

New Member Spotlight—the Scotts

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The New Member Spotlight, for the fall issue, turns to the small woodland home of Nancy and Steve Scott west of the Willamette area of West Linn and is a pair of slightly offset parcels of hillside woodlands that, for the most part, was an old Christmas tree plantation. The property had suffered through some 25 years of total neglect until Steve and Nancy purchased the property a little over two years ago. With some help from some or their immediate family members, they have made great inroads toward improving the forest and habitat.

Recognizing that they, up until then, had been “city folk” who didn’t know about such things as invasive

species control, pre-commercial thinning, ladder fuels and limb removal, they heard about Tree School and signed up. That piqued an interest that is still growing. Glenn Ahrens paid a visit and pointed out the problem areas, starting with opening up the stand, getting access to various

areas of the property and some ideas on getting after the blackberries and holly. From what I could see, they haven’t hurt themselves and the efforts are beginning to show results.

Loading up in a golf cart, we fol-



lowed the paths that they have developed, using some sweat equity and a small tractor. All areas of the property are within a short walk from these paths, which makes for easy access to their activities.

One area, along the eastern boundary of the property, is an irregular-shaped canyon that contains a pocket of western redcedar and hardwoods. Some of the cedars, I would estimate, are in excess of 150 years old. They have constructed a viewing area, complete with picnic facility and lawn swing. It provides a relaxing area following a hectic day at the office and family gatherings.

The golf cart excursion made frequent stops to discuss the methods they should be using in thinning the stand. Options discussed, to some of us, were pretty basic, but to the Scotts the need to know was all-important; removal of dead and dying trees, those trees with multiple tops and major deformities, for starters. As they continue limb removal, keeping headroom access height is a good first step in these 25-30 foot tall trees; we discussed the amount of crown to keep and how to cut the limbs at the branch collar without damaging the tree or leaving any hat hangers.

The access paths are scheduled for some bark chip coverage and a discussion followed about what to use. My

choice is hemlock as it helps to keep down weeds and is a little less likely to become home for some bug type critters. It was suggested that they talk with some of the suppliers and check on-line for arborist recommendations.

They had concerns about some 10-15 year old Noble firs and spruce, where the lower limbs were dying. They had to cut a 12"+ tree down that died in less than two years, and the bark was cracking in an alligator pattern progressing up the stems. Closer examination found heavy pitch moving from the damaged area. A recommendation was made to contact the OSU Extension Forestry office and request a Master Woodland Manager or forester make contact.

Their plans for improving their woodlands begin with the need to gain knowledge. Tree School was a good start and some suggestions were made regarding contacts within various agencies and private groups that have programs that will provide educational assistance and in some cases financial and tax incentives that will help them achieve their goals.

Their goals don't necessarily include harvesting timber, although that could be an option later on. Right now, their focus is on invasive species control, opening up the under-

story and while doing so, improving wildlife habitat and personal enjoyment.

Steve and Nancy have seven grown children, ranging from 18-37, and now have a total of 12 grandchildren.

Nancy is a small business entrepreneur. She is a graphic designer and owner of Nan Scott Design Studio, working in the advertising field helping businesses expand customer awareness and develop their brand. She has been doing this for about 25 years. She enjoys reading—she belongs to two book clubs—and interior decorating; the latter, enough that she has incorporated a new decorating business to her studio. Of course, there are the grandchildren!

Steve is Regional Sales Manager

for Leviton, the electrical component manufacturer, where it has developed into a 30-year career. In addition to improving the woodlands, he plays in a rock and roll band. He also loves to restore/upgrade all types of wheeled vehicles; cars, motorcycles, travel trailers, you name it.

All in all, I enjoyed visiting with them, and seeing how much they have accomplished in a short time, and am looking forward to watching them progress toward their goals.

Watch for them at Tree School and CCFFA events. Welcome them to OSWA and chat with them. You will find it interesting—I did. ■