



The Tree Green News



Pierce County Chapter,
Washington Farm Forestry Association Newsletter
Volume 22, Number 3
September 2009

Presidents Message:

Greetings, fellow tree farmers,

I hope you have all been able to hang on during these trying economic times. The price of logs is very poor, but I have good news! Even while the economy is slowing, your trees have likely continued to grow at their historic rates! Our family has also recently taken advantage of lower labor rates to complete a pre-commercial thinning, paid for partially with NRCS funds. This will increase our trees' growth rate, so when the price of wood returns to normal levels, we will have even more wood to sell.

In the meantime, there are some good programs coming up I hope you all will take advantage of:

October 7, General Membership Meeting

Small Scale Forestry, by our own Paul Hansen, Puyallup Library, 7 PM.

Traditionally, non-industrial forestry has taken place on large multi-hundred acre tracts of land. With encroaching development and the resultant rise in real estate values, such large tracts are becoming ever more rare. The average forested tract in Pierce County is now just over 19 acres. What implications does that have?

At the Chapter meeting on October 7th, we will be examining the differences between traditional large tract and smaller tract forestry operations. Using Paul and Judy Hansen's 24-acre parcel in the McKenna Forest Reserve as a case study, we will examine the opportunities and pitfalls of small-scale forestry. Come and support our own Paul and Judy Hansen.

October 31, 2009.

Understanding and Managing Tree Growth. Chehalis.

This will be a great training class for those interested in the science of growing trees. It is put on by the Washington Tree Farm Program. Call Donna Loucks at 360-736-2147 or see <http://www.watreefarm.org/ForestrySeminar.pdf> for more information.

November 14, Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting and Banquet. Tacoma Yacht Club, Saturday, noon.

Like last year, we will have our annual meeting as a luncheon at the Tacoma Yacht Club. Reservations will be required. We will begin with our annual business meeting of electing officers for 2010 and approving a budget. Our guest speakers will be Dick Hopkins and Sean Morgan from Green River Community College. Dick is the College Natural Resources instructor and will give us an overview of their very successful Natural Resources program. Sean was the student recipient of our 2008 Scholarship gift to Green River Community College. Sean will share his passion for the outdoors in his presentation titled, "The Forest: Friend or Foe?" The grand finale will be the announcement of our chapter's Tree Farmer of the Year. This is the must attend event of the year.

January 6, 2010. General Membership Meeting.

What's Your Plan?, Puyallup Library 7 PM

The round-robin style discussion of what our members are planning for the upcoming year was very popular last year. This is your opportunity to develop some plans, or have some peer review of your plans. We will all have a chance to discuss what we are all doing, (or not doing) and learn something in the process.

February 3, 2010. General Membership Meeting.

Topic to be Determined, Puyallup Library 7 PM.

Let Dave know your ideas for this meeting.

March 3, 2010. General Membership Meeting.

Topic to be Determined, Puyallup Library 7 PM

Let Dave know your ideas for this meeting.

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Staying active is a requirement of life, both personally and organizationally. Continue to work on your tree farm and bring a friend to the next meeting, and both you and WFFA will live to see your trees grow tall.

Treefully,
Dave Townsend,
President,
Pierce County Chapter, WFFA

Woodlot Ramblings - By Bob Arnold:

Biomass as another Small Woodland Owner product is intriguing. My own biomass product is firewood, primarily from D-trees, dead, dying, deformed, diseased etc.

We have quite a number of Alder dying or dead. The indicator is the bark flaking off and the last few branches dying. Much of the tree may be dead wood but with a few live branches holding out. The trees range from 6" to 16" dbh. Those that died last year have most of the root wad rotted off and can be pushed over with my newest dozer. (a 1988 Case 450 with a brush rake, winch and arch.) In the past I have backed up to the tree with my older dozer (1970 International 500C), crawled up on top of the cab, put a cat choker and 100' of cable on the tree as high as I could reach, hooked the other end onto the drawbar and pulled them over.

Today if I can't get them with the dozer I use my old excavator. The problems with Alder are its short fibers and the tops can break off with just a little too much of a bump and it comes down on top of you and the equipment. Also when they hit the ground, the trunk can break into several pieces making skidding to the landing more of a chore.

This year an area with a lot of blackberries and brush species was the object of "cleaning up" by using the new brush blade to pile this stuff into burn piles so most of the trees were standing as solitary objects. One Alder was right next to a good-sized Western Red Cedar with branches to the ground and obscuring the lower 15'. So I eased the bucket of the excavator bucket (it really looks like a dinosaur with the bucket and the thumb) through the Cedar as high as I could reach and started pushing and sliding down the trunk. When suddenly, as Alder are wont to do, it broke and a piece of bark came flying back and hit me in the left cheek making a couple of holes. Now ordinarily I have the face screen pulled down on my hardhat but for some reason there is a sense of security when you are sitting in the comfort of a cab and I didn't. A bit higher and I would possibly be looking like a pirate with a patch. As a former principal used to say, "The Lord takes care of idiots and children." I am no longer a child so I must be in the former group.

Dead Alder may be decayed on the outside but still good on the inside. They also seem to rot off quicker near the butt and are a bit tricky. There may be only 2-3" of solid wood left holding the tree up.

On two separate occasions they have come down not 5 minutes later in the same road where I just had a class of students. The fall may have been augmented by a boy student checking to see if it would come down. Girls didn't seem to have that trait. So I take down the dead alder along roads and anywhere else they may pose a danger.

These trees make a good, quick hot fire, along with cottonwood, on these hot days and chilly fall nights. One such fire is keeping the chill out of our old house tonight as I write.

Bob Arnold

Editorial – Getting Involved with Local Government, I won! Also the next generation of forest owners.

My last editorial mentioned the problems with the Pierce County Code Revision. I thought my problem with the forest inventory design was over, but it managed to raise its ugly head again. However, another person was working on the code revision and was happy to look at my recommendations. After some e-mails back and forth, she came up with an acceptable compromise on forest sampling design. I really appreciated her willingness to listen to me and make changes to the code. Since I spent three weeks in New York, I am not sure where the code revision process is now. Hopefully my changes are still in the code.

While back in New York, I spent time with my nephew and niece and their children. I took Ann, Wesley, and Jamie (ages 3-9) along with their parents to check on the logging damage to our permanent inventory plots. I followed the skid trail to where I had found one of the plots earlier in the week. Somehow I missed the right trail and ended up bewildered. GPS to the rescue! I had previously put the plot centers into the GPS unit. So I headed off toward the plot with the comment, “we have to do some bushwhacking.” “Bushwhacking” became the word of the day for Ann, Wesley, and Jamie. They were happy to report to grandfather that they were “bushwhacking” with great uncle Frank. I hope they will be willing to go bushwhacking in the future.

Work Safely: Drunk or Drowsy.... Both Bad; Also the Aging Workforce

Remember: Being tired on the job is like being drunk on the job, which, of course, could make you a significant safety risk.

Consider that a person who has been awake for 21 hours has the same sluggish performance and lack of safety awareness as an individual with a blood alcohol content of 0.10%, which is above the legal limit to drive in most states.

Older workers get hurt less often: but it takes them longer to recover. Focus on preventing slips and falls – which cause more than one-third of accidents in older workers.

Forest Terminology:

Podzolization. A process of soil formation resulting in the genesis of Podzols and Podzolic soils characterized by the natural removal of iron, aluminum, and organic matter from the surface horizon, which results in the formation of a highly leached, whitish gray E Horizon and a dark reddish brown to black B Horizon. Note: the E horizon is above the B horizon.

Calendar of Events: See President's Message

- Oct. 27 Growing Red Alder in the Pacific Northwest: Silviculture, Management, and Markets. Heathman Lodge, Vancouver, WA. Contact: Western Forestry and Conservation Association, 503-226-2515
www.westernforestry.org
- Nov. 9-11 Partners in Community Forestry National Conference. Portland, OR
Contact Arbor Day Foundation 888-448-7337, conferences@arborday.org

Chapter Officers:

PCFFA Chapter officers and directors for 2008 are:

| | | | |
|----------------|----------------|--------------|--|
| President | Dave Townsend | 425-746-4523 | townsenddw@comcast.net |
| Vice President | Gary Snyder | 253-863-7786 | snyder@nwrain.com |
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| Treasurer | Coy Eshom | 360-871-0836 | jandceshom@silverlink.net |
| Past President | Bob Arnold | 253-845-2242 | Raarnold@aol.com |
| Newsletter Ed. | Frank Shirley | 253-884-2283 | fshirley@centurytel.net |
| Membership | Vacant | | |
| Director 10 | Rick Pabst | 253-862-9076 | blueribbonfarm@tx3.net |
| Director 11 | Phil Poppleton | 360-825-3365 | parnpop@aol.com |
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Publication:

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**Pierce County
Farm Forestry Association**

Affiliated chapter of the Washington Farm Forestry Association

ANNUAL MEETING

Tacoma Yacht Club
5401 Waterfront Dr., Tacoma, WA
November 14, 2009
11:00 a.m.

**Guest Speakers
Dick Hopkins and Sean Morgan
Green River Natural Resource Program
And
“The Forest: Friend or Foe”**

- 11:00 Social Hour (No host bar)
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 Business Meeting and Election of Officers
- 1:30 Speakers:
- 2:15 PCFFA Tree Farmer of the Year winner

Menu: London broil-- Marinated flank steak topped with sautéed mushrooms, served with red jacket mashed potatoes and vegetables. OR Baked Salmon-- Northwest fillet topped with cucumber dill sauce, served with rice pilaf and vegetables. Both entrees come with a green salad, and tea, coffee or ice tea.

Cut off here

Banquet Reservation

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Entree: Please indicate the number of each entree desired.

London Broil.....Number___

Baked Salmon.....Number___

TOTAL___ @ \$25.00 each \$____.____

Make Checks Payable to: Pierce County Farm Forestry Association

Mail to: PCFFA, c/o Coy Eshom, 1168 Puget Dr. SE, Port Orchard, WA 98366

Reservation due by October 29, 2009 (Reservations received after this date may have no choice of entree.) Late reservations call: 253-863-7786