Greetings OSWA members, families and friends    Fall-Winter 2015-16    Nov, Dec, January

The election is next year, right? I guess we need that long to sort out something so deep.

This quarter is usually when we try to respect your busy family and holiday schedules, and stay somewhat in the background. This newsletter is written before the riparian rule decisions, so all there is left to talk about is tours and events.

Last quarter we had a great tour trio, with the Zippo-Log Mill in Eugene and the Lamers Pond tour both well attended. The Opal Creek tour was cancelled due to lack of interest.

Our friends to the north, the Yamhill chapter of OSWA have two events you may want to know about. All their events are held at the Yamhill co Extension offices on Lafayette ave, McMinnville, in the evenings. On Nov 18th the topic will be Disaster Preparedness, and on January 27th it will be Oregon State Forest Land Policies and review of new riparian rules. Hot topics! Contact Hal for more details; at 503 843 2173
We’ve scheduled just two tours this quarter, both of mills that also buy our logs. But saying that we did this is not giving Terry Lamers the credit he deserves for doing the leg work, or phone work, to get these tours set up. Thanks Terry!

Nov 10th and Jan 8th are the dates to circle on the calendar, For mill tours of Frank Lumber and Weyerhaeuser - Santiam.

Coming up just next week, Tuesday the 10th at 9:30 am, we will tour the Frank Lumber plant and its side products production. By side products, we understand that Frank Lumber also produces wood pellets, from their waste stream of lumber production. Wood Pellets are only relatively new, but are gaining stature as a global energy source. We understand that enormous amounts of pellets go to Europe from the east coast and it will be interesting to see what the markets are that Frank Lumber accesses. Just pallets of local pellets, or is this containers or train cars going somewhere else?

Frank Lumber is right down the road from Freres Lumber, which we have toured a couple times, for their small log veneer plant and their electric co-generation plant. We head east on Hwy 22 and turn at the Mehama Lyons jct, head south through both towns and east toward Mill City. The address is 47983 E Lyons Mill City Dr, Lyons, OR 97358 if you are a GPS driver. You can also look at their website at www.franklumberco.com to find out more about this local mill.

In order to share conversations and reduce travel costs; this tour will have an informal carpool arrangement for those folks in Polk county or Salem that want to take advantage of it. We have looked at travel times, so let’s set carpools times of 8 am Willamina/Wallace Bridge parknride; 8:20 Rickreall parknride (fairgrounds) 8:45 Salem at Kmart parking lot at 25th and Mission St, behind Dairy Queen and Jack in Box. These are the times when the carpools leave, which should put us there at around 9:15 or so. The way this works is that we show up before these times, get into the least number of cars and leave at the time specified. No waiting, no questions. But, if you have questions, please call mark at 503 876 4488 or 503 876 2197 at least a day in advance.

Then on Friday 8th, at 9:30 am we will tour the Weyerhaueser Santiam lumber mill near Lebanon.

This plant is a small log mill that only produces 2x4’s and 2x6’s, from what we could gather from the Weyerhauese website. The address is 30440 FAIRVIEW ROAD LEBANON OR, 97355-9000 which is off hwy 20, just upstream from Lebanon. Again, looking at travel times, lets set carpools at 7:50 am Willamina, 8:10 Rickreall parknride (fairgrounds) 8:35 Salem at Kmart parking lot, behind Dairy Queen. Jack in Box,, which should put us there at around 9:15 or so.

For both of these tours, the mill has asked that we bring Hard Hats, real shoes or boots, Hi-visibility vests and ear and eye protection if we have them. Many of our members have their own safety gear and some have some spares. Let’s bring them to these tours, though the mill management will probably have enough for those that don’t have their own.

These mill tours are a great way to get a sense of how the mills all have different products, different specs on incoming timber as well as a different management philosophy. Perhaps all or just some of these factors will influence where we end up sending our logs when we do a harvest.

After the mill tours, we will start putting together some new events that have to do with the management of our lands and the options we might have coming to us as the world keeps changing. We are looking into some companies that have innovative ideas on “Pooled resource management”, as well as cross-laminated timbers research that OSU is doing, and the labs and testing equipments they are adding to the college of forestry programs. – In your next issue-