

Timber-rich Northwest has finite resource

Early-day Americans believed that the nation would never be in danger of using up its vast timber resources. And the mission of foresters in those days was to find the trees and cut them down.

In recent years, however, it has become clear that even in the timber-rich Northwest that forests are a finite resource, according to John Gordon, new head of the forest science department at Oregon State University.

Forests that are logged must be harvested and replanted wisely to insure a continuous supply of lumber products. And those that are preserved must be studied for an understanding of the ecological relationships in the forest environment.

This is where the field of forest science comes in, Gordon explained.

So important has the plant science area become to the field of forestry that OSU this year established the forest science department to coordinate the biological arm of the School of Forestry. Gordon, a former Iowa State University forestry professor, was named chairman.

"It's a real challenge to work in forestry in this state," Gordon said. "Oregon is full of intelligent people who are concerned about their resources. We're expected to provide the industrial base for the state as well as the best possible environment for its

inhabitants." Forestry, said Gordon, is just now coming into its own. "With more information available about the genetic makeup and physiology of trees, we're entering an era of semi-domesticated forests where trees are grown and harvested as crops."

The parallels between forestry and agriculture are many, Gordon said. For example, foresters have borrowed from farming the principle of minimum tillage. "Our goal is to upset the site as little as possible, to be as unobtrusive as we can in reforesting and harvesting," said Gordon.

The use of non-persistent herbicides (those whose effects last only a short time) is one tool in this effort, he said, because it allows foresters to reclaim brush fields and put them into productive forest land by retarding the growth of competing vegetation without using machinery.

The suggestion by some environmentalists that brush be cleared physically rather than chemically would probably mean not foot tracks, but caterpillar tracks, said Gordon, and that would be disruptive.

"We've found that there's an entirely different kind of succession in forests where machinery is used to clear brush."

Also being studied in the School of Forestry are the uses

of skyline logging and light-weight European logging equipment for forest thinning, he said.

Forest science concerns itself with all the factors which affect the growth of trees—genetics, sunlight, soil, water, slope and climate—and attempts to control those factors to produce the results desired by the woodland owner, said Gordon, whether an owner is a small private property owner, a large timber products industry or a government agency.

And not every "client" wants increased timber yield, he emphasized—some want improved recreational use or preservation of wilderness or help in reforesting difficult areas.

OSU forest scientists attempt to develop special strains of trees for special situations. For example, research is currently under way to find a variation of Douglas-fir that can flourish in the dry hot climate and on the steep slopes of southern Oregon mountain ranges scheduled for reforestation.

Because of the slow growth of trees, Gordon said, studies in speeding up tree growth present special challenges. Forest scientists studying physiological genetics try to shortcut the research time by making very precise measurements in very young trees and projecting the rate of growth they will maintain when they're older.



BETH GALE, left, works with young students in the Tom Sawyer Art Class which will be held during the next two Saturdays. (Post photo)

Tom Sawyer Art Class draws Sandy area talent

Beth Gale darted between artists stationed on everything from logs to a bridge.

"Let the shadows of the pencil become the shadows of the tree," she urged a 10-year old boy.

"Wow, you got it," she brightly noted to a teenage girl sketching a plant.

Beth, a Hoodland resident, was coaching youngsters and a few adults in the basics of sketching during the first of three Saturday morning Tom Sawyer Art Class sponsored by

the Sandy Public Library.

The classes are held in Sandy's Meinig Memorial Park, weather permitting, from 10 a.m. until noon. In case of rain the session is held in the library.

There are two classes left in the Tom Sawyer series, including a painting class this Saturday and a soap carving class the following Saturday on July 30.

Beth provides each person taking the class with a portfolio.

"An artist has to have a portfolio," she tells youngsters and materials are provided free of charge.

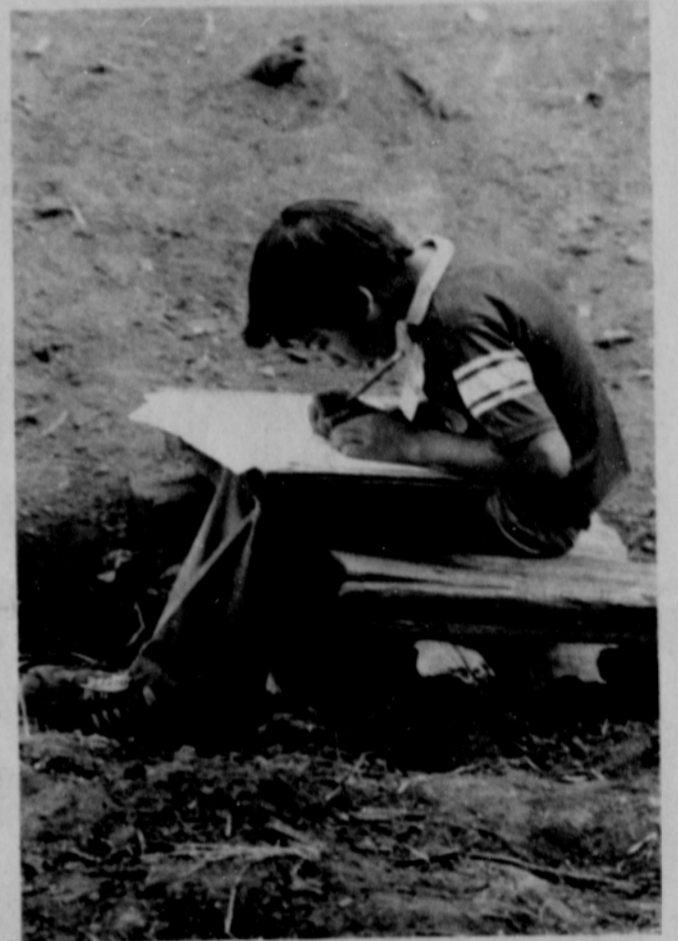
Those attending the free sessions do not have to have a library user's card.

Beth has asked that those attending this Saturday's class bring a small paintbrush. For the soap carving sessions she would like students to bring a plastic or soft edged knife.

The Hoodland artist has conducted similar classes in Denver, Colo.

"She's really an exceptional teacher," said one of the parents at last week's Saturday's session. "She really has a way with kids."

The Sandy Library has planned Saturday activities throughout the summer.



JOHN RODRIGUES fills in details on drawing.



JIMMY SCHLAHT learns the use of shadowing in his sketching.

by Sue Lafky
Post editor



SHEILIA SHAW and Kris Schwab concentrate on work while sitting on stage in Meinig Memorial Park.

Cinnabar moth said 'good guy' by state

The insect world is made up of good and bad guys just like the human world.

At least that's the case according to the State Department of Agriculture, which says that the cinnabar moth is the "good guy" in the insect world while the tent caterpillar dons the hat of the "bad guy."

According to the Department of Agriculture, the moths and larvae of both these insects are now out. The department would like members of the public to be able to distinguish between the two so war won't be waged on the "good guy."

The cinnabar moth is called the good guy because its larvae feed on tansy ragwort, a problem weed in many areas of Oregon including Clackamas County.

The noxious tansy plant, which has clusters of yellow flowers, has been taking over many acres of Western Oregon's agricultural land, some forest sections and pastures. The weed has poisoned cattle and horses.

The Department of Agriculture noted that the cinnabar moth feeds on nothing but tansy ragwort. The insect is presently being distributed throughout the western section of the state under a biological control program of the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

The tent caterpillar builds its webs in trees and the larvae feed on the tree foliage. This puts it in the "bad guy" class and the public is encouraged to take steps to eliminate this insect.

There is as much difference

in the appearance of the moths and larvae of these two insects as there is in the materials upon which they feed, the department noted.

Both the moth and the larvae of the cinnabar moth are more colorful than those of the tent caterpillar.

The tent moth is black and red at first but as it ages the black fades to a dark grey and the red to a pink. When in repose with its wings folded more of the black of grey is visible than the red or pink but when the wings are extended the red or pink is very noticeable.

The larvae of the cinnabar moth are as colorful as the blossoms of the weed upon which they feed. The larva's body is encircled by alternating bands of yellow and black and

is "bald" or smooth. They are usually found on the tansy ragwort plant though on occasion may be found on the grass or on buildings, but never up in trees.

The moth of the tent caterpillar is more somber in color and smaller than the cinnabar moth. Its wings are a light brown with two narrow cream colored lines running across.

Connall elected chairman

Joanne Connall, Gresham, Wednesday was elected chairman of the Mt. Hood Community College board for the 1977-78 year.

Connall succeeds Rick

In the caterpillar or larva state the tent caterpillar varies in color from a tent gray to a rust color and may have colored lines running lengthwise of the body. Fine hairs cover the body, making it unpalatable to birds, and since it gets its feed from the tree foliage this caterpillar spends most of its time in trees. It is, however, occasionally found on the ground.

Gustafson. Polly Casterline, Troutdale, was elected to succeed Connall as vice-chairman for the coming year.

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