



LEWIS COUNTY FARM FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

Affiliated Chapter of Washington Farm Forestry Association

JULY 2010 PICNIC & TWILIGHT TOUR

What: Annual LCFFA picnic and tour of the Skyo Timber Farm

Where: 197 Baker Road, Packwood

When: Tuesday, July 20, 2010
Tour starts at 5:30 p.m. (**please note the early start time!**)
Potluck starts at 6:30 p.m.

Details on the potluck: LCFFA will provide burgers and fixings, beverages (pop and water), and tableware. ***Please bring a vegetable, salad, or dessert to share.***

Details on the property

In the 1940's, Martha Hardy spent 2 summers at the Tatoosh lookout, protecting a large portion of the Gifford Pinchot National Park and Mt. Rainier National Park from wild fires. She documented her experiences in a book titled "*Tatoosh*". She also fell in love with the forest that she looked down on, and purchased a parcel of 120 acres along the upper Cowlitz River. Her book "*Skyo*" documents her musings of life on what is now the Skyo Timber Farm. Upon her death in 1982, the property was inherited by her good friends, Harry and Sally Prior. They, in turn, granted the Skyo Irrevocable Trust, which is the entity that owns the timber farm. The Trust is currently managed by the Priors' children (1st Generation). Future management will be in the hands of 2nd (30 to 45 years old) and 3rd (1 month to 10 years) generations. Skyo now contains mostly second growth Douglas-fir, with typical secondary species. Currently marketable trees were nurtured by Martha Hardy in the 1940's when she first purchased the property. The Priors are committed to keeping the property whole as envisioned by Martha and the Trust Grantors and keeping the legacy she describes in the book "*Skyo*".

Along with keeping the property whole, Skyo's goals are to produce income for property management, provide wildlife habitat, and maintain recreational opportunities for family members and friends well into the future. They currently are 25 years into a 50-year management plan that calls for selection harvesting. This regime relies on natural regeneration and produces an uneven aged forest. A remote 5-acre tract on a steep hillside was clear cut in 2001 and replanted with Douglas-fir and White Pine. Current forestry issues relate to managing root rot and Scotchbroom infestation.

Driving Directions to Skyo Timber Farm:

Take Highway 12 east from I-5 Exit 68. Go apx. 60 miles to milepost 127 between Randle and Packwood. Allow apx. 1 hour from I-5. Turn northwest on Baker Road, just past milepost 127, (which is 1.1 miles past the Rest Area). Travel a short distance to 197 Baker Road. Parking will be available inside the green gate.

Carpooling is encouraged! Bring a potential member!

Make your own arrangements with a friend or neighbor who is a member, or better yet, offer to bring someone who owns forest land but isn't a member. There is no better time to encourage people to join (see next section) and the annual potluck is a great chance for potential members to meet other members and learn about the organization. **Potential carpoolers coming from I-5 should meet at Exit 68 no later than 4:20.** Meet at the **far east end of the area of the former Shell station** and east of what seems to be a U-Haul parking area (**not** in the Spiffy's parking lot, but in the area further east).

Membership Drive

The WFFA board authorized a special “new member” rate of \$45, which covers the rest of 2010 and ALL of 2011. This is available to new members of in all acreage categories, so it is a good deal for those who would normally pay \$65 and a really great deal for those who would be in one of the higher acreage categories. In addition, new members will receive a gift of a “Stewards of the Land” book, a Forest Practices Illustrated book, and a WFFA sign when they attend their first meeting!

At this price, it should be easy to convince people to join. Or, you may want to just pay the membership for a friend who you think should belong, or your children if they aren’t already members. Just use the regular membership brochure or form, write “**\$45 new member rate**” by the payment section, and then sign your name. If you are passing it to the new member, they will see what a good deal they are getting, and we will know who recruited them! For more information, call Patty Vance, LCFFA membership chair, 497-3132 or Donna Loucks, WFFA membership chair 736-2147.

Upcoming Meetings

Wed. July 14: SSFFA Tour, Wild Thyme Tree Farm, Oakville

Wed. Aug 11: SSFFA Tour, Chuck Higgins Tree Farm, Michigan Hill

Tues. Aug. 17: LCFFA Twilight Tour, Bahr Tree Farm, Wally & Catherine Samuelson

Wed. Sept. 8: SSFFA Tour, Commencement Bay Mill Co., Tacoma

Tues. Sept. 21: LCFFA Tour PLS Log Yard, Longview

For further details on South South FFA tours, contact Ken Miller, kenbonniemiller@gmail.com or 360-705-1888 or visit the WFFA web site at www.wafarmforestry.com