

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- Next Board Meeting
Jan. 31 7PM
Glenwood Grange
(date change)



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The View

from Mt. Adams Resource Stewards

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 2

DECEMBER 2011

First Community Forest Purchase Completed

In June of this year, MARS achieved a landmark purchase thanks to the amazing generosity of a number of community members and supporters. This initial success on our community forest front – establishing the state’s first non-profit owned community forest with the purchase of 100 acres of mixed conifer stands, wetland and water that includes most of the Glenwood Valley’s Mill Pond – lays the groundwork for a larger plan to protect working forests of particular community value across the Mt. Adams landscape.

The Mill Pond purchase has special significance given the role that this property played in the Valley’s early history. The pond itself – an artifact of a sawmill constructed in the early 1900’s – was once the heart of the local economy before being sold by The Collins Companies to J. Neils Lumber in 1931. The Collins’ operations were not only significant for the town of Glenwood, but Collins was regarded as a leader in the innovation of sustainable forestry practices throughout their operations in the Northwest, California and Pennsylvania. It is reported that some of the first truck logging to occur in Washington, as a change from rail logging, happened at Glenwood’s Collins operations.

Today, one must look closely to discern vestiges of the Mill Pond’s past to even know that it was once an industrial property.

The land has healed with time, and the Mill Pond now looks more like a sanctuary for otters and waterfowl than logs destined for a sawyer’s headrig.



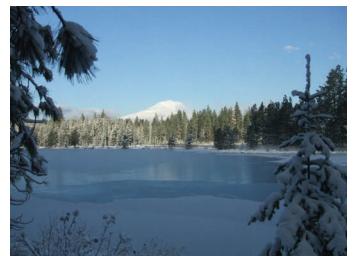
The Mill Pond and the Mt. Adams Pine Company mill operations as seen in the 1920’s (photo courtesy of the Collins Companies/ photo archives)

It was in recognition of these historic, economic and ecological values that we embarked on our effort to purchase this property. We are excited by the opportunity to protect, own and steward such a diverse piece of land and forest.

We are also looking forward to working with the school and community to deepen our understanding of this place as we develop the next chapter in the history of the property. We’ve already received a small grant from Eastman Kodak, The National Geographic Society and The Conservation Fund to support us in developing signage and educational resources that will depict the history of the Mill Pond and sustainable forestry in the region.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all that supported this cause. Over a hundred individuals and families contributed to this effort. And planning efforts for our broader community forest efforts have been supported over the years by The Weyerhaeuser Family Foundation, The Compton Foundation and Horizons Foundation. We also thank Greg Corbin and Adam Dittman, attorneys with Stoel Rives in Portland, for their generous assistance with the transaction.

The next stage, which we hope to unveil in the coming weeks and months, promises to be both larger and more challenging. We welcome your input and support during this process as we continue our efforts to build on this dream—bringing forest ownership local while promoting stewardship and values that reflect our community’s historic ties with our forests.



The Mill Pond with Mt. Adams in the background as seen today.

Mt. Adams**Resource Stewards****Quarterly Meetings:**

The general public is welcome to attend. Quarterly meetings are normally the first Tuesday of January, April, July and October.

**Board of Directors**

Chair: Jim White

Mike Anderson

Jim Dean

George Hathaway, Jr.

Kevin Slotterbeck

Darrel Spies

Nina Vinyard

Dave Wasgatt

Rich Wheelhouse

Teunis J. Wyers

Teunis G. Wyers

Staff

Executive Director—

Jay McLaughlin

Forestry Business Program

Manager—

Nate Ulrich

Special Projects Coordinator —

Paul Satzinger

From the Director

This past summer MARS was invited to participate in a program focused on growing the capacity of groups like ours across something called the *Dry Forest Investment Zone*. This *Zone*, defined for the purposes of this effort, spans eastern and southern Oregon and a portion of northern California. The program focuses on “advancing sustainable forestry, economic development and community resilience” across this region. We are the only organization to participate from Washington.

What struck me was that eleven organizations in all are participating—eleven organiza-

tions, much like ours, working on very similar issues to those we face in the Mt. Adams region and focused on very similar projects.

As part of this program, MARS Board of Directors and staff passed a recent Saturday in a workshop devoted to strengthening our organization and communicating the vision that we have for our work. We talked about what has changed because of our efforts to date, and what we hope to eventually accomplish. We revisited many of the ideas that we began with seven years ago, and how a slowly growing list of accomplishments reflects those early goals.

While communicating and

acting on our vision remains a challenge, I’m optimistic that we are making progress. While it is a slow process, there are moments, such as the recent purchase of the Mill Pond, when everything comes together. And ultimately, none of it is possible without the support, time and talents of numerous people.

As we tackle the many challenges that may span a Dry Forest Investment Zone, and as we reflect on all there is to be grateful for this time of year, I again want to share my appreciation to all that have helped us come this far, and invite even more participation in 2012.

Happy holidays!! ~JM

Aspen Project Upkeep Leads to New Partners, Dialogue

As we’ve written about in the past, some of the richest wildlife habitat in the western US is associated with quaking aspen. Aspen, typically associated with moist soils found near springs, seeps and riparian areas, also inhabit some of our forests’ drier sites. And while aspen is not nearly as common in the Mt. Adams region as in the Rockies, they represent a habitat that has declined over the past century as a result of modern forest management.

One morning this past July, Paul Satzinger and I assessed a past project near Gotchen Guard Station above Trout Lake. Aspen leaves trembled in the slight breeze as their terminal leaders approached the height of what was left of a buck and pole fence we had worked with the Forest Service and a contractor to construct in 2008. After a hard winter that brought heavy snows and falling trees, much of the fence

was no longer functional. Unfortunately, the young stand was still not quite high enough to escape browsing cattle, elk and deer. We needed a few more years out of that fence.



Volunteers rebuilding the Gotchen aspen fence

Thanks to volunteers from WetPlanet and the NW ServiceAcademy, we were able to restore the fence in short order. This also provided us the opportunity to engage with a few more folks about the value of this project.

Over the years, we’ve encountered a number of opinions on aspen. We’ve heard that their demise is not much

of a loss. We’ve been told that instead of fencing off an aspen stand from cattle, the cattle should be removed from public lands. The beauty of a project like this is that between the sweat brought on by fence reconstruction and a little fresh Mt. Adams air, we had some healthy conversations that enabled us to share our thoughts on some of these issues.

We talked about the different species that benefit from the presence of aspen and how they benefit people as well. We also talked about the value of a grazing allotment on public land for a broader ecosystem where economically viable ranches are preferable to small acre ranchettes. Rather than throw the “baby out with the bathwater” in resource management, why not work on solutions that accommodate historic uses and support local economies, while doing our part to improve ecological conditions?

MARS Welcomes New Staff, Bids Farewell to Another

Nate Ulrich joined MARS' staff this August, hired to lead our efforts working with small natural resource and wood products businesses that are increasingly engaged in stewardship activities. Nate, who grew up near Seattle, brings both small business experience and a masters degree in landscape architecture from the University of Oregon where his thesis focused on a cost-benefit analysis of restoring oak woodlands in the Willamette Valley. We are grateful to the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation and USDA Rural Development for providing critical funding necessary to bring Nate on board. Nate's smile and many skills are a welcomed addition to our organization and small office - Please welcome him to the community!

In December, Paul Satzinger, who came to us this past February through the Northwest Service Academy/AmeriCorps and served as our Special Projects Coordinator, will be completing his service with our organization. Paul's efforts here have been greatly appreciated by all that got to know him, as he spent many hours helping to coordinate the Glenwood School-Community Garden Project, paving the way for a solar project at the school, completing baseline monitoring efforts on the Sawtooth Huckleberry Restoration Project and much more. Paul is headed for a trip overseas to be followed by a stint with the National Outdoor Leadership School in Mexico. Paul will be missed and we wish him happiness and success in all of his endeavors.



Paul Satzinger on the increment borer



New program manager, Nate Ulrich

Project Updates

Following are notes on some of the other projects Mt. Adams Resource Stewards is engaged in across our region:

Glenwood High Speed Internet—In recent years MARS has participated in efforts to develop a microwave site that will bring high speed internet to the Glenwood Valley. Our role has been one of project support, facilitating meetings and assisting with documentation for permitting the project. The project lead, Sawtooth Technologies of Stevenson, had indicated earlier this year that their goal was to have service available by January 2012. Unfortunately, this timeline will not be met, but we have been told that the company that received the contract to construct the site may make a push to complete some work this winter. Hopefully sometime in mid 2012 we'll have service!

The Glenwood School Community Garden had great success in its second year, thanks to the efforts of Paul Satzinger, Pam Keithly and the numerous families, students and teachers that helped to prepare and plant the garden, partici-

pated in work parties, or adopted the garden for a week during summer vacation. For awhile there was an effort to weigh produce harvested from the garden, but it proved difficult to keep up. We can confidently report that hundreds of pounds of many healthy, delicious fruits and vegetables made their way to the school lunch program, as well as to dinner tables of participants here in the Valley. Let us know if you would like to participate this coming year!

Sawtooth Huckleberry Restoration Monitoring—Baseline work with the US Forest Service to install monitoring plots in the Sawtooth Berry Fields over the past three summers in order to measure which treatments are most successful was finally completed. The first prescribed burns on the project happened shortly thereafter. This work was supported with a grant from the National Forest Foundation.

Contractor Database Development—With help from two NW Service Academy volunteers, Nate Baim and

Liz McLaurin, natural resource contractors in the area were surveyed to better understand business capacity and assist us in connecting natural resource management opportunities with the local workforce.

Small Wood Utilization Initiative—Work continues at our log yard/incubator site near Glenwood as we continue to identify and grow markets for small diameter logs and woody biomass. Our new program manager will be dedicating more time to this project and expanding our efforts where other opportunities present themselves.



School-community garden bears fresh produce for school lunch program (photo by Perry Wasgatt)



Mt. Adams Resource Stewards

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Mt. Adams Resource Stewards was founded in 2003 to pursue, “a healthy, productive and sustainable economy, community and landscape in the Mt. Adams region.” This vision is implemented through a mix of economic and community development, education and conservation projects—all with the goal of continuing the tradition of local people connected to the land.

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E-mail: jay-mars@gorge.net
www.mtadamsstewards.org

New Stewardship Forestry Services Offered

MARS has long sought to fill niches across the Mt. Adams region in ways consistent with our goals of stronger local economies and communities and a healthier environment, while not competing with existing businesses. In response to an increase in requests for services from stewardship-focused forest owners, MARS is now offering consulting services that range from forest management planning to timber sale administration.

MARS managed two vegetation management projects on conservation properties owned by Columbia Land Trust this fall (see photo). We have also been working on management plans for four different property owners this fall covering over 700 acres.

As we invest in resources and tools that are important for this work, such as a printer that will enable us to produce higher quality maps, we hope to reach what appears to be a grow-

ing number of landowners interested in diverse values and the long term health of their forest. It is our goal to provide high quality services on a fee basis that will also help to connect local contractors with whom we are building relationships while diversifying our organization’s revenue streams. Please call us if you have a project you would like to explore!



A pine-oak woodland thinning project overseen by MARS used low impact logging methods to protect habitat of sensitive species.

Thank you to the following individuals & businesses that made donations between April and December 2011!

- | | |
|---|---|
| Anonymous | Jim and Elizabeth Moyer |
| Paul Barnam | Lee and Carla Moyer |
| Greer Bevel | Brendan Norman/Margo Burtchaell |
| Elisabeth Bottler | Judy Olano |
| Claire Burt | David and Elizabeth Patte |
| Marlene and John Caley | Rich Potter |
| Collins Holding Company | Nate and Betsy Putnam |
| Brent Coryell | Rachel Ruggeri |
| Michael Daley and Corinne Ilvedson | Martin and Maggie Samuelson |
| Chad and Liane Davis | Ron and Jennifer Saranich |
| Molly Davis and Tom Pierson | Paul Satzinger Sr. |
| Jim and Lonnie Dean | Doug and Nancy Smith |
| Hal and Maryann Deck | Darrel and Rhonda Spies |
| Karl Eckhardt | Jessica Stocking |
| Mark and Amber Fessler | Bill and Toni Troh |
| Hancock Forest Management | Jim Vanderploeg |
| David Hassin | Dave and Cynthia Wasgatt |
| Susan and Rainer Hummel | Reverend and Angelene Wasgatt |
| Brad and Sunny Hunter | Julene Weaver |
| Paul King | Rich and and Dannette Wheelhouse |
| Glenn Lamb and Sue Knight | Jim and Kathy White |
| Patty Kreps Family | Owen and Jennifer Wozniack |
| Brena and Francisco Lopez | Teunis J. Wyers |
| Jan Loomis | Adrienne Zuckerman |
| John McLaughlin | |
| Peter Michaelson | |
| Meegan Moore | |