

KITTITAS FOREST LANDOWNER NEWS

A periodic publication of the Kittitas Chapter, WFFA Via email and USPS

Membership

We have 50 members who have paid up for 2011 - *Thank-you* for your continuing support. Our Association operates entirely on financial support from membership. If you have not paid for 2011, please do.

Welcome new members - In 2010:

David Emery - South Cle Elum Ridge
David Gerth - Kittitas Conservation Trust
Ron & Rhonda Knapp - Cle Elum Ridge
Richard and Lynne McCue - Roslyn
Sharon Rose, Wes Childers- Entiat
David Sack - west side Lake Cle Elum

Chapter Annual Meeting

The chapter annual meeting on September 18, 2010 was hosted by Joe and Mariam Massoni on their tree farm near South Cle Elum. Thirty-six members attended to participate in the program: "*Sustainable Living on your Tree Farm*". The discussion was led by Dr. Mel Oyler, from the faculty of Environmental Technology and Sustainable Practices at Cascadia Community College and Thembi Borrás a chapter member active in local alternative energy programs.

The afternoon was highlighted with a walk in the woods on the Massoni tree farm. Phil Hess and Patty O'Hearn were re-elected president and secy-treas respectively.

Member News

A big event this year for the **Hundley Family** was the grant of a conservation easement on their 431 acre property bisected by 1.3 miles of the Yakima River. The conservation easement extinguishes the development rights assuring that the fish and wildlife habitat attributes are maintained in perpetuity while the family retains working forest management. WFFA member **David Gerth**, KCT, was instrumental in completing the transaction after 5 years of discussions and negotiations.

There will be a formal dedication on May 20, 2011.

The **Wanechek and Clark Families** have installed their own personal home wind turbines.

Joe Massoni is going to Washington D.C. ! He will be representing our Chapter and participating in the American Forest Foundation "*Tree Farm Fly-in*". Joe, together with other tree farmers from across the country, will be meeting with members of Congress to advocate forest policy that gives family forest owners incentives to keep their land in forestry. Way to go Joe -- We are very proud of you !

We have several chapter Members who have or are participating in the NRCS EQIP and DNR cost share programs that promote practices for forest health, fire wise, and habitat enhancement. The EQIP program is now accepting applications - contact NRCS forester **Erin Kreutz** (509-925-8585 ext 107) for how to participate. Contact **Phil Hess** for information on the DNR cost share program.

Thembi Borrás is active in the *Washington Native Plant Society*. The local Native Plant group has several plant identification field trips scheduled in our local area in 2011. Contact thembi@mcn.org for more information.

Andy Perleberg recommends we all become acquainted with the WSU Extension Forestry Website <http://ext.wsu.edu/forestry/>. It contains many resources, including subscription to online Forest Stewardship Notes, downloadable publications, streaming videos, educational event schedule, and several directories. Don't miss signing up **Forest Stewardship Notes** - a real wealth of information 4 times a year.

Paul and Lynnea Thibodaux have recently had their family forest certified under the *American Tree Farm System*. Tree Farm certification recognizes that they have achieved high standards of sustainability and have a current-active management plan. For more how to information go to watreefarm.org.

Future meetings are pending - **Paul and Lynnea** have offered to host our traditional fall potluck BBQ on their place near Lauderdale.
Comments? Send to Phil at hessphil@msn.com or 509-952-0678