Greetings OSWA members, families and friends    Winter 17-18, Nov, Dec and January ‘18

It has been a gorgeous week coming to the end of October and the last of the Summer-Fall quarter.

By the time you get to read this it will be first of November and most likely changed, and it will be mushroom season! When we got our group of directors together this last week and brainstormed for new events and things to do with our group, we ticked off the various topics and places and tours we might do and many of them had been done 2 years ago, or 5. We get to do a lot of fun stuff. It was perhaps 5 years ago that we did a mushroom tour in November, with the little beauties popping up obligingly like they do every year after about 10 inches of rain. With the upcoming quarter’s events, at least one is somewhere we’ve been before, but there is always something new to see and talk about. It came up at our meeting how these events are really for a special and fairly small group of our regular, involved members. This is not enough! There are some 60,000 small woodland owners in Oregon with only about 1500 OSWA members. In our little Marion-Polk chapter we have only 98 actual primary chapter members taking advantage of all that OSWA has to offer. Talk to your neighbors (always a good idea anyway) and bring them to our next event!

For our first tour we will visit a place we saw some 15 years ago, near McMinnville; Oregon Barrel Works!

On the 28th of November at 9 AM bring your own safety glasses, we will meet at Rick Deferrari’s Oregon Barrel Works, 2780 SE Joseph Rd, McMinnville OR 97128 which is much closer to Lafayette. We visited this facility many years ago and saw a most amazing sawmilling system for producing barrel stave blanks out of Oregon White Oak. Please visit their website in advance at www.oregonbarrelworks.com to get a feel for the place and why you ought to come!

With your neighbors!

We thought there should be an event gap between Thanksgiving and New Years, so here it is.

On the 24th of January at 2 PM we will have our second tour, of Freres Lumber Mass Plywood Panel facility! If you haven’t heard of all the hubbub around new, large, wooden buildings; then you haven’t been reading or listening to the news or OSWA publications. Similar in scope to the Cross Laminated Timbers which are huge beams and panels made of cross-laminated 2 by 4 lumber, Freres Mass Plywood Panels are just that HUGE plywood of up to 40 feet long, 12 feet wide and 2 feet thick. I might be off by a few inches, but holy smokes! All made of veneer like we saw during our tour of their veneer plant a few years ago. They also have a co-generation plant we toured and now this! The Freres lumber folks are about as nice as can be, very welcoming in these tour arrangements and also buyers for our logs! Come. Bring your neighbors!
Please visit the website for Freres, to see their three operations locations and to get an introduction for what we will see at www.frereslumber.com On the far right map you’ll see the location of this newest facility, scheduled to begin operations in December, at 40519 South Cedar Mill Rd, Lyons OR 97358.

We always have great tours and events and it is due to our great group of directors and friends! Of course there are the OSU Forestry Extension agents who are many folk’s first contact in the forestry field; Brad Withrow-Robinson who has Polk county (along with Benton and Linn) as his territory, and Glenn Ahrens who manages the huge constituency of Clackamas county along with our Marion side.

Brad was instrumental in organizing the tour last quarter of the Bird Haven Tree Farm on October 7. This 217-acre parcel is located along the lower North Santiam River near Stayton. Our hosts, Jan Irene Miller and Jim Bayuk, have only owned this property for four years and as novices bravely jumped right into major conservation and forest management projects. Douglas fir plantations of varying age classes occupy much of the habitat. In 2015 they thinned 82 acres of Douglas fir to improve stand health and to release existing oak stands. Roughly, 60% of the stand was harvested. Jim and Jan Irene worked with multiple conservation agencies to improve the riparian habitat for fish and wildlife. Work included a culvert replacement, mechanical and chemical treatment of invasive plants and introduction of native shrubs. The sheer amount of work accomplished for the forest stand and the habitat improvement was very impressive and a great inspiration for what can be accomplished on a long neglected forest/riparian zone property.

Also, along the county line between Benton and our Polk County, Dave Hibbs and Sarah Karr hosted the Polk-Benton Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year tour at their Cedar Spring Tree Farm in Airlie on September 2. Dave and Sarah were nominated by the Benton County chapter, but their property is just over the line in Polk County – hence the joint recognition. Approximately forty people attended. Dave and Sarah were recognized as runner-up State Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year at the Oregon Tree Farm System annual meeting at the Oregon Garden in Silverton on October 21.

Then to our north, our Yamhill county OSWA friends always have some interesting presentations at their monthly meetings. All of the Yamhill events are held at the Yamhill County OSU extension office; 2050 NE Lafayette Ave, McMinnville OR 97128 The events start with a social get together at 6:30 and the meetings start at 7 pm. This quarter they will have two events, also trying to stay low during the holidays!

On Wednesday, Nov 15th (at the above address and time) Mark Gourley of Starker Forests with a presentation on Fall planting and nutrition.

On Wednesday Jan 24th 2018, Brad Withrow-Robinson will present a Woodland Management Primer, of ‘What’s Important for Small Woodland Owners to Know’.

All of these wonderful events bring me back to the great group of directors and friends I get to work with in our chapter of OSWA. All of this happens so that our group of 98 primary members can attend, learn from and enjoy. Really there are just 30 or 40 active members that we see each May for our annual meeting and some 10 or 20 at each of the field events we put on. This is a call to get one more active director on our letter head!

You’ll notice and I mentioned in our last newsletter, that there are just 8 directors at the top of this page with one gap, for you! Please consider joining us at our brainstorming sessions once every three months.

And bring your neighbor!