



A newsletter for those interested in Forestry, Woodland Management and Christmas Trees in Northwest Oregon

**Fall 2009**

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## Thinking Local

The “local food” movement has gained a lot of traction recently. Farmers’ markets are proliferating, the number of urban backyard chicken keepers is skyrocketing, and in the Extension office, our food preservation expert’s phone was ringing off the hook this summer. For a myriad of reasons – social, economic, environmental, people want to eat food that is grown close to home.

Many people say they shop at farmers’ markets because they like making a connection to the farmer that grew their vegetables. Do people “care” where their wood products come from in the same way? I don’t have a definitive answer to that, but a number of area small woodland owners are betting on yes and venturing into the local marketplace with their products. For example, the Build Local Alliance is linking Portland-area builders directly with forest owners who can supply them with wood. And, if you walk into any Metro area New Seasons grocery store this fall, you will see bundles of firewood produced by members of the Oregon Woodland Cooperative (see photo below). Finally, a new effort is underway to directly link growers of non-timber forest products with buyers (see page 3).

As a woodland owner, you have a compelling story to tell, and one that may resonate with certain consumers. What might you



and your woodland contribute to the local forest products market? And if you are reading this as a consumer of forest products, perhaps you will “think local” when it comes time to buy this year’s Christmas tree or lumber for next year’s deck project.

## Upcoming Events

**Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm**

**Columbia County Small Woodland Association Annual Meeting – Moose Lodge, St. Helens**

Amy Grotta, OSU Extension Forester is the guest speaker. RSVP by calling Lydia Stennick at (503) 556-2014 at least a week prior to the meeting.



**Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm**

**Washington County Small Woodlands Association Annual Banquet – Forest Grove**

Peter Hayes, Oregon Board of Forestry member and Washington County woodland owner is the guest speaker. Washington County Tree Farmer of the Year will be recognized. For more information, visit [www.wcswa.org](http://www.wcswa.org).

**Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm**

**Oregon Tree Farm System Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon – World Forestry Center, Portland**

9:00 – 11:00: Workshop (free): an update on AFF Standards, a review of revised management plan criteria, and other business are on the agenda.

Noon – 2:00: Tree Farm Recognition Luncheon. Announcement of Oregon's 2009 Tree Farmer of the Year. Luncheon cost is \$25 and must be paid by Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>. Questions or to register: (503) 375-2551, or [netvetrdh@gmail.com](mailto:netvetrdh@gmail.com).

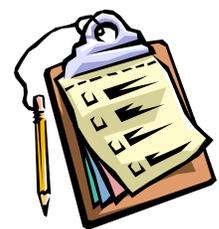
**Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010, 6:30 – 8:30 pm**

**Woodland Information Night, Columbia County Extension Office, St. Helens**

Want to get more involved in taking care of your wooded property, but are unsure of where to start? Come to this session to learn about basic forest stewardship principles, setting goals for yourself, and connecting with the sources of assistance available to you. Co-sponsored by OSU Extension Service and Columbia Soil and Water Conservation District. For more information call (503) 397-3462.

## On the To-Do List...

Clean out your culverts and ditches. The leaves have fallen and the rains have begun in earnest. Now is a good time to make sure that your culverts are clear of leaves and other debris so that the rain has somewhere to go. A few minutes of preventive maintenance now could prevent future expensive and time-consuming road repairs.



Get seedling orders in. The Oregon Dept. of Forestry's annual listing of nursery seedling availability is now available. Stop by the ODF office in Forest Grove or Columbia City for a copy or look online at <http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/privateforests/seedlings.shtml>.

The Forest Seedling Network ([www.forestseedlingnetwork.com](http://www.forestseedlingnetwork.com)) is also a good source for seedling availability. Local OSWA chapters also hold public seedling sales in the late winter.

## Got Wild Forest Goods?

Do you have a business that buys, sells, processes, or harvests Christmas boughs, cones, wild mushrooms, floral greens, medicinal herbs, mosses, berries, or other products from forestlands? The Oregon Forest Industry Directory (OFID) is a free, on-line business directory operated and maintained by Oregon State University's Wood Innovation Center for businesses that buy and sell a variety of forest products and services. The directory is currently expanding its nontimber forest products section to include a diverse array of products and services. The site currently lists over 1,500 businesses and receives over 200,000 hits per month. To register, go to [www.orforestdirectory.com](http://www.orforestdirectory.com). If you need assistance registering on OFID, contact Scott Leavengood at OSU Extension (541-737-4212) or Lita Buttolph at the Institute for Culture and Ecology (503-331-6681).

Funding to expand the nontimber forest products section of OFID was provided by a grant from the USDA Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service to develop and expand markets for nontimber forest products. The grant was awarded to the Institute for Culture and Ecology, and Oregon State University Forestry Extension. The Institute for Culture and Ecology is a non-profit organization whose mission is to conduct research and education that leads to a better understanding of the social aspects of natural resources management. For more information about this project, go to [www.ifcae.org/wildforestgoods](http://www.ifcae.org/wildforestgoods) or contact Lita Buttolph at (503) 331-6681 or [lbuttolph@ifcae.org](mailto:lbuttolph@ifcae.org).



**Got Wild Forest Goods?**  
**Oregon Forest Industry Directory**  
*A Free On-Line Business Directory*  
Now Including  
**Nontimber Forest Products\***  
\*mushrooms, mosses, berries, saps and resins, seeds, transplants, floral products, medicines and more\*  
[www.orforestdirectory.com](http://www.orforestdirectory.com)

Operated and maintained by Oregon State University to network businesses that buy and sell a variety of forest products and services

Funding for the OFID expansion provided by a grant to the Institute for Culture and Ecology and OSU Forestry Extension by the USDA CSREES National Research Initiative (See [www.ifcae.org/wildforestgoods](http://www.ifcae.org/wildforestgoods)).

CSREES OSU Institute for Culture and Ecology

## Washington County Woodland Owners Featured on YouTube

Anne and Richard Hanschu, past Oregon Tree Farmers of the Year and OSU Master Woodland Managers, are featured in an episode of CNN's Inside Business that highlights the American Forest Foundation. You can watch the 5-minute segment on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJwJIMb1Js>

## And speaking of computers...



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## New Publications

A number of new publications are now available from OSU Extension. Download online at the links below, or order print copies by calling 800-561-6719.

### **Christmas Tree Nutrient Management Guide, Western Oregon and Washington (EM 8856-E)**

Authors: John Hart, Rick Fletcher, Chal Landgren, Brad Withrow-Robinson, Gary Chastagner, Mike Bondi

60 pages, no charge. Available online only at:

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/> (search for EM 8856-E)

This guide provides thorough nutrient management principles and recommendations for Christmas tree growers in our region.



### **Agroforestry: A Land Use Integration System (EM 8988-E)**

Author: Sam Angima

6 pages, no charge. Available online only at: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/> (search for EM 8988-E)

Agroforestry systems integrate trees into a farm setting to meet the production or conservation objectives of the landowner. This publication provides a brief overview of six types of agroforestry systems, including whole-farm diversification, silvopasture, alley cropping, riparian forest buffers, windbreaks, and forest farming.

### **Silvopasture: An Agroforestry Practice (EM 8989-E)**

Author: Sam Angima

7 pages, no charge. Available online only at: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/> (search for EM 8989-E)

This publication provides guidelines for designing a silvopasture system (either by integrating forage and livestock into an existing forest, or integrating trees into an existing grazed pasture).

## Resource Management Planning Class is Underway

We're halfway through the Resource Management Planning shortcourse in Washington County. The response has been great and there are 23 families participating in the class, developing their own forest management plans or updating existing ones. Special thanks go to all the volunteer mentors – Master Woodland Managers and local foresters – who are “coaching” the students as they work through the process of writing their plans. The mentors include Mike Barnes, Dallas Boge, Anne and Richard Hanschu, Scott and Marge Hayes, Ron Larson, Tom Nygren, Paul Nys, Lyal Purinton, Sam Sadtler, Neil Schroeder, and ODF Stewardship Foresters John Krause and Brent O’Nion.

I am collecting a list of people who would be interested in taking the Resource Management Planning Shortcourse in Columbia County in the future. If you are interested, let me know, and I’ll schedule it once I get sufficient numbers.

Right: Resource Management Planning Class students learn how to use a woodland stick to estimate tree heights.



## **Biomass Utilization – Some Updates**

*(Reprinted from the Fall 2009 Columbia County Small Woodlands Association News)*

Converting woody material into energy is nothing new, as anyone who heats their home with wood knows. And it's a standard practice for sawmills to use hog fuel – chips and other waste material – to produce energy to run their mills. But lately, a whole lot more attention is being given to the role that woody biomass can play in diversifying our nation's energy supply, and a couple of new developments warrant our attention.

First of all, it seems like every time I open up the newspaper, I read about another biomass energy facility announcing plans to set up shop. Here's a rundown:

- In late August, a company called Northwest Renewable announced that it will build a power plant in Longview that will utilize wood waste.
- Biogreen Sustainable Energy Co., which is headquartered in Columbia County, is building a biomass energy facility in eastern Oregon that will utilize hog fuel and chips.
- Further afield, a demonstration cellulosic ethanol refinery is planned in Boardman that would utilize material from the hybrid poplar plantations along the Columbia River.

Secondly, as part of last year's Farm Bill, the USDA Farm Services Agency (FSA) recently released details about a new matching payments program called the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP). In essence, the BCAP is intended to increase energy production from renewable biomass sources by providing a monetary incentive for the biomass producer to offset the cost of harvesting and transportation. Small diameter wood, slash, thinnings, and other woody material would qualify from privately owned woodlands. The BCAP would provide a dollar-for-dollar matching payment (up to \$45/dry ton) for all material that you sell to an approved "qualified biomass conversion facility". That is, if the facility pays you \$30/ton, you would receive an additional \$30/ton from FSA.

This summer and fall, I've received a number of inquiries about BCAP from local woodland owners who have timber in need of thinning and who would like to take advantage of this economic incentive. In following up with our local FSA office, I learned that at this time, there are not yet any facilities in our local area that have been approved to accept materials under BCAP, but that there are several possibly going through the lengthy approval process. So, it may be just a matter of time until NW Oregon woodland owners can apply to participate in BCAP. I'll continue to monitor local developments and encourage you to contact the FSA office in Hillsboro if you want more information.

When considering whether to increase biomass utilization, one needs to be mindful of potential long-term site impacts. Does removing organic material, especially nutrient-rich leaf litter, affect future tree growth? Research coming out of the US Forest Service seems to indicate that on highly productive soils like those predominant in Columbia County, intensive biomass removal doesn't have much impact on tree growth, at least in the short run. On the other hand, retaining organic material provides many other benefits, such as soil moisture retention, a food source for organisms at the base of the food chain, and habitat for smaller mammals and amphibians. Proper forest stewardship will take these factors into account when implementing a biomass utilization project.

## Log Price Information

Below are domestic prices for delivered logs in Northwest Oregon as reported by the Oregon Department of Forestry for the past five quarters. All values are reported in \$/MBF and are averages of quotes from regional sawmills. Prices for other log sorts and time frames can be found online at:

[http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/STATE\\_FORESTS/TIMBER\\_SALES/logpage.shtml](http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/STATE_FORESTS/TIMBER_SALES/logpage.shtml)

Species	Grade	2008 3 <sup>rd</sup> Q	2008 4 <sup>th</sup> Q	2009 1 <sup>st</sup> Q	2009 2 <sup>nd</sup> Q	2009 3 <sup>rd</sup> Q
Douglas-fir	2S	475	400	315	315	355
	3S	410	335	305	295	320
Hemlock	2S	330	290	260	255	275
	3S	315	265	245	245	260
Spruce	2S	335	270	270	270	320
	3S	320	260	260	265	295
Cedar	2S	955	870	720	740	740
	3S	955	870	720	740	740
Red Alder	CR	635	475	415	430	535



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