Greetings OSWA members, families and friends  
Summer-Fall 2017 Aug, Sept and October

Reporters note: Since the world is coming to an end, yet again, and this time just on account of an eclipse, we here in its path have thought about calling the whole month of August off, but then did decide to include a tour at the end of August. We also have two great events in September and October.

In April and July we presented Logger Forum programs to our two-county chapter members and anyone else that had an interest in logging sometime in the future; one in Independence for the Polk county side and one at the Oregon gardens in Silverton for the Marion county members. It was very interesting to hear the loggers talk about their business’, their equipment and all the specific things that go into a logging job. We will probably do this sort of event again, but are thinking we might have a prior presentation on Logger Vocabulary, as a prerequisite.

With the upcoming quarter’s events, two are county-line straddling situations, so we are working with our neighboring OSWA chapters. And, as our OSU Extension foresters have more than one county on their clip board, much of these events were planned with the help of our extension foresters, in this case Brad Withrow-Robinson. Brad has an excellent publication, online, The Compass, which has great information for woodland land owners. Please see The Compass at http://extension.oregonstate.edu/benton/forestry/compass You can sign up for The Compass newsletter and The Needle (e-mail announcements of upcoming events) : send a request to jody.einerson@oregonstate.edu or phone Jody at 541-766-6750.

We didn’t take the month of August entirely off, so our first tour is at your pres’ place. You may have been to a tour there before, even last year this time, but there is some new show and tell. First though a story, which I have to write down somewhere and you folks might appreciate it.

A couple of years ago, our OSWA chapter put on an event in Salem at Chemeketa Community College which was the Oregon Forest Fair. At that event our whole chapter was involved and thanks again for your participation. I was busy with the event and our daughter Lishka was taking care of my displays in the hall on a few of her few hours off as a last-year medical student. And there representing his Employer with their booth was Will, a forester and our new son in law. As I write they will be married here ‘at the farm’ in three weeks on August 26th.

For our first ‘tour’ you ought to come see what I’ve built for the wedding. Using that mill we saw last year, with the long tracks and the building around it, I’ve milled a lot of interesting boards and built a custom wedding venue. After the event I’ll be taking it down and possibly selling it as a custom wedding venue ‘outfit’ but you might want to see while it is still up. Let’s get together at 9am on Wednesday the 30th at
Second, on September 2nd, 8:30 am to early afternoon, please join Benton County OSWA in recognizing Dave Hibbs and Sarah Karr as the Benton Co Tree Farmers of the year! Dave and Sarah hosted a tour last year where some of our members saw Dave and our own John Westall give a presentation on logging with a Tractor 3pt-mounted logging winch, with synthetic rope instead of cable, cutting the weight dramatically.

Dave and Sarah live in Corvallis and are Benton County OSWA members, but their property is in Polk County near Airlie, so we are co-sponsoring their recognition and competition with the other chapter nominees. Dave and Sarah have been managing this property for twenty years to balance sound conifer management and production with unique wildlife considerations. They have lots of insights and stories to share about managing for diverse objectives. Parking space is limited on the property, so we strongly encourage carpooling. And, since there will be a lunch served at the Adair County Park group picnic area, let’s all meet there before 8:30 am to arrange for the car pools to the property, returning to our own cars for the trip home after lunch.

The Adair County Park is very easy to find and there is lots of room. On Hwy 99 north of Monmouth and just a few miles from Corvallis is Adair Village, and just a block east on Arnold is the park. The only other road east also goes there.

Then, on October 7th at 9 am; we will visit the owners and managers of Bird Haven Tree Farm Conservancy, Jim Bayuk and Jan Irene Miller, who have made some notable projects work on the North Santiam River, this time straddling the Marion and Linn county line. The riparian restoration projects and other restorations were done in cooperation with the North Santiam Watershed Council and we will hear about how large projects like this can work with several parties and/or agencies. Additional information will be available on Brad’s event notification The Needle.

Bird Haven is a 100 acre+ piece of property located southeast of Stayton between the North Santiam River and the Nature Conservancy’s Kingston Prairie Preserve.

Jan Irene Miller and Jim Bayuk, the present owners, purchased the property several years ago from the estate of Tony Koch, and they have removed tons of invasive Scotch Broom and blackberries and thinned the tree farm. Visitors will see native shrubs planted along the banks of the North Santiam and Wood Duck nest boxes mounted next to a slough. They planted native prairie flowers as well.

Jim says “Our riparian restoration projects and other restorations are so connected to the North Santiam Watershed Council, we would for sure want to include Rebecca McCoun and/or her staff to represent how we have worked with them and the various collaborations with others to make projects like this happen. For us, the value of a tour is to demonstrate how and provoke restoration possibilities by others and the actions and resources that make projects like this possible” quoted from a tour description last year.

At our annual meeting in May, we changed some of the names and titles at the top of the first page, our letterhead and officers list, but we agreed to keep working together as the good bunch we are. New to the list are Pat Wheeler as Secretary/Treasurer and Jock Dalton as director. Ryan McBride picked up the VP position and we had a great first meeting to set up the upcoming tours, above. There is one director position still left open, so if you would like to get together with this group once every three months to discuss new event offerings, please give Mark or Pat a call.