



# The Tree Green News



Pierce County Chapter,  
Washington Farm Forestry Association Newsletter  
Volume 23, Number 2 August 2010

## **Presidents Message:**

**Greetings, fellow tree farmers.**

**Meetings:** We have two General Membership meetings this fall: September 1 (*before* Labor Day), and October 6. And then we have our Annual Meeting, where will review the past year, look forward to next year, and announce our Tree Farmer of the Year winner. The Tacoma Yacht Club was tied up in November, so the Annual Meeting will be on Saturday, October 30, 2010 at noon. Please mark your calendars for all three meetings.

**WFFA:** I do not know much about the progress, if any, our county is making, but I do know that Rick Dunning and WFFA has been very successful in moving the interests of Small Forest Landowners forward. After the hearing before the joint House and Senate Legislative Natural Resource Committee on July 27, Chairman Brian Blake, stated that he intends to follow through with our legislative requests for smaller buffers on harvests of 20 acres or less. That is great news!

I found Norma Smith's comment that the FREP problem is not a fiscal budget problem enlightening, since as she put it, FREP did not work in times of budget excesses either. I have always felt that FREP was not the cure-all solution for the disproportional impacts imposed on the Small Forest Landowners. Wide buffers takes good timberland out of production, restricts valuable resources, reduces the amount of wood that can be milled and sold in the state, reduces timber excise taxes, reduces the viability of tree farming, and costs the State way to much money. Wow. What a list. Yet it became law.

I also liked Norma Smith's phrase, "Riparian Abandonment Zone". She gets it. But she is not quite right. The landowner still has to pay the property taxes for the Riparian Abandonment Zone! And liability insurance premium are based, in part, on acreage, including, of course, any property in the Riparian Abandonment Zone.

I also liked Christine Rolfes' statement that the DNR's responses at the hearing, "feels bureaucratic". We have felt that way for years! And I feel this attitude is why WFFA's efforts at

the policy level have not been very effective.

Please thank the committee members for their time and their consideration of our issues. Hearing from you can make a real difference and add support for Rick.

**Washington Tree Farm Program:** For the second year in a row, the Washington Tree Farm Program will sponsor a Fall Forestry Seminar similar to what Don Hanley organized for many years. This year's event will be on October 9 in Chehalis and is titled "Seedling Management and Economics for the Tree Farmer". In order to keep expenses to a minimum, mass mailing of a brochure will NOT be made. Details and a registration form are available on the Washington Tree Farm Program web page, [www.watreefarm.org](http://www.watreefarm.org) under Events, or call 360-736-5750.

We have many members who are not certified with the Washington Tree Farm Program. If you are one of them, ask yourself, "why not"?

As always, please drop me a line or give me a call with your suggestions or comments.

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

### **Woodlot Ramblings - By Bob Arnold:**

Not many tree farmers have planted seeds, harvested the trees, milled the logs and built a cabin with the lumber. Remember this.

An east coast Canadian mill sells 90% of its products as value-added. Moldings, siding, tongue and groove paneling are some of the many products. One item they call a "Bunkie" is a 10'x10' cabin that many customers place on their beach or wooded lots. At that size they slide in under the need for a permit. Some Canadians seem to have the same idea that some Americans do about certain permits.

In Pierce County a building less than 200 sq ft may be constructed without a permit as long as it is not fastened some way to the ground, i.e., sitting on concrete blocks. If there is not a permit needed, then rough ungraded lumber sawn from a tree farmer's homegrown trees may be used.

Now a 12'x16' tool shed is 192 sq ft. and makes a good-sized woodshed. In my case it holds

10 cords stacked 7.5' high as that is the height that I can comfortably reach, both putting my 24" stove wood up there and taking it down without injury, or at least serious injury. I used doubled up 2"x8" for rim joists and 12' x 2"x8" for floor joists set on 16" centers all set on 9 concrete blocks. The floor is 2x6 laid flat with 1/2" spacing for airflow. The framing is 2x4 set on 16" centers and 1x4 vertical siding with 4" spacing for more airflow. The roof is a 4x12 pitch (4" rise for each 12" of run), so the roof is 24" high at the peak. The rafters are 2x4 on 16" centers. The roof sheathing is 1x10 or 1x12 solid wood. Actually about 7/8" as I set the gauge on each inch of the height marker so I don't have to do a lot of fractions in my head when I saw each and every board. No inspectors, remember? A foot of overhang is allowed and that keeps straight down rain off the wood. I let a 1x4 into the outside edge of the 2x4 walls on an angle for bracing. Lay the 1x4 down, after squaring up the framed wall laying on the new 2x6 floor, draw a line on each side, remove the 1x4, set your skill saw blade at 3/4" and cut out the wood inside the marks, knock them out with a hammer and chisel so it fits good and nail it in. This was a method used in the 1950's when using 1x12 sidewall sheathing (Hemlock or in some cases cottonwood), as plywood was a bit pricey then. It will resist shearing very well.

My father's last building was a 12x12 cabin but with 10' studs for the walls. He set the ceiling at 8', which gave him 2' walls for the second floor. We cut the rafters at a 12 and 12 pitch (actually a 90 degree angle for the two sides for the roof at the ridge) and gave us 8' of headroom in the upper floor.

Now with all these dimensions and angles one can imagine a minimalist dwelling on their tree farm or some place to put the kids when they move back home and you have your own "Bunkie". As one Canadian said, "They sure beat a tent."

So back to the statement at the beginning of the Rambling. That is what one family did recently. They received some Doug Fir seeds in 1975, planted them and this year harvested the trees, as they were shading the garden space They brought them down to our Woodmizer mill, had them milled and are now constructing the building. I cut some wide cedar from their forest for board and batten sides. They will put a metal roof on.

In 1965 I built a cabin on our lot just outside the Nisqually entrance of Rainier National Park. It was an equilateral triangle with 60-degree sides/roof. It is still there. (I sold it to help finance our tree farm purchase in 1971.) I made steps out of a timber 9' x 8" x 12" with 4" steps and 12" risers to the second floor loft passing it through a 24" square hole. I got that idea from a Navaho Pueblo log ladder and a similar example for a 1790's cabin.

Less is more.  
Bob Arnold

## **Editorial – Paint that line.**

As I get ready to head back to New York, I am reminded that our boundary lines need to be painted. A well-marked property line is nice to see. You know where your line is and other people know too. This greatly reduces the chance of people trespassing on your property. It also keeps you or your logger from inadvertently trespassing on your neighbor's land.

Do you know where your property lines are? When buying a piece of property, a survey by a licensed surveyor will let you know what you own.

When I first started looking for property for my Dad to buy, I had a man show me one of the property lines. He said the line (stone wall) ran "Straight as a gun barrel" to the back of Don Main's house. Later, after a staff compass and chain survey was done showing a very definite curved line, I showed him the map. His response, "No, no! That is not right." Moral: even people who should know where the property line is may be wrong.

The lead paint my Dad used lasted up to twenty years. The current unleaded paint lasts between 5 and 7 years. I have ten or more parcels that need to be repainted. I used my Dad's paint gun to put two parallel strips on the trees marking the boundary line. But the old gummed up paint gun does not put out enough paint to see clearly. My consultant has offered to loan me her pressurized 2-gallon paint gun. This puts a spot on the tree you can really see.

I paint the boundary line trees with the paint facing up and down the line. Trees that are within 5 feet of the line are marked the same way but with an extra spot facing the boundary line. To mark the corners Dad put in an iron pipe and piled stones around the pipe. Corner witness trees are painted with three paint spots, one above another, the spots facing the corner.

Last year we took my nephew's children out to paint one of our lines. When we returned home that afternoon, my wife asked what they thought about the day. Their response was that they thought they were going to paint a line on the ground like the centerline of a road.

Keep those lines painted and you will know what you own.

Frank Shirley

## **Work Safely: When falling a tree, look around for trouble.**

I keep reading safety tips about falling a tree and the problems people get into. In most cases the person did not look around carefully and identify potential threats, such as dead trees nearby, dead limbs on surrounding trees that may get caught in the one being cut down, and not clearing an escape route at a 45 degree angle to the projected fall of the tree. Also trees or limbs under stress touching the tree you are attempting to cut down. Always look around for trouble and fix the problem before falling the tree.

## **Forest Terminology:**

**Wilding.** A seedling naturally reproduced outside of a nursery (in contrast to a nursery-grown seedling) used in forest planting.

## **Calendar of Events:**

- Sep 3            General Membership meeting, Puyallup Library 7 PM.
  
- Oct 6.            Board meeting, Puyallup Library 3 PM.  
                    General Membership meeting, Puyallup Library 7 PM.
  
- Oct 9.            Seedling Management and Economics for the Tree Farmer. Fall Forestry Educational Seminar. Sponsor: Washington Tree Farm Program. Veterans Memorial Museum, Chehalis, WA. Contact Donna Loucks at 360-736-2147 or website [www.watreefarm.org/forestryseminar.pdf](http://www.watreefarm.org/forestryseminar.pdf)
  
- Oct. 30           PCFFA Annual Banquet. Tacoma Yacht Club, Saturday, noon.

### **2010**

- January 5.        Board meeting, Puyallup Library 3 PM.  
                    General Membership meeting, Puyallup Library 7 PM.
  
- February 2.      General Membership meeting, Puyallup Library 7 PM.
  
- March 2.         General Membership meeting, Puyallup Library 7 PM.

## Chapter Officers:

PCFFA Chapter officers and directors for 2010 are:

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