



The Tree Green News



Pierce County Chapter,
Washington Farm Forestry Association Newsletter
Volume 22, Number 2

March 2009

PCFFA General Membership Meetings

April 1

**Dana Coggon of the Kitsap County Noxious Weed Board
Puyallup Library South Meeting Room, Puyallup, 7 PM**

May 6

**“Liability, Including Trespassing”, by attorney and WFFA member, Bill Stewart
Puyallup Library South Meeting Room, Puyallup, 7 PM**

June 20

**Twilight Tour, Bob and Mariella Arnold
Rapjohn Tree Farm, June 20, 10 AM.**

Presidents Message:

We have now secured the Puyallup Library South Meeting Room for the *first Wednesdays of most months*, so we are returning to our traditional schedule. WSU Extension appologies for the inconveniences. Please note the meeting dates on your calendars!

Our speaker for the April 1st meeting will be Dana Coggon, the Kitsap County Noxious Weed Coordinator. Noxious weeds are those non-native invasive plants such as Knotweed, Tansy Ragwort, English Ivy and Scotch Broom that we routinely deal with on our timberlands. Dana will describe effective treatments to control them and prevent their spread as well as bring us up-to-date on the newest species that are soon to become a problem. So bring along your invasive plant questions and join us for an interesting presentation.

Ms. Coggon is the coordinator of the Kitsap County Noxious Weed Control Program. Previously, she served as the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board education specialist for three years. She received a Master of Science degree in weed science from Colorado State University. Dana's philosophy for weed control is to look at weed problems as part of the system and create an integrated management plan to heal the system. Dana believes that you must look beyond the weeds and begin to control the underlying problems of weed

infestations, her motto is "begin with the end in mind". Dana's approach to weed control is one that engages the landowner to become a citizen scientist and work to create a site specific management plan that uses science, commonsense, persistence and patience to get the best results.

The May 6th meeting will be about a very serious topic: woodland liability. A recent local news story concerned the death of a young child, who died while riding in a small 4-wheel drive truck that was off-roading on private property without the landowner's knowledge or permission. Have you ever been concerned with the legal liability that you, as a landowner, have with respect to trespassers on your property? What actions can you take as a landowner, to mitigate this liability?

We will have two speakers on the subject of "Liability, Including Trespassing." The first speaker is well-known attorney, and WFFA member, Bill Stewart. Additionally, we will have a representative from the Pierce Co. Sheriff's Office. They will discuss the practical steps that a landowner can take to reduce trespassing issues, including vandalism, timber theft, and illegal dumping, as well as actions to assist law enforcement with prosecution of violators.

It should be a very interesting and useful meeting.

The June Twilight tree farm tour will be at Bob and Mariella Arnold's Rapjohn Tree Farm on June 20. Bob and Mariella were our Tree Farmers of the Year for 2008. The tree farm is located at 6021 East 384th St, Eatonville, WA.

9 AM----- Arrive, registration, coffee/tea and other nutrition
9:30 AM to 12 AM -Tree farm walking tour, demonstrations and show and tell
12 AM to ?-----Lunch and questions inside at tables in the barn.

The Arnold's will provide the entree, plates etc and others may provide potluck as they see fit.

Please RSVP so to Bob at 253-845-2242 or Raarnold@aol.com so he can estimate the needs for the gathering.

Tree Farmer of the Year nominations are now due for 2009. Please send or call in your nomination. There are no formal criteria for nominating a tree farmer for recognition at the Chapter or State level. In fact Washington Tree Farm Program encourages all Chapters to put forward tree farms that they think demonstrates sustainable and well planned forestry. If that landowner wants to go on beyond the State level for competition they need to understand that under the Tree Farm Program they need at least 10 acres under a management plan and they need to be certified by a certified inspector.

Please read Frank Shirley's account below of how he (and others) were able to defeat some egregious regulations Pierce County was considering. Government is by those who show up! Well done, Frank!

Treefully,

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

Woodlot Ramblings - By Bob Arnold:

After having one piece written for Woodlot Ramblings another keeps coming to the fore. BIOMASS!

I went to the Oregon Logging Conference in February. There were many portable sawmills, mostly band saws and one circular saw. There were many firewood processors, from 5 cords per hour to a horizontal/vertical wood splitter like the one I have had for almost 20 years. There were also slash wood bailers that rolled slash up like huge cigars in a continuous slash log and cut it off into 20 foot lengths to be trucked like logs. Another one that rolled slash up like a round bale of hay.

But the point was the second edition of the magazine "Canadian Biomass" tucked inside the other magazine "Wood Products" featuring the American small log sawmill, Vaagen Brothers in Colville.

Back to the Biomass Magazine.

One recent study shows that the amount of wood energy removed is 30-40 times that amount of energy needed to extract it. Huh? Yes, that is what it says. Another study said that it takes only 3% of the energy value of the chips to collect, process and haul roadside biomass. It is not free and delivered costs of \$50-\$60 per ton will be typical.

One mill in Nova Scotia generates 100% of its own power and is considering a shavings baling line, a pallet line, and even aquaculture with the waste heat. They also use the heat for their kiln.

When we go for our annual old peoples' ski time in Kelona, BC, we drive by ACRES and ACRES of green houses where a lot of produce is raised for the local markets. That means eating locally (the \$\$ stay here) and reducing transportation costs that are typically 50% of the cost of food. Greenhouse growers have said that heating costs have gone from 15% of costs to 40% and wood is looking very good right now.

In Quebec there is a big player. This is the Ontario Power Generation. They plan to replace coal for the most part with woody biomass. The stated goal is 2.5 terawattshours of

electricity per year. If their math is right, they say that 600,000 tons of pellets will generate 1 terawatthour. (Seattle uses about 14 terawatthours of electricity per year.)

The current issue of Biomass also addresses the machines to harvest and process the biomass. Everything from tub grinders to you name it.

Sweden gets over 10% of its power from wood and has a large assortment of processors from stand alone to 3-point chippers for farm tractors. They also have bins for small farmers who set these bins full of chips alongside the road to be picked up like a garbage truck does here. Very much like the old milk routes that I remember as a kid. (It was my job to pick up the empty cans for use at the next milking.)

So as I look at the burn piles at our place, all the PCT (pre-commercial thinning) left behind and the empty farm land mowed like lawns that could be raising Hy-bred Cottonwood and the 16.7 million tons that WSU says we have here annually as wood waste, what are we waiting for?

Every rural town could have a small sawmill, a 10 to 50 megawatt plant with a green house, aquaculture, pellet mill going and people would no longer have to commute 150 miles a day to Seattle. Throw in a cellulose ethanol plant and we are the new wealth owners and not those people on Wall Street who have concocted the current fiasco.

There.

Bob Arnold

Editorial – Getting Involved with Local Government –or- Holy crap, Batman! Have you seen this???

Staff employees working for Pierce County proposed code revisions for Title 18H, Development Regulations - Forest Practices and Tree Conservation. After several people objected to the revisions, the Pierce County Community Development Committee¹ removed them on March 16th. I was particularly concerned with a section that specified how a forester should do his/her forest inventory. As one consultant commented, “what was proposed was unworkable.” Work still needs to be done to improve the present code, but it was a relief to see the proposed revisions dropped. President Dave suggested I write up how this all happened.

¹ The Community Development Committee is composed of 5 out of 7 of the Pierce County Council Members.

About four years ago I learned that Pierce County was working on a Key Peninsula Community Plan that involved people from the Key Peninsula (KP). I attended a few meetings and found out that the KP Community Council (KPCC) had four representatives on the planning committee. I thought if I could get elected to the KPCC, I would get on the planning committee. I was elected to the KPCC but was not allowed to be on the planning committee. However, I attended planning meetings whenever I could. Occasionally, I made comments at the meetings and sent a few emails with respect to forestry related issues. Finally, the Pierce County Council approved the KP Community Plan. The lead county planner for this effort was Mike Kruger. By the time the plan was complete he knew who I was.

As part of the community plan, the Key Peninsula Advisory Commission (KPAC) was formed. The KPAC reviews proposed development applications within the KP Community Plan boundaries for all land use actions that require a public hearing and some administrative design standard applications. I put my name in to be on the KPAC and was appointed by the Pierce County Council to a two-year term. By this time Mike Kruger was working for my councilman, Terry Lee. This may have had something to do with my appointment.

In late November 2008, members of the KPAC were given a 1-inch packet of the proposed revisions to the Pierce County Code. I reviewed the parts of the code on natural resources and found that the revisions were poor and even the present code was too detailed. In one example, the suggested revision gives very specific and complicated instructions on how a forester should do his/her inventory work. Specifically, the minimum sized sample plot will be 100 feet by 100 feet in size.

Early in December, a meeting to review the proposed revisions was held in Gig Harbor jointly with the KPAC and the Peninsula Advisory Commission (Gig Harbor). Most of the time was spent listening to public comment on another specific code revision. The KPAC did not get answers to their questions and voted 'no' on all revisions because we really did not know how to evaluate the revisions. I did comment on the inventory design, but was told that a landscape architect suggested the code language. (Ordinarily, landscape architects do not take a course in forest measurements.)

In December, I wrote several emails suggesting improvements to the revised code to the staff members who were working on the code. I received no response.

KPAC members receive emails of county meetings and agendas. From these I realized that code revisions were proceeding. I requested a copy of Title 18H with the proposed code revisions from the county staff. When this finally came, I found that my suggestions had been ignored.

At the March 2 meeting of the Pierce County Community Development Committee, I spoke specifically to the problem of telling foresters how to do their job. Another speaker from the

development group suggested that all code revisions to 18H be removed. I sent a copy of my remarks to county staff, who forwarded them on to the County Council.

I felt defeated and went on my scheduled vacation to Sunriver. After mulling things over, I began an email campaign Sunday, March 15th, and Monday morning the 16th.

As I walked into the March 16 1:30 p.m. meeting of the Community Development Committee, Mike Kruger led me out into the hall and said all the code revisions to Title 18H were to be removed by amendment No. 10. I spoke briefly in favor of amendment 10 and added that they need input from a forester with respect to forestry issues. The amendment passed. I no longer needed support from the email campaign and sent a thank you email to all the recipients of my emails.

I don't know how much I had to do with the outcome or whether it was due to a few court cases the county staff had just found out about. But the issue is dead temporarily. I hope to have some input into the next revision of the code, especially the part concerning forestry.

Respectfully,
Frank Shirley

Work Safely: Beware of dead snags and small trees.

Dead snags and small trees can be deadly and should be treated with respect. Err on the side of caution when judging whether trees and limbs – even dead one - are under tension: cut the limb first. Clear an escape route completely before felling any tree, so there is a clear, diagonally rearward path to get away.

Forest Terminology:

Critical age. For a given species in a stand, the approximate age at which decay begins to increase at an accelerated rate and is likely to assume economic importance.

Decline age. The approximate age beyond which, irrespective of rate of increment or of apparent vigor, a species becomes subject to extensive decay. The *age of decline* acts as a limiting factor for the rotation.

Calendar of Events:

- April 1, Dana Coggon of the Kitsap County Noxious Weed Board, 7 PM, Puyallup Library, South Meeting Room, Puyallup
- May 6, “Liability, Including Trespassing” Bill Stewart, attorney and WFFA member plus County Sheriff, 7 PM, Puyallup Library, South Meeting Room, Puyallup
- May 6-8, Washington Sate SAF annual meeting, Ellensburg, WA
www.forestry.org/wa/annual/index.php
- May 29-30, WFFA Annual Meeting, Ellensburg.
- June 20 Twilight tour. Rapjohn Tree Farm, Eatonville, 10 AM to 3 PM.
- July 31-Aug 1 Western WA Field Days, Birdsvie area, just west of Concrete, WA

Chapter Officers:

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Publication:

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