

Whatcom County Farm Forestry Association

Educational Tree Farm Tours

Dear Farm Forestry Friends,

Before summer ends the Whatcom County Farm Forestry Association is sponsoring a twilight tree farm tour. This next tour will be Thursday September 15th from 5:30 to dark at Bob Barker's tree farm near Van Zandt. In 1996 Bob purchased 75 acres of marginal pasture land with the goal of creating a wetland forest. Right away he went to work preparing the site and planting his first trees in the spring of 1997. By June the site was a sea of weeds and grass and overrun with voles and rabbits. Bob was up to the challenge and experimented with several methods to establish his wetland forest in spite of the completion and all the critters. This will be a great show and tell tour and you will learn how the "Blue Tubes" you see around fields in Whatcom County came to be. In all Bob has planted nearly 30,000 different kinds of trees and shrubs. He has learned how to establish these trees in wet areas and is providing homes for a variety of wildlife. You will enjoy seeing what Bob has accomplished.

To get to the Barker Tree Farm, go through Deming on the Mt. Baker Highway and turn south on Highway 9. From this turn go 3.5 miles (past Van Zandt and Everybody's Store) to the Nelson Road and turn left. Continue east to 3455 Nelson Road just before the railroad tracks. Bob's driveway is on the left. If you have any questions, please call Tom at 966-3605.

Our last tour to the Westergreen's was enjoyed by an enthusiastic group of nearly 30 that came to learn options for starting a new productive forest stand. One item discussed was the importance of ordering tree seedlings early if you have a planting project planned for this coming spring. Nurseries have been short on seedlings and demand has increased so you need to make a commitment to assure you can get seedlings and from a seed lot that will be best suited for your location. Tom Westergreen has put together this partial list of nurseries for reforestation seedlings.

WCFFA Tree Sale March 17, 2011	Good supply of Red Cedar, but short on Douglas fir
WACD Plant Materials Center in Bow	(360) 757-1094
Fir Run Nursery	(253) 848-4731
IFA Nurseries – Toledo	(360) 864-2828
IFA Nurseries – Portland	(503) 266-1940
Webster Forest Nursery – Sales start September 1 st	1-877-890-2626
Weyerhaeuser Rochester Nursery	(360) 273-5527

For other possible sources feel free to call Tom at (360) 966-3605.

Don't forget to mark your calendar for the native tree and plant identification tour we are planning for Thursday September 29th from 5:30 to dark. Tom and Bonnie Westergreen's extended yard will be the setting for this tour, with local plant experts and area agriculture students being invited to help with this fun look some of the plants that grow in our area.

We look forward to seeing you at our next event. Feel free to invite your friends and bring a possible new member.