



SOUTH SOUND FARM FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

An Affiliated Chapter of Washington Farm Forestry Association

President: Boyd Wilson Vice President: Michael Gaffney
Co-Secretaries: Brian LeTourneau, Norma Green
Treasurer: Bonnie Miller

October Meeting

“BIOMASS AS RENEWABLE ENERGY”

When: Wednesday, October 12, 2011 -- 6:30 p.m. for Pizza; 7:00 p.m. for Meeting

Who: Rachael Jamison, BS, MES –
Washington State Department of Natural Resources

Rachael Jamison is DNR's Energy and Climate Change Policy Specialist. Her work includes forest biomass-to-energy efforts, statewide and regional bioenergy strategy, state and agency-wide climate adaptation planning and green job creation. Rachael has a Bachelors in Science with a focus in microbiology. Her Master's Degree is in Environmental Policy. Prior to coming to DNR, she led the Department of Ecology's Green Building Program and worked in the Department of Agriculture's Organic Food Program. Rachael is committed to finding economically viable environmental solutions to some of our most challenging environmental questions.

What: Biomass as a Renewable Energy Source– what is it?

- What are the benefits to society and the environment?
- What are the concerns?
- Where else in the world is it used?
- How is it regulated?
- How can family forest landowners participate?

Rachael will provide background information and be open to questions.

Where: Thurston County Courthouse, Building 1, Room 152, 2000 Lakeridge Dr. SW, Olympia, WA.

Directions: From the I-5 Freeway take Exit 104 onto Hwy. 101. Take exit for Cooper Point/Auto Mall Drive; follow signs to courthouse: Right on Evergreen Park Dr., Left onto Lakeridge Dr., Right into Court House Parking. Follow driveway to building #1 on left side of complex.

PROGRAM IDEAS NEEDED: The November 9 meeting will be for planning our programs for 2012 at a place and time to be announced. What topics are of interest to you?

Please communicate your ideas to Pres. Boyd Wilson: 360-438-1166
boydwilson@earthlink.net and also plan to attend the meeting.

NOTE: Membership Special continues for 1st time new members: \$45 for 1 year, with \$25 rebate if SSFFA is selected as prime chapter. Contact Pres. Boyd Wilson for more information.

LAST MONTH'S MEETING

For those that didn't make it, here's a summary of the September 14, 2011 Pacific Veneer mill tour in Aberdeen. In January 2009, Pacific Veneer was closed and offered for sale by Weyerhaeuser because the contracting U.S. housing market significantly reduced the demand for wood products. The mill was subsequently purchased (November 2009) and is now (for over a year) operated by Willis Enterprises, a whole log chipping company, which buys pulp logs for chipping in Hoquiam, Oakville, Belfair, and Everett.

Pacific Veneer manufactures veneer and wood chips. They use a wide variety of species including Douglas-fir, hemlock, spruce, pine and cottonwood. Walt Schrader is the Mill Manager. They are not presently running veneer full-time due to poor markets; they run two 40 hour shifts on the veneer side – Monday through Thursday and sometimes an OT shift on Friday. Log processing runs 24 hours Monday through Friday. The dryer runs 24 hours a day Monday through Thursday.

Ten WFFA members attended this field trip and we were well received. The mill is impressive in the way it utilizes its raw material and in its automation. You might wonder how a mill can specialize in peeling veneer which requires a high quality log and specialized equipment and also have a mission of producing wood chips, which can come from logs of any quality.

Wood chips come from whole logs and as a by-product of lumber manufacture. However, with lumber production curtailed, chips, the raw material for paper and cardboard are more likely to come from whole logs. On this day they were peeling hemlock so the veneer side of the mill was operating.

Here is how it works at Pacific Veneer. The delivered logs are of various lengths because they are purchased by weight not scale. Logs are debarked, enter the mill and pass by an operator who decides if peeler logs can be cut from the raw log. A peeler log needs to be straight, have a diameter of at least 8 inches at the small end and be defect free. If yes, the peeler logs are cut 8 feet long (plus trim) and the rest of the log is cut into lengths no longer than ten feet. The peeler logs are automatically dumped into bins and the rest goes to the chipper. If veneer is not being produced, the logs are debarked, cut to 10 feet or less in length and go directly to the chipper. That's it for log chipping.

The peeler logs are heated with running hot water to soften them for peeling. After about 12 hours, depending on the species of wood, the logs are delivered to the lathe which rotates the log against a knife and the veneer peels off of the log like paper towels off a roll. It takes only seconds for the lathe to peel a log. Logs are chucked into the lathe automatically at the maximum rate of six logs per minute. Veneer defects are detected by optical sensors and clipped out. Veneer from the drier is tested automatically for moisture content and sheets not meeting specifications are reprocessed. But some customers want to do their own drying so they are shipped green veneer. But they pay a price in higher transportation

costs. Veneer is shipped by truck and goes as far as British Columbia and Oregon where it is made into plywood. Unless shut down for lack of orders, Pacific Veneer operates 5 days a week and has 50 employees.

This was a great tour and showed us what happens to our logs.

Future Meetings – 2nd Wednesday, unless noted -- Mark your Calendars Tentatively Scheduled:

- Nov. 9 – Program planning for 2012 – time & place to be announced
Please let Boyd know your ideas for educational programs and tours.
- Dec. – No meeting
- Jan 11 – Educational meeting
- Feb 8 – Educational meeting
- Mar 15 (3rd Thursday) – Educational meeting
- Apr 11 – Educational meeting
- May thru September – Tours on 2nd Wednesdays
- Oct 11 – Educational meeting