

New Board Member Interview—William Lenon

In order to provide our chapter membership with information regarding the people representing them on the Board of Directors of CCFFA, we asked William



William Lenon

Lenon to provide some insight of his interests in woodland stewardship by responding to the following questions. This information is being shared with members

through the *Forest Tree Leader*.

What first sparked your interest in managing woodland, and what keeps you at it?

Originally my wife and I bought the property with the idea of harvesting as soon as possible and then doing a commercial thinning and a harvest cut some thirty to fifty years down the line. However, a few years after the first harvest and replanting our circumstances changed as did our considerations for the land. As time passed we slowly realized we no longer had a financial, or any other reason, to harvest. As a result we now look upon ourselves as stewards of the land, hopefully maintaining a healthy forest for our children and our grandchildren to enjoy as well as for ourselves.

What message about forests and their management do you usually try to leave with folks and what has been your most successful method of doing this?

We try to impart to our non-forest owning friends and neighbors the scale of life of a living forest, the brevity of our own lives in relation, and the need to be good stewards of the land so that those who come after us will inherit a healthy and productive ecosystem. We tend to stress that while we are not trying to make money off of our forest, the growth of timber is a sustainable and green business for those, who in their turn someday, become stewards of our land and

may wish to use the timber resources to better their life. That is something most people seem readily to understand and accept.

Which of our many forest policy issues in Oregon (like taxes, certification, regulations, etc) do you think is most important to your own operation, or to the future of the state?

While the majority of those in CCFFA are large to moderately large forest owners, we classify ourselves in the minority of those with small holdings. As such, we are interested in many of the same issues as those with large holdings. But, for the small forest owner we think taxes, and regulations are among our most important issues, as we are unable to operate on the economies of scale that large holdings offer.

How has the CCFFA helped you and what is one good reason you might give as to why others, too, should get involved?

My wife and I feel that the various classes and lectures offered at meetings and through the Community Colleges, the opportunity to meet with people concerned with forestry in general, environmental concerns, sound forestry practices, and all the myriad facets of simply owning a forest are certainly among the most important reasons for belonging to CCFFA. However, we also think that the opportunity to meet truly outstanding forest land owners and their families, to exchange ideas, and to make new friends are truly the most important reasons for being a member of CCFFA. ■