Greetings OSWA members, families and friends  
Late Summer/Fall 2015  August, Sept and Oct

We put on a fine show and thank you to the 20+ volunteers from our chapter that were hosts and volunteers the 20th of June at the Oregon Forest Fair! As a result, we hosted over 300 people to a broad range of topics in the presentations, and an even broader range of goods, services and interests in the spectrum of exhibits. I heard nothing but praise for the effectiveness of our volunteers, from exhibitors that got help and from attendees that had a good time.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS! We gained 9 new members to our chapter of OSWA, from the attendance at the Oregon Forest Fair. We are very happy to have you; Larry, Dale, David, Carl and Kathy, Joe and Wendy, Ada, Dorothy, Ana, and George and Susan. We hope that your membership in our Association becomes lifelong, and that you will enjoy many of the events we host and tours we take.

This quarter our topics for the 3 months will be; Natural Beauty, Milling Large logs and Fire and Fire protection (using a pond) in that order, in August, September and October.
EVERYONE check your calendar and call in your RSVP right away (your newsletter editor Mark Havel 503 876 4488) if you want to come with us to hike Opal Creek! On Tuesday, August 25th, we will be hosting a walking tour of one of the most beautiful places on earth. The Little North Fork of the Santiam river is the entrance to the 20,454 acre Opal Creek Wilderness which features steep and rugged forested hillside cascading down to the most gorgeous stream. The eastern portion of the area encompasses the headwaters of two major creeks (Battle Axe Creek and Opal Creek) which join to become the Little North Santiam River. There are many stands of fabulous old growth trees, and while not quite the size of the trees at the Valley of the Giants, these huge tree stands seem to go on and on.

Since the last few miles of the drive into the Opal Creek trailhead are unimproved and really dusty, we will be taking just one or two vans, depending on how many people want to come, to save all the dust, the parking spaces and all the frustration of getting everyone up there together to enjoy the hike. The hike itself is quite easy, basically along a road along the river canyon, but our plan is to make it workable for everyone. The ‘regular’ distance is around 3 miles up and 3 miles back, but having been there last year, your editor thinks that only a few may want to go that distance as there really is nothing at the Jawbone Flats end that is really as spectacular as the scenes along the way. SO, we suggest that everyone bring some lunch and some water to drink (in an easy to carry backpack of some sort) and go as far up the canyon as you want to hike, knowing that it will be the same distance back. We will arrive in the vans and then with a list of participants in hand, will head on up the river canyon to our own destinations. The group will re-convene as the further hikers come back down, comparing inspirations and photographs. Since there will be dust savings, we might as well add dollar savings, by charging just $10 for the trip in van(s) from Salem and back, which is far less than what it costs to drive your own vehicle. WE WILL NEED YOUR RSVP ASAP (August 20th deadline), as we need to reserve the van(s) and get organized. Once we get your call, we’ll keep in touch with details.

Then September 18th at 8 am we will depart Salem by carpool or Van (yet to be determined) to drive to Eugene to see the Zip-O-Log Mills Inc. at 2235 W 6th Ave, which is one of the few mills around that can and do still take large logs (over 32”) with no upper limit on log diameter. Large logs buyers are important for forest landowners like ourselves, as we often have larger trees than the more intensively managed (short rotation) industrial stands. Not that we don’t have the ‘re-prod’ ourselves, but it is nice to have the large log option. The Zippo tour is of a family owned business located in Eugene Oregon, providing 100% Douglas Fir products up to 52’ in length. Zip-O-Log Mills is known for its timbers, but also cuts posts, Joists, Stringers and Domestic Clears. We need an RSVP on this tour too, so do it right away, (again call Mark at 503 876 4488 and leave a message if you want to come) so that we can determine how many are going and if it makes sense to rent a van or two for the trip. For this tour, Zip-O-Log Mills requires leather shoes (not Sandals) and long pants, they will provide earplugs and safety glasses. Zippo has catwalks 40’ above the mill floor that we will be walking on. They are well guarded-but if someone is afraid of heights this may not be the tour for them.

October 10th, 10 am Pond tour of Lamers Forests, at 11300 Monmouth Hwy, Monmouth. The Lamers have 13 ponds on their property, of which 7 can be dipped into with a helicopter bucket for fire fighting. A recent fire that came to within around 130 yards of their property on Friday, July 24, was fought with many helicopter scoops (200 gallons each) from one of their ponds. That pond may have reduced damages by many hundreds of thousands of dollars, or more! We will see that pond and others, talk about what it takes to make a pond that doesn't leak!, site selection and costs. Laws regarding ponds will be discussed, especially the necessity of draining the pond if the Oregon Water Resources Dept. demands it, to provide water to prior water rights owners downstream. Spillways and overflow systems will be discussed. Since we are driving by areas that have recently been commercially thinned, we may stop and take a look. The tour should end before noon. We will be driving on good gravel roads, with little walking involved. Come to Monmouth, follow signs towards Kings Valley and Falls City. (That will get you on the correct road out of Monmouth) Only 7/10ths of a mile from Monmouth, turn left onto the Lamers’ driveway. Tour signs will be displayed. Go to end of driveway which is just under a mile long. If no rain falls before Oct. 10, this tour may be cancelled due to fire danger. If in doubt call Terry Lamers at 503-930-3946