

WASHINGTON FARM FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

Landowner News MAY / JUNE 2010

THE VOICE OF THE SMALL FOREST LANDOWNERS IN WASHINGTON STATE

Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year

Earl, Laurine, and David Ingebright, owners of the Valhalla Tree Farm in the Cascade foothills near Arlington, were named *Washington State Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year* at the WFFA Annual Meeting on April 26.

The 70-acre tree farm was purchased by Earl in 1959. Earl and his son, David, now manage the tree farm with the following goals: 1) To keep the forest healthy and productive for growing trees, 2) To share it with friends and family, and 3) To pass it on to their children in better condition than it was when purchased.

In the spirit of teaching young people about stewardship and outdoor skills, the Valhalla Tree Farm owners provide a group campsite on their property, available for scout, church and other youth group outings. Water from a pure hillside spring is piped downhill to supply water to the house and group camp. In addition, a small cabin, called a *Norsk Hytte*, was recently built on scenic hill overlooking Jordan Creek, a salmon-bearing stream passing through the property.

The family enjoys numerous activities on their property as they continue to nurture their private forestland and teach visitors about forest stewardship.

Landowner News is the official newsletter of the Washington Farm Forestry Association.

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Olympia, WA

MacRae Family Tree Farm: The “Other Winner!”

Every year, volunteers of the Washington Tree Farm Program, select a “winner” out of the nominees for the “Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year”. Once again, it was shown that ALL nominees are winners.

The other nominee for 2010 was John MacRae and Candace Ranney. The 240-acre MacRae Family Tree Farm, located near Shelton was...well, outstanding! This fourth generation tree farm has been ATFS certified for 57 years and is a showcase for providing income, a place to live, and a family legacy.

New WFFA President: Sam Comstock

Sam Comstock was born in Montana and raised in South Kitsap in an old beach front cottage on Rich Passage. He attended South Kitsap schools and Olympic College, studying engineering. Sam bought his first piece of property when he was 19, and married his wife Joy while serving in the Navy as an electronic technician. Sam and Joy have 3 children, 10 grand-children, and 3 great-grand-children.

Sam briefly attended the U of W and worked as an engineering aide for Boeing. He apprenticed as a machinist with the US Department of Defense and worked in production, maintenance, and technical positions in various capacities. Sam worked for the US Coast Guard on Kodiak Island for 10 years, leaving as the chief of the utilities branch. He returned to Puget Sound Shipyard and retired from there in 1992.

He says he then bummed around, earned a private pilot's license, crewed on tugs, made yacht deliveries, commercial fished, built homes, worked for Simpson Tacoma Kraft, logged, hunted, learned a bit about the life cycle of salmonids, especially how to get them to the fry pan.

Best of all; Sam and Joy own, manage, and operate a 50-acre patch of timber in North Mason County where they live in one of the homes they personally built. They enjoy the company of fellow tree farmers.

From the President

As the newest president of WFFA, it is my privilege to write a column for each issue of the "*Land Owner News*". I follow in the footsteps of some very able people, and hope that I can fill my role here as well. For this first issue, I will touch on a few important topics that continue to be on our agenda.

Membership Drive - Past President, Bob Brink, initiated a membership drive during his tenure and this remains a top priority.

Forest & Fish - The present direction regarding Forest & Fish will be pursued and WFFA will continue to seek the best results for our members for the time and money spent.

WFFA Executive Director - This position has required excessive time at a level of responsibility to which the salary does not support.

WFFA Volunteers - The volume of time and energy provided by our core group of dedicated volunteers is not sustainable.

The Executive Committee and the full Executive Board will address the above issues and keep the membership informed. Even with the recent economic downturn, WFFA has consistently balanced our budget, and will continue to do so.

Riparian Easement Program - The State of Washington is unable to make good on the promise of the “Riparian Easement Program” at this time and the future of the program is bleak. Some of our members, especially those in more highly developed areas would not enroll in the program. WFFA will support the “Small Forest Landowner Office” and pursue all avenues to fund FREP for the benefit of all Family Forest Land Owners. WFFA will also continue to seek mitigation in the event that FREP is not adequately funded, such as the 20 acre rule.

Thank You to Olympic & South Sound Chapters - A great big thanks to all the good folks who volunteered from the Olympic and South Sound Chapters for the great Annual Meeting the end of April. The weather was good for the tour and dinner on Sunday at an outstanding tree farm. The meeting, speakers, and panel on Monday at Alderbrook were first rate. If you're headed up 101 on the Canal, be sure to stop in at the *Hama Hama Oyster Company* or *Alderbrook Resort*. Also, if you travel Highway 3 north of Shelton, be sure to visit our caterer for a succulent prime rib. Just turn east on Pickering Pass road and head for the *Spencer Lake Bar and Grill*.

Sam Comstock
WFFA President

Annual Meetings Just Keep Getting Better

The 2010 Annual Meeting of the Washington Farm Forestry Association, hosted by our Olympic and South Sound Chapters, drew nearly 200 attendees and maintained the standard for our exciting and educational Annual Meetings.

Our caps are off to the committee that gave us an awesome tour and dinner at the *Hama Hama Tree Farm* on Sunday afternoon and followed with an educational and spirited set

of speakers and panelists the next day.

Well worth mentioning was guest speaker Brian Boyle, past Commissioner of Public Lands and leader of the NW Environmental Forum. Brian has the history and knowledge to recognize that our current model of forest regulations for tree farmers is outdated and does not provide the incentives needed and that other states offer. Also of note were the comments of Rollie Schmitten. Rollie was our state's first director of Fisheries and served as director of the National Marine Fisheries. He has kept in the know of Washington's forest regulations and named eight "must do's" for Washington's SFL's to survive our regulatory programs. Unfortunately, none of the eight are on our current regulators' radar screen.

New officers were elected at the morning business meeting. At lunch, the *Tree Farmer of the Year* was announced. In the afternoon, a great panel presentation and speakers delivered information. Our awards program closed the day.

If you missed this one, mark your calendar for next year when our Clark Chapter hosts us on April 14–16, 2011 in Vancouver. I've heard they have something BIG up their sleeve!

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 16, 2010

Washington Hardwoods Commission Annual Meeting, Castle Rock, WA

For information call: (360) 835-1700 Email: whc@wahardwoodscomm.com

June 24, 2010

Educational Seminar: "Legal Rights of Tree Farmers" held at The Veterans Memorial Museum, Chehalis, WA

For information call: (360) 736-5750 or Email: rdunning@wafarmforestry.com

June 30, 2010

“Access, Easements, Rights-of Way and Timber Trespass: What every Forest Manager Needs to Know”. Western Forestry & Conservation Association, Shelton, WA For information call: (503) 226-4562 or Email: michele@westernforestry.org

July 31, 2010

Forest Owner Field Day, in the Ravensdale area, just east of Maple Valley in King County.

The field day site is an hour or less from Seattle, Bellevue, Everett, Tacoma, or Olympia, and under two hours from Mount Vernon.

The Forest Stewardship Program’s biggest annual event will feature hands-on sessions on a variety of forestry topics, including wildlife, forest health, silviculture, trail building, special forest products, and much more. Learn how to properly thin and prune trees, how to plant and care for young trees, how to attract more wildlife to your property, and how to enhance your personal enjoyment of your property. There is something for all ages and all skill levels at the field day. Whether you own a couple wooded acres or a couple hundred, there is something for you at the summer field day!

Registration is open. Information/schedule at:

<http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/2010FieldDay.htm>.

2010 Fall Forestry Educational Seminar

On Saturday, Oct. 9, the Washington Tree Farm Program will sponsor the 2010 offering of the Fall Forestry Educational Seminar. This year’s title is *“Seedling Management and Economics for the Tree Farmer.”*

Subjects include: Basic herbicide options for young plantations; Keys to success with red alder, red cedar and Willamette Valley ponderosa pine plantations; Financial consequences of stand management options; Primer on forest land investment for tree farmers; and the Log market outlook.

Details are available at the Washington Tree Farm Program website:

www.watreefarm.org/forestryseminar.pdf or call Donna Loucks at 360-736-2147.

Ken Miller Testifies On Bear Damage

Ken Miller recently testified at the Fish and Wildlife Commission about his on-going bear damage. The commission recently adopted new rules that provide payments to Ag producers and Ranchers for their wildlife damage – rules that exclude forest owners from eligibility. The Commissioners encouraged Ken to come back with more information about the problem and potential solutions, so please contact Ken if you are interested in helping raise the issue to higher levels.

Outline Of Verbal Testimony At Fish & Wildlife Commission, June 4, 2010

- Introduction
- 1990 planted 18,000 trees
- 2000 noticed first bear damage
- By 2005, over 10,000 trees damaged or killed
- New damage occurs every year, including 2010 – welcome to visit for firsthand look
- Depredation permits available – lots of regulatory process, but some help
- Reimbursement for damage would be great, but very expensive
- At minimum, need similar level of proactive help like city folks get with their problem bears
- Please include family forest owners when discussing/meeting on wildlife damage
- Thank you in advance for any action you take to help us with this serious problem – we need WDFW help as much as the state’s wildlife needs our private forest habitat.

Ken Miller, 11801 Tilley Road S.

Olympia, WA 98512, Ph: 360-705-1888

Washington Dept of Natural Resource Report: Bear Damage

By Ken Russell

Aerial survey records show scattered, pole sized, newly dead trees as “bear damage”. Based on ground checking observations, this type of damage can be caused by bear girdling, root disease, drought stress, porcupine, or mountain beaver.

Bear feeding activity is likely the primary mortality agent; however, ground truthing studies have shown that nearly half of this damage may be due to root disease.

Approximately 592,000 acres with bear damage mortality were observed in 2009, making this the most active year on record for Washington. The 310,000 acres recorded with bear damage in 2008 was also a record high at the time. The average number of trees killed per acre was actually lower in 2009 (1.54 tree per acre) than 2008 (2.39 tpa).

Although the number of acres with damage nearly doubled from 2008 to 2009, the estimated total number of trees killed was just 26% higher in 2009 than 2008. The ten-year average of acres with bear damage in Washington is 213,000.

Areas with bear damage mortality were widespread in low elevation forested areas of most western Washington counties.

The American Forest Foundation's Grassroots Action Network

By Steve Stinson, 1st Vice President, WFFA

This year was the 15th year that I have flown to Washington DC to advocate for family forestry issues. I was participating in the 2010 American Forest Foundation Grasstops Fly-in which would send me up to the Capitol once again to brief our elected representatives on a series of issues. I remember a visit several years earlier where we had an appointment with Mark Rey, Undersecretary of Natural Resources and the Environment and who oversaw the US Forest Service and Department of Agriculture. This was not our first meeting with Mr. Rey and we had come to appreciate his straightforward nature. We were a bit taken back however, when Mr. Rey stated "You have no national voice...until you do, I will not be able to do much other than discuss your issues with you."

Well, I have good news for you. Our national voice is being developed with savvy vision and fiscal support from the American Forest Foundation. Under the new leadership of CEO Tom Martin, AFF is contributing significant resources to develop the Grassroots Action Network. When mature, the Network will provide family forest landowners like you with a sorely missed and much needed national

voice in policies that matter to you.

Broadly speaking, AFF has identified two goals for the Grassroots Action Network:

- 1) *Mobilize family forest landowners and bring their voices to the public policy process*
- 2) *Advance policies that support and encourage sustainable forest management of family forests and increase the viability of family forest ownership.*

In 2010, to accomplish these goals, AFF will focus on the following public policy issues:

- • *Family forest related tax policy with emphasis on estate tax reform*
- • *Renewable energy policy that encourages energy production from family forests*
- • *Climate issues that affect family forest landowners*
- • *Green Building and procurement policies*
- • *Endangered species issues that affect family forest landowners*
- • *Environmental education*
- • *2008 Farm Bill implementation*

The American Forest Foundation's commitment to establishing an effective grass roots network is exemplified by the outstanding staff they have brought on board to implement this strategy. The leadership and vision brought by Tom Martin is supported ably by Rita Neznok, Dan Conant and Melissa Harden. Rarely in my time advocating for family forests have I had the privilege of the support provided by this team.

The American Forest Foundation Grassroots Action Network has identified 20 key states (including Washington and Oregon) to implement its strategy. In addition to Fly-in's at key times, the Foundation has made a significant investment in technology to further enhance our effectiveness. You may have received an e-mail from Dan or Rita asking for action upon your part. As a family forest landowner it is quick and easy to contact your elected representatives by e-mail, phone or letter and let them know where you stand on a particular issue. The Washington Farm Forestry Association's Executive Board and Executive Committee have decided to allow AFF to include our association's e-mail list in their advocacy efforts. If you receive an e-mail requesting action from AFF, I recommend that you take a look. Sending an e-mail to one or more of your elected representatives takes just a few minutes, once you are familiar with the process. Numbers are what

count, at the end of the day, and we will only find success if we show that family forest owners are politically active and organized. There is no downside to sending a form e-mail or simply calling your representative's office and telling the staff that you as a family forest landowner support estate tax reform as embodied in a particular bill.

Representing family forest landowners at the national level is no small task. We are a diverse group with regional differences in markets, regulation and environmental issues. We belong to membership organizations for our love of the land and enjoy the educational efforts, social networking and advocacy opportunities that these organizations provide.

The Washington Farm Forestry Association is excited about the opportunities that the American Forest Foundation is providing. This will make a difference on policy issues that matter to you. Please take a good look at the next e-mail request that you get from Tom, Dan or Rita and consider giving it a try. If advocacy just isn't your cup of tea, simply click the "*remove me from this list*" option at the bottom of the email.

For more information on the American Forest Foundation's Grassroots Network visit www.familyforestation.org or call Steve Stinson at 360-269-5108.

WFFA & Grassroots Action Network

In the past the WFFA has stayed "non-partisan", meaning that we do not endorse political candidates. At times, we have offered meetings to air both sides of a political issue, or opposing candidates, to help educate our Board.

With the recent failure of Forest and Fish Rules to maintain and provide promised programs, our Board has recognized the need to be more politically active. This means providing you more information on Federal and State issues that affect your business of tree farming. We hope to provide you with the means to communicate your opinion, easily and quickly to congressional or state senators and representatives.

The WFFA has also promised you that we will only share your contact information for

educational purposes. The WFFA Board recently agreed to send members email addresses to the AFF's Grassroot Action Network for the purpose of providing information on these political issues. As one board member stated, "This is as important as showing us how to defeat laminated root rot". If you decide you do not want to receive these emails, you can easily remove yourself by clicking the "*remove me*" option.

Noteworthy Quotes

"We must be willing, individually and as a Nation, to accept whatever sacrifices may be required of us. A people that value its privileges above its principles soon loses both. These basic precepts are not lofty abstractions, far removed from the matters of daily living. They are the laws of spiritual strength that generate and define our material strength...Love of liberty means the guarding of every resource that makes freedom possible – from the sanctity of our families and the wealth of our soil to the genius of our scientists."

- *Dwight D. Eisenhower*
First Inaugural Address
January 20, 1953

"Research and international experience suggest that the best way to encourage people to live sustainably with land is to give them more control over their lives. Extending or restoring land or resource rights to local people is fundamental to giving them more control. Land and resource tenure provides predictability and has the advantage of coupling authority and responsibility at the local level. Yet leaders of environmental advocacy groups strongly oppose any attempts to extend rights to local people. Why are leaders of the environmental movement so afraid to invest rural people with the authority and responsibility to steward the natural environment...?"

- *Excerpt from the book Broken Trust Broken Land: Freeing ourselves From the War Over the Environment*
by Dr. Robert E. Lee.

"Society is indeed a contract...partnership...the ends of such partnership cannot be obtained in many generations, it becomes a partnership not only between those who are living, but between those who are dead and those who are yet to be born"

New WFFA Signs Available

The new WFFA signs are dark green with white border and lettering. A hidden message “*For the love of the land*” is discreetly written at the bottom of the index finger.

The 9” wide by 12” tall durable signs are printed on 3/16” thick corrugated plastic. Signs sell for: \$3 each, a pack of 4 for \$10 or a pack of 9 for \$20. Posting your land provides many benefits!

Ordering Your New Signs

You can pick up your new signs at the WFFA office, order them from your local Chapter, or send your mailing address and \$ 7.50 shipping and handling for up to nine signs, along with your order to: WFFA, PO Box 1010 Chehalis, WA 98532.

From the Executive Director’s Desk

Annual Meetings

I have attended WFFA Annual Meetings for many years. I am continually inspired by the efforts of our Chapters to work together to host these awesome events. A huge THANK YOU goes to Olympic and South Sound Chapters for this year’s meeting!

If you haven’t attended one of our Annual Meetings, I challenge you to mark your calendar for April 15–16, 2011, and join us in Vancouver, where the Clark Chapter will be our host. If it is not as interesting as I say it is...I will refund your money!

Legislation

We watched in disbelief last session, as some agencies and legislators attempted to change the Forest Riparian Easement Program program and pit one good tree

farmer against another by prioritizing FREP. Now we are waiting for DNR to legally implement the prioritization. In the mean time, we will meet with the senior counsel of both the Senate and House Natural Resource committees, under the guidance of the House Natural Resource Chair, Representative Brian Blake (19th), to discuss possible legislation to correct the dilemma that the state has gotten itself into with this failed forest policy. Stay tuned...

Membership Drive

WFFA Chapters are spending time and effort on a promising new membership drive. One-time special rates, a gift pack, and the ability to accept credit card payments are all new components of the drive. The Chapters need your help. Please support the WFFA by asking a neighbor or family member to join. Simply share this newsletter and encourage others to use the membership form on page 7.

Summer Events

As we close in on summer, tours and educational events abound within our our chapters. To view the events in your area, contact your local chapter or go to the WFFA website and click on “Chapters” or the calendar link to see what’s playing in your neighborhood!

Treefully,

Contact Us!

Phone: (360) 736-5750

Fax: (360) 736-2704

E-mail: info@wafarmforestry.com

Welcome To Our New WFFA Members!

CLARK

Jill & David Kurtz

Gaylord & Carol

Stephenson

COWLITZ

Timothy & Jerie Fowler

Mike & Rene Fox

Craig & Wendy

VandenBerg

GRAYS HARBOR

Jim & Cathy Beerbower

Morris & Nina Boyer

KITTITAS

David & Anna Emery

LEWIS

Sylvia Gardner

Bernadette &

Thomas John

Luke & Anna Moerke

Dennis &

Norene Wedam

Kent Yates &

Lynn Hanson

NE WASHINGTON

Bryan & Debra Gotham

Karl & Abby Snyder

OLYMPIC

Jim Goodpaster

Paul Hunter

PACIFIC

Gary Hodel

SOUTH SOUND

John & Judy Bergvall

Tom Chambers

Peter & Sue Overton

UPS

Bob & Julie Layton