwood and chip-n-saw have increased \$10/ton over this time a year ago.

Because of these higher prices, timber owners will have a window of opportunity in 2011. For the past two years, low prices have made log sellers hesitant to harvest. Many have a backlog of timber they have deferred cutting until the economy improves. This increase in values will encourage sellers to boost harvests, taking advantage of renewed demand. Look for this to continue into the summer of 2011 and beyond. Douglas fir at \$600/MBF is a major threshold for many sellers. Having not seen this exuberance in prices for several years, many will scramble to cut timber while the market lasts.

New maps are available on the Oregon Department of Forestry web site.

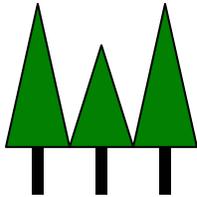
2010 Statewide Aerial *Insect/Disease Detection Survey*- including maps, GIS, Data, Trends, and Summary Reports - are available for Swiss Needle Cast on the Forest Health page: <http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/privateforests/fhMaps.shtml> and for *Sudden Oak Death* on the Private Forests website: <http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/privateforests/fhInvasives.shtml>

Washington County Small Woodlands Association

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OREGON SMALL WOODLANDS
ASSOCIATION

Welcome to New Members!

Don Sparks of Milwaukie has re-joined OSWA and WCSWA. Welcome back, Don! 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 Editors.

Wood Pellets For Europe

The European Union has stated that by 2020, at least 20 percent of total energy consumption should be supplied by renewable energy resources. In an effort to reach this target, many countries have increased their consumption of woody biomass in the form of both wood chips and pellets the past few years. In 2010, just over 11 million tons of wood pellets were consumed, which was about seven percent higher than the previous year. Demand for wood pellets in some European countries, including Sweden, the Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, Denmark and the UK, has outpaced domestic production over the past few years. This has resulted not only in increased imports from neighboring countries, but also from North America.

Over the past ten years, Canada has been the major overseas supplier of pellets to Europe, reaching about one million tons in shipments in 2010, according to the North American Wood Fiber Review. ***The US did not start exporting pellets until 2008 when 85,000 tons were shipped to the Netherlands, but exports have since taken off, reaching almost 600,000 tons in 2010. In fact, the total shipments from the US and Canada have almost doubled in just two years. (www.woodprices.com)***