

Landowner News

Washington
FARM FORESTRY
ASSOCIATION



“Stewards of the Land for Generations to Come”

March 2007

Landowner News is the official newsletter of the Washington Farm Forestry Association.

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Public Affairs

Martin Flynn Public Affairs, Inc.

Edited by Martin Flynn Public Affairs, Inc.,
Olympia, Washington.



Message From the President

Dear Members:

This month the "Landowner News" focuses on some important steps our association is taking to move us forward.

In the section headlined "WFFA Legislative Priorities 2007" you will read about some important legislation moving through the Washington State legislature that will directly impact the way tree farmers do business.

There is also a story about a recent trip by Executive Director Rick Dunning, Policy Coordinator Sherry Fox and members of the Family Forest Foundation to Washington, D.C. to meet with state Congressional leaders about issues affecting family forest landowners.

Finally there are details of the new WFFA office now opening in Centralia which will become the focal point of our efforts to better serve our membership.

All of these advances will be discussed at our upcoming Annual Meeting to be hosted by the Lewis County Chapter on April 26th through the 28th. I hope you can join us in Kelso for this important event.

Sincerely,

Calendar

2007

Washington Farm Forestry Association Annual Meeting

The Washington Farm Forestry Association's 2007 annual meeting will be held April 26-28 at the Red Lion Hotel and Conference Center in Kelso, Washington. It will be hosted by WFFA's Lewis County Chapter.

The theme for this year's event is "Through Thick and Thin - Keep On Growing". The program and speakers will focus on current silvicultural methods and new directions in forestry. The event begins Thursday evening, April 26 with an appetizer social. Friday's agenda includes a general membership session, the announcement of the 2007 State Tree Farmer of the Year, and educational sessions. The Washington State Governor or her representative will highlight the evening as the keynote speaker.

The traditional Saturday field trip will commence in Lewis County at the B&D Tree Farm near Chehalis. It will be an action oriented tour with lots to see, learn and do.

For more information contact: Tricia Murphy at 360-748-8889 or LCFFA President Steve Pedersen at 360-748-0717.



How Real Men Haul Wood

Photo courtesy of Bob Takai

2007 WFFA Slate of Officers

The WFFA will vote on a Slate of our association's state officers at the Saturday general membership business meeting held at our WFFA Annual meeting, at 8a.m. Saturday April 28, 2007 in Kelso, WA.

Past President and Chair of the Nominating committee Ken Miller Has submitted these nominees .

Nominations can also be submitted by calling (360) 606.5511 or offered from the floor at the business meeting. 2007-state officers:

President:	Don Theoe
1st VP	vacant
2nd VP	Sam Comstock
Secretary	Michelle Blake
Treasurer	Bill Scheer

Forest Owner Field Day 2007

Mark you calendars for a Forest Owners Field Day to be held Saturday June 23,2007 near Cle Elum. WSU Extension Forester Andy Perleberg will be making a special effort to reach out to those who live on the west side of the Cascades yet own their forest land on the east side. Fundamental forest management will be the focus of the event. Plan on bringing the family for participation in the kids activities hosted by environmental educators from Washington State University. Andy can be reached at: (509) 630-4217 or by e-mail at andyp@wsu.edu.

Upcoming Events

Streamside Restoration Demonstration. March 14. Contact Andy Perleberg at WSU Extension. 509.630.4217 andyp@wsu.edu

Accredited Logger's Training March 14th - 15th and 28th - 29th. Colville. Call Jerry Bonagafski at WA Contract Loggers Assoc. 1.800.422.0074

16th Annual Loggers Workshop. March 21. Colville. Call Emily Burt at WSU Extension. 509.775.5235. emburt@wsu.edu

Forest Stewardship Coached Planning Field Day. March 24. Chewehla. Call Emily Burt at WSU Extension. 509.775.5235. emburt@wsu.edu

Coached Forest Stewardship Planning Shortcourse. Issaquah. Apr. 16 - June 11. Contact Amy Grotta at WSU Extension. (206) 205-3132. grotta@wsu.edu

Coached Forest Stewardship Planning Shortcourse. Tacoma. Apr. 17 - June 5. Contact Mike Nystrom at WA DNR. (253) 350-0018. Mike.nystrom@dnr.wa.gov

Forest Health Workshop. Spokane and Stevens Counties. Date and location to be determined. Call Janean Creighton at WSU Extension. 509-477-2199 JCREIGHTON@spokanecounty.org

Thinning Your Forest April 21. Ferry County. Call Emily Burt at WSU Extension. 509.775.5235. emburt@wsu.edu

Forest Owners Field Day. June 23. Cle Elum. Call Andy Perleberg at WSU Extension. 509.630.4217 andyp@wsu.edu

Forest Health Report Available on Net

The Department of Natural Resources' 2006 **Forest Health Highlights Report** is now available for viewing on the Internet at:

<http://www.dnr.wa.gov/htdocs/rp/forhealth/>



Message from DNR's Small Forest Landowner Office

I am please to announce that Jeff Galleher will be joining the SFLO team as the long term application specialist. Jeff is coming from the operations side of Forest Practices. He has been joining our stakeholder small forest landowner long term application rule making meetings since July 06". He is familiar with the subject and brings an expertise in forest practice operations. He has been working in forest practices for 11 eleven years with time in the field and in the division. He has recently been working on the long term application rule package and alternate plan survey and forms. He will be developing a training/implementation plan when the long term application rule becomes effective. I am anxious to be increasing his participation in the long term application project.

This position is funded through June of 07". It was part of the SFLO -stewardship enhancement package in the governor's budget. We hope this position will become permanent in the upcoming biennium.

Mary McDonald
Small Forest Landowner Office

WFFA Legislative Priorities 2007

The Washington Farm Forestry Association has identified five (5) major policy goals for 2007. Here is an update on progress.

Long-Term Permits

Development of a Long term Plan for small landowners has been in negotiations for over two years.

WFFA Policy Coordinator Sherry Fox reports that the Forest Practices Board (of which she is a member) is preparing to adopt new rules allowing long-term permits for small landowners.

Governor Gregoire included almost \$2.6 million in her budget for developing the long-term permits and for participation grants for small landowners in the CMER process.

WFFA is working with the Forest Protection Association, the environmental community and the Governor's office to maintain that funding level.

Simplifying B&O Tax on Small Harvesters

Under current law, small forest harvesters are exempt from taxes on the first \$100,000 in gross receipts on the value of their harvested timber.

But if the value of their timber sale exceeds \$100,000 the landowner is required to pay taxes not just on the value *above* \$100,000 but on the entire amount of the gross sale.

House Bill 1513 (Kessler) and Senate Bill 5493 (Hargrove) would grant small harvesters a credit on their B&O tax liability to continue the incentive for small harvesters to keep their land in timber.

Open Space Timber/ Designated Forest Land

Under legislation sought by county assessors, House Bill 1580 (Takko), the open space timber land classification would be eliminated. Forest land would be redefined as five or more acres devoted primarily to growing and harvesting timber for commercial purposes.

County assessors may require a timber management plan when they have reason to believe the land is no longer being used as designated forest land.

Conversion of Forest Land



Rep. Ed Orcutt

Under current law, landowners with permission to conduct a forest practice must, if their intent is not to convert the land into a non-forestry use, complete a statement of intent not to convert. Once this statement is made, the appropriate local government is prohibited, with a few exceptions, from approving a building permit or subdivision

application for six years after the forest practices application was filed.

Under legislation introduced in both the House and Senate, (House Bill 1408 - Orcutt, and Senate Bill 5883 - Fraser) the state-imposed prohibition would be eliminated in favor of a tough new law that would require landowners to follow all county land use regulations if they seek to convert their timber land to other uses. This change would require landowners to meet the standards of their own local governments.



Sen. Karen Fraser

Adequate Funding for Programs that Benefit Small Forest Landowners

Small forest landowners often require technical, educational, and financial assistance to manage their lands effectively and comply with Washington State's complex regulatory requirements. Several state agencies coordinate programs to provide assistance through a variety of programs and services.

As with most state programs in the last several years, funding for programs for small landowners have fallen short of statewide needs. The Washington Farm Forestry Association strongly supports the funding requests proposed by the Department of Natural Resources.

For information about additional important legislation visit MartinFlynnPublicAffairs.com and click on the "View Documents" tab.

Washington Farm Forestry and Family Forest Foundation Open Joint Office

The WFFA has set up shop in an office to better serve its members and to provide sustainability to the association. Funding for the office comes from WFFA contracts with the Department of Natural Resources for WFFA staff work on projects including 15-year forest practice permits, long-term management plans, statewide SFLO data set, and Wildlife Landscape Assessment. Additional funding comes from increased membership contributions at the Sustaining (\$100) level and from continuing support by forest product businesses for our Patron Program.

The Family Forest Foundation (FFF) will be joining the WFFA to reduce office and administrative costs for both organizations. Another benefit will be the synergy created by a joining of Family Farm Forestry interests into one office.

The office is located in Centralia on the second floor of the KITI building. This seasoned building offers a good location and the owners have offered a generous rent schedule in consideration of the values that our organizations support.

The office is located at 1133 Kresky Ave, Suite 106, Centralia on the 2nd floor of the KITI radio station. Our new address is P.O. Box 1010, Chehalis, WA 98532. Our new phone number is: (360) 736-5750 and our fax is (360) 736-2704. Consider stopping by for a visit.

Directions: Take Exit #81 off I-5; Go east on Mellon Street $\frac{3}{4}$ mi. to Pearl St. traffic light; Turn Rt. on Pearl and go $\frac{1}{2}$ mi. (up overpass and it becomes S. Gold going southbound) to Union Street (next to Venture Bank on your left). Turn Left on Union, until stop sign at Grand. Go straight thru to next stop sign at Kresky (one way north). Turn left (north) on Kresky and go 1 block to KITI (on left). Park in the side parking lot and use the entrance side door.

Weyerhaeuser's 25th Annual Seedling Sales Program in Washington is Scheduled March 17

The public will have the opportunity to buy a variety of high-quality tree seedlings when Weyerhaeuser Company holds its 25th annual Seedling Sales Program this month.

The sales are scheduled for 8 a.m. to noon on March 17. They will be held at Weyerhaeuser's Rochester Regeneration Center on Highway 12, about two miles west of I-5 near the Aberdeen Tenino Exit 88.

Available species, popular for forest, ornamental or Christmas tree applications in Oregon and western Washington, most likely will include Austrian pine, Balsam fir, Canaan fir, Colorado blue spruce, Corkbark fir, Douglas-fir, Fraser fir, Giant sequoia, Grand fir, Korean fir, Nikko fir, Noble fir, Norway spruce, Ponderosa pine, Sitka spruce, Western hemlock, Western redcedar and White fir. Quantities on hand will depend on weather and soil conditions for lifting. Stock types include one-year-old containerized stock as well as 1- to 3-year-old bareroot seedlings, and range in size from 4-6 inches to 30 inches in height depending on the species.

Trees may be purchased individually or by the bag or box. Individual trees, regardless of species, cost 75 cents each. Prices for full bag or box quantities range from 25 to 55 cents per seedling, and the number of seedlings per bag or per box varies from less than 100 to more than 300, depending on the age and size of the seedling. Payment is by cash or checks only. All sales are on a first-come, first served basis. No advance orders will be accepted. Quantities on some stock may be limited.

For a detailed brochure or more information about the Seedling Sales Program, call (800) 732-4769. A new web site about Weyerhaeuser's seed and seedling services is available at <http://www.myseedlings.com>.

Washington Tree Farmers Visit the "Other" Washington (DC)

On February 26th-28th the leadership of the Washington Farm Forestry Association (WFFA) and the Family Forest Foundation (FFF) were joined by Lewis County Commissioner, F. Lee Grose, for a trip to Washington DC for the fifth year in a row to tell our state's family forest land owner story. Lee Grose, also a small forest landowner, joined Tom Fox, President, and Steve Stinson, Executive Director, of the FFF, Sherry Fox, Forest and Fish Rules policy coordinator and Rick Dunning, Executive Director of the WFFA.



In three days the group spoke with US Department of the Interior, US Fish and Wildlife, US

Department of Commerce, US Department of Agriculture - Forest Service, and the US Forest Service in multiple meetings. They also met with Senator Patty Murray and Congressman Brian Baird while visiting our 2 US Senators offices and 3 of our Washington Representative offices. They attended a standing room only US congressional hearing on "The Changing West", a hearing whose dialogue focused on the federal ownership of land and discussion of resource based industry (forestry, ranching and mining) along with tourism and technology industries.

Funding for education tools such as WSU Extension Forestry and Rural Technology Initiative at the U of W College of Forest Resources was also discussed along with future funding for Secure Rural School

programs, which were set up to offset the loss of federal timber tax dollars to some counties of the state.

The main focus of our meetings was to brief the US officials about progress on our Long Term Forest Practice Permits and the Lewis County Family Forest Habitat Conservation Plan and to request funding to finalize both projects. The projects are supported by our Federal officials as emphasizing cooperative conservation that recognizes the needs of both private property owners and the public benefits they provide by providing regulatory relief and certainty to those private forest land owners.

2006 WASHINGTON TREE FARMER OF THE YEAR

A Washington tree farmer selected from the following outstanding nominees will be chosen Tree Farmer of the Year for 2006, at the annual Meeting in Kelso on Friday, April 27.

Richard Schellhaas, Republic - NE Chapter
Matt & Susan Hobbs, Lone - NE Chapter
Phillip Poppleton, Bellingham - Pierce
Hansen Tree Farm, Onalaska - Lewis
Burns Family Tree Farm, Washougal - Clark

The Washington Tree Farm Program

Chair: Duane Weston
Coordinator: George Zeigletrum (WFFA)
Administrator Sue Honstain (WFFA)
Regional foresters:
Bryan Vrablic, NE
Tom Brannon, SE
Rick Helman, SW
Andy Perleberg, NW



Family Forest Landowners Place Hope in 15 year permits

Small Forest Land Owners (SFLO) in Washington State have been struggling to deal with the high cost and disproportionate impact of Forest and Fish Rules since they were adopted in 1999. These FFR rules were in reaction to Federal Endangered Species and Clean Water Acts giving Washington the nation's greatest regulatory protection of public and private forest land. Alternate Plans were to be allowed as means to utilize site specific management that met ecological goals and economic needs of SFLO. But with a consultation cost of \$3000 per Alternate Plan, they only added to the already high cost and disproportionate impact.

In an effort to stay within the confines of FFR and to reduce its regulatory impact on SFLO's (those harvesting less than two million board feet of timber per year), rule making for 15 year permits were proposed. These Long Term Permits were unanimously adopted at DNR's Forest Practice Board (FPB) meeting on February 14, 2007. This action allows DNR to distribute this proposed rule change to agencies, tribes and environmental groups who may wish to comment during a 30 day comment period. Some Tribe and Environmental groups testified in favor of the 15 year permits at the recent Forest Practice Board meeting.

After the 30 day comment period the rule change will go through a State Environmental Protection Application (SEPA) in time for a final rule acceptance at the August FPB meeting. 15 year permits could then be allowed by September 2007. Currently DNR's SFLO office has developed two pilot projects (Dart, Overton) that have been completed and are awaiting the rule change. Three other pilot projects (Loucks, Sweyer, & Brink) are currently being developed. In March the SFLO office will travel to the eastside of the state to visit other Washington Farm Forestry Association (WFFA) members who have volunteered to go through these pilots.

These pilots have helped guide the development of 15 year permits and the WFFA 'tips our caps' to all those tree farmers who have participated. These 15 year permits are the accumulation of years of dedication by the WFFA officers, staff and advisors, all trying to find a way to offset the high cost and disproportionate impact of FFR. It has taken collaboration with state agencies, tribes, environmental groups and others. It is our hope that the success of viable 15 year permits will be measured by their use and benefit to thousands of SFLO's.

New Members

Continued from Back Page

NE WASHINGTON

Mitchell & Deborah Johnson

OLYMPIC

Scott Gremel
Dan & Ty Stoltz

PIERCE

Gary & Karyn Brady

SPOKANE

Garth & Cindy Davis
Rick & Linda Pearson

SOUTH SOUND

Steve Hulbert

UPS

Ginger Marel
Mark Westin

Northwest Woodland Owners Council (NWOC)

The NWOC board of directors met in Spokane for their annual meeting on Dec. 11, 2006. Policy volunteer and WFFA member Joe Gross joined NWOC board members Rick Dunning (WFFA) and Steve Stinson (FFF) at the meeting.

A new Democratic congress has convened in Washington DC and attention is being paid to national challenges in which private forestland owners are part of the solution.

The WFFA, along with the small woodlot associations of California, Oregon, Idaho and Montana, has agreed to send out a solicitation for funds to support NWOC lobby efforts in DC.

A NWOC fund request will also be made to both mid-sized mills and industrial forestland owners. A NWOC letter will be sent out in the coming weeks. This work supports the efforts of WFFA's DC efforts and we ask for your continued support of NWOC.

Welcome New WFFA Members!

Membership Chair **Donna Loucks** reports the following new members. We hope that joining the WFFA brings support in making your tree farm an enjoyable and profitable part of your life.

CLARK

Darren & Lucy Cahoon
Stuart & Anita Caruk
David Cavanagh
Dan & Suzi Goedert
Mark & Dinah Levanen
Ted & Judy Linn
Minister & Glaeser Surveying
Sarah Gauthier
Kate Rae
Dale & Dawna Swanson
Jason Vaughn

COWLITZ

Robert & Sandra Davis

GRAYS

Betty Perry
Don Petit
Julie & Ken Sackett-Shively

KITTITAS

Vic & Lisa Monahan,
Andy & Jodi Polak

LEWIS

Gary & Penny Cooke
Tom & Edith Raymor
Dave & Rita Dralle

From the Executive Director's Desk



I think by our very nature that tree farmers are an optimistic lot. Like the poem, titled "Old Man" found in the front of our association's book titled 'Stewards of the Land', you need be optimistic to continue to plant seedlings for "a youth whose feet will pass this way". Maybe it comes from our good fortune of being able to spend time in the woods where we can be close to our creator and find our cups half full.

Spring is also a time for optimism. A time for buds and blooms, for rebirths and resurrections. So if I had a title for this message it would be "A New Day". For that is how I see our association currently positioned. Having recently spent time in both Olympia during this legislative session and in Washington DC, I have witnessed a changing attitude and greater appreciation for the livelihood of tree farmers. Because of our state's growing population, changes in ownership in the forest products industry, and environmental concerns of our state's elected leaders, they recognize that small forest land owners continue to provide the best of both worlds...economic and resource needs along with protection. We continue to be "stewards of the land for generations to come".

This spring I have high hopes for the future of our association. This is due to the opening of our Centralia office and its ability to allow us to grow and provide leadership to Washington's forest resource policy work. It is due to the current legislative support being offered by our elected officials in Olympia and the recognition in Washington DC of our "cooperative conservation" programs. I hope that you too will find reason to be optimistic as you are the foundation of our association's purpose.

Treefully,

Continued Inside

Washington Farm Forestry Membership Application

Name _____

Renewal New Member

If this is a family membership:

Spouse's Name _____

Address _____

Local Chapter _____

City, State and Zip _____

Telephone (_____) _____

E-Mail Address _____

Dues Level (Please check One)

- General \$50
 Sustaining \$100
 Benefactor \$250
 Lifetime \$1200 (onetime payment)
 Associate \$50 (non-land owning)
 Additional Chapter(s) @ \$10

Additional Voluntary Contribution to Support WFFA .
Amount \$ _____

Please cut off this form and mail with a check made payable to "WFFA" to:

Washington Farm Forestry Association
P.O. Box 7663
Olympia, WA 98507

Please use this form to encourage new members to join.
Current members are invoiced annually in December.