

KNOTHOLE NEWS

June, 2011 Newsletter of the Upper Puget Sound Chapter of the Washington Farm Forestry Association

Coming events

Monday June 20, 2011; 6:00pm to approximately 8:00pm

Tour of the Buse mill that is next to the freeway between Everett and Marysville. Buse Timber and Sales has been in the same location for over 50 years. They have adopted new technology over the years and are now an employee owned company.

You can read more about the interesting history of the mill by going to their website:

<http://busetimber.com/>

Driving directions: From the south on I-5:

1. In north Everett, take Exit 195, Marine View Drive, and go 0.3 mile
2. Turn left onto E Grand Ave/E Marine View Drive and go 0.6 mile
3. Turn slight right onto E Marine View Drive/Walnut St and go 0.8 mile. E Marine View Drive is just past 15th St
4. Merge onto WA-529 N via the ramp on the left and go 0.9 mile. If you reach Skyline Dr. you've gone about 0.3 mile too far.
5. Turn slight right onto 28th PL NE for 0.3 mile.
6. 3812 28th PL NE is your destination. Your destination is 0.2 mile past 35th Ave NE.

From the north on I-5:

1. Merge onto WA-529 via Exit 198 toward N Broadway/Port of Everett.
2. Take the WA-529 S ramp and go 0.03 mile.
3. Keep right at the fork in the ramp for 0.08 mile.
4. Keep right at the fork on E Marine View Dr for 0.2 mile. If you are on E Marine View Dr . at Skyline Dr, you've gone about 0.1 mile too far.
5. Merge onto WA-529 N and go 0.9 mile. If you reach Belmonte Ln you've gone a little too far.
6. Turn slight right onto 28th Pl NE for 0.3 mile.
7. 3812 28th Pl NE is your destination. Your destination is 0.2 mile past 35th Ave NE.

WSU Extension twilight tours in July

Camano Island

Thursday July 7, 2011 7:00pm to 9:00pm

Kristoferson Farm

Off of E Camano Dr across from Camano Plaza

Snohomish

Thursday July 14, 2011, 7:00pm to 9:00pm

Wilson property, 17232 S Spada Rd

Snoqualmie

Monday July 18, 2011 7:00pm to 9:00pm

Hsi property

Mount Vernon (Big Lake area)

Thursday July 21, 7:00pm to 9:00pm

Owens property, 22496 Amick Road

Western Washington Forest Owners Field Day Saturday August 20, 2011

Jefferson County near Chimacum (approx. 10 miles south of Port Townsend on the Olympic peninsula)

Palmer Family Forest

1522-A Larson Lake Road, Chimacum, WA 98325

Gates open at 8:00am

program: 9:00am - 4:30pm

You can find more information and also RSVP for any or all of the twilight tours by going to Kevin Zobrist's e-newsletter "Forest Stewardship Notes".

You can also go to the WSU Extension website:

<http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/> You can also

contact Kevin at

his WSU Extension phone number: 425-357-6017.

Also go to the e-newsletter or website for more info on the Western Washington Forest Owners Field Day, including a brochure with a registration form that can be printed. The brochure lists the various learning sessions you can attend.

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President's Wordlot

We have had a couple of good tree farm tours this spring. We were at Keith Graves in March and Arley Tracy's in May.

Several Chapter members were in attendance at the WFFA annual meeting in Vancouver WA.

Keith Graves and the Graves Family Tree Farm was one of the nominees for Tree Farm of the Year.

Keith won the "long leader" contest with a conifer leader 6 feet long. It was a little fun event before the annual business meeting.

One of the highlights was the steam logging show, where they had two old steam donkeys running for a demonstration of how it was done decades ago.

It should be an interesting next few months with the lineup of events. First up is the tour of the Buse mill, and then the WSU Extension "twilight tours" in July, that are a good way to spend a couple of hours on a summer evening. The annual Western Washington Forest Owners Field Day in August will provide a lot of educational sessions.

Jim Owens

Following is a short story written by UPS Chapter member Bob Layton. Bob is a Forester and makes it read as if you are right there with him.

Contemplations of a Timber Cruiser, February, 2011

Early in February, I got an assignment to cruise and appraise timber on a property a few miles east of Roy. I haven't spent much time around Roy, just a few small jobs over the years. Roy was often the butt of jokes from a past disc jockey on a country music station I listened to, for being small and backwards, all in good fun of course. I never saw Roy that way. I have read that Roy was once a boomtown in the early 1900's, but a major fire, the depression and the army put an end to that. The army acquired large tracts of land surrounding Roy, mostly to the north and west, which is now part of the Fort Lewis Military Reservation. The military has some beautiful timberlands, you will notice while driving south on SR 507 from Spanaway to Roy. Huge piles of ants.

This property has about 80 acres of timber and about the same in pasture. Two old houses,

rundown and vacant, a large old barn and an over-mature orchard occupy the middle of the property. While there I wondered about the people who lived on and worked this land and how long ago it was settled. By the looks of the architecture of the main farm house, it was a very long time ago, a hundred years maybe. I wondered why the place had been abandoned and thought it was unfortunate. You can still tell after years of vacancy that someone put a lot of work into this place, a lifetime perhaps.

The timber on this property is some of the nicest quality timber I have encountered in some time. Almost a pure ninety-year-old Douglas Fir stand, slightly thinned over the years. With butt logs straight and clear, these trees were special. To my misfortune the understory was a little on the brushy side supporting lots of vine maple and beaked hazelnut, and a healthy population of ants. I was glad I was there in winter when the ants are deep in their nests and not all over the trees like they would be in summer. I noticed the Indian plum was breaking bud and showing signs of life, shiny baby leaflets. A good sign when you've been sun deprived for more than a few months now. The beaked hazelnut is quite prolific and I imagined what the forest would look like a couple of months from now in full leaf.

While traversing the forest, I came across a burrow opening under a downed log. My first thought was coyote, because I had been noticing a great deal of scat, but abandoned that idea and concluded it belonged to the Roy Prairie Pocket Gopher. Not because I had any scientific proof, I just hoped it to be since the pocket gopher has had its share of troubles over the last few decades. The same day I alarmed two red-tail hawks. I looked up to see what all the fuss was about and noticed their nest in a broken top of one of the larger Douglas-Fir trees in the area. They circled around for a few minutes and then decided I wasn't a threat. I could tell from their markings that one of the birds was immature, the one that was causing most of the ruckus of course. What beautiful creatures they are.

After three memorable days I ran out of ground to put in plots and had to say farewell. It was a nice change from the much younger timber stands I normally find myself in these days. So long Roy, we'll meet again someday, I'm sure.

By Bob Layton, UPS Chapter member

