LOVE OF THE LAND

A Woodland Owner Profile
Mom’s Glade in Idaho
Loving the Land in Washington
Enjoying Northwest Montana
A Sense of Place in Oregon
Succession Planning
What Were We Getting Into?

NEXT ISSUE . . .
Silviculture

This magazine is a benefit of membership in your family forestry association
# Table of Contents

## Features

### A Profile of Woodland Owners
Results from the latest National Woodland Owner Survey are out. Read some of the findings about private forestland owners in Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington.

**By Brett J. Butler**

### Mom’s Glade
Successes and challenges for family forestland owners in Idaho are familiar to many in other states.

**By Renée E. D’Aoust**

### Loving the Land and the People It Sustains
This Washington family takes forest stewardship to heart, with a history of immersion in a labor of love on the Cowlitz Ridge Tree Farm.

**By Douglas P. Stinson and Ann M. Stinson**

### Enjoying Diversity and Productivity in Northwest Montana
Having recovered from the 1910 wildfires, this forest is abundant and serves the local community.

**By Tom Jones**

### A Sense of Place
Forest management on the “dry side” is a long-term commitment for this homestead family in the Gerber area of eastern Oregon.

**By Ned and Marilyn Livingston and Sylvia Bruce**

### Roots ‘N Wings
Succession planning has been a purposeful task on the Longhaven tree farm in Oregon.

**By Jim Long**

### What Were We Getting Into?
With curiosity and determination, The Ridge became a foundation of partnership for these relatively new owners.

**By John and Cathy Dummer**

---

## DEPARTMENTS

### 3 Presidents’ Messages

### 6 Down on the Tree Farm

### 28 Treesmarts

### 30 Treeman Tips

## On the Cover:
Tyler Edwards joins a family ritual of planting trees at Tie Pond Meadow Tree Farms, started by his grandparents, Dick and Mary Anne Easter, in Amboy, Wash.

*Photo courtesy of Cheryle Easter*

## Staff:
Anne C. Maloney, Editor
P.O. Box 1897
Phoenix, OR 97535
annewithnww@gmail.com

Minten Graphics, Graphic Design

Northwest Woodlands Advisory Committee Members:
Dick Alescio
Mike Barsotti
Chuck Higgins
Jim James
Anne Maloney
Vic Musselman
Tom Nygren
Elaine Oneil
Lori Rasor


Other than general editing, the articles appearing in this publication have not been peer reviewed for technical accuracy. The individual authors are primarily responsible for the content and opinions expressed herein.

“All registered marks, trademarks and service marks belong to their respective owners.”
Love is Not Enough

My wife Jill and I recently celebrated our 20th wedding anniversary. When friends ask us how we’ve made it so long we both reply, “Because we work at it.” Sure, love helps sustain our momentum during trying times, but it is not enough. The labor we invest into that which we love only deepens our understanding and appreciation, especially when it returns to us exponentially. Call it “love interest”, if you will.

I think we forestland owners have a similar relationship with our forests. The love of the land runs as deep as bedrock, forming the foundation of our management approach to the forest. We work and toil at planting seedlings, digging waterbars, burning slash, and harvesting (a welcome and tangible dividend). This labor draws us deeper into the interior of the forest: physically, financially, and metaphorically. Our blood and sweat soak into the soil and nourish the forest: drop by drop. A tree’s taproot may draw support from the bedrock, but it’s the nutrient-enriched soil that truly drives growth. And so we pour more of ourselves, having faith that someday we’ll reap the rewards. Perhaps if we spend today chasing down “someday”, we’ll find that someday is today.

Tree Geek Time! OK, bear with me...Martin Faustmann was a forester in the mid-1800s who came up with a mathematical theorem that calculated the present value of the income stream for a forest rotation. His theories form the basis of long-term forest economic decision-making: think Return on Investment (ROI) and Net Present Value (NPV). Robert D. Cairns writes in a scholarly article that Faustmann viewed the forests as having two natural resources, the land and the stand, which act in conjunction as a composite asset. Non-marketed or intangible capital is absorbed into the single composite. So, is love the intangible capital or is it simply the motivation behind the sweat equity we pour into our forests, which is tangible because there’s a sweat ring on every hat I own? If the forest is infused with sweat equity throughout the investment horizon, then its NPV inherently increases. Depending on what love interest rate you use, the ROI can be quite high (in tangible and intangible terms).

Faustmann might be rolling his eyes from the grave, but I think I just balanced his economic formula with love.

This winter Jill and I have made a pact to exercise in the woods as much as we can. Nothing beats scrambling through the woods for a fulfilling cardio-workout, which is a damn sight better than a “dreadmill”. We’re fortunate to be living within the forest of our dreams so it’s been a fairly easy pact to keep. So far, we’ve experienced some great exercise—walking, developing a trail system, pruning, and planning future harvests—and having a blast doing it. Is all of this activity going to reap financial rewards? Yes, probably. What if we did nothing and just sat on our deck and loved the forest as it is—would that reap the same rewards? I think not, because I don’t think love alone would keep up with inflation. And so, to enhance our investment, my beautiful bride and I are drawn deeper into the forest...
Love of the Land through Active Management

When we, as family forestland owners, first inherit or purchase woodland acreage we each face unique challenges and opportunities. Has a large portion of the woodland property undergone a recent final harvest? Does the land have an adequate road system for you to access different management units? What types of native trees are growing here? How much time can I afford to spend on active forest management versus who might I hire with equipment to accomplish tasks? Most of us have more questions than answers on where to start. Many of my forest management questions were answered by taking classes through Oregon State University Extension in Clackamas County by forestry agents Mike Bondi and Glenn Ahrens. I also joined Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association where I learned from veteran woodland owners who shared their woodland property successes and failures on evening field trips. Friendships develop.

My property’s challenges and opportunities included building a 1-mile road loop for greater access to what were once remote areas of the property. I hired crawler tractor operators twice and a track hoe operator once to help build this road loop on steep land. It took every bit of my cajoling to convince a dump truck driver to spread gravel on my hilly, remote new road. A second task required reforestation over steep land. The seedlings, planting tools, and protective tubing were backpacked many times up a hill to where the planting began. Later, I returned with traps to keep mountain beavers off the young seedlings.

I have now owned this 92-acre property near Silver Falls State Park for 20 years. Over time I have accomplished many tasks but there is still much to do. For me, the “Love of the Land” grows through active management. The endless number of Saturday 40-mile trips from home driven in my pickup with a sack lunch and tools to work the property for a day add up. At the end of the day my jeans and sweat-shirt are covered with sweat, dirt, gas, and oil stains. I am almost too tired to pull off work boots and slip on tennis shoes for the ride home. As I drive off the woodland property I ask myself the same question each time: “Is there something else you would have rather done today?” The answer is always, “No.” A bonding has taken place between myself and the woodland property. A “Love of the Land.” It gets stronger over time. Friends have asked if I ever camp out on the property. Not yet, but I hope to in the future.

Love of the Land through Active Management

SCOTT HANSON

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Oregon

TREE MANAGEMENT PLUS, INC.

Working with family forest owners managing their woodlands since 1977

Professional Forester, Accredited Logger, Cut-to-Length Logging, Seedling Sales & Reforestation Services

CONTACT Tom Fox at 360-978-4305 • 422 Tucker Rd., Toledo, WA 98591

AFM

AmericanForestManagement.com

– Call Keith Jelnke or Alex Hurley –

AKS Engineering & Forestry

503-563-6151

fax 503-563-6152

12965 SW Herman Rd., Suite 100

Tualatin, OR 97062

email: aks@aks-eng.com

website: www.aks-eng.com

© trianglert

Surveying

Engineering

Logging Roads

Timber Cruising

ACO

ACO
ree farming attracts a variety of people who have a common interest. So what are some of the common traits that make up such a person? Here are five characteristics that may be common to those people.

Growing things in the dirt must be important. Really that’s what it’s all about: planting, tending, harvesting, and all the physical and mental activity to get it done. In the mid-1800s pioneers traveled by wagon 2200 miles to have their own plot of ground. It’s a little different today: more people, city lots, food shipped from all over the world. But the interest in owning land is still a strong urge.

The drive to achieve a productive forest must be a desire to make something out of nothing, to make the land productive. Some landowners start from scratch with bare land. Few start their tree farming with a perfect forest: most start in between with what they can afford. Working to make the land productive can be very satisfying and gives purpose to life. And that should give pleasure.

The drive to achieve a productive forest must be a desire to make something out of nothing, to make the land productive. Some landowners start from scratch with bare land. Few start their tree farming with a perfect forest: most start in between with what they can afford. Working to make the land productive can be very satisfying and gives purpose to life. And that should give pleasure.

The drive to achieve a productive forest must be a desire to make something out of nothing, to make the land productive. Some landowners start from scratch with bare land. Few start their tree farming with a perfect forest: most start in between with what they can afford. Working to make the land productive can be very satisfying and gives purpose to life. And that should give pleasure.

Finally, it appears that forest landowners are long-range thinkers and are concerned about their land past their own lifetimes. They often think of themselves as being stewards of the land, not owners. It is not uncommon for tree farms to be given or sold into a conservation easement for the public benefit, allowing the land use to be the same but preventing commercial development. That’s love of the land and managing from the heart.
Who Am I?

- I do my best work out in the open.
- I love to be outside so I catch a lot of sun, and liquid sun.
- I am not a ground hugger and prefer being about four feet above the ground.
- You frequently find me perched at the top of a post.
- I am designed for rain, but the work I do with no rain is just as important.
- You might be reading one of me regularly at your tree farm.

What to Do In . . .

Tour Time

- May marks the beginning of the woodland tour season. How are you doing on those New Year’s Resolutions anyway? I am not talking about your class reunion diet either. I am talking about your promise to attend one woodland tour during the year. Your local association and the Tree Farm System provide great tour opportunities. This is a chance to mix with fellow small woodland owners to see and hear what others are doing on their tree farms. Invite a friend to come along.

Sap is Up

- May and June are not the months to be doing a commercial thinning operation. The bark is easily knocked off the trees you are not harvesting. Bark is like skin protecting the tree from disease and decay. You won’t find any tree band-aids in your first aid kit either.

- Not damaging the bark is the best plan. Exceptions to this rule could include precommercial thinning, and a cut-to-length operation.

Running Behind

- It’s a do-it-yourselfer malady occasionally caught by others. Get these items done now:
  - When pruning, remove dead limbs if you’re concerned about a fuel ladder. A rule-of-thumb is to remove less than one-third of the total green crown when pruning.
  - Most herbicides that you apply to control competing vegetation will kill or damage your seedlings when they are actively growing, so you need to keep the spray off your seedlings. When your seedlings are small you can devise some sort of a tree cover, like a five-gallon bucket, a piece of stovepipe or plastic pipe you can slide over your seedling while you spray around it. Your seedling protection needs to be large enough in diameter to avoid applying herbicide from the wetted base of your protection as you place it over your seedling.
  - You need a permit to apply herbicides, harvest timber, construct or reconstruct roads, and run power equipment.

JUNE

Fire Season is Here

- Most of us will see fire season start in May or June. With more hot days occurring in May, and less summer precipitation, fire season is growing longer for most of us. The danger of actually having a fire on your place is increasing.
- Acquire fire equipment if you don’t have any for quick response. Your local forest fire protection agency has a list of required equipment to run an operation during fire season, and this might be a good way to see what you need to acquire. You are at risk of being liable for the costs of a fire that you start and do not make a reasonable attempt to suppress. Equipment that meets the requirements could be valuable in limiting your liability.
- Purchase liability insurance for fire. However, your negligent acts probably are not covered. A negligent act would be running power equipment when it is not permitted, burning slash when no fires are allowed, or running equipment that is not up to the requirements.
- Make sure your power saw spark arrester screen is good.
- Have your fire extinguishers recharged and checked out. The contents can become a brick and will not help you extinguish a fire.

Tips & Tricks of the Day:
The easiest way to put out a fire is to avoid starting one.
Make sure you have at least one operating fire extinguisher in each of your vehicles, on each piece of equipment and on you when you operate a powersaw, lawn mower, or weed whacker.

Operate equipment in compliance with the fire regulations that apply to your forest property. Apply these regulations to your homestead if it is on or adjacent to your forestland, even if it technically falls under another fire protection jurisdiction which is less restrictive. Don’t mow your lawn, driveway or around your seedlings in the heat of the day when a logging operation in your area would be shut down.

Build a pond for a pump chance and access by a helicopter to dip water.

Construct and maintain fire breaks along public roads that abut or pass through your property. Make sure the local structure fire protection agency’s equipment can reach your house and outbuildings.

Road Work

- Good time to build a new road and/or reconstruct an existing road while there is still some moisture in your soil.
- Rock your roads with a traction coat for personal use, or enough to handle winter logging.
- Replace or add culverts and waterbars.

Plan Ahead for Your Next Reforestation Project

- It wasn’t very many years ago that July was a good time for you to start looking for seedlings to plant during the coming winter. Nurseries are not planting the volume of seedlings on speculation that they used to. You know what a spec house is? A house built without a buyer, anticipating one will show up when the house is completed. So when the housing market went south a few years ago there was a domino effect in the timber industry. The log market also weakened. Timber harvest declined and the demand for spec seedlings also went south. Nurseries ended up with a lot of seedlings they couldn’t sell. So today, you need to start a year or two ahead of time to get the seedlings you prefer. You and your heirs will be growing the trees you plant now for the next 50 to 80 years. Planting the right tree is important.

Know Your Woods Words

- Scrunch. Handy chain saw tool that comes with your saw. It is a combination standard screwdriver, spark plug wrench and bar wrench.
- Woodstraw. Shredded plywood veneer used for soil cover. Replaces straw and is weed free.
- Cross-laminated Timber (CLT). A large-scale, prefabricated, solid, engineered wood panel made from a number of boards stacked in alternating directions, fastened together with structural adhesives and pressed. The panels arrive at the job site cut to size and ready to assemble, so construction goes quickly with little waste.
- Precommercial Thinning (PCT). An early stand thinning that generates no net income to the timber owner. PCT is the method used to reduce the number of stems per acre in a young stand so the remaining stems will reach the desired size for the next commercial entry. The trees cut in a PCT are often left on the ground to decay. The development of the processing head allows some PCT jobs to be harvested with a cut-to-length system and generates a little money. So rather than leaving the harvested stems to rot, they may be harvested and removed from the woods. The market needs to be good and the trees generally need to be on the large side to hope for an early commercial thin with cut-to-length versus a PCT.

Who Am I?

I am a rain gauge. Affectionately called Precipitus collectii.

Forestland For Sale

Mark.Willhite@juno.com
Forester/Broker

World Forest Investment.com

GeneTechs
Richard W. Coutier Professional Forester

- Management Consultant
- Inventories and Appraisals
- Genetic Tree Improvement
- Feasibility Studies

1600 NW Skyline Blvd., Portland, Oregon 97229
(503) 297-1660

NORTHWEST WOODLANDS . SPRING 2015 . 7
If we are interested in the conservation of the forests and woods of the United States we must be interested in those who control its fate: the forest and woodland owners. Working within biophysical, social, political and economic constraints, owners make decisions related to land use and forest management that impact the forest and woodland resources. These decisions influence the wealth of benefits these forests and woodlands provide, from timber and water supplies to carbon sequestration and wildlife habitat.

The US Forest Service Forest Inventory and Analysis program, through the Family Forest Research Center (FFRC; www.familyforestresearchcenter.org), conducts the National Woodland Owner Survey (NWOS; www.fia.fs.fed.us/nwos) to better understand who owns the woodlands, why they own it, what they have done with it and what they intend to do with it. The focus of the NWOS is on private ownership.

Forests, woods, and trees—oh my. The words we use to describe forests and woods can be important when relating to landowners. The forestry community often gets tangled up in definitions and different groups use different terms to refer to the same thing. Most family forest owners do not own “forests” and many of them are not even families. We define wooded land or woodlands as woods, woodlots, timberland, and forests. Families include individuals, joint ownerships, such as a husband and wife or other family members or friends, family limited liability companies and partnerships, and family trusts or estates. Because the definition can include more than just individuals, we refer to these as “woodland ownerships” instead of “forest owners.”

Nationally, more than 35 percent of wooded acres are owned by family woodland ownerships. While much of this wooded land is located in the East, there are millions of acres of family-owned woodland in the West. The results presented below are based on responses from 475 randomly-selected woodland ownerships in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington that participated in the NWOS between 2011 and 2013.

General ownership patterns

Forests in the four-state region of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington...
Washington are dominated by public ownership (69 percent of all forested acres); however, 31 percent of the forested land is privately-owned (see Figure 1 and Table 1). Woodland ownerships comprise 11 percent of all forested acres, or 11.3 million acres. The other private ownerships, including corporations, non-governmental conservation organizations, and other private groups, account for an additional 20 percent of the woodland in the four-state region. On the public side, 27 national forests include more than 62.5 million acres of woodland, accounting for 62 percent of the woodland in the four-state region.

State and local government agencies account for about 7 percent of the wooded acres in the four-state region. While public forest ownership dominates in the West, this land is already largely designated as conservation land, although those goals can be controversial and are part of ongoing policy discussions. Privately-owned land has more potential to change in the future, as family woodland owners make decisions about how to manage their land and whether or not to sell or transfer their land. Understanding the attitudes and behaviors of these woodland owners is critical to encouraging millions of acres to remain forested in the future.

The results below are for woodland ownerships with at least 10 acres of land. While ownerships with smaller parcels are also important, these smaller parcels are mostly large house lots and backyards. Looking more closely at woodland ownerships, we can see a diversity of: reasons for owning the land, woodland uses, management practices, and general land and landowner characteristics.

–Continued on next page–

Figure 1. Map of wooded land in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington by ownership category, 2013.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ownership Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other private</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. Area of wooded land in Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington by ownership category, 2012.
A closer look at woodland owners

The size of a woodland ownership is an important attribute because it influences what can be done with the land. For example, smaller holdings may not be economically viable to manage, and this characteristic strongly influences many other attributes, such as reasons for owning and management practices. There are two different ways to look at the ownership statistics: in terms of ownerships or in terms of land area. In terms of ownerships, the vast majority are small in size, ranging from 10 to 49 acres (see Table 2). But in terms of woodland area, a majority of the wooded land is in holdings of at least 100 acres. Ownerships are important because these are the people who make the decisions and are the recipients of the programs and services provided by the forestry community. And the woodland itself provides the goods and services that benefit society.

The reasons for owning wooded land are as diverse as the woodlands themselves. Most ownerships have multiple reasons for owning, with amenity-oriented objectives such as aesthetics, part of the homestead, privacy, and nature being the dominant reasons. Some of these objectives are related to the fact that 72 percent of the ownerships have their primary homes associated with their woodland (see Table 3).

Considering just the preceding five years, the dominant activities on woodland ownerships were eliminating or reducing invasive plants and harvesting trees for personal use, such as firewood. Although timber production is not a primary objective of most of these ownerships, 24 percent of woodland ownerships have commercially-harvested trees. Over 90 percent of ownerships have done at least one activity on their land in the past five years. However, the majority of woodland ownerships are not involved in traditional forestry programs. The most common programs in the four-state region include having a management plan and being enrolled in a property tax reduction program (26 percent and 29 percent of woodland ownerships, respectively). Other woodland conservation programs, namely cost-share, conservation easements, and green certification, are much less common. Thirty-three percent of ownerships also reported that they have received advice about enrolling in a property tax program, but this implies that 67 percent of the ownerships have not received this advice.

Recreation is also a common activity on woodlands in the region. Recreational activity has occurred on over 78 percent of woodland ownerships in the past five years. Most commonly, the owner and/or spouse, owner’s children, or friends were reported to have recreated on the land in the past five years. The most common recreational activities include hiking or walking, hunting, and off-road vehicle use, such as ATVs or snowmobiles.

Most woodland owners in the four-state region have concerns about their wooded land. Most of these concerns are related to human or social issues, but some are natural issues, albeit potentially influenced by humans. Woodland owners with 10 or more acres are most concerned about wildfire, trespassing or poaching, vandalism, and environmental issues such as habitat loss and invasive species.
ism, and high property taxes.

On average, woodland owners in the four-state region are older, more educated, and have higher incomes compared to the general populations of these states. The mean woodland owner age is 62 years; 11 percent of the owners are 75 years or older, and an additional 27 percent are between 65 and 74 years of age. As landowners age, the question of land transfer becomes more important when thinking about the potential changes to the forested landscape in the coming years. In fact, over 15 percent of woodland ownerships, which include more than 2 million acres of woodland, reported that they were likely or extremely likely to transfer their land in the next five years.

Because woodland ownerships with 10 or more acres own millions of acres of wooded land in the four-state region, the owners' attitudes on woodland conservation are important when thinking about potential changes in the forested landscape. In order to gauge woodland owners' attitudes about conserving their wooded land, we asked them to rate their level of agreement with two statements: “I want my land to stay wooded” and “I would sell my land if I was offered a reasonable price.” Eighty-eight percent of woodland ownerships agreed or strongly agreed with wanting their land to stay wooded. However, almost 30 percent would sell their land if offered a reasonable price. While the vast majority of landowners want to conserve their woodland, there is a portion who would sell their land at the right price.

What it means

People interested in woodland conservation must also be interested in those who own the woodland. Across the four-state region, families and individuals own a significant number of acres, and this land has great potential for conservation. Owners are engaged with their land, but not in many of the traditional “forestry” activities. There is a general disconnect between forestry and many woodland owners that, if bridged, could have a major impact on the woodlands of these states and the people who own them. Be it wildfire, intergenerational transfer of land, or invasive species, understanding the threats to the land and the concerns of those who own and influence this resource is critical for woodland conservation efforts. Using a common language and designing policies and programs that meet the needs of owners and practitioners will have a major impact on current and future owners and the vital lands that they own.

Brett J. Butler, Ph.D. is a research forester with the USDA Forest Service at the University of Massachusetts Amherst Family Forest Research Center. He can be reached at 413-545-1387 or bbutler01@fs.fed.us.
Mom’s Glade

By RENÉE E. D’AOUST

My mom spent years “parking out” a cedar glade next to our home place. She nurtured moss and saved character stumps, which had geranium pots put in their tops every summer. The glade became the back yard, partly shaded from sun in summer and somewhat protected from snow in winter. Even toward the end of Mom’s life, she patterned trails; some circle back on themselves, and many are used by critters that leave tracks and scat as evidence. Throughout all the time Mom worked on our glade, she always picked up sticks.

I do not remember taking a walk without Mom letting go of my arm to bend over and pick up a stick. Often she carried a stick to the slash pile, one of many she had scattered around the forestland, and sometimes the stick would hit me in the calf or shin, rather like the way her huge vinyl handbag used to bang my head when I was a little kid.

I recall, ruefully, that as an adult I often asked, “Could we just take a walk without you picking up sticks?” “Oh, honey,” she answered. “It’s what I do.”

Mom always felt a bit of pride (she never allowed herself too much pride) when a visiting forester inevitably remarked about our glade: “You parked it out. Very nice.”

Now I think it’s odd that Mom did the lifting, and that I had the ability to watch her work without helping out. Why didn’t I bend over on our walks and pick up sticks, too? I was an adult, living back home. Why leave it up to Mom?

Indeed, my mom was the leader of our forest work, and following her death four years ago, my father and I have done a less-than-stellar job of keeping up her vision. There was a time when all three of us worked the forest together. We called Mom the “director” and Dad the “neckdown.” I was the “brunt.”

But let me backtrack.

When my mother first approached a logger about thinning our family forestland over 20 years ago, the logger told Mom that he “would clearcut it all.” If not, the job wasn’t worth it. Mom was so freaked by his swagger that she dropped the idea of doing any logging.

Later we met Phil, a reasonable and concerned forester for Crown Pacific, who suggested we had root rot and needed to think about a management plan. He was right, and he took the time to help my mom find resources.

After my mother and my father took the forestry short course taught and developed by Chris Schnepf through the University of Idaho Extension, my parents felt confident enough to proceed. To be clear: a full decade passed between my parents’ move to our land and the start of any planned forestry action. There are valid reasons they pursued a non-management plan, but it wasn’t a particularly good idea. Doing nothing is also a form of management, but it doesn’t work if your forest has disease that might be addressed with a regeneration cut.

My parents weren’t new to thinking about the land. My dad holds a doctorate in biology and has had a long career working with Northwest salmon species, fish hatcheries, and dams. He’s well aware that nature isn’t separate from man and our influence on it. But I think he wanted a place...
that could be wild, because it very much connected with his youth in the forests of British Columbia. My mother also had a strong connection to land; when we were kids in the 1970s she took us to the Canadian Gulf Islands where we spent entire summers without running water and electricity. We were a family who walked in the woods on Sundays. We were no strangers to living close to nature. Even so, we had a lot to learn about our Inland Northwest forest.

When lightning struck a tree and then fire festered and crept underground one mile from our backdoor—only to erupt eight days later—we all realized how flammable our forest had become. Our forest borders private timberlands and national forest.

Probably around 2000, my mom and dad attended a community event sponsored by the US Forest Service and Idaho Department of Lands designed to educate landowners about their forests. Because of this event, we learned that funding was available for the Hazardous Fuels Removal Program (HFRP). The program included visits from Idaho Department of Lands foresters, and we signed up. Through the Extension forestry short course we had also become aware that information, assistance, education, and funding were available. Mom found a wonderful local logger who listened to our concerns and addressed them—he walked our land with us before we even decided on a plan. We felt more confident since we had all pursued more education about our forest. By 2001 I had moved to Idaho and we decided to do the precommercial thinning, hazardous fuels removal, and regeneration planting ourselves.

We precommercially thinned almost 20 acres, planted over 1,500 seedlings (Seemed like a lot then, but looks like very little now!) including planting an experimental aspen grove. I took a particular interest in pruning for white pine blister rust management. We applied and were approved as a stewardship forest. We hibernated all winter for several winters in a row because of exhaustion.

In addition, at Chris Schnepf’s invitation, my father and I served on a committee to help develop the Idaho Master Forest Steward program. I subsequently went through that program and have been volunteering as an Idaho Master Forest Steward ever since. I strongly recommend the courses and opportunities available through Extension programs as fantastic resources to deepen your knowledge.

But as my knowledge about our forest has increased, my ability to work in our forest has decreased. I used to joke that if you could get an adult child to move home and work the land, you were all set. But last summer, I tore a rotator cuff muscle and got adhesive capsulitis, or “frozen shoulder.” All my forestry labor was put on hold. I don’t write this as a pity party, but because it might be a good idea to have contingency plans...

–Continued on next page–

PHOTO COURTESY: BRIAN D’AOUST

Many hours of work with a brush saw have allowed the D’Aousts to wander in their forest.

PHOTO COURTESY: SUSAN SAXTON D’AOUST

Renée D’Aoust adding more trees to the forest.

PHOTO COURTESY: BILL GENTRY

Millwood Timber, Inc.

Purchasing Douglas Fir & White Wood logs

• Specializing in OVER SIZE (no maximum diameter)
• Shorts and lower grades welcomed
• Log yard and scaling in Tumwater, Exit 99 off I-5

Contact: Rich Nelson at 253-670-1827
Email: rbn.millwoodtimber@gmail.com Fax: 253-563-9900
for labor if you are doing it yourself. My dad is going strong, but it will be another year or more before I can even help bring in winter wood.

There is so much to do, and there is so much I have done wrong. When we originally had a contract with the excellent local logger, he offered to clear a few extra dog hair thickets. I thought I’d save those thickets for myself, but I never got some of them fully cleared, and I should have welcomed the logger doing it! Now they are a mess; it’s almost as if I have to start over. Furthermore, I wish I had been a little more aggressive in the spacing of the precommercial thinning I did complete. We also lost a good half of the western tamarack that we planted, and we’ve yet to plant again, though there are spots that could probably be filled in, especially since we’re managing for habitat more than for timber sales. And that aspen grove we planted? Kaput. A total bust.

That said, there is so much we have done. We can see spaces between the trees. We can get inside our forest, whereas before, we couldn’t even walk through it. We’re more aware of individual trees on the property and also the topography of our land. We aren’t limited to a few trails but can wander.

Now we need to revisit our stewardship plan, which includes forest management and habitat enhancement. I need to work on my communication skills, so that my brother and his sons feel like a valued part of our forestland. We need to plan for the next generation. Will my brother’s sons be interested in the Inland Northwest?

We began by doing nothing, and now we have more than enough to do. We were able to make the transition to managing our land by realizing that we had choices to make and that there are foresters and loggers who could help us assess our particular needs and focus for the forest.

My dad and I still refer to the “cedar glade,” but with my mother’s passing I’ve started thinking of it as “Mom’s Glade.” There are lots of walks that need to be taken—and lots of sticks that need to be picked up.

**Renee E. D’Aoust**

Renee E. D’Aoust’s memoir *“Body of a Dancer”* (Etruscan Press) was a Foreword Reviews “Book of the Year” finalist. She teaches at North Idaho College, writes for the Women Owning Woodlands website, and volunteers as an Idaho Master Forest Steward. Please visit www.reneedaoust.com. She can be reached at idahobuzzy@yahoo.com.

---

**Lusignan Forestry, Inc.**

Shelton, WA 360-426-1140

Forestry consultants serving timberland owners small and large, private and public since 1972.

Forest Management, Timber Cruising, Inventories and Valuations, Timber Harvest Administration and Lump Sum Sales

E-MAIL: JFROST@LFIFOREST.COM
Loving the Land and the People it Sustains

By DOUGLAS P. STINSON AND ANN M. STINSON

Doug's story
I was born with a love of land. My mother's parents in Illinois and my father's parents in northern Missouri both owned farms. Relatives didn't talk about how much money they had, only about how many acres they owned. As a child, I realized that I wanted to own my own land someday. When I was 14 years old my family purchased 280 acres in the Missouri Ozarks. One day, I noticed some newly-planted shortleaf pine near a fire lookout tower. I knew I wanted to plant trees too. I got some shortleaf pine and planted five acres on our land. It was like planting in a rock pile, not good dirt, but I was proud of my efforts.

In 1952, after my freshman year in forestry at the University of Missouri, I went to Sutherlin, Oregon to work on a fire suppression crew. It was mind-boggling. The magnitude of the forests, size of the trees, beauty of the mountains, fish-filled streams: it was my first love affair. I knew that as an adult I would come back to the Pacific Northwest. I earned a degree in forestry and, after four years in the Marine Corps, I joined the US Forest Service in southeastern Alaska. Over the next three decades my wife Fae Marie and I purchased the land that is now the Cowlitz Ridge Tree Farm in Lewis County, Washington.

—Continued on next page—

You know how to read a 90 year old log... but can you read the 90 year old tax law?

Timberland owners certainly know their way around the woods, but the forest of taxation and financial decisions can seem impenetrable. That's where BBJS can be your guide. We're a full service accounting firm that has been quietly serving the forest products industry since 1954. For a free initial consultation please give us a call at:

206.682.4840

Phone us today, before more opportunities get lost in the woods.

Certified Public Accountants
1501 4th Avenue
Suite 2880
Seattle, WA
98101-1631
www.bbjslp.com

Members of the Washington Farm Forestry Association

We count trees, not beans.
Land ownership has enhanced my love of the land. Close, daily observation of the forest has made me a better steward. Prior to owning forestland, I thought I was a good forester. Now, after 50 years of ownership, I am truly a forester with knowledge and experience that can’t be learned in the classroom or from a textbook. Over the years I’ve been blessed to be able to work with each of my adult children to manage the land. I first worked with my daughter Julie who lived with her young family on the tree farm. After getting the boys off to school, we worked in the forest. She was instrumental in creating the set of annual reports for the tree farm that we still use to track the growth of our forest.

Next came Steve who lived on our Finn Hill tract. His on-the-ground specialty was timber cutting. He and I logged several small tracts, did lots of precommercial thinning and planted many, many seedlings. Steve was a big picture guy. I wanted to build our tree farm, while Steve wanted a tree farm

I grew up on a tree farm. Trees for timber—plant, grow for 40-60 years, cut. Cut, plant, grow, a cycle of life.

230 acres on a ridge above the Cowlitz River. Trees at all stages of life, just like my family.

It is where I climbed ladder like limbs of a great old fir, swaying in the winds at its top and watched the clouds pass over Mt. St. Helens.

It is where my brother, sister and I learned to work. Thick gloves and red rubber boots. Up and at’em on Saturdays and Summers,—hauling firewood, planting trees, burning slash piles, bud capping, pulling tansy, mulching trees with the Longview Daily News.

It is where my dad danced his rain dance on the deck, asking the gods for a rain to quench the thirst of his beloved trees.

Where I helped my mother make pickles, dilly beans, and crusty bread.

It is where my nephews, Timber and Griffin build forts with peeled viney maple and have “grenade fights” with wild cucumber. Where they have learned to work.

I learned to see on the tree farm. To see beyond the bare earth and stumps of a clear cut to see essential sunlight and seeds already warming in the soil.

I learned to be patient and grow with trees. Last week, I went with my dad to a 3 year old stand. I saw deer beds (dad calls them “munchers”) acres of foxglove, grass, and daisies. I tasted the first of this year’s trailing blackberries.

I left my dad to his work and went to clear the wetland trail. I macheted salmon berries, alder, Himalayan blackberries. Honest, sweaty work so my mother can easily walk in the cool clean air of the 100 year old trees.

Over the last few years, the tree farm has been transferred to us, the next generation. It is ours now. Steve’s, Ann’s and Julie’s.

Our generation is three, the next just two. But we will be brave and creative as stewards of the land. We will honor our parent’s legacy and build our own.
for everybody. He touched many people with his vision.

Now my daughter Ann is the current manager of the Cowlitz Ridge Tree Farm. Her background has been teaching, but her love for the land is deep. Being her mentor/teacher is a great privilege and joy.

My love of the land has grown as I have grown and matured. It is an intimate part of my personality today. It is the natural thing to do. To me, loving the land means caring for it with loving hands. I think of soil as the key ingredient of the land. I am always thinking about how to maintain and improve soil productivity. Sustainability makes the love enduring. Our forests are forever: a legacy, a gift to be cherished, nurtured and passed on to future generations.

Last, I feel the forestland has equally loved me back, making me a better person, and a stronger, wiser man. 

**Doug Stinson** can be reached at 360-864-2681 or treeman@toledotel.com. 
**Ann Stinson** can be reached at 503-975-5772 or amstinson126@gmail.com.

The Stinson children have been involved with tree farming, planting and management. Doug hopes that his children’s children will keep the dream alive and that trees will grow on the land for many generations. Pictured from left to right: Julie Stinson-Schroff, Griffin Stinson-Schroff, Ann Stinson, Timber Stinson-Schroff, Steve Stinson, Fae Marie Beck and Doug Stinson.

A full service Natural Resource consulting firm since 1984

- Reforestation
- Log Marketing & Inventory
- Harvest Administration
- Forest Management Plans
- Estate Planning
- Water Resources
- Timber Appraisals
- Fire/Fuels Management
- GPS/GIS Services

**www.consulting-foresters.com**

**HAMPTON TREE FARMS, INC.**

Buying Logs, Timberland, and Standing Timber in Western Oregon and Western Washington

Hampton Tree Farms
PO Box 2315
Salem, OR 97308-2315
(503) 365-8400

**TILLAMOOK LUMBER CO.**

Dave Kunert
(503) 931-3143 Mobile

**WILLAMINA LUMBER CO.**

Jeff Clevenger
(503) 365-8400 Office
(503) 931-7651 Mobile
Enjoying Diversity and Productivity in Northwest Montana

By TOM JONES

Our property is located in northwest Montana about 15 miles east of Idaho near the small town of Troy. The property was burned by wildfire in 1910. A few scattered trees survived the fire and are present today. The area regenerated to lodgepole pine and larch with other conifer species scattered throughout to form a mostly even-aged stand.

We purchased the property (150 acres) in 1965. We logged approximately 70 acres in 1976 using group and individual tree selection. Natural regeneration came in where the stand was opened up.

After retirement in 1994 we completed our first management plan for the property and began much more intensive management, including pre-commercial thinning, planting, weed control, removal of forest products, and developing a road system to access the property.

General forest description

Most of our weather comes from the west, so with the Pacific influence the property is wetter and warmer than further east in Montana, and slightly drier than northern Idaho. This gives us a wide array of both dry site and moist site conifer species, as well as scattered cottonwood, paper birch, aspen and alder. The elevation varies between 2200 and 2400 feet.

Most of the soils are deep and well-drained, which creates a very good growing site for wood production. About 70 percent of the property has gentle slopes and the rest consists of the steeper breaks into the stream channels. A perennial stream with

decrease the fire hazard. We work toward these goals by using different silvicultural practices.

After logging, our main objective is to regenerate openings with multi-specie stands, favoring fire-resistant species (larch, ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir). We usually get adequate natural regeneration, but to make sure we get the species mix that's desired, one or two of the fire-resistant species is planted along with one or two of the other desirable species (white pine or spruce). In the past we have collected seed on the property and grown some of our seedlings while the rest were bought from a nursery or given to us when government agencies had excess trees. Our plan now is to collect seed on the property and have a nearby nursery grow the seedlings for us.

About 8 to 10 years after planting we do a precommercial thinning to release the best trees to continue growing at a fast rate. At the same time we prune the white pine to decrease the chance of white pine blister rust.

Challenges encountered

On a few harvested areas we have had grass, shrubs, and hardwood sprouts outtopping planted tree seedlings. In order to release the seedlings, we removed the competing vegetation and treated the area around the seedlings with herbicides.

This challenge was rare in the past but
is more common now. Perhaps climate change is a factor.

After harvesting on some of our more moist areas alder regenerates and outgrows the conifer seedlings and saplings. To release the conifers we have been cutting the alder and treating the stumps with herbicide. Since alder is beneficial in adding nitrogen to the site, only the competing alder is treated.

It has been a challenge to sell oversized logs since the major mill in this area has retooled for smaller logs. They will buy the logs but at a reduced price because they have to haul them somewhere else. One alternative is to haul these logs longer distances when prices are high enough to offset the haul costs. Another alternative is to sell these logs to a few nearby small family mills that can cut the oversized logs when they have orders for beams or lumber. At times building contractors are in need of large house logs or other specialty logs. By keeping in contact with these small businesses we have been able to sell some of the large logs. We are holding the desirable large trees on the stump until we can get a fair price for them.

Orange hawkweed is an invasive weed that can become ground cover in open areas as well as in shaded areas. We have been able to control it on roads and landings by spraying herbicides from a vehicle, but in forested areas the only way to control it is with a backpack sprayer. This is very time consuming and expensive so we have opted to spray only the concentrations near the roads. This method only controls it on part of the property but we have decided to live with this until a viable biological control is found.

Educational activities

As landowners we take advantage of all the educational activities offered. When the opportunities arise, we share our knowledge of good land stewardship with other landowners, friends, family and the general public. We have found that joining forest landowner organizations and getting involved is important. As members we find out about educational opportunities and are kept informed about state and national issues concerning forestry.

In 2000 we became members of the American Tree Farm System. We have helped host a state tree farm meeting and have contacted our senators and representatives concerning legislation and farm bill forestry needs. In 2011 we were honored to be chosen Montana Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year.

We have also hosted a local Society of American Foresters meeting on our property to review our management practices and we help put on a yearly forest landowners’ conference as members of the Montana Stewardship Foundation.

Family involvement

It is important to get family members involved in working and recreating on the land. She especially likes to burn logging slash piles and chunk them until all the material is burned up.

Our daughter and two granddaughters have helped pile, burn and grind slash, clean debris off roads, get firewood, and prune and plant trees. They don’t always enjoy the work, but they do enjoy putting their wages toward something special.

Successful succession

My wife and I are just a couple of the many forest landowners who are aging and thinking about what is going to happen to our forestland when we are gone. We have a lot of sweat equity in our land. We hope it will continue to be a productive forest and supply society with wood products, clean water and air, wildlife habitat and scenic beauty.

About 10 years ago our daughter showed no interest in managing our land. We were still able to manage the property but thought that sometime in the future it would be sold. With our love of the land and what we have accomplished over the years, we definitely did not want the property to be subdivided, so in 2009 we decided to put the property in a conservation easement. This stopped any subdivi-

—Continued on page 31—
The history of the Gerber Ranch begins in 1886 when Louis Gerber homesteaded in the basin that is now Gerber Reservoir in southeast Klamath County, Oregon. In 1903 Louis purchased most of the homesteads in the upper valley when the Reclamation Service dammed Miller Creek for irrigation water for Langell Valley farms.

The Paddock forestland was first logged in the 1930s and early 1940s. Then in the 1950s Henry Gerber sold timber on Paddock Mountain and other outlying properties to send his daughters to college. The three daughters each received a portion of the ranch properties in 1987 and have continued the cattle grazing, hay production and forestland management tradition of the Gerber family.

Elevation of the property ranges from 5000 to 5400 feet and the average annual precipitation is 14 inches. The low ground supports sagebrush, bunchgrass, meadow grass, aspens and willows. Juniper, plum, mountain mahogany and bitterbrush are common in the transition area with ponderosa pine, incense cedar and white fir growing on the mountain slopes.

Ned and Marilyn Livingston have been the primary forest managers on the Paddock property since the late 1960s. We had the Oregon Department of Forestry prepare a management plan in 1980 that indicated trees that were candidates for insect infestation and at high risk of wildfire. Substantial thinning was the recommenda-

A Sense of Place

By NED AND MARILYN LIVINGSTON AND SYLVIA BRUCE

The Horsefly barn at Gerber Ranch, built around 1885, is still in use today and appears ready to function for another 100 years.

The Gerber Ranch house, built around 1949, is home to Sylvia (Gerber) Bruce and family.

The main pasture with the Paddock Butte forestland in the background.
tion. In 1981 noncommercial thinning began around the Froghill homesite and in 1985 thinning continued on the Paddock property. It was like trying to empty the ocean with a spoon, but we did it.

By 1992 we had thinned 280 acres of the worst pine and fir thickets on Paddock. There was so much downed material that there was no reasonable way to hand pile it for burning, so we crushed it with a D-6 CAT, getting the fuel as close to the ground as possible, maximizing the moisture in the material to allow it to break down more quickly and burn less aggressively if a fire did get started.

We have had many experiences with fire, both wildfire and underburns. Both of our sons worked on fire crews during summers of their college years. In 1985 the US Forest Service did an underburn on neighboring acreage. Bly Ranger District probably had the most underburning experience in the area, but overall the burn showed the full range of effects. There was ample evidence on site that a good job was done, and there were a couple of places where things were out of control. In any fire there are going to be some negative results and some consequences you don’t anticipate, and that’s one of the lessons of the 1985 underburn.

In 1987 we cooperated with the Forest Service in a multi-party underburn that included 700 of our outlying acres. That burn was a good one without much damage. Then in 1988 we did an underburn with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on a timbered portion of our 400-acre parcel and that was also successful.

So we’ve held hands with our BLM and Forest Service neighbors in good times and bad over the years, and we have built a certain amount of rapport with both agencies, and that’s very important. Sometimes building a relationship is not easy to do because some of these agencies tend to have an exclusive view of things, where you don’t exist if you are not part of the organization. That can get pretty stiff sometimes. It really helps to know the people in the agencies. You are much less likely to get overlooked and much more likely to be heard, and it helps us understand where they are coming from as well.

We had a fire start on Paddock in 1994. There is nothing more frightening than seeing that plume of smoke take off. That fire was interesting because the BLM underburned in the area three or four years earlier, and when the fire finally hit the underburned area it dropped and cooled to the point of control. That was a lesson about the value of underburning right on our doorstep and I took note.

So, in 1995 the BLM approached us about possibly doing a cooperative underburn and we said, “Hurrah!” They wanted to work with us because of our adjacent property. They knew we had recently thinned the acreage and crushed the residue, so the ground was ready. We had also built a lot of fire trails with the CAT while we were doing the crushing, so any fire could be contained in a small area. We had just seen what the value of underburning was on Paddock.

—Continued on next page—

We bring experience with owners that care about their product and customers.

Approximately 10 million seedlings in annual production
1 container site (plugs), 2 bareroot/transplant sites (p+1, 1+1)
Contract growing and spec seedlings for forestry and Christmas tree production

LET US GROW YOUR SEEDLINGS

David Gerdes          Mike Gerdes
inquiries@silvaseed.com

FORESTERS • NURSERYMAN • SEEDSMAN

“Serving Many of the Reforestation Needs of the World From This Location Since 1889”
and we knew there was a fuels problem from all the material we previously laid down and crushed. We also knew the BLM had a lot of experience with underburning; we knew who we were dealing with and they knew us.

They did 80 acres of ours in 1995 and the other 200 acres in 1996. The BLM decided on a spring rather than a fall timing for the underburn because of the high fuel load on the overall acreage. Spring burns are usually cooler, less damaging and not so dangerous. Fall burns, however, tend to duplicate more natural burning conditions.

The results of the fire were good. We put out test plots on the acreage, and when we worked up the results and averaged in the effects to the woody material and duff layer, the burn reduced the fuel load by 50 percent. There were a few spots that didn't burn well enough and some that got too hot and burned too much. Fortunately those were only a few acres out of the whole burn. Finally, in 2010 the US Forest Service helped us burn about 100 acres on our hill behind the Froghill house.

Fire is a rough tool, and I recommend to anyone who owns and manages forestland, if they are thinking about using fire as a tool, to observe first hand an underburn in action. A person has to understand the fundamentals of fire behavior and appreciate how quickly it can change with a single alteration in the variables, like wind, temperature or slope. There are a great many uncertainties with fire, so you have to know what you are doing, be prepared to handle the worst case scenario, be satisfied with the overall result and not expect the same effect on every spot. Recognition of risk is essential. Given all the variables that are beyond your control, it is just too easy for something to go awry, even for the most conservative woodland manager.

In 1992 I hired a local logger to salvage log the dead and dying fir on the 1240 acres on Paddock that I hadn't already thinned. The agreement was for the logger to take the commercial fir that was stressed from years of drought and chip most of the small fir. Removal of the fir was fairly successful. We were able to clean out the dead and dying trees, select for ponderosa pine, and leave a light to moderate fuel condition. But the results were disappointing when it came to thinning the ponderosa pine. The logger elected to handle the small trees using a feller buncher rotary saw and then skidding the full length sawn trees, with the tops and limbs, to a landing to be later de-limbed and chipped. A lot of damage was done to the remaining trees.

We were on our way again. I would have matters better defined in the contract, pay more attention to marking for thinning, know what to expect from the use of new types of equipment, and design skid trails beforehand. The thin and chip approach is an excellent way to go, provided the return on chips will at least support the cost of the chipping activity. For future sales, I know that I have to stay on top of the job as it proceeds, and I am still searching for operators with a good feel for the land. I’m still learning and seeking better solutions.

In our timber management, Marilyn and I are looking for an uneven-aged condition with all classes of trees. We want those trees in the right numbers to promote health and growth, and we want to be sure the fuels are kept under control. Land integrity is more important to us than the economics. The quality of living here is VERY important, and what we can do to retain or assure that quality is at the top of our list. As land managers, we want to know what's out there so we don’t overlook something. We make it a habit to watch and see what and how the wildlife is doing. And if we can do small things to help a critter out or protect a rare plant, then we do that because it’s important to us.

We learned that we could get some help with our wildlife concerns from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife or by talking to the wildlife biologists on the BLM and Forest Service staffs.

We are in love with the land. If we're out marking trees for sale, we're working, but we're also having fun, because if we do it right, we're going to see the forest in a healthier condition, relieved of some of the stress, able to grow, and we may make a dollar too. We're totally involved with that land. If we had to leave it we would be in dire straits. When we go out there on the land to do whatever we're doing, much of the time it feels a little bit like putting on a very nice down coat on a very cold day—very easy, enveloping and comfortable, and there is contentment in it. ■

Sylvia Bruce and Marilyn Livingston are the daughters of Henry Gerber and have had a lifelong relationship with the ranch and forestland. Edward (Ned) Livingston was fortunate to have caught the eye, and hand in marriage, of Marilyn, and has been her rock—as well as her forest management partner—throughout their long and happy life. They can be reached at 541-545-6276 or at froghill@starband.net.
Family foresters can offer roots to grow and wings to fly. Across six decades, the John and Dorothea Long family has been growing roots for descendents to take wing to manage a diverse 80-acre forest on Fir Mountain in Hood River County, Oregon, between Mount Hood and Mount Adams.

Right after World War II, John E. and Dorothea Long, affectionately known as “Grampa John” and “Wongy,” acquired the cattle and hay ranch dubbed “Longhaven” where many of the extended family did a lot of growing up. Son John B. acquired adjoining forestland. Over the years, the father-son team, grandkids, nephews, cousins, in-laws, and friends invested dollars and talent to improve the land. They erected a dam to form a pond, built a small rustic log cabin, installed a water system, grew Christmas trees, and laid out forest trails and roads. In the late 1960s, the father and son gifted the land and forest to six siblings who paid for the improvements. The six developed what Oregon calls a joint venture in 1988: each family was considered a tenant in common. The joint venture contracted for two commercial thinnings and the earnings were returned to owner families.

During our 50th year of Longhaven at the cabin on Fir Mountain, we started discussing how to sustain this treasure for the extended family. We wanted to honor Long family members who cared for the land; maintain a healthy, diverse forest and wildlife habitat as a gathering place for family and friends; and limit the family’s financial and legal liabilities. We also wanted to establish two accounts: an interest-bearing bank account and a healthy, growing forest account to generate income to meet future annual costs.

We adopted a statement that a niece drafted: The purpose of Longhaven is to protect, preserve, and nurture 80 acres so the environment, in perpetuity, honors the legacy of John and Dorothea Long’s love of their family and the gathering of family and friends who respect the land.

With legal assistance from Stephen Cook at Bullivant Houser Bailey PC in Portland, the six member families considered several organizational options: LLC, partnership, corporation, and public benefit corporation. Over several years we assessed each option. We acknowledged the family will grow across generations and become more scattered. We expected the property to become increasingly valuable over time. We wanted to enable the extended family to align decisions with each other’s respect for the family and the land.

In 2005, we chose to establish a Domestic Nonprofit Corporation for Mutual Benefit. The roles of the directors changed from shareholders to trustees of a corporation to manage the forest sustainably. As one owner, now a trustee, said, “We did it and we’re still talking to each other!”

The board asked its appointed forest manager to propose a long-term forest plan and supported his forestry training through Oregon State University Extension Service. The board adopted forest management principles in 2002. We were approved for Oregon’s Small Tract Forestland tax program in 2008.

The family’s forest manager and Jim James, Executive Director of Oregon Small Woodlands Association, used the American Tree Farm System’s (ATFS) template to craft a plan according to the family’s principles.

—Continued on next page—
The plan addressed a four-part goal: wood, wildlife, water, and recreation. The Longhaven corporation board and AFTS approved the plan and Longhaven received AFTS certification in 2012. The board appointed a three-member forestry committee to help transition to the more comprehensive plan. The transition team included the family’s forest manager and a fourth-generation family member who became the family’s forest manager this year. The committee guided another logging in 2014. Proceeds were returned to the corporation.

So many things “in flight” contributed to implementing the succession of the forest to future generations, including:

• a mix of second, third, and fourth generation trustees on the board;
• skilled volunteer service of board members, including a president and secretary/treasurer who completed the required organizational paperwork;
• annual board meetings for decision making;
• fulfilling complementary roles of the forest and the cabin managers between annual meetings;
• scheduling annual celebrations of the forest and family, customarily near the Fourth of July;
• periodic personal connections with the magnetic forest and with families scattered across the country;
• building relationships with our neighbors, including Hood River County with whom we developed a mutual access agreement;
• a spirited volunteer who prepares an occasional newsletter;
• a “Let’s get ‘er done” attitude among talented volunteers who improved the cabin, outhouse, woodshed, and patio;
• donations of money and time, and a yearly silent auction to fund improvements;
• technical expertise of forestry consultants and loggers to inventory and manage periodic timber harvests;
• walkabouts with youth to rediscover places like Cinnamon Bear Spring;
• and individual activities, like assembling a collection of flower photographs, marking trails to Windy Point, Wongy’s Lookout, and Snake Head Creek, and crafting a quilt that depicts family history.

The 2015 board assumed a new sense of urgency to tackle future challenges: monitor and manage forest pests on Fir Mountain; further reduce fuel loads in this fire-prone terrain; improve access for firefighting; maintain forage for browsers and grazers; protect Snake Head Creek’s riparian area; extend hiking trails and add interpretative signs; plant a mini-arboretum; and forecast long-range financial plans to sustain this treasure within the corporation’s guidelines, or roots.

The concept of terrestrial corridors took on new meaning for me years ago as a new forest manager. I proposed we remove scrub oak and plant Douglas-fir to increase the land’s productivity. When I spoke with a Columbia Land Trust representative about the idea he noted that our oak woodland serves as a link in a wildlife corridor between Mount Hood and Mount Adams. What a lesson for this new forest manager!

As retiring forest manager, I see opportunities to build social corridors: opportunities for older and younger members of the extended family to connect while we cut Christmas boughs, chop down saplings within the cabin’s defensible space, peek at bark beetle galleries, burn (or char!) hazardous fuels, pour over computerized projections of timber growth, photograph flowers, probe cat scat with a stick, identify the chatter of the Douglas squirrel, listen for the ruffed grouse, pick edible mushrooms, tell tall tales about bears and rattlesnakes around the campfire...

Jim Long has a background in agriculture and education and is the former forest manager of Longhaven. OSU Extension forestry education helped him grasp concepts that were incorporated into the ATFS plan that now serves as a “pivot point” for future generations of board members and forest managers. For this article he had help from his wife Barbara and daughters Doranne and Rita. He can be reached at 541-673-3713 or jblong@dcwisp.net.
2015 Annual Meeting & Oregon Forest Fair
June 18-20, 2015 – Salem, Oregon

Sponsored by Marion-Polk County Chapter and Oregon Tree Farm System

Thursday, June 18th
Day at the Capitol and OSWA Board Meeting

Friday, June 19th
Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year woods tour, Annual Membership Meeting, Awards Banquet, and Silent Auction

Saturday, June 20th
Oregon Forest Fair at Chemeketa Community College – a free event open to the public

Meeting details will be available soon on the OSWA website www.oswa.org
Mark your calendars and plan to participate in this great three day event.
What Were We Getting Into?

By JOHN AND CATHY DUMMER

We started looking for timber property in the fall of 2007. The truth is that we didn’t really know what we were getting ourselves into. At the time, our motivation to purchase timber property was primarily financial, with a little dose of isn’t-it-fun-to-work-outside. We were looking for an investment that was stable and we were willing to accept very modest value growth. We were also, through our families, familiar with forestland ownership and management, and thought it sounded fun.

There were doubters in the beginning, and there probably still are a few. “You live in the city,” they said. “What do you want with a piece of forest property way out on the edge of civilization?” We had one friend tell us that we’d be “better off putting your money in a mattress than buying unbuildable land.” Others asked, “How old are the trees on the piece of property you are looking at, and how many years before you can harvest... and how old are you?” We asked ourselves these same questions, did our homework, and decided just how much we were willing to pay for what would someday become affectionately called “The Ridge”. At the oral auction, which was an experience in itself, our maximum price was just high enough to make us the winning bidders.

Clearcut and replanted around 2002, The Ridge is located north of North Plains in rural Washington County, Oregon. It is a quarter of a quarter section, minus a broad swath of county road right-of-way that nicely cuts it in two and gives us about 38 acres.

Challenges and experiences with becoming established

Not long after we bought the property we realized we needed a plan. Luckily, the OSU Extension Service just happened to be offering a course on writing management plans. We jumped at the chance and Amy Grotta, our Extension forester, gave us a pretty good immersion in forest practices and what writing management plans was all about. One of the things we learned was how little we really knew about managing a piece of forest property, but we also were introduced to a number of experienced timberland property owners who were successfully doing it.

We started with an inventory. In addition to being a good team building activity, the inventory led us to 200 evenly spaced plot locations across our property—many of those locations we had not been to previously. A creek runs through our property and there are some steep slopes on either side that are very difficult to traverse. We explored the remnants of an old railroad grade that traverses a corner of the property, and discovered one gigantic stump (14 feet in diameter). We found the lone cedar tree on the property, found all four property

PHOTO COURTESY: CATHY DUMMER

A BALANCED APPROACH

Forest stewardship for productivity and diversity

These forests have been independently certified as well managed.

FSC Trademark © 1996 Forest Stewardship Council A.C.

SCS-FM/COC-00062GN

W.R. WEATHERS, MBA
Certified Forester
Certified General Appraiser
Forest Appraisal & Management
Appraisals for: Estate Planning & Stepped Up Basis, Partial Interests Tax Reporting • Dispute Resolution Takings • Damages

541-937-3738
PO Box 39 • Lowell, OR 97452
wrweathers@qwestoffice.net

It just doesn’t look that tasty to me.
corners, and caught glimpses of Mount Hood, which are now fleeting as the trees on our property and the neighbor’s property grow. We also saw evidence of all sorts of animals, and of course got to know how many trees we have on our property and where the pockets of vine maple and Scotch broom are located.

Our biggest challenges have been diseases, invasive species and learning to plan and work together. When we first purchased the property a lot of it was overrun with Scotch broom. Through a concerted effort to release the trees and give them a competitive advantage, and keep the sun from reaching the Scotch broom, we’ve been pretty successful at getting rid of it. We are currently working to mitigate some severe root rot issues by planting red alder in the large pockets and favoring the volunteer red alder when thinning the smaller pockets. We know from our inventory that we have about 30 percent grand fir and 70 percent Douglas-fir, but the root rot doesn’t seem to discriminate. We’re also beginning to do some thinning and pruning so we can see what we have, as well as building trails to gain better access to the property.

Our management plan goals include meeting our neighbors to check on their plans for fire suppression and to check on property lines. A piece of forest health is wildlife, and we’ve dabbled a bit with a game camera, which has been fun. We’ve caught several deer and the hindquarter of a bobcat. Evidence of coyote, elk and beaver are prevalent, but no photos of those yet.

**Plans for the property**

One day we plan to harvest, but that’s probably at least 30 years out. This isn’t a sprint, it’s more of a marathon. It has been interesting to see how the small things we do impact the forest over time, even the relatively short period over which we’ve been the stewards of this particular piece of land.

What we didn’t anticipate when we purchased it was that The Ridge would become much more than a fun investment. It has led us to meet some great people and to realize what John’s dad (a longtime member of Oregon Small Woodlands Association) always said, “Small woodland owners are one of the best groups of people you’ll ever encounter top to bottom.” Our experience to date has offered a chance to dream a little, to take care of a piece of the planet and to work together.
TreeSmarts: Forest Research You Can Use

TreeSmarts: Forest Research You Can Use appears in every other issue of Northwest Woodlands. Column editor Ed Styskel reviews research being conducted from a host of sources, sorts through the items of interest to family forest owners, and provides a short summary of the pertinent results in understandable language. If you have a suggestion to share with Ed, please contact him directly at edstyskel@gmail.com.

This column usually reports on published research conducted by highly-trained professionals whose findings are reviewed for technical credibility by other subject-qualified peers. However, the practice of “citizen science”—where data is collected by individuals of the general public who collaborate with professionals—is becoming more common as budgets and personnel downsize. So, this TreeSmarts column will describe one such project where landowners could contribute and potentially be rewarded with fun and notoriety.

Since 1940, the nonprofit American Forests (AF) organization (www.americanforests.org) has kept a national registry of record-sized trees within the US. Candidates for a big-tree champion are compared for trunk circumference at breast height, tree height and average crown spread. Like birders or geocache searchers,

big-tree “hunters” include amateurs and professionals alike who acquire the skill to find and identify their quarry. Of 798 champion trees in the US, 46 are in Oregon, 29 in Washington, three in Idaho, and seven in Montana. Listed in Table 1 are some of the national champion big trees discovered in the West.

It’s surprising that more than 200 species are without national champions, but exciting that some of those species occur in the Pacific Northwest. Four are listed in Table 2. The growth form of the last three can be a shrub or small tree, and may be familiar from their wide use as ornamentals. AF defines a tree as a woody plant that has one erect perennial stem or trunk ≥9.5” in circumference (≥3.0” diameter) at 4.5’ above ground; a shrub is a small woody plant, usually with several perennial stems branching at the base.

The objective for big tree hunters is to find an individual tree/shrub that is noticeably bigger than average. To get started with species identification,
check the Internet for pictures and descriptive information, or contact a professional botanist, forester, wildlife biologist or extension agent. The AF website lists a coordinator in every state who can assist with identifying and measuring your candidate big tree.

Why might you be interested in this project? The whole family could participate as a form of recreation just like birding or geocaching. Champion trees or shrubs can be protected for their genetic value as hardy seed stock. The listed location of champion trees/shrubs can be vague to protect the site from trespass or vandalism. And the name of big-tree finders can be included in the registry, a vanity reward for those of us who can’t row an ocean or complete a similar record-breaking feat.

**Other Online References**


The Natural Fuels Photo Series is a source of high-quality fuels data and images for a wide variety of forest and range ecosystems in the US. Each entry includes a site description, species composition, fuel loading and arrangement, plus overstory composition and structure. This information can be useful in planning fuel treatments or other management actions.


A new study published online in the journal *EcoHealth* reports that free-roaming domestic cats, defined as those allowed free access to the outdoors, are likely infecting white-tailed deer in northeastern Ohio with a parasitic protozoan *Toxoplasma gondii* that subsequently causes the disease toxoplasmosis in humans. Cats that host this protozoan excrete oocysts into the environment in their feces which remain infectious for up to 18 months. (Oocysts are one stage of development.) The oocysts are ingested by foraging deer, and humans can be infected by eating undercooked venison. Human infections have been linked to schizophrenia, miscarriage, blindness, memory loss and death. (Note: The original *EcoHealth* article contains abundant jargon difficult for lay readers, hence this summary from TWS.)

---

**Table 2.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>DBH (in)</th>
<th>Height (ft)</th>
<th>Crown Spread (ft)</th>
<th>Distribution</th>
<th>Habitat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>California red fir</td>
<td>Abies magnifica</td>
<td>≤ 102</td>
<td>66-109</td>
<td>Narrow</td>
<td>Southwest OR</td>
<td>Western OR &amp; WA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western white pine</td>
<td>Pinus monticola</td>
<td>≤ 15</td>
<td>6-15</td>
<td>Tall</td>
<td>Western OR &amp; WA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red alder</td>
<td>Alnus rubra</td>
<td>5-20</td>
<td>6-10</td>
<td>Tall</td>
<td>Western OR &amp; WA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sitka spruce</td>
<td>Picea sitchensis</td>
<td>≤ 6</td>
<td>4-2</td>
<td>Tall</td>
<td>Western OR &amp; WA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* A distribution map for each species is online at http://plants.usda.gov (enlarge the map to view county lines). Or, Google a species scientific name and visit the resulting Wikipedia website for useful information and photos. **Leaves of *C. sitchensis* have undersides that are hairless or with short, straight, sharp, hairy hairs, in contrast to another subspecies (*C. s. glauca*), which is densely hairy and occurs only in western Oregon & Washington. ***Leaves of *S. chamaecyparissus* have needle-like tips, whereas other species have pointed tips.

**Norm Michaels Forestry LLC**

Forest management to meet your goals
- Management Plans
- Reforestation
- Timber inventory
- Timber cruising

Over 40 years managing forests in Oregon and Washington

541-822-3528
nmichaels2@yahoo.com

**Starker Forests**

Active Forest Management Shows Devotion to the Land

www.starkerforests.com
Tips From The Treeman

DEAR TREEMAN, I was reading your article about which are the most popular Christmas trees around the country. You say that the Scotch pine is the most common Christmas tree in the country? No way. —Noble fir man

DEAR MR. FIR, Yes way; at least according to the National Christmas Tree Association. The *Pinus sylvestris* is native to Europe and Asia and arrived in the eastern US via European settlers. The tree is highly adaptable to a variety of growing conditions, a primary reason for its propagation on marginal soils in many areas of the country. And like myriad displaced tree species, it does not perform as well as in its native habitat: a failed lesson many of us are condemned to repeat in our attempts to fool Mother Nature.

But the underlying motive for our response is the usage of the common name for the tree under consideration: Scotch pine. Scotch is a whiskey made in Scotland. A Scot is a person of Scottish origin. To call someone of Scottish descent a Scotch is speaking in the pejorative. We can properly interchange Scot, Scot's or Scotch pine for the *Pinus sylvestris*, but the demonym for people of Scotland is Scot or Scottish. Great Scot; enough Scots!

However, as in most cases, there are exceptions to the rule. In the 1960s John Kenneth Galbraith reported that pioneers from Scotland settling in regions of Canada were referred to as Scotch. But also keep in mind Galbraith was a Keynesian economist, thus an inaccurate and unreliable source of information. He appears to believe money grows on trees; even Scots pine. —Treeman

DEAR TREEMAN, I read a lot of stuff you write about firewood. Do you know what kind of wood squaw wood is? —Ben

DEAR BEN, It’s the best kind of wood to start a fire when the snow is knee deep to a tall Indian and it’s colder than a well-digger’s butt in the Klondike. The most common references to squaw wood involves wrist-size and smaller branches on the bottom trunk of a spruce or other conifer. It stays dry even in wet weather, is easy to snap off and gather by hand, and makes excellent tinder for starting a fire. We can reasonably certain that squaw wood denotes a conifer because the vast majority of angiosperms lose their leaves in the winter, thus exposing the entire tree to moisture and as a result, poor material to start a fire.

The PC police, largely academicians and bureaucrats, view squaw as an example of pejoration, but consider the source. Squaw can be used as a noun or adjective, whose present meaning is an indigenous woman of North America. It is derived from the eastern Algonquian languages (a subfamily of native American languages) meaning “woman,” that appears in numerous Algonquian languages as squa, skwa, esqua, sqeh, skew and others. Scholars trace the word to the Massachusetts Indians, noting the first recorded use of squaw in English dating from 1622 and having been adopted into common usage by 1634 to the present.

If we are to take offense at the term squaw, what about referencing the indigenous male of our country as a buck? Buck is associated with a far wider usage; a near ubiquitous term and slang for a dollar or male deer, the lowest rank of military personnel (buck private) and, yes, cutting a tree into merchantable lengths. A young buck commonly describes an adventurous, impetuous, dashing and daring, high-spirited young man. No negative connotations here.

Some legitimize usage of the colloquial term, squaw wood, as an example of pidgin English. Fundamentally, a pidgin is a simplified means of linguistic communication, spoken impromptu, or by convention, between individuals or groups of people. Historically, squaw is a simple, non-pejorative descriptive word, a classic example of the same pidgin speech that gave us powwow, tipi and moccasin as generic terms, universally applied to all Native American people.

Attempts to eliminate a word or phrase will not purge the past, and may allow the instigator to define a language, thus by extension, influence other’s thought processes. Acknowledgement of perceived insults directed towards a demographic group, often instigated by individuals exclusive of the targeted group, discredits those who feel no remorse at hearing or using such language. Prohibiting indigenous words discriminates against Native people and their languages. And those who feign offense may well be the most egregious party of such accusations!

Everyone can find legitimate examples of amelioration and pejoration in our English language. But to take political correctness to such a degree is not only wrong, but dangerous. The very fact knowing someone, somewhere is ready to pounce on anything even slightly contentious results in changed behavior of the perceived transgressor. Colloquialisms are part of everyone’s heritage and to deny the fact is to deny the nationalism that serves as a common bond.

Meanwhile, this publication will continue to rattle on like the clapper on a goose’s butt. And for those of you who would like to see more forestry and less pontification, well, Shakespeare said, “Such stuff as dreams are made on.” Sorry folks: you can’t make a silk purse out of a sow’s ear. —Treeman
Enjoying Diversity and Productivity in Northwest Montana
continued from page 19

sion, and with a few other restrictions included in the conservation easement, all but five acres will always remain in forest. The conservation easement continues in perpetuity, even if the property is sold at a later date. We thought this was the best we could do.

About four years after the conservation easement was signed, we heard about a “Ties to the Land” workshop. The brochure said it was a day-long workshop about intergenerational transfer of forest, farm or rangeland. We expected to hear about a program of discussions about the future. At the workshop, we found that we had not discussed everything we should have with our daughter and, since our immediate family is small, our two granddaughters should also be included in discussions. We told them why our ties to the land were so strong and that we would like the property to stay in the family. After some discussion they also decided the land should stay in the family. Our daughter is planning to spend more time with us to understand more about the management of the land and is planning to attend workshops to gain more knowledge. If you have not attended a Ties to the Land workshop my wife and I strongly recommend that you do. It will help in your successional planning.

Being forestland owners

There are many reasons that we enjoy being forestland owners. Here are our favorites:

- Helping the local economy by paying contractors and selling wood products.
- Knowing that your forest stewardship has created a healthier forest, protected water quality, maintained or improved wildlife habitat, and provided for recreational activities.
- Being able to go to the quiet of woods and enjoy the surroundings.
- Seeing the fruits of your labor after projects are completed.
- Being a member of landowner organizations and sharing management experiences.
- Enjoying working and recreating with family and friends on the land.

Tom Jones graduated from West Virginia University with a degree in forest management in 1961. He was employed by the US Forest Service in Montana, Idaho, and Oregon, spending most of his career in timber sale layout, contract preparation and sale administration. Tom was assigned to the Umpqua National Forest when he retired in 1993. He moved back to Montana in 1997 and has continued managing the forestland while doing some forestry consulting work. He can be reached at 406-334-3635 or tajones2622@gmail.com.
Rules to live by

So much good comes from the forest: clean water and air, abundant habitat, rich soil, beauty and the amazing material we call wood.

The Oregon Forest Practices Act requires that all of these benefits be sustained for future generations. Oregon Forest Resources Institute’s new special report, Rules to Live By, describes how Oregon is continuously at work figuring out the best ways to do that.

Order a copy and learn more at OregonForestLaws.org