Greetings members and friends!

Up there on the letterhead is a list of our directors, wonderful people all, who get together each quarter to decide what we can do for you, our members and friends. We’ve come up with a great list of things to talk about and do, presentations that are coming our way and some things we should be aware of. I mention these directors are wonderful folks, and we get to know a little more about each other every time we meet. For instance; John Hettwer, our steadfast director from eastern Marion county; logger and manager of over a thousand acres, also has about 15 acres of wine grapes and...won best of class and BEST OF SHOW for his Chardonnay this year at the state fair! Good on you, John!

Membership; Please remember to send in your annual dues, to remain a member of our great association and to keep our numbers growing. What could be more top-of-the-list but that? Our chapter is growing, slowly, and there are hundreds more landowners like we are, that would benefit like we do from this membership. Talk to them, bring them to a meeting or tour, and on the way drop your dues envelope in the mail. The OSWA membership year runs from January through December.

Hardwood Tours we recently had:

Last quarter we sponsored two tours of hardwood facilities. In December, we visited Northwest Hardwoods in Eugene. Tim Tracy, small woodland specialist and a manager, gave us an overview of their operations and then walked us through several of the mill, drying and storage buildings. Their operations occupy about 20 acres with a group of happy and involved employees. They accept private loads of logs and specialize in alder and maple lumber. They are looking for quality maple and alder logs with one important fact that the upper diameter for hardwood logs is smaller than for Douglas-fir and many loggers are not always aware of this. One innovative feature at the mill was an optical scanner used for sorting the lumber after it is graded. Tim Tracy is happy to visit with woodland owners who think they may have merchantable alder and maple. Northwest Hardwoods has a very nice web page with photographs lumber made of many different species of hardwoods.

In January, we visited the Wood Castle just outside of Corvallis on Highway 34. Ron Loe, President of the Company described the history of his family owned-company and the desire to produce solid wood furniture from locally grown hardwoods. They occupy about 20 acres with seven buildings including one mill, and several assembly, packaging and storage facilities. They use precision engineering to produce parts that fit together easily and are interchangeable and have developed a formaldehyde-free finish. They sell high end furniture locally and in Seattle and Chicago. Thirty percent of their sales are contracts with hospitality hotels and resorts. Wood Castle is the primary customer for Northwest Hardwoods maple lumber. They also use cherry, walnut, oak and ash. There is a particular need for more ash. So if you have older ash on your property, this is a potential market for those logs.

Then, on Tuesday, Feb 14 at 3-4:30pm, State ODF office, 2600 State St., Salem
A great presentation to come to (with your neighbors) is the Oregon Department of Forestry, District Foresters Presentation This presentation is a neat way to know, factually, what all there is to doing harvests on your land, to keep within the law. We will have the district foresters from the Dallas office Jennifer Erdmann and Jeff Classen (who are ‘our’ foresters) giving the presentation and getting to know us, and us them. There are loads of assistance from the District Foresters too! Come and get the forms explained, the rules laid out and lists of resources obtained. Your next harvest can be a very good experience, and we can all use some of those. Getting to know who your foresters are, what they need to know from you and what you can get to know from them. ‘Tillamook’ meeting room, 2600 State St. (In the glass-front building) This is really for everyone!

Starker Lecture Series; The Starker Lecture Series is continuing in Corvallis, with the next presentation Wednesday, Feb 15. 3:30-5:00 pm at the La Sells Stewart Center at OSU There are three presentations and one final field tour in all. Additional info: The Starker Lecture Series at OSU focuses on issues and opportunities in the active management of forest resources. This year’s theme is “Recreation in the Forests: Finding a Healthy Balance.” Lectures are monthly in the winter with the next presentation on Feb 15, . See http://starkerlectures.forestry.oregonstate.edu/ for details.

The Oregon Logging Conference: At the Eugene, Lane County Fairgrounds, Thu, Fri and Sat Feb 23, 24 and 25 is something you will not want to miss. Especially if you like to see HUGE EQUIPMENT! The first two days are ‘industry days’, where all sorts of topics are presented for those in the industry, while the third day is open to the public. The public day is for everyone, so there are lots of families and kids, which is great, but you might want to come on the 24th, with a less noise and better attention from the exhibitors. Attendance to just the show is free.

Tree School: Saturday March 25th Clackamas Community College is the location of the best and biggest forestry education event in the country. No kidding, rated by the Amalgamated Event Rating Agency as #1 educational event the last 6 years in a row, it is something you shouldn’t miss. The OSU forestry Extension office of Clackamas Co, along with 39 highly paid instructors bring you the best in interesting classes every year. The catalogs just came out and sign ups are available online for the first time, but as with every year, you’ve got to do it right away as the classes fill quickly. Look up Oregon State University Forestry Extension, Tree School, on the web

Logger Forum: Tuesday April 18th, 7to 9pm Independence Library conference room. 175 Monmouth St This is an event that will clear up lots of things about logging, loggers, logging jobs and everything that goes into it. Together, private non-industrial forest landowners have lots of land and provide a ready source for logs to the industry, but we have small tracts or smaller jobs planned and these smaller jobs are difficult for loggers to do, for lots of reasons. 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!!!

Other items to keep in mind
Our Annual Meeting: Will be next quarter, so watch the next newsletter for full details. Saturday May 20th at the Scottish Rite Temple in South Salem, from noon to 2pm. Doors open at 11: 30 for some time to chat and stuff the raffle box with fake tickets.
Oregon Season Tracker Training, An on-line training with a 2 hour evening classroom session following. Wednesday, March 22, 6-8 pm, Stayton Community Center. Partner North Santiam Watershed Council. Email Jody Einerson (jody.einerson@oregonstate.edu) or call Extension Office 541 766-6750. Also, check http://extension.oregonstate.edu/benton/forestry/events for details of OSU extension events. Woodland Mentored Management Planning Series Thursdays April 6, 13, 20 and 27, 6:00-8:30 pm Polk County Ext Office. Email Jody Einerson (jody.einerson@oregonstate.edu) or call Extension Office 541 766-6750.

Just in! From the Capital Press Classifieds; Free timber thinning for trees 3” and up! Call Wayne at Bambi’s Christmas Tree Land 503 873 6774, or 503 551 5809 I talked to him and he is straight up!