

## **Making Ecological Forestry on Small Ownerships in a Suburban/Rural Landscape a Reality.**

**Who:** Derek Churchill & Bill Loeber, field trip leaders, [derek@stewardshipforestry.com](mailto:derek@stewardshipforestry.com); [bill.loeber@kingcounty.gov](mailto:bill.loeber@kingcounty.gov); Jean Shaffer, meeting coordinator, [jeanforest@cco.net](mailto:jeanforest@cco.net)/[jeanforest@cco.net](mailto:jeanforest@cco.net)

**What:** NW Regional Forest Guild Meeting

**Where:** Vashon Island, Washington (an island in Puget Sound, accessible by ferry boat from Tacoma at Point Defiance park and west Seattle from the Fauntleroy ferry dock <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/schedules/current/index.cfm?route=f-v> )

**When:** January 31, 2009

**Why:** Vashon Forest Stewards and the King County Forestry Program have been working with public and private landowners to make ecologically oriented forestry possible on small parcels. Vashon is generally an environmentally “green” community where skepticism and opposition to forest management is common. The highly fragmented landscape and small parcels have presented additional economic and operational challenges. Over the last 5 years we have largely overcome these challenges and have completed over 35 commercial and non-commercial thinning and variable retention operations on over 240 acres. We have a fully functional log yard that mills, dries, and processes wood, and a self-loading log truck that picks up logs from landowners all over the island. We also run a forestry youth crew that does planting, invasive species control, log yard projects, etc.

Gather Forest Guild members for a good time

**Agenda:** One day, beginning at 9:15 am: Catch the 8:25 ferry from Pt Defiance or the 8:35 ferry from Fauntleroy in west Seattle. Be at the ferry dock at least 20 minutes before the ferry leaves. End at 3:30 pm. Carpooling is recommended as the ferry will set you back \$17 or so.

Meet at the coffee stand in Burton: Junction of Vashon Highway and SW Burton Drive.

Directions: From the Pt Defiance Ferry/Tahlequah dock, drive north on Vashon Highway for approximately 5 miles (follow the traffic and don't turn off anywhere), until you

reach a stop sign and small “town” by the Quartermaster harbor. You’re in Burton. Look for the coffee stand. If you cross a bridge over a large creek/estuary, you’ve gone too far.

From the W Seattle Ferry (Fauntleroy) ferry, drive south on Vashon Hwy after you get off the ferry. Follow the cars and you will arrive in the town of Vashon after 5 miles. Stay on Vashon Hwy and go through town and then several more intersections with stop signs. Keeping heading south, approximately 5 miles south of Vashon town and you’ll get to a stop sign and small “town” by the Quartermaster harbor. You’re in Burton. Look for the coffee stand. If you end up driving right next to the water, you’ve gone too far.

Tour stops:

I. Multiple restoration approaches to mature red alder stands on two 1-10 acre private ownerships. Talk to adjacent landowners with very small ownerships who partnered together to make forestry operations feasible. Meet members of the Vashon forestry youth crew that have been part of all facets of forestry, from planting trees to processing kiln dried wood.

II. Ecological PCT and variable retention alder harvest treatments, in Vashon’s 363 acre community forest owned by King County. Co-management between King County and the Vashon community will be discussed.

III. Vashon Forest Stewards log yard visit, which now has a functional kiln, band saw mill, Logosol moulder/shaper, log truck, etc. This not for profit business mills and processes local wood from forestry and salvage operations.

**What to Bring:** sack lunch, transportation, money. Participants are on their own for breakfast and dinner, but the following are recommended restaurants in the town of Vashon that can handle a crowd:

Hardware Store  
Homegrown  
All India Café  
Red Bicycle Bistro

Places to spend the night on the island: Vashon Hostel: <http://www.vashonhostel.com/>  
and Lavender Duck: <http://www.vashonhostel.com/ldmain.htm>.

For fancier places see: <http://www.bedandbreakfast.com/vashon-washington.html>

**Registration:** free, but sign up with Jean Shaffer [jeanforest@cco.net](mailto:jeanforest@cco.net) Will also coordinate car-pools for anyone interested.

More info:

Vashon Forest Stewards <http://www.vashonforeststewards.org/>

King County Forestry Program

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/waterandland/forestry.aspx>