

# Needles, June 07

## Important

### Correction: Oregon State Estate Tax

In the March issue of "Needles-N-News", it was incorrectly reported that the Oregon State estate tax had been repealed. That report was premature and the Legislature failed to agree on this piece of legislation. Less than a week after lawmakers announced they were raising the exemption from \$1 million to \$2 million in a two bill package that creates a rainy day fund, the lawmakers backed out of the deal on March 8. With that decision by the House, some Senators left the Capitol temporarily in protest.

However, HB 3479 is a scaled back version and would have less impact on the state revenues. This bill raises the exemption from the current \$1 million to \$7.5 million for **small woodland owners** and others. The bill requires that participants continue in the respective businesses at least five of eight years after a decedent's death. A penalty would be imposed if the heirs default on this condition.

Apparently twenty-one legislatures are considered sponsors of the bill which received strong support from lobbyists and lawmakers in testimony before the House Revenue Committee. Subsequently, the Revenue Committee took no action on the bill and has not scheduled an additional hearing or work session. As the session enters the final month, the future of HB 3479 remains tenuous. Support from forestland owners, farmers, and commercial fishermen would be beneficial.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Michelle Burke and Oscar Deardorff**

Portland

**Sig Jensen**

Portland

**David Tice**

Warren

**Joe and Shelley Rayhawk**

Portland

**Ian Hanna**

Port Townsend, WA

**Use this if you want to and there's space**  
**LOGGING IN PEOPLE'S BACK YARD**

Jeff Mullins

(Reprinted by permission: From Timber West, Sept./Oct. 2006 issue. This article is **unique** in several ways. First, the article was written by Jeff Mullins, a CCSWA member; second, the article features a CCSWA member, and third, the logging was done at Ray and Gloria Johnson's, also CCSWA members. Ed)

People sometimes say that "your reputation loggers often bear a reputation they have not personally Pellham's (Ralph Pellham, d.b.a. Pellham Logging) revealed when Ray Johnson, of Rainier, Oregon decided of his 58 forested acres and would consider no other Pellham Logging specializes in shovel logging small private parties with a keen sensitivity that that the harvest someone's back yard for years to come.



precedes you" and earned. But Ralph reputation was to harvest a portion logger for the job. tracts of land for is in what will be

**Ralph Pellham says he is happy with the delimeter. It's used daily on his landings and has production. (Photo: J. Mullins)**

**Danzco PT20 increased**

Central to Pellham's operation is a John Deere 200LC shovel loader attachment package utilized in a variety of harvest and treat the land gently. Ralph small three man operation. All the modern equipment available today would not be cost effective so I use the shovel in combination with do a quality of job like the big guys, but expense."



with a Jewell ways to expedite explains, "We are mechanized

**The JD 200LC shovel loader with is the core of the three-man operation. (Photo: J. Mullins)**

on these small jobs other equipment to with much less

Whenever possible, Pellham prefers the reduced ground disturbance and efficiency of pure "shovel logging." But most small land owners can neither bear the expense of constructing roads, nor do they want to sacrifice precious land for a road when trees could be grown there. Thus, on many of Ralph's jobs, the distances from the trees to landings make shovel logging alone too slow.

To overcome this challenge Ralph yards with a logging arch and winch equipped Case 1150G, or for smaller wood, a Cat D4H track skidder with a grapple. Stems are hand felled by contract fallers and the JD 200 "bunches" stems where they are easily accessible for yarding. Congregating stems beside centralized skid roads minimizes disturbance to the ground and it minimizes the need for numerous skid roads. Yarding is faster because a full turn of logs is readily available to grab in one location. When working in larger wood, trees are cut into log lengths prior to yarding.

**Jewel attachment**

While assembling felled stems, Ralph uses the loader's grapple to uproot vine maple and remove other debris in preparation for after harvest clean up. The grapple is used to break off limbs from the trees prior to yarding to speed the operation and reduce the amount of debris at the landing. Ralph says another benefit is that the shovel's long arm also allows snatching stems from soggy places without mucking things up.

Pellham explains that although few loggers run Case 1150's, he became well acquainted with the machine while working as a mechanic at an equipment rental company. Since he began logging full time in the 1980's he has owned three of Case 1150's.

Logs, and smaller full length trees, are decked by the shovel or the skidding machines at landing for processing with a Danzco PT20 high base delimeter powered by a 10 horsepower diesel engine. From the unprocessed log deck, stems ranging from 2 to 20 inches are delimited as they are stroked back and forth through the "processor" by the shovel. A stem placed in the Danzco bed contacts an actuating arm that triggers the hydraulic delimiting blades to encircle the log and limbs are sheared off on both the forward and backward movement. Stems still needing to be cut to length are staged separately and then decked after being bucked.

The processor was added to Pellham's operation about ten years ago when he was harvesting a stand of smaller cedar trees with many limbs. Ralph explains, "It was taking the chaser forever to cut all the branches from the stems." He was familiar with small delimiters through dealers in Portland and advertising and wondered if it might provide a solution to this particular challenge. He had the Danzco PT20 brought out for a demonstration and since that time the processor has been working daily on his landings. He says, "It increases production significantly. I would estimate that the chaser would go through perhaps 2½ gallons of gas a day before but, with the processor, he only uses one gallon and is freed up for other tasks such as skidding and bucking." The processor is economical to operate using only a couple gallons of fuel a day.

Ralph says he preferred the mobility of this particular delimeter over those with built in saws and "measuring ladders" that require set up. He has found the processor to be effective on all species. He admits the processor cannot handle the biggest logs but adds, "Most of the bigger trees are free of limbs on the bottom and the processor works good for the tops."

Merchandized logs are decked with the shovel Pellham Cutting trucks owned by Greg Pellham, and Ralph worked together in the 1980's, including skidders for Ralph's father-in-law, Carl Crape until passed away. After that Ralph went out on his own. In Timber Jack 2520 feller buncher and founded Pellham Market down turns resulted in selling the F-B and Greg shovel operator for another contractor and a truck he logs for them. Today Greg runs nine Kenworth and trucks hauling logs for companies like Longview Fibre dad. To stay busy two trucks are equipped to haul full are able to pull mule trains.

**Son, Greg Pelham, owner of Pellham Cutting, hauls site. (Photo: J. Mullins)**



and loaded onto Ralph's son. Greg running rubber tired 1988 when Carl 1990 Greg bought a Cutting in 1992. went to work as a owned began hauling two Peterbuilt log as well as for his own length poles and three

**the logs from the**

Ralph estimates that his operation produces between two and six loads a day depending upon the size of the wood. His customers usually live within 50 miles of his Rainier, Oregon home where he manages a 275 acre family homestead, much of which is timber land. Ralph's childhood memories include his father, Herman Pellham harvesting the homestead with a donkey and cat and cutting cants at his own sawmill. He says, "Back then they left seed trees to reforest. It did not work, so today we have a stand of mature hardwoods where they previously logged." Ralph is systematically harvesting the hardwoods and replanting with Douglas Fir. He adds, "If work gets slow, I look a little harder at our management plan and maybe take a few more trees."

Ralph also uses the "slow times" as an opportunity for equipment maintenance. Prior to being drafted as a young man he was training to be diesel technician, and although the coming of a family kept him from completing his formal education, he loves equipment and is quite competent in doing most of his own "wrenching." Major equipment repairs are accomplished by dealers.

A three axel tilt trailer pulled behind Pellham's dump truck transports all of his equipment except the big shovel which he hires a truck to haul. Although 90% of his work is logging, he also does construction and excavation work with his equipment including a Hyundai 180IC3 excavator with interchangeable buckets, grapple and flail mower attachments.

Ralph says that his diverse equipment allows him to care for all the needs of the people he serves. When contracting a logging job he can do it all - build roads, harvest, scarify - and he will even subcontract the replanting if the client desires. Ralph says "My goal is to be able to do everything the land owner needs from start to finish so he doesn't need to look for another contractor to do a part of the job."

And perhaps that is why many people around Ray Johnson's home town refuse to call anyone but Ralph Pellham when they want to harvest trees from their own back yard.

**Definitely use this  
NEW CCSWA TRAILER**



CCSWA's trailer was recently adorned with lettering and logos at SignMasters in Longview.



This new addition makes it possible to inventory and secure the various articles used at the Annual Tree Sale and at the Annual Tour. CCSWA canopies, 1 x 12 boards for seating and work tables, saw horses, tables, netting and stakes, etc. are now conveniently assessable, but more importantly, will require much less labor and

time for those who had volunteered to load, transport, and return supplies to a number of storage sites. The trailer will be stored under cover at a member's residence when not in use.

**Check this against what we have online already**

### **CCSWA CALENDAR**

<b>June 26</b>	<b>CCSWA Board Meeting</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Nys's residence</b>
<b>July 28</b>	<b>CCSWA Summer tour and free dinner at Oney's</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>T. Nastrom's</b>
<b>Aug. 1</b>	<b>OSWA Board Meeting</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Salem</b>
<b>Aug 28</b>	<b>CCSWA Board Meeting</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Nys's residence</b>
<b>Early Sept.</b>	<b>Seedling order forms mailed to members</b>		
<b>Sept. 18</b>	<b>CCSWA General Meeting</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>	<b>Quincy Grange</b>

**Additional activities are to be announced throughout the year. Watch for notices in the mail.**

### **EDITOR LARRY REA RESIGNS POST**

With this issue begins a new era for the "Needles-N-News" with the resignation of our editor, **Larry Rea**, who has served for more than eight years. Larry simply wishes to reduce the demands on his personal time and energy. Throughout the years, CCSWA's newsletter has had an excellent reputation and is highly complimented by readers across the state. Each quarter Larry and his son, **Chris**, have faithfully and conscientiously provided the lay-out for the materials and have added a professional touch to each edition. Certainly, he will be missed as our editor. We wish him and Chris the best in the years to come.

**Kari Hollander** has graciously agreed to accept the position as our editor. She has extensive background in working with printers and has experience with lay-outs. Currently, she is employed at the CSWCD and NCRS office in St. Helens. Kari's home is in Rainier.

### **AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE: Our Forests Create Family Wage Jobs!**

At a recent Master Woodland Managers tour and workshop, one of the distinguished leaders began to speak of the virtues of our forestland products. This message is known to all of us when we talk with family,

acquaintances, politicians, business people, and others. We mention wood as renewable, sustainable, carbon sequestering, functional, versatile, durable, workable, etc. In addition, we often mention recreation, clean water, animal habitat, etc. as other desirables as a result of our stewardship on our forestland. Of course these are important attributes.

However, there is another quality which is seldom addressed when mentioning the benefits of our forests. This discussion began when our members were on a tour of a member's tree farm outside of Rainier about a year ago. One of the participants asked the owner as we were standing among some five to six year old trees, "Do you cut any of these for Christmas trees?" The forestland owner responded emphatically, "No, I never cut any of these for Christmas trees. In fact, I will not allow any in the house! I raise these trees to support the economy and to create jobs."

Is this important? Obviously! When one contemplates the extent of this statement voiced by a CCSWA member, it becomes readily apparent that not only are jobs a result, but most if not all, are **family wage jobs**. The logger, the sawmill worker, the paper mill worker, the truck driver, the retailer, the builder, the manufacturer, the longshoreman, etc. are receiving a wage on which families can live. Can any other natural resource producers make that claim? Even our tree planters are making livable wages while performing this important function essential to our business.

Is this message well known to the public and others? Unfortunately, probably not. You can easily add this to your repertoire every time you speak to those who are willing to listen. Good luck!

First priority

## **TREE TOUR 2007 - THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY**

Every year our tree tour takes us to a location to view trees and a tree farm in various stages of development. Everything is green and neat -- no mess. This year we will view a property that was previously burned, left to develop naturally with some planting about 35 years ago, and has been logged twice in the last 5 years. This will be the opposite of what we are used to viewing -- scarred land, piles of brush and cut over stumps -- THE UGLY.

How many times have we heard of someone having their property logged and it was a disaster. They didn't really make anything on the sale of their timber and they were left with a mess. Maybe the market was bad and/or maybe the real problem was a lack of knowledge about the subject, market and logging contractors -- THE BAD. (This certainly wasn't the case here but it often is.)

But what is left is a clean slate to develop as one chooses. We can actually see the terrain and plan how to lay out our tree farm. But what is the best layout and plan for the property. How should roads be developed? Should certain trees be planted in different areas? Should any trees be left? What should be done with root rot areas? What should we do with wet areas? What about weed and brush control? We will look at developing a plan for this year's site as if it was ours and examine the reasons behind the plan -- THE GOOD.

This year's farm consists of 32 acres and is located in Clatsop County. The property is bordered on one side by a fish bearing stream which is also a water source. Two and half other sides are bordered by State Forest. There are several seasonal streams that meander through the property ending at the fish bearing stream. There is also plenty of wildlife which includes elk, deer and mountain beaver -- all tough on new tree seedlings.

This year's tree tour will be Saturday, July 28<sup>th</sup>. As there is limited parking at the sight you will be asked to park at Oney's parking lot on Highway 26 (Sunset Hwy), just past mile post 20 which is on the left side of the road if you are driving toward the coast. Bus transportation will take us from Oney's parking lot to the tree farm and back. We will have lunch at Oney's restaurant, on the Association's ticket, of course. Remember too,

this is a family occasion for our members. Lunch will be chicken, potato salad, coleslaw, rolls, drinks, and fruit cobbler and ice cream. Also THE GOOD.

Notices will be mailed out in July requesting RSVP'S as usual with a number for the lunch count. At this point the entire program hasn't been finalized but it will be reflected in the mailer as well as maps and schedule in July. We hope you will all be able to make it.

## **THE NEEDLE SPEAKS**

Do you remember when you first bought your property? Were you aware of what the zoning was or were you just happy to be able to afford some place? Maybe you purchased a piece of bare land with the idea of building a house for you or your family. Were you free to construct a house or did you end up having to fight for the right to build a house and wondering if you'd ever get to live on your own property?

It seems to me that life was rather straight forward until sometime in the 70's when they came up with the idea of LCDC and comprehensive zoning which sounded good at the time, but who would have ever conceived of the absolute craziness that followed over the years once they got established.

I think there are still a lot of us out there who feel that if you bought your land you should be able to do what you want with it in line with whatever the zoning was at the time it was acquired. When I talk with people it is amazing to me how many people think that they should control who can and can not develop their property. It's a case of I've got mine and I don't want anyone else to have the same rights that I've already exercised so I can remain rural.

For many individuals their property is their main investment. They paid for it with hard earned funds and they developed it with their own sweat and effort. Why should someone be able to say they are not able to take full advantage of that investment just to satisfy those folks that want to be able to drive out in the country and not see any houses or can see bambi running free? Or they can look up and see all those glorious large trees that no one should be able to cut. That piece of ground is no different than an investment in stocks or fine arts or any other investment. Those individuals are able to do anything they want with those investments to make money. What makes land any different?

Most all of you voted at the last election on the issue of Measure 37. Apparently the majority of Oregonians who voted agreed that people should be compensated for the loss in value of their land. Leading up to this was one case after another where people were being denied the right to construct a house and live on their own land without jumping through a lot of hoops and a myriad of hearings where every waco under the sun could say why they should be denied access to their own land.

Now that Measure 37 passed, what has happened It would seem to me that all of a sudden common sense just flew out the window and all of those who predicted that this would result in wholesale development were partly correct. On the one hand people want to live on their land as farms or forests and pay deferred taxes, but on the other they want the right to develop them into housing developments. At the some time some timber companies want to develop timber tracts into developments. Not being able to build a house for your family on your own land is wrong but some would argue so is turning a timber forest into a development.

So what is the outcome? It looks like we are going to vote on Measure 37 again. I don't know but I would be willing to bet that some of the folks that voted for Measure 37 the first time will vote for the changes this time based upon what happened so far. This means that Measure 37 will lose support with the voters. The net result is that everyone will have to resubmit their documentation all over again and those wanting 3 or less lots will be given priority. Anything more than 10 lots sounds like it will have a very difficult time being approved and 10

may be quite a hurdle to overcome. This may result in more claims than before. Before, I think many people did not feel they needed to file a claim because of their zoning but now it sounds as if your zoning may not mean anything and their only way to sell any lots is to file a Measure 37 claim. WHAT A MESS!

The fact remains, whether the public and our politicians like it or not, that land is an investment to be bought, used and sold just like any other investment. And the owner is entitled to make a profit, if possible. Some people invest in gold, others in 401 k's, others in other retirement accounts and some in timber and farm land. There is more than enough federal, state and city lands available to the public and wildlife without stealing the investments of those of us who invested in land and timber.

I think the bottom line is that more of us need to think about who we vote for in the future because you really can't trust these people to look out for your welfare once they get elected. I'm not sure either party has the best interests of us in mind as they go about their business. It's too bad there isn't a way to give performance appraisals and fire them for failure to perform. I wonder how many more years we have remaining before we're a third world country too!

Rod Nastrom, President CCSWA

### **Same Trees, Different Day**

Submitted by Chal Landgren, OSU Extension Forester

Each tree planting day poses different challenges. A case in point: This March I planted three test plots with around 800 trees/site. The trees, the plot layout and the sites could not have been better. It was like planting a garden. The nearest weed was at least a ½ mile away, the soils were perfect on each site. The trees were stored in the same cooler for just about the same length of time. I transported the trees with the same protection. The tree planters were well trained.

To make a long story short(er), on one site I lost 15% of the trees. On the other two sites, 3 or 4 trees may die later this summer, maybe. So, on one site over 100 trees died. They also died fairly quickly, since they hardly broke bud before they turned red. A few caveats before discussing the reason (I think) they died. The trees were low density bare root noble fir and had been carefully culled at the nursery for consistency in these test plantings. Noble fir dies easily compared to Douglas-fir. So, where a 3% mortality figure might be expected for Douglas-fir Christmas trees; for noble around 7% is normal.

The reason these trees died on this particular plot was exposure and drying wind. We had a warm planting day, T-shirt weather in March with a strong wind out of the east. Our plots are planted in family blocks of 5 trees in a row. So, it takes a good deal of fussing around to find the correct trees, to find the correct plot location and then to plant them on the right places. Tree roots are very sensitive to light and wind. And, although we realized that and tried to be quick and careful, the trees felt otherwise.

We probably will lose a good deal more trees by September, which is typically when noble firs die, after the soils dry and we have the summer droughts.

Uncovering why a particular planting of trees dies is hard detective work. There are endless possibilities. At every point the tree is handled, stored, planted, moved, cooled or thawed, there are possibilities for damage. Once planted, weeds, chemicals, temperatures, soil moistures (too much or too little), critters, diseases can all cause problems.

The pattern and timing of damage can often direct your detective work. If the trees die without growing any new fine roots, they were likely near death before they were planted. Some shock along the way did them in. In my case above, likely culprit was/is root exposure at planting.

It can also be instructive to check with other tree farmers who may have planted trees from the same nursery or at the same time. See if they are experiencing problems (or not).

In the end you may never know why a certain planting died. But you can try and minimize the number of chances the seedlings have to be exposed to possible problems along the way from the nursery to the planting site.

**CCSWA: Serving Columbia County Small Woodland Owners for  
Nearly 40 Years!**