The Oregon Tree Farm System has announced the Oakes family as Oregon’s 2018 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year. Their efforts were honored Saturday during an awards luncheon at the Oregon Garden in Silverton.

The Oakes own several parcels of forest land, approximately 800 acres, west of Monroe and near Alsea in Benton County, and in northern Lane County. The homestead parcel, west of Monroe, was purchased in 1883 by Don Oakes’ great-grandfather. Their forests are currently being cared for by four generations.

Goals for their forests include producing income from timber harvest, providing wildlife habitat, maintaining a family gathering spot, and sharing what they have learned with other woodland owners, local organizations and the general public.

Don and Donna Oakes passed the ownership on to their six children in 1999, forming the Oakes Investment LLC. Their daughter, Marsha Carr, who passed away this summer, took on the leadership role after her retirement.

“Marsha worked with Dad to learn about forestry and eventually took the Master Woodland Manager course from the OSU Extension Service,” said brother Darrell Oakes. “She did plot studies, marked trees for thinning and recovery after storm damage, and recently laid out a major road project.”

Marsha was an active member of the Benton County Small Woodlands Association, and helped her father manage the LLC properties.

Their forests are certified by the American Tree Farm System, meeting their standards of sustainability. Their management goals and action plan are defined in their management plan, which was first handwritten by Don years ago. Marsha took on the current version this past year.

Darrell stated, “The plan is an educational tool for the next generation. They can look at what we were thinking to guide them in managing the property”.

"For 52 years, the Oregon Tree Farm System has recognized family forest landowners who provide forest benefits and products using sound forestry management principles."

The Oregon Tree Farm System also recognized five other family forest landowners for their exceptional, sustainable forestry management. The other honorees were:

Debi Poppe and Tim Dahl
(Clackamas County)

Poppe and Dahl purchased 15 acres of neglected forestland near Redland in 1986. Over the years they cleared brush, converted rot-diseased areas, planted trees, and thinned to create what is today a healthy, sustainably managed forest.

Hull Timber Ranch LLC
(Lane County)

Linda Hull and her late husband, Paul, purchased their 120-acre property near Cottage Grove in 1976. The property has been passed down through the Hull family since John and Amanda Hull got it as a Donation Land Claim in 1891. Linda and her children manage the forests for timber and wildlife habitat.

Weld Family
(Linn County)

The Weld Family Tree Farm Sherman and Leslie Weld own a 140-acre property near Sweet Home. Sherman’s dad purchased the property in 1968 to raise cattle. It was passed down to Sherman and his three brothers. Over time, Sherman bought his brothers’ shares. The Welds determined that growing trees was a better and higher use for the land. With help from local tree farmers, they have converted the land to a healthy, sustainable forest with timber and wildlife habitat as key objectives.

Tom and Cindy Beechinor Family
(Umatilla County)

The Beechinors own several forested properties in the Milton-Freewater area of northeast Oregon. Tom’s great-great-grandfather came to the Walla Walla River Valley in 1863. Their main
objective in managing their property is to maintain and enhance a vigorous forest to pass on to their children. They have planted over 15,000 tree seedlings over the years, and thinned trees to improve tree health and reduce the risk of fire.

Rich and Connie Gaebel
(Washington County)
The Gaebels bought 40 acres near North Plains on the East Fork of Dairy Creek approximately 40 years ago. The property had been logged in the 1950s, not replanted and was mostly brush when they purchased it. Since then, they have cleared the brush, planted trees, constructed a road system, and are now commercially thinning the forest stands they planted.

For 52 years, the Oregon Tree Farm System has recognized family forest landowners who provide forest benefits and products using sound forestry management principles.

The American Tree Farm System and its state chapters operate an internationally recognized forest certification program overseen by and for family forest landowners to promote sustainable forest management through education, recognition, and assistance.

OTFS and the Oregon Department of Forestry share the goal of family forest landowners voluntarily improving the health of their forests. Both provide assistance in the development of forest management plans using a jointly developed plan template.

For more information on the Oregon Tree Farm System, visit www.otfs.org.

Due to space constraints in this issue of the Quarterly Bark, articles and pictures of county TFOY selections, the Weld family tree farm tour article, an interesting set of notes from the Society of American Forester convention, an article on the Linn County Scholar program awardees, and a book review on ‘forest-bathing’ will be in the April, 2019 issue. Keep those contributions coming!

Peterman to lead Linn Board
by Larry Mauter

A new year brings new officers and committee assignments for the Linn County Small Woodlands Association directors.

Lee Peterman of Scio is the group’s new president, taking over for outgoing president Bill Bowling. Tim Otis of Brownsville is the new vice president — charged with setting up OSWA-related activities.

Directors voted on new positions at their Dec. 7 meeting.

Joining the board of directors in 2019 is Sherman Weld of Sweet Home. He and wife Leslie were the Linn County tree farmers of the year in 2018.

(continued p. 16)
Order Seedlings Now

As a result of good log prices in recent years, harvests have been robust. This has resulted in high demand for reforestation seedlings.
Order seedlings now!

OSU Extension Online Calendars

**Benton, Linn, and Polk Counties events:**
http://extension.oregonstate.edu/benton/forestry/events
Sign up for the Compass and Needle mailing list to receive an email notice when an event is scheduled.

Contact Jody Einerson:
jody.einerson@oregonstate.edu
541-766-6750

**Lane County events:**
http://extension.oregonstate.edu/lane/upcoming-classes-events
Contact Lauren Grand:
lauren.grand@oregonstate.edu
541-579-2150

Upcoming Events

**Carbon--Better in the Woods or the Wood Product?:** Friday, January 11, Benton Co. Library, Corvallis, 6:30 pm-8:30 pm. See info p. 13.

**Lane County chapter annual meeting:** Thursday, January 17, Eugene Elks, West 11th St, Eugene, 5:30 pm-9:30 pm. See info p. 6.

**Linn County Small Woodlands Association annual membership meeting:** Saturday, January 19, beginning at 6 pm., ZCBJ Hall, Main Street, Scio. Potluck dinner followed by business meeting and other activities. Families bring a main dish along with salad or desert. Bring your own table service. Drinks provided.

**Benton County Small Woodlands Association annual meeting:** Saturday, January 26, Beazell Memorial Forest Education Center, 11:30 am-3 pm. See info p. 13.

**Lane County Small Woodlands Association seedling sale:** Saturday, February 2, Alton Baker Park, Eugene, 8 am until sold out. See info p. 5.

**Linn County Small Woodlands Association annual seedling sale and Goods from the Woods event:** Saturday, February 2, Linn County Fair and Expo Center in Albany. See info pp. 8-10.

**Linn County Woodlands Information Night:** Wednesday March 6, Details to be announced. See the OSU Extension Service website for more information.

**Linn County SWA quarterly board of directors meeting:** Thursday, March 7, Marshall residence, Sublimity, starts 7 pm.

**Oregon Small Woodlands Association Annual Meeting:** Thursday-Saturday, June 20-22, Corvallis Courtyard Marriott, Benton County Fairgrounds, and Carr-Oakes tree farm. See info p. 14.
Winter 2018

Special thanks go out to Laura Grand, Lane County's OSU extension forester. She currently is holding a Master Woodlands Manager course for Lane County tree farmers. Lane County has not had such training for a number of years and Lauren has done an outstanding job putting together and pulling off the course, which finished in December. Well attended, the course has provided attendees information and examples of managing forest lands within Oregon. Topics have ranged from forest pests and diseases, forest silviculture, managing habitat for wildlife, protection of water quality and riparian zones, and forest land owner's tax responsibilities and procedures. The course has been well-attended and enjoyed by all. Several LCSWA members have attended to help with the class and add to their own knowledge. Once again a special thanks to Lauren Grand and Oregon State Extension.

Lane County Information:

Fall and winter brings an end to our region's fire season, which allows all to breathe a little easier and be thankful we are now experiencing rain and an official closure to the fire season. We are also experiencing the decline of local log markets with Douglas-fir prices dropping from the highs of $900/mbf, we saw back this spring, to the $600/mbf range. The vacant seats on the Board of Forestry have been filled by the Governor. The appointments fill all recently vacated board seats and put the board back to seven directors. The new board will now be addressing many issues that may affect us as small woodland owners. Should you be interested, stay tuned in to the board’s actions and follow them on the Oregon Department of Forestry web page.

LCSWA recognizes Linda Hull and her family as Lane County tree farmer of the year for 2018. The 120-acre tree farm originally was part of the 1891 historic Hull Donation Land Claim, which Paul Hull acquired from the family in 1976. Since that time, Linda and her family have managed the lands for timber and wildlife habitat and created a special retreat for the family.

Should you be interested in being a Lane County Tree Farmer of the Year, or wish to nominate someone, please let any of LCSWA board members know of your interest. Also, don’t hesitate to bring it up at the upcoming annual meeting. Let us know.

Upcoming Events: 2019 is upon us, and with that, Lane County Small Woodlands Association will be holding its annual meeting in January. The meeting will update you on LCWSA’s standing, elect directors, conduct business, update you on OSWA, provide presentations on ODF Fire suppression costs and regional forest markets and the many challenges our forests face. It will also be a great time to come together and visit with friends and fellow forest land owners. Mark your calendar:

January 17 2019 Thursday 5:30 pm – 9:30 pm, Eugene Elks, West 11 Street, Eugene

With the New Year, we also have LCSWA’s seedling sale, which takes place February 2, 2019 Saturday at Alton Baker Park from 8:00 am until sold out. Please join us if you have a need or interest. The project helps fund LCWSA.

With the year coming to an end, our OSWA membership fees are due. Please take a moment to renew and pay fees by January, 2019. OSWA is a great value for all we receive.

Lane County Chapter
Board of Directors

Gary Jensen, President
treegary@aol.com
Dick Beers, Vice President
rbeers2606@comcast.net
Mike Atkinson, Treasurer
1964coyote1963@gmail.com
Tom Bauman insayga@peak.org
Wylda Cafferata cafferat@msn.com
Jim Christian
christmastreeland@yahoo.com
Rick Olson rolson2@attglobal.net
Alan Peterson 541-746-3929
Chuck Volz chuckvolz267@gmail.com

NOW BUYING
Douglas-fir, Hem-Fir Logs, Timber & Timberland, as well as Oregon Forest Biomass

CONTACT
Logs/Land/Timber: Greg Willie gwillie@senecasawmill.com
Office 541-461-6259 Cell 541-915-0631
Biomass: Kevin Tuers ktuers@senecasawmill.com
Office 541-461-6242 Cell 541-913-2143
Post Office Box 851, Eugene, Oregon. 97440
Lane County Extension Forester: Lauren Grand – Lauren can be reached through the Eugene Office for Extension Service.
996 Jefferson St                        Phone: 541 579-2150
Eugene, OR 97402       email: lauren.grand@oregonstate.edu

Next quarterly Board Meeting: To be determined
Take care and enjoy your forest. We look forward to seeing you at LCSWA's upcoming events.

Gary Jensen, LCSWA Chair ♦

Join us for LSWA’s Annual Seedling Sale
Alton Baker Park Saturday, 2 February 2019

Species Available -
Douglas-fir
Western Red Cedar
Redwood
Noble Fir – Grand fir
Ponderosa Pine
Blue Spruce
Mixed Hardwoods

LSWA is expecting to have around 5000 seedlings available. Pricing will be from $1.00 - $5.00 per seedling.

Alton Baker Park
501 Day Island Rd.
Eugene, OR 97401

Date: Saturday, 2 February 2019
Time: 08:00 am – until sold out
Location: Alton Baker Park
501 Day Island Road
Eugene, OR 97401

LSWA Contacts: Mike & Connie Atkinson  Phone – (541) 344-4991
e-mail: 1964coyote1963@gmail.com

This event is a fund raiser for the Lane County Small Woodlands Association
Lane County Small Woodlands Association’s Annual Meeting
Thursday 17 January 2019
Join us for an evening of fun and information
Eugene Elks Club, West 11th Avenue

This is an opportunity for a pleasant evening dining out, visiting with Neighbors and getting updated on LCSWA’s current and future activities

LCSWA’s guest speakers will be Steve Cafferata. Steve will provide us information on Oregon’s funding for Fire Suppression and Prevention. OSWA will update us on status and current activities. Gordon Culbertson will provide us insight into current log markets and what to expect this coming year. Alex Rahmlow of ODF will update us on the Fire wise program and how to prepare for wild fire. Our meeting closes with LCSWA annual raffle of donated items.

LCSWA will have four board seats up for election and should you have any interest in serving on the board, put your name up for nomination during the meeting.

LCSWA would also like to remind all that we will be having the chapter’s annual seedling sale Saturday February 2, 2019 at Eugene’s Alton Baker Park. It will begin at 8am and continue until sold out. Plan on dropping by to support this annual fundraising event.

Eugene Elks Club
2470 West 11th
Eugene, OR 97402

Date: Thursday, 17 January 2019
Times: 5:30 pm- Social
6:30 pm- Dinner
7:00 pm - Meeting
8:30 pm – Adjourn

Dinner will be $ 15 per person
Please RSVP to Dick by January 15th: 541-687-1854 or e-mail rbeers2606@comcast.net
Cell – 541 729-2516
Other Questions: Mike Atkinson 541-344-4991 or e-mail 1964coyote1963@gmail.com

This is a great opportunity to invite neighbors and friends to experience the benefits of being a LCSWA member. Please feel comfortable bringing a guest, especially anyone who might be interested in becoming a future member.

Your Board looks forward to receiving your feedback on activities, both past and future. See You There!

January 2019
Some Thanks and Accomplishments at Term’s End

by Bill Bowling

It has been an honor to be your representative at OSWA board meetings and presiding at Linn County Small Woodlands Association quarterly board meetings. I have enjoyed the past two years as president and will be helping your new president, Lee Peterman, get acquainted with his new duties.

We have accomplished a lot in the past two years with the leadership of your board members. Bonnie Marshall and husband Lance have done an amazing job organizing and overseeing the annual seedling sale. Jim Merzenich has taken the chairmanship of the membership committee — a huge task and vital to our chapter’s future. Due to the efforts of that committee our chapter has added new and retained existing members.

The Robert Mealey endowment committee is working with the city of Sweet Home to name a park in his honor. The area east of the new city hall would be planted with native Oregon plants and — of course — Willamette Valley ponderosa pine.

The board reviewed our investment position in the Mealey fund this year and determined that diversifying our position in the market was prudent.

We also have developed a Linn County website as another method to keep all our members informed about what the board is doing. The site includes educational presentations, events and stories from the tree farm. Lee Peterman has organized a group of members to take over the OSWA products sales adding revenue to our general fund.

A thank you to Larry Mauter who stepped in and took on the secretarial duties during Jonathan Christie’s absence. A final thank you to all the members who have contributed time and energy to making our chapter great.

I would like also to thank all the board members and the members for the support during the past two years and wish that your forests flourish into the future. ◆

Woodlands Workshop Night

by Lee Peterman

The Linn Chapter of OSWA hosted a Woodlands Workshop Night Oct. 11 at the OSU Extension office in Tangent. Attendance was good, with nearly 20 individuals representing members from both Linn and Benton chapters of OSWA. There were four guest speakers and a wide variety of topics covered.

Heather Tritt is from the USDA / Farm Service Agency. She is also the executive director for Linn County FSA. Tritt gave a brief, but information-packed presentation on the FSA “Disaster Assistance” programs available to small woodlands owners, such as after the ice storms of 2015 - 2016. Her focus was simple: if your property or trees were affected by a natural disaster, such as an ice storm, contact your local FSA office to begin a claim.

Ray Dodd, brought his specialist knowledge on bats with ODFW. Ray had a great slide-show with numerous photos of the local Oregon bats. He detailed how ODFW is learning about bat population density of species by using acoustic monitoring stations set up at various points around the state. These amazing creatures are the only flying mammal; they use echo-location to find prey. They are opportunistic hunters, yet a single bat can literally eat thousands of mosquitos every night, he noted. There was some sad news which he imparted regarding deaths from wind-turbines located in migration routes and a virulent disease accidentally imported from Europe called “White-nose syndrome.” The disease — while not yet in Oregon, has devastated eastern bat populations. It is coming this way, he said, and there is not much we can do about it except to provide good habitat so the bats stand a better chance of survival. (continued p. 9)
GOT WOOD......

Boards, Burls, Bowls, or Other Woodland Products?

If you are a local woodland owner, craftsperson or business producing & selling materials or products from our local woodlands and forests...

Bring your “Goods from the Woods” to exhibit at

2019 Local Wood Products Fair & Sale
Saturday, February 2, 2019 8am - Noon
Linn County Expo Center, Albany
In conjunction with the Linn Small Woodlands Association Seedling Sale

For this event to continue we need a robust group of exhibitors. You can help by encouraging other prospective exhibitors to participate, as well as inviting your family, friends, and clients to attend.

For more information:
Mary Brendle Linn SWA 541-367-2845, or
Jody Einerson OSU Extension Service 541-766-6311
ejody.einerson@oregonstate.edu

OSU Extension Service prohibits discrimination in all its programs, services, activities, and materials.
Sonia Bruck, OSU doctoral candidate from the School of Forestry, spoke about agroforestry, and how some basic principles can be utilized to expand productivity as well as possible income in private woodlands in the Willamette Valley. Some of the points she made were on row-cropping; as in rows of hazel nuts or corn or strawberries between rows of just-planted seedling trees, to diversify land use. Another option, she said, is “silva-pasturing” which is simply letting cattle or other livestock graze the spaces under more mature trees, thereby keeping down “ladder-fuels.” She also gave a detailed account of some of her research on tree farms in North Carolina and eastern Oregon, comparing how some plans made money for the land owners, and some did not do quite as well, but did further knowledge in the field and generated greater interest in the concepts.

Sweet Home ODF stewardship forester Steve Kendall was timely after this past, scorching hot summer: “Fire Prevention and Resistance for Small Woodland Owners.” Kendall had two, great information-packed handouts; the first was a list of points small woodland owners should know regarding fire-season, as well as types of ignition for wild fires, both controllable sources—unattended or careless slash burning or target-shooting—as well as uncontrollable sources like thoughtless neighbors or lightning. The second handout contained the following valuable contact information:

Linn County Burn Line
(541) 451-1904—necessary to use “before you burn”

ODF-Sweet Home Unit
(541) 367-6108—to obtain information on fire conditions and safety tips for preventing wildfires in your woodland.

Linn Co. Seedling Sale coming Feb. 2 by Bonnie Marshall

Tree planting season will soon be upon us. To help you out, the Linn County Small Woodlands Association will be hosting its annual seedling sale, Saturday, February 2, 2019 at the Linn County Fair and Expo Center, 3700 Knox Butte Road, just east of I-5, in Albany. The event will take place from 8 am until noon in the Santiam Building. Last year’s event was staffed by more than 65 volunteers and 4-H forestry students and sold more than 7000 seedlings.

A great investment in our forestry future, this annual event funds four $1000 scholarships to Linn County students seeking a degree in forestry or natural resources and helps support educational youth programs including the 4-H forestry program in Linn county. (continued p. 10)
Native trees and shrubs will be offered, as well as a few non-native plants that grow well in our area. For the best plant selection, we encourage you to use the order form included with this article to pre-order and pay for your seedlings. Your pre-order package will then be available for pick-up on sale day between 8 am and 11 am.

In addition to seedlings, there will be seedling protector tubes available for purchase the day of the sale. Payment for same day purchases may be made with cash or check.

The “Local Wood Products Fair & Sale” is held in conjunction with the seedling sale and features unique items for sale that highlight types of wood and products from our local woodlands. Organizations will also be present, including OSU Extension, to share information and resources about forest related topics. For more information or registration as an exhibitor, please contact Mary Brendle (541 367-2845) with Linn County Small Woodlands Association or Jody Einerson (541 766-6311) with Benton County OSU Extension.

Information about the Linn County Small Woodlands Association can be found at our website: linncountyswa.com. For additional information about the seedling sale click on the LCSWA Activities tab and look for “upcoming activities”. For specific seedling sale questions, please contact Bonnie Marshall at 503 769-6510 or bonniem@wvi.com.

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### Linn County Small Woodlands Association

**2019 Seedling Sale - Order Form**

*Saturday, February 2, 2019*

8:00 AM - 12:00 Noon (unless sold out earlier)

Linn County Fairgrounds, Santiam Building

3700 Knox Butte Road, Albany, OR

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Seedling Size</th>
<th>Price Each</th>
<th>Number Wanted</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<td>plug</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>=</td>
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<tr>
<td>Douglas-fir*</td>
<td>(2-0)12-24&quot;</td>
<td>$1.50</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>=</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giant Sequoia*</td>
<td>(1-0) 6’+</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
<td>x</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Fir*</td>
<td>(2-0)10-30”</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>=</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incense-Cedar*</td>
<td>(plug) 6’+</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>=</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noble Fir*</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
<td>x</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nordmann Fir</td>
<td>(3-0)6-10”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Valley Ponderosa Pine*</td>
<td>(plug) 6’+</td>
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<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western Redcedar*</td>
<td>(2-0) 15”+</td>
<td>$1.50</td>
<td>x</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Elderberry*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cascara*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Douglas Spirea*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kousa Dogwood</td>
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<td>$3.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mock Orange*</td>
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<td>Nootka Rose*</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Northern Bayberry</td>
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<td>$3.50</td>
<td>x</td>
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<td>Oregon Ash*</td>
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<td>=</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pacific Ninebark*</td>
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<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quaking Aspen*</td>
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<td>$2.50</td>
<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red Alder*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red-flowering Currant*</td>
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<td>x</td>
<td>=</td>
</tr>
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<td>Snowberry*</td>
<td>18-24”</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>=</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sword Fern*</td>
<td>(bagged)</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>=</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tall Oregon Grape*</td>
<td>(1-0) 12’+</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>=</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thimbleberry*</td>
<td>12-18’</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>=</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trident Maple</td>
<td>med. plug</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>=</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vine Maple*</td>
<td>4-6”</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>=</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GRAND TOTAL**

*TBD – To Be Determined per nursery*

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*Oregon native seedlings*
Summer is gone, and days are short and colder, but it’s a good time to get back into our forest and do the work that we were not able to do in the summer because of fire danger. The end of June was the last time we actively had worked the power tools and tackled road mowing in the forest, and by then, some fires had been reported. Deciding to leave all that alone until rain would make it safe, forced us to do the work later this year.

The final battle this fall was to concentrate on getting the berries under control. Like last year, we had a hard time getting rid of the berries that were suppressing growth of the 2-year-old Douglas-fir. They had not been properly taken care of since we planted them because my shoulder and knee surgery made it hard to climb the hillside that year. We had planted the trees 3 months after the harvest in February 2015, and I had hoped that spraying would not be needed as the trees had a head start.

No such luck! In the right conditions, the undergrowth had taken over; so we hand sprayed about 12 acres in the fall of 2017. In the spring of 2018, we went back and again sprayed the trees that had grown 2-3 ft. that year. We can now see a forest growing with good spacing. This September we came back to spot spray them again, and at the time of this writing, I can say that we won the battle. Now we have a healthy tree stand.

What has our chapter done this year to earn its place in our timber community?

The Tree Sale has always helped the home owners in the community with planting trees in their yards. The chapter also supplied several small tree farm owners who can’t obtain small orders of trees with the trees they needed. All of my trees have come from the OSWA Annual Tree Sales over the past 12 years, a number that easily exceeds the 10,000 mark.

The Annual Meeting, held at the Eagle Roost Tree Farm in Waldport this year, was well-attended and provided the opportunity to get reacquainted with our local growers. The speakers, arranged by Joe Steere, brought some needed information to the table. The food was great--Jan Steenkolk and her granddaughters were key players in seeing to it that we got enough to eat, along with with my son Marc doing a nice job on the BBQ. The weather was great, allowing us to mingle outside. We finished the event with a raffle that brought a lot of laughter and money flowing freely from our pockets, all of which paid for the prizes and event expenses. So we thank you all, the dinner was a big success for the chapter.

For 7 years in a row we sponsored a Tree Farmer event, the cost of which was paid for by a state OSWA grant, making it attractive to attend and enjoy the fellowship with our neighbors in the county. The grant allowed us to offer these events without charge. It was then organized by your board members working hard to make it possible.

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The Valley of Giants tour was the only summer activity we had this year. The tour was organized by Joe Steer, Tim Miller, Joe Steenkolk, and Pami Monnette, our new OSU Extension Service advisor. Just to make sure that there was no issue with any fires, they arranged for a downpour that day, for some water over the waterfalls, and for getting rid of all the dust on the trail. We all had a great time; most of us had only heard of this place, but had never seen it.

The joint board meeting with our chapter and the Farm Bureau chapter was held November 4 at the Elks Lodge in Newport. Board members of both chapters worked on the organization of this event. The first joint meeting was a great success. Mike Barsotti, incoming president of OSWA, spoke about forest stewardship. Keynote speaker Mary Ann Cooper, PFB Public Policy Counsel, spoke about issues facing rural landowners—TDMLs and water rights, conflicts between farmers environmentalists, rural vs. urban, multiplying legislative issues that we must deal with soon, becoming better organized to aggressively oppose those who claim to be "experts" without scientific proof.

The Board meeting on December 4 was held to plan for the coming year of 2019. The Board’s major objective is to fill the position of the Vice President, who will serve as the incoming president in 2020. It was suggested that all board members be provided a membership list so that all of us can become part of making sure our chapter continues to speak out on behalf of the local tree farmers, to protect the interest of our land and ownership of our trees.

The Seedling Sale will be held February 23, 2019. This is the biggest opportunity for the chapter to make the budget for the next year with which we can provide the funds for various activities.

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for March 30, 2019. It will be hosted again at your current president’s Eagle Roost Tree Farm in Waldport. The format of the meeting will be the same as last year, with the chapter taking care of the bill for the event. We look forward to you all putting that date on your calendars.

Tree Farmer of the Year Event in 2019 is decided by the board; therefore, we are looking for nominations from our members for an outstanding neighbor or friend, or if you would like to host such an event on your property, let me know.

We trust that 2019 will be a calmer year than 2018, but considering the continued growth of the urban community, that may be unlikely. Your continued membership is key to our survival. All of those who leave us to do that job without their support, may someday regret that they did not commit to be part of our voice in Salem.

Nominations for the board are not complete. We are missing a key person for Vice President.

Wishing you all a good 2019!
President's Message
by Karen Fleck Harding

It's that time of year again. As I opened my mail after the Thanksgiving weekend, I found a letter from the president of Oregon Small Woodlands Association, with my member renewal form for 2019. It made me think about the upcoming Benton County Chapter events planned for 2019. You won't want to miss this year's activities, so I hope you renew your membership!

Here's a glimpse of what's to come in 2019. Be sure to check out our webpage on the OSWA website throughout the year for a calendar of events and stories about what we've learned and the fun we've had! www.oswa.org/blog/benton/

"You won't want to miss this year's activities...."

Our 2018 Tree Farmers of the Year - the Carr-Oakes family was selected as the Oregon Tree Farmers of the Year!

So...we'll be hosting the Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year Tour and the Oregon Small Woodlands Association annual meeting right here in Benton County, with tours, speakers, food and fun! You won't want to miss this one!

Membership renewals are due January 1, so don't delay.

Many wishes for a great holiday for you and your family, from the board members of Benton Small Woodlands Association. ♦

Upcoming Events
by David Ehlers

Friday January 11 Winter Lecture Corvallis/Benton Co Library
Time: 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
“Carbon - Better in the Woods or the Wood Product?”
Maureen Puettmann: WoodLife Environmental Consultants; Consortium for Research on Renewable Industrial Materials, Director of Operations
Elaine Oneil: Executive Director of the Washington Farm Forestry Association; CORRIM, Director of Science & Sustainability

Join Elaine & Maureen, both small woodlands owners, as they discuss the science, policy, and practice of Forest Carbon in Oregon. Learn to view your woodlands through the lens of Life Cycle Assessment, which measures the environmental impacts of production, use, and disposal of forest products. Explore management options to optimize Carbon Sequestration on your property.

Educate yourself, so you can educate others. It's Good in the Woods.

Saturday January 26 Benton County Chapter Annual Meeting Beazell Memorial Forest Education Center 11:30 am - 3:00 pm
Lunch 12:00
Guest Speaker: Peter Hayes Washington County Chapter/OSWA
“Wood We Need From the Forests of Home”
Peter will join us to share the story and opportunities of the Build Local Alliance.

Since 2005, this non-profit has served as a community catalyst helping forest owners, millers, distributors, designers, makers, and users to work in partnerships that connect good, local wood with inspiring, local projects. In addition to supporting the Build Local Alliance, Peter and his family own and care for Hyla Woods' experimental forests and milling operation near Forest Grove. With six generations of sawdust in his veins, Peter’s perspectives have been shaped by his service on Oregon’s Board of Forestry, ODF’s Committee for Family Forestlands, a variety of non-profit boards, and by the Forests of Home.

Save the Dates:

Saturday May 11 Tour of Mike Newton’s Eddyville Tree Farm

Thursday June 20–Friday June 21 2019 OSWA Annual Meeting
Corvallis / Benton County

Saturday June 22 2019 Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year Tour Benton County

Saturday, July 27 Benton County Chapter Annual Picnic Sarah & Dave Ehlers’ J2E Tree Farm
Save the Date
Oregon Small Woodlands Association
2019 Annual Meeting in Corvallis
Hosted by the Benton County Chapter
June 20– 22

Plans will include:
Discounted lodging at Corvallis Courtyard Marriott

Thursday, June 20
-Afternoon mill and area tours
-OTFS and OSWA Board meetings at Courtyard Marriott

Friday, June 21 at Benton County Fair Grounds
-Full day of presentations, exhibits, and programs
-OSWA Membership Meeting
-Silent Auction
-Awards banquet

Saturday, June 22
-Carr/Oakes - 2018 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year
woods tour

Details in upcoming OSWA Newsletters & Annual Meeting brochure mailed in early May.

The second change Johnson suggested would be to add a buffer requirement to all of Oregon’s non-fish streams. The third change involved our current two-up, two-down rule, which requires landowners to leave at least two wildlife trees and two down logs per acre when harvesting units over twenty-five acres in size. Johnson insisted this was totally inadequate and in addition to it, 2-3% of upland volume (trees in the harvesting unit outside the riparian zone) should be retained during a harvest, with strict requirements for tree distribution and excluding trees in riparian buffers. The last change he advocated, presented as a lessening of restrictions, was to remove the 120 acre size limitation for harvest unit size, almost never a factor for small woodland owners, saying that this change would “make up” for the non-fish buffers and additional leave-trees. Like Daugherty’s presentation, Johnson’s was well-attended (though in a much smaller venue), and it was alarming that the majority of the comments and questions seemed to accept the proposals. Johnson concluded that his remarks were intended to start the conversation. Clearly, it is a conversation it would behoove small woodland owners to join.
The Society of American Foresters wields a large umbrella with room for many notions of how forestry ought to be practiced. These were very much in evidence at the Annual National SAF Convention held in Portland October 4-6, 2018. Among an immense variety of presentations, two opposing ones stand out in my mind, both by prominent forestry leaders and both concerning the Oregon Forest Practice Act.

Peter Daugherty, Oregon’s State Forester, gave the plenary address to a packed house. He reminded the audience that we live in an era of contentious forest debates. Yet through an integration of science and policy, and adjusting our Forest Practice Act as science changes, Oregon, relative to 1974, has kept 98% of its forest land in working forests. This is in contrast to California and Washington that suffer from urban sprawl and loss of forest land. Our Forest Practice Act serves us well, Daugherty emphasized, leading us to make sense of what he called “wicked problems”: issues that are multi-disciplined so that we need to compare, contrast, and integrate science presented from a variety of viewpoints. He cited the riparian buffer discussions and carbon sequestration as examples, and concluded that the way forward is to advocate for science in our respective fields, and to be honest about uncertainties. Science, Daugherty explained, “is an appeal to authority, not the authority of individuals, but to the collective community of scientists that work on a particular problem.” Oregon vests all matters of forest policy and management in a legislature-created citizens’ board, the Board of Forestry, whose diverse members work collaboratively to carry out the state’s over-arching policy of encouraging economically efficient forest practices and the maintenance of working forests as the leading use on privately owned land, consistent with sound management of soil, air, water, fish and wildlife resources, merging multiple viewpoints into acceptable and evolving forest practices.

Norm Johnson, OSU Professor Emeritus and an advocate for what he calls “Ecological Forestry”, made no attempt to give a nuanced definition of science, although he claimed that in examining Oregon’s Forest Practice Act, he was only “looking at the science,” and looking for ways forest practices on private lands can be improved. He stated that the Forest Practice Act rules have been stable for twenty years and stand in need of what amounts to major revision. He prophesized that the four changes he suggests will be adopted within five years. From a small woodland owner’s perspective, none of these changes are desirable. The first change would be to remove the “Free-to-Grow” requirement, stating that “a regeneration failure could be called a bio-diversity success.” (The Forest Practice Act defines “Free to Grow” as the point when a tree or stand has a high probability of remaining or becoming dominant over competing vegetation. Reforestation rules require this to be achieved within six years.) The result of this action could be to create fields of invasive brush where currently we establish plantations.

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Director Jim Cota of Sweet Home will represent the board with the planned Robert Mealey ponderosa pine project.

Director Larry Mauter of Lebanon will provide publicity and coordinate the association’s website. Director Jane Hufford-Strom of Sweet Home will assist with education activities.

Members remaining at their posts and heading standing committees include Shirley Holmberg, treasurer; Jonathan Christie, secretary; Jim Merzenich, membership; Bonnie Marshall, seeding sale; Fay Sallee, education; Katie Kohl, scholarships; Mary Brendle, activities and Joe Holmberg, tree farmer of the year.