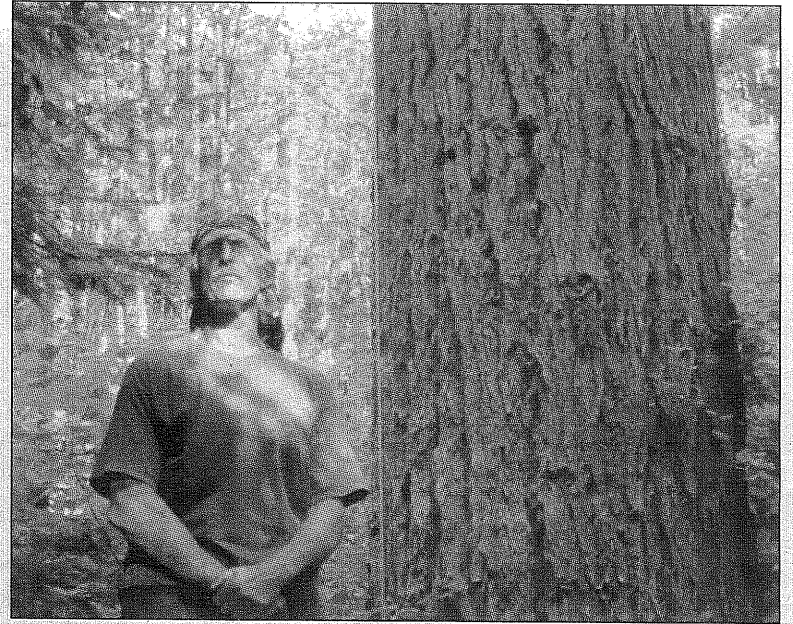


COMMUNITY FOCUS



Photos by Irene Jasper

Left, visitors had an opportunity to participate in a walking tour to broaden their understanding of small tree farm management within the Long Tom Watershed.

Above, a third generation tree farmer, Tom Bauman, stands beside a towering Douglas fir that has survived over 300 years.

Growing Our Future

By Irene Jasper

Fern Ridge Review

On July 29, a group of 45 met at Bauman Tree Farm, located about 10 miles south of Veneta off of Territorial Road. Sponsored jointly by Long Tom Watershed Council (LTWC) and Forests Today and Forever (FTF), a small woodlands and resource management tour was hosted by landowners Tom Bauman and Lindsay Reaves. In spite of afternoon temperatures reaching over 95 degrees, the diverse group drawn to the event included local landowners, neighbors, members of the sponsoring groups, and three speakers willing to share their expertise in the management of water, woodlands and wildlife.

Established in 1998, LTWC's stated mission is, "to improve water quality and watershed condition in the Long Tom River basin through education, coordination, consultation, and cooperation among all interests, using the collective wisdom and voluntary action of our community members."

FTF promotes forest stewardship through experiential education programs for youth and adults using working tree farms and other managed forests in Lane and Linn counties. Their stated goal is, "to connect people to Oregon's forests, and instill an appreciation and understanding about forest management."

Each stop along the planned walking tour route featured a designated speaker to inform attendees and field questions in an effort to broaden their understanding of small tree farm management within the Long Tom Watershed.

At the first stop along the route, Tom Bauman stood beside a towering Douglas fir that has survived over 300 years. He discussed some of the land management and tree farm harvesting practices that have been implemented to ensure the protection of riparian areas for healthy streams and comply with Oregon's Forest Practices Act, themes that would be expanded upon as the tour progressed. He also spoke of his life growing up

on the property, which encompasses 672 acres, working beside his father and grandfather.

"I used to get a penny for each tree I planted," Bauman said.

An avid outdoorsman, Bauman joined the ski patrol and became a self-proclaimed "climbing bum." He returned periodically to work on the farm, eventually taking over the logging operation in 1988.

"I'm not a fan of herbicides, but there are places that you almost have to use them," Bauman stated. He said they try to limit the use of herbicides with a metered application to kill grass around new tree plantings.

Leaving the protective shade of the forest, participants made their way up a hill to a harvested vista point where cooling refreshments awaited. Ole Buch, a forester with Oregon Department of Forestry, focused his presentation on forest succession, harvest practices and reforestation requirements. He noted regulations for wildlife habitat and optimal road building considerations. Buch pointed out that protected riparian zones can include dry stream beds that only provide fish habitat seasonally.

As the group returned to the cool of the woods, Steve Cole, a consulting forester with Cole Resource Management Company, addressed the economic side of growing trees. He outlined the process of bringing trees to market.

"It's best to come up with an overall management plan," Cole said. "It is also best to match the logger to the job."

He said that very seldom do you send all of your logs to the same mill. He added that species, diameter and length of a tree determine its market value. To create an added layer of checks and balances, Cole said he favors using multiple contractors on a job.

After walking to an Oak restoration project on the property, Bruce Newhouse, a Field Ecologist, botanist and environmental planner, offered his insights on forest succession, restoration concepts and developing wildlife diversity. Newhouse owns and operates Salix Associates, consult-



ing with landowners and organizations on the management of their property.

"Oaks are important habitat because they are a heritage that is carried over from a previous landscape type and with that there are lots of plants and animals dependent on those oak habitats," Newhouse said.

He said that some land owners are interested in developing diversity or addressing heritage landscape issues, while others focus on practical aspects such as fire protection. Newhouse encouraged those with large Oak trees on their property to protect them as a legacy for future generations.

Bauman's parents past in their late 80s, within four months of each other. He and his brother inherited the property in 2006; however, his brother did not choose to embrace the family business. Bauman and Reaves moved to the property in 2009.

Reaves, who works part time as a facilitator with FTF, said, "We like to share this place with others. We do a lot of educational programs with kids as well as adults."

Reaves said that they were



The Bauman Tree Farm is located about 10 miles south of Veneta off of Territorial Road, managing 672 acres.

awarded federal money that is designated for numerous programs through the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Funds are provided for landowners to set aside acreage that they will develop and manage for spotted owl habitat. The Bauman Farm has 100 acres set aside to manage for that objective.

"The whole forest industry

issue has become political ... polarized. It doesn't matter if its forestry or politics, if you keep everybody polarized, nothing is going to get done," Bauman stated. "People need to own up to the fact that trees are getting cut because they are buying wood."

If you wish to learn more online, go to: www.longtom.org or www.foreststodayandforever.org.