



## **The Tree That Would Not Die**

The trees in this picture are black locust trees in Bob and Margaret Kintigh's rhododendron garden in the McKenzie Valley east of Springfield Oregon. The early settlers planted them because they are a tree that grows almost anywhere, produces a very durable wood, adds nitrogen to the soil and produces abundant nectar for honeybees. On Columbus Day in 1962, Oregon experienced one of the most severe wind storms ever. Several of these trees like the one in the picture blew down. The arrow points to the roots that were exposed when the tree went over but the roots on the underside of the tree are still in the ground and were able to keep the tree alive. Even though it was in a horizontal position (obviously not normal for a tree) the tree did not give up but produced new trees from the old trunk that can be seen extending from the arrow to near the edge of the picture. Over the years four of these trees that you can see in the picture have grown to be quite sizable. This is only possible because there were some roots going deep into the soil and the nearby stream. So it is with us when the storms of life knock us flat on the ground we can still grow and be productive if we are rooted in God's Holy Word and trusting Jesus for eternal life.

*By Bob Kintigh, Certified Forester 2005  
Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year  
2006 National Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year  
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