



WHATCOM COUNTY FARM FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

2018 ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

TREE FARM TOURS

June 30 – Nourse Tree Farm. *David New* and his family were named the Washington Farm Forestry Tree Farmer of the Year. They opened their Tree Farm in Arlington for a tour by over 20 attendees. They talked about how they worked with disparate agencies to develop a wetlands area. They also talked about planting spruce to protect cedar seedlings from deer and then removing the spruce when the cedar is large enough.



September 29 – Nessel Farm & Bakke Tree Farm. 20 attendees toured the Nessel Farm, with about 106 acres. It is destined to be a County park and is currently undergoing restoration of its buildings. *Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt* provided many stories about the Nessel Farm as it was created and grew and his restoration work. The Bakke Tree Farm is next door at 83 acres. We toured the Tree Farm and heard about elk damage to seedlings and talked about potential solutions. Evidence of elk was seen in the grass circles where they rest in the meadow in the evening. Many thanks to the wonderful stories and warm welcome provided throughout the day by *Ray Bakke, Gordon Bakke, John LaMonte* and *Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt*.

EVENTS

March 17 – Annual Tree Sale. Our annual tree sale offers about 15 different species for sale. Members can purchase seedlings for 85 cents each (general public pays \$1). No minimum amount is required so it is a good time for members to try out a new species of tree to see how it grows in your location. We had 69 volunteers at the Tree Sale which is a great way to spread the word about the importance of trees to the general public.



April 27 – Annual Membership Meeting. The Annual Membership meeting started with a no-host social hour followed by introductions, officer nominations and elections. Dinner followed and then Jessica Shaw, who has recently done research through WWU's Huxley College, talked about the effectiveness of forested and hedgerow riparian buffers for buffering water temperature and improving fish habitat in agricultural waterways. And best of all – over 60 people attended!

December 1 – December Potluck Meeting. 28 members and family members joined together to enjoy a potluck dinner and beverages provided by the Association with members contributing desserts and salads. A presentation was made by members of the Mt. Baker FFA team who competed at Nationals in the Forestry Career Development Event and walked away with a 4th place team finish and 6th place individual finish in the Nation!

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

Whatcom County Forest Advisory Committee. *Phil Cloward* and *Sharon Westergreen* represent our Association on this Advisory Committee. The Forestry Advisory Committee provides review and recommendations to the Whatcom County Council on issues that affect the forestry industry.

May 5 – Invasive Weed Field Practicum. All day practicum held in Whatcom County on foliar application and physical removal & sheet mulching for invasive weeds, as well as riparian weed management, identification of common weeds and mixing & calibration for spraying. An enlightening day for all attendees.

Educational Programs. Programs that will enable farm foresters to better manage their property and that illustrate the value of forestry to Association members and the general public are publicized to members as they become available.

YOUTH EDUCATION

May 14-17 – 5th Grade Conservation Tour. A tour was held at the Weyerhaeuser Seed Orchard in May for the 60th year. 401 students from 18 classes spread over 4 school districts participated. Eight stations with presenters provided information to the students about the value of our native trees, water, soil and forest protection, products, regeneration, recreation and management. Mt. Baker FFA bagged seedlings donated by WCFFA – each 5th grade student received one complimentary seedling. Fourteen WCFFA members assisted to help make this educational program a terrific success especially since it supports one of our purposes which is promoting land stewardship to youth.

Mt. Baker FFA. The WCFFA has for many years provided support to the students at Mt. Baker High School in the FFA program. They in turn help us out with some of our activities. This year, the Association provided \$3,000 to the Mt. Baker group to travel to the national convention in Indianapolis to compete in the Forestry Career Development Event. Money well spent as they took 4th place in the nation as a team and had an individual take 6th place. Congratulations to the Mt. Baker students and their instructor on a JOB WELL DONE!

EVENTS (Cont.)



September 8 – Cedar Cone Picking Event. Sixteen members and family members showed up at the home of *Sharon & Ed Westergreen* to strip cedar cones from branches. The four bushels of tiny, ripe cones that were harvested will provide Western Red Cedar seedlings to reforest over 600 acres – that’s about 225,000 seedlings. Great job!

ADMINISTRATIVE

Membership. Current membership stands at 84 Chapter members. Members often consider themselves to be “Stewards of the Land” because they actively manage their forest land to enhance wildlife habitat, improve forest health, provide clean water, and sustainably grow and harvest timber. If you know someone who may be interested in Farm Forestry Association membership, please go to the Washington Farm Forestry Association website and click “Join”, electing Whatcom as your Chapter.

Bylaws & Articles of Incorporation Updates. These two governing documents for the Association went through a thorough review and updating. Effort was made to be consistent between the two documents, make them user friendly and to be consistent with actual business practices which may have changed due to technology.

Website Update. The Whatcom County Chapter website has received an over haul to provide members and other interested parties information about upcoming activities. A brief synopsis of an event is included after the fact acknowledging key members contributions. Check out the Chapter website by logging onto the Washington Farm Forestry Association website, clicking on “Chapters” and selecting “Whatcom.”

Financial Report. Our Association continues to be on very good fiscal footing. Our main source of income is the Tree Sale held every March.