



# The Quarterly Bark

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April 2015

## How is your forestland assessed?

By Mike Barsotti

Oregon provides special property tax breaks for landowners who are willing to grow timber, that is, having the growing and harvesting of trees as a predominate use. The reason for having this policy is that the growing of trees has economic and environmental benefits for the state, thus justifying the annual financial saving for landowners.

The growing and harvesting of trees doesn't have to be a landowner's sole goal, but to qualify for a special assessment it needs to be a goal, and if listed as such in a management plan, it's clear. There is no maximum age for harvesting a stand of trees.

Special assessment benefits and requirements have many nuances, but there are many great web sites that provide information. One can search using any of a number of property tax phrases that lead to excellent web sites. One of the most complete sources of information is the Department of Revenue's (DOR) Forestland Manual.

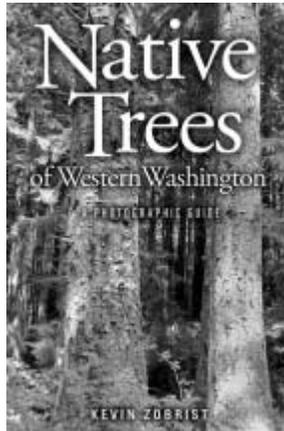
A web search on "Forestland Manual" will lead to a 103-page publication in pdf format that explains the various property tax programs and

(Continued on page 2)

## A new tree guide

By David Hibbs

We have a new book to help us ID and understand our tree species a little better. Kevin Zobrist of Washington State University Extension has just released *Native Trees of Western Washington – A Photographic Guide* through the Washington State University Press.



It has a lot of similarities to our standby, *Trees to Know in Oregon* by OSU's Ed Jensen, but enough differences that each makes a nice complement to the other. Jensen puts more emphasis on species identification and non-natives; Zobrist does more with the simple physiology and ecology that play into management decisions. He even includes a bit on traditional and modern uses.

Both have good range maps (Jensen includes Washington) and lots of clear color photographs. Both clearly love trees and forests; their writing brings this sense of personal pleasure to the books.

*Native Trees of Western Washington* sells for \$18.95 and can be ordered from the WSU Press at <http://wsupress.wsu.edu> or 800-354-7360. *Trees to Know in Oregon* (EC 1450) sells for \$18.00 and can be ordered from OSU Extension at <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/ec1450> or 541-737-3311. ♦

## OSWA Annual Meeting and Oregon Forest Fair

By Mark Havel

Mark your calendars for the statewide OSWA Annual Meeting and Oregon Forest Fair to be held in Salem, June 18-20, organized by the Marion-Polk chapter, with a Day at the Capital and Board of Directors Meeting on Thursday; Oregon Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year tour, Annual Membership Meeting, Silent Auction and Awards Banquet on Friday; and then a special event day that is designed to breathe a little new life into our organization, the Oregon Forest Fair at Chemeketa Community College on Saturday.

Exhibits? Exhibits! The Oregon Forest Fair is a one-day, free and open-to-the-public event, marketed primarily to forest landowners, agricultural landowners, forest sector companies and individuals as well as the public interested in all of the diverse opportunities and products of the forest. There will be 50 to 75 exhibitors, food, presentations that span the topics from industry to agency, family forestry to education, products and markets and the basis of it all – our family forestlands.

Check [www.oswa.org](http://www.oswa.org) for more information. Registration material for the Annual Meeting will be mailed to OSWA members. ♦

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A Joint Publication of the Benton, Lane, Lincoln & Linn County Chapters of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association



# Assessment

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gives examples, court cases that clarify issues, and the relevant Oregon Revised Statutes and Administrative Rules.

Other phrases for web searches include: "Property Tax Deferral - Oregon Small Woodlands Association"; "Special Assessment Programs for Forestland - Oregon.gov"; "Small Tract Forestland Program - Oregon.gov"; and "Application for designation as forestland - OregonLaws.org".

While Oregon's forestland special assessment property tax programs are for the most part straightforward, there are areas that can be a bit confusing.

One major issue that confuses many landowners is zoning verses special assessment. Having the land zoned forest or farm/forest does not mean

that the land is being assessed at forestland values. In Linn County, for example, almost all privately owned forestland has a highest and best use value greater than forestland values. To receive forestland values, the landowner must complete an application through the County Assessor's Office requesting the land to be assessed as "Designated Forestland."

A second issue deals with site productivity. The DOR provides County Assessors with site class information. The higher the site class, the higher the forestland assessed value. DOR has forest productivity divided into 8 classes, FA through FG, and FX. It takes a visit to the County Assessor's Office to find what site class is listed for your forestland.

A soils map is a great place for a landowner to determine if the DOR classification is accurate. The Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) web site "Web Soil Survey" is a quick way to find soils data for any forestland. Local NRCS offices can also provide a landowner with a soils map, soil descriptions and site class information. Another method for determining site class is collecting age and height data from the property's various timber stands.

If the Assessor's listed site classification is different from that which is determined from the soils data or height measurements, the landowner can request in writing to have DOR conduct a review. The request needs to identify the property and define how the landowner determined the site productivity. Oregon Administrative Rule OAR 150-321.348(2) defines what is needed to make a written request. Again, DOR's Forestland Manual is a great source of information on what exactly is needed.

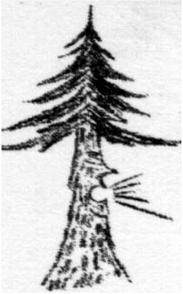
Another issue that is a bit confusing deals with specially assessed forest homesites. A homesite used in conjunction with managing a forest parcel greater than 10 acres receives a special assessment for the land under the dwelling. There are several qualifiers, but they are pretty

straightforward. Again, the Forestland Manual is a great source for determining whether the dwelling qualifies and how to determine parcel size. All of this is explained in five pages in the manual.

The landowner doesn't have to fill out an application, but it is a good idea to ask the Assessor if the homesite is receiving a specially assessed forest homesite value.

The value of the one acre under the dwelling is the real market value of

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*The  
Quarterly  
Bark*

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Letters to the Editor accepted but may be edited for content and length. The views and or opinions herein expressed may not necessarily be the opinion of the Benton, Lane, Lincoln or Linn County members or of the editors.



A quarterly publication of the Benton, Lane, Lincoln and Linn County Chapters of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association



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(Continued from page 2)

bare land of a parcel of similar size and location divided by the number of acres in the qualifying parcel plus up to \$4,000 for the land improvements (well, septic, power, etc.).

The resulting value is more than the specially assessed per acre forest land value, but is a very good deal for a couple of reasons. First, the homesite's real market value may be much higher than the surrounding per acre real market values due to a view or stream side location, and the site improvement could have a value far greater than \$4,000. The County Assessor can provide the homesite's specially assessed value, and explain their process in calculating its value.

Oregon's special assessment programs are there to encourage/reward landowners for managing their forests, but it's up to the landowner to take advantage of them. ♦

## Joint annual meeting SAF and TWS to be held in Eugene — OSWA members welcome

By Fran Cafferata Coe

The Oregon chapters of the Society of American Foresters and The Wildlife Society are holding a joint annual meeting at the Eugene Hilton, Wednesday, April 29 - Friday, May 1, 2015. The theme for the meeting is: Common Ground, Common Goals, Common Solutions. Topics at the intersection of forestry and wildlife will be covered through a series of workshops, symposia and field trips. A schedule and registration information is online at <https://ortws.wordpress.com/>. OSWA members are welcome and can register through the website above at the "members" rate. ♦

## Upcoming events

### OSU Extension Online Calendars

For events in and around **Benton, Linn and Polk Counties** check <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/benton/forestry/events>.

Also, you can sign up for the **Compass and Needle** mailing list to receive an e-mail notice when an event is scheduled: send a request to [jody.einerson@oregonstate.edu](mailto:jody.einerson@oregonstate.edu) or phone Jody at 541 766 6750.

For events in and around **Lincoln County**, see <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/lincoln/forestry/news>. ♦

**Starker Lectures: Innovative Applications of Douglas-fir in Building Design**, Ethan Martin, Thursday, April 16, 3:30 pm, 107 Richardson Hall, OSU.

**Society of American Foresters and The Wildlife Society Joint Annual Meeting**, April 29 - May 1, Eugene. See article p. 3 for details.

**Benton County E2J Tree Farm Tour**, Saturday, May 9. Focus on ponds. Watch OSU Extension Online Calendar for time and directions.

**Linn County Workshop – Ponds from A to Z**. Wednesday, May 13, 7 - 8:30 pm at LBCC Lebanon Center Room 219A. See p. 12 for details.

**Lane County Tree Farmer of the Year Tour**, Saturday, May 30, 9 am - 3 pm, Jim Christian Tree Farm, SW of Eugene. More details, p. 5.

**OSWA Annual Meeting and Oregon Forest Fair**, Thursday, June 18 - Saturday, June 20, Salem. See p. 1 for more details.

**WoWnet Potluck and Discussion**, Saturday, June 27, 10:45 am - 2 pm, See article p. 5.

**Lincoln County Tour**, Saturday, August 8. Tim Miller tree farm, Siletz. Tentative schedule. Details to follow.

**Lane County Road and Culvert Maintenance Tour**, Saturday, August 22, 9 am - 3 pm, Camp Creek area. Tentative schedule. More details, p. 5.

**Lane County Silvicultural Practices Tour**, Saturday, September 26, 9 am - 3 pm, Bauman Tree Farm. Tentative schedule. More details, p. 5. ♦

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# Lane County News

## LSWA Winter 2015 Activities

By Gary Jensen, LSWA Chair

**Annual Meeting.** LSWA's annual meeting was once again a success. Over 75 participants enjoyed a pleasant evening visiting with friends while having a great meal. The meeting was held on Thursday, January 29 at the Eugene Elks. During the meeting we recognized Jim Christian and his family as our 2014 Tree Farmer of the Year; Mike Atkinson for his long term commitment to LSWA; and Austin Pitcher, a certified Tree Farmer for over 25 years.

Jim James, OSWA Executive Director updated members on what to expect from the 2015 Oregon State Legislature as well as potential changes coming to Oregon's Forest Protection Rules governing riparian zones. Tom Burnham of NRCS and Robin Biesecker of ODF presented information on programs available from the Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Oregon Department of Forestry.

Under chapter business we had three board seats up for election. Two of these directors chose not to run for re-election, resulting in two new directors being elected to the board.

The two retiring directors, Dave Rankin and Maryrae Thomson, have served as LSWA directors for many years. Maryrae, whose tree farm is west of Junction City, has been our recording secretary. She has provided exceptional service and project support to LSWA over her tenure. Dave, whose tree farm is in the Florence area, has provided the Board a strong link to members from the Florence community and has been a diligent supporter of LSWA activities. On behalf of the LSWA's Board I would like to give both a hearty THANK YOU!!! for their service and commitment. We look forward to seeing them both at future events.

The following members were then elected to serve as directors' for the upcoming 3 years: Chuck Volz an incumbent along with Wylda Cafferata and Rick Olson, who join the board as new directors.



**Wylda Cafferata** graduated from the University of California at Berkeley with a B.A. in English in 1968 and earned an M.A. in Education from the University of Oregon in 1989. She

taught English in Taiwan in the 1960s, followed by teaching for a year at Chiloquin, and nineteen years at Pleasant Hill, retiring in 2003. Subsequently she worked with student teachers through the UO Teach Program at the University of Oregon for 11 years (2003-2014.) Wylda is a member and past chair of the Pleasant Hill School Board and serves on numerous school committees. She is a Community Ambassador with the Ford Institute Leadership Program in the Willamette Cascade Foothills Community.

Together with her husband Steve she manages the 225 acre Cafferata Family Forest and completed the Master Woodland Manager Program in October, 2014. She and Steve have four grown children-two engineers, a forester, and a wildlife biologist-and three lively grandchildren.

*(Continued on next page)*

**Lane County Chapter Board of Directors**

Mike Atkinson (Treasurer)  
coyote8199@wildblue.net

Dick Beers (Vice President)  
rbeers2606@comcast.net

Tom Bauman & Lindsay Reaves  
(Membership Committee)  
lindsayga@peak.org

Wylda Cafferata  
wyldac@gmail.com

Jim Christian  
christmastreeland@yahoo.net

Gary Jensen (president)  
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Rick Olson  
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**Rick Olson** grew up in the Pacific Northwest developing a love for the woods and outdoors. He spent two summers

working for the U. S. Forest Service on brush disposal crews out of Forks WA and followed that by working an additional two years on a green chain for an Alaska Saw Mill. He eventually received his college degree from the University of Washington and spent 35 years working as a computer engineer in Alaska, California and Arizona. Rick and his wife currently manage their 200 acre Tree farm out of the Florence area and enjoy working in the woods of the northwest.

#### Upcoming Events.

The Jim Christian Tree Farmer of the Year 2014 tour will take place on Saturday, May 30 from 9 am – 3 pm near the southwest hills of Eugene. Attendees will receive an overview of the management of ponderosa valley pine, oaks, Douglas-fir and other mixed species found within the Willamette Valley foothills. A flyer will be coming out in late April with more details on the tour.

Road Maintenance and Culvert Replacement /Repair. This tour will take place on tree farms in the Camp Creek area and will provide land owners information on management of forest roads. Chuck Volz, a retired Weyerhaeuser road engineer will lead the session. Currently LSWA is looking at holding the event on Saturday, August 22 from 9 am – 3 pm on tree farms off Camp Creek Road east of Springfield. A flyer and more details will be coming out in late July.

Silvicultural Practices for Tree Farms. Tom Bauman & Lindsay Reaves will provide information on reforestation, thinning and harvest planning for small land owners. The event is planned for Saturday 26 September from 9 am - 3 pm on the Bauman Tree Farm off Territorial Hwy just west of Eugene. A flyer will be coming out in late August. ♦

## Update on Northern Spotted Owl from WV Bird Symposium

By Wylda Cafferata

Dr. Eric Forsman, recently retired scientist from the U.S. Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station, described the situation of the northern spotted owl in his keynote lecture at the Willamette Valley Bird Symposium, January 24, 2015.

Spotted owls need structure so thinned young forest is not good habitat. They nest in cavities, so heart rot is good for owls. East of the Cascades they often nest in dwarf mistletoe brooms. They will use nest boxes, if the boxes are maintained annually. Owls roost high in big conifers in winter and move down in the tree where it is cooler during hot weather. About 80% of spotted owl diet consists of flying squirrels first, followed by dusky footed wood rats and red tree voles. There is a 60-70% overlap of spotted owl and barred owl diet.

Barred owls are a major threat. Before 1969 they were neither heard nor seen in Oregon. They are “generalist” owls who can use more prey and more forest types than the spotted owl. They use similar nest sites but the barred owl has a smaller range because it eats a wider variety of food and thus does not need to travel as far. Four pairs of barred owls can use the range of one pair of spotted owls. The two species compete for food and nest sites. The barred owl is an aggressive competitor. Hybridization is possible but uncommon, especially as the spotted owl numbers dwindle. When asked about the practice of shooting barred owls to protect spot-

ted owl habitat, Dr. Forsman answered, “It is not clear that that is a solution.” Climate change and fire also threaten the northern spotted owl. ♦

## Upcoming WOWnet event

By Tiffany Fegel

Please join us for a Women Owning Woodlands (WOWnet) potluck and focus group discussion on June 27, 10:45 am – 2:00 pm.

Bauman Tree Farm owner/manager Lindsay Reaves will provide the venue to explore different management units, timber production, and wildlife habitat enhancement management objectives. Tiffany Fegel, WOWnet Coordinator, will lead a focus group discussion to explore what women who own woodlands need to assist them in forest management.

The Bauman Tree Farm is a third generation working family forest, 672 acres of land, which has many forest units, representing forest management goals of timber production, wildlife habitat enhancement, stream protection, and five acres dedicated to education, which is coordinated and facilitated in partnership with Forests Today & Forever. A short one-hour hike will explore forest management decisions, followed by a pot-luck lunch and focus group. All women are welcome; this is a great opportunity to learn about forest management and assist WOWnet to understand the needs of women who own woodlands.

To RSVP or for more information, contact Tiffany Fegel at 971-409-4030 or Lindsay Reaves at 541-746-8990. ♦



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# Lincoln County News

## President's Update

By Peter Bregman

Well, I think that by the time that you receive this letter the first quarter of this year will be history, and we will be looking at planning the rest of the year for the things we want to accomplish in our personal and business lives.

A long time ago I learned the following, "No one plans to fail, but most of us fail to plan," which basically means that without planning we are like a ship without a rudder and may not get to the intended destination.

Our annual meeting was a success. There I presented the reasons as to why I believe we may be losing ground in protecting our property rights.

If we as landowners do not stand together to protect our rights as such, and we have no firm plan in place to look after those rights, then we are like a ship without a rudder, and will end up where we do not want to go.

As I have stated many time, I joined OSWA as it is the only professional organization that not only provided me with the technical knowledge needed to operate a 310 acre tree farm, but also educated me as to what we all can lose if we do not stand together as a group to look after these property rights.

I belong to other tree farm organizations for information, but OSWA is the only organization involved in the legislative process with the ability to be lobby on our behalf. During my career in financial services, I always supported and still support initiatives that would bring balance to the industry, in order to protect not only the public but also the industry itself.

Our chapter grew 40% last year. The reason for that was neighbor asking neighbor to join, and being able to give a good reason why. I have also found that it is good to know your neighbor and to share what works and what does not work.

During our annual meeting we brought a lot to the table, and I suggest you read that report too. On the program for the remainder of this year we have the OSWA Annual Meeting in Salem June 18-20, and a

tour at the Tim Miller tree farm in Siletz, planned for August 8.

We are not alone. Let us plan together for the tree farmer's future. Do not let the future happen by chance, plan what you want to happen. I know we are all busy but we better take time to plan our future. OSWA is the best group that can help in that way. ♦

## Update on Newport Log Export Yard

By John Westall

According to Eric Oien, General Manager for Teevin Brothers, the log export facility in Newport will not be opening as planned this summer. Due to slowing economic conditions in China, a strong US dollar, and an improving domestic market, the Chinese log market doesn't appear to be competitive for the next 12-18 months; because the market is so poor, it doesn't allow the necessary investments to get the project off the ground. Teevin Brothers will continue to maintain the permits, with the hope and expectation that, when conditions do turn around, they will be prepared to begin construction without delay. ♦



President Peter Bregman making a point at the annual meeting.

### Lincoln County Chapter Directors

Peter Bregman, President	541 563 6428
Jan Steenkolk,	541 875 1541
Secretary and Treasurer	
Nick Dahl, Membership	541 444 1379
Joe Steere, Past President	541 996 3842
Jim & Betty Denison	541 875 2753
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# Lincoln County 2015 Annual Meeting

By John Westall



The Lincoln County Chapter held its annual meeting in the spacious, all-wood interior of the Olalla Restaurant in Toledo. Approximately 50 people attended, with a broad distribution of ages.

President Peter Bregman started off with a welcome and a message about why OSWA is important to all of us, many points of which are summarized on the preceding page. OSWA Executive Director Jim James congratulated the Lincoln County Chapter for its growth in membership last year. He went on to describe OSWA's legislative agenda and to invite everyone to OSWA's statewide Annual Meeting, June 18-20, 2015 in Salem.

Joe Steere introduced Mike Kroon and Dan Kaczmarek of ODF who spoke on "improved seedlings." Mike is new director of the J. E. Schroeder Seed Orchard in St. Paul, and Dan is a new plant geneticist with ODF. Traits sought in the improved seedlings are rapid growth, good tree form and insect and disease resistance; another trait could be wood quality. The Seed Orchard distributes the seeds to nurseries, which grow the seedlings for reforestation projects. When purchasing seedlings, one can request improved seedlings, or, for large projects, one can contract with a nursery to grow seedlings from improved seeds.

ODF Stewardship Forester for N Lincoln County, Joe Hitselberger reviewed road maintenance issues and urged anyone having problems

The Quarterly Bark

with ODF's new E-notification system (aka FERNS) to stop by the ODF office.

Russ Glasscock of the Farm Service Agency in Eddyville described a USDA FSA program through which landowners could receive cost share for restoring forests damaged in the recent ice storm. See article on p. 8 for more information.

Paulette Pyle, of Oregonians for Food and Shelter, described issues

that OFS is tracking this legislative session that are important to forest landowners. She also mentioned some tips for forest landowners working on legislative issues: have the facts straight; have a network of people who can speak from experience and with authority on various issues; and don't write off legislators just because you might disagree with them on some issues — it's still worthwhile to present the facts relevant to you as a forest landowner. ♦

## Lincoln County 2015 Seedling Sale

By Judy Pelletier



On Saturday, March 7 the Lincoln County chapter held its annual seedling sale from 10 am to 2 pm at the Lincoln County Fairgrounds 4H Harney Building in Newport. Together with the Newport Farmers Market and the Fairgrounds Thrift Store, the three events made the fairgrounds a happening place. This year's event

drew approximately 100 shoppers, the most successful yet in sales, as well as in providing an assortment of native seedlings for purchase at reasonable prices for local woodland owners, farmers, and both commercial and residential landscapers. Members active in the Lincoln County Chapter were on hand to serve the public, suggesting the best species for the specific location, helping bag purchases, manning the till, and giving advice when needed.

Kari Steere has been recognized as Lincoln County's 2015 Outstanding Volunteer of the Year, particularly for her work on the seedling sales over the years. ♦



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# Benton County News

## Benton County 2015 Annual Meeting

By Pat Wheeler

The Benton County chapter held its annual meeting Saturday, January 24 at the Beazell Forest Education Center on another sunny and rain-free afternoon. Approximately 65 attended the event.

Jim James, Executive Director of OSWA reviewed past OSWA activities and upcoming legislative issues for 2015. Mike Albrecht was presented a jacket as Benton County TFOY. Marsha Carr was selected as Benton County "Outstanding Volunteer of the Year". Current officers were re-elected. David Hibbs was elected as a new Board Member

and Roger Workman will transition in as Program Director.

The speaker for the meeting was Rick Fletcher, retired OSU Extension agent. Rick described last year's Norway/Sweden Tour where 43 woodland Oregon owners spent 14 days traveling from Stockholm to Oslo to learn about their forest management practices.

Over 50% of the land in these countries is boreal forest dominated by pine, spruce and birch and 90% of this is privately owned. They have 7 major small forest coops with 90,000 members. Some forest land has been in the same family ownership for ten generations and 40% of the forestland is managed by women.

Differences between Norway and Oregon in use of property include

public access to land and permission to collect berries and plants for free, ownership of fish and wildlife by the property owner, and promotion of on-site residence. Some forest landowners have more income from selling hunting rights than from timber. Wood products include paper, lumber (exported to Japan) and bio-energy.

We had several rounds of door prizes generously donated by area forestry businesses and individuals. ♦

## Tour to be focused on forest ponds

By Roger Workman

Join us Saturday morning May 9 for a tour of the Ehlers J2E Tree Farm, between Wren and Kings Valley. The focus of the tour will be on ponds, including bass and trout ponds as well as some seasonal ponds. Watch the OSU Extension website listed on p. 3 for directions and time, or sign-up for the e-mail notification list, which is also described on p. 3. ♦

## Program for restoration of ice- damaged forests

By John Westall

The Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) of the USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) has funds to assist private nonindustrial timberland owners in restoring forests damaged in the November, 2014 ice storm. The funding is targeted at damage that, "if left untreated, would impair or endanger the natural resources on the land and materially affect future use of the land." For information on eligibility or to apply for the program in Benton and Lincoln counties, contact Heather Tritt at the Tangent FSA office, 541 967 5925 x 107, or [heather.tritt@or.usda.gov](mailto:heather.tritt@or.usda.gov). ♦

### Benton County Chapter Board Members

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Programs, Roger Workman	541-619-3586	workman919@gmail.com
Treasurer, Greg Palmer	541-424-3332	gpalmr@aol.com
Co-chairs, Nancy Hathaway	541-758-5510	nancyhath@comcast.net
TFOY Selection Karen Fleck-Harding		karen@mrwc.net
Education, Rita Adams	541-752-3324	rjadams@comcast.net
David Hibbs	541-737-6077	david.hibbs@oregonstate.edu
Membership & OSWA Rep, Marsha Carr	541-424-3882	marshae.carr2@gmail.com
Forest Deputy, Brent Iverson	541-766-6237	cell 541-740-4290 ♦

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## Results of survey of Linn County members

By John Westall

The Linn County chapter recently conducted a voluntary, anonymous survey of its members to determine the resources that they have on their properties, management activities planned for the current year, and funded conservation projects in which they have participated. The purpose of the survey was to gather information to help in steering the conservation agencies in directions helpful to LCSWA members as program areas are determined, and to help interested landowners learn about programs that could help them with conservation and restoration projects on their properties. The survey was written by the Financial Assistance Committee with input from other chapter members and distributed in December 2014. Bill Bowling compiled the results of the survey. The response rate was 57 surveys returned out of 112 sent out, or 51%,

a rate considered excellent by most who conduct this kind of survey. One result that immediately stands out is that Linn County respondents reported a total of 34,544 acres under management! A summary of the results is presented in Table 1, which shows the number of people who responded "yes" to a particular item, expressed both as a number and as the percentage of those who returned the survey. As shown in the table, a large fraction of respondents have streams, roads

and are planning management activities in 2014 - 2015. The main management activities are weed control and thinning. Also significant is the fact that 68% do have management plans, 42% have participated in funded conservation projects, and 100% of those who participated in the funded conservation projects were pleased with the outcome. The conservation projects were supported by a variety of programs, many of which are described on the next page. ♦

Table 1. Overall results of survey showing both the number and the fraction of survey respondents answering "yes" to a particular item.

Category	Item	"Yes"	Fraction
Streams	Type F	23	40%
	Type N	29	51%
	Type D	6	11%
Roads	Rocked roads	39	68%
	Dirt roads	41	72%
Management plan	Have plan	39	68%
Activities 2014-2015	Thinning	25	44%
	Clear cut	10	18%
	Weed control	36	63%
	Other activity	15	26%
Funded projects	Participated in project	24	42%
	Participant pleased	24	100%

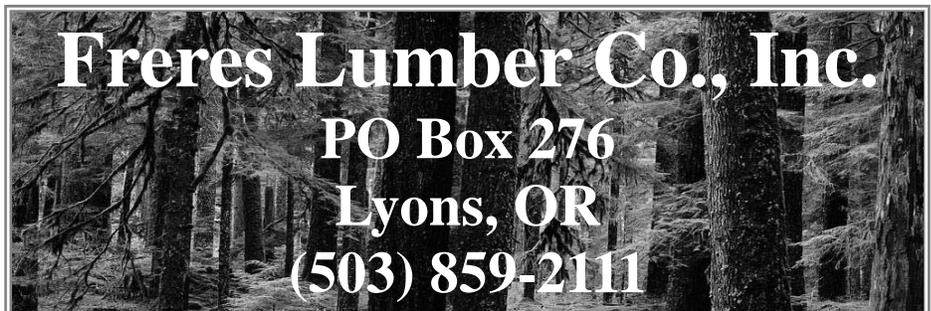
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# Linn County Chapter News

## President's Corner

By Jim Merzenich

The recent member survey indicates that controlling noxious weeds and thinning overstocked timber stands are two issues that almost all of us face. Doing these tasks efficiently, without driving ourselves bankrupt, is a major consideration. Fifty percent of our members responded to our survey and we thank you. The information gleaned from the survey will help us understand and explain to others the needs of our members. We are an important economic force providing jobs, income, and aesthetic benefits to Linn County.

**ODF.** If you have questions about harvesting timber, controlling weeds or stopping an insect outbreak, a logical person to call is your Stewardship Forester. These employees of the Oregon Department of Forestry are hired to provide landowner assistance. Stewardship Foresters Jim Ewing and Steve Kendell are based in Sweet Home while Joe Arbow is based in Mehama.

**OSU Extension.** Another resource for landowners is the Master Woodland Manager (MWM) program. Many fellow tree farmers are trained MWM volunteers. Our OSU forestry extension agent, Brad Withrow-Robinson, oversees this program, and can set you up for a visit with a

Master Woodland Manager. These MWMs have typically faced the same issues on their own land as you face on yours, and can help you with some good ideas and insight. "Landowners helping landowners" is the MWM motto. Extension agents can also provide information on a wide range of woodland tasks from planting seedlings to marketing your timber. Ask for assistance. Harvest tax dollars support these programs.

**NRCS.** Most direct forestry aid (i.e., \$\$) is now managed by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). The NRCS agent managing these cost-share programs is Nathan Adelman. For each dollar received, you expend a matching dollar in cash or sweat equity. Three financial assistance (grant) programs are discussed here. (1) Activities funded by the *Conservation Stewardship program* include thinning and pruning stands, providing snags for wildlife, improving soils, and more. (2) The *Environmental Quality Incentives program (EQIP)* provides assistance for oak restoration, thinning, and other treatments benefitting wildlife and the land. (3) The *Conservation Reserves Enhancement program (CREP)* focuses on improving riparian habitat. Stewardship Forester Jim Ewing assists landowners who may qualify for the CREP program.

NRCS programs change annually based on demand and the availability of funds. Participation by tree farmers in these programs is essential if we hope to have them continued. Traditionally the NRCS has served agriculture. Annual public meetings (called Local Workgroups) are held to set priorities. It is important that we attend these meeting so the voices of tree farmers can also be heard. The next meeting will be in January 2016.

**Others.** Many more sources of assistance are available. The *Partners for Fish and Wildlife program*, managed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, provides multi-year assistance for improving and maintaining wildlife habitat. Bluebirds can devour insect pests in open grassland or pasture habitat. Local member Diane Kaldahl can advise you on installing nest boxes to attract these birds. Watershed Councils for the Calapooia, N. Santiam, and S. Santiam drainages are working in Linn County to improve the environment and control invasive weeds. Become active in your Council. If you are having difficulty finding tree seedlings, just google the Forest Seedling Network. The Willamette Valley Ponderosa Pine Conservation Association (WVPPCA) provides guidelines on the management of our native pine. To find answers about these or other programs do not hesitate to contact me at [jim@oakbasin.com](mailto:jim@oakbasin.com).

**OFRI.** The Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) has an active partnership with the Oregon Small Woodlands Association. Among many valuable events and publications, OFRI hosts a <http://www.knowyourforest.org/> website that contains contact information for organizations and agencies that support forestry in Linn County and throughout the state. This website will also link you to valuable map information that can be used to develop or update a forest management plan. Enjoy your tree farm! ♦

### Linn County Officers

President	Jim Merzenich	541-466-5004	jim@oakbasin.com
Vice Pres	Bill Bowling	541-791-1370	bill@artisanlight.com
Secretary	Jonathan Christie	503-394-3192	christie@smt-net.com
Treasurer	Shirley Holmberg	541-259-3963	vestis3@gmail.com
Past Pres	Mike Barsotti	503-859-2993	barsotti@wvi.com
Director	Mary Brendle	541-367-2845	brendle@wildblue.net
Director	Jim Cota	541-409-2253	thi@melcherlogging.com
Director	Dan Thackaberry	541-258-5422	farmerdan17@gmail.com
Director	Henry Wolthuis	541-367-4764	wolthuis2@comcast.net

### Standing Committees

Tree Farm/Yr	Joe Holmberg	541-259-3963	praediolum@yahoo.com
Education	Fay Sallee	541-451-5322	sksallee@yahoo.com
Seedling Sale	Sherm Sallee	541-451-5322	sksallee@yahoo.com
Scholarships	Katie Kohl	541-451-1734	kohl@proaxis.com
Linn Deputy	Brandon Fountain	541-967-3950	bfountain@linnsheiff.org
		800-884-3391	♦

## Linn County Annual Meeting

By Sherm Sallee

About 100 members and their families attended this year's meeting in Scio. We held the meeting at a new location to accommodate the increased attendance and the extra area was well used. As usual, the food supplied through the potluck dinner proved what wonderful cooks the small woodland people are. No one went away hungry.

After dinner, our chapter's two college scholarship winners spoke about their education experiences and thanked the membership for their financial support. This was followed by the fourteen 4-H forestry members describing their varied forestry learning experiences over the last year. Following their presentations, each of the 4-H members received their awards from the chapter. Thank you notes were presented to the selection committee members, Lon and Laura Rankin and Bob and Mary Brendle. We also discussed the upcoming seedling sale and members volunteered to help to make this another successful event.

New bylaws that had been mailed to the membership were discussed and approved. Election of new board members was completed as well as selection of chapter officers for the next year. Jim James, OSWA Executive Director presented information about state-level activities from 2014 and the outlook for 2015. He expressed appreciation for funds that the Linn County chapter had provided to help carry the state office through the past year. Nathan Adelman from NRCS identified cost share programs that might be of interest to the chapter members. Bill Bowling provided the very interesting results of the membership survey.

Linda Butts was recognized as the Linn chapter's 2014 Tree Farmer of the Year and received a nice coat and sign for her property. Linda was also selected as the representative for Oregon to the Western Regional

Tree Farmer of the Year. Jim and Betty Denison were recognized as recipients of the Oregon Tree Farm System's Family Forest Award for their assistance helping OTFS achieve its mission. They have spent over 30-years helping landowners learn how to manage their forests. Joe Holmberg was recognized by Brad Withrow-Robinson with an excellence in service certificate for his outstanding work with the Master Woodland Manager program in 2014.

Jim Merzenich provided an entertaining presentation on the Scandinavian tour he and other member of

OSWA and Oregon Woodland Cooperative went on last summer. His presentation covered the trip through Sweden and Norway studying forestry and woodland cooperatives.

Brad Withrow-Robinson covered activities upcoming in 2015 that will be of interest to all members. He also did a great job in providing the audio/visual equipment and making it all work.

Door prizes were awarded during breaks in the meeting. Next year's meeting will be the third Saturday in January, 2016 so be sure and get it on your calendar. ♦

## Seedling Sale and Goods from the Woods

By Sherm Sallee



Fay Sallee reviews instructions with volunteers before opening of seedling sale .

The Linn County Small Woodlands chapter held its 19th annual seedling sale and 5th annual Goods from the Woods event on February 7. The event was held at the Linn County Fair and Expo in Albany. There were ten exhibitors for the woods event. They included an OSU Extension booth, an Oregon Woodland Coop booth and booths with wooden pens, bowls, canes, chess boards & pieces, and construction lumber. Both exhibitors and customers enjoyed the chance to display, view and purchase these products.

The seedling sale portion was quite successful with over 100 customers pre-ordering seedlings. This year we had 24 species of plants from which customers could choose. All except the sword fern were obtained from four different commercial nurseries

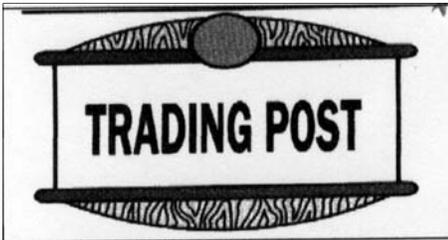
the day before the event. Over forty people helped put on the sale. These included many from the small woodland chapter, the Clever Clovers 4-H club members and their parents, and the college scholarship recipients and their families. We did have a significant number of Valley ponderosa pine plugs left over, but quickly found homes from them in the days after the sale. Other left-over seedlings were placed in pots by the members of the 4-H club for sale at next year's event.

Funds from the event are used to provide college scholarships to youth from Linn County that pursue a natural resource major. We also provide cash awards to 4-H members that demonstrate proficiency in their 4-H forestry projects. ♦



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## Woodland Information Night

*By Sherm Sallee*

Linn County sponsored this year's Linn/Benton County Woodland Information Night. Bill Bowling, Dave Bateman and Brad Withrow-Robinson worked hard to develop an extremely informative program.

Speakers included Neil Miller from Oregon Department of Forestry speaking on fire related matters on small woodland timberland. Bill Marshall discussed the opportunities for small woodland owners using services available from Cascade Timber Consultants in Sweet Home. Steve Kendall described the new on-line notification system that the Oregon Department of Forestry instituted in October 2014. The final speaker was Nathan Adelman from the Natural Resources Conservation Service/USDA. He described opportunities for small woodland owners to obtain assistance for programs in forestry.

Over 40 interested small woodland owners from three counties attended the event. There were lots of questions and interest in the presentations. Next year, Benton County will host the annual event. ◆

## Upcoming Workshop— Ponds from A to Z

*By Mary Brendle*

Ponds serve many functions such as wildlife habitat, irrigation, fire protection, and/or just personal enjoyment. OSU is completing a new publication on ponds and its author, Steve Bowers, will conduct a workshop discussing the many aspects of pond development and maintenance. Free, co-sponsored by LCSWA, OSU Extension, and LBCC. May 13th from 7-8:30 pm at LBCC Lebanon Center, Room 219A. ◆