This summer is expected to be much warmer and drier than usual. Fire season was declared in mid-June — much earlier than usual — in the fire protection districts covering Benton, Lane, Lincoln and Linn Counties. So now is a good time to review the forest fire prevention rules.

If you have internet access, the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) has assembled an excellent summary of fire prevention rules and made it available through their "Industrial Precaution Levels and Regulated Use Closures" web page, http://www.oregon.gov/odf/pages/fire/precautionlevel.aspx, referred to here as the "IFPL/RU" web page. It is a key to navigating the rules. If you don't have internet access, call or stop by your local ODF office.

Is your forestland covered by the fire prevention rules? To answer this question, you can locate your forestland on a new, well-designed, interactive map that is linked to the IFPL/RU web page. Click on your property and a box with all the details will pop up. In northwestern Oregon most of the forestland outside of the Willamette Valley floor is in one of these districts. If your

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Fire prevention rules

(Continued from page 1)

Forestland is inside (or within 1/8 mile of) a forest protection district, the fire rules discussed here apply during fire season; if not, the rules don’t apply to your forestland, but read on anyway. The districts are further divided into regulated use areas, which allow declaration of location-specific fire rules. Alternatively check your property tax statement for an assessment for “Fire Patrol” or “Forestry Fire Timber,” indicating you’re in a district, or call ODF.

The fire prevention rules that apply depend on the type of activity on your forestland. If the activity planned on the forestland is an “operation,” the industrial fire rules apply. If not, the “Public Fire Restriction” (i.e., restricted use) rules apply.

An "operation" is defined as "any commercial or industrial activity, excluding the culture and harvesting of agricultural crops" (http://www.oregon.gov/odf/fire/closures/definitions.pdf.) Generally any activity that requires you to submit a “Notification” to ODF is an "operation" and triggers the industrial fire rules. Anything else generally falls under Public Fire Restriction rules. If in doubt, ask ODF.

What rules are in effect on a particular day? The fire prevention rules in effect at any time can be found from a table on the IFPL/RU web page. Updates are posted when fire precaution levels change.

The industrial fire prevention rules apply to all forestland activities that are part of an operation and have two type of requirements: (i) requirements for certain firefighting equipment, as summarized in “Fire Equipment Requirements” at http://www.oregon.gov/odf/FIRE/FireEquipmentRequirements.pdf and (ii) restrictions on activities, as summarized in the document linked to the IFPL/RU web page.

The public fire restriction rules apply to all forestland activities not part of an operation. ODF refers to these rules as "public fire restrictions," but "public" in this case includes landowners on their own private property (http://www.oregon.gov/odf/pages/fire/public_use_restrictions.aspx). These restrictions are linked to the IFPL/RU web page.

So, go ahead, try it; download the rules that are in effect for industrial and “public” activities on your property today! ◆

Pond tour

(Continued from page 1)

Many thanks to Dave and Sarah for hosting a very informative tour, and hats off to them for the wonderful natural habitat they've created. ◆

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The Quarterly Bark

**Culvert damage?**

*By Michael Atkinson*

Ever had a culvert damaged or destroyed by logging or road maintenance equipment? My career in industrial forestry showed numerous instances where equipment and culverts met, with the culvert coming out damaged or destroyed.

I decided to protect my culverts with visible markers—not just a post or pipe marker. I use a simple sign on a light duty "T" post. The sign is a 12" x 5 3/4" with one end cut to a point. I rout a large "C" on the board and pre-drill holes for a #7 U clamp.

To ensure a long life and visibility, I paint with wood preservative followed by primer and white paint and paint the "C" black. The result is a very visible "down-arrow" with "C" for culvert that is easily recognized by your contractors.

If a sign gets destroyed by equipment, replacement is easy and inexpensive! ◆

**The Quarterly Bark posted on OSWA’s web site**

*The Quarterly Bark* is posted on OSWA’s website, www.oswa.org; click the "Chapters" tab and then the Benton, Lane, Lincoln or Linn links for to access a pdf version of the *Bark*. The internet links in the articles of the online version are "live," so you can click on them and go directly to the website. Issues back to October 2011 are also posted if you’d like to reminisce. ◆

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**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 or phone Jody at 541 766 6750.

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

**Linn County Picnic**, Saturday, July 11, 9 am - early afternoon at the Udell's Happy Valley Tree Farm near Lebanon. See article, p. 10.

**Benton County Twilight Tour on Wildlife Habitat**, Thursday, July 23 from 5:45 - 8 pm at Karen Fleck Harding’s family property near Wren. Details p. 8.

**Tour of Roseburg Forest Products Seed Orchard** near Lebanon, Thursday, August 6, 4 - 6:30. See article p. 8.

**Lincoln County Howdy Neighbor! Tour**, Saturday, August 8, 9 am - early afternoon at Tim Miller tree farm, Siletz. RSVP. Details p. 7.

**Lane County Road and Culvert Maintenance Tour**, Saturday, August 22, 9 am - 3 pm, Camp Creek area. Details, p. 4.

**Linn County Tree Farmer of the Year Tour**, Sunday, August 23, 4 - 7:30 pm, Dave and Karen Bateman Tree Farm east of Scio. See article p. 11.

**Lane County Forest Management Tour**, Saturday, September 26, Bauman Tree Farm west of Eugene. More details, p. 4.

**Benton County Tree Farmer of the Year Tour**, Saturday, October 3, Greg and Barbara Vollmer Tree Farm near Alsea. Details TBA. See article p. 8. ◆

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Lane County News

LSWA upcoming events

By Gary Jensen, LSWA Chair

Road construction - Summer

Having successfully completed the May tour of Lane County’s 2014 Tree Farm of the Year, we are moving forward with the planning and scheduling of a summer tour on August 22. This tour will be in the Upper Camp Creek area, east of Springfield. Participants will have the opportunity to see on-the-ground results of road construction on a tree farm. The tour is designed to provide members a perspective on forest roads and what it takes to get them constructed.

We will be visiting Chuck Voltz's tree farm. Chuck is a retired Weyerhaeuser road engineer with over 40 years of designing and building forest roads. Chuck will provide information on what it takes to design and construct roads on a tree farm—grade, slope, drainage, culverts, surface maintenance and to rock or not. Chuck will answer our questions and suggest ways to get it done.

After spending the morning with Chuck we will move down the road to take a look at the Petersen Ranch, where Alan and Andy will give us an overview of NRCS’s Healthy Forest Reserve Program and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, as well as some of their forest management practices. Tom Burnham, NRCS District Conservationist, will join us and provide input on how to apply for the HFRP and EQIP programs.

The tour will be Saturday, August 22, from 9 am – 3 pm. Lunch will be provided. We will be gathering at 38423 Upper Camp Creek Road in an adjoining hay field. A flyer covering the tour will be coming out the first week of August.

Forest management - Fall

The session will be on Saturday, September 26 at the Bauman Tree Farm west of Eugene and off of Territorial Hwy. Currently we are still in the planning process and do not have specifics. The event will be held on the Tree Farm with Steve Bowers, from OSU Extension, planning on attending and making a presentation. Tom & Lindsay will be working out the details this summer and we will have a flyer out by early September.

Take care and we look forward to seeing you on a tour this year.

Tree Farmer of the Year Tour

By Wylda Cafferata

On May 30 about 30 Lane County OSWA members and friends met on Jim Christian’s tree farm in the southwest hills of Eugene, where Jim has cleared a home-site with a beautiful forested view. The tree farm is a three-generation project, and the tour began by Jim introducing his wife Ann, his sons Jackson and Brennan, his mother Debbie and other family members.

The farm consists of 182 acres and is managed for timber production, wildlife, and aesthetic values. Under an uneven-aged regime, Jim plants and harvests ponderosa pine, Doug-

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las-fir, incense cedar and small numbers of other species. He works towards achieving structural diversity to encourage regeneration prior to harvest and to create wildlife habitat. Jim led discussions that ranged across thinning, invasive species control, clear-cut size, shelterwood, wood markets, conservation easements, filing alternative plans for after-logging activities, fire prevention techniques, optimal spraying times and chemicals, snow damage and carbon sequestration as the group walked to a series of stops on the property.

Jim gave credit for shaping his vision of forest management to OS-WA, the American Tree Farm System, the Master Woodland Manager Program, and especially to his friend, mentor, and previous owner of the tree farm Albert Kuschke who shared his passion for active management until his death in 2001. Jim noted that human life is short compared to trees, but with vision we can plan for a sustainable future.

Over lunch Gary Jensen and Dick Beers, Lane County OSWA President and Vice-President, led a discussion of the need to step up and advocate for active management in the state political arena. ◆

Be careful how you use science!

By Wylda Cafferata

Bob Lackey, from OSU’s Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, gave a thoughtful presentation on using science in policy debates in the plenary session of the meeting of the Society of American Foresters and the Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society in Eugene on April 29, 2015.

He reminded us that science is rational, systematic, testable, reproducible, and politically neutral. It describes the world how it is, not how it ought to be. In policy debates, however, it is customary for opposing sides to hire scientists to prove that their point of view should prevail. Dr. Lackey asserted that to be valuable, scientists must be trusted, yet polls show a declining level of trust. To regain that trust, all sides in any policy debate need to avoid what Dr. Lackey calls “normative science.” Normative science is biased science, information based on assumed values, “normed” to the values of a particular group. For example, the statement, “Ecological forestry as defined by Johnson and Franklin will not further degrade the environment” is normative. It assumes that the environment is being degraded by current practice. A scientific statement would simply plainly state the results of practicing ecological forestry on any given stand.

Using normative science is policy by stealth, Dr. Lackey warned. He urged the audience to be alert for normative science in the presentations we attend and the articles we read. We need to think how we use science, and use it well. ◆
Greetings to all of you from the warm and dry state of California. Some of you may not know that I have my children living in California, and try to spend the rainy months there, but due to the fact that forest operations for the summer are limited because of our drought conditions, it is hard to determine where to be — so it may be a good year to travel and leave things as they are.

After being in the state now for eleven years and hoping that Oregon would be a problem free state, I now realize that the problems there are proportioned to those in California, but at least those of you that have Oregon as the only state, you have to deal with one state.

Looking at the major news events, it is the drought that is taking the center stage and is affecting the western states severely, with some of the country being flooded. We will just call it climate change and deal with it the best we can. I cannot help though to feel that our government leaders do not look for the sustainability solutions for the resources that are available, but make decisions influenced by special interest groups, that lack sometimes common sense.

Since I have been a member of OSWA a lot of emphasis has been put on the word “sustainability.” The rate at which our population is growing is out of proportion to the natural resources available. Water resources are the key to that “sustainability.” Allocating those resources to favor fish and wildlife will have a detrimental effect on our ability to produce the products needed to sustain our ability to keep the prices in the grocery stores down to affordable levels for the consumers.

We, as a farming community, are the gardeners of the private land, which produces the products we find on the table and the materials to build. The farm community should be given more credit in our society than what it is receiving today.

Now for more of the local news: Our current membership has doubled in the last two years. We have had good tours and meetings that allow us to stay in touch with the industry. The publications you receive should allow you to see the changes that are coming down the pipeline and how we can affect the impact of them.

On August 8 we shall have the “Howdy Neighbor!” tour at Tim Miller’s place in Siletz. It will be a joint meeting with the Farm Bureau members. We expect a good attendance; letting us know of your plans to attend (see RSVP in article on next page) would be a big plus in determining the arrangement for the luncheon.

By the time you get this issue of the Bark, the annual OSWA meeting will have passed; we, of course, will have attended that meeting as I have for the last eight years. In the last two years my two grandsons attended; this year, however, my oldest grandson graduated from high school and decided to join the air force, before deciding on a permanent career. So only Cameron attended the annual meeting with us and worked with me for part of his summer vacation at our tree farm in Waldport.

**Oregon Forest Industry Directory**

By Jim Reeb, OSU Extension

Do you have a forest product or service to sell, or are you searching for a forest product or service to purchase?

Logs, lumber, non-timber forest products, or someone who will mill your logs on your property - these are just a few examples of the different products and services you will find on the Oregon Forest Industry.
The Quarterly Bark

Lincoln County
Howdy Neighbor!
Tour of Tim Miller
Tree Farm

By Joe Steenkolk

The Lincoln County chapter will host a Howdy Neighbor! tour on Saturday, August 8 at the Tim Miller family tree farm near Siletz. Meet at the end of Old River Road in Siletz at 9 am.

Tim Miller, Lincoln County native and lifelong resident except for military service, is in a partnership that owns eleven different parcels of forested property, with some ownerships going back years. We will see and discuss riparian management issues and basal area requirements. We will visit and view a beautiful waterfall normally not seen by the public, see the rusted remains of a steam donkey and other old machinery, see a grove of heritage trees, discuss different thinning scenarios and see a cut-to-length harvester in operation. For those interested in cattle and farming, there will be discussions on Tim’s operation. All this and a free lunch! You can’t afford to miss it.

RSVP to the OSU Lincoln County Extension Service, 541-574-6534.

Critters eating our trees
By Jim Reeb, OSU Extension

We have had quite a few caterpillars brought into the Extension office this spring and phone calls to the office reporting caterpillars building web structures and feeding on conifers.

In every case in Lincoln County these have been silver-spotted tiger moth caterpillars.

Although they can severely damage a few branches, they are almost never in abundance on any one tree to cause severe health issues to that tree. So, for most instances, no control is necessary. Christmas trees and other ornamentals are another issue. These may need protection.

Read more about this insect and control methods from this Oregon Department of Forestry Forest Health Note: http://www.oregon.gov/odf/privateforests/docs/Forest%20Health/silverspottedtigermoth.pdf

Many of the spruces in Lincoln County just don’t look very healthy this spring. We think some, if not most, of this has been caused by a high infestation of spruce aphids. Spruce aphids have probably flown from your spruce trees by now – however, if they are still around, you can hold a piece of white copy paper under a limb and shake it and see the small insects as they fall onto the paper.

Unlike the silver-spotted tiger moth caterpillars, these insects are major defoliators of Sitka spruce and other spruces and can cause severe damage and mortality. You can find out more about the spruce aphid from this Oregon Department of Forestry Forest Health Note: http://www.oregon.gov/odf/privateforests/docs/Forest%20Health/spruceaphid.pdf

Directory. If you have products to sell, it is easy to sign up on the Directory so that potential buyers can contact you. The Directory gets over one million hits per month so it is an easy and effective way to either find or sell a forest product or service. Access the Directory at: http://www.orforestdirectory.com/

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Tour of Roseburg’s seed orchard  
By Mike Albrecht

Join us for a tour of Roseburg Forest Product’s Seed Orchard near Lebanon on Thursday, August 6, 4-6:30 pm and learn about the production of improved seed. Geneticist Sara Lipow and orchard manager Mike Albrecht will walk us through the process of creating and producing genetically improved seed.

Sara will give a layman’s overview of how tree improvement programs work and will also talk about the availability of genetically improved seed and seedlings to small landowners. Mike and Sara will then walk us through orchard blocks of various ages where we will view and discuss various treatments used to encourage trees to produce cones, view some cross pollinations being carried out to further our tree improvement efforts, and give a general overview of how seed orchards are managed.

The seed orchard is located at 34397 Tennessee Road, off of Highway 20 between Lebanon and Albany. (However, beware of GPS maps, which frequently show the location about a half mile from where it is.)

From Lebanon, follow Highway 20 north towards Albany for approximately 5 miles. Just past milepost 9, turn East on Honey Sign Drive. Follow Honey Sign for approximately ½ mile through an “S” curve. At this point you will intersect Tennessee Road. One branch makes a hard left and the other branch goes straight ahead. Go straight and continue about 1 mile down a straight stretch of road. Where the road makes a sharp right, you’ll turn left into our driveway. You’ll see the orchards before you actually get to the driveway.

Twilight Tour on wildlife habitat  
By Roger Workman

After attending the Board of Forestry meeting earlier in the day, come join us on Thursday, July 23 for a twilight tour at Karen Fleck-Harding’s family property near Wren, from 5:45 - 8 pm. The evening will be spent at the 2010 Benton County Tree Farmer of the Year’s 230 acre woodland on the Marys River, focusing on wildlife habitat management. Jennifer Weikel, ODF Wildlife Biologist, Master Woodland Manager and woodland owner will be leading the discussion. Be prepared for a walk, long pants are suggested, and bring field glasses if desired.

The location is 24621 Echo Hills Rd., Philomath (Wren). From Corvallis take Highway 20 to Kings Valley Highway, OR 223. Turn right onto 223 and take the first right onto Ritner then right on Wren Rd. Left on Echo Hills Rd. Go approximately 2 miles to the end of the gravel road. Drive slowly and watch for oncoming cars. For those who prefer to carpool, plan on meeting at the Benton Extension office. Be prepared to leave at 5:20.

2015 Benton County TFOY Tour  
By Greg Vollmer

Join us on the morning of Saturday, October 3, 2015, to tour Greg and Barbara Vollmer’s Alsea Tree Farm. Greg has been active in Benton County Small Woodlands Association as program committee chairman and is a Master Woodland Manager. Greg and Barbara purchased this 21 acre property in 1982 and have accomplished several objectives by establishing Douglas-fir on former pasture areas, improving roads, installing culverts, harvesting older stands, reforesting harvested areas and thinning younger stands.

Although this property is not large, it has elements typical of many timber properties: a year-around creek and riparian areas, north and south facing slopes, and level and steep ground. It has diverse stand of Douglas-fir, maple and alder. Greg and Barbara are pleased to share their work and seek your opinions regarding future activities.

Tour arrangements have not been finalized but it is likely that there will be car pool options from Philomath. Watch for additional information in OSU Extension newsletters in August and September.

Sign-up period for ice-damage restoration program

Source: USDA FSA

The Linn-Benton-Lincoln County Committee of the Farm Service Agency (FSA) has announced that the sign-up period for the Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) is June 29 - July 31, 2015;
Stream enhancement on Tum Tum River
By Tom Guss and Karen Fleck-Harding

On Monday, April 27 a group of practitioners and property owners met to tour the Guss-McHuron-Wehnert property along Old Blodgett Road. Of interest was a stream enhancement project featuring the installation of a “rock riffle” within Tum Tum River (tributary of Marys River) and a 15-year-old riparian planting.

The riparian planting (2000-2002) involved about 50 acres, converting grass hay crop fields to Douglas fir, black cottonwood, and western red cedar, along with assorted shrubs. This riparian planting was cost-shared with the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

The rock riffle was constructed by the Marys River Watershed Council to enhance off-channel winter refuge and rearing habitat for cutthroat trout. The riffle raised the stream channel about three feet in height so normal winter flows will now connect to an extensive wetland pond on the property. Included in the “riffle” installation was planting of additional cottonwood, fir, ash and cedar and native shrubs along the stream bank replacing reed canary grass that was scalped-out with an excavator.

The consensus was that the planting projects were developing in a healthy and productive way, although perhaps in need of thinning and filling of “holes”. The owners note how good it is to hear the gurgle of the stream, something not heard for a good, long while.

Participants included Tom Guss (property owner) and representatives of Marys River and Luckiamute Watershed Councils, Benton Soil & Water Conservation District, Oregon Department of Forestry, NRCS and Farm Service Agency. The tour was organized by Cascade Pacific RC&D.

This signup period is applicable only to damage to timber caused by the storm of November 12-17, 2014. EFRP was established to assist nonindustrial private forest (NIPF) landowners to rehabilitate timber ground damaged by natural disasters. The practices under the Linn-Benton-Lincoln County EFRP sign-up are: removing debris from timberland, replanting timber, and road development on NIPF that is deemed necessary. Practices not eligible for EFRP include: planting of ornamental, nursery or Christmas trees; and roads not located on NIPF.

The Linn-Benton-Lincoln County EFRP request for funding is still pending. Each county has to go through an approval process and then receives funding.

If you believe you may be eligible for EFRP assistance, and you are located in Linn, Benton, or Lincoln County, contact Heather Tritt, County Executive Director, at 541-967-5925, ext 107. It’s best to make contact early in the sign-up period to allow time to make the serious estimates of costs that will be required.

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The Quarterly Bark
9
President’s Corner
By Jim Merzenich

I recently attended the annual Operators dinner in Sweet Home, which is sponsored jointly by the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Linn Forest Protective Association (LFPA). The emcee was Sherm Sallee who is on the board of both the LFPA and our OSWA chapter. If you want a good steak dinner while learning how to protect your forest from fire, plan to attend next year’s meeting.

The prognosis is for another dry summer with higher than normal temperatures and lower than normal precipitation. As of June 12, lightning-started wildfires were already burning in southwest Oregon and a burning ban had been declared in Linn County. With virtually no snowpack in the Cascades and extreme drought on the eastside, conditions will only get worse. By paying a forest patrol assessment fee with your annual property taxes, you receive firefighting services from ODF and the Linn Forest Protective Association. If the fire was caused by lightning or the public, there will generally be no additional cost to you, the landowner. We had a lightning-caused fire on our farm last summer. Quick detection by us and a quick response by ODF prevented this fire from becoming a disaster.

If a fire results from harvesting or other operations occurring on your land, you are responsible for making “every reasonable effort” to suppress and extinguish the fire. To limit liability and protect your forest you should always obtain a permit prior to burning or operating power-driven machinery. You should also make sure that you have the equipment and trained personnel to fight a fire. If you are unsure about your responsibilities, contact your Stewardship Forester. These employees of the Oregon Department of Forestry provide landowner assistance and can conduct a free inspection of your firefighting equipment and readiness. Stewardship foresters Jim Ewing and Steve Kendell are based in Sweet Home while Joe Arbow is based in Mehama.

When your forest operation causes a fire and you have followed all of the rules, you can still be held liable for up to $300,000 in suppression costs. The Oregon Small Woodlands Association has made an agreement with the JD Fulwiler insurance company to provide insurance to members to cover this and other liability risks. This insurance gives my wife and me some peace of mind. Enjoy the summer.

Linn County Officers

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Linn County picnic
By Sherm Sallee

Please make plans to attend the 2015 Linn County chapter picnic on Saturday, July 11 at the Udell's Happy Valley Tree Farm near Lebanon. Other chapters are invited as well. We will gather starting at 9:00 am and plan to eat lunch around noon. The picnic will be a family potluck so bring a dish or two that you can share with others as well as your family. We will provide hotdogs, paper plates, flatware, cups, coffee and water.

Plans for the morning are to tour the OSU thinning plots that covered a 25-year period on the property. We will discuss the lessons we learned since the plots were established in 1981. There are two ponds we can visit and discuss their construction. There are two small clear-cuts to view and see how they are regenerating. We will also have a demonstration of the firewood bundling process and discuss marketing of the firewood and wood pens through the Oregon Woodland Co-Op. In addition to the adult program, Fay Sallee is planning an activity for youth that would like to learn about forestry and insects, so bring along the whole family.

Many of you have never visited this 1982 National Tree Farm of the Year, or at least have not visited since the last Tree Day in 2006. Here is your opportunity to see what has been going on over the last few years. If you have questions, contact Sherm Sallee at 541-451-5322 or at skaallee@yahoo.com. The tree farm road address is 32511 Bellinger Scale Road near Lebanon. The Tree Day sign is still up at the entry way.
Linn County Tree Farmer of the Year Tour

By Dave Bateman

Linn County Tree Farmers of the Year Dave and Karen Bateman are hosting a tour of their property at 42755 Fish Hatchery Drive, east of Scio, on Sunday, August 23 from 4:00 to 7:30 pm. Bring a potluck item to share and your favorite lawn chair. Linn County will provide beverages, and Dave and Karen will provide chicken, paper plates and plastic ware. Potluck will start at 6 pm. The property is a half mile up the hill from the end of the asphalt, on the left at the top of the hill. Weyerhaeuser's white gate comes into view when you go past the driveway. Yellow tree-farm tour signs will be up starting near the Larwood Covered Bridge.

The tour will highlight:
The 35 year old Douglas-fir stand, which is at the house and will be marked for thinning. We can discuss which trees to harvest and how many to leave. This stand was first thinned commercially in 2009.

Dave and Karen harvested 20 acres in 2002 when they purchased the property. It was planted mostly to Douglas-fir and some western redcedar and grand fir in the winter of 2002-2003. Trees per acre are as high as 600 today. The target was 9 x 9 or about 500 trees/acre. We will have plots thinned to 300, 400 and 500 trees per acre. We will look at trees per acre for your first commercial harvest, discuss trees per acre that are acceptable for a successfully established stand and whether I should interplant.

Jim Merzenich and Dave will provide an update on their experience with distilling and marketing essential oils from conifer needles. The still will be set up and cooking.

Ponds on woodland properties

By Sherm Sallee

Over 50 small-woodland owners attended a workshop presented by Steve Bowers, OSU Forestry Extension Agent for Douglas County. His extensive research and personal experience developing ponds on his own property in Linn County contributed to a very informative evening. Among the handouts Steve provided was one titled "Alternative Reservoir Process." This handout provides instructions on the process a landowner should follow to obtain a permit to build a pond on their property. The handout also provides background information about state water rights as well as a copy of the application for a permit to "Store Water in a Reservoir." This application form is for a permit to store less than 9.2 acre-feet or construct a reservoir with a dam less than 10 feet high.

The application process is rather lengthy and does include approval of multiple state agencies. Steve's message was to be patient and expect the approval process to take about a year. He did emphasize that he found that paying the fees for recording the permit up front helps the process go faster. Payment indicates to the approving agency that the applicant is serious about building a pond. If the permit is not approved, the fees are returned. The approval process is an eight step

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Woodland ponds

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procedure. He commented on the need for the landowner to complete the final step which is to file a “Claim of Beneficial Use” to obtain a water right. Individuals who do not complete this form will not have a water right registered with the state.

How much will construction of a pond cost? Steve estimated that for a good sized pond, one can expect to spend around $10,000. He has learned that the best soil for ponds is clay. If a landowner’s soil is not clay, other alternatives such as liners or importing clay are possibilities. These bring with them other problems, so if one does not have clay soil, expect additional costs. Steve mentioned one pond builder that ended up spending in excess of $55,000 trying to get a pond established on non-clay soil.

Once a pond is established the landowner needs to provide continuing maintenance to control vegetation and algae. Steve covered several approaches to providing this maintenance. These might be mechanical, biological or chemical methods. One will probably have to use a combination of the approaches to be successful. Remember, nature does not like to be messed with and will try to restore a pond location to the way it was before the landowner made a change.

Steve Bowers has written a book on ponds. The book, is available from OSU Extension for $12.00 https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em9104 or contact Steve at steve.bowers@oregonstate.edu.

This event is one of an ongoing educational series arranged and supported by the Linn County Small Woodlands chapter.