

KNOTHOLE NEWS

March 2, 2009 Newsletter of the Upper Puget Sound Chapter of the Washington Farm Forestry Association

COMING EVENTS

Saturday, March 28, 2009

UPS Chapter Planning Meeting, 12:00-3:00P.M. at Samantha Hicks' house.

Directions to Samantha Hicks' home: From I-5, take Exit 199 at Marysville east on State Route 528 for 3.1 miles. Left on SR 9 for 1.3 miles. Right on 84th Street NE (Getchell Road) for 1.7 miles. Left on 115th Avenue NE for 1.7 miles. Hicks' driveway at 11232 115th Avenue NE.

Saturday, June 13, 2009

SAVE THE DATE!

Stihl Chainsaw Safety and Maintenance Class 9:00-Noon, at WSU Snohomish-Skagit WSU Extension

Services building, 600 128th Street, Everett.

Upper Puget Sound is co-sponsoring with WSU Extension, a chainsaw class taught by Stihl professionals. Mark your calendars---this is a rare opportunity, not to be missed! JD Fernstrom, Stihl Technical Services Manager and Regional Manager Tim Curran will teach you literally hands on chain saw safety and maintenance. You will bring your own chain saw without gas to work on during the class. Upper Puget Sound Farm Forestry members will be able to attend the class free. For further details, see the Extension website or the Extension Forestry newsletter to be the first to know when registration opens: <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/forestrymailing.htm>

PRESIDENT'S WORDLOT

Greetings,

I'd like to thank everyone who renewed their WFFA memberships this past year and plan to continue to do so in the future. These are tough times to the point where for a lot of people every dollar matters and staying committed to this organization is very much appreciated. WFFA is doing a lot to support private forest land owners and in doing so is establishing stronger ties with the state legislature and becoming more influential. There's so much to get addressed there's not room for it all in the Landowner News.

Aside from co-hosting the WFFA annual meeting, 2008 wasn't our busiest year, but we couldn't have had a better tree farm tour than either the Graves family or the Valhalla tree farm tours. Thanks again to the Graves and the Ingebrights for hosting the tours. We hope to have some events scheduled soon for our chapter. We have our chapter planning meeting scheduled for March 28 at Samantha Hicks'. At this meeting we'll discuss ideas for feature topics at tree farm tours and other things.

In November we held our chapter annual meeting. At the meeting we held elections. All three officers Jim Owens, Chuck Holland and I agreed to carry over our positions through '09. Also at the meeting Hiko Katsuhisa gave a presentation on international timber markets covering the last 30 years or more. The presentation included charts showing harvest volumes from different parts around the globe and what caused fluctuations at times and other things. It was really interesting to see how much timber comes from different places and which countries purchase the timber.

Coming up May 29-30, the Kittitas chapter is hosting the 2009 WFFA Annual Meeting in Ellensburg. Scheduled to speak is newly elected Commissioner of Public Lands, Peter Goldmark. There's been a lot of concern of how his policies will affect forest land owners. That should get addressed extensively at this meeting. Also Phil Hess, the Kittitas chapter president, has organized a demonstration/educational oriented field day for Saturday which should be really interesting.

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Volunteers are needed for both Friday and Saturday for light duty assignments like parking, registration and logistical type things. Volunteer assignments will be figured out by around April 9. Anyone interested in helping can call Phil @ 509-952-0678.

WSU Extension has some things scheduled soon. Coming April 7-May 26 is the Forest Stewardship Coached Planning Class. In this class you get aerial photos of your property along with maps showing tree site class and soil conditions among other things. You also learn forest management practices. I would highly recommend this class. Information can be found at <http://king.wsu.edu> or for the Snohomish and Skagit areas, at:

<http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/forestrymailing.htm>

If you're not too busy this winter and have cable T.V., there's a show on the history channel called Modern Marvels. There are 10's of episodes, and two of them tie in with what we do. One is a history of logging. It's not the Axmen show about modern loggers. It's a one hour history of logging in North America covering over 200 years. The other episode is about exotic hardwoods. Check them out, they're both fascinating.

Phil Swanson

