



WHATCOM COUNTY FARM FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

<https://wafarmforestry.com/Whatcom>

2020 MID-YEAR REPORT

JUNE 16 – WEBINAR FEATURING OUR VERY OWN DAVID NEW



On Tuesday, June 16 at 7 pm, join **David New** for a Webinar presentation – The Nourse Tree Farm, Our Tree Farm Story. Snohomish County is the home of the Nourse Tree Farm, belonging to the New Family, who are the 2019 National Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year. **David New** has generously offered to provide all WFFA members with a webinar featuring photos, videos and story-telling to present the history of the farm, woodland management, the four ATRP precepts of Wood, Wildlife, Water, and Recreation, as well as succession planning, and salmon stream restoration.

Visit the wafarmforestry.com website for more details and to register for this **free** offering.

ANNUAL TREE SALE



With 17,889 trees (16 species) to sell, 62 volunteers (including 13 from a Boy Scout troop) dug in under the leadership of Chairperson, **Lisa Tiemersma**, to sell most of the trees in two hours. We were inside a huge barn at the Fair Grounds so everyone could be inside with lots of room and avoid the bitter northeast wind outside. We had our sale right before the Stay Home order came out, so turnout was a little smaller than normal, but we were still able to sell all but 1,000 trees. Those ended up being sold after the sale with only 110 Mugo pine transplanted into a garden to hit the sale block (a little bit bigger) again next year.

Gross revenue was \$18,218.90. Costs including the trees was \$10,153.22 leaving a net profit of \$8,065.68. We had a new layout for this year's sale, which we will look to do again next year as it allowed everyone to wait inside and it provided a better flow. Changes in the tabulating/money end were also made and helped speed up the lines. Thanks to all who volunteered at the Tree Sale.

ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTIONS

Due to COVID-19, we were unable to have our Annual Dinner Meeting. It is a shame as we had several entertaining speakers and a video planned. This is usually when we vote on Officers and Board Members. Since we could not meet, we held the vote electronically. The results were:

- **President - Herb Barker** (new)
- **Vice President – Phil Cloward** (new)
- **Secretary – Helen Arntson** (returning)
- **Treasurer - Karen Bellingar** (returning)
- **Director – Conrad Koehn** (new)
- **Director – Dan Koehler** (returning)

Congratulations to all and many thanks to **Don Assink** who moves to Past President after being at the helm for three years and special thanks to **Pat Mitchell** who leaves our slate of Officers after many dedicated years of service on the Board.

5th GRADE CONSERVATION TOUR



This Tour is normally held in May, but with schools closed, we were unable to do our part of this Tour in the traditional way. Normally 5th grade students are transported by bus to the Conservation site and then rotate among numerous informational booths sponsored by various agencies and businesses including WCCFA.

Instead, there will be a Digital Forest Tour provided to teachers to use with their students. Our own Board members participated with **Sharon Westergreen** creating five short videos about what she normally talks about at the Tour and **Dick Volmer** writing up a procedure for kids to map their own landscape. Additionally Whatcom County Conservation District is doing an activity on soils using an apple and the Forest Service linked to their online information on outdoor etiquette. If you are interested in seeing these videos, they should be available soon on the local extension website – <https://extension.wsu.edu/whatcom>. Search for “forest-tour.”

THE FATE OF 400 PONDEROSA PINE SEEDLINGS SOLVED



The Dilemma - what to do with 400 Ponderosa Pine seedlings that we usually hand out to students attending the 5th Grade Conservation Tour which was cancelled due to COVID-19?

The Solution – hand them out to elementary students at Nooksack, Sumas & Everson schools when they came by school to pick up school-provided meals and learning packets. Tree Sale Chairperson and schoolteacher, **Lisa Tiemersma**, put together a Smokey the Bear bag from the Department of Natural Resources along with fun things for the kids and a free Ponderosa Pine seedling compliments of WCCFA.

What started out as a dilemma, ended up turning into a learning opportunity. We were able to fulfill one of our stated purposes by continuing to educate students about the importance of trees. And, we could provide them with something positive during these trying times which they could take home, plant, and nurture.

LOCAL HOME-GROWN TREE FARM VIDEOS

While we remain unable to gather as a group, we wondered if any members might like to follow the example of **David New** and produce a short video telling folks about your Tree Farm. We always find out amazing tidbits when we have in-person Tree Farm tours, but since we are limited on what we can do in person, we are wondering if there are members who would like to share their Tree Farm Story in a 10 to 15 minute video. This would give you an opportunity to share your story and things you have learned along the way to not only help other like-minded folks, but also provide a little bit of entertainment for other members.

WCFFA HATS



In the market for a new baseball hat? We've got one for you. These specially designed hats are well made and provide you an opportunity to show your support for our Chapter. Members can purchase hats for \$15 (\$20 for public) by contacting **Karen Bellingar** at 360-303-1193.

WEBINARS/ONLINE EVENT

Looking to learn more about tree farming? Be sure to check out **free** webinars provided by WSU Extension and OSU Extension. They are both providing weekly presentations on a wide range of topics. Check out their websites for full details and how to register:

- <http://forestry.wsu.edu/nps/events/webinars/>
- <https://knowyourforest.org/TreeSchoolOnline>

And in response to the COVID-19 crisis, the Washington Tree Farm Program Fall Seminar will be an online event. The theme is "Between the Logs: Forest Products and Markets" and will be held on three consecutive Wednesdays, with sessions from 3:30 until 6 pm.

Tentative schedule:

- August 26 – Timber Products
- September 2 – Emerging Markets
- September 9 – Special Forest Products

Check out the WTFP (watreefarm.org) website in the next month for details and to sign up.

DONATED SIGNS

Many thanks to Tom Hovde for redoing our large Tree Sale signs which had been used for many years and were very much worse for wear. Tom's excellent work and generous donation are much appreciated.

If you would like to join us in thanking him, he would like to obtain some fresh Douglas fir limbs, about 3 to 4" diameter with bark intact, preferably from older trees, which he uses to make holiday ornaments. Prime harvest season is September through early March. If you have some limbs to donate, contact him at 360-676-0667 or email at tomhovde@comcast.net.

NEW MEMBERS

Tom Westergreen, Membership Chairperson, reports that we have three new members to our Chapter so far this year. Please join us in welcoming:

- **Brian and Suzanne Lange** of Sumas
- **Randall Card and Kelly McClurg** of Bellingham
- **Jennifer and Jeffrey Parker** of Bellingham

The Chapter did lose five members, giving us a total membership of 61 dedicated families locally, plus an additional 17 that joined us as a second chapter. We are very happy to have everyone that is part of the Whatcom County Chapter.

Growing our membership is always our goal and we need your help. It has been found that personal contact is the best way to get new members. If you have a neighbor who might be interested, ask them to join. If you need membership brochures or assistance, contact Tom at 360-966-3605 or email at tomwestergreen@gmail.com.

EXPLORING OPTIONS FOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT

During these trying times, the Board thought it was a good time to explore the possibility of supporting one or more community groups or activities monetarily. Lots of organizations are struggling as are individuals and we wanted to put on our, and your, thinking caps and see if we could identify some worthy causes.

To be considered, options must fall within our stated purposes. For the entire list, see our Bylaws on our Chapter webpage (<https://www.wafarmforestry.com/node/184>).

Following is a shortened, paraphrased list of purposes:

- Stewardship of private forest resources
- Provide medium for exchange of ideas
- Promote youth education in forestry and land stewardship
- Organized & operated for educational & charitable purposes per IRS Code
- Comply with Nonprofit Corporation Act

Please submit any suggestions you have to our Board email: whatcom@wafarmforestry.com **by July 15**.

Once the Board has time to consider various options, we will alert you to the decision.

