



FOREST-TREE LEADER

Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association, Inc.

AN OREGON SMALL WOODLANDS ASSOCIATION CHAPTER

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Quarterly Newsletter

WINTER 2015

President's Corner

DEREK CRAVEN

The 36 Pit fire was finally declared contained at the end of October, but not before burning more than 5,500 acres. For some residents of rural Clackamas County, it was a bit of a wake-up call. Large fires have been occurring in the Mt. Hood



National Forest on a semi-regular basis in recent years, usually on the drier east side of the mountains or at higher elevations where lightning strikes are more common. This one was just eight miles out of Estacada and the smoke was definitely noticeable in our communities.

For some residents east of Estacada, the fire closed roads and lead to evacuations. For the rest of us it's a reminder that fire can occur on the westside and to recommit to fire preparedness on our own woodlands. This winter, consider contacting the

Oregon Department of Forestry or your local fire district for some advice on creating defensible space around your house and other structures in the woods. Good information is available online as well at the Firewise website (www.firewise.org). With a little bit of advanced planning, you can reduce the chance that a wildfire can spread onto your land. ■

New Member Spotlight — The Farringtons

JIM SCHREIBER

On a nice sunny fall day, I took a drive over to the Buckner Creek area to visit with Mel and Elizabeth Farrington to see how they were coming along with their woodlands. I got there in time to see logger Roger Daugherty hard at work on a commercial thinning project for Mel and Elizabeth. He had a small landing cleared, but it was filling quickly with logs and more were on the way courtesy of his skidder operator. Roger was expecting a self-loader any minute to clear out the landing so they could get back to work.

When Mel and Elizabeth bought the 26-acre property 49 years ago, it was primarily a working cow



Mel and Elizabeth Farrington

.....continued on page 2

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The Farringtons, continued from page 1

farm that had some timber located in one corner and on the slopes of a canyon. After a few years of chasing cattle, fixing fences and getting in hay, they decided there had to be a better way of using the property.

Contacts with the Clackamas County Extension Forester and with input from the Oregon Department of Forestry Stewardship Foresters, the decision was made: they would plant trees.

Beginning with Douglas-fir seedlings, they began planting their new forest, which now covers about 20 acres. A trip on the "Gator" took us through nice rows of 25 to 30 year old stands that are already marked for selective harvest. Mel indicated that they had not signed on for limb removal, mainly because they didn't have the time to expend doing so, but

left it up to Mother Nature to do the job. In their instance, it seems to be working as the lower limbs are dead and easily broken off and the stands have nice 40 to 50% crowns.

We also stopped and looked over a small alder plantation. Trees were nicely spaced.

There were some vacant spaces which Mel attributed to die-off. He indicated that he was somewhat disappointed in the survival rate and thought that they should be experiencing a faster growth rate.

About 25 years ago, they rounded out their main timber plantation by planting over two acres of Valley Ponderosa pine. In Mel's opinion they didn't thrive as well as he expected on the hillside location. The stem size is a little small but on average isn't too bad. There are some nice eight to ten inch diameter trees spread throughout the stand and once thinned, should show a more rapid growth rate. We discussed the potential markets for the pine, on this side of the Cascades; Mel said there are always chips.

While planting of his new forest was underway, they didn't neglect their existing timber stands. Work was done to clear out undesirable understory brush and control the usual invasive species culprits. Some seedlings were planted to fill in small open areas. The logging that is underway, will include taking some of the existing trees and removing some trees interfering with property activities. This will include a few



Farrington thinning project. Roger Daugherty Logging.

bigleaf maples.

Before I left, I had the opportunity to visit Mel's workshop; one that reflects his 50 years of being a machinist and mechanic in the smaller industrial firms in and around Portland. A metal lathe, large drilling equipment, and other tools were spread around the shop. He also showed off a small steam engine that he built and small brass pit-cock valves (and I mean small.) They were amazing examples of machining. Surprisingly, the shop also included a wood carving area where unique hand carvings were made on small sections of what appeared to be limb wood and tree trunks. This is his real hobby.

Elizabeth retired from the life of an accountant and when she is not on her regular roadside trash patrol, she finds time to work in her garden. Her big love though, is playing the organ. She is a member of the American Guild of Organists and if you listen closely, you can hear her playing in churches and events all over the greater Portland area.

I enjoyed the visit with the Farringtons and I'm sure you would enjoy talking with them also. Please welcome them to OSWA/CCFFA when you have the opportunity. ■

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The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the opinion of the CCFFA members or of the editors.

Local Conservation Assistance Available for Private Woodland Owners

LISA KILDERS, Information & Outreach Coordinator, Clackamas County Soil & Water Conservation

When you walk through your forestland, what do you see? Are invasive weeds steadily taking over your property? Is the understory thick with potential fuel for a forest fire? Maybe you see a setting for improved wildlife habitat? What you may need is a quality forest management plan to make the most of your wooded acres.

Maintaining and managing forestland can be a big responsibility, but you don't have to do it alone! There are a number of local agencies who can offer both technical advice and financial assistance to implement good management practices.

One of the most important things a woodland owner can do is to develop a good inventory and management plan. Both the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service may be able to provide financial or technical assistance in developing a plan. Additionally, there are numerous private consultants available to help develop this inventory and management plan. Classes are often taught to assist landowners in developing their own plan.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)—With local offices in both Clackamas and Multnomah counties, NRCS has several programs available which can provide financial assistance to forest landowners. They may partner with ODF and the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) on projects to maximize technical and financial resources.

- **Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)**—provides a payment rate per acre for select

management practices. These include brush management, pre-commercial thinning, pruning, and slash treatment

- **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)**—assists landowners in reforesting land parcels greater than 5 acres which have been vacant or in crop or pasture production. Designed for stands that meet a minimum threshold with the intent to improve the diversity and ecological value of the site. Potential assistance could include forest site prep, tree and shrub planting, herbaceous weed control, woody residue treatment, seeding, and wildlife structures.

Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD or District)—This special district may be able to provide technical assistance in developing a conservation plan and implementing your forest management or conservation plan, particularly if the plan involves such natural resource needs as restoration of wildlife habitat, oak habitat, prevention of soil erosion, restoration of riparian buffers, or other water quality improvements. District staff can assist in developing the goals and objectives, timeline, and budget for your project.

Financial assistance may be available from the District to address the natural resource issues that are described in your plan. The District has several funding programs, including cost-share arrangements, grants, and low-interest loans which may be combined to create a customized financial assistance program that best meets your needs and those of the District. These programs do not have a minimum or maximum acreage requirement. However, they

do require that you work with a District or NRCS conservation planner in developing or reviewing your plan and planning your project.

For assistance, please contact Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District at 503-210-6000 or the Natural Resources Conservation Service at 503-210-6031. We share an office at 221 Molalla Ave., Suite 102 in Oregon City. Hope to see you soon! ■

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CCFFA Twilight Educational Tour—Craven Family Tree Farm

JANE STONE

On September 9th, the CCFFA/OSU Extension Forestry Educational Twilight Tour came to the Craven Family Tree Farm. Derek and Jessica Craven and family were nominees for the 2013 Woodland Farmer of the Year Award.

This tour was a triple educational opportunity that included a tour of the family tree farm, an opportunity to observe Derek's firewood processing operation and to hear from Clackamas County Forest Technician, Sena Sanguinetti, about the use of cameras on your forestlands.

Upon arrival at the Craven farm, the first thing that caught our attention was Jessica's vegetable and berry garden with her raised vegetable beds. The garden was surrounded by a very high, first class, deer fence constructed of steel posts and a pipe top rail. The girls, Peyton and Laynie, showed us their own raised beds and chickens with the help of the family dog. Everyone works around the farm and it warmed our hearts to see the sharing among the family members.

Located in the hills above Colton and Molalla, the 39-acre property was poorly-stocked and brushy when the family took possession. Nestled in among the boundaries of Weyerhaeuser plantations, the small stand



Derek Craven outlining their plan.

of 14-year-old Doug-fir looked a little underwhelming. The decision was made to return the logged over land back into a productive forest.

Derek led the tour group down the steep hill to the stream that divides their property into two areas. Each area was considered a separate project and planning for each was different. With the discovery of some root rot pockets, a learning curve began on how to deal with this problem. The decision was made to re-stock these pockets with Western redcedar and red alder. The stream also has some active beaver ponds. What it doesn't have is a bridge or culvert between the two areas necessitating use of the rural road to move around

the property. At the streamside, Derek laid out their plans for improving the riparian area for stream and wildlife enhancement.

The family has spent the past 10 years clearing the brush and invasive species in preparation for re-planting. Derek explained that most of that work was done the hard way, by hand! That practice had changed somewhat and we followed him to an area where a brush mowing machine had chewed across some land they are preparing for planting. We also had the opportunity to see some of the early replanted areas that included a nice stand of cedar tucked in clearings under larger Douglas-fir.

The group then moved on to the Cravens firewood processing center where Derek gave a short demonstration of the operation. He built a lifting platform to handle the big rounds and set up two splitting tables so that he can operate from either the left or right side of the splitter. Their operation is capable of producing a uniform size firewood that can be sold to firewood users. The wood is obtained from on-site thinning projects and offsite timberlands. So far in 2014, they have processed 104 cords of wood. Twenty-four cords

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will be bundled, wrapped, and marketed at local commercial outlets. Derek is a member of the Oregon Woodland Co-operative and works closely with them in this endeavor. This is a total family work project, with daughters helping dad.

Sena Sanguinetti passed along personal experiences about wildlife and security cameras that she uses as part of her job. She had three different cameras for us to examine and explained various placement positions and advantageous disguises used for both wildlife and trespass settings. She had photos of some of the results obtained with her placements. The use of such cameras is a great way to document what animals are damaging your woodlands as well as documenting trespassing encounters with two legged animals. If properly placed and camouflaged, vehicle license plates can be obtained from trespassers and illegal dumpers. Sena works very closely with the Dump Stoppers Program doing just that.

All in all, it was a very educational and enjoyable tour. If you missed being part of the group, you missed a good thing. Give some thought to coming along on the next twilight



Derek showing riparian site improvements.

tour. Check the calendar of events in the *Forest-Tree Leader*, OSU's Extension Forestry *Woodland Notes* or our

website: ccffa-oswa.org.

Thanks to the Craven family for hosting the tour. ■



Derek processing firewood.



Sena Sanguinetti with camera display.



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Bigleaf Maple Reconsidered

BARRY SIMS

Maple and alder have long been considered weeds by the Oregon tree farmer. Both are fast growing and can naturally seed in, or worse, sprout from stumps, and outcompete planted Douglas-fir and other conifers grown for future timber harvest.

The rehabilitation of alder's image from a "weed" to a desirable crop tree is now well known. Over the past 30 years, alder has become regarded as a valuable and fast-growing forest tree—log prices for alder have been comparable to Douglas-fir in recent

years. But maple? Most landowners with maple in their stands still struggle to find something positive to say about it. The litany of complaints usually center on the perceived low quality of the wood and the often annoying ability of the tree to resprout from the stump after cutting.

I believe maple has gotten a bad rap and think its wood is potentially a lot more valuable than we realize. The tree has other characteristics that may make it a bigger contributor to our forest economy in the future.

This year I set out to discover more

about maple, to test the market with logs of varying qualities, and to explore other uses for maple. The results have been surprising and encouraging.

Log values can be higher than you might think

I managed two harvests this year with significant maple. One was in Clackamas County, and of the total harvest volume of 106 MBF, more than a third (38 MBF), was bigleaf maple. I conducted this thinning myself with a small Cat and long winch line. The average delivered log price for the maple on this job was over \$700/MBF. No, that is not a typo. Maple brought more on a per thousand basis than the Douglas-fir. This was possible for a couple reasons. First, the hardwood mills seem to be just paying a little more for maple than they used to. In the spring we were getting \$600/MBF for 12"+ maple logs. By summer, this was down to \$550/MBF. Although prices for smaller diameter logs taper down pretty fast, the average is a respectable price. But what really brought the prices up was the sale of several loads of oversize maple to a specialty buyer for a delivered log price of just over \$1,000/MBF. This buyer is looking for figured grain, and cuts a variety of specialty maple products for remanufacturing, such as gunstocks and instrument blanks.

The second harvest, a combination of thinning and small patch cuts, was in Columbia County, and I laid it out and hired a shovel logger. Total harvest was 301 MBF. Maple was a smaller component of the total—about 15% (46 MBF). In this case, average delivered log price for maple was just over \$600/MBF. The stands were a little younger. The average scale diameter was lower than the Clackamas County harvest and there was a lower percentage of specialty maple. But still, maple was an impor-



Maple log loading: Ron Spanfellner loads some nice quality bigleaf maple logs for delivery.



Maple stand after thinning: Removing lower quality maple stems was the goal in this just completed thinning near Rainier.

tant part of the harvest and contributed greatly to the bottom line for the landowner.

To be fair, not all maple stands will capture these kinds of prices. These were both mature stands with better than average quality timber. The presence of some large figured maple logs brought the average log price up quite a bit. But even without the figured maple, the average bigleaf maple sawlog price was in the \$500s—better than most people would expect.

Sprouting—a potential strength

As a forester, I learned early that trees of stump-sprout origin were inherently less desirable than those originating from seed. This is purported to be due to weakness in the stem near where it joins with the old stump, either from rot or abnormal stem development.

Accordingly, on these thinning projects I frequently marked stump-sprouted maple for harvest, either the entire clump or just the poorer quality ones. In a 70-year old stand, I was somewhat surprised to find that virtually all of the stump-sprouted stems we cut had effectively compartmentalized any rot from the stump and were quite sound. This kind of flew in the face of what I had been telling landowners all these years. It got me thinking—maybe stump sprouting was not such a bad thing after all?

Coppicing (the practice of repeatedly harvesting stump sprouted trees) has been practiced in Europe and around the world for centuries. In my mind, it seemed suited to rapid production of firewood in areas without large native forests or of non-timber forest products like cinnamon, which comes from the bark of young coppiced stems of the cinnamon tree. If high quality bigleaf maple sawlogs can be grown from stump sprouts, I wonder if there is a way to harness the incredible growth potential there.

We all know that maple can sprout

profusely after cutting and that it can rapidly overwhelm any planted trees unless it is controlled. But look at it another way – here is a potentially valuable tree that can grow to 17 feet in height in 3 years! It's similar to redwood—stump-sprout redwood is a crucial part of the redwood industry now, and something Douglas-fir will never be able to attain.

When it comes to pancakes, Douglas-fir can't compare

My first job as a consulting forester was serving small landowners in northern Vermont. Some had sugaring operations, often integrating some timber harvesting in the “sugarbush”—the nice term they have for a sugar maple stand—to remove lower quality trees and to enhance the sap production. It's definitely an important part of the

forest economy and rural way of life throughout the northern hardwood region of the US and Canada.

But could it work in Oregon? Some landowners produce syrup from bigleaf maple on a hobby scale, but there are no commercial-scale sugaring operations on the West Coast—yet. Recent improvements in vacuum technology have made commercial syrup production a possibility in our region for the first time. Last year Anchor Steam, a major brewery in California, released a red ale flavored with bigleaf maple syrup. With Portland's current leading role as a food innovation hub and the increasing reliance on locally produced foods, the time may be right for a West Coast maple syrup operation.

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How would this work in practice? Interested landowners with suitable stands of maple could enter into lease agreements with maple syrup producers. Enterprising landowners could pursue their own production of syrup, possibly selling to larger producers, much the same way wine grape growers sell to the wineries.

If it was easy, everybody would be doing it

The rehabilitation of alder didn't happen overnight. Some landowners still think of it as a weed! So building real value out of our maple resource may take some time and there are some definite challenges. Here are a few that I can think of:

Expensive logging. The bottom line is that logging in maple stands is slow with low productivity compared to virtually any other species in our area. The trees tend to have a relatively short bole before major branches start. So log recovery from each tree is poor. Just like with alder, potential volumes per acre are far lower than with conifers of a similar age. Some of this has to do with inherent qualities of maple—it doesn't grow much in height above 80 to 100 feet in most stands. Some of the difficulty is due to the fact that few landowners pay much attention to culturing their maple stands to enhance their potential future value. In regions with high value hardwoods, long established practices, such as harvesting poor



Deck of short maple logs: Getting enough long logs for bunking can be challenging in maple.

quality trees for firewood, can greatly enhance the value of a mature stand. This almost never happens in Oregon, partially because we don't consume that much firewood, and partially because landowners don't perceive maple as worthy of the effort.

Lack of seedlings. Because the forest products industry has not embraced bigleaf maple as a crop tree in the way it has with alder, the tree seedling nurseries as a whole have not figured out how to reliably produce a high quality bigleaf maple seedling. I know this because we have planted bigleaf maple on a variety of sites over the years, and survival has been poor. Until this challenge is met, it will be somewhat difficult to establish maple stands where there isn't already a maple resource for natural seeding

and stump sprouting.

Bigleaf maple—the next Cinderella story?

Bigleaf maple could become the next alder—transforming from a nuisance tree that forest managers work hard to eliminate, to an important contributor to our forest economy. But only if it passes two tests : 1) it has to have genuinely valuable qualities and traits, and 2) people in the industry—forest landowners, hardwood lumber producers and users—need to believe in it and work to develop markets.

Based on my experiences this year, I think bigleaf maple passes the first test. It can produce incredibly beautiful wood for a variety of applications and can grow very fast. Whether it can pass the second test is up to us. ■

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OSU Extension Update

GLENN AHRENS

New addition to Clackamas Extension Forestry team

Jennifer Gorski began work December 1 as our new Forestry Program Assistant for OSU Extension Clackamas County. She has a great combination of skills and experience in both private business and public education. Even before her start date, we recruited Jennifer to teach two classes at Tree School 2015 based on her strong background in the subject matter of 1) Trees and Shrubs to Know in Oregon and 2) Propagation, Care, and Handling of Tree and Shrub Seedlings. December is a great month for Jennifer to jump on board with preparations for Tree School and our other 2015 program planning.

Forest Science-Management Partnership Highlight of National Forestry Convention

I joined nearly 4,000 foresters, researchers, and forestry students in Salt Lake City, Utah for a rare convergence at the joint Society of American Foresters National Convention, Canadian Forestry Institute Annual Meeting, and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations World Congress on October 8-11, 2014. Preparing for the convention spurred me on in my effort to develop *Decision Tools for Selecting Alder and Douglas-fir Management Regimes* which I presented in a poster. There were other take-home benefits from the sessions to improve my working knowledge of topics including, landowner outreach and engagement methods, neighborhood fuels reduction techniques, silviculture at the urban interface, thinning older forests, bark beetle impact assessment, wood energy development, carbon credit schemes, and more.

After a busy summer here in Oregon, this international convention was an opportunity to step back and



OSU booth at the joint Society of American Foresters National Convention, Canadian Institute of Forestry Annual Meeting, and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations World Congress (October 8-11, 2014).

reflect on the value of our local forestry work in the global context. I think this was captured very well by the remarks of one of the distinguished presenters, Charles, Prince of Wales. He was giving a pep-talk to the international assembly of foresters via streaming video:

“I do hope, ladies and gentlemen, that you will manage to maintain one of the great traditional strengths of your profession, which is to take a longer-term view of the world than ordinary mortals would ever consider. I can imagine that planning and planting for the benefit of generations as yet unborn becomes more difficult year by year, while short-term pressures grow like weeds. Yet it is surely more important than ever to make the good long-term decisions that your successors will appreciate.”

We are in need of such encouragement, given the increasing challenges and demands on our forests:

“In the western US, 46 million acres of forest have been severely impacted by bark beetles... Over the last several decades, fire sea-

sons have grown by 60-80 days while the annual acreage subjected to wildfire has doubled. “
—Robert Bonnie, US Undersecretary for natural resources and environment

“Global demand for forestland and forest products continues to increase in line with the hugely unsustainable growth in global population and consumption.”
—Charles, Prince of Wales

In light of these issues, you can't help but gain renewed appreciation for the good overall health and productivity of the forests we get to manage here in northwest Oregon.

Extension and CFFA Newsletters working together?

Many of you receive both the *Forest-Tree Leader* and the *Woodland Notes* Extension Newsletter, so we try not to be too redundant. If you do not receive *Woodland Notes* and wish to consider it, please see the newsletter at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/clackamas/woodland-notes> and contact Jean Bremer at 503-655-8631 or jean.bremer@oregonstate.edu if you wish to subscribe. ■

A Pioneer Family Farm at 150: Report to our communities

WILMA GUTTRIDGE AND GILBERT SHIBLEY

Editor's note: *The Shibley Family LLC owns and manages 322 acres in Springwater, comprising roughly half the area of a wider spread of forest properties owned by various family members. About three-fourths of the property is forested, mostly in 60 to 70 year old mixed conifer stands, with the remainder in Douglas-fir and Western redcedar plantations ranging in age from five to forty years. What follows is a statement reaffirming the family's commitment to the land for the long-term, following a management plan that calls for harvesting no more than growth while working to diversify the age classes of the stands. The business structure was a sole proprietorship until 1994, when a limited partnership was set up on a 20 year term.*

The Shibley land in Springwater has been in farm and forest production since 1864. This year the family renewed its promise to the land and each other to proceed on toward the next half (or full?) century in a similar mode. The business entity and some of its ownership has been changed but our family has renewed a commitment to keep the core half of this historic property intact, in productive natural resource use, and in family ownership.

We converted this week in the state's eyes from a Limited Partnership to a Limited Liability Company (LLC). In our accountant/tax preparer's eyes it is a minor, almost meaningless change. In our attorney's eyes it is a more up-to-date and flexible form for being a family business. We see it as a good tool for our family's stewardship of the land. We as a family have grown up and out to become not just a nuclear family in a house on the farm. That was what we had experienced as children, as had our parents and grandparents. Now we are a three-generation mix of occupations



Shibley family farm and forest in 1925. Snags on the right are from a 1902 fire.

spread into several states. Not all current descendants of our parents are owners but all are still part of the family and most have some emotional ties to the Shibley Place, rooted in Springwater.

Our family business may someday even have owner/members in other countries, but hands-on management will need to be local. This is our home base, our home on the planet, our place. It was aptly named Forest Home Stock Farm in the 1920s by our dad and Grandpa Shibley. Springwater is our geographic community. Our church here is celebrating its 125th year. It has changed a lot too, with active members from miles away. Our extended family, including our mother's family, the Becks, is a community of interest as well as genetics. Our family is also part of other communities of interest in this county, especially the Grange, Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association,

and two resource stewardship organizations (Soil and Water Conservation District and Clackamas River Basin Council). Only some of us who participate in these communities own shares in the new LLC.

We are reporting to "our communities." Last evening we celebrated with a dinner for four and wanted to share with you how much and why we felt like celebrating. This week was the culmination of about a year of thinking, meeting and planning for how to keep the whole thing working for the family and the land. We spent a lot of time as General Partners, asked a lot of time from our other Limited Partners, and paid for a lot of time by our accountant and attorney. We think we have a solution that will be good for you folks in our various communities as well as for our family and our property.

There were two main projects in this whole process. One was figuring

out how to pay the six of thirteen owners who wished to have their smaller shares bought by the Partnership and thus to not continue as members in the new LLC. The other was shaping the terms of an Operating Agreement for the LLC to fit our family and our business goals better than the previous document (a Partnership Agreement which was due to expire on Friday, October 17.) Both projects took much time and effort. Meanwhile, we conducted the Partnership's ongoing farm/forest operation while trying to not neglect each of our own separate properties and homes. Plus still do most of our usual volunteer community roles. Whew!!!

The young folks cooperated and so did our house mates and celebratory dinner guests, Gary Guttridge. (Wilma's son) and Barbara Shibley (Gilbert's wife). The old folks are tired and the rains have started. The chair by the fire will feel good now as we reflect on the past and plan for the future. We like and need the support of folks in all our communities as we sustain the land legacy. Soon, we hope to find new legs of leadership to carry the baton forward.

A local old-growth forest may take 200 years to develop. That is about seven generations of people. This family currently has several sixth generation members and one seventh. Some of those will someday own shares in the LLC. We two are of the fourth. As we look back to the four great-grandparents who settled here we also like to look forward to showing the Shibley Place to some great-grandchildren. This year as we celebrate 150 years we two stand halfway to that seventh generation. We are pleased to manage what we were given and do so on behalf of the first, the seventh and all other generations who will keep loving this land, this special place.

The authors are Managing Members, Shibley Family LLC. ■



Nice 100 year old timber getting 2nd thinning after seeding in after the 1902 fire.



Gilbert and grandsons explore history of family forest together.

Does Local Firewood Burn Warmer?

An interview with Derek Craven, President of CCFFA

Recently, our chapter president Derek Craven began selling bundled firewood through the Oregon Woodland Cooperative, a group of landowners that have banded together to develop markets for a variety of forest products (see sidebar). The co-op has members all around the state, but Derek seems to be the first Clackamas County landowner to become active in their firewood sales program. We thought Derek's experience would be instructive to other CCFFA members that can't seem to get enough of that

satisfying crack wood makes as it yields to the splitter. In addition to holding down a demanding job in the heating and air conditioning service industry, Derek does arborist work when he can fit it in, providing a source of raw material for his firewood business.

How long have you been selling firewood?

Since my junior year in high school. A friend and I would cut and sell wood as a summer job. In the last several



Some very important helpers inspect the firewood quality.

years I have stepped up the volume. Doing tree removals has provided me with most of my firewood. I also get wood from our property, Weyerhaeuser lands, and my best friend who owns an excavation company.

Efficiency is probably pretty important to making it with a firewood business.

Tell us about your equipment setup.

Until two years ago it was just me, a chainsaw, and a maul. Then I purchased a wood processor that can split two or more cords an hour. I also use a small track hoe to move logs and rounds. I recently purchased a shrink wrap machine for the bundles. Last year was my first year using high school kids and nephews to help with the wood processor and in loading my dump trailer for deliveries. I

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Consistent appearance of the firewood bundles is helped by a professional-looking label.

enjoy employing kids that need money for college.

How did you first hear about the Oregon Woodland Cooperative (OWC) and their firewood program? What do you like about their program?

I took an OWC class at Tree School several years ago and just recently joined. They have a lot of opportunities for woodland owners, but I'm only taking advantage of the bundled fire-

wood program. The co-op allows me to produce firewood all year instead of just the busy fall months. You can at least triple your money bundling per cord, but there is also more labor and time involved.

How much firewood will you produce this season?

This year I sold and am still selling bulk firewood. I'm at 89 cords as of today. I plan and have set aside more

than 20 cords to bundle over the winter. If that runs out I have the ability to cut, stack, and dry as much wood as the co-op needs.

.....continued on next page

Oregon Woodland Cooperative

What is it: A group of more than 70 private family forest landowners in Oregon. Since 1980, OWC members have helped other members to improve their ability to sustainably manage their woodland and to market their woodland products over the long term.

What kinds of products: Originally formed as a log marketing cooperative, recently the OWC has developed successful programs in retail sales of firewood, as well as other non-wood products such as essential oils for conifer needles and decorative evergreen boughs.

Who sells the firewood: OWC Bundled Firewood, Premium Bundled Firewood (all hardwood) and Kindling are available for purchase at grocery stores in the Portland metro area, including many New Seasons stores. The bundles are dense, neat, consistent in appearance, tightly wrapped, and clean.

How does a landowner participate: First, become a co-op member! Participating members provide the wood and labor to prepare the firewood bundles according to the co-op specifications. Consistency and quality control are very important to the ongoing success of the program. The co-op then sells the wood and retains a marketing fee.

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That's a lot of wood! Any words of advice to the woodland owner that is interested in producing firewood for sale?

If you plan on producing firewood for income try to automate as much of the process as you can. I regret, and my body has paid the price for, not taking as much manual labor out of the process years ago. ■

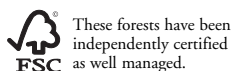


A dump trailer takes some of the heavy labor out of delivering firewood



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CCFFA 2014-15 SEEDLING RESERVATION REQUEST FORM



The Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association is offering tree seedlings for sale again this year. The available stock is listed below. Inventories will be filled on a first come, first served basis. If you have any questions, please contact: Stan Beyer, Phone: (503) 519-5289, or email: skbeyer@molalla.net

ORDERING INFORMATION:

1. Please make your order number in **multiples** of the minimum order number.
2. Price is in dollars per thousand of seedlings ordered.
3. Enclose a minimum 30% deposit with your order to reserve your seedlings (for orders less than 960 seedlings, please include total purchase price).
4. No refunds for cancellations after January 1, 2015.
5. Confirmation and balance due notices will be mailed by December 31, 2014. All payments are due by January 15, 2015 to CCFFA.
6. All seedlings will be distributed at Weyerhaeuser Nursery in Aurora, OR in February and March 2015.

The following seedlings are for sale. Please review seedling source details and observe minimum and multiple order quantities.

Order Code	Species/Seed Source	Stock Type	Inventory Available	Price Per/M	Minimum Order	Order Multiple
A	Douglas-fir <small>(Weyerhaeuser seed)</small>	1+1	6,000	\$440	160	160
<small>(Weyerhaeuser seed) Genetically improved seed mix from Weyerhaeuser forest nursery program. Minimum caliper for 1+1 stock type is 6mm with minimum height of 12 inches.</small>						
B	Douglas-fir <small>(Clackamas Cty seed)</small>	1+1	9,000	\$440	160	160
<small>(Clackamas Cty seed) Field collection seed from 1,500 foot elevation in Sandy area of Clackamas County. Same seedling specifications as order code A.</small>						
C	Western Red Cedar <small>(Clackamas Cty seed)</small>	P+1	10,000	\$470	160	160
<small>(Clackamas Cty seed) 1995 field collected seed from the Sandy area of Clackamas County. Minimum height = 8", caliper = 4mm.</small>						

ORDER CODE	SPECIES/SEED SOURCE	STOCK TYPE	MIN. ORDER	PRICE Per/M	QUANTITY REQUESTED	YOUR COST
A	Douglas-fir <small>(Weyerhaeuser seed)</small>	1+1	160	\$440		
B	Douglas-fir <small>(Clackamas Cty seed)</small>	1+1	160	\$440		
C	Western Red Cedar <small>(Clackamas Cty seed)</small>	P+1	160	\$470		

Mail this form with your payment to:
CCFFA Seedling Committee
 P.O. Box 783
 Molalla, OR 97038

TOTAL AMOUNT OF ORDER \$ _____

MINIMUM 30% DEPOSIT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Make checks & money orders payable to "CCFFA"

Please make a photocopy of this form for your records and future reference.

BALANCE DUE \$ _____

NAME _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____ EVENING PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY/STATE/ZIP _____



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Molalla, OR 97038

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CCFFA WINTER EVENTS CALENDAR

Check our website at www.ccffa-oswa.org for more information

Sat Dec 6, 2014

**Benton County Small Woodlands
Association Tree Farm Tour**

Where: Alsea

Fri Dec 12, 2014 • 1pm - 3pm

**Return of Salmon—Fish Enhancement on
Woodland Streams**

Where: Location TBA depending on water
levels and fish location (OSU Extension/
Clackamas County)

Sat Dec 13, 2014 • 8:30am - 4:30pm

Community Forestry Day

Where: Hopkins Demonstration Forest

Sat Jan 10, 2015 • 8:30am - 4:30pm

Community Forestry Day

Where: Hopkins Demonstration Forest

Wed Jan 14, 2015 • 7pm - 9pm

CCFFA Board Meeting

Where: Forest Hall, Hopkins Demonstration
Forest

Fri Jan 16, 2015 • 6pm - 9pm

OSWA Board Meeting

Where: Oregon Garden Resort, Silverton

Fri Jan 16/Sat. Jan 17, 2015

**SAF 2015 PNW Forestry Leadership
Academy**

Where: Oregon Garden Resort, Silverton

Sat Jan 24, 2015 • 12pm - 2pm

CCFFA Annual Potluck & Program

Where: Springwater Grange, Estacada

Mon Jan 26, 2015 • 8:30am - 4:30pm

**Forest Tax Symposium, Understanding
Oregon's Family Forest Tax Landscape**

Where: Corvallis

Sat Feb 7, 2015 • 8am - 12pm

**Goods from the Woods and Linn Small
Woodlands Association Seedling Sale**

Where: Linn County Expo Center, Albany

Sat Feb 14, 2015 • 8am - 12pm

CCFFA/Weyco Seedling Sale

Where: Weyerhaeuser Nursery, Aurora

Sat Feb 14, 2015 • 8:30am - 4:30pm

Community Forestry Day

Where: Hopkins Demonstration Forest

Wed Mar 11, 2015 • 7pm - 9pm

CCFFA Board Meeting

Where: Forest Hall, Hopkins Demonstration
Forest

Sat Mar 14, 2015 • 8am - 12pm

CCFFA/Weyco Seedling Sale

Where: Weyerhaeuser Nursery, Aurora

Sat Mar 14, 2015 • 8:30am - 4:30pm

Community Forestry Day

Where: Hopkins Demonstration Forest

Sat Mar 21, 2015

Clackamas Tree School

Where: Clackamas Community College



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