Application for
2014 Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year

State:	Washington
Year:	2014
Name of Tree Farmer(s):	Ken & Bonnie Miller
Address:	11801 Tilley Road S., Olympia, WA 98512
Phone:	360-705-1888
Email:	kenbonniemiller@gmail.com
Name of Tree Farm:	Ken & Bonnie Miller Family Tree Farm
Tree Farm Number:	WA-3827 & WA-3828
Total woodland acreage:	81
Total certified Tree Farm acreage:	104 (23 recently transferred to son)
Name of Inspecting Forester:	Bryon Loucks
Contact information:	150 Jones Road, Centralia, WA 98531 Phone: 360-736-2147

Our Story

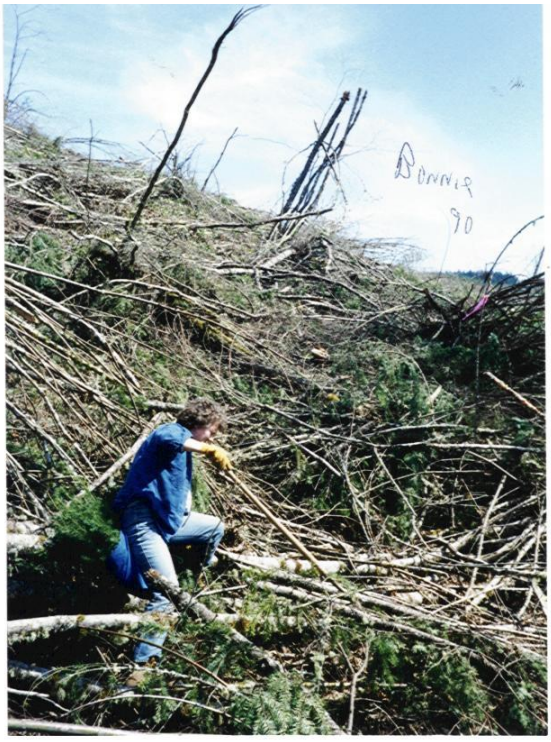
Growing up together in a small community in forest country was the beginning of our tree farmer roots. Bonnie was raised on a dairy farm and Ken was a "town kid" in nearby Oakville, Washington, population 350. We met in first grade and have been together ever since! Ken held summer jobs on local farms during a time when 12 year olds were given real opportunities to develop a "work ethic", expected to work like a man, and paid a man's wage ($1.25/hr). During college Ken worked 2 summers in a Simpson plywood plant, and one summer as a "choker setter" for a "gyppo logger" where he got his first taste of working in the woods. After graduating from Washington State University (Bonnie – Home Economic Education; Ken – Business Administration – Marketing), Ken accepted a job in the manufactured forest products industry.

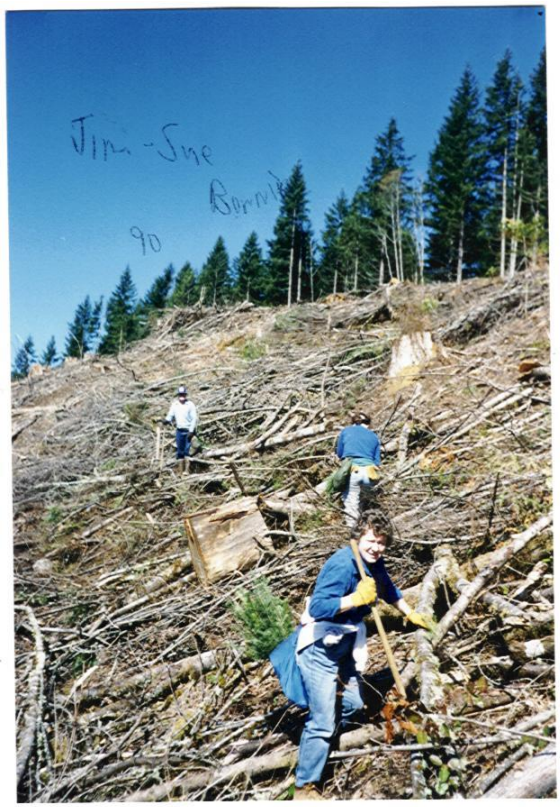
When we stopped working for paychecks in 2000 after 35 year careers, Bonnie had been a homemaker and a favorite middle school teacher of "Life Skills" and Ken had been the Sales Manager for a number of lumber, stud, and plywood manufacturing plants with the same company (but the company had several name changes: first known as St Regis Paper Company, then Champion International, and finally International Paper).

Ken's career took our family to NW Montana; Tacoma, Washington; Atlanta, Georgia; and back to Tacoma with shorter stays for Ken in: Jacksonville, Florida; Lumber City, Georgia; back to Libby, Montana; & at our last western mill at Klickitat, Washington. Most of Ken's career was managing the sale of hundreds of lumber, stud, and plywood items in high volume truck and carload markets. After all the company mills in the west were sold or closed, Ken spent 5 years doing market research and was the marketing representative on several design teams doing financial feasibility studies and product mix work for new mills. This forest products career never involved forestry or logging directly but created an interest in forest land ownership.

OAKVILLE PROPERTY

In 1989 we started looking for affordable timberland and began tree farming with a 30 acre clearcut overlooking the Oakville community of our childhoods. With help of some USDA cost share money, we each planted 500 Douglas-fir seedlings every Saturday for 3-½ months on very steep, slash covered ground. It turned out to not be quite as much "fun" as Ken had led Bonnie to believe – but we got it done with the reliable help of our teenage son and occasional "one-time" friends.





Despite Ken's limited exposure to industrial forest management, he still naively believed all you had to do was stick Douglas-fir seedlings in the ground and then come back in 50 years for the harvest – NOT! After a couple of years our seedlings were being crowded by faster growing hardwoods. Eliminating the unwanted hardwoods required a lot of chemical expense and personal effort with a back pack sprayer – before we learned it was actually a lot cheaper, better, and easier to hire this specialty work - one of many lessons yet to learn. When the seedlings were finally "free to grow" we started finding trees killed by black bears peeling bark in the spring to eat the sap. Over the next 10 years we spent a lot of time dealing with animal damage to a significant percentage of our young crop.

This hillside now has a vibrant stand of 23 year old third-rotation timber.

Looking Good After 23 Years
(The Trees & Bonnie! ☺)

In 2000 we bought a low value adjacent parcel that had been logged and sparsely replanted. It was good timber growing ground but had low economic value because the stream running through the middle of it limited future harvest potential and required access from two different road systems. It also was considered a liability to some because it included an old abandoned concrete water supply dam – which was an asset to us as a "special place". We did fill-in planting where needed and over time suffered the same brush and animal damage issues which by then we had learned how to manage. In order to block up our meager holdings we traded the northern half of this adjacent 40 acres for another adjacent 20 acres to our west to allow management from one road system – and picked up more uneconomical stream riparian zones, but it was something we still wanted for

environmental and esthetic reasons. Simultaneously we worked with surveyors, the county and adjacent farmer to do some complex boundary line adjustments that help ensure access for our heirs.

Other significant management activities on the Oakville parcels were pruning some of the trees to minimize their attractiveness to bears (vigorous trees have more sugar in spring sap that bears can detect), and significant road work. A forest access road (ORV only) was reopened and upgraded along the creek utilizing help from EQIP to install culverts and numerous water bars on this steep non-gravel access. Vehicle access is a gravel road through two other absentee ownerships. We practice "good neighbor" strategies of providing feedback to these owners and doing maintenance on their roads (to keep our access open). We hired another neighbor to install water bars on this vehicle road to serve our own needs and by keeping communications open, the other landowners voluntarily reimbursed our out-of-pocket expenses.

A Forest Stewardship Plan was first written for the Oakville property by a DNR Stewardship Forester in 1995 and rewritten by a Grays Harbor County (location of the first TREE FARM in the nation) Conservation District forester in 2010. This property was Tree Farm certified in 1995.

SCOTT LAKE PROPERTY

In 1993, when Champion International was getting out of the west, we rolled our economic dice with the purchase of our present home and idyllic 40-acre location adjacent to Millersylvania State Park. This parcel had been high-graded a few years before we bought it, with some spotty harvest areas not replanted. The first management objective was to "get a tree growing every place there was room". This involved Ken planting (Bonnie had "retired!" from planting ☺) 6,000 Douglas-fir seedlings in the patchy open areas – while simultaneously dealing with what seemed like old growth noxious weed Scotch Broom plants.

This parcel was Tree Farm certified in 1995. Our first Forest Stewardship Plan for the home parcel was written by our DNR Stewardship Forester in 1994 and was quite helpful in establishing a list of rehabilitation activities and cost share options that were addressed over the next few years - when time permitted, as we both still had demanding full time jobs. This plan identified 7 different "stands" needing different work (site prep, brush control, pre-commercial thinning, pruning, duck boxes, and 1 small patch harvest).

A major issue in restoring such a forest with so many small openings is that the natural, historical species Douglas-fir needs full sunlight to grow well. Our fill-in trees tend to be slower growing and more susceptible to periodic snow and ice damage. More hindsight says we should have cleared off most of the scattered/isolated trees even though of no value – just to make sufficient room for the next crop.

We have trees that could be harvested now in small areas but that would just extend the

problem we inherited so are choosing to let them grow longer until adjacent regeneration is sufficient to warrant at least 4-6 acre regeneration harvests. We are also starting to favor Western Red Cedar because it does a little better in shady areas, is less susceptible to root rot, and is less likely to have broken tops from snow and ice. Until some outside influence says otherwise we will be content doing annual thinning and salvage with our farm tractor while letting the stands increase in size and value for more economically viable regeneration harvests.

We have accumulated a fairly complete list of all the birds, trees, shrubs, flowers, ferns, and critters that we have posted at our magnificent entrance sign for all the Millersylvania State Park hikers so they can see the wide diversity managed family forests can provide – so long as we are allowed to continue our preferred land use – growing timber for harvest.

Some of the Birds benefiting from our managed tree farm

Mourning Dove	Purple Finch	Song Sparrow
Steller's Jay	House Finch	White-crowned Sparrow
American Crow	American Gold Finch	Tree Swallow
American Robin	Pine Siskin	Fox Sparrow
Brown Creeper	Western Tanager	Golden-crowned Kinglet
European Starling	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Pacific Wren
Red-winged Blackbird	Black-headed Grosbeak	Bewick's Wren
Brown-headed Cowbird	Evening Grosbeak	Red-breasted Nuthatch
Dark-eyed Junco	Swainson's Thrush	Black-capped Chickadee
Spotted Towhee	Varied Thrush	Chestnut-backed Chickadee
Yellow Warbler	Rufous Hummingbird	Piliated Woodpecker
Black-throated Gray Warbler	Anna's Hummingbird	Red-breasted Sapsucker
Red Tailed Hawk	Osprey	Northern Flicker
Cedar Waxwing	Great Blue Heron	Bufflehead
Mallard	Wood Duck	Canada Goose
Quail	Grouse	Barn Owl
Barred Owl	Bald Eagle	Western Scrub Jay

Diversity in our Family Forest

TREES
Western Hemlock
Douglas Fir
Nobel Fir
Western Red Cedar
Red Alder
Big Leaf Maple
Bitter Cherry
Choke Cherry
Dogwood
Pacific Cascara
Cottonwood
Oregon Ash
Black Hawthorne
Sequois (1)

SHRUBS
Tr. Mtn. Blackberry
Evergreen Blackberry
Himalayan Blackberry
Blackcap
Red Elderberry
Red Huckleberry
Thimbleberry
Salmonberry
Flowering Red Currant
Devil's Club
Red Osier Dogwood
Hardhack-Spiraea
Beaked Hazelnut
W. T. Honeysuckle
Indian Plum
Kinnikinnick
Ocean Spray
Oregon Grape
Salal
Scotchbroom
Snowberry
Vine Maple

FLOWERS
Bleeding Heart
Creeping Buttercup
Western Buttercup
Cattail
Clover
Cow Parsnip
Oxeye Daisy
English Daisy
Large Leaf Lupine
Stinging Nettle
Skunk Cabbage
Touch-Me-Nots
Canadian Thistle
Western Trillium
Pacific Waterleaf
Baneberry
Wild Rose
False Lily of the Valley
Fox Glove
Horsetail
Vetch
Indian-Pipe

FERNS
Bracken
Sword
Licorice
Spiny Wood

Critters
Deer
Coyote
Rabbits
Porcupine
Squirrels
Chipmunks
Moles
Mice
Voles
Mink
Turtles
Snakes
Opossum
Raccoon
Alligator Lizards
Bats
Bear (Oakville)
Elk (Oakville)
Bobcat (Oakville)
Cougar (Oakville)
Mtn Beaver (Oakville)

Because this 40 acres is such a continual work in progress it lends itself to a variety of educational outreach opportunities for other landowners. We've learned far more than we ever expected, and sometimes more than we wanted, but we've always viewed ourselves as stewards of the land in our care rather than experts about forestry. As you will see below, Ken has become an outspoken advocate/activist of Small Forest Landowner issues. He particularly prides himself on being able to represent and reflect upon those issues/motivations affecting the more "average" sized family forest owner, whether or not they are "joiners".

Management of the Tree Farm

Our primary objectives for the first Oakville property (1989) are: long term financial gains utilizing our own sweat equity wherever possible; to maintain a legacy connection to the little community where we grew up together; and to "walk our talk" by

actually owning timberland providing all the critter and public benefits. The second adjacent parcel at Oakville has the same objectives and includes a special place (stream and historic water supply dam).

Our initial primary objectives for the Scott Lake parcel (1993) were: providing a retirement home away from the city in an aesthetically pleasing forest environment; a long term financial gain (property and timber); and a place that provides meaningful work/exercise opportunities for future retirement. We quickly also adopted the objective of providing an attractant for grandkids (1 at that time, now 7, and another generation on the way ☺).

Upon retirement (2000) we wanted to "give back" to a forest industry that was so good for us (35 years) so we got more involved in forest policy issues. We worked towards using our home place as an imperfect model and demonstration of small private forest management issues for a variety of public and private educational activities.

Water

Our Oakville property is adjacent to ½ mile of fish bearing Roundtree Creek. Most of the timber adjacent to this creek is close to 100 years old. The parcel that contains this entire stream was just transferred to our son along with an LLC as the beginning of our estate planning process.

Our Scott Lake parcel has some forested wetlands with storm event seasonal non-fish flows that are disconnected from area streams. We stay out of these areas in wet times. We have planted cedar in parts that have been harvested and left Oregon Ash which survives in the wettest areas. This parcel also touches on 60-acre Scott Lake. When we first moved here in 1993 the lakefront was full of debris which we removed. The lake itself was badly infested with the noxious weed Milfoil so we helped form the Scott Lake Drainage District (with taxing authority) to deal with water quality and lake health issues. Ken is one of its 3 Board members.

The roads and culverts to and within these properties are maintained regularly, including a Road Maintenance and Abandonment Plan registered with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources.

Wildlife

Keeping our forestland forested, and forested with native trees and plants is the primary land management benefit to wildlife! Our Oakville property is more remote and home to more deer, elk, cougar, bobcat, coyotes, and unfortunately an overpopulation of Black Bear which strip bark to eat the cambium in the spring.

Limiting this animal damage has been a huge challenge that involves considerable work with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Fish and Wildlife Commission on behalf of ourselves as well as for other family forest owners with similar issues. The dirt forest access road along the stream was seeded with a wildlife

mix to both keep sediments out of the stream and provide good habitat.

Our home place, which is adjacent to a large, mostly forested state park, also has a lot of smaller and some larger critter activity that we try to enhance with thinning (flyways), variable thinning (shelter), and retention of food from Pacific Cascara and Bitter Cherry trees, and some designated wildlife trees. Additionally we have installed bird houses, Wood Duck boxes, Owl nest boxes, 2 kinds of Bat houses, and Mason Bee blocks.

Wood

Timber harvest is our primary management goal. We started tree farming mid-life with limited funds so purchased cut-over land. Step one has been to get a tree growing every place there is room for a tree.

Our original purchase (1989) is mostly steep ground so the economics of logging processes and the perennial bear damage issues preclude any partial cutting strategies. This 43-acre parcel will necessarily be managed with a regeneration harvest when the time is right – sometime after 2035, likely after we are gone. When we personally planted this hillside we naively thought it would be an education fund for our grandkids ☹ - maybe it will be for our yet-to-be-born great-grandkids ☺.

The 40 acre parcel home site contains a variety of age classes in small patches. Ken has done all the logging with a farm tractor and Farmi-winch, but that logging has been limited to salvage, thinning, and 1-2 acre restoration harvests. The goal is to eventually do periodic 4-6 acre regeneration harvests as needed or wanted in our retirement years. We view all our timberland as an investment that will grow over time by managing it in ways that enhance timber volume and quality.

Recreation and Aesthetics

Ken doesn't hunt anymore but has taken a grandson hunting on the Oakville property, which is also open to friends of ours and friends of our neighbors at Oakville. Target practice and gun-safety lessons are safely done at the Oakville property, along with an occasional family picnic or work party.

Our 3 children all live in nearby cities where we prefer not to go! Therefore, creating reasons for them to visit us at the "farm" has been a high priority. At this moment to encourage them to visit (friends welcome) we have a campfire pit, motorboat, rowboat, 2 canoes, 5 Quads, 3 motorcycles, 3 bicycles, 2 ½ tree houses all in various sizes and condition, and 2-3 miles of trails not counting the adjacent park.

More importantly we always have "work" or "$ earning" opportunities for grandkids willing to work with grandpa. These opportunities include tree planting, brush and firewood cutting, and a lot of pruning especially along our road. We have a lot of park hikers visit our entrance so aesthetics are particularly important in telling the small forestland owner story.

Recent Management Activity

All recent management has been focused on establishing and maintaining healthy stands. Ken, with some help from grandkids, has done nearly all the work to save money and get some exercise. Pruning, clearing brush, thinning, and storm damage are on-going activities. Two patches (3 acres total) of root rot pockets were hand cleared last year and replanted with Western Red Cedar which is more resistant to root rot than Douglas-fir. Cedar is like candy to deer so we've installed Vexar netting which will need to be maintained for 3-4 years until they are above deer browse height.

Vexar installed by oldest grandson, fiancé, & 1st great grandson on the way ☺

All work is done with Stihl chain saws and brush cutters. Logging is accomplished with a Farmi Winch on the back of a farm tractor. To-date about half the logs have gone to firewood, and half (approximately 18 loads) were hauled by self-loader trucks to local mills.

Appropriate chemicals (back pack & hack-n-squirt) have been used in accordance with an approved Pest Management Plan in our Conservation Stewardship Plan with NRCS.

State law requires an approved Forest Practice permit for all harvest activities. Active permits are maintained all the time on the home parcel to allow maximum management flexibility.

Threatened and Endangered Species and Special Places

We do have high quality habitat for threatened and endangered species, and some near us, but so far none have decided to take up residence. ☺

One Oakville parcel includes an old abandoned water supply dam (beyond reach of migrating salmon) and ½ mile of perennial stream. The Oakville parcels overlook the farm & town where we were raised and attended school together; and the cemetery of many ancestors. We played, hiked, hunted, and fished in these woods as kids, as did our ancestors. Ken's aunt who is now over 100 is pictured on the dam when it was built in 1927. Our son and

grandchildren now enjoy this special place. To further protect this legacy we just transferred this parcel to our son with a new LLC that will eventually include our remaining adjacent parcel.

The bridge we installed over a salmon bearing stream on the access road to our home place was permanently inscribed and is now a special place with a legacy of our "family".

Similar hearts in 3 other corners for each of our 3 children and spouses

Management Challenges and Successes

We have just about weathered the Oakville black bear damage as the trees are nearing a less susceptible age. Root rot pockets and ice damaged areas adjacent to the park have been cleared and replanted – and protected from deer browse. We believe the home place is now going to just need routine maintenance and periodic thinning while awaiting optimal timing for regeneration harvests.

Our biggest remaining concern is keeping our forestland for generations to come. We've involved all our heirs working (& playing) on the land so they might someday share the same love we have. We attended the Ties to the Land seminar and have started the generational transfer to our son who helped plant our first parcel when he was a teenager. We just transferred the smallest parcel to him along with a new LLC. This parcel contains ½ mile of stream and a special family place. We helped him get into Conservation Stewardship Program to provide a little income. We plan to transfer more to him after significant regeneration harvest (2035?). If we pass before then, we have adjusted our wills to treat his sisters fairly while keeping the parcels intact.

Promoting Sustainable Forestry

Our first real educational experiences came from stewardship classes put on by the Lewis County Chapter of Washington Farm Forestry Association (WFFA). Ken has subsequently been involved with some of the state sponsored Stewardship programs. We've also attended numerous DNR/WSU sponsored Field Day events that provide a variety of specialized educational opportunities. We've never professed to be foresters, but have learned to be very good stewards of the land through active listening at 10 to 15 WFFA educational meetings and tours every year. Networking with key individuals with expertise at these WFFA meetings has been our lifeline for expertise when needed.

We revived a defunct South Sound Chapter (approximately 100 members), facilitating 10 educational meetings per year by ourselves for several years and more recently hosting one, and arranging one

other meeting per year while Bonnie continues to serve as Treasurer.

Meetings hosted or arranged by Millers

SSFFA 2013 09 11 Meeting Notice - m...	SSFFA 2013 06 15 Meeting Notice - m...
SSFFA 2012 0616 Mini-Field Day.doc	SSFFA 2010 1013 DNR's Natural Herit...
SSFFA 2010 0908 Simpson Tacoma Sa...	SSFFA 2010 0714 Wild Thyme tree far...
SSFFA 2010 0609 Boyd Wilson Tree F...	SSFFA 2010 0512 Manke Lbr-Harsten...
SSFFA 2010 0310 Help for Family For...	SSFFA 2010 0210 Carbon Sequestrati...
SSFFA 2010 0113 Global Warming - ...	SSFFA 2009 1014 Chemicals and Fore...
SSFFA 2009 0916 Olympic Panel Prod...	McLane School Forest Trail.doc
SSFFA 2009 0610 Ron Barker Tree Far...	SSFFA 2009 0408 All about fire.doc
SSFFA 2009 0513 Panhandle Lake - Ch...	SSFFA 2009 0311 After the Storm Wh...
SSFFA 2009 0211 Surveys and Forest L...	SSFFA 2009 0121 Dialogue on Forestr...
SSFFA 2008 1008 Speed Dating Cost-...	SSFFA 2008 0910 UCRWOOD - Don A...
SSFFA 2008 0813 MacRae Family Tree...	SSFFA 2008 0709 Fort Lewis Forestry.d...
SSFFA 2008 0611 Kens Kutting.doc	SSFFA 2008 0517 Flying critter house ...
SSFFA 2008 0409 Animal Caused Tree...	SSFFA 2008 0312 Natural Selection Fo...
SSFFA 2008 0213 High Tech Manage...	SSFFA 2008 0109 Long Term Permits ...
SSFFA 2007 1010 Andy Hunter - Triad...	SSFFA 2007 0912 Welco Lumber - Sko...
SSFFA Welco cedar mill tour 9_12 @ ...	SSFFA 2007 0808 Dick Millers Tree Far...
SSFFA 2007 0711 PNW Research Stati...	Bat rocket inserting instructions.doc

For about 10 years we conducted summer interpretive walks for campers in the adjacent Millersylvania State Park. These park walks dipped into our tree farm so they could see and hear some of the positive messages about sustainably managed, rather than unmanaged forests.

Ken was a participant in an 18-month Washington Agriculture & Forestry Leadership Program, a life changing opportunity that helped him develop leadership skills and confidence to become an outspoken advocate for Small Forest Land Owners (SFLO's) statewide with messages about why SFLO's matter, despite our relatively small size.

We've done litter pick-up for 19 years on the highway through Millersylvania (no relation) State Park to do a good deed, but also to get a nice big "TREE FARM" sign along the highway.

We now have a large information board & bench accessible to park hikers with several handouts about the public benefits of sustainable forestry.

Tours and events

We've personally hosted 2 to 3 educational events each year for several years by utilizing our work-in-progress tree farm, and the expertise of others. School tours have been an annual event, where the main focus has been to differentiate small family forest owners from the industrial model (in positive ways).

One class last spring helped plant some of our new cedar seedlings.

Annually we host a "mini-field day" for our South Sound Chapter of Washington Farm Forestry Association where we have an expert "walk-n-talk" about one subject in the morning, another in the afternoon with "potluck" picnic between. Ken's expertise seems more relatable to the "average" forestland owner by sharing his forestry learning's from hindsight. Bonnie has started hosting a quilting workshop for spouses less inclined to talk about forestry.

Additionally, we've hosted numerous forest regulatory issue meetings & tours with environmental representatives, state & federal agency folks, & elected officials.

The more memorable events on our farm included:

- Visit by U.S. Rep. Derek Kilmer and State Forester Aaron Everett plus AFF representatives.

- Governor Gregoire signing ceremony for 50 year Habitat Conservation Program agreement between our State and the Federal Services - attended by dignitaries from all the federal, state, private, & tribal forestland stakeholders in our new "Forest and Fish" regulations.

- Tours and workshops on "Flying Critter Housing" with Audubon members to build a variety of nest boxes, bat houses, bee blocks, & bird feeders. We had the kits all made up and several work stations with glue and power nailers - and supervision for the kids!

Speaking and Media Outreach

With a career in the forest products industry Ken was shocked by the disconnect with the environmental community on the public benefits of sustainable forest management. Helping make hundreds of signs to try to salvage our "social license" during the "Spotted Owl/Forest War" days was the beginning of a decade's long commitment of speaking up in a variety of venues.

Numerous "Letters to the editor" have been submitted and printed. Ken made a forest issue presentation to a Tacoma HOO-HOO club. Several of his articles have been published in Washington Farm Forestry Association's statewide "Landowner News", and the regional publication "Northwest Woodlands". More recently we got newspaper and TV coverage of "Bears bedevil tree farmer."

WHEN ECONOMICS AND WILDLIFE COLLIDE

Private forester Ken Miller walks away from a 15-year-old Douglas fir tree bearing fresh teeth marks from a bear that feasted on the sweet sap beneath its bark. Miller says thousands of trees on his farm near Oakville have been damaged and killed by bears. "I don't want to kill bears," Miller says. "But you can see how desperate I am."

Tony Overman/The Olympian

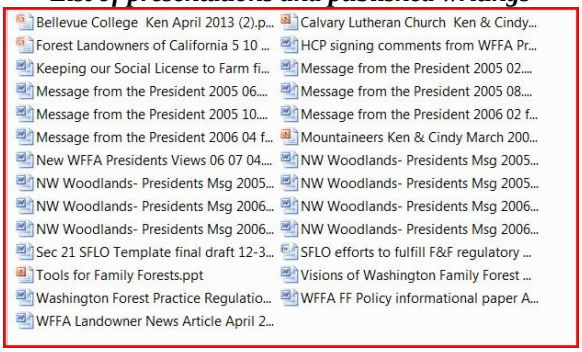
Bears bedevil tree farmer

Our selection as Washington's 2013 Tree Farmers of Year created opportunities to promote family forest owners in several local publications and make a presentation about "smalls" to the Washington Forest Protection Association annual meeting which was covered by the local TV station TVW.

A unique opportunity came our way last spring when we were invited to the Forest Landowners of California annual meeting to make a presentation on the "Good, Bad, and Ugly" aspects of Washington's regulations on family forest owners.

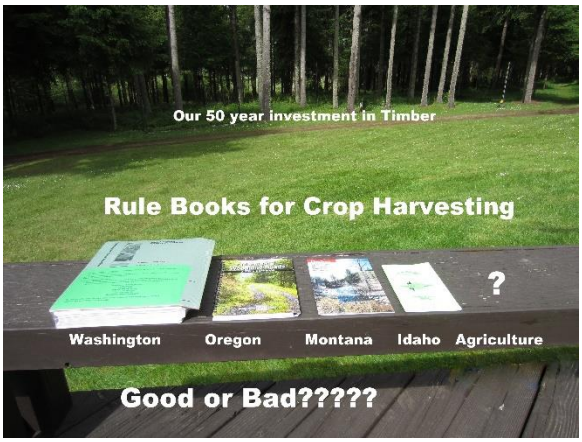
The most significant speaking outreach efforts were several "Forestry in Washington" presentations made jointly by Ken, representing "smalls", and an industry representative to a variety of non-forest related groups such as: Calvary Lutheran Church (got small speaker fee! ☺); Hearthstone Retirement Center; Seattle Mountaineers; Seattle Native Plant Society; & Bellevue College (Earth Week)

List of presentations and published writings



Advocacy and Leadership

After buying our first parcel we became active in WFFA, ultimately going through all the statewide leadership chairs which necessarily created opportunity to lead and advocate for all Washington family forest owners, not just those who were members. While President of WFFA, Ken learned about all the issues that were disincentives to small forest land ownership. All these feelings, goals, and issues were compiled into a "Whitepaper/Vision" adopted by the WFFA Executive Board. It was shared with our statewide friends (and detractors) – and became the strategic guide for on-going advocacy efforts. Washington landowners need to stay involved to avoid being "loved to death" as depicted in this photo.



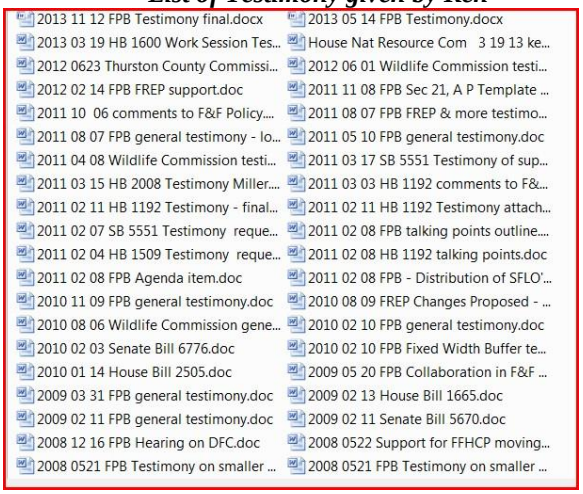
Ken is well known & respected by all our natural resource agencies and forest stakeholder groups. Ken has easily spent thousands of volunteer hours and personal expense over the last 10 years and continues to be an energizer bunny advocating for smalls in Washington State. Significant efforts have been:

- 10 years as the forestry representative on the Thurston County Ag Advisory Committee.
- Participation at University of Washington, NW Environmental Forum workshops.
- Collaborating with a premier Seattle land conservancy group advocating for working forestlands and a viable Transfer/Purchase of Development Rights program.
- Sustained participation on DNR's

Small Forest Landowner Advisory Committee.

- Draft SFLO harvest prescription utilizing science, risk analysis, and riparian zone functionality criteria to provide smaller buffers for our smaller harvests – unsuccessful, so far!
- Attendance/participation in key Timber, Fish, & Wildlife Policy Committee.
- Tours for some key agency and elected officials.
- Frequent testimony on behalf of SFLO's at nearly all Forest Practice Board meetings.
- Work with, and testimony before, Washington House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee.

List of Testimony given by Ken



Organizational Participation

We have been certified by American Tree Farm System and part of the Forest Service Stewardship program since 1995. We have participated in several small cost share programs in the past and are currently enrolled in both EQIP and CSP.

Our primary and sustained efforts have been with the Washington Farm Forestry Association where Ken continues to serve on the Executive Board.

Ken also serves on the Family Forest Foundation's board which spent years on a failed ☹ SFLO Habitat Conservancy Plan for Lewis County. More recently we are in the process of forming a Family Forest Legacies, LLC intended to provide an investment/charitable opportunity for SFLO's who want their land to stay in forestry; be managed with SFLO ethic; and have no heirs able or willing to care for their legacy appropriately.

Membership in the industrial-sized Washington Forest Protection Association (WFPA) (co-sponsor of WTFP) allows Ken to be active in their Policy committee as a way of better understanding the issues and ensuring they keep family forest owners interest in mind when exercising their more substantial clout.

Washington Tree Farm Program committee membership is new for us with our TFOY award but participation in this and national issues will likely increase as we find ways to reduce our involvement in statewide issues.

We are long term Farm Bureau members in part because they occasionally work on forestry related issues, and like us, they always need more friends to stand up for their issues which Ken has done several times.

We belong to Evergreen Freedom Foundation which frequently gets involved in property rights issues of importance to all rural land owners.

We continue to support and attend AgForestry Leadership Foundation activities.

Supporter's Quotes

Supporters include leaders in family forest organizations, legislators, loggers, environmentalists, land conservancy, state and federal agencies, state and regional industry; tribal; and educators. Below are excerpts of their lengthy quotations:

*"**great ambassadors** for the Tree Farm Program!",*
*"**in complete awe** of the amount of sustained and ongoing volunteer effort put forth by Ken and Bonnie Miller",*
*"**have done as much** for AFF's mission in their neighborhood and at our state's Capitol, as anyone!"*
*"**exemplify** family forest owners",*
*"**You both** are truly outstanding",*
*"**participation** in public policy matters at the Legislature",*
*"**collaborative participation** in developing forest policy",*
*"**remarkable things** on your tree farm",*
*"**an invaluable asset** to the small family forestland owners.",*
*"**a great advocate** for forestry issues",*
*"**an effective**, knowledgeable, and persuasive voice",*
*"**stands for** what's great about many SFLO's",*
*"**the positive model** of engagement and leadership. . . to the broad range of stakeholders",*
*"**working** with policymakers to find solutions",*
*"**cannot** think of better Tree Farmers to represent WA State.",*
*"**The pride, passion and love** of forestry is immediately recognized",*
*" **you are ambassadors** for SFLO's, both in the policy world of forest practices & in the education of children and adults"*
*"**speaking** for the smaller LO's ..collaborative & respectful.",*
*"**reasoned and informative testimony**. . . effective interactions with the Commission and with Department",*
*"**great pride**, passion, and commitment. . . steadfast role in representing small forest landowners"*
*"**grasped the need** to balance competing interests, collaborate with individuals and organizations with differing views",*
*"**tireless efforts** to explain the importance of the role played by family forest landowners",*
*"**definitely met** the expectations",*
*"**best person** I know to tell the Tree Farm Story",*
*"**tirelessly advocating** for family forest landowners",*
*"**You have also inspired** me to do a better job with my own tree farm"*
*"**preaches** what he practices",*
*"**truly a champion** for responsible and sustainable forestry.",*
*"**exemplified** participation by listening to everyone and speaking from knowledge",*
*"**dedication** to furthering SFLO stewardship",*
*"**provide students** with a better understanding of what it means to be a family forester",*
*"**your farm** changed my perspective".*

- John Henrikson, Executive Director, Washington Tree Farm Program
- Elaine Oneil, PhD, Executive Director, Washington Farm Forestry Association and Exec. Dir. of CORRIM
- Rick Dunning, Executive Director 2003-2013, Washington Farm Forestry Assn
- Tom Westergreen, President, Washington Farm Forestry Association
- Tom (& Sherry) Fox, President: Family Forest Foundation; 2004 National Outstanding Tree Farmers
- Rep. Brian Blake(D), Chair Natural Resources Committee, Washington State House of Representatives
- Rep. Ed Orcutt (R), Consulting Forester, Washington State House of Representatives
- Jeff Swotek, District Conservationist, NRCS, USDA
- Jerry Bonagofsky, President and CEO, Washington Contract Loggers Association
- John Stuhlmiller, CEO, Washington Farm Bureau
- Tom Davis, past Forest Practice Board Member, & Director of Gov. Relations, Washington Farm Bureau
- Peter Goldman, founder, Director and Attorney, Washington Forest Law Center
- Michelle Connor, Executive VP, Strategic Enterprises, Forterra (formerly Cascade Land Conservancy)
- Aaron Everett, Deputy Sup. for Forest Practices and Federal Relations, WA Dept of Natural Resources
- Mary McDonald, Interim Division Manager, Forest Practice Division, WA Dept of Natural Resources
- Julie Sackett, Dept of Natural Resources Stewardship Forester
- Bridget Moran, Division Manager, US Fish and Wildlife Service & past Chair Forest Practice Board
- Phil Anderson, Dir. Dept of Fish & Wildlife, *and* Miranda Wecker, Chair, Fish & Wildlife Commission
- Terry Jackson, Forest Habitats Section Mgr, *and* David Whipple, Hunter Education Div. Mgr, WDFW
- Mia Bellon, Director, Washington Department of Ecology
- Eric Johnson, Executive Director, WA Association of Counties
- Ann Forest Burns, forest lawyer & VP, American Forest Resource Council
- Deidra Bryant, Executive Director, Forestland Owners of California
- Doug Stinson, former Forest Practice Board Member, 1993 Western Regional Tree Farmer of the Year
- Steve Stinson, Executive Director Family Forest Foundation, Past WFFA President:
- Mark Doumit, Executive Director, Washington Forest Protection Assoc (WFPA)
- Norm Schaaf, President, WFPA, former Forest Practice Board member, VP of Merrill & Ring
- Dave Switzer, Executive Director, Washington Hardwood Commission
- Nancy Sturhan, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, Forest Practices Coordinator
- Jeffery Thomas, Director, Timber, Fish & Wildlife Program, Puyallup Tribe of Indians
- Craig Baker, Instructor, New Market Skills Center
- Nick Alguire, Student, Environmental Explorations Class, New Market Skills Center

Two favorite pictures that depict our vision of family forest ownership