



The Tree Green News



Pierce County Chapter,
Washington Farm Forestry Association Newsletter
Volume 22, Number 1

January 2009

PCFFA General Membership Meeting

January 14, at 7 PM

Puyallup Library, Puyallup

Topic: What Is Your Plan?

Presidents Message:

Happy New Year, tree farmers. I hope you have had a joyful holiday season. The weather will certainly make this holiday one to remember!

I understand that due to budget problems, Allmendinger Hall will no longer be available to us free. Our search for an alternate location led us to the Puyallup Library, but the library is not available on the first Wednesdays of the month. The Library is available on the second Wednesday, however.

Consequently, our meeting dates to start out the new year are now scheduled for January 14, February 11, and March 11 at the Puyallup Library in downtown Puyallup. **Please note the changes.** We do not want anyone showing up at Allmendinger Hall! The board will be considering making the meetings the second Wednesday at the library a permanent change. Let us know your thoughts on this.

The January meeting will be a round robin type of discussion titled, "What's Your Plan?" This will be an opportunity for you to discuss your plans for 2009. The group will respond with ideas for you to consider or pitfalls to watch out for. If you do not have a plan, come with your questions or to learn about your fellow tree farmers' plans. Maybe you will walk out with a plan!

The February meeting will be a presentation from John Trobaugh, nursery manager at the Webster Nursery in Olympia. He will speak to us about seedling options.

The March meeting will be a presentation from Maria Erdmann, a Weyerhaeuser Forester at the Vail Operations. She will tell us about the current thinking at Weyerhaeuser about forest regeneration efforts. She will be joined by Tom Terry, a volunteer research forester with the Olympia Forestry Sciences Laboratory. Tom recently retired from Weyerhaeuser Company after

more than 38 years and had a very nice write-up in the October 2008 edition of *Science Findings*. See <http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/publications/scifi.shtml>

See you there!

Dave Townsend
President,
Pierce County Chapter, Washington Farm Forestry Association

Woodlot Ramblings - By Bob Arnold:

Part of our tree farm is in Open Space Agriculture. When we bought it in Jan 1971, it had been high graded for the most part. There were a couple of patches of stagnated 50 year old Douglas-fir that the logger said he was coming back for but never did in the allowed time frame. The fences were off the property lines, in some cases more than 70' over on us and a few places over on the neighbor's. Plus the fences were erected in 1922 and the loggers had dropped many trees on them. This took a lot of chainsaw work to cut off the slash, find and pull up the barbed wire, replace broken and missing posts, stretch and nail the wire back on. So with 2 3/4 miles of old fence repaired and a lot of logged off land, I put 10 head of bred cows on it. There was one creek with year round water and one seasonal creek. I built a corral with some of the over-topped fir from the stagnated stands as well as a feed bunk on skids for 20 head (anticipating 10 calves).

One of my cow/calf-raising relatives said he always had the cows calve in January and February so he could market a good-sized feeder calf in October. In a nice farm with close in fenced feedlots that is fine. But in a logged off 110 acres with just perimeter fences in winter and the coyotes forming packs for breeding in February, it was not the best of ideas. I lost 7 of 10 calves to the coyotes that year.

I hauled hay out to the tree farm after teaching school so it was always after dark then. One night I counted up to 22 pairs of yellow green-eyes looking at me.

I could get through the mud holes to the feeder if I went fast enough in my 2x4 Chev 1/2 ton. I carried a 30-30 Winchester in the truck. One time I got stuck and with the lights of the truck I hauled enough brush under the tires to get out and get a better run through the muddy road. Only after I fired a few shots from the 30-30. The next day I skidded the feeder up the hill to dryer ground.

Soon I met with Herb Gaines (may he rest in peace) of the Soil Conservation Service who helped to set a farm plan and suggested I put the place in Open Space Agriculture. I asked him about the 30 acres of trees and he sent me in to talk with a county forester. They put it in Designated Forest Land and said to show the boundaries. I drew a line thinking they would come out and look at it. Not so. They took my sketched line as gospel and that was that. I mapped the roads and trails with my Ranger compass and pacing.

I got to know the place a lot better in 1992 after taking the first Forest Stewardship class. After that class I realized some of the Ag land should be in forest and vice versus. The Ag land is labeled low Class 2 and Class 3. But on the ground, inspection reveals glacial erratics in places so close you can step from one to the other. This is hard to plow and should be classified as Class 5 to 7 forestland.

The cows became “Brazers” (browse and graze) with the butchered steer meat about 7% fat, very much like deer or elk. I sold it as “Natural Beef,” not organic.

The old cows would straddle young alder, ride them down and eat the leaves (29% protein). Other plants consumed were sword fern, trailing wild blackberries, big leaf maple, bark off of downed cottonwood and a great buffet of brush. They never touched the evergreen seedlings and saplings unless they were starved down to it, which I learned not to let happen. The fence lines were cleaned out of brush. The grazed improved roads and skid trails acted as fire trails with the short growth vegetation. Agroforestry?

Thirty-eight years later there are some nice Doug fir, cedar and nicely thinned hardwoods on this land. It just goes to show that God helps idiots.

Bob Arnold

Editorial – My Plan for 2009

The January 14th meeting is on “What is your Plan?”. Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the meeting. But here is an outline of my plan for 2009.

Get timber sale contract updated and signed.

Update timber growth estimate for Federal income tax and compute harvest volumes for tax purposes.

Spend time with the next generation son Dave and nephew Tim, and discuss the management of the forest.

Decide if we want to offer the right of first refusal to the Nature Conservancy.

Decide if we want to sell a conservation easement on the Boquet Mountain Lot to the Eddy Foundation.

Enter digital Soil Map data into PIP plot data.

Use LMS (Landscape Management Systems) to update Morse Lot timber cruise

Do a Timber Cruise on the Gilligan Lot

Record tree removals on Gilligan Lot PIP's (permanent inventory plots)

Paint interior lines between Lot 52 and the Carver Lot.

Spend time visiting with friends and neighbors, especially our forestry consultant, logger, sand pit operator, and superintendent. Usually, a meal is involved.

Work Safely: Dress for Success

In certain types of jobs, the right suit, tie, or shoes can affect your ability to perform your job effectively. In fact the right clothes are even more important for us, because they can mean the difference between staying safe or sustaining a disabling or even fatal injury. When you're picking out your clothes for the day, don't just throw on whatever's close at hand. Keep these guidelines in mind.

1. Make sure your footwear fits. Shoes or boots that are too big or too small can cause slips, trips, and falls.
2. Ditch anything loose or dangling such as jewelry, scarves, drawstring ties, or wide sleeves that could become caught in moving parts, equipment, or brush. In addition, loose-fitting shirts and pants should be kept tucked in.
3. If you are using power tools or equipment, avoid wearing anything conductive, such as bracelets, rings, watches, or clothing with metallic thread or fabric.
4. Avoid clothes that are tattered, as dangling flaps of fabric could easily become caught in machinery or brush.
5. If you have long hair, tie it back and secure it so that it can't become tangled in equipment or brush.
6. Last, *but not least*. Wear all mandated safety gear for the task at hand. And remember to take off your rings.

Forest Terminology:

Lightwood. Conifer wood, especially pine and Douglas-fir, which is abnormally inflammable because of its high resin content. Syn. Fatwood.

Calendar of Events:

- January 14, "What's Your Plan?" A discussion of tree farmers for 2009 plans. 7 PM, Puyallup Library, Puyallup
- February 11, "Seedling options" John Trobaugh, DNR Webster Nursery, 7 PM, Puyallup Library, Puyallup
- February 19-21, Oregon Logging Conference, Eugene, OR. For information call 541-686-9191 or check website www.oregonloggingconference.com
- March 11, "Forest regeneration, state of the art" Maria Erdmann, Weyco. 7 PM, Puyallup Library, Puyallup

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