Greetings OSWA members, families and friends; Winter 2018-19 Nov., Dec., January

Summertime just seemed to go on and on this year, even as we write this winter newsletter in late October with no frost yet and the garden still producing. But if every other year is anything to go by; the rains will be here soon… A few years ago we had a mushroom hunting tour in November, but this year we are pretty short on rain yet as we find that it takes about 10 inches of rain to get those little babies growing.

We had some nice events last quarter, starting off with a tour of the Mt. Angel Abbey and finishing with a tour of our director Terry (and Lee) Lamers property outside Monmouth. At the Mt. Angel Abbey, we met with our director and logger John Hettwer and the Abbey staff forester for a tour of the ‘backside’ or north slope of the Abbey promontory where John had done a thinning earlier this year. The forested portion of the land is fenced for goats and it is obviously grazed down, though we didn’t see the herd. There is history there from the various plots that were planted by interested resident monks, in their time.

A large crowd (~ 40) showed up for the Lamers tour outside of Monmouth. Lee Lamers started with a nice demonstration of processor cutting. As promised Terry showed a several stands of beautiful Coastal Redwoods that have been growing at impressive rates. He plans to plant more this coming year in a recent clear cut.

Much of the discussion around the directors meeting table had to do with succession of forest ownership and how we will address this topic in an event for our members (and friends). The topic or title we settled on was “What Is The Value Of Your Forestland?” and you can imagine this will be wide ranging! It seems a great topic but with its great breadth it will take some doing to get it all arranged and we believe we can put it together in a few months and have it ready for you and your family and friends by the spring quarter. Also not in this quarter, but on our ‘interest agenda’ for upcoming quarters and topics is information and techniques for fire fuel reduction. How can we rest a little easier, perhaps doing the work this winter for a more fire safe forest next fire season? Stay tuned.

This quarter’s events start off with a tour of the Trappist Abbey on Wednesday the 14th of November at 9 am. The address is 9200 NE Abbey Rd., Carlton, OR 97111. This will be a very
interesting tour, as we visited another abbey with forestland last quarter. One difference is that the Mt. Angel Abbey forestlands were managed by the staff or residents of the Abbey while here at the Trappist Abbey the forests are managed by Trout Mountain Forestry, Scott Ferguson. The monks started their own forestry program over 20 years ago, and as the two primary forest managers were getting older they brought in Trout Mountain Forestry, and now there are no remaining crew members and Trout Mountain manages their forestlands and jobs out all the work done, including a harvest we’ll probably see, where our vice president Ryan McBride did the contract cutting as Timberwise construction services.

The Abbey is east of Carlton on Hendricks Rd., then south on Abbey Rd. Or north of Lafayette on Abbey Rd. Or west of Newberg on Hwy 240 and south on Abbey Rd. from there. As you come to the entrance you will find OSWA signs directing you to parking and the tour.

This Trappist Abbey tour is to our NW and enough out of the way that we’ll again schedule some carpool spots. For those of you east of Salem or in the Salem area, please meet in West Salem at the corner of Glenn Creek Rd. and Wallace Rd. (Hwy 221 north to McMinnville or Lafayette). Meet in the closest possible corner of this Roth’s parking lot to the intersection and be ready to leave at 8:15. Driving time is supposedly 37 minutes and this gives 45 minutes.

From the north Marion County area, this is a long and complex route, so you may want some company. Please meet in Woodburn at the very first corner of the parking lot you come to at the Woodburn Outlet mall. When all in cars, head out and west on Hwy 219 to St. Paul, then north to Newberg and either back west to Lafayette and north on Abbey Rd., or take 240 NW around to Abbey Rd. If this is not easy to follow, please consult a map to your satisfaction. Driving time is supposedly 40 minutes via OR 240, so please be met and ready to leave at 8:10.

From anywhere in west Polk County, meet at the BiMart parking lot on Hwy 99W south of Monmouth and leave by 8:05, straight north via 99W stopping in Rickreall (Polk County Fairgrounds park-n-ride) at 8:20 and north to McMinnville, taking the bypass to Lafayette and north on Abbey Rd. ---or--- meet at the Wallace Bridge park-n-ride (Willamina) and leave at 8 am!

Then giving December a skip, we’ve been working on getting a tour of a tree seed orchard for January; either the Horning Orchard in Colton or the Schroeder Seed Orchard in St. Paul. We will keep you posted (and invited) with a postcard for the New Year.

Another topic that gets talked about around our directors table each quarter is how we have many other organizations that provide information, such as OFRI, the ODF, OSU Extension and others to some degree, but no other organization provides what we do here at OSWA, which is the camaraderie of other forest landowners in much the same situations as we all are. The conversations that go on outside the regular events or presentations, often in the back of the group on a tour, or in the carpool, or on a bus going to the Valley of the Giants, are what this group is all about. Happy to have you along!

And then that topic of dues comes up and know that invoices will be in the mail this December, due in January. When you see it in the mail just bite that bullet and write the check right away. Get it over with and on our way to another great year of events, tours, educational seminars and a good time. Your $50+ goes to the statewide association for the publications and the legislative representation, with a small amount also coming back to our chapter for our newsletters as well as events and expenses.