

Landowner News



“Stewards of the Land for Generations to Come”

May 2007

Message From the President

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.



Thanks to everyone who attended a very successful Annual Meeting in Kelso. A special thanks to the Lewis County Chapter which sponsored the event and to Bryan and Donna Loucks who hosted us at their tree farm outside Chehalis.

The Annual Meeting came on the heels of one of the most successful efforts we have had in the Legislature in the post-Forest and Fish era (details inside).

Our Annual Meetings highlight what WFFA does best - providing fellowship and information. We learned from one another and shared our experiences while gathering important information about government policy and new trends in the forest products industry.

It remains my goal to increase the amount of information your state association can provide to make your tree farm a more profitable and enjoyable investment. If you have ideas you would like to share with other members, please don't hesitate to pass them along and we'll see if we can include them in future editions of "Landowner News."

Florence and I hope you enjoy a beautiful summer in your woods.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Don Theoe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Don Theoe

Calendar

Family Forest Owners Field Day

An out-in-the-woods educational event for people who own forest land east of the Cascades.

Whether you own a home in the woods or many acres of forest land, this educational event is for you! Learn "how to" assess the health of your forest and protect your property from threats like wildfire and bark beetles — and much more. Choose from nearly two dozen topics!

Saturday, June 23, 2007.

I-90 Exit 78

For More Information, Contact:

Any Perleberg

andyp@wsu.edu

509-667-6658

Hardwood Commission Meeting Designed for Small Landowners

A special agenda designed for WFFA members and other small landowners has been planned for the Washington Hardwoods Commission Annual Meeting in Castle Rock. Of special interest is the long awaited Alder Growth & Yield Model demonstrated by the FVS modeler from Fort Collins, CO. This model will show the yield of this short rotation forest product.

Date: June 20, 2007

Time: 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Place: DNR Pacific Cascade Regional Office
601 Bond Road
Castle Rock, WA

News from the Western Hardwood Association

In 1955, sixty maverick companies joined together to become the charter members of what is now known as the Western Hardwood Association. They were considered mavericks because they were making a living using a Pacific Coast hardwood called alder. Foresters throughout the region were using any means available to eradicate what was known as a "weed" tree. As formidable as was the effort to eradicate the alder, it still persisted and is now gaining favor among most foresters. Alder is the first to sprout after a fire or other disaster. It is a prolific contributor to the biodiversity of the forest.

Now let us fast forward to the year 2000 when Alder logs surpassed Douglas fir logs in price for the first time. This trend is continuing today and is projected to continue in the future. Alder represents a niche market with 98% of the alder coming from the Northwest and Southern British Columbia. Many also feel that alder is destined to be grown on plantations where variables can be controlled.

About 26% of the alder is grown in the riparian zones which is made unavailable because of ever widening buffer zones to protect fish and wildlife. The remainder is grown under 1500 feet in elevation and is subject to forest practices rules and regulations restricting its harvest. All this leads to a reduced supply in an increasing demand climate.

Looking at a logical scenario and profit potential: Harvest every 20 years with a yield of 20 mbf per acre of saw logs, after logging and replanting costs, the net to the landowner could be as much as \$7,500 per acre. So, a small landowner with 40 acres could possibly realize \$300,000.

For More Information Contact:

David Sweitzer

Secretary/Manager

Western Hardwood Association

360-835-1600

wha@westernhardwood.org

2007 WFFA Annual Meeting

It's history now! A very successful Annual Meeting, organized by the Lewis County Chapter, was held last week at the Red Lion Hotel in Kelso and **Bryan and Donna Loucks'** B&D Tree Farm outside Chehalis. 280 people attended some portion of the meeting.

In the morning, presentations covered the Family Forest Foundation, Tribal Cultural Resources, the Washington Forest Futures Report, Land Trusts and Conservation Easements, and the American Tree Farm System. In the afternoon, attendees had their choice of 3 concurrent sessions focusing on hardwoods, conifers, or travel.

At the luncheon on Friday, 5 chapter tree farmers of the year were recognized (see related article). Both Doug Sutherland, Commissioner of Public Lands, and Vicki Christiansen, State Forester, were present at the luncheon. Commissioner Sutherland was there to unveil the new DNR publication "Forest Practices Illustrated: a simplified guide to forest practices rules in Washington State" (see related article). Vicki donned her 'silver' hard hat from her past DNR work with family forest landowners of the state and gave a sincere tribute to all of the 'outstanding' tree farmers of Washington.

The Friday dinner banquet was highlighted by John Mankowski, Executive Policy Advisor to Governor Gregoire. John spoke of his young family's attachment to their land and also of his, and the Governor's, understanding that tree farmers are the true environmentalists of Washington. John also spoke of the important role that the WFFA is playing in our state, by staying engaged in policy and legislation.

The Saturday morning General membership business meeting had a discussion of the state of our association and election of new officers for 2007 (see cover page). After the WFFA business meeting on Saturday morning, the activity moved to the B&D Tree Farm west of Chehalis. The 120 people who attended were able to visit a dozen educational booths, and take a 2 hour walking tour or a half hour hay ride

around the property. An unusually balmy day made the event especially pleasant.

If you missed the meeting and are interested in listening to any of the speakers, Will Koenig, Lewis Chapter, has recorded it all and will soon be making it available in disk format. Contact will at (360) 978-5925 or willkoenig@catholic.org.

Open House Inaugurates WFFA Office

An open house was held at the newly opened WFFA office. The office, located between Centralia and Chehalis, was set up to provide sustainability to the association. It is shared with the Family Forest Foundation (FFF) to reduce administrative overhead.

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 and our new phone number is: (360) 736-5750, fax is (360) 736-2704.

Directions: Take Exit #81 off I-5; Go east on Mellon Street (SR507) ¾ mi. to Pearl St. traffic light; Turn Rt. on Pearl and go ½ mi. (up overpass and it becomes Gold Ave. going southbound) to Union Street (next to Sterling Bank on your left). Turn Left on Union, until stop sign at Grand. Go straight thru to next stop sign at Kresky Rd. (one way north). Turn left (north) on Kresky and go 1 block to KITI (on left). Park in side parking lot and use the entrance side door, up the stairs to Suite #106.



Bob and Jane Brink and Carl Ruestig help inaugurate the new WFFA office.

WFFA Legislative Priorities 2007

Martin Flynn Public Affairs (MFPA) worked during the 2007 session to achieve the five goals as determined by the Executive Committee of WFFA:

- 1) Elimination of the mandatory conversion moratorium
- 2) Simplification of the B&O Tax on Small Harvesters.
- 3) Reform of the Open Space Timber/ Designated Forest Land Designations.
- 4). Creation of a Long-Term Permit for small forest landowners.
- 5) Adequate Funding for Programs that Benefit Small Forest Landowners.

Conversion Moratorium

MFPA worked with members of the WFFA Exec. Committee, state agencies and other stakeholders to create legislation to address the issue of the current 6-year conversion moratorium.

Rep. Ed Orcutt introduced legislation in the 2006 session to eliminate the moratorium. While this legislation was unsuccessful, interested stakeholders including the counties, state agencies and the "conservation caucus" expressed a willingness to sit down in the interim period between sessions and work toward a solution.

In 2007 both Representative Orcutt and Senator Karen Fraser introduced legislation to eliminate the moratorium. Ultimately it was Senator Fraser's measure, Senate Bill 5883, which was signed by the Governor.

Simplification of the B&O Tax on Small Harvesters.

MFPA was also successful in securing language that grants a true exemption from the B&O tax for the first \$100,000 in sales by 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.

HB 1513 grants small harvesters a credit on their B&O tax liability to continue the incentive for small harvesters to keep their land in timber.

Forest Riparian Easement Program

The forest riparian easement program (FREP) needed increased funding in the 2007-09 biennial capital budget just to meet increasing demand. MFPA worked with legislative budget leaders to ensure that the 2007-09 budget included \$10.5 million for the FREP program, the largest single appropriation into the program to date.

Long-Term Permits

In order to facilitate flexibility for small forest landowners in the timing of their forest practices activities, the department will receive, and approve or disapprove, long-term forest practices applications.

The Legislature appropriated approximately \$2 million to accomplish this and other purposes.

Adequate Funding for Programs that Benefit Small Forest Landowners

The Legislature also provided:
Wildfire suppression - \$34.9 million
Forest health - \$1.9 million
Family Forest Fish Passage - \$6 million

Open Space Timber/Designated Forest Land

Under legislation being sought by county assessors, the open space timber land classification would have been eliminated. Forest land would be redefined as five or more acres devoted primarily to growing and harvesting timber for commercial purposes. This legislation failed to make it through the legislative process.

WFFA Dues Increase Discussion

The WFFA board of directors at the September 22nd and the November 3rd, 2006 Executive Board meetings, have discussed a membership dues increase. It has been six years since the last dues increase and WFFA dues structure has always been held low compared to similar associations. A dues increase, if approved this fall by a mail out vote of the general membership, would increase the basic membership fee \$15 annually for those owning 40 acres or less. A restructure of the membership dues would allow for continuation of the WFFA office and staff, which is only budgeted for until 2009.

The new membership annual assessment under consideration, recommended by the membership committee and unanimously approved by the executive board would be:

Associate - (No forest land ownership)	\$65
General - 1-40 acres	\$65
Sustaining - 41-200 acres	\$125
Benefactor - 201+ acres	\$175
Life - (one-time payment)	\$1700

The committee and board decided that a change to a dues structure based on acreage owned would be simple yet fair. Such a change can only occur by a vote of the membership of the WFFA. A mail in ballot is being considered for this fall. Please consider contacting your Chapter President or attending a Chapter meeting if you have comments or questions about this dues change proposal.



WFFA caps are available by sending a \$15 per cap donation to " WFFA - caps" at P.O. Box 1010 Chehalis, Wa 98532

Advisory Committee Positions Available

The Small Forest Landowner Advisory Committee was established by the Forests and Fish legislation to enable small tree farmers to voice their concerns and help develop DNR rules that pertain to small forest landowners. The eight-person committee is one representative from each of these state agencies: DNR, Ecology, and Fish and Wildlife. It also includes a representative from the tribes and four members of the Washington Farm Forestry Association (WFFA). WFFA member appointees should have addressed Forest Practice Rules on their farms, be able to work in a committee format and contribute to our regional representation.

Maurice Williamson (NE Chapter) is the current chairman and the other three WFFA positions are held by Dennis Dart (UPS Chapter), Phil Hess (Kittitas), and Jack Kleinhoff (Lewis). Jack Kleinhoff is stepping down to pursue other quests. The WFFA is seeking a member from Southwest Washington as his replacement. They must be willing to serve our association by applying for this position which is appointed by the Commissioner of Public Lands. You must be willing to meet at least once a month in Olympia and take the time necessary to read and study the issues.

We give our sincere thanks to all members of the committee for their valuable contributions to our association. If you would like more information about these positions, contact the WFFA at 360.736.5750 or rdunning@wafarmforestry.com

Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year Award



Congratulations to the **Burns Family Tree Farm**, selected as the Outstanding Tree Farm of the Year from among several outstanding nominees at the WFFA Annual Meeting in Kelso.

Bob Burns Receives Tree Farm of the Year Award From DNR's Vicki Christiansen

The Burns Family's 200-acre tree farm is located in Skamania County and has been in the Burns family for 87 years. It was a dairy and beef farm for over 50 years and has now been converted to a productive tree farm. In the process, wildlife habitat and water quality have been improved. For over two decades, the members of the Burns family have not only managed their tree farm but have also reached out to neighbors to encourage tree farming, taught classes, and served on various county and federal advisory committees on resource issues.

Other outstanding nominees included:

The **Hansen Family Tree Farm**, a 450-acre farm in Lewis County which was pieced together through 8 separate purchases over 40 years by June Hansen and her late husband, Steve. When Steve passed away the portion that was farm land was converted to timber. Now June has passed the management of the property to her two daughters. Steve was one of the founding members of the Lewis County Farm Forestry Association and twice its president. June has also been involved in LCFFA and in the Washington Resources Council. In both her professional and personal life, daughter Heather works to educate people about sustainable forest management practices.

Matt and Susan Hobbs who have worked to make their 719-acre tree farm in Pend Oreille County a healthy forest and have a vision for the property beyond what the average "dreamer" can imagine. They envision as community where caregivers can come to be refreshed. They are hoping to create a cottage industry for using the wood on their property, to build a solar wood kiln and to convert a barn into a wood shop. Matt has been involved in the forest products industry since the 1970s.

Phillip A. Poppleton manages the 295-acre Ross/Poppleton Tree Farm in Whatcom County. Management activities in the last five years have included pre-commercial thinning, afforestation, clearcutting, and reforestation. The tree farm has been the site of many tours and demonstrations. Phil has been an active public advocate for sustainable forest management. He served as the Pierce County Farm Forestry Association president for 11 years, made presentations at forest stewardship classes, testified at hearings before the legislature and served on various advisory boards.

Richard Schellhass has worked on his 60-acre tree farm in Okanogan County to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire while also producing wood products and creating wildlife habitat. He has improved the forest health by thinning, always "saving the best and improving the rest." He has promoted tree farming by practicing management by example and has also written many articles about forest history and health and presented information to numerous groups.

Congratulations to **Bob Playfair and "Rafter Seven Ranch"** of Chewelah, WA for reaching the next level in the 2007 West Region Tree Farmer of the Year Contest. Bob Playfair was Washington State Tree Farmer of the Year in 2006 and now is in the final three of the West Region Contest with the other two state nominees being from Montana and Oregon.

DNR Publishes “The Future of Washington Forests”

New Report Documents Innovative Model for Public Policy Development

The Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has published The Future of Washington Forests, a report to the State Legislature. It documents a new model for public policy development, created through a distinctive collaboration between DNR and the University of Washington's College of Forest Resources. DNR and the College brought together policy-grounded academic studies with information-rich stakeholder dialogue to form relevant proposals for public policy change. The report summarizes policy recommendations about protecting the working forest land base for its multiple benefits and for strengthening Washington's forest industry.

Updated Forest Practices Illustrated

At the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Washington Farm Forestry Association (WFFA) in Kelso, Public Lands Commissioner Doug Sutherland announced that the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has published the 2007 edition of Forest Practices Illustrated, a non-technical guide to the State's most common rules for forestry operations. The rules regulate work in the woods, including timber harvest, forest road construction and maintenance, thinning, reforestation, and use of fertilizers or pesticides. With photographs and illustrations, the guide shows how these rules are applied on the ground. To Obtain a copy or CD version of the publication, visit the nearest DNR Region office or www.dnr.wa.gov/forestpractices/

Wildfire Season Officially Begins

Restrictions for loggers, land clearers, equipment operators, off-road motorcyclists in effect April 15 through October 15

As specified by state law, Washington's wildfire season has officially begun.

Washington's fire season

Washington's "summer fire rules" are in effect April 15 through October 15. The rules apply to all private and state forestlands that receive wildfire protection from DNR.

For the next six months, people using motorized equipment in the woods must have approved spark arresters and follow fire safety precautions. These regulations affect loggers, firewood cutters, land clearers, road builders, bulldozer operators, off-road motorcyclists, and others. In addition, those working in the woods must have fire prevention and extinguishing equipment at the job site, in good working order, with staff trained in its proper use.

The rules are intended to prevent forest fires and to extinguish small fires before they spread. Those same rules restrict cigarette smoking in forested areas to roads, gravels pits, or other clearings. They also prohibit lighting fireworks on forestland

DAILY FIRE RISK RATINGS AVAILABLE BY PHONE AND INTERNET

Woods workers and industrial forest users also need to observe Industrial Fire Precaution Levels, which may change daily and which classify varying levels of fire danger in different parts of the state. To learn more:

Call DNR's toll-free business line at 1-800-527-3305 to listen to a message identifying daily industrial fire precaution levels, which are listed by geographical region. Telephone Device for the Deaf at 1-800-833-6388.

Access DNR's web site at <http://www.dnr.wa.gov> to review regional precaution levels, a map of current shutdown zones, and a copy of DNR's Industrial Fire Precaution Level Bulletin.

E-mail DNR at fire_prevention@wadnr.gov with questions, to request that a copy of DNR's Industrial Fire Precaution Level Bulletin be mailed, for additional information on safe outdoor burning of forest debris, and for safe recreational campfire tips.

Welcome New WFFA Members!

COWLITZ

John Allen
Albert Benkendorf
Scott & Michelle Elston
Eli & Erica Fields
David Johnson
Bradley & Carla Pomroy
Ed Scheckard
Gary & Debbie Seroshek
Dyarle & Katie Sharkey
Karen Scheckard & Mobeen Butte
Deborah Walters
Edwin & Joann Wright

LEWIS

Central Pacific Timber Co.

NORTH CENTRAL

Bob & Marilyn Spiess

OLYMPIC

Robert Cooper
Joseph & Vicki Ferguson
Jackson Williams

PIERCE

Abston-Henricksen Property
Donald Barovic
Dan & Sandy Smolens

UPS

Kevin Vail
Elton & Bonnie Welke

WHATCOM

Barbara Brenner & Ed Morris
John & Susan Browne

From the Executive Director's Desk



Our Association has just finished both a busy legislative session and an outstanding annual meeting. Thankfully we now have a little time to catch our breath and reconnect with our families and tree farms.

It was a good legislative session for the WFFA. Because of our success, Martin Flynn Public Affairs has received a "2007 Advisor of the Year" plaque from our association for their efforts. Representative Ed Orcutt and Senator Karen Fraser are our "2007 Outstanding Legislators" for their work to remove the "moratorium filing" needed with a Forest Practice Application. This will save the filing fee (up to \$30) and the recording of the 6 year moratorium on your land.

At his year's annual meeting banquet, the WFFA was able to publicly thank those who volunteer their time to support the association. The WFFA officers, Executive Committee, Executive board, Chapter Presidents and Small Forest Land Owner Advisory Committee are some of those who contribute. We understand that it takes a team and no one's effort is any less important than any other.

At each Chapter of the WFFA, and the State level, we are looking for others who would like to join the team. We offer a mentoring program where you can attend meetings and discussions with us to "learn the ropes" and to meet those current active members. It is hard for you to step forward if we don't first ask, so please consider contacting us if you have any time or skill that you would like to contribute. From Chapter officers to becoming a state officer, from contributing to our newsletter or applying for our Information and Organization Officer Staff position, we need you. And thanks for your continued willingness to pay membership dues that keeps the WFFA working for you.

Treefully,
Rick Dunning

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
- 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 7663
Olympia, WA 98507

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