President’s Corner

GARY BUSH

September is the time of the year to order seedlings for next spring’s planting, and it’s looking like it may be an issue to get the amount or species that you need. I recently tried to order 1800 Noble Fir seedlings to plant next spring in my Christmas tree field. I was told that they were sold out, but they would keep my name on the list if they pulled more than predicted or if there were any cancellations. Of the five nurseries I contacted, I was told that seed supply for some areas is nonexistent or very low for most species.

However, this year is a good cone year for Noble and Doug Fir which is encouraging, but demand is also up, and with fires and increased logging, a two-year window to get our land replanted may not be enough. Fortunately, CCFFA has 25,000 2.0 Douglas-fir and 10,000 Western redcedar seedlings with two different calipers; small and large, that will be available in 2017.

I didn’t contact all of the nurseries to see what each of them had available, but I did contact enough to see the trend. It would be a good idea to get on their waiting list to get extra seedlings if you can. I found a good website to start from. It is forest-seedlingnetwork.com through IFA nurseries.

JOB OPENING

The Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association is looking to fill the position of Vice President. This is for a term of two (2) years.

The person must be a member of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association’s Clackamas County Chapter. The person should have an interest in advancing stewardship practices of our woodlands and supporting the educational goals of CCFFA.

If you believe you meet these qualifications and are interested in providing input and leadership to a 60 year woodlands organization, please contact Kevin Kaster, Nomination Committee Chair at 503-829-4167.

Welcome New CCFFA Members

Welcome to these new CCFFA Chapter members since our last issue:

Duane McKenery
Fellows Road/Highland area of Beavercreek

Ryan Poteet & Maria Garofoli
S. Jewell Road Clarkes/Highland area

2016 Officers & Board Members

President, Gary Bush
503.632.3567 • gbush@ccffa-oswa.org

Vice President, vacant
Could this be you?

Secretary-Treasurer, Tim Dahl
503.349.1756 • tdahl@ccffa-oswa.org

Past President, Derek Craven
503.829.3003 • dcraven@ccffa-oswa.org

Board Member, Becky Widmark
503.367.0093 • bwidmark@ccffa-oswa.org

Board Member, Matt Twist
503.810.9431 • mtwist@ccffa-oswa.org

Board Member, Bob Becker
503.829.2118 • bbecker@ccffa-oswa.org

Board Member, Rob Guttridge
503.656.3912 • rguttridge@ccffa-oswa.org

Board Member, Kevin Kaster
503.829.4167 • kkaster@ccffa-oswa.org

Board Member, Bill Lenon
503.637.3190 • blenon@ccffa-oswa.org

Board Member, Jim Schreiber
503.632.3978 • jschreiber@ccffa-oswa.org

Board Member, Sena Chase
503.730.5199 • ssanguinetti@ccffa-oswa.org

Board Member, Kent Hempel
503.29.4767 • khempel@ccffa-oswa.org
JIM SCHREIBER

I didn’t need to go too far for this welcoming visit, just over to S. Jewell Rd., to sit down with Ryan Poteet and Maria Garofoli. After talking with them over the phone, I paid some attention to the surroundings while driving down the long driveway that borders some of the woodland, meadow and pasture areas. It was pretty much as Ryan described it—some patchy meadow pastureland, what appears to have been an old Christmas tree plantation, and woodland of mixed species and multiple ages.

Ryan and Maria have owned the 30-acre property for nearly three years and they have been working hard at bringing it back to life. Both of them are, to quote, “country folk”, and they are both proud Oregon natives. Ryan grew up in the Damascus area, and most of his family resides in the Molalla area. Maria is from Portland, and has family outside of Woodland, Washington. When they set out to look for a rural property, they had some specific goals in mind: secluded acreage with trees, a place to build a log home that didn’t look out of place, and to be able to live a country lifestyle.

After spending some time surveying their domain, they came up with some general goals for the property:

• There is a 10-acre logged-over area that they replanted last year with 4000 trees and then again this year with 500. This area needs some assistance with control of the weeds and blackberries.
  • Begin to re-establish timber in some, if not all, of the meadow/pasturelands.
  • Start a thinning of crowned-out trees in the dense plantation area. This will fulfill two purposes: help the remaining trees to grow and provide wood for their primary heat source.
  • Work on the invasive species. This is mostly blackberry thickets.

Enough time has passed and they decided to check their progress and assess their goals. With a lot of manual labor and hours of backpack sprayer use, they were beginning to question if they were gaining ground on the berry problem and if it was holding them back from working on the other goals. Sound familiar anyone? They have an older John Deere Model M to help, but it’s not exactly a woodland workhorse. It needs some modifications to make it more functional and safe to be of much help.

A final decision has yet to be made, but they have decided to look outside
for a little help combating the invasive species: discussions with other woodland owners led them to consider Nick’s Timber Services for assistance in their efforts. They also have attended OSU Extension’s Tree School and participated in tours as well as classes held at Hopkins Demonstration Forest. It was during this time that they decided they needed a plan that would keep them on track to meet their goals.

The need for a management plan became even more essential as their application for an ODF Share Program was accepted. It will be a 10 year plan to reclaim the logged area and the specified clearings. Recognizing the need for some guidance, they gathered and evaluated some referrals and settled on MAP Inc. and Ken Everett to help develop a plan that will keep them on track to meet their goals.

On a personal note, Ryan started out his working life as a broadcast engineer, but now is a Project Coordinator of an HVAC department of a larger mechanical contractor. He enjoys hunting, motorcycles and is an ardent ham radio operator. Maria works for Providence Medical. She’s been a Radiologic Technologist for 6 years in diagnostic imaging, moving over to Special Procedures Technologist in the cardiovascular lab last year. She enjoys, are you ready for this, playing ice hockey on a recreational league team. She also enjoys outdoor activities, hanging out with family and friends, cooking, photography and bird watching.

Ryan and Maria have agreed to provide updates on their efforts to improve their holdings; the plan development, working with a consultant and the progress with the ODF program. We look forward to it. They are interesting people: if you have the opportunity to meet them, say hello and welcome.

CCFFA New Board Member Spotlight: Bob Becker

JIM SCHREIBER

What first sparked your interest in managing woodland, and what keeps you working at it?

Bob Becker: The camp and conference center where I grew up was in the Black Forest of Colorado. In the 1980s, portions of the camp property were infested by a bark beetle that we attempted to contain. This was my first introduction to managing trees and large properties. This experience made an impression on me and continues to influence my management of the Camp Adams property. This was among the reasons that we implemented a forest management plan at Camp Adams.

Schreiber: What message about forests and their management do you usually try to leave with folks and what has been your most successful method of doing this?

Becker: I try to give a consistent message that it is possible to manage a forest for both economic stability and environmental sustainability. I think showing such a plan in action has been my most successful method of communicating this message: seeing is believing.

Schreiber: Which of our many forest policy issues in Oregon (like taxes, certification, regulations, etc.) do you think is most important to your operation, or to the future of the state?

Becker: I’m a relative newcomer to the state of Oregon, and one of the reasons I was interested in joining CCFFA was to learn more about forest policy issues.

Schreiber: How has the CCFFA helped you and what is one good reason you might give as to why others, too, should get involved?

Becker: CCFFA is great networking and community building opportunity!
Twilight Tour and Follow-up at the Bugnis’ Forest

JEN GORSKI

A steady downpour in the rain forest in the foothills of the Cascades didn’t dampen spirits of the hardy landowners who attended the twilight tour at the Bugnis’ family forest in Estacada in June. The highlight of the trip was learning about the ongoing riparian restoration project, but there were plenty of well thought out and implemented forestry practices for which we could see the results!

We saw a forest of 25-year-old trees that had been limbed up 18’-20’ to reduce the dead wood ladder that can fuel fires. Not only does the removal of the dead branches reduce chance for fires to spread, it also makes a forest more beautiful. The Bugnis used pole saws that had 3 extensions to reach up that high to manually remove branches. Good way to get exercise in fresh air!

One of the goals for the forest is to create good bird habitat. Several species of woodpeckers have been seen on site including pileated, hairy, downy, sapsuckers, and flickers who have the good fortune of having an increased number of snags (5-10/acre). Some trees have been intentionally girdled by cutting completely around the tree’s cambium to turn them into snags that are kept in the forest. In fact, the family ended up topping a tree close to their home and were privileged to view woodpeckers up close using the dead wood.

David has worked with Clackamas River Basin Council, who are the planting contractors in a PGE-sponsored program, “Shade our Streams”. The River Basin team control invasive weeds in designated locations, obtain native plants from local nurseries and install them on five miles of stream side/year. Plant survival appeared successful around the riparian areas and David has permanent locations selected from which to obtain successive photo points which can be compared yearly to see plant survival and growth.

Mountain beavers have wreaked havoc in the past with newly planted seedlings on the woodlot. Very good results were achieved using solid blue, two foot tall plastic tubes that are installed around the seedlings and can be obtained at forestry supply companies. The family has used these tubes for two years and have not lost a single tree even though the boomers are tunneling all around the area. David left one seedling unprotected and it was killed! Although there are many boomers on the property, David has chosen not to trap them, allowing them to remain part of the ecosystem. Protecting the seedlings with the tubes appears to be working well.

A thinning project in 2014 was planned and included steep slopes close to their creek. The Bugnis wanted to protect their creek from mechanical wear and tear and so chose cable logging to transport logs from one side of the creek to a flattened landing on the other side. This saved wear and tear not only on the creek but also on the soil. The cost for
this type of logging was high enough that there should be a good reason to warrant the expense, which the family felt it did.

As the contract loggers (a father-son team) were thinning, a felled tree crashed onto the Bugnis’ newly installed bridge over the creek. Instead of the loggers rebuilding the bridge (a task for which they lacked expertise) David Bugni (an engineer) suggested that the loggers construct a road in the forest while the family took on repair of the bridge. The contract loggers were happy to make up the damage in road building (for which they had expertise) and the Bugni family learned how to build a bridge together. This is a wonderful example of the positive approach the family takes where everyone benefits.

Suter Creek (which runs through the property) could provide salmon spawning habitat for coho and winter steelhead, but has been limited in part by the lack of the proper size of gravel. The stream bed historically had been scoured down to bedrock and sediment by past practices of running logs from timber operations down the creek for removal and transport, farmers removing boulders and logs from the creek, and from large floods made more prevalent from the scouring and higher velocity of the creek resulting from these operations.

The Bugnis obtained grant funds in 2014 from the Oregon Wildlife Foundation and again in 2016 from a PGE grant to place large woody debris in the stream to help slow down water velocity, then haul and place gravel at strategic places to provide the correct substrate at the creek bottom for salmon rearing habitat. Placing large conifers with big root wads in place helped to create pools for fish habitat and create more meanders in the stream to slow down water velocity. It’s important to be able to brace the woody debris among trees along the bank for stability and to encourage long-term retention. Once placed, the desired outcome is for the large woody debris to remain in place and allow the gravel also to remain in place. This can help repair damage caused by past historical practices.

David designed the newly revamped stream system (the grants required contributions from other partners which David was able to provide in the way of design and labor), using gravel gradation analysis 100 feet upstream and downstream which takes into account gravel particle size and frequency. After the Twilight Tour in June and while the creek water level was at summer lows, the large woody debris was placed, as well as the boulders and gravel. Dump trucks dumped the gravel in staging areas (round rock 1/2 - 4”), then David moved gravel as close to the stream as possible with a skid steer with a front loader. He then used a tracked, bobcat mini-loader to move the material down the creek.

A large part of the PGE grant allowed for construction of a bridge allowing for free passage of Suter Creek to replace two culverts. There can be debris buildup around the culverts throughout the year so the bridge allows better fish passage and is a better solution with the water flow that is typical for Suter Creek.

Thank you Bugni family for a most wonderful tour!
**OSU Extension Forestry Update**

GLENN AHRENS, OSU Extension Forester

**Keeping us Hopping at Hopkins Forest**

Several projects at Hopkins Demonstration Forest have been a big part of the summer’s work for our Forestry Extension team. Jackson Chandler, our “Hopkins Project Crew Leader” just finished his time working on a project “Sharing Hopkins Forest Results” funded by the Clackamas County Extension Innovative Fund. His work focused on two major Demonstration Areas: The Uneven Aged Management Area and the Riparian Forest Demonstration Area. For the Uneven Aged Management Area, the goal is to take stock of what we’ve learned from more than 20 years of selective harvest management. Based on the data collected this summer, along with historical data, we plan to share our story more broadly as part of the “Alternative Forest Management” series of OSU Forestry Extension publications. https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/series2

In the Riparian Forest Demonstration area, Jackson and his crew reviewed the detailed riparian forest surveys and management plans developed by David Gilbert back in 2006 (a Teacher in the Woods project). The goal now is to re-examine riparian forest conditions and develop some new forest management demonstration areas to incorporate the updated riparian protection rules being developed for Oregon. Jennifer Gorski, Extension Forestry Program Assistant for Clackamas County, focused some of her time providing leadership on the riparian demonstration project, an area of particular interest for her. Work on the riparian demonstration area will be continued next year, pending further developments in Oregon’s Forest Protection laws as they apply to riparian forestry.

Jackson already has quite a bit of experience as an arborist and now he has learned more about forestry from Jackson Chandler teaching the ropes.
the work at Hopkins Demonstration Forest. The interface between rural woodlands and urban forests—between forestry and arboriculture—is an important and challenging field. We could use more professional expertise that integrates forestry and arboriculture. Based on the summer projects at Hopkins, perhaps Jackson will find his path in that direction.

Teachers in the Woods
The “crew” for our work at Hopkins Demonstration Forest included eight “Teachers in the Woods” recruited to help with the work and learn about family forestry, while gaining some “Career and Technical Education” credits that go towards their certification as teachers in natural resource education. Teachers in the woods this year came from Clackamas, Eugene, Portland, Salem, Silverton, and Tillamook. Each of them spent at least one week in the woods and some got to have three weeks.

In addition to their work with Jackson and Jen on the Demonstration areas, the teachers also worked with Peter Matzka, OSU Extension Hopkins Forest Educator, on development of a whole new Forest Event Field at Hopkins Forest. After the basic site preparation was accomplished by Forests Forever, Inc, the teachers worked on acquiring and placing a variety of items in the field for the forestry skills events. This will be the site of the 2017 State Convention for Natural Resource Career Development Events, part of the Oregon Future Natural Resource Leaders program (see article by Peter on page 10).

Online Registration for Tree School 2017
Mark your calendars for Tree School, March 25, 2017. And prepare to register for Tree School with the new online registration system that we plan to roll out in January 2017. Oregon State University is increasing the use of online registration for major programs and they are working with us to develop the registration system for Tree School. We considered using this last year, but did not feel that it was ready. With help from about eighteen volunteer woodland owners, we tested out the trial version of the registration program (August 23) and it is looking good for implementation next year.

Registering for Tree School with the new system will allow you to pay by credit card, immediately see what classes are available (and how much room is left in each class), and provide quick confirmation once you submit your registration online. There will still be other options to pay in person, pay by check, or the use old fashioned mail in registration. Many of you may have already used the online registration system for other OSU events. It is our plan to make this go as smoothly as possible.

Northwest Hardwoods
Purchasing alder, maple and ash saw logs, pulp logs, and timber. Also hemlock saw logs and timber.

Centralia, WA (360) 736-2811
Longview, WA (360) 577-6678
Mount Vernon, WA (360) 428-8583
Eugene, OR (541) 689-2581
Coos Bay, OR (541) 267-0419
Garibaldi, OR (503) 322-3367

CCFFA Web Site: www.ccffa-oswa.org
August 13 was a beautiful day, and the Thronson Family Tree Farm in the rolling hills east of Molalla was a beautiful location for the CCFFA Summer Picnic and Tour. Mt. Hood, Mt. Adams, and Mt. St. Helens were visible from the farm’s spacious and comfortable gathering area, where close to a hundred attendees enjoyed a meal of BBQ chicken with scrumptious side dishes before beginning the tour. As the farm is in two separate parcels totaling 240 acres, we formed a caravan with the Hopkins bus in the lead and several vehicles following.

Jack Thronson and Glenn Ahrens conducted the tour together, using a portable PA system so everyone could hear. We followed well-constructed and well-maintained gravel roads through the woods—Jack believes that good access roads to enable year-round management activities are one of the most important improvements a forest owner can make to their property.

As elsewhere in the county, root disease has caused significant mortality to Douglas-fir in many areas of the tree farm. In response, Jack has for many years been replanting harvest units with root disease-resistant species, particularly Western redcedar. He says the cedar takes about ten years longer than the fir to reach maturity, but expects the investment to pay off for future generations.

The two main keys to growing a new forest of cedar, according to Jack, are protecting the seedlings from browse damage (he uses tubes on all seedlings), and persistence—if a new seedling doesn’t survive the summer, he replants, again and again if necessary. His success in establishing healthy young stands was clearly visible to tour participants.
What’s Hot–What’s Not

JOHN FOSTER

A mericans have been purchasing new homes at a faster rate than any time since the great recession and lumber prices are mostly good, but there are several other things affecting these prices.

Canada supplies almost one third of the lumber consumed in the United States. The Canadian dollar presently is equal to approximately $0.78 US and the lumber trade agreement with Canada that expired in 2015 has not been renewed as of the date I am writing this article. The goal is to have a new agreement by October.

An article the local newspaper printed in August stated that U.S. Senator Ron Wyden D-OR stopped at a Douglas County sawmill and was calling for a New Trade Agreement with Canada which would slow the flood of cheaper lumber imported from Canada. Local timber executives met with Wyden to jointly call for this new trade agreement to curb rising problems in the U.S. industry at home. “What we need is a fair system that allows individuals and companies on both sides of the border to feel they are being treated fairly,” Wyden, D-OR, said. “What this comes down to, folks, is what I call trade-done-right.”

The previous trade agreement, which was ratified in 2006, expired last October and gave way for lumber from Canada to come pouring in. According to Grady Mulberry, CEO of Roseburg Forest Products, lumber imported from Canada is up 43% since the deal expired and prices have been driven down by nearly a quarter on the dollar.

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management has proposed increasing their timber harvest in the future by as much as 37%. This plan would replace the Northwest Forest Plan of 1994 and would still protect fish and wildlife with special measures as proposed according to a BLM spokesperson. The proposal needs to go thru public testimony and review before it could be enacted.

According to the National Association of Realtors new homes in the U.S. are selling at a faster rate than at any time since the great recession. However what is referred to as affordable housing is not catching up with demand. These are houses that are also referred to as “starter homes” for first-time potential home buyers. Interest rates have been staying low but other problems such as tighter credit requirements and student loan debts are making it hard for first time buyers to qualify. 71% of non-homeowners with student debt say it is delaying them from purchasing a home. Many foreclosed homes have been bought up by larger institutions and those are used for rentals.

Export of logs to Japan is picking up a little, and exports to China appear to be holding fairly steady. I have not heard any recent reports on the Korean markets. Japan reports housing starts have increased 9% compared to last year. Tokyo is scheduled to host the 2020 Summer Olympics and will need to build sport facilities and infrastructure for this event. Japan has also reported they have approximately 100 million meters of forest stock growth and their domestic demand is about 80 million cubic meters annually giving them a opportunity to maybe not need to import as much volume and to even be able to export some to countries such as China.

The hardwood mills in the northwest are having a tough time building up inventory. Some have raised their prices but these mills have not indicated that this is helping alleviate their shortage of their log inventory. The hardwood lumber mill in Longview has laid off a shift due to lack of a log supply.

The conifer mill in Warm Springs has announced that it is “shut down”. Prices for Western redcedar have decreased a little. This is not uncommon for this time of year, and then prices usually increase after the first of the year.

Chip inventory is fairly high and may not decrease for a while. At present Brazil is a very large supplier for chips on the world markets.

LOG PRICES

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<th>Saw Logs $/MBF</th>
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<tr>
<td>Douglas-fir export</td>
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<td>Douglas-fir cutting mills</td>
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PETER MATZKA

Back in April of 2014, I gave a talk at the CCFFA Annual Meeting and Dinner about Oregon’s forests and who would be its future workforce. For those that were there, you might recall it concluded with a discussion about Oregon’s future natural resource leaders. During that discussion we talked about ways to help get our youth more involved and connected with the numerous natural resource professions here in Oregon, how high school educators and landowners can work together to make sure our future workforce is sustainable, and get our youth into that workforce. For those present, or even if you were not, I have some good news to report on these efforts, but before I begin we have a little bit of history to go over.

For many years Oregon had a robust Career Technical Education (CTE) program in forestry and natural resources at high schools statewide. Sometime in the 1970’s there was so much interest and involvement that a statewide student organization was formed, named the Association of Oregon Forestry Clubs (AOFC). If it helps, picture this or think of the AOFC like FFA but just forestry, or a high school 4-H forestry program (a combination of timber sports, technical forestry knowledge, and professional conduct). This Career Technical Student Organization (CTSO) was supported and funded through the Oregon Department of Education (ODE), and the AOFC’s mission was to promote student leadership, create real world connections and experiences, build teamwork, and generate camaraderie in the field of forestry. In the late 70’s to early 80’s there were close to 30 high schools actively participating.

However, as time went by, budgets cut, teachers/advisors retired, and programs transitioned, there were only six high schools remaining in 2007. In 2008, the AOFC was no longer funded or recognized by ODE, and an attempt made to merge these remaining school groups with FFA went unsuccessful. While it seemed like the end, these six remaining schools continued to support their programs, due to the hard work of their teachers/advisors and the support of school administration. For the next five years they banded together, stayed hopeful, and worked to find a path to restore their program. In 2013 they finally found that path.

Around the time I spoke with you at the CCFFA Dinner, during the 2013/14 school year, a new CTSO was being tentatively proposed with the help of the remaining AOFC teachers/advisors, former participating school programs, and new emerging natural resource programs at the high school level. This new CTSO was decided to be named the Future Natural Resource Leaders (FNRL). This was not just a name change, but...
a completely new way of thinking and structure that incorporates the broad spectrum of careers and topics associated with our forests and natural resources statewide. We now just needed to find a home (non-profit status), develop and formalize the structure, and write a Constitution and By-laws.

So now the rest of the story, and the good news. In 2015, the Forests Forever Inc. and Hopkins Demonstration Forest Board of Directors approved an agreement to become the home and non-profit umbrella for the FNRL. Working with four of the high schools still involved (Clatskanie, Philomath, Sabin Schellenberg Center, and Scio) a draft Constitution and By-laws were created. On April 29, 2016, the four existing programs along with five additional Oregon high schools signed a Declaration of Incorporation, elected officers, and adopted the FNRL Constitution and By-laws.

As a result, the student leadership program formerly known as the AOFC was brought back to life in an updated, new, and more robust form. Now called the Oregon Future Natural Resource Leaders (OR-FNRL), it is official and ready to get started. In the 2016/17 school year the OR-FNRL will officially be recognized by ODE as a CTSO and will once again allow our youth to explore opportunities in the forests and natural resources in Oregon. Hopkins will be their home for the time being, and will host the statewide Convention and Career Development Event. By year’s end we hope to have 20 schools signed-up, and keep going up from there. There have even been signs of interest outside of the state from Washington and California.

So, what does this mean to you, and how can you help as landowners in Clackamas County?

For the landowners, this means you are going to have opportunities to have these OR-FNRL high school students (studying natural resources) come visit your property. Maybe on a field trip to learn, or more importantly a place for them to put their knowledge to good use and get some hands-on experience. Many of these groups need places to plant trees, do forest inventory plots, conduct soil surveys, test water quality, cruise timber, fish and wildlife surveys, do compass and map work, develop a management plan, perform invasive weed removal, and the list goes on and on.

However, it goes both ways, and as a landowner you can also volunteer your time in a classroom or go along with a group as they attend field trips as a mentor or as experienced landowners. Lastly, there is always a need for sponsorship and financial support as we begin to develop curriculum and resources, provide leadership, marketing, and leadership opportunities to these Future Natural Resource Leaders.

For more information contact Peter Matzka peter.matzka@oregonstate.edu.

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**PLANTING, ALREADY??!

TIM DAHL**

In this issue you’ll find what you need to get started on replacing those big guys you harvested this year with fresh, new young-uns. The CCFFA Seedling Sale program is gearing up already. We know there is a real need for seedlings out there and that this is an important member benefit (we are committed to continue!). Through the gracious and tenacious work of Stan Beyer we have been able to carry on our relationship with Weyerhauser and their Aurora nursery. Changes to their operation have necessitated changes to ours, and you will see this reflected in the seedling types available this year as compared to previous ones. You will see more containers, and less bare root. In the meantime, if any member has the time, money, and interest in starting up a seedling nursery...??! The prospectus and order form are on page 14.

Special thanks to Stan Beyer, and on the Weyerhauser side to Sue Woodall in the office and to Mark and everyone else at their Aurora nursery!
**WOWNet Tour to Andante Vineyards and Oak Woodland**

**JEN GORSKI, OSU Extension**

A WOWNet (Women Owning Woodlands) tour was organized in July by Tiffany Fegel to visit Andante Vineyard to learn about their grape operation and oak woodland restoration project. Karen Saul led the group through meticulously tended vines, an eight-acre oak woodland and a two-acre pond. Karen graciously answered follow-up questions from a recent phone conversation to be able to capture the details.

**Why did you and your husband wish to establish your vineyard?** Joe and I grew up in rural areas and felt a connection to nature where we could take off on bikes or hikes for hours as youngsters. We wanted our kids and grandchildren to have the same opportunity—freedom, the connection to nature and also to science. Before the vineyard, I (Karen) was working as an attorney, Joe is still working as a physician. This site had all the qualities we were seeking and was convenient to Joe’s work in Salem. We decided to establish the vineyard after we found the property because it was well suited for that use and not ideal for other crops.

**Are you planning to keep your vineyard at the current 10 acres or plan to expand in the future?** We are increasing up to 15 acres very soon! We would like to add on a wine tasting room which we’re able to do if we have at least 15 acres of vineyard so we don’t have to get a conditional permit (we are in EFU zoning).

**Where did you receive your training for growing grapes?** We continue to learn about viticulture by taking classes at the Northwest Wine Studies Center at Chemeketa Community College, but also from classes and publications from OSU, Oregon Wine Board, Oregon Wine Resource Institute (state agency), and additional seminars. We have also had amazing support from Oregon vineyard and winery people who are willing to share their knowledge, experience, and sometimes even equipment!

**Are you starting to gain back your investment yet? How many years do you believe it will take before you’ll be making a return on investment?** We’re just barely starting to gain back the investment now, it takes about six years for full grape production once the vines are planted. We sell some of the grapes and keep the rest to make about 500 cases of our own brand of wine each year. Vine establishment costs are about $25,000-$30,000/acre for the first two years. This includes grafted vines, labor, hardware, supplies, and equipment. We believe the varieties we are growing will be continue to do well with climate change. We hope our vineyard will continue to benefit our kids and grandchildren.

**What other benefits do you see from the vineyard?** We’re outside and active, it’s keeping us healthier. We’re helping the local economy by buying supplies, equipment, and providing job opportunities for many other people.

**What goals did you have for the restoration of your oak woodland?** We wanted a healthy woodland habitat. The trees were so dense and there were so many blackberries, hawthorns, and cherries we couldn’t even walk through it.

**Who provided the technical help for restoring your oak woodland and how did they help you?** Basket Slough National Wildlife Refuge is very near to us. US Fish & Wildlife biologists helped us, along with conservationists from Polk Soil & Water Conservation Service, and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). They obtained grant money, provided equipment, thinned the oak trees, cleared out the stumps, provided some plants and some planting labor. We also purchased plants, installed and maintain them.

**What were the animals and insects you hoped to support with your restoration project?** Oregon White Oak woodlands and savannas once covered vast amounts of the Willamette Valley but have been reduced to 2% of their original range. Protecting this habitat is a high priority. We hope that endangered Kincaid’s lupine will spread from Basket Slough Wildlife Refuge and increase populations in our woodland. This is a plant that’s difficult to propagate and is the main larval food source for the endangered Fender’s blue butterfly. We treasure the great egrets that seasonally spend the night at our pond, great blue herons, raptors, western meadowlarks, ducks and many other species of birds. We wish to enhance biodiversity by expanding these species from neighboring public land to our adjacent private land, thereby increasing habitat area and numbers.

**What other plants did you choose to plant in your oak woodland?** We chose natives that would naturally grow in
oak woodlands and provide habitat
and nectar for wildlife: rose and
meadow checkermallows, camas,
Erythroniums (lilies), wild strawber-
ries, self-heal, Oregon iris, mariposa
lily, wild onion, bigleaf lupine, slen-
der cinquefoil, Oregon geranium,
yarrow, narrowleaf mule’s ears,
showy milkweed (especially for
Monarch butterfly habitat), red osier
dogwood, Oregon white oak, and
madrone.

Were all plants brought in as contain-
ers? Was any seed sown? Perennial
forbs, shrubs and trees were brought
in as containers. Native grass seed
was sown and made up of: Roemer’s
fescue—a blue-green, fine textured
bunchgrass that is now scarce in its
native range. It has difficulty compet-
ing with introduced grasses but is
drought tolerant and adapted to our
dry summers. Blue wildrye was also
sown and is a large blue bunchgrass
that is a good competitor among
other grasses. It is wonderful for
wildlife habitat and provides good
leaf forage early in the season.

Did you provide follow-up care for
new transplants? We planted most
before or during rain and we try to
irrigate when it’s super hot using a
large water tank that we put in the
back of a truck. We weed and mow
after perennials are done blooming.

How has this project benefited you
and your husband? We continue to
achieve our goal of experiencing
nature both in body and mind. We’re
physically active but still have a city
life in Salem. We’re learning more
about the environment, science, and
farming—it’s a wonderful adventure!
We can’t imagine life without it. We
feel that we are stewards to share and
protect the land and its inhabi-
tants—they were before us and will
remain after us. It has been a totally
life-changing experience!

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Keeping the Lights On

Editor’s Note: A few issues ago, Forest-Tree Leader published an article by Dan
Green, retired OSU Extension Forester and Clackamas County Forester, titled “Who
Owns the Trees?” It dealt with ownership of trees along county rights of way: in a
nutshell, it’s the property owner. This article, along with others you have seen, are in
response to questions (from members as well as the general public) directed to the
CCFFA members staffing our information booth at Tree School and similar events.

We try to respond to these questions, but if we just don’t know, then we make sure
that the requesting party is directed to someone who can supply answers. The “Keep-
ing the Lights On” article, is in response to one of those areas of concern that seems
to crop up almost every time we are attending an event: How do we work with power
lines? If you have any questions, we will do our best to provide insight and answers in
Forest-Tree Leader, within the space limitations we have.

JIM SCHREIBER Interviews PGE Forester MATT VELELLA

Some questions seem to arise almost every time our CCFFA Information
Booth is participating in a woodland event. A couple of those
questions—“What is our liability when it comes to trees along the power
lines?” “Who has to maintain the trees, and what are the guidelines for
doing so?”—deal with woodland owners’ relationship with the power
company: in our case Portland General Electric. With those questions
(and a few more) in mind, we sat down with PGE Forester Matt Vellessa.

We learned that Matt is a graduate of University of Wisconsin School
of Forestry and, until a few months ago, was working for a utility compa-
ny in Washington State. When asked what his job entailed, he described
some of his duties; beginning with what PGE believes is most important:
maintaining public and employee safety.

Matt indicated that PGE has divided its service territory into several
regions, and most of Clackamas County is in his area. It is his responsi-
ability to inspect the trees and vegetation along the high-voltage power lines
on a regularly scheduled basis: generally two- or three-year cycles. During
these inspections, he is looking for situations that could become a safety
issue, or could have the potential for causing power outages:

• Trees that consistently exhibit rapid growth and enter the arcing zone
  of the power lines.
• Trees with damaged or broken tops.
• Trees that are leaning toward the road or power line right of way.
• “Canopy Death Trees.” Trees starved for sunlight in dense tree stands.
• Follow-up on property owner or public concerns reported to PGE.

(Note: This is on-going 365 days a year).

CCFFA: When it comes to small woodland properties, what are your biggest con-
cerns or problems?

PGE: We really have a fairly low rate of problem contacts with small forest
landowners. We do have occasional problems with previously sheltered trees
newly exposed to the wind, due to landowner harvesting, as well as with
landowner attempts to fell trees without the proper experience. Not sure how
good woodland management practices are followed in this area, but allowing
trees to die from canopy death is not good stewardship; and dead or dying trees
near power lines are a problem.

..................continued on page 15
CCFFA 2016-17 SEEDLING RESERVATION REQUEST FORM

The Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association is offering tree seedlings for sale again this year. The available stock is listed below. Inventories will be filled on a first come, first served basis. If you have any questions, please contact: Stan Beyer, Phone: (503) 519-5289, or email: skbeyer@molalla.net

ORDERING INFORMATION:
1. Please make your order number in multiples of the minimum order number.
2. Price is in dollars per thousand of seedlings ordered.
3. Enclose a minimum 30% deposit with your order to reserve your seedlings (for orders less than 960 seedlings, please include total purchase price).
5. Confirmation and balance due notices will be mailed by December 31, 2016. All payments are due by January 15, 2017 to CCFFA.
6. All seedlings will be distributed at Weyerhaeuser Nursery in Aurora, OR in February and March 2017.

The following seedlings are for sale. Please review seedling source details and observe minimum and multiple order quantities.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Order Code</th>
<th>Species/Seed Source</th>
<th>Stock Type</th>
<th>Inventory Available</th>
<th>Price Per/M</th>
<th>Minimum Order</th>
<th>Order Multiple</th>
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<td>$380</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Douglas-fir (Clackamas Cty seed)</td>
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<td>10,000</td>
<td>$380</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Western Red Cedar (Clackamas Cty seed)</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>Western Red Cedar (Clackamas Cty seed)</td>
<td>PLUG</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>$450</td>
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<td>80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mail this form with your payment to:
CCFFA Seedling Committee
P.O. Box 783
Molalla, OR 97038

Make all checks & money orders payable to “CCFFA”
Please make a photocopy of this form for your records and future reference.

NAME ________________________________
E-MAIL ADDRESS _________________________ EVENING PHONE _________________________
ADDRESS ______________________________ CITY/STATE/ZIP __________________________

TOTAL AMOUNT OF ORDER $ __________________
MINIMUM 30% DEPOSIT ENCLOSED $ __________________
BALANCE DUE $ __________________
**PGE Interview continued from page 13...**

Logging can sometimes cause problems for us. Fortunately, the professional loggers that I have dealt with in the past are very conscious of the fact that you should not leave newly exposed lines of trees along right-of-ways where they can fall into the power lines.

**CCFFA:** If Mother Nature pays a call and a tree(s) from our property causes a power outage, is the property owner going to see a bill from the utility?

**PGE:** Not to my knowledge. It usually is just considered a natural occurrence: repairs are made, power is restored and we move on. We will make contact with the owner to offer advice, if we see other potential hazards, on how they can help prevent future problems.

**CCFFA:** As far as PGE is concerned, is knowledge by the property owner of leaning, rotten or damaged trees along the power lines, without addressing those problems, a cause for a change in billing charges by PGE?

**PGE:** That would fall under the same procedures as damage caused by Mother Nature. Billing charges would not change, though liability issues would be beyond the scope of PGE: any liability here would be between parties not associated with PGE. An example of the few reasons PGE would bill a landowner would be if they recklessly or intentionally felled a tree into the power lines; especially without following applicable statutes and notifying and trying to work with PGE first.

**CCFFA:** Where are power poles planted?

**PGE:** Power poles that are located along public rights of way are set, except in special cases, just inside the right of way line. For those power poles supporting power lines through private property easements, they are centered in the easement; again there are possible exceptions and different rules apply to such easements. (Note: When you are building a new fence line along an easement, keep the fence on your side of the poles!)

**CCFFA:** That was our next question. What are the general rules governing power line easements across private properties?

**PGE:** This can become pretty detailed. All of the rules for transmission lines through private property are spelled out in the easement agreement. However, time passes and new ownership may not be aware of proper woodland management. In general, we need access to the easement for maintenance and repair. Also, trees should not grow taller than 12 feet under the lines; this allows for line sag during heavy usage in hot weather.

The setback for trees depends a lot on the amount of voltage transmitted in the power lines; the higher the voltage, the greater the setback. This is to prevent arcing that can occur which could result in outages or fires; trees or limbs can transmit electricity even without coming in direct contact. Electricity will use any avenue to go to ground. PGE offers a booklet, “Landowner’s Guide to Trees & Transmission Line Rights-of-Way,” which gives a general overview of vegetation management. It can be obtained, on request, from PGE (contact them at numbers listed below) or you can request contact from PGE Forester.

**CCFFA:** What about service drops to the residence or service to woodland support buildings?

**PGE:** Service drops are coated wires of lower voltages. It is the owner’s responsibility to maintain vegetation around those lines; the lines are designed to have vegetation around them and be in contact with vegetation, but at least one foot of distance between branches and these lines is recommended. If you should need to work in close proximity to the service drop, you can contact PGE for advice and in some cases, request a temporary disconnect of power at the transmission line. Power poles used for support between transformer and service point belong to the power company and as such are maintained by them.

**REMEMBER, SAFETY FIRST!**

**CCFFA:** We see tree service contractors working along the roads and sometimes observe some rather creative pruning results. Wouldn’t topping the tree be a better method of controlling the trees along the power lines?

**PGE:** Yes, sometimes we get quite creative in pruning methods. Removing limbs is healthier for the tree than is topping; the tree will heal itself better. A topped tree does not heal, and you leave the exposed area available to infestation and rot. In some species, topping just starts a process of setting in a new top. Such growth is highly unstable and can easily come off into the power lines. In those instances, it’s best to take the whole tree down. The general rule is to leave 8-10 feet of clearance, at time of pruning, and the pruning manifests itself in a “U” shaped opening that you see along the roads where power lines are maintained.

**CCFFA:** How can woodland owners help keep the power on?

**PGE:** Make sure you report problems or potential problem trees to the utility.

Some general rules of thumb:

- If you are replanting, following a harvest, or just filling in some open areas in your forest, keep in mind that those trees will look a lot different in 30 years. The spacing and setbacks from easements and power lines will suddenly shrink with growth. Proper pruning methods will make up for some of the lost distance and will not hurt your trees.
- Planting right next to fence lines is probably not a good idea for several reasons. You may hate to lose the seedling space, but in the long run it will be better.
- The primary thing is to keep an eye out and call for advice before undertaking such projects. Help is available not only from PGE, but also from the Oregon Department of Forestry, the OSU Extension Service Foresters and probably from professional consultants.

To further assist woodland owners working in and around the power lines, there are a couple of pamphlets available as well as a list of contact phone numbers where you can report potential problems or garner additional information:

- Oregon Homeowner’s Guide to Tree Care—Oregon Department of Forestry at 503-945-7391
- PGE Vegetation Management—503-736-5460 or 1-800-544-1794
- PGE Customer Service - 503-228-6322 or 1-800-542-8818

We want to thank Matt Vellella for taking time out of his busy schedule to sit down with us and for providing us with some insight into how small woodland owners interface with PGE.
CCFFA FALL/WINTER 2016 CALENDAR

Thurs. Sept. 29, 5:00pm-8:00pm, Citizen Fire Academy, Hopkins Demonstration Forest

Thurs. Sept. 29, 6:30pm-8:30pm, Plant Propagation Class, Clackamas Community College, Oregon City, Repeats Thursdays until Dec. 8

Sat. Oct. 1, 9:00am-3:00pm, Native Seed Propagation Workshop, Hopkins Demonstration Forest

Sat. Oct. 8, 8:30am-4:00pm, Community Forestry Day—Learn by doing! Hopkins Demonstration Forest

Wed. Oct. 12, 9:00am-4:30pm, Scaling for Non-Scalers, Holiday Inn Eugene-Springfield

Wed. Nov. 9, 7:00pm-9:00pm, CCFFA Board Meeting, Forest Hall, Hopkins Demonstration Forest

Sat. Nov. 12, 8:30am-4:00pm, Community Forestry Day—Learn by doing! Hopkins Demonstration Forest

Sat. Dec. 10, 8:30am-4:00pm, Community Forestry Day—Learn by doing! Hopkins Demonstration Forest

Wed. Jan 11, 2017, 7:00pm-9:00pm, CCFFA Board Meeting, Forest Hall, Hopkins Demonstration Forest

Sat. Jan. 14, 8:30am-4:00pm, Community Forestry Day—Learn by doing! Hopkins Demonstration Forest

Check our website at www.ccffa-oswa.org for more information

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