Greetings members and friends! **OUR ANNUAL MEETING, 12 to 2 PM ON MAY 20TH.** (Doors open at 11:30 for conversation and stuffing the raffle ticket box) Our director Ryan McBride will be our keynote speaker, with a presentation discussing and showing his previous business’ and top-end custom log homes. It is great to have such experience in our group and we look forward to a great presentation.

Membership in our association is perhaps the best way to become a better manager of your forest, as knowledge is power. The more one participates in this huge topic, the more one knows. From the logger vocabulary to the great dinner served at our annual meeting, it is one great feast. **Put May 20th on your calendar now! The meeting is held at the Scottish Rite Temple, 4090 Commercial St. SE, Salem;** this is just south of the Browning Road traffic light and McDonalds, on the east side of the road.

**Our annual meeting is always a blast.** If you haven’t been to one, then you owe it to yourself and your family or other partners and friends. It is just $5 as our chapter picks up the rest of the tab. The meal is always good and plenty and there are lots of door prizes provided by various businesses throughout our 2-county area, extorted by our arm-twister extraordinaire Gene Henshaw! Speaking of arm twisting; at $5 there shouldn’t be any necessary, but please bring friends and neighbors who are forest landowners, as there are around 2200 of us in our two county area, but only 100 members in our association chapter. While there is lots of information available through OSU extension and the ODF (Oregon Department of Forestry), it is membership in OSWA that provides the context and the camaraderie.

You might notice that we have a vacancy in our directors list on the letterhead. Please consider becoming a member, just by volunteering at the annual meeting. Our long-time, wonderfully helpful secretary Diana Blair also wants to pass that baton, so there is a second position available too. Please consider this! Small work, big reward.

**Tours and events we had in our last quarter were:** The Oregon Logging Conference, Tree School and our first ever Logger Forum. If you missed any one or more of these events, you really did miss something. Some of our members go the the Logging Conference every year, which may or may not be necessary, but to see it at least once, is. Put the logging, forestry and lumber industries into perspective, with just one event showcasing all the technology, equipment and business structure involved in the operation of our resource-based businesses of the Pacific Northwest.
Tree School is similar to the Logging Conference in its scope, but of a totally different nature. As the largest forestry educational event in the country, Tree School served up 74 different class topics to 624 attendees. There were 53 exhibitors in the venue and 81 instructors donated their time to providing the classes. If you missed it this year for whatever reason, plan on attending it next March. And as an important reminder; the classes FILL FAST, so get your registration in as soon as you get the catalog around the first of February. No catalog coming to your address? Sign up now with OSU Extension! Don’t put it off.

The Logger Forum was a great event that we are going to repeat. Please read more below in the new events. Events

This quarter

1) Coming right up is our Annual Meeting! Described earlier in this newsletter, don’t miss it on May 20th!

2) On Tuesday, June 13th, from 10am till noon, we will have a special Forest Landowners seminar on FIRE at the Dallas ODF office at 825 Oak Villa Road, Dallas, OR 97338. Each year the ODF district offices hold ‘OPERATOR MEETINGS’ for loggers and those that do forest operations during fire season. It is especially important for landowners to know many things about FIRE! The presentation will cover all info regularly covered at the operators meetings, but will include discussion on Liability, Fire Districts and coverage (where does your property lie), Checklists of preparedness, Equipment recommendations and fire engagement. Presented by the ODF staff at their Dallas office complex, which if coming from Salem for instance, it is the second exit to Dallas on the Kings Valley Hwy, at the top of the hill just west of Basket Slough wildlife refuge. you will see the equipment used during our yearly fire season scramble and talk with the service foresters and fire preparedness leaders. Come to this event!!!

3) And lastly, on Tuesday July 11th, from 7 to 9 pm we will have the Marion and So Clackamas Co. LOGGER FORUM! Held at the Oregon Gardens conference center; 879 West Main St. Silverton, OR 97381 (Anywhere in or near Siverton there are signs directing one to the Oregon Gardens.) For those of you who attended the Logger Forum in Independence on April 18th, we will have a different set of loggers speaking, if you want to attend again. Entrance to the gardens and parking are free for this event.

The Logger Forum was a big hit last quarter when we held it for west-side members and landowners, primarily in Polk county, but also drew attendance from Yamhill, Benton and Linn counties. The Logger Forum was a moderated panel discussion, cycling through all 5 of the loggers/logging companies represented. We heard Larry Heesacker and Mike Porter of A1 Logging out of Yamhill, Bob Bateman from Monroe, Terry Lamers of Lamers Forests from Monmouth and John Jungworth of Kaiser. We discussed their operation size including employees, their equipment and how they like to handle various aspects of the logging jobs. This was the single best place to get an understanding of how logging jobs might be set up and if you are up to it yourself or if, for instance, you may want to hire a consulting forester to handle the job.

Two sources of information came highly recommended at the Forum; OFRI’s Learning Library at www.knowyourforest.org which has a section on “Logging and Selling Timber”, which includes “20 Things You Should Know Before Conducting A Timber Harvest” and links to OSU publications on Small-Scale Harvesting For Woodlands Owners (EM9129) and Contracts for Woodland Owners (EC1192). Associated Oregon Loggers has essentially all of the topics covered at the Forum, targeted specifically to small-woodland owners-- see information and links at www.oregonloggers.org -- Forestry and Logging -- I Own Forestland.

If you have any interest in logging, or have some logging planned ‘in the future’ come to this moderated discussion to hear commercial loggers discuss their equipment, their capabilities and limitations, as well as costs and time frames. This is the most important presentation we’ve ever put together for folks that are considering hiring out an upcoming logging job. Come to this event!!!