

# Washington FARM FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

*The Voice of the Small Forest Landowners in Washington State*

## 2021/2022 Annual Report

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## From the Executive Director's Desk Elaine Oneil



Despite the limits on meeting in person in 2021 (and still now in 2022 for government buildings), we have

had a tremendously busy year. A synthesis of what was accomplished is included in this annual report for the WFFA state office activities. As always if you want more information, please feel free to contact the office via email or phone. We are here to serve you.

The WFFA state team has spent a substantial amount of time involved with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) across all levels of the organization. The issues we are dealing with cover the gamut from ongoing participation in committees that are important to small forest landowners (SFLOs) like the SFLO Advisory Committee and the Adaptive Management Program (AMP), to interactions with the Commissioner of Public Lands (CPL) on proposed legislation and Principal level discussions regarding regulatory processes.

We have provided a synthesis of committee activities in the committee updates section and a summary of this year's legislative session in the government relations section. You will see from the updates that it is slow, difficult work that requires tremendous patience and persistence. I am continually grateful for our talented, committed staff and volunteers who represent the core of who we are as a community of tree farmers in these broader public policy fora. Heartfelt kudos from me to all members of the WFFA state team.

Changes to our team are imminent with two upcoming retirements: Heather Hansen retires as our Government Relations Representative on June 30 and Steve Barnowe-Meyer retired as our co-representative on the Timber Fish and Wildlife (TFW) Policy Committee on May 31. We will miss them as extraordinarily skilled representatives of SFLO interests. However, we are delighted that they will remain a part of WFFA as tree farmers, as well as being carriers of

*Please See Oneil on Page 2*



*Thank you Heather Hansen and Steve Barnowe-Meyer for serving the members of the WFFA.*

institutional knowledge.

At the Principal's level, we have been participating in a larger conversation with timber, tribal, environmental and state agency interests to find common ground on some of the issues that continue to stymie committee level work. This effort, organized by the CPL, Hilary Franz, has the potential to reinvigorate the relationships that were so crucial in ending the timber wars of the 1990s. They also provide an opportunity for WFFA representatives (currently Elaine Oneil, Steve Barnowe-Meyer and John Henrikson) to highlight the benefits of keeping SFLOs on the landscape. Our stance in these fora is that landowner specific objectives and private property rights are a critical component of any legislation or policy interventions. To that end, we continue to advocate for incentives that support individual landowner objectives, highlight the acknowledgements that prior legislatures have

made regarding the importance of keeping SFLOs as a critical part of our rural landscapes, and educate all about the many benefits that accrue from having you and your family continue your strong traditions as *Stewards of the Land*.

Many WFFA members have expressed an interest in forests and carbon. In 2021, the Legislature included a section in the Climate Commitment Act that established a SFLO workgroup to provide recommendations on carbon market and incentive programs that would work for us. Funding to implement the act was not included in last year's budget, but we were successful in obtaining those resources in the 2022 legislative session and a reporting extension to fulfill that mandate. The Carbon Workgroup will begin in earnest this summer so if you would like to participate, please reach out to the state office for more details. There are opportunities to participate as a committee member or just to provide your input on what would work for your tree farm.

We do hope you will continue to support WFFA and our shared vision that is best described by our motto: *Stewards of the Land for Generations to Come*. Generations to come seems like a long time in the future, but our endurance as an organization has shown us it is best accomplished by taking the steps to ensure that today's harvest includes a plan for tomorrow's planting. Taken together, these elements ensure a fulfilling present and an abundant future.

### **FISCAL NOTES – 2022**

<b>WFFA Liquid Assets</b>	<b>\$98,523.40</b>
<b>WFFA Investment Fund</b>	<b>\$213,202.15</b>
<b>WFFA Lifetime Member Account</b>	<b>\$48,525.82</b>
<b>Steven D. Stinson Scholarship Fund</b>	<b>\$105,114.04</b>

## From the President's Desk

### Dick Alescio

It is great to be able to interface with others without masks for our WFFA indoor gatherings. Several Chapters have already met inside this year, our Olympic Chapter included, when we gathered with a Conservation District forester guest at Port Gamble.

Congratulations to Chuck and Nan Higgins on winning the Washington State Tree Farmer of the Year award for 2021. They hosted an excellent follow-up tree farm tour where at least 80 tree farmers enjoyed the day together walking around their Michigan Hill Tree Farm.

#### Outreach and Education:

Please avail yourselves of the tree farmer education online information from Bryon Loucks, Lewis County, by visiting our [wafarmforestry.com](http://wafarmforestry.com) website.

This past year we were treated to how to make maple syrup from Bigleaf maples as part of a research project led by the University of Washington (UW) School of Environmental and Forest Science. Tours were held near Quilcene, at the UW Pack Forest in Eatonville, and near Raymond in 2021, with a grand finale Pacific Northwest Bigleaf Maple Syrup Festival at Pack Forest that was open to the public in early May of 2022.

Not all of us were blessed (?) with growing up with the internet, so if you do not know how to access what you would like, ask your Chapter President or IT guru for help. Our WFFA tech team also offers occasional training sessions which are advertised in our *Landowner News* and *Stewards of the Land* newsletters.

We have initiated a more integrated partnership with Washington State University

(WSU) Extension Forestry, local Conservation Districts, and DNR stewardship foresters who are now located in every region. The WSU Extension Forestry offices offer and support forest education events whereas DNR foresters are available to support our needs through field visits to our tree farms.

Courtesy of Andy Perleberg at WSU Extension Forestry, we were able to procure booklets identifying all the inter-related forestry organizations that can help SFLOs. It also serves as a quick reference guide for WSU Classes, Site Visits, Financial Assistance Programs, Forest Health, Forest Management Plan Preparation, Forest Practices Regulations/Permitting, Forest Taxes, Hazard Tree Assessment, Invasive Weed Control and much more. Booklets will be distributed by Chapter Presidents at your Chapter meetings.

Conservation Districts plant trees and native vegetation in riparian areas and need volunteers for that effort. It makes for a fun day! Many Conservation Districts do not have foresters, but they can connect us to potential new members.



*Dick Alescio installing Vexar tubes at Lewis County Conservation District's Miller Creek Salmon Enhancement event, April 2022*

*Please See Alescio on Page 4*



*Lewis County Conservation District Stream Team led by Kenna Fosnacht, April 2022*

WFFA's State Vice President, Ann Stinson, has written a book about her experience living on their family tree farm in Lewis County entitled *The Ground at My Feet: Sustaining a Family and a Forest*. It is available from Amazon – how good is that!

We would like to thank Donna Loucks, our Membership Chair and Lewis County member, for her superlative efforts to keep us all connected online via WFFA website education programs during the long time of no in-person meetings.

Congratulations to Clark, Cowlitz and Whatcom Chapters on their successful seedling sales.

### **Membership Recruiting:**

My goal as WFFA President is to increase our membership based on the premise that the sum of the parts is greater than the parts alone, something that benefits everyone. Belonging to WFFA connects you to other landowners who have extensive experience in managing their land. While forestry education through WSU and DNR is available to all landowners, the advocacy work we conduct in Olympia with state agencies and the Legislature provides a coordinated voice for SFLOs that would otherwise be missing in our state.

Membership recruitment is a team affair. Chapter Presidents, our Membership Chair,

Donna Loucks, our Membership Drive Coordinator, Alan Walker, and the state office are making a significant impact on membership retention and recruitment, to include Chapter revitalization, as required.

We now have signs up in several Chapters, including a significant effort to revitalize the Blue Mountain Chapter with the placement of signs and information in conjunction with a WSU Extension Forestry workshop held in May. Our east side and west side signs/banners are beginning to pay off as we have begun to receive phone inquiries to the state concerning WFFA. Made from heavy duty reinforced outdoor vinyl, they can be used to advertise our individual tree farms, as well as to a broader audience for recruitment and name recognition purposes. Call the state office if you would like to hang a banner in a visible location at your farm or place of business.

As State President, I would like to challenge all Chapter Presidents and members to talk 1-on-1 with 5 potential members about joining WFFA and participate in recruiting at least 15 new members for their Chapters.

I am glad to have visited with almost all our Chapter Presidents and look forward to seeing all of you at your Chapter meetings this coming year.

### **In Olympia:**

I am tracking our efforts at the TFW Policy Committee, CMER and our testimony direct to the Forest Practices Board (FPB) concerning issues of importance to our members including the specifics of the westside riparian template proposal and most recently the relatively low impact proposal. Further details are explained in the committee updates section of this annual report.

Thank you to the Chehalis and Olympia staff and volunteers for keeping everything running



and for raising the profile of SFLOs in the political and policy processes of our state, particularly at the FPB.

WFFA would like to acknowledge the significant contributions of two retiring staff members: Heather Hansen, Government Relations Representative for WFFA, and Steve Barnowe-Meyer, our TFW Policy Committee Representative. Heather and Steve, we thank you for your commitment to assisting the SFLOs of The Evergreen State.

## 2021/2022 Committee Updates

### Timber Fish and Wildlife (TFW) Policy Committee

*Steve Barnowe-Meyer and Ken Miller*

The TFW Policy Committee's purpose is to develop solutions to issues that arise in the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Forest Regulation Program and to assist the Forest Practices Board (FPB) by providing guidance to the Cooperative Monitoring, Evaluation & Research (CMER) Committee and making recommendations on adaptive management issues. TFW Policy and CMER are the two key Adaptive Management Program (AMP) committees established by the FPB. TFW Policy is a consensus-based decision-making body, so when consensus is not reached there is a dispute resolution process that provides a pathway to move issues to the FPB as the ultimate decision maker for Forest Practices. This year, TFW Policy was involved in six disputes of which three were invoked by the Small Forest Landowner Caucus.

During 2021/2022, TFW Policy worked primarily on five major issues: 1) WFFA's Low Impact Westside Template proposal; 2) developing recommendations for riparian buffers for Type Np (perennial non-fish) waters; 3) addressing two State Auditor's Office (SAO) performance

audit recommendations meant to improve AMP decision making processes as assigned to TFW Policy by the FPB; 4) initiating a Small Forest Landowner Caucus Proposal Initiation (PI) requesting inclusion of a specified definition of "relatively low impact" criteria into Board Manual Section 21 Guidelines for Alternate Plans; and 5) developing recommendations for an Extensive Monitoring (EM) proposal for inclusion in the AMP's Master Project Schedule (MPS).

Details of these five issues are as follows, along with citations of the applicable Revised Code of Washington (RCW):

1. We are hopefully nearing the end of a 23-year effort to realize some of the regulatory relief promised to us in 1999. The following laws (and similar rules in the Washington Administrative Code (WAC)) are the basis for these regulatory relief efforts:
  - RCW 76.13.100 (2) partial: *"the legislature further finds that small forest landowners should have the option of . . . alternate harvest restrictions **on smaller harvest units** that may have a **relatively low impact** on aquatic resources."*
  - RCW 76.13.110 (3) partial: *"alternate harvest restrictions shall meet riparian functions while **requiring less costly regulatory prescriptions.**"*

We expect two of our proposals to reach the FPB this year. They include a definition of "low impact" criteria to help you with Alternate Plans and consideration of our science supported buffer widths for riparian zones that have been in this process for seven (7!) years. Our simple proposals are stream and harvest size appropriate. Some prescriptions provide more stream functionality, others are equivalent, and at worst case **"relatively low impact"**

compared to industrial prescriptions. **Win-Win-Win!** WE WILL NEED YOUR HELP WITH LETTERS AND EMAILS – so watch for a future call to action.

2. Final reports from several CMER studies have indicated that implementing current Washington forest practices buffer rules associated with Type Np streams **may** result in violation of anti-degradation standards under the Clean Water Act. A Technical Type Np Prescriptions Workgroup was sponsored by TFW Policy to develop proposed new RMZ buffer prescriptions for Type Np streams in western Washington for TFW Policy's consideration. Steve Barnowe-Meyer was one of six technical and scientific members of this workgroup. The workgroup evaluated seven alternatives and concluded that three alternatives have the best chance of meeting resource and economic objectives. Their findings were submitted to and formally accepted by TFW Policy on June 3, 2021. TFW Policy commenced Type Np buffer recommendation meetings in mid-June 2021 with the objective of completing development of a consensus decision on an alternative(s) to recommend to the FPB in February 2022. The Conservation Caucus invoked dispute resolution in December 2021 due to lack of progress, and Type Np buffer recommendation development is now in Stage 2 of that dispute resolution, with a goal of recommendations to the FPB no later than their November 2022 meeting. FPB action in the form of a Type Np buffer prescriptions rule package and preparation of a CR102 (formal rule making) by year-end are considered critical to continuation of Clean Water Assurances by the Department of Ecology.
3. Results of a performance audit of the AMP conducted by the Washington SAO were delivered to the FPB in early 2021. Those results show that the AMP is not operating as intended which puts Washington (state and landowners) at risk for litigation. TFW Policy was assigned by the FPB to address two of the SAO recommendations for improvements to the AMP and to focus

on two actions meant to improve the decision-making process by developing recommendations for:

- A net gains model for project planning (due to the Board in May 2022); and
  - Decision criteria for determining actions (due to the Board in November 2022).
4. Our caucus invoked dispute resolution in TFW Policy to even get our proposal requesting inclusion of "relatively low impact" criteria in Board Manual Section 21 into the TFW Policy Process. This proposal was developed over two years by the Small Forest Landowner Advisory Committee to assist the department in determining whether a SFLO alternative plan qualifies as a low impact alternate plan. Although some progress was made in Stage 1 of dispute resolution, Stage 2 was recently invoked for this dispute.
  5. Monitoring to see if the Forest Practices Rules are working is critical. Therefore, TFW Policy requested that CMER develop an Extensive Monitoring (EM) proposal for study for stream temperature and riparian stand conditions. In June 2021, TFW Policy accepted an Extensive Monitoring Workgroup recommendation to develop a strategy for the monitoring component of the CMER program, including identifying how CMER research to date can be incorporated into the monitoring study design.

### **Participation in Other Workgroups Affecting Small Forest Landowners**

*Steve Barnowe-Meyer*

During 2021 and 2022, Steve Barnowe-Meyer also represented SFLOs on three additional workgroups that worked on recommendations to the TFW Policy Committee or FPB. Outcomes from these workgroups could have potentially serious implications for forest management activities on SFLO properties. The three workgroups were: 1) Board Manual Section 12 Application of Forest Chemicals Workgroup; 2) Anadromous Fish Floor (AFF) Project Team

- Policy Members Workgroup; and 3) Marbled Murrelet Wildlife Working Group.

1. The Board Manual 12 Workgroup met between July 2021 and January 2022 to assist DNR in the development of new guidance and to update existing best management practices (BMPs) in Board Manual Section 12, Guidelines for Application of Forest Chemicals. Section 12 is the technical guidance to Chapter 222-38 WAC. The FPB approved a revised Board Manual 12 at their February 9, 2022, Board meeting.
2. The Policy Members of the AFF Project Team provided non-consensus recommendations on anadromous fish floor alternatives and AFF implementation considerations to the Water Typing System Rule Committee of the FPB at their March 15, 2022, meeting. The AFF is defined as measurable physical stream characteristics downstream from which anadromous fish habitat is presumed; the AFF would establish the location upstream of which protocol fish surveys to determine the water type may begin under the Fish Habitat Assessment Methodology, thereby reducing electrofishing in waters that are presumed to have anadromous fish habitat.
3. The Marbled Murrelet (MM) Wildlife Working Group has been meeting since September 2018 to develop a set of recommendations for potential forest practices rule revisions to improve conservation outcomes for murrelets within the forested environment. The current intent is that consensus-based recommendations will be presented to the FPB for their consideration at their August 2022 meeting.

### Compliance Monitoring Stakeholder Committee

*Steve Barnowe-Meyer*

The Forest Practices Compliance Monitoring Program (CMP) is administered by the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The objective of the program is to

address the following question: "Are forest practices being conducted in compliance with the rules?" The program provides statistically sound compliance audits and monitoring reports each biennium to the Forest Practices Board (FPB) to support the analysis of its rules and guidance. Steve Barnowe-Meyer represents Washington Farm Forestry Association (WFFA) and small forest landowners (SFLOs) as a member of the Compliance Monitoring Stakeholder Committee, a component of the CMP.

The most recently completed biennial results of compliance audits are from the 2018-2019 biennium. Overall results range from 92-100%, indicating quite high compliance with the forest practice rules. These audits covered riparian buffers for Type F/S (fish/shoreline) and N (non-fish) streams, wetland buffers and road construction. Type F/S Riparian Management Zone compliance rates also ranged from 92% to 98%, with Type N activities having 96% to 100% compliance. Wetland management zone compliance averaged 97%. Road construction rates of rule compliance for the 2018-2019 sample period was 98%, and that for the 'haul route' prescription was 97%. Trends of improving compliance compared to earlier biennium reports were observed for four prescription groups, with four prescription groups showing no observable trends in compliance. A sample of unstable slopes FPAs were evaluated in 2019 with only one deviation observed, resulting in a 98% compliance result.

The 2020-2021 biennial standard sample data collection was completed in fall 2021, as was data compilation and analysis. Completion of the 2020-2021 Biennium Forest Practices Compliance Monitoring Report is anticipated in the next few months. The CMP is also currently planning to add Aerial Herbicide Application to the standard sample of forest practice rules to be monitored, with field testing of a sampling design in FY23 and implementation of a final design and procedure into the standard sample during the 2024-2025 biennium.

## Cooperative Monitoring, Evaluation, and Research (CMER)

*Dr. Jenny Knoth (Co-chair) and Harry Bell*

The role of CMER is to conduct, review and evaluate research for the purpose of informing the TFW Policy Committee on the effectiveness of current and proposed rules on meeting the goals set forth in the Forests and Fish Agreement and provide assurance of meeting the Clean Water Act standards. It was a bumpy year for CMER, where relationships and resolve were tested more often than forest practices rule effectiveness.

We transitioned from 2020 to 2021 with at least three active disputes, saw the complete turnover of the Adaptive Management support staff, the hiring of a new CMER scientist for wetlands and the resignation of the Eastside CMER scientist. Despite all this change, the committee has a) finalized Type N Riparian Buffer Effectiveness studies known as the “Hard Rock” and “Soft Rock” reports, b) completed a pilot study which evaluated sampling water for environmental DNA as a method for detecting fish presence, c) reviewed and approved the study plan for the Riparian Characteristics and Shade (RCS) study, and d) continued to monitor and develop projects covering Eastside Type N buffers, Eastside Forest Health strategy, Eastside Timber Habitat, Westside Type F buffers, unstable slopes criteria and forested wetlands.

Of particular interest to WFFA members is the fate of the SFLO Proposal Initiation (PI) for alternative buffer prescriptions. We reported a renewed effort by CMER at the beginning of 2021 to complete the task of providing a synopsis of the findings of the supporting documents for the PI. By June, the involved CMER members could not find agreement on both the validity of the scientific justifications and the findings within, which ended our process as two separate documents being transmitted back to the TFW Policy Committee.

While the RCS study design has been approved by CMER and is ready for implementation, a

set of additional treatments known as the RCS Add-ons have been the subject of constant dispute and have served to reveal how far from scientific discourse CMER has become. CMER has recently agreed to bring TFW Policy into the conversation before continuing through further debate or dispute. Another project known as the “Smart Buffer” project was presented by the large landowners through a proposal initiation for CMER review. The intent of the proposed “Smart Buffer” methodology is to create buffers that incorporate local topography, aspect and canopy into designing buffers that maintain a shade target. The study design review resulted in constructive input and feedback from CMER members; however, it failed to pass through consensus and is currently in the dispute resolution process.

I am honored to serve SFLOs and members of WFFA as a voting member and CMER Co-chair. I am cognizant of a divide within the CMER membership that roughly follows landowner/non-landowner associations. I doubt that this is a truly ideological difference but suspect that the committee has lost sight of its original purpose. Through 2021, my goal has been to recognize the common ground for all caucuses represented while encouraging more scientific conversations. I have incorporated five science sessions into our monthly meetings that feature guest speakers whose work is related to the interests of the Adaptive Management Program or whose presentations serve as professional development. I am hopeful that with the return of in-person meetings in 2022, CMER activities will be a little less turbulent.

## Small Forest Landowner Advisory Committee (SFLOAC)

*John Henrikson (Chair), Rich Weiss (Westside 2), Phil Hess (Eastside 1), and Bill Kemp (Eastside 2)*

The SFLOAC spent two years developing a document that articulated three criteria that characterized relatively low impact harvests. They were able to attain a consensus on these criteria with other committee members representing the Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Ecology, and



Tribal interests. The 'relatively low impact' definition itself is fairly simple, with only three components summarized as:

1. An activity with a short-term impact which produces a better long-term outcome.
2. An activity beyond the point of diminishing returns for resource protection.
3. Smaller harvest units with stream reaches that are relatively smaller in width or shorter in length than typical larger landowner harvests.

The SFLOAC further reached 100% consensus on the following statement: "The ongoing engagement of working forest landowners is critical for achieving resource protection objectives. When faced with

the disproportionate economic impact of regulations, the risk of land conversion or disengagement by landowners increases, leading to greater and longer lasting impacts than ongoing forest management."

The consensus document formed the basis of a Proposal Initiation that WFFA submitted to the AMP last August and which is now part of the workflow of the TFW Policy Committee. It is currently in dispute, as other caucus members do not agree with these criteria. WFFA is working its way through that complexity within established channels of the AMP and expects to bring this issue forward to the Forest Practices Board (FPB) sometime in the next year. If adopted, these criteria would be included in the FPB manual.

## Thanks to Our 2022 Patrons!

Thank you to our 2022 Patrons for your generous contributions to WFFA.

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\*Welcome to Our New 2022 Patrons

# Legislative Report

## Heather Hansen

For a non-budget year, the 2022 legislative session was very busy. Thankfully when all was said and done the good outweighed the bad. Bills were introduced to increase Forest Practices Application fees and require buffers of up to 240 feet on land next to water. This would not have applied to timberland but would have applied to any land not covered by forest practices rules. Many of our members have agricultural land or land that is not fully planted that could have been affected. There were proposals to add new requirements to the Growth Management Act and proposals to restructure management of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). None of these bills passed, but that doesn't mean the ideas have gone away. More work on these ideas will go on behind the scenes, largely without public participation. For example:

A work group was created to make recommendations for next year's legislative session. The Governor's office will convene a group including tribes, legislators, local governments, agricultural producers, commercial and recreational fisher organizations, business organizations, salmon recovery organizations, forestry and agriculture organizations and environmental organizations. Their recommendations must include changes in land use laws to improve riparian habitat for salmon recovery. A final report must be submitted to the legislature by November 1, 2022. Expect proposed legislation in 2023.

The Office of Financial Management, a branch of the Governor's office, was directed to evaluate the effectiveness of voluntary incentive programs for landowners as well as existing regulatory programs with the stated intent of achieving a science-based standard for a fully functioning riparian ecosystem. They must report to the Governor and the legislature

with recommendations by the end of this year. As written, this report could include an evaluation of the Forest Riparian Easement Program (FREP).

The WDFW was directed to study how to incorporate net ecological gain into state land use, development, and environmental laws and propose legislation for 2023 that could include new buffers and more limitations on building. They must also assess the status of current riparian ecosystems with respect for the status of salmon stocks.

On the positive side, the state operating budget included an additional \$5 million for FREP.

The intent is for DNR to get caught up on the backlog. If you are in Senator Rolfes' district, please thank her for her efforts in securing this funding. The budget also included funding for the SFLO work group created last year in SB 5126, the Washington Climate Commitment Act. This funding will come to the WFFA, and partners, to develop a carbon program for SFLOs.

In non-legislative activity, DNR hosted a work session on FREP. It was a needed step, but more needs to be done to ensure that FREP is working efficiently and transparently. We also worked with a county assessor to clarify that land divided by a county road would stay enrolled as designated forestland.

Looking forward, 23 current legislators have announced they will not run for their seat again. Of importance to SFLOs, Senator Tim Sheldon is retiring as is Representative Larry Hoff. Both have been very supportive of our issues over the years. At least one forester is running for office. Hopefully the 2023 legislature will be more friendly to SFLOs.

## 21-22 Tech Talk Update

John Matson, IT Manager

During the last year we have continued to expand our use of Information Technology to help serve the needs of the membership, including:

- The [wafarmforestry.com](http://wafarmforestry.com) website;
- Support for virtual meetings during the pandemic;
- Event management including support for online paid registrations;
- A system for volunteer management events; and
- A web store to allow for online pre-sales of trees for Chapters' annual seedling sales.

The WFFA website at [wafarmforestry.com](http://wafarmforestry.com) is home to lots of great information. The front page has sections featuring news related to the forestry community, links to our state and Chapter level events (including Twilight Tree Farm Tours, educational meetings, tours of small forestry-related businesses like mills, nurseries, etc.), as well as announcements and links to educational opportunities from other organizations like WSU Extension Forestry, UW, DNR, etc. The Educational Resources section is chock full of material about all aspects of forest management and in Meet a Member you'll find fun and interesting articles about some of the current members of WFFA. In the interest of security and privacy, we have increased our use of the Member's Only Area that appears at the



bottom of each page (in the footer) and is only accessible with a member ID and password. In the back pages of the site, you'll find links to numerous videos, copies of our publications like *Landowner News* and *Stewards of the Land* as well as a dedicated page for each of our 15 Chapters where Chapter leaders post news, announcements and upcoming events.

In response to the restrictions on physical meetings caused by COVID-19, we boosted our use of virtual meetings and the technologies that enable them. While platforms like GoToMeeting and Zoom were new to many people around the country, the truth is that we've been broadcasting all WFFA Executive Committee and Executive Board meetings via GoToMeeting for several years. That being said, the pandemic did give some members, especially our leaders, the opportunity to expand and polish their technical skills.

We improved our capability to support items like online event registration and system support for managing volunteer-driven events like the WFFA booth at the Washington State Fair.

### Membership by Chapter - June 2022

At Large	22
Blue Mountain	18
Clark	228
Cowlitz	65
Grays Harbor	40
Kittitas	69

Lewis	210
Mt. Adams	27
Northeast	97
Olympic	52
Pacific	66
Pierce	63

South Sound	73
Spokane	36
Upper Puget Sound	79
Whatcom	68
<b>Total</b>	<b>1213</b>

Look for our upcoming WFFA summer training sessions for our Chapter Presidents and Chapter Helpers who upload educational items to our website.

Once again this year, we were able to offer a web store capability to Chapters' seedling sales with web pages to provide essential information about the events, product pages with photos of seedlings, inventory management, and the ability for customers to order and pay online for trees ahead of time.

## Welcome WFFA Lifetime Members!

In the past couple of years, we have had over a dozen new Life Members join WFFA. Lifetime Membership is a one-time payment of \$1,700 for an individual and spouse. This payment includes membership in one local Chapter for your lifetime; you will no longer need to pay annual membership dues. These specific Life Member dues payments are held by the WFFA in an Investment Fund. You can also opt to include additional Chapter memberships for an amount of \$10 per Chapter per year.

Please extend a warm welcome to WFFA's new Life Members:

Morris Boyer & Kelly Boyer Starling (Grays Harbor Chapter)

Derek & Corina Burger (Lewis Chapter)

Lou Jean Clark (Lewis Chapter)



We realize that it's been a while since we've offered training for Chapter leaders and their helpers so we are currently putting together training sessions to offer this summer. Leaders will be able to watch these brief videos on a variety of website topics. Our goal is that at least one member from each chapter will view the tutorials.

If you have any suggestions on Information Technology items for WFFA to address or suggestions for our website, please feel free to reach out to [itmanager@wafarmforestry.com](mailto:itmanager@wafarmforestry.com).

Kevin & Jessica Colburn (Pacific Chapter)

Linda & Ken Edwards (Clark Chapter)

Scott Ernest (Spokane Chapter)

Richard Hermanson (Kittitas Chapter)

Jared & Toran Larwick (Clark Chapter)

John & Nancy Lawder (Spokane Chapter)

Craig & Julie Lynch (Clark Chapter)

Kyle Nelson (Kittitas Chapter)

David & Clara Robbins (South Sound Chapter)

Bill & Debra Scheer (Lewis Chapter)

Fred R. & Susan Sievers (Upper Puget Sound Chapter)

Ann Stinson & Tom Barbara (Lewis Chapter)

Brendan & Erin VanderVelde (Lewis Chapter)

If you would like more information on the WFFA Lifetime Membership Program or to become a WFFA Life Member, please contact Kelly at 360-388-7074 or [info@wafarmforestry.com](mailto:info@wafarmforestry.com).