Two years ago, my son-in-law and I took on the task of reclaiming about three acres of Douglas-fir Christmas trees that were around twenty-some feet tall and five to eight inches in diameter at the stump. Our initial plan was to get American On Site to come in and take down the trees with their machine and grind up the slash. Chris (the owner) asked my son-in-law if he was willing to let a couple of his employees cut the trees we didn’t want for firewood (which would make the job cheaper). So we marked the trees we wanted to keep and turned them loose to cut the trees down for firewood.

It was a bigger job than we all thought! It took about two years to finish working on weekends and whenever they had the chance to work on the trees. Cary (son-in-law) and I had to limb up the trees that were left and get the limbs in the row so the machine could mulch them up (which took a couple of days).

As you can see by the pictures, the finished product looks good. We still have a little cleanup of the bigger pieces that were left, and any wind throw we get from windstorms. But in five years it should start looking like a forest.

The take-away from this article is that a daunting cleanup task can be done with a combined effort of a chainsaw, axe, and tractor; then call in the big equipment to finish the job and get the brush and briars beat down so you can keep on top of them until the Douglas-fir and cedar can grow above it.
New Member Spotlight—The Hollisters

JIM SCHREIBER, CCFFA Board Member

My CCFFA new member visit took me to the Bradley & Holcomb Roads area of Oregon City to visit with the Hollisters.

Alan and Dottie Hollister came to OSWA/CCFFA at the suggestion of OSU Extension Forester Glenn Ahrens. I first met them when I dropped off the summer issue of the Forest-Tree Leader and welcomed them to our chapter. It was after visiting with them that I thought their story would make an unusual New Member Spotlight article.

The Hollisters’ small, undeveloped, woodland property was purchased in 1987, and according to old time neighbors it had been part of a larger property that was heavily logged some 85 years before; it was a bare palette and they set about making it their home. First came the clearing for the house and outbuildings, then the development of access paths into the woodland areas. Everything transitions from the garden-like area around the home to a multi-species, multi-age woodland which Alan calls “naturalistic.” To open up the woodlands, they had selective harvesting done on the property some 20 years ago, using a horse logging contractor. The woodland has three fairly distinct eco-system areas.

The first being the hillside area where you will find the usual Doug-fir and natural understory species interspersed with some white oak and one big-leaf maple that is not a favorite of Alan’s. During our hike of the property, he pointed out a Franklinia alatamaha tree, aka the Franklin tree, named for Benjamin Franklin. This tree was included in a 1998 census taken by Bartram’s Garden with the intent to document living survivors of this extinct-in-the-wild tree.

The second, or middle, area is made up of a good stand of white oak with a mixture of smaller Doug-fir. The white oak was being hampered by much larger Doug-firs. A recent selective harvest on both this area and the hillside was done to encourage the growth of the oaks. Their plans call for expansion of the white oak stand with the addition of fill-in western redcedar or coast redwood.

The third area is the “bottoms.” This area has a small, year round, spring-fed creek and marsh area, which contributes to the headwaters of Holcomb Creek. Evidence indicates that it is also home to a portion of “The Barlow Trail.” This piece of land is home to white ash, hemlock, cedar and red alder; however, all of the alders have recently died. When Glenn Ahrens, who is the expert on growing and caring for red alder in the state toured their tree farm, he suggested that the higher temperatures and drought we have experienced recently may explain the death of the entire grove all at once. The understory here includes a multitude of species, such as ninebark and huckleberry, as well as some apple trees planted by pioneers long ago.

During our tour, I commented on the fact that I saw little of the normal invasive species and Alan indicated that he has spent 30 plus years staying ahead of the blackberries, hawthorn, and poison-oak. His hard work is evident.

Their goals are to continue to make the woodland as natural as possible by mixing in some native tree and understory plantings such as ninebark, huckleberry, and cascara trees; anything that will improve habitat for wildlife. To re-propagate the harvested areas, they are planning on planting western redcedar, coastal redwood and some more Doug-fir. They have a few of the proposed seedlings on order for 2020 spring plantings. Except for some contracted harvesting, most of the work on their woodlands is done with sweat equity, hand
tools, small chainsaws and a Ford Ranchero; yes, a Ranchero pickup truck. They’ve done pretty well so far.

As for the future, at this point neither of the sons indicates an interest in picking up the stewardship of this property. Alan and Dottie’s hope is that when the land changes hands, it will go to someone who is interested in continuing their efforts. On a personal note, Alan is originally from Florida; he came to Oregon via Alaska, where he worked for the Fish and Wildlife Service and fought wildland fires. Once in Oregon, he began a 40-year career as a custodian for local area school districts. When I asked him why, with his background, his reply was, “that he liked working with his hands and meeting people.” As we walked through the property, he pointed out various flora and fauna by their Latin names. I told him that my one-half year of bone-head Latin in college couldn’t keep up with his descriptions.

Alan is also an artist. He has a rock shop with tumblers and saws, enjoys re-purposing just about anything into art or into new uses. He enjoys photography, Xtreme gardening, reading, and he knows mushrooms. He is a first class “hobbyist.” They both are long-time members of the Northwest Koi & Goldfish Club and have a 7,000 gallon koi pond complete with all the filtration required to maintain healthy fish; they have some big ones ranging from 20 to 30 years old swimming around.

Dottie is an Oregon native, born and raised in the Portland area. She spent her working career in the business world as an accountant and retired as controller for an area firm.

In earlier years Dottie spent 25 years breeding, training, showing and trail riding Arabian horses. She was also active as a 4-H leader in both horse and livestock clubs. Her two adult sons now thank her for raising them as “free-range” children when they lived in the original Holcomb farmhouse with their single parent/full-time job mom and helped maintain the typical small farm with horses, cattle, sheep, rabbits, chickens, garden, orchard, etc. The Holcomb House was a Barlow Trail stopping point for travelers using this route into Oregon City and still stands today, though it has been extensively remodeled through the years. Dottie enjoys cooking and preserving the garden bounty as her mother, who was a farm girl born in Dufur, Oregon, modeled. She also enjoys traveling, camping, reading, supporting Alan in his varied pursuits. She hopes to get back into her art-glass studio and renew her effort to learn to play the mountain dulcimer. They both feel strongly about the concept of a self-sufficient, organic, living-in-harmony-with-the-land lifestyle and are grateful for the beautiful serenity enjoyed by living in Hollister’s Hideaway.
OSU Extension Forestry Update

GLENN AHRENS, OSU Extension Forester, Clackamas, Marion, Hood River Co.

Oregon State Extension Fire Program moving forward

As described in the story OSU Extension builds partnerships with new fire program (See page 15 of this Forest-Tree Leader. Or visit: https://today.oregonstate.edu/news/osu-extension-builds-partnerships-new-fire-program) our new Oregon State Extension Fire Program is moving forward in a big way. The wheels are turning within our statewide Forestry and Natural Resources Extension team, which will be the home for the fire program. We are planning to hire a team of eight new people, starting on campus with a Fire Program Manager and a State Fire Extension Specialist that we hope to have on board by June 2020.

Putting this program on the ground will proceed with mapping six priority fire landscape regions in Oregon and hiring a Regional Fire Extension Specialist for each one. A key part of this process will be deciding how to integrate this with our existing Extension programs and where to house the new people. As your Extension Forester in Clackamas, Marion, and Hood River counties, I plan to stay closely involved and engage CCFFA and our other local partners.

Planning for 30th Annual Clackamas Tree School

The catalog is under construction for our 30th Annual Tree School, March 21, 2020, at Clackamas Community College. Tree School Coordinator Amanda Brenner hit the ground running in her new job this fall, with great support from Jean Bremer, Tree School Registrar. We are also fortunate to have continuing assistance from Cheryl Keithan, who has done just about every Tree School task there is over the last 15 years.

We will be offering a full slate of core woodland management topics along with new classes based on input from our needs assessment and focus group. The catalog is scheduled to be mailed and go online January 18, 2020. Tree School registration will open January 28. We will continue using the online registration system, with ongoing improvements based on last year’s experience. If you need help with the online system, or with registering the old fashioned way on paper, please study the catalog and get in touch with the Clackamas Extension Office prior to January 28.

Thanks to CCFFA, Forests Forever, Inc., and all of you who help with the collaborative effort to make Tree School happen!
As I write this, Fall 2019 is well underway. It’s a time of year to remember, and celebrate, things that we can be thankful for. The Fall colors of the hard-wood trees have been wonderful this year, reminding us that trees can always be beautiful, whether they are budding, flowering, putting on new growth, or giving up their chlorophyll for the season before dropping their leaves to the ground to protect their roots and nourish them for the future.

For hardwoods, it is a season for bounty, with much of the past year’s lush growth returned to the earth to nurture the world through the coming seasons. Fruits, nuts, and other mast become food for wildlife (and sometimes us), nourishing animals that spread their seeds (and fertilize them).

Our evergreen softwoods have a less obvious seasonality, their longer, steadier pattern of growth providing a deep green contrast to the annual parade of the hardwoods. A bit more of their annual energy budget goes to trunk-building, converting CO2 into carbon for their structural cellulose while releasing the free oxygen needed by animals (like ourselves). All the while, both hardwoods and softwoods are using whatever rainwater they need, letting most of the rest slowly soak into the soil around their roots, recharging the aquifers beneath them, letting the excess rainwater trickle out into the wetlands and rivulets and rivers around them.

Our woodlands—all of Nature, really—are constantly generous to us in their many benefits. We don’t always recognize these benefits, often taking them for granted because we live so close to the woodlands that provide them. We sometimes forget, or ignore, the richness of our situation, the wonderful abundance that surrounds us. We sometimes think that we are personally entitled to all the benefits of our own bits of forestland, and everyone else should just go find somewhere else to live.

It is certainly tempting, when we are working or playing in our own woods, to feel that they are exclusively ours, no one’s business but our own. It is easy to forget that the breeze wafting through our trees first passed through our neighbor’s fields, that the stream flowing through our forestland may include rain that fell elsewhere and really ought to flow beyond it, to the sea. It is easy to become stingy, if we forget how much excess we are constantly given. It is easy to feel poor, if we value only what we can easily sell.

When we value only what we can easily sell, we can fall into the trap of forgetting that the best things, the most essential things, in life are “free”, that they are not things properly bought or sold. Clean air to breathe, clean water to drink, good health, natural beauty surrounding and refreshing us, none of these things are reliably quantifiable. None of them are valued on the stock exchanges of the world, not for net present value, and least of all at their future value.

Our trees are constantly giving us, and everyone, benefits that are beyond monetary value. We are also constantly receiving those benefits from any trees that we happen to be near, wherever we may travel, without monetary compensation to the “owner” of those trees, whoever it may be. Perhaps we notice those benefits only when we are among the trees that are providing them most directly to us, breathing the air freshened by their leaves. Perhaps only then do we recognize, and remember to be thankful for, their constantly provided benefits, their real and permanent value to the world we all live in. Not just for their timber, that might be harvested someday, but for all that they give us, every day.
Farms Need Good Tractors

RYAN POTTEET

When we bought our farm the list of things that were needed was long. We knew we immediately needed a tractor, but the budget for the perfect one wasn’t there. After putting the word out with family and friends and constantly checking Craigslist, bulletin boards and newspapers, I quickly learned that some folks were pretty proud of their old tractors. Eventually we settled on a 1948 John Deere Model M. Not exactly the ideal tool for the job. We got by with the antique farm machinery for a few years, but it was a constant chore keeping it running and it never really fit our needs.

In the spring it came time to thin a couple acres of overly stocked 18-year-old Doug-firs. It became a priority to get a tractor that was up to the task of yarding trees out of the woods. I sold the 1948 tractor and began to seriously plan my next purchase. This was going to be a big expense and I wanted to be sure I made the right choice. I did my research online, read the reviews, watched the videos and started writing down my requirements. I knew that I wanted a diesel engine, four-wheel drive, a front-end loader and no less than 35hp. Finding a machine new enough to include roll over protection and some modern safety features was also a must.

Here’s some things I learned along the way. The bigger the tractor the bigger the implements. This allows more work to get done but it also increases the cost. We have some patches of timber that are still pretty tightly-spaced, so I wanted a machine that could move between trees. Each of the big manufacturers offered a tractor that would work, but how do you decide?

Sometimes it’s the little things that are easy to overlook. Where is the fuel filler cap located? Several manufacturers have their fuel tank down low for easy filling. When you’re filling your tractor with 5-gallon cans it can be a challenge to reach high on the hood to fill with fuel. Check how implements are attached and adjusted, some tractors make changing 3-point implements much easier than others. An example would be when you’re swapping the brush hog over to the rear blade by yourself and it’s dark outside, you’ll understand. Ergonomics are another thing I thought I would never consider when looking at tractors. However, all tractor seats and controls are not created equal. Even the fit and finish of control levers and knobs should be looked at. If you’re going to sit on your machine for potentially hours at a time going in circles mowing fields or rows between crops—then you may have a lot of time to realize how uncomfortable you are. When you’re looking at tractors, climb into the operating position and reach for the different controls to see how they fit you.

Good tractors really hold their value on the used market. If you’re looking for a tractor that’s only a few years old, it may be worth looking at the cost of purchasing new as well. I was very surprised to learn how little the difference in cost was. There were many other reasons why new started sounding better. Financing options available through dealerships were far better than borrowing through my longtime credit union. The new machine would come with a warranty and be delivered with any and all implements or parts we decided to add. Moving tractors on your own can require a bigger truck and trailer than some of us have.

Looking for a place to make a difference?
Volunteer at Hopkins Demonstration Forest!

Retired? We are looking for volunteers to help us make Hopkins even greater! — No Experience Necessary —

Contact: Phil Smith, Volunteer Coordinator
503-703-2522 • philsmith2522@outlook.com

Hopkins is located just 10 miles south of Oregon City
16750 S. Brockway Rd., Oregon City, OR 97045
demonstrationforest.org

CCFFA Web Site: www.ccffa-oswa.org
When looking at the place of business to purchase from, there’s lots to consider. I calculated the distance from dealership, years they’ve been in business, hours of operation, etc. I knew parts would need to be purchased for regular maintenance and I prefer to buy OEM when possible. I then created a list of various dealerships, placed a phone call, spoke with a salesperson, and told them what I was looking for. This is where good old-fashioned customer service starts to show itself. Does the salesperson show interest in listening to what you’re looking for, or do they try to tell you what you need to purchase? I was amazed at the number of callbacks I didn’t get, even when promised “I’ll call you this afternoon” or “let me get right back to you.” I’m trying to purchase a multi-thousand dollar tractor and it’s all I’m thinking about night and day. Yet on their end, you’re just another sale they may or may not get. I can tell you the ones that provided poor over-the-phone customer service never saw me on their lot to even consider their brand or dealership.

I finally narrowed it down to the brand that fit my needs, budget, and reputation for quality. I used the manufacturer’s website to find the three nearest dealers and started negotiating price, upgrades, and implements. I knew that I needed a brush hog, rear blade, and a couple of upgrade items added to the tractor to increase productivity and safety. Filling your rear tires with a liquid ballast really helps when doing loader work and increases traction. When you start upgrading and adding implements, it’s easier to negotiate a deal. They have a little wiggle room on everything, although some more than others. Each dealer provided a verbal quote over the phone followed up by an emailed copy. After reviewing each one, I carefully narrowed it down to two choices.

Up until now all of this prep work was done from the comfort of my couch. Now I basically knew what I needed and just wanted to close the deal. I think it’s important to bring your other half with you when deciding on those big purchases. The salesperson did a good job walking us around the tractor, fired it up and offered us to take it for a drive and try the various controls.

Once happy with the tractor, we looked at implements. There is a big difference in build quality here as well. The gear boxes and deck thickness on brush hogs plus overall construction design can really determine how long this tool will last for you. Whenever possible it’s nice to buy the middle grade or higher on most implements for longevity and good operation. It’s important to size implements appropriately as well. If you try using too large an implement, you may lack power to operate effectively and possibly damage your tractor. Too small, and your jobs take longer than they needed to, and it can be frustrating. Once again, a good dealer will help you decide which implement is right for you. Even if you don’t buy a tractor from them, they should be helpful in selecting the right tool for your tractor.

We shook hands on the negotiated deal and arranged a setup and delivery time. The day that shiny new tractor came down our driveway was such a beautiful sight. When you finally get the right tool for the job you know it. The difference it has made in our daily chores and eliminating the stress of trying to keep the old antique tractor going was all worth it. For us it was one of those decisions that once made you think to yourself “how did we ever live without this tractor?”

I think most folks who own machinery would agree, you always wish you had 10 more horsepower. It’s just one of those things that happens to everyone at some point. However for 99% of what we do, our choice of tractor is just right.
Protecting Habitat in Working Forests: More Than Just the Right Thing to Do

COURT STANLEY, President US Forestry, Port Blakely
LANCE CHRISTENSEN, Area Manager, Port Blakely

Over the next two years Port Blakely is looking forward to celebrating two milestones in our commitment to stewardship forestry, and one is in this neck of the woods, literally.

The first is the 25th anniversary of our first Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) in Pacific County, Washington. Originally signed in 1996, that plan has stood the test of time and helped us navigate our company through the uncertainty created in the wake of the spotted owl issue. The second is the completion of the work we’ve been doing for the last two years to develop an HCP and a Stewardship Agreement for our forests in Clackamas County. Amazingly, this HCP would be the first forestry-focused plan in Oregon. Both are examples of how we work to manage our forestlands for multiple benefits—economic, environmental, and social. Both will also provide us regulatory certainty, allowing us to manage our forest the way we have for generations, including longer rotation ages than industry standard. It’s how we do business, even if it’s not always the easiest route.

So, what is a Habitat Conservation Plan? HCPs are voluntary land management agreements available to landowners under the Endangered Species Act. Owners agree to provide conservation benefits to designated species—in our case, 20 species including Coho and Chinook salmon, spotted owl, grey wolf; and a number of non-listed species—while the agencies allow us to continue to sustainably manage our land. These measures involve minimizing damage to habitat and/or creating, enhancing or restoring it in exchange for an incidental take permit. An incidental take permit allows the landowner to impact a plan-covered species as long as the owner is fulfilling the agreed upon measures when conducting forest management activities.

You may have heard about the work we’re doing to secure a federal Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) as well as a state Stewardship Agreement (SA) for our forests in Clackamas County. As part of our process to develop both the HCP and the SA, we’ve reached out to stakeholders...
across the community (more than 100
to date), from neighbors and other
landowners, to groups like the Clacka-
mas County Farm Forestry Associa-
tion, the Greater Oregon City Water-
shed Council, and the Wild Salmon
Center. We are grateful to everyone
who has met with us to discuss the
effort. They provided valuable insight
into potential opportunities to collab-
orate on conservation and working
forest issues.

We recently hosted several stake-
holder tours to provide the opportuni-
ty to see first-hand our forest manage-
ment practices and several key conser-
vation measures we are proposing in
the HCP and SA. It was also an
opportunity for them to ask our team
of foresters and wildlife biologists any
questions. Our guests did not hold
back, and the result was robust dis-
sussion of what we’re doing and the
benefits we hope to bring. We received
positive feedback from participants
and will continue to keep them
apprised of our progress.

As of this writing, we are in contin-
uing discussions with both state and
federal agencies including US Fish &
Wildlife, National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration, and the
Oregon Department of Forestry. We
anticipate the public review periods
for both the HCP and SA will be
sometime in the winter or spring of
2020. While the timeline has slipped a
little, as a fifth-generation, family-
owned company, we have a long-term
view of stewardship and knew we had
to invest a lot of what we call “patient
capital” in this process. Still, we are
eager to complete the HCP and SA to
ensure the long-term viability of our
business and to build upon the contri-
butions of stakeholders like you who
are committed to clean water, healthy
forests and strong communities.

Please contact us if you have any
questions, we’re always happy to share
more information on our approach
and the work we’re doing. ■
Community Forest in Eagle Creek!

LISA KILDER

ave you ever heard of a community forest? Well, according to the U.S. Forest Service a community forest is one that provides a unique opportunity for the local community, government, or nongovernment organizations to provide input into the management of a forest property. Generally, the goal is to provide public access and recreational opportunities, protect vital water supplies and wildlife habitat, demonstrate practices that may be useful to private forest landowners, and provide economic benefits from timber and non-timber products.

This idea of sustainable working land resonated with the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District (District) board of directors. So when a local property owner reached out to the District in hopes of finding a way to maintain the forest characteristics of a property that was being offered for residential development, they listened.

Fast-forward one year, many meetings, and stacks of paperwork have resulted in a U.S. Forest Service Community Forest Program grant. Finally, the District, in partnership with the Trust for Public Land, acquired 319 acres of forested land to protect and improve for water quality and wildlife habitat.

This acquisition preserves the use of the land for forestry and connects to over 1,000 acres of nearby public and conserved lands. The District’s goals for the Eagle Creek Community Forest include:

• improving habitat for fish and wildlife,
• creating additional recreational opportunities,
• providing for educational and demonstration opportunities, and
• generating revenue from occasional timber harvests.

To receive input from the community and partners, the District assembled an advisory committee with representatives from neighboring landowners, OSU, Clackamas River Basin Council, Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association, plus county, regional, and federal agencies.

This group toured the site and developed a community forest plan with the help of Trout Mountain Forestry. The plan was submitted to the U.S. Forest Service and approved this last summer. You may view the plan on our website at https://bit.ly/2qzKyl.

Currently, the District is preparing for wildlife habitat improvement efforts on Suter Creek, which cuts through a corner of the property. This creek hosts runs of salmon and steelhead and will be included in a project that was recently funded by Portland General Electric. The placement of large wood and gravel in the stream will improve spawning sites. This is the third phase of a habitat restoration plan that has taken place on private property upstream of the community forest. Work on this project should be completed in 2020.

Also found in this community forest are a variety of large four-legged wildlife species. Elk tracks are rampant throughout the property along with less common species. This was confirmed last spring when the district set up trail cameras to gather information on how many and what types of wildlife are living on the land. We have captured photos of bear, bobcat, cougar, coyote, elk, and deer. New images from each download trip are always highly anticipat-
The District is also interested in feathered wildlife and has engaged a bird biologist to conduct surveys to ensure species protection. The data collected on all wildlife was used to assist in the forest plan development.

Public recreational uses currently include walking trails, birding, and photography opportunities. This property is a beautiful place to enjoy and may extend recreational opportunities at Eagle Fern Park. Additional plans for recreation will be considered by the advisory committee.

In addition to recreation, the property lends itself to education. Located a short bus ride from schools throughout the populous northern half of Clackamas County, the community forest will provide educational opportunities related to forest restoration and management. The Estacada School District and Mount Hood Community College have already been approached about the potential use of the site for hands-on education.

Included in the forest management plan is future thinning and harvest. Revenue from occasional timber harvests will go back into maintaining the property. Any surplus revenue will go toward supporting the district’s conservation programs.

Tom Salzer, General Manager of the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District, says of the property, “There will be challenges, among them changing the property over from hunting land and industrial forest use to public recreation, addressing dumping issues, and controlling and eliminating invasive weeds. There also is an access road on the conservation district property that is utilized by the neighboring landowners, Portland General Electric (PGE), and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The District is working with both PGE and BLM to keep that area cleared of brush and trees for access and fire resistance.”

“It’s the largest single property we’ve ever acquired,” Salzer said. “It’s kind of daunting, but at the same time it’s really, really exciting to have this permanent asset that will over a long time protect fish and wildlife habitat and also provide revenue to the District.”

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**USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service**

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service has funding available for the development of Forest Management Plans and conservation practices such as forest thinning, pruning, brush management and tree establishment. This funding covers multiple counties in the Lower Willamette area. You can find your local service center here: [https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/or/contact/local/](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/or/contact/local/)

You can also call the Oregon City Service Center at 503-655-3144 and we will help you contact the correct person for your county.
Everything, but Predictable: Logs and Non-timber Forest Products—Prices and Trends

LAUREN GRAND, OSU Extension Forester, Lane County, adapted for Clackamas by GLENN AHRENS, OSU Extension, Clackamas, Marion, Hood River Counties

Our log prices have never been predictable. This is because our log prices tend to have seasonal rises and falls with micro corrections based on circumstances such as weather, fire, foreign policy, and the lumber markets. When looking at a graph of the average prices of Douglas-fir logs over the last 25 years you should be able to predict that the best time to sell should be in the early spring, March and April, when prices have been the highest. The worst time to sell is the summer when the market is flooded and the prices are the lowest.

Prices fall quickly before bouncing up and down again for the next year. Additionally, prices unexpectedly came up last month, but not at all mills. Some mills were comfortable with their inventories as the lumber market came on hot and heavy. However, some mills were nervous about meeting their inventory needs as a result of the wet September slowing down wood coming out of the hills. Now that drier weather is upon us and some new rocked roads are in place, inventory is rising again and prices have seemed to cool off for now.

Douglas-fir prices are currently sitting around $650-$695/mbf for 2mill and $650-675/mbf for the 8-11 inch at the small end. If you are selling it all in a camp run then you are still seeing a pretty good price at $660/mbf. If history teaches us anything we’d know that typically it takes a few months before prices start to rise again, but with the way things are going this year we will just have to wait and see.

Usually I don’t have much good to say about chips and that theme continues. Due to all the terrible winters we’ve been having coupled with summers of intense drought. There have been lots of landowners trying to salvage the damage. As a result the chip market is overrun and few people are buying. If they are buying, prices are low $20/ton.

The Hem-fir sorts (spruce, hemlock, grand and white fir) are fairly variable now as well. Prices range widely depending on the buyer and what you’ve got, but seem to be more favorable than last quarters report. Currently prices are between $380-$535 /mbf range.

Pine log prices in the Columbia River area are in the $350-$400 range. Pine prices in southwest Oregon are holding steady around $400/mbf. If you are selling pine, consider your trucking distance. At these prices, if you have to move it too far, you may be losing money instead of making it. That being said, rumors of light at the end of the tunnel are starting to surface.

Typically, trends in the Alder market follow Douglas-fir, but more recently have been slowing and flattening out. Unfortunately, production in many mills has slowed down with lower demand for raw wood furnishings in homes. Someone call HGTV and tell them what’s up! As a result, prices have come off a bit since the last report especially for the small diameter logs. Alder prices range between $400-$600/mbf for the 7” and up sorts. Prices increase with diameter increases.

Western redcedar prices are in the $1100 range at the Columbia River, but down in the south Willamette Valley they run $800/mbf for a long-log and $50 less in Roseburg. Short log values decline by another $100-$300 depending on the length. Current values of incense-cedar in the south valley are running close to $650 for long logs. Incense-cedar in Douglas County is usually pur-
chased at slightly higher values, in the $750 range.

Last but not least, non-timber forest products. Oregon grape is still the prime candidate for small woodland owners. While floral greens wholesale orders are finished right now, you may be able to get in some smaller contracts for home use. These buyers are typically looking for salal, fern, and huckleberry. Mushroom season is also upon us, though its going fast. We had lots of rain early in the season, which means lots of mushrooms, without getting too soggy. Mushrooms typically claim a large sum, but they have to look good and be clean. With mushroom popularity increasing lots of pickers have flooded the market and prices are way down. Chanterelles usually claim a decent $6-$8 per pound, but this year they are down to $1.50. If you have the time and patience, it’s worth the reward especially if you are just collecting for yourself. Always, be 100% sure you know what you are eating. If not, contact your mycological society for some good resources.

This year has certainly been an unpredictable one, especially with different buyers offering drastically different prices. But, that’s what makes it interesting! Because this market has been so unpredictable, make sure you are calling around to multiple buyers to make sure you get the best price for your logs. Hope you enjoy your holiday season!

It’s aBOUGHT time!

JEAN BREMER

This year I have an itch. Thank goodness it is not from poison oak. The holiday season is just around the corner and I am in the mood for incorporating nature’s beauty into some of my holiday crafts this year.

I am a total fan of Pinterest for ideas in crafting, cooking, baking, and so many other ideas that are found on that website. People in internetland are so creative. Some of the ideas for wood cookies I would like to work on are ornaments and coasters. I have several stamp sets, which will make an easy outline on my design for painting, since I was not born an artist with a drawing ability. I have also thought about just spray-painting silver and gold on the cookies and pinecones that are available from our ponderosa pine in the yard and hanging them on our tree in the front yard to decorate for the season.

Our cedar trees (we only have three), will give us a good base for our wreath and swags. With ribbons and ornaments attached they will help give our porch a more festive feel during the cold December days. There will also be at least four swags that will be placed to remember our loved ones that are gone, but their memories stay in our hearts.

Let’s not forget the gift to the birds. Looking at audubon.org I wanted to find a safe recipe. The one I am looking at includes suet, bird seed, peanut butter, dried fruits, and berries. Their recipe uses a Bundt pan, but I also think I can take my cookie cutters and use them as forms to hang.

There are so many crafts that can come from nature, I could spend days coming up with ideas. I hope each and every one of you will be able to enjoy a few moments this season through crafting, spending time with and enjoying your family, or taking time by yourself (with that warm cup of coffee or hot cocoa), to head outdoors and take in the beauty only nature is able to give us.

CCFFA Web Site: www.ccffa-oswa.org
2019-20 CCFFA Seedling Sale
Seedling Reservation Request Form

The Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association is offering tree seedlings for sale to members 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. Enclose a minimum 30% deposit with your order to reserve your seedlings (For orders less than 1,080 seedlings or 10 bags, please include total purchase price).
4. Confirmation and balance due notices will be mailed by December 31, 2019. All payments are due by January 15, 2020 to CCFFA.
5. Douglas-fir seedlings will be distributed at Saplings Nursery in Sherwood, OR, in February and March 2020.
6. Western redcedar seedlings will be available at various scheduled pick up dates in February and March 2020.

2019-20 INVENTORY AVAILABILITY
The following seedlings are for sale and will be available for pick up in February & March 2020. Please review the details and observe minimum and multiple order quantities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Order Code</th>
<th>Species/Seed Source</th>
<th>Stock Type</th>
<th>Inventory Available</th>
<th>Price Each</th>
<th>Minimum Order</th>
<th>Order Multiple</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Douglas-fir (Saplings LLC)</td>
<td>1+1</td>
<td>20,000+</td>
<td>$0.65</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Western redcedar (Weyerhaeuser)</td>
<td>S15</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>$0.65</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Description of seedlings
B Plug block “S15” grown in the nursery in Styrofoam plug containers with 15 cubic inches of space (2” opening, 4.7” deep)

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

Make all checks & money orders payable to “CCFFA”
Please make a photocopy of this form for your records and future reference.

TOTAL AMOUNT OF ORDER $____________________
MINIMUM 30% DEPOSIT ENCLOSED $____________________
BALANCE DUE $____________________

NAME________________________
E-MAIL ADDRESS __________________________ EVENING PHONE __________________
ADDRESS __________________________ CITY/STATE/ZIP __________________
KYM POKORNY

In a time of increasing wildfire activity, Oregon State University Extension Service has implemented a new statewide fire program to help facilitate forest and range management plans, as well as create a healthy respect of fire through education and outreach efforts.

The program, led by the OSU Forestry & Natural Resources Extension Program and the College of Forestry, focuses on creating opportunities for landowners by building partnerships.

“You can think of the fire program team as ‘boundary spanners,’” said Carrie Berger, associate program leader for the Forestry & Natural Resources Extension Program. “The team will work to build those important partnerships that are so crucial to mitigating Oregon’s risk of catastrophic wildfire.”

With funding allocated by the Oregon Legislature, the fire program will hire a director, a state fire specialist, and six regional fire specialists. The specialists will be strategically placed in areas of greatest risk and need as the growing program expands the impact of current efforts and builds on existing partnerships.

“Over the last year, advances in the fire program have assisted landscape-scale progress in Lake and Klamath counties, where OSU Extension is working with partners to create consistent land management plans for private landowners and creating an economy of scale to make a positive difference on the ground,” Berger said. “As a result, 60,000 to 70,000 acres on both private and public lands have been treated to lessen fire risk by reducing fuel loads, improving forest health and restoring wildlife habitat. Other efforts have focused on defensible space treatments across ownership boundaries. Benefits are being realized for ecosystems, communities and economies.”

“If we can prioritize where need is the greatest in the state and come up with a diagnosis of what needs to be done, we can come up with a prescription of management treatments. That’s where we’re headed,” said Daniel Leavell, OSU’s Extension forester who has over 40 years of fire experience.

While Oregon didn’t see much fire this year, in 2018 Oregon’s cost to fight wildfires hit a record high of $514 million with over 800,000 acres burned. Fuels in forests, woodlands and ranges have built up in the last 100 years due to fire suppression, Leavell noted. Fires start sooner and burn hotter with drier weather. More homes are located on the edges and middle of forests and woodlands that used to be remote areas. Homes are built in greater numbers and higher densities than ever before. These boxes of fuel are filled with synthetic materials that also burn hotter.

“We used to have 30 minutes to respond to a house fire,” Leavell said. “Now with synthetics, laminates and artificial composites throughout homes, we have three. We need to be prepared for that.”

“In addition to partnership building, education is essential to prepare landowners, land managers, emergency responders, policy makers, educators and the public to work together to plan for wildfire as the threat continues to climb,” Leavell said. “We’re trying to shift attitudes to be more proactive than reactive.”

MINTEN GRAPHICS
Kim Minten, Graphic Designer
mintengraphics@gmail.com
503-769-9683
- Newsletters
- Logo design
- Business cards, letterhead, envelopes
- Brochures
- Forms
Saturday, December 14, 2019
8:30am-2:30pm
Community Forestry Day—learn by doing!
Hopkins Demonstration Forest, 16750 S. Brockway Rd., Oregon City

Wednesday, January 8, 2020, 7-9pm
CCFFA Board Meeting
Forest Hall, Hopkins Demonstration Forest

Saturday, January 11
8:30am-2:30pm
Community Forestry Day—learn by doing!
Hopkins Demonstration Forest

Saturday, January 18
10:00am-12 noon
How Commercial Forestry Works
Andy Bryant, Yamhill Environmental Services, and Eric Recht, Chilton Logging, Independence Library, 175 Monmouth St., Independence, OR

Saturday, February 8
8:30am-2:30pm
Community Forestry Day—learn by doing!
Hopkins Demonstration Forest

Wednesday, March 11
7-9pm
CCFFA Board Meeting
Forest Hall, Hopkins Demonstration Forest

Saturday, March 14
8:30am-2:30pm
Community Forestry Day—learn by doing!
Hopkins Demonstration Forest

Saturday, March 21
All day
Tree School Clackamas
Clackamas Community College, Oregon City
Pre-registration is required.

Thursday, April 9
6-9pm
CCFFA Annual Meeting
Legends Bar and Grill, Mulino

Saturday, April 11
8:30am-2:30pm
Community Forestry Day—learn by doing!
Hopkins Demonstration Forest

For more information on these events, contact Jean Bremer at the OSU Extension Service office in Oregon City
phone 503-655-8631 or email Jean.Bremer@oregonstate.edu

A BALANCED APPROACH

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

ALTERNATIVES TO CLEARCUTTING

FOREST PLANNING AND RESTORATION

These forests have been independently certified as well managed.

PORTLAND FORESTERS - 503-222-9772
Scott Ferguson
Barry Sims
Mike Messier

CORVALLIS FORESTERS - 541-435-0383
Mark Miller
Matt Fehrenbacher
Shane Hetzler
Pamela Hines, Office Manager
503-409-2888
info@troutmountain.com
www.troutmountain.com

Forest stewardship for productivity and diversity

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