



WHATCOM COUNTY FARM FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

<https://wafarmforestry.com/Whatcom>

2019 ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

TREE FARM TOURS & AWARDS

August 24 – Vedder’s Edge Tour. *Jackie Edge & Art Edge’s* Christmas Tree Farm was an eyeopener for the 20 Farm Forestry members and friends who attended. This “more than a Christmas Tree Farm” also provides wood for handmade furniture, has a nursery, sells craft items including wreaths, provides a scavenger hunt, willow tunnel and Boris the Bear photo ops for kids along with cookies and hot chocolate. Next up is branching out to be a wedding venue and building a mill to process pine logs.



National Winner - Nourse Tree Farm. *David & Dar New* and their family were named the National Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year following selection as Western Regional finalist. Well done to all the family members involved with the Nourse Tree Farm. If you would like to read their amazing story & see the video (spoiler alert - they almost lost the Tree Farm) – check out our website. You can also watch two other videos they prepared on Succession Planning and Stream Restoration.

EVENTS

March 16 – Annual Tree Sale. Some prospective tree purchasers waited in line for over an hour before our Tree Sale started. We sold 18,299 trees in two hours and sold out on the 14 different species offered. With 73 volunteers, this event was smooth running under the direction of first year Chairperson, *Lisa Tiemersma*. Even when certain species were sold out, buyers found other trees to buy and smiles, especially on children eager to go home and plant their trees, were in abundance. Cookies and coffee were also offered at the event. We reorganized the layout a bit this year to provide more exposure for our table telling what our Farm Forestry Association Chapter is all about with membership information, a list of upcoming events, a special postcard about an upcoming seminar, our activities & accomplishment for 2018, copies of an article written by Tom Westergreen about Western Red Cedar, and small business cards with our website for those interested in finding out more about us.



May 8 – Tree Bagging. Eight WCFFA members helped bag 500 ponderosa pine seedlings so they could be given to 5th grade students at the annual Conservation Tour. Eight members of the Mt. Baker FFA forestry class and their instructor also helped.

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

Wildfire Risk Reduction Workshop. On May 18, 65 people attended a Workshop held at the East Whatcom Regional Resources Center for Small Forest Landowners. It was a cooperative effort involving Whatcom County Farm Forestry Association, Whatcom Conservation District, Washington State Department of Natural Resources and a local Fire District. Attendees learned why we should be worried about wildfire in Whatcom County, what is the risk level, types of fire suppression resources available, the importance of forest and tree health and how to prepare your property for wildfires.

This workshop was an excellent example of various organizations pulling together to provide very timely and important information to our members and to help educate the public as well.



Western Red Cedar article. *Tom Westergreen* wrote an article (available on our website) based on two questions – 1) *Is your forest primarily Douglas-fir?* 2) *Are you considering diversifying your forest?*

Read his article to find out whether Western Red Cedar might be right for your forest. Hint – Tom admits it's a favorite of his.

Whatcom County Forest Advisory Committee. *Phil Cloward* and *Sharon Westergreen* represent our Association on this Advisory Committee. The Forestry Advisory Committee provides review and recommendations to the Whatcom County Council on issues that affect the forestry industry.

Educational Programs. Programs that will enable farm foresters to better manage their property and that illustrate the value of forestry to Association members and the general public are publicized to members as they become available. This includes classes sponsored by WSU Extension. Many programs are free.

EVENTS (Cont.)



April 12 – Annual Membership Meeting. 46 members attended and voted to re-elect 5 and elect 3 new Board members – *Helen Arntson*, *Karen Bellingar* and *David New*. Members were told we have a healthy bank balance, with \$9,598 generated in profits from the Tree Sale and 87 members total, with 5 new members. Whatcom Conservation District (WCD) made a presentation about the history of the WCD, their mission and information about their Wildfire Resilience program which includes an assessment for wildfire risk. Best of all – over 60 people attended!

December 7 – December Holiday Meeting. Twenty-eight WCFFA members and family members joined together to enjoy a potluck dinner and beverages provided by the Association with members contributing desserts and salads. A presentation was made by David New who showed three videos his family had made on winning the National Outstanding Tree Farmer of the year award, Succession Planning and Stream Restoration. All three videos are available on the Chapter's website.

YOUTH EDUCATION

May 13-16 – 5th Grade Conservation Tour. A tour was held at the Weyerhaeuser Seed Orchard in May with 6 Chapter volunteers. 373 students from 15 classes spread over 6 school districts participated. Eight stations with presenters provided information to the students about the value of our native trees, water, soil and forest protection, products, regeneration, recreation and management. 500 trees were given out to the students to take home and plant.

Mt. Baker FFA. The WCFFA has for many years provided support to the students at Mt. Baker High School in the FFA program. They in turn help us out with some of our activities. Many thanks for their help.