

# Landowner News

*Washington*  
**FARM FORESTRY**  
ASSOCIATION



“Stewards of the Land for Generations to Come”

March 2008

## Message From the President

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

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Bill Scheer, Jr., Treasurer  
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Rick Dunning, Executive Director  
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Erica Norquist, Information Officer

### Public Affairs

Martin Flynn Public Affairs, Inc.

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



When I first became President of your Farm Forestry Association I dedicated myself to helping provide you with information you can use in your day-to-day activities on your tree farm.

I think this edition of the Landowner News is a perfect example of the kind of information I wanted to get in your hands, from legislative changes to information about tax changes, small landowner programs, publications and more.

It is with sadness that I note that this edition of Landowner News also honors two of our WFFA family who recently passed away: former Tree Farmer of the Year Mark Andrews and Joy Playfair, beloved spouse of former President Bob Playfair.

I hope you will join me in offering condolences to their families.

Preparations are ongoing for our next WFFA Annual Meeting to be held in Mt. Vernon April 24-26. It promises to be a lively gathering with more information you can use and new friends to be made. I hope to see you there.

Finally, this my last “message from the president” for the Landowner News. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as the president of our association and I want to thank you for the support you have given me in my term of office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Don Theoe in black ink.

Don Theoe

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Phone: (360) 736-5750 Fax: (360) 736-2704.  
Visit us on the Web at: [www.wafarmforestry.com](http://www.wafarmforestry.com)  
e-mail: [info@wafarmforestry.com](mailto:info@wafarmforestry.com)

# Calendar

## Long Term Application Outreach in Puyallup April 2, 7:00 pm

Small Forest Landowner Office staff have been holding outreach events regarding the Long Term Forest Practices Application for the last few months, and will be holding another event with the Washington Farm Forestry Association in Puyallup on April 2 at 7:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend the event which will be held at the WSU Puyallup Research & Extension Center, 7612 Pioneer Way E., Puyallup, WA. (Canyon Rd. Exit off of Hwy 512. Left on Canyon Rd. Right at 72nd St E. Continue on Pioneer Way E.)

This new program will allow small forest landowners the option to apply for a Long-Term Application that is valid for up to 15 years. This new opportunity is expected to ease the paperwork burden and allow more flexibility in timing harvests, but the process of filing a long-term permit will be much different than the standard 2-year permit. The Small Forest Landowner Office is holding several outreach events to notify the public of this new program, and to educate the forestry community about the process of filing a Long-Term Application.

## Coached Planning Courses in Carnation and Cle Elum start soon

Washington DNR and Washington State University Extension cooperate to offer several Coached Planning Courses for forest owners each year. These hands-on, practical courses enable landowners to prepare their own forest stewardship plan with guidance and "coaching" from natural resource professionals. Whether you own 3, 30, or 300 acres of forest, if you want to expand your knowledge, tools, and confidence for managing your forestland, this is a great course. The course meets weekly for several weeks. There are two courses coming up in Carnation and Cle Elum:

Carnation, 1 April - 27 May, 2008. Contact Amy Grotta : [amy.grotta@kingcounty.gov](mailto:amy.grotta@kingcounty.gov)

Cle Elum, 7 April - 26 May, 2008. Contact Andy Perleberg for more information: [andyp@wsu.edu](mailto:andyp@wsu.edu)

You can also obtain additional information about the upcoming Coached Planning Courses at <http://ext.nrs.wsu.edu/newsevents/forststewardship.htm>

## Family Forest Field Days Are in the Works

For the past several years, WSU Extension and Washington DNR have teamed up to offer Family Forest Field Days in various regions of the state during the summer months. These are opportunities for forest landowners to come and learn about a variety of forestry topics including silviculture, regeneration, fish habitat, forest roads, forest practices, insect damage, and

many other topics. We're excited that the event we're planning in the Blue Mountains this year will also have some rangeland topics for the attendees. Hundreds of people have enjoyed these events across the state! The dates and locations are tentatively set, and look for much more information on these field days coming soon.

Blue Mountains Forest and Range Owners Field Day  
Dayton, WA  
Saturday, June 14, 2008

Western WA Forest Owners Field Day  
Naselle, WA  
Saturday, August 23, 2008

## On the Marginal Return from Timberland Investments

Posted: 29 Feb 2008 01:22 PM CST

I own stock, I own timberland. Each provides an economic return that is somewhat comparable to the other. Sophisticated analysts compare the two asset classes to determine which is actually best. In the end, I think timberland usually wins the contest by a small amount.

When I get up in the morning, I have my coffee and then head out the door with Sophie. About four steps from the door I am walking in the woods and enjoying the marginal return that comes from a direct investment in timberland. Sophie has me by the cuff dragging me down the slope to see if we will see ducks, geese, a Great Blue Heron or maybe even an otter if we're lucky. She runs as fast as she can go, stops abruptly, and then freezes into that handsome pose of a pointer.

The individual investor is sometimes at a disadvantage to the institutional investor when it comes to buying and owning timberland. Economies of scale make it more economical to both purchase and manage large tracts. Yet when the pension fund manager is working diligently balancing the portfolio for the funds clients, the owners of the Family Forest can be balancing on a log crossing the creek.

Sophie breaks her point, flushes three wild turkeys, my heart races and the marginal return jumps a point! It all evens out. —Brian

From: The Timberland Blog:  
<http://thetimberlandblog.blogspot.com/>

## More Calendar

### National Tree Farmer Convention Coming to Portland

Mark your calendar now for the national tree farmer convention, coming to the northwest this fall. For the first time since 1996, the annual convention of the American Tree Farm System will be held in Portland, OR. Oct. 16-18, 2008 at Portland's Downtown Hilton Hotel and Executive Tower. For registration details, click: <http://www.treefarmssystem.org> or phone co-chair Tom Fox at 360-749-1302.

### WFFA Annual Meeting

Cottontree Inn  
Mt. Vernon, WA  
April 24-26, 2008  
For more info: 360-736-5750

### Bylaw Changes

The WFFA board of directors has approved a request to the membership to change our bylaws and a vote on the proposed change will be taken at the Friday morning business meeting at the Annual Meeting.

The change is found in Article 3 (Membership), Section 6 (Life Membership). The board has approved the removal of the wording "Life membership shall be available to active members upon submission of a single life membership dues payment". The board is requesting that Sec. 6 then read **"Lifetime membership shall be available only to an active individual member, or active individual member and spouse, and not carry on beyond their lives, upon submission of a single life membership dues payment"**.

## Small Landowner Office Brief:

**Long Term Application:** The Small Forest Landowner Office of DNR has talked to over 250 consultants and landowners about the Long Term Forest Practices Application which began in 2007. Three applications have been approved in eastern Washington and have several other landowners are working to complete application. For more information on Long Term Applications, visit [www.dnr.wa.gov/BusinessPermits/Topics/SmallForestLandownerOffice/Pages/fp\\_sflo\\_lta.aspx](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/BusinessPermits/Topics/SmallForestLandownerOffice/Pages/fp_sflo_lta.aspx)

**Family Forest Fish Passage Program:** In the summer of 2007, the Family Forest Fish Passage Program worked to correct 25 fish barriers on the properties of small forest landowners across Washington. The Fish Passage Team aims to correct 52 barriers in 2008. At the end of the upcoming summer, the program will have corrected 152 sites opening 350.9 miles of stream habitat at a cost of about \$9,733,000 in its 5 year history. We are currently looking for good projects around the state and encourage anyone with an undersized culvert under a forest road crossing a fish bearing stream to send in an application. Return the application before June 30 to have your fish barrier correction project considered for funding for the summer of 2009. More information on the program, and the application, can be found at [http://www.dnr.wa.gov/BusinessPermits/Topics/SmallForestLandownerOffice/Pages/fp\\_sflo\\_ffpp.aspx](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/BusinessPermits/Topics/SmallForestLandownerOffice/Pages/fp_sflo_ffpp.aspx) (the application is under "files" on right side of screen).

**Forestry Riparian Easement Program:** The Forestry Riparian Easement Program (FREP) has made payments to 26 landowners totaling over \$3 million so far in the 2007-2009 biennium. The program plans to pay over \$6 million on 85 easements by June 2009. The SFLO has started a waiting list for the next biennium, and we encourage you to get your FREP application in soon. More information on FREP can be found at [http://www.dnr.wa.gov/BusinessPermits/Topics/SmallForestLandownerOffice/Pages/fp\\_sflo\\_frep.aspx](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/BusinessPermits/Topics/SmallForestLandownerOffice/Pages/fp_sflo_frep.aspx)

Michael Ahr  
Small Forest Landowner Outreach Specialist  
Washington DNR  
Ph: (360) 902-1849

# Legislative Report

by Martin Flynn Public Affairs

The 2008 Session of the Washington Legislature tackled several issues of importance to small forest landowners. Here is a summary:

## Budget

The Legislature took action to provide some financial assistance to those hit hard by the December 2007 Storm, including:

\$1.3 million for woody debris removal  
\$10.3 million state, \$31.2 million federal for recovery and rebuilding in affected areas of Chehalis and Centralia.  
\$2 million for small business assistance  
\$150,000 in property-tax relief for flood damaged farms.  
\$50 million bond authorization to build flood-control projects

## Climate Change

Governor Gregoire proposed major legislation to address climate change in the western region. The Washington Forest Protection Association, under the leadership of Executive Director Mark Doumit, took the lead in negotiations on behalf of the forest products industry.

The result was language that declares that "emissions of carbon dioxide from industrial combustion of biomass in the form of fuel wood, wood waste, wood byproducts, and wood residuals shall not be considered a greenhouse gas as long as the region's silvicultural sequestration capacity is maintained or increased." This is a major win for the forest products industry.

## Forest Practices Board

SHB 2893 modified the composition of the Forest Practices Board by changing the definition of the small forest landowner position from a person who owns less than 500 acres to the statutory definition of a small forest

landowner who actively manages his or her land. The bill also adds to the Board a member of a timber products union.

## No to New Buffers

HB 2457 (Appleton) would have created "residential interface forestry zones" that would have required new 100' buffers along certain residential parcels and onerous reporting requirements.

## No to Soil Science Licensing

HB 3198 was another attempt to license individuals who practice 'soil science', and this year included wetland science. Proponents of the legislation are continuing their efforts and we expect to see something again next year.

## No to Changes in the FREP Program

For the second year in a row, WFFA sought changes to the Forest Riparian Easement program. The changes sought by HB 2219 (Orcutt) and SB 6501 (Hargrove) would have allowed forest landowners with less than 20 acres to participate if they played by the Forests and Fish Rules. Timber on unstable slopes could have been considered as qualifying for the FREP program and the DNR small landowner office must reimburse small forest landowners for costs associated with hiring a qualified expert to complete required studies or reports as part of the forest practices application upon which an easement is based.

Further changes would have pushed family forest owners to the front of the line for payment ahead of non-profits and cities. Most important, DNR was given permission to set the value of individual easements before the money is available to pay for them, giving landowners a firm idea of the value of their easement.

The WFFA may pursue these changes again in 2009.

## Question

This e-mail exchange between WFFA member Bob Brink of Clark County and Ted Dunlap of the State Department of Revenue clarifies the legislature's recent change in the B&O tax on harvests of less than \$100,000.

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From: Bob Brink  
Sent: Monday, January 14, 2008 7:45 PM  
To: Dunlap, Ted (DOR)  
Subject: B and O Harvest Tax

Ted,

My question is regarding the new B and O exemption implemented by the legislature. In the past if you harvested less than \$100,000 of timber in a year, you were exempt from the B and O tax on it. But the second you went over \$100,000, you owed on the whole thing. The legislature changed that to exempt the first \$100,000 regardless, but I don't think it went into effect until July 1, 2007. So if a landowner harvested before July 1 last year, does he still owe on that first \$100,000 if his total receipts went over the \$100,000 threshold during Q-1 and 2.?

Given the above scenario, what about any harvest receipts received in Q-3 or 4?

Thanks for your assistance.

Bob Brink  
a Clark County Tree Farmer

## Answer

From: Dunlap, Ted (DOR)  
Sent: Tuesday, January 15, 2008 8:33 AM  
To: Bob Brink  
Subject: RE: B and O Harvest Tax

Thanks for your question Bob,  
Since this law came into effect on July 1, 2007 it depends the frequency that you have to file your B&O tax return.

If you file annual (Gross for the year less than about \$300,000) than the tax return would be due after the end of the year so you will be able to take the \$100,000 deduction on the annual return. This is regardless as to when you harvested in 2007.

If you file quarterly (gross for the year over \$300,000) you would not be able to take the \$100,000 deduction for the 1st and 2nd quarter. But you may take it the 3rd or 4th quarter if you harvest. The deduction is limited to \$100,000 total for the year so if you take it the 3rd quarter you do not get to take it again in the 4th quarter.

As a side note if you file electronically, since you have a computer you should, you will receive the lower tax rate of .003424 instead of the standard rate of .00484. If you are unable to file electronically than see the tax form attached that will allow the lower rate.

If you have any other questions please feel free to contact me by email or phone.

Ted Dunlap  
360-570-5525

## WFFA Executive Elections and Leadership Development

Each year sees new opportunity for you to get involved with WFFA local and state leadership. As a "grass roots" volunteer led organization, we are always in need of your help.

Our WFFA elections are coming up soon. If you want to get involved and help us achieve our vision, please let past President Ken Miller know your name, areas of expertise and interest. Ken's email is [kenbonniemiller@gmail.com](mailto:kenbonniemiller@gmail.com).

We must continue to develop leaders who are willing and capable of building upon the foundations of the past, and making a future where we see privately owned family forest land as a thriving part of Washington's landscape.

## Family Forest Data Set Reaction

The WFFA and the FFF hosted the Washington Family Forest Data Set unveiling by the University of Washington's Rural Technology Initiative at the last WFFA Executive Board meeting. Held at the historic Olympic Club theatre in downtown Centralia the program was viewed by county assessors, conservation groups, legislators, educators and other interested parties from around the state. Michelle Blake, WFFA secretary and Department of Transportation GIS specialist had this to say:

*"Wonderful! I am particularly excited to see the presentation. WFFA and the Family Forest Foundation have helped out the taxpayers of the state by getting the Parcels Framework effort underway and bringing together input from the various State Agencies who all benefit from this dataset. I am very, very proud of WFFA and FFF for this!!!"*

## Liability Insurance for Tree Farms

The WFFA is receiving inquiries regarding liability insurance for tree farms. Here are some options for landowners such as yourselves who are looking for liability insurance coverage.

The WFFA has investigated a group insurance policy for WFFA members in the past. We are apparently too small an organization to qualify even if we brought every member in to the umbrella. We have discovered that we could tag along with the Farm Bureau's group insurance plan, but every WFFA member would also have to pay \$75 annually to join the Farm Bureau. For your reference, the Washington State Farm Bureau website is [www.wsfb.com](http://www.wsfb.com) and appears to contain contact information for Country Insurance (800-767-3157).

The National Woodland Owners Association (NWOA) produces a quarterly magazine, National Woodlands. You should receive this publication directly as WFFA members who are included on the NWOA mailing list. They advertise "Vacant Land Liability Insurance." You may pursue this coverage by contacting NWOA by phone 800-GRO-TREE or on their website [www.woodlandowners.org](http://www.woodlandowners.org). We spoke recently to Darrell Tendris, Executive Director for NWOA and he explained that this liability package is a pass through for them to benefit member tree farms.

This would give you some basis for comparing options and costs of land umbrella policies from insurance agents you may already have contacted.

Two other on-line resources for further comparisons would be: 1) <http://farm-bureau.insurance-website.com> and 2) <http://www.usinsuranceonline.com>.

We hope this information will be helpful to you in your search.

## Publications

Landscape Management System: A Computer Tool for Helping Family Forest Owners Make Management Decisions

EB2024

Author(s): James B. McCarter, and Donald P. Hanley

Determining the desired future condition is one of the most difficult tasks in silviculture and forest management, and one of the most important. The Landscape Management System (LMS) provides a simplified interface for a variety of computer tools to make evaluation easier for family forestland alternatives. LMS automates the process of formatting inventory information, using growth models, simulating treatments, visualization, and providing summarized information for further analysis. This publication describes the program, how to use it, and gives examples. The software program is included on CD and is also available as a free download.

Publisher: WSU Extension Publishing & Printing  
Published: August 2007. 38 pages.

Price: \$11.00

<http://cru84.cahe.wsu.edu/cgi-bin/pubs/EB2024.html>

## Directories

Washington State Small-Scale Sawmills

The following is a partial list of small-scale sawmill operations in Washington. This database is intended to benefit those family forest owners that do not harvest the quantity of wood necessary to access Washington's traditional forestry infrastructure, and are looking for sawmills who will accept small quantities of logs. The list should also assist forest owners who wish to utilize timber from their own property, homeowners who would like to find a creative use for a backyard hazard tree, or woodcrafters looking for a local source of custom milled wood.

No endorsement is implied nor intended for any business listed here, nor is exclusion from this list intended to be a negative endorsement. The directory is simply a listing of sawmill operators who responded to a phone call and agreed to be listed. The details following each listing's contact information include whether the mill is mobile (portable), its capacity, and other services provided by the sawyer.

If you are a sawmill operator and would like to be included in this list, please contact Amy Grotta at (206) 205-3132 or [grottaa@wsu.edu](mailto:grottaa@wsu.edu).

<http://ext.nrs.wsu.edu/forestryext/sawmill/index.htm>

## In Memoriam

We share the sad news of the passing of dedicated and passionate citizens who chose to make a difference through their involvement in our association. It reminds us that our days are numbered so that we may gain hearts of wisdom.

### Mark Andrews

Mark was a criminal lawyer in Southwest Washington until 1982. He then became a Juvenile Judge Pro-Tem for several years. He was a tree farmer throughout his career. He was Washington State Tree Farmer of the year in 1992. Mark was an outdoorsman, enjoyed his family and his dog, Koby. He was a motivated, serious individual, and a hard worker. He married Gina Vandenberg May 19, 1978. She survives him at home.

### Joy Playfair

Joy is survived by former WFFA President Bob Playfair, her husband of 52 years. She is also survived by their son Robert and his wife Polly, and youngest daughter Patti of Chewelah; daughter Mary and her husband Brian Spackman of Elk, WA, and daughter Connie and husband Rick Cismowski of Nine Mile Falls, WA. She has 10 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

**Welcome New  
WFFA Members!**

**From the Executive Director's Desk**

CLARK  
Michael & Kristi Ek  
Dana & Melanie Ek

COWLITZ  
Michael Bettineski & Blair Martin  
Thomas & Becky Elhardt  
Robert & Lori Erickson  
Julian Jiang  
John Smyth

GRAYS HARBOR  
Tim & Jennifer Brown  
City of Montesano  
Brock Geodecke  
Ralph & Stephanie Rangel

KITTITAS  
Ted Leavitt

LEWIS  
David Filla  
Darrell Saxton

NE WASHINGTON  
Robert & Janet Thornton

PIERCE  
Mark & Darcy Paul  
Darwin & Lisa Reed

SOUTH SOUND  
Ron & Gayle Barker

The WFFA Annual Meeting will be held on April 24-26 in Mt. Vernon hosted by our Upper Puget Sound Chapter. An exciting and fun program is planned with a saw mill and tree farm tour wrapped around a day of speakers. It should be interesting and educational and give time to meet and great tree farmers from around the state. If you have attended past annual meetings, I hope you are able to join us again. We have reduced the registration fee in an effort to make it more affordable. If you have never attended a WFFA annual meeting, I personally ask you to come join us. If you have not received your registration packet, call our office today!



The WFFA office in Centralia was the reason for the dues change and at this time we are happy to report that most members have agreed. The new office, with Erica on staff, has allowed your association to rise to a new level of competency. We are now able to provide more membership benefits, including support of free tree farm certification through the Washington Tree Farm Program, as well as increased chapter communication support with the Chapter Updates. Our association policy and legislative efforts will also continue to grow due to the support of this office. Much is going on in our state as we learn to cope with our growing population. I am convinced that tree farms will become increasingly important to the solution of providing a livable Washington for "the Generations to Come".

Treefully,  
Rick Dunning

**Washington Farm Forestry Membership Application**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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 1-40 acres \$65
- General 41-200 acres \$125
- General 201 and up \$175
- Lifetime \$1700 (onetime payment)
- Associate \$65 (non-land owning)
- Additional Chapter(s) @ \$10

Name of Additional Chapter(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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 1010  
Chehalis, WA 98532

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