

KNOTHOLE NEWS

October 21, 2008 Newsletter of the Upper Puget Sound Chapter of the Washington Farm Forestry Association

COMING EVENTS

Saturday, November 8, 2008

Valhalla Tree Farm Tour, 15819 Jordan Road,
10A.M-5 P.M.

Come and get first hand information on Alternative Management Plans and what to expect in the negotiating process. Also you can see how a 400' sheer cliff reshapes the landscape and ecosystem. There's a shelter with a fire pit to dry off and stay warm. Food will be provided.

Directions: From Granite Falls, go north on Jordan Road 5 miles until you see UPSFFA signs. From Arlington: Go 1.1 mile east on State Route 530, turn right on Arlington Heights Road; go one mile, bear right on Jordan Road and go seven miles.

Saturday, November 22, 2008

UPSFFA Annual Meeting at Loyal Heights
Community Club, 4305 269th Place (near
Arlington) 12-5 P.M.

We'll be having a potluck lunch. Bring your favorite salad, main course, or dessert.

Directions: from Arlington go north on State Route 9, 3.3 miles, turn left on 268th Street N.E. (Stanwood-Bryant Road), go 0.9 mile, turn right on 39th Ave. N.E., go 1 block and turn right on 269th Place. From I-5:take Exit 212, go 3.2 miles east, turn left on 39th Ave. N.E., go 1 block, turn right on 269th Place N.E.

December 6, 2008, a Saturday: Samantha Hicks' annual Potluck Lunch and Wreath-making Social, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the home of Samantha Hicks. Bring wreath-making boughs and evergreen leaves, pruning shears, metal or vine wreath frames (several vine frames will be provided), and fine binding wire. **Bring chairs and dessert or bread;** cider, soup and chili will be provided.

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/Bruner driveway at 11232 115th Avenue NE.

PRESIDENT'S WORDLOT

We have some things coming up soon. On Nov. 8 is the Valhalla Tree Farm Tour. We scheduled this for November hoping to get an up close view of salmon in their spawning habitat. Jordan Creek runs through the tree farm with a setting of beaver dams and a couple of places where the creek widens naturally to create pretty prime salmon habitat. Due to topography, Jordan Creek is a very clear undisturbed watershed upstream and on through the Valhalla tree farm with beavers currently living there. The presence of salmon is dependent on a strong enough water flow for the salmon to leap the main beaver dam, so they don't always arrive every year.

Hopefully we'll get enough rain between now and Nov.8 to get to see them. Bring your rain gear.

The Valhalla tree farm has been in the Ingebright family for close to 50 years. They've been managing it with a multiple aspect approach. A primary focus has been to maintain a natural setting and preservation. They are currently working on a logging project in accordance with an Alternative Management Plan in clearing alder along riparian areas for restoration purposes. At this field day you can get direct information and get to see what you can and can't do under current alternative management regulations. Every situation is different,

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but you can get an idea of what to expect and how to approach carrying out an alternative management plan if that occurs in the future.

Alternative management plans are one of the hottest topics in forestry right now and are in the initial stages of policy guidelines being established. Hopefully this field day can be a learning experience for everyone and lead to networking among forest landowners so we can have a significant influence in the future regarding this. Small forest land owners, by regularly going over the same piece of ground and being observant of certain things can notice conditions that go overlooked by industrial forestry at times. So we can have a positive impact on both sides of this issue and help speed progress.

The Ingebrights are doing a number of other things with their tree farm. They're starting a scout camp and youth education camp. They also host a series of community events over the course of the year both at and near their tree farm, among other things.

In hiking their land they've found and collected various things including turn of the century logging rigging and tools left behind, some still intact and some unidentifiable. During an excavation to repair a

homesteader's cabin they found and collected pieces of bones that were buried. More recently they've found skeletons and other indicators of wildlife. There are still signs of when and how the land was logged around 100 years ago. For more info, check out their website, www.vahallatreefarm.com

The UPSFFA annual meeting is coming up on Nov.22. Among things on the agenda will be holding elections for officers. We also hope to have at least one guest speaker. There's a few things scheduled to discuss. One is ways for our chapter to make money and what we can do with it. Also we want to talk about ideas for feature topics at future field days. Some chapters have a number of feature topics and still vary them from year to year. Basics of timber cruising is one thing we want to cover at a field day soon. There will also be an open discussion for things people want to bring up. If anyone would like to add anything to the agenda you can contact me or bring it up at the open discussion session.

Don't forget the wreath making gathering at Samantha's. I hope to see you at our events this fall.

Phil Swanson

