

## Woodland Farmer of the Year

JANE STONE

Our tree farm changes every day...  
 Some changes are by our choice...  
 Some changes Mother Nature dictates...

CCFFA 2012 Woodland Farmer of the Year winners, Matt and Beth Twist, gave us a good tour of their Hillside Farm in August, where changes of choice and nature have abounded for 16 years.

Their 22 acres of mixed age and species forest land was purchased in 1997, soon after a clear cut harvest and replanting had been done. Wild berries were equal height with the firs. The first year they trapped 22 mountain beaver, and brought in goats that helped, but did not conquer, the Himalaya vines.

Next they exercised their arms with a Machete' before finally adopting a

weed eater/spray method to conquer the brush and berries. Now they maintain the plantation with a tractor/brush hog and plain old hand clippers, to avoid dependence on chemicals.

Other major projects have been planned and tackled one unit at a time (These are family projects). Education and ideas originated from the OSU Basic Forestry Short Course and several years of attendance at Tree School.

The greatest joy, interest, frustration and work for the family has been



CCFFA Summer Picnic at Hillside Farm.

## CCFFA Annual Summer Picnic

JESSICA CRAVEN

This year's CCFFA Summer Picnic was hosted by the 2012 Woodland Farmer of the Year winners Matt and Beth Twist of Hillside Farm in Sandy, Oregon. The Twists along with their two children, Jack (age 7) and Katie (age 5), and Matt's mother, Sharron Twist, were eager to welcome picnic goers and answer any questions.

The picnic and tour attracted nearly 40 attendees. After an introduction to Hillside Farm, attendees gathered under large alder trees while enjoying a potluck style dinner. When dessert was finished and the temperature had cooled a bit, the tour began.

their 600 foot of stream frontage on Bear Creek. The first project was to construct a 22 foot bridge made of steel I beams, telephone poles, and glue lams. A couple of years later, beaver moved in and did what comes naturally, fell cottonwoods and made a beaver dam to create a pond. The rains came down and the floods came up. The beaver were so busy that a few years later the little creek was lost in a huge pond, with now possibly ten dams. Wood ducks have come to live and even blue heron have dipped into the pond for trout, a thrill to see on the trail.

The next tree farm project "choice" is whether or when to thin the stand

of mixed fir and alder. The Twists want to manage the tree tops to maintain some sunlight on the forest floor.

There will always be choices to make and work to do, but on any day this family can choose to cross the bridge and make their way to their own cedar cathedral to look up at the forest canopy and down at the ferns. They have all grown quite fond of a certain "wolf" hemlock tree. As they walk beneath the alder trees, a breeze flutters the leaves. ■

A day in the woods ...

Whether for toil and sweat or

For peace and pleasure,  
 What a privilege it is

To be a woodland owner.