



The Quarterly Bark

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April 2016

Tour of Bell pole yard in Lebanon

by Jim Merzenich



Ken Nygren talking poles.

The Bell Lumber and Pole company has been supplying quality poles to utilities and contractors across North America since 1909. The Linn County chapter of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association sponsored an afternoon tour of the Bell pole yard in Lebanon on March 17. On this tour seventeen OSWA members and their guests saw raw logs being peeled and shaved to create poles. This process is quite precise since sapwood must be retained along the entire length of the finished pole. A hands-on demonstration of how poles are graded and examined for critical defects (e.g. excessive knots,

breakage, or sweep) was also given. Bell produces poles that vary in length from 30 to 125 feet, with butt-end diameters up to 32 inches. The largest poles are often bought from non-industrial private landowners.

Bell Pole has a forestry assistance program to help small landowners manage their timber for poles. The forester in charge of this program for Oregon and Washington is Ken Nygren, who led this tour. Ken works with landowners to identify the trees that are suitable for poles and helps oversee their harvest. Some logs have hidden defects that disqualify them from being made into poles.

These defects may only be discovered when the logs are peeled and shaved. Ken stressed that landowners are paid the higher pole price for all logs that have been approved by him and are brought into the yard, even though some may be found to

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Deputy State Forester addresses Lane meeting

by Wylda Cafferata

On January 21, members of the Lane County Small Woodlands Association and their guests were privileged to welcome Nancy Hirsch, Deputy State Forester as guest speaker at their annual meeting. Steve Cafferata introduced her as a person in overall charge of the Oregon Department of Forestry's (ODF) field work in conjunction with the State Forester. It was clear from her presentation that she works on Oregon's forest lands with vigor and passion.

Nancy comes from a small woodlands background, having grown up in northeast Washington, where her great-grandmother lived on the family land until she was 100. Nancy cares about the work small woodland owners do, sympathizes with the challenges of transferring land from one generation to the next, and welcomes small woodland owners' partnership with ODF.

In her presentation, she addressed the Linn County class-action lawsuit, the Board of Forestry's composition and challenges, and issues important to forest landowners in the 2015 Legislative Session. She concluded by discussing many aspects of ODF's fire-fighting program.

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

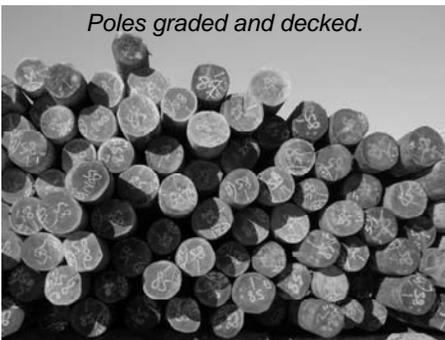


Pole yard tour

(Continued from page 1)

have these defects. More information on this management assistance program can be found at <http://belltimber.com/>.

The Linn County chapter is planning to have a follow-up tour of a pole harvest area in June or July. If you are interested in managing your timber for poles or need more information you can contact Ken Nygren at woodsmantwo@gmail.com or (971) 241-0268. ♦



Poles graded and decked.



The Quarterly Bark

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Editor: John Westall
12090 Rolling Hills Road
Monmouth, Oregon 97361-4600
503-838-1436
westallj@att.net

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

Nancy Hirsch addresses Lane meeting

(Continued from page 1)

ODF has a good, long-standing relationship with the counties, Nancy asserted, and ODF works with them to provide the greatest permanent value. At issue in the \$1.4 billion lawsuit is ODF's responsibility to provide for social and ecological as well as economic value. The issue is absorbing much of Nancy's time.

She reminded us that the seven-member Board of Forestry is appointed by the Governor and approved by the senate. Board members serve four year terms, and may serve two consecutively. Nancy regrets that Gary Springer, from north-west Oregon, will be going off the Board. In Nancy's view, Gary epitomizes a Board member who knows what forestry in Oregon is all about. Board members are all volunteers who face many challenges in attempting to balance mandated economic, social, and ecological values.

Nancy highlighted two bills from the 2015 Legislative Session important to small woodland owners, on which ODF had influence: HB 3549 on pesticide licensing and reporting, and HB 3013 that allows food plots for wildlife. Nancy assured the group that OSWA's voice counts and we need to continue to tell our story,

both to the Board of Forestry and to the Legislature.

Nancy has wide and varied experience working with fire in Oregon, from fire-fighting in the 1980s to her work as a District Forester, as an Incident Commander of an ODF fire team, as Chief of Fire in 2013 and Chief of State Lands in 2014 and in her current work as well. On the same day she addressed the LCSWA meeting, she had spent six hours with the Fire Protection Review Committee. Its objectives are to answer these three questions: how can we fund increasing fire costs; how can we develop a sustainable organization to fight fire and simultaneously accomplish ODF's other forest management responsibilities; and how can we deal with the systemic problem of land that is not managed.

Nancy noted that meetings are open to the public and meeting dates are posted on the ODF website. When asked how ODF approaches fire on a small woodland owner's land, Nancy emphasized that ODF tries to build relationships with landowners prior to any fire. If a fire becomes large and an incident team is called in, the team communicates with



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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>. ♦

landowners face-to-face through a liaison officer, opens fire-related conference calls to landowners, and uses social media as well. Nancy reported that Oregon's complete and coordinated approach to fire is the envy of other states.

Lane County Small Woodland Owners members left the meeting impressed with Nancy's ability to bring clarity to complex issues and with her understanding of how these issues affect small woodland owners. We appreciate her making time for us in her busy schedule. ♦



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Starker Lectures, April 7-8 at OSU. Google "Starker Lecture Series" for details.

Tour of Cedar Creek Family Forest, Thursday, April 28, 3-5 pm, west of Philomath. Details p. 8.

Plant ID Class, Wednesday, May 11, 6:30 - 8 pm, Waterloo County Park near Lebanon. Details p.10. RSVP requested.

Linn County Howdy Neighbor Tour, Saturday, May 14, Merzenich Oak Basin Tree Farm near Brownsville. Details p. 10. **RSVP**.

Corvallis Watershed Forest Tour, Thursday, May 26, 1-4 pm, west of Philomath. Details p. 8. **RSVP**.

Lane County Howdy Neighbor Tour, Saturday, June 4, Bauman Tree Farm. Details, p. 4. **RSVP**.

OSWA Annual Meeting, June 9-11, Baker City. Details sent by mail to OSWA members in April.

Small-Scale Tractor Logging, Thursday, June 30, 6-8 pm, Hibbs-Karr tree farm near Airlie. Details p.8.

Linn County Summer Picnic, Saturday, July 30, Wolthuis property near Sweet Home. More information p. 10.

Benton County Summer Picnic and Tour, Saturday, August 6, near Hoskins. More information p. 8.

Coastal forest tour, Saturday, August 13, Rankin tree farm, south of Florence. More information p. 4.

Linn County TFOY Tour, Saturday, August 20, Holmberg tree farm near Lebanon. More information p. 7.

Lincoln County TFOY and Howdy Neighbor Tour, Saturday, August 20, Dahl Tree Farm. More information p. 7. ♦

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Lane County News

Winter 2016 activities

by Gary Jensen, LSWA President

LCSWA's annual meeting was once again a success. Over 70 members attended on Thursday, January 21 at the Eugene Elks. The event provided attendees an opportunity to come together for dinner, socialize and visit with friends and folks of common backgrounds and similar interests. Jim James, OSWA Executive Director updated us on OSWA activities over this past year and what to expect out of the just completed legislative session. The implementation of revised riparian rules was at the center of attention with ODF implementing the new rules by 2017. OSWA continues to follow the process and will keep members informed. Nancy Hirsch, Deputy State Forester, updated us

on Oregon Department of Forestry issues and concerns covering 2015 and through 2016. These include: changing riparian rules on the west side; upcoming litigation being enacted by Linn County over financial returns on state owned forest lands; aerial spraying of herbicides in and around rural properties; and the state's financial burden with fire suppression activities.

On Saturday, February 2 LCSWA held its annual seedling sale. The sale was staged at Alton Baker Park on Saturday morning beginning at 8:00 am and seedlings were sold out by 11:00 am. A special note of thanks goes out to Mike and Connie Atkinson for organizing the sale and to all who provided their time assisting with making the event happen. Due to the shortage of seedlings from nurseries, we had only about 4,000 seedlings for sale.

Upcoming events. Saturday, June 4 a *Howdy Neighbor! Tour* will be held on the Bauman Tree Farm, south of Veneta at 84289 Territorial Hwy, 9:30 am - 3:30 pm. The day will provide on-the-ground tours of

forest management activities as well as presentations by professionals covering a variety of topics including: Growing Forests; Forest Health & Disease; Forest Habitat & Wildlife; and, Making a Living off Your Tree Farm. Put the date on your calendar. RSVP to Dick Beers, 541-687-1854, rbeers2606@comcast.net,

A tour is in the works for a late summer event, Saturday, August 13 at the Rankin Tree Farm south of Florence on the South Slough. The tour will provide an overview of Oregon's coastal forests, their diversity of species and the impact new riparian rules will have on land owners. More information will be coming as we finalize the plan.

New Extension forester. The OSU Extension Service has hired an Extension Forester for Lane County, Lauren Grand. Lauren holds a BS in Environmental Sciences from the University of California- Berkeley (with minors in Forestry & Natural Resources Education) and an MS in Forest Resources from the University of Washington. Lauren has worked for the Fire Ecology Laboratory at the University of California-Berkeley, the US Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station



Michael Atkinson and Dick Beers recognized for 50 years and 25 years of Tree Farm membership by Jim James, representing the Oregon Tree Farm System..

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and as a Wood Properties and Sustainability Consultant to Vinawood Ltd. in Vietnam. For the past 2 ½ years she has worked as the North Puget Sound Forestry Program Coordinator with Washington State Extension, where she has developed and delivered a wide variety of forest stewardship educational programs for diverse audiences across six Washington counties. Lauren begins her job with Lane County Extension Service on April 4, 2016.

We look forward to seeing you at LCSWA's upcoming events. ♦

Future of Extension Forestry in Lane County

by Lindsay Reaves

Lane County is consistently one of the top two timber producing counties in Oregon. It has a large private industrial timberland base and numerous family forestlands. OSU was forced to relocate its Extension Forester from Lane County in 2010, due to the lack of local funding support. OSU has once again placed an Extension Forester in Lane County, with salary and benefits paid by state funds, however, local funding must be available to provide office space, staff support, and to cover expenses associated with Lane County efforts. Without local support, the position will be placed in another county. Without Extension Forestry in Lane County, there is limited access to services that are particularly important to family forestland owners, such as onsite assistance and forestry education programs, such as Master Woodland Manager.

To support the Extension programs in Lane County, the Lane County Board of Commissioners unanimously agreed to place Measure 20-239 on the May 2016 ballot. Measure 20-239 asks voters to approve 1.5 cents per \$1000 assessed value for a five year period with funds dedicated to the Extension programs in Lane County. If passed, an owner of a property with assessed value of \$200,000 would pay approximately

an additional \$3 per year. The local option tax would not result in loss of revenues for cities or other taxing districts. This tax would supplement, but not replace, self-funding efforts already in place. Programs and services supported are those identified as high priorities for OSU Extension in the needs assessment conducted by the University of Oregon.

For more information on Ballot Measure 20-239, contact LaneExtension2016@gmail.com. Details about Extension's programs and services in Lane County, and the funding proposal that was made to the Commissioners are on the Lane County Extension website: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/lane/SupportAndFunding>, which was a source for this article. ♦

Forests Today and Forever teaches active forest management

by Wylda Cafferata

Forests Today and Forever (FTF) is a Lane County based non-profit organization with this mission: Promoting Forest Stewardship through Education. On January 29, it held its annual meeting to recognize volunteers and highlight accomplishments. Beth Krisko, the executive director, summarized 2015's events and described plans for 2016. A group of students from Shasta Middle School in Eugene demonstrated what they learned by participation in the FTF program, and Dr. Thomas Maness, Dean of OSU's College of Forestry, gave the crowd of 98 FTF volunteers a global perspective on forestry before narrowing his presentation down to forestry education in Oregon.

In 2015, Beth reported, FTF recorded 1139 volunteer hours and reached 2300 people through its many programs including Forest Field Days and associated classroom curriculum for middle school students, student tours at the Oregon Logging Conference, Seedling-

to-Sawmill tours for teachers, and growing partnerships with various adult groups. Plans for 2016 include growing the adult outreach and forming new partnerships.



Students present management plan.

A group of seven middle school students under the guidance of Shasta Middle School Teacher Val Michalenko delighted the audience by demonstrating their grasp of active forest management. The FTF curriculum sets up a scenario where groups of four students assume the role of siblings who have inherited a tree farm. One sibling is interested in economic values, one in wildlife, one in soils and water resources, and one in recreation. They work together to create a management plan with the limitations that they cannot sell the land and must generate enough income to pay taxes. Students received a standing ovation for their presentation.

Dr. Thomas Maness, Dean of OSU's College of Forestry, thanked all the volunteers for the work they do. He reminded the group that the world's increasing population-seven billion now and nine billion by 2046-needs forest products and the knowledge to actively manage forests. He asserted that Western Oregon is the world's best place to grow trees, and contrasted the sustainability of wood to other building materials. He pointed out that OSU is the largest college of forestry in the country and growing. His goal is to double the enrollment from the current 1000 students to 2000. He emphasized that we all need to get the word out that the forest industry has a bright future. Forests Today and Forever welcomes new and returning volunteers. For more information, check www.ForestsTodayAndForever.org. ♦

Lincoln County News



President's Update

by Peter Bregman

Howdy from your county chairperson, who as of February the 19th became

partly bionic do to complete shoulder replacement. I am the first one in my family to receive new parts in his body. Because I was born in Holland in 1942 during the war, it was hard to find replacement parts for a model that old. The doctor had to modify the process by grinding up some of my tissue to build it up around the new parts, counting on the fact that it will grow and form more bone structure to hold my shoulder parts in place, so I can perform forestry labor again. In the fall I plan to have a right knee replacement; so by the time I am done with all the repairs, I will have spent all of my Medicare allowances and maybe some of yours too. The nice thing is that it all comes with a lifetime guarantee.

With my right hand and arm out of order, I realized that typing with the left hand alone takes me 3 times as long to complete this article. We want to thank everyone that kept Alice and me in their prayers. Alice is and has been receiving chemo treatments for leukemia; therefore, we hope we both will be able to travel back to Waldport by the time you receive this Bark edition because summers in Waldport are best for us.

Our annual meeting was somewhat of a success, with about 60 individuals in attendance including all the speakers. We had speakers that were informative, covering many of the issues dealing with the continuing changes and encroachments by government agencies. I felt that there was not sufficient interest among the tree-farm owner chapter members who will be THE MOST affected by the new rules. We all will pay the price for these changes that are about to become permanent. The problem I see is that the changes were anticipated. Members of the Tree Farm community have dealt with many of these changes over the last 20 years, but, having fought similar battles, their will to fight seems to be diminishing.

The emphasis of the meeting was not just on the buffer setback rules but was also on the method in which the legislative rule making process evolves so that we can better understand the issues as well as the rule making process itself which is poorly understood by most of us.

As I am more of an outsider with a background in economics and finance, it appears to me that the rural community is paying a much higher

price for conserving our environment than the urban community. Blaming the farm community for stream/air pollution is unjust as the proportion of pollution from all non-farm production and transport of goods to urban areas, far outweighs that of the farming community.

The rapid urban/suburban population growth in this and other states is not sustainable without having to make major changes in the way we deal with water resources and pollution control. The natural process of growth cannot be stopped; therefore the demand on resources will outpace their availability. Such an increase in pollution and the demand on water resources will overwhelm acceptable air quality and water availability (not to mention the effects of dam removal). Therefore, a more equitable allocation of dividing the resources will be required. The consequences of our in-actions to correct that will be much more substantial, versus taking a balanced approach now, in which common sense would have to be a dominating factor.

This is the opinion of your chapter president — any comments would be appreciated. ♦

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Tree Farmer of the Year Tour Scheduled

by Judy Pelletier

We are excited to announce that Nic Dahl is the 2016 Lincoln County Tree Farmer of the Year. Nic has been diversifying and adding to his tree farm holdings over time, and he currently serves as our Membership chair. He is an example of young, up and coming tree farmers within OSWA. As co-owner of Dahl Disposal Service, Inc. of Toledo, Nic is the third generation to own the business, which celebrated its fiftieth year of service a couple years ago.

This Howdy Neighbor tour of his Lincoln County property will be on Saturday, August 20 and will include lunch. Because this will be our only tour this year, you will not want to miss it.

As always, our LC Chapter seeks new members. Please join the LC chapter for a great tour, great company and great food. For more information call Joe Steenkolk, 541-875-1541 or Peter Bregman at 541-563-6428 or 209-604-7306. ♦

Lincoln County Seedling Sale

by Joe Steenkolk

Our annual seedling sale was held on March 5 in the 4-H building in Newport. When we first started our seedling sale 10+ years ago, it was in March, outside, on the corner of highways 101 and 20. We had no shelter except for a 10 x 10 canopy and the rain was coming horizontally. It was miserable for the first few years but we persevered — having it in the 4-H building the last few years has been so nice.

This year the city had informed us that there was a broken water line that would not be fixed, so the fairgrounds would be without water (the Saturday Market is also held at the fairgrounds), but they would provide port-a-potties. Fortunately, the water was fixed and we did have water.

We had a good variety of seedlings and native shrubs but it never fails, one of the first customers asked for Oregon Grape, which we did not have. Sales were very busy all morning but by afternoon, it slowed down considerably. We had many repeat customers and answered lots of questions on planting, best plants for shade, what kinds of soil, etc.

We would like to thank all the great help we had to make this annual event very successful, especially Joe Steere and his daughter Keri (who came all the way from Ashland, where she is attending school) who handled the purchase and transporting the bags and boxes to Newport and then taking back some extras to the cooler. ♦



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Benton County News

Upcoming Tours in Benton County

By Roger Workman

Cedar Creek Family Forest Thursday, April 28, 3 - 5 pm

Come meet BCSWA's newest member, Rob Blickensderfer and tour the Cedar Creek Family Forest, which he has owned since 1969.

The tour will illustrate how a mature, naturally regenerated small forest can be managed for family recreation, while engaging in low volume selective thinning to improve stand quality, and increase standing timber volume. We will be able to compare adjacent stands that have had minimal to no thinning.

Scott Ferguson of Trout Mountain Forestry will be on hand to discuss the selection process used for thinning on this property, and will actually be marking some trees to be cut.

Rob's education was in Engineering. We will be able to see a bridge he engineered and some modifications that he made to his bulldozer, to allow safer single handed yarding of logs.

The majority of this property is on a steep slope. We will be hiking up a skid road, so be prepared to do some vigorous climbing. Boots or hiking shoes are recommended.

Parking on site is very limited. We will carpool from the True Value (old grocery store, 1724 Main Street) parking lot in Philomath. Plan to be there at 2:45. We will leave soon after that.

Corvallis Forest Tour Thursday, May 26, 1 - 4 pm

Join Benton County Small Woodlands Association on a tour of the Corvallis Forest, which is part of the Corvallis Watershed.

The tour will be led by Mark Miller of Trout Mountain Forestry. Mark is a Consulting Forester known for his work with local municipal forests, and small-woodland owners.

The focus will be on forest management practices and objectives in the watershed. We will visit recent thinning and variable retention harvests that demonstrate the City's approach to balancing resource protection, habitat enhancement, and long-term sustainable management. We can also view management of some root rot infected areas.

We will be joined by Jennifer Ward, City of Corvallis Watershed Specialist. She will provide a broader look at the history of the watershed, how it fits into the City's larger water infrastructure, and other management activities around the watershed.

We will carpool from the Benton Co Extension office 4077 SW Research Way, Corvallis OR 97333. Please park to the side, or in back of the building. RSVP to Jody Einerson at jody.einerson@oregonstate.edu or 541-766-6750.

Small-Scale Tractor Logging Thursday, June 30, 6 - 8 pm

Join us for an evening discussion and demonstration of small-scale tractor logging by Dave Hibbs and John Westall. They have developed this program for the Clackamas Tree School and have offered to share some aspects of it with those who were unable to attend.

Dave and John will demonstrate some basics of using a farm tractor with a Farmi winch to harvest and yard logs. We will see synthetic rope being used instead of the traditional steel cable, and they will discuss the pros and cons.

This event will be held at Dave and Sarah's property on Airlie Rd. Parking is limited so we'll take a van from the former Albertson's parking lot at Kings and Circle in Corvallis, leaving promptly at 5:15 pm.

Directions: From Corvallis go north on Hwy 99W to the blinking light at Airlie Rd. Turn left onto Airlie Rd. and go 5.4 miles to a mailbox on your right with number 14200, between the intersections of Airlie Rd. with Berry Creek Rd. and Sauerkraut Rd. At the mailbox, turn left into the farm yard of Dave's neighbor and park under the fir trees next to the road. Watch for signs.

BCSWA Summer Picnic & Tour Saturday, August 6, 12 noon

Come and enjoy a potluck picnic with fellow small-woodland owners and friends. This year we will hold the picnic at Fort Hoskins Park, in the Kings Valley area. Drinks, plates and utensils will be provided.

Following the picnic we will make a short drive up the road to the Schmidt Family Forest, Hoskins property. There we will be able to walk off lunch and talk about forest management practices and points of interest on this past tree-farm-of-the-year property.

Directions: From Corvallis take Hwy 20 west to the Kings Valley Hwy 223. Turn right on Hwy 223 and go about 5 miles. Turn left on Hoskins Road. The entrance to the park is on the right about 1.8 miles from Hwy 223. ♦

Benton County Chapter Board Members

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Secretary, Laura Harmsen	541-753-6719	harmsen31@comcast.net
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Forest Deputy, Brent Iverson	541-766-6237	cell 541-740-4290 ♦

Recent activities in Benton County

By John Westall

Annual Meeting. The Benton County chapter held its annual meeting on Saturday, January 23, at the Beazell Memorial Forest Education Center with about 60 people attending. David Ehlers was elected to the Board, and chapter members were invited to consider serving on the Board. Jim James, Executive Director of OSWA, presented an OSWA update and encouraged members to attend the statewide OSWA Annual Meeting in Baker City, June 9-11, 2016.

The program was presented by Stephen Fitzgerald, Director of OSU Research Forests and Extension Specialist in Silviculture. The Research Forests comprise not only the McDonald-Dunn Forest familiar to those around Corvallis, but also other properties around the state. The mission of the Research Forests is complex: provide a venue for natural-resource research and education at OSU, as well as accommodate outreach education and recreation for the general public, with more than 145,000 visits per year. Revenues from timber harvests are used to support these activities in the forests as well as special research and instructional needs in the College of Forestry. Balancing this complex portfolio of interests is a large-scale version of what many small-woodland owners do.

Stephen went on to describe a number of research projects in the forests that are often of interest to small-woodland owners. For example, he discussed a variety of silvicultural treatments, including two-age and multi-age management, various approaches to thinning and density management, tree growth in long rotations, and thinning of stands at age fifty to accelerate attainment of mature forest conditions (large trees and dead wood). The Research Forests is an interesting resource and living laboratory for understanding more about managing our forests.

Logging Small Woodlands: Hiring and Contracting. On February 10, the Benton and Linn chapters sponsored an informative, entertaining talk by Steve Bowers, OSU Extension Specialist in Timber Harvesting, on all aspects of managing a small-woodland harvest. Steve covered an enormous number of details on selecting a logger, selecting a log buyer, purchase orders, and contract provisions. If you missed the meeting, many of these details are described in the excellent, newly revised Extension publication, Small-Scale Harvesting for Woodland Owners, EM 9129, which can be downloaded free from <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em9129>.

Woodland Information Night. The Benton and Linn County chapters alternate sponsorship of this annual event. This year's event was hosted by the Benton County chapter and held at the Corvallis - Benton County Public Library on March 1.

The first topic was the fire prevention rules in effect during fire season. John Westall gave a landowners perspective, showing how he uses the Oregon Department of Forestry's fire rules website, <http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/Fire/Pages/Restrictions.aspx> to determine what fire rules are in effect at any time

and at any location. He also showed that having all of the fire fighting tools required for a harvest operation requires careful planning. Bill Mahr, ODF Stewardship Forester for Benton County, then gave a summary of recent fire history, causes of fires, and rate of compliance with the fire rules. He showed that there is still plenty of room for improvement on private, non-industrial forestlands (that's us.) Bill handed out a packet of checklists that are very useful for anyone conducting a harvest or other operation during fire season. Bill concluded with a brief review of the process involved in the current revision of the riparian buffer rules. There will be an opportunity for public review and input probably in the summer of 2016 with the rules going into effect in the fall of 2017.

Van Decker gave a quick up date on log prices showing that they are holding up for the time being.

Brad Withrow-Robinson followed up by describing some key resources in the fight against weeds. Several of these are posted at <http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/treetopics/>.

Brad recommended the PNW Weed Management Handbook, <http://pnwhandbooks.org/weed/> (particularly Section K on forestry) as a comprehensive guide. ♦



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Linn County Chapter News



President's Corner

by Jim Merzenich

A symposium on Forest Health was held at OSU on Feb 16-17. The initial

presentations described the insect and disease agents, invasive pests, and climatic factors which affect forest health. Strategies to manage your forest in response to these factors were described on day two. Copies of the slide presentations can be found online (<http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/2016foresthealth/presentations/>) and a videotape of this event will be available soon.

The biggest contributor to poor forest health is having over-stocked stands. Trees that have adequate room to grow will have less moisture stress and healthier canopies. Healthy trees are also more likely to survive bark beetle attacks and are less prone to disease agents. Pre-commercial and commercial thinning are the best treatments to maintain a healthy stand and reduce drought related mortality.

Spring rains encourage the growth of both your conifer seedlings and the weeds that compete with them for sunlight and water. Whether you

use herbicides or mechanical means, you should control competing vegetation now before the soil begins to dry out. Controlling grasses and weeds makes more moisture available to seedlings during the dry season. Seedlings can die from moisture stress even in wet summers when you don't control competing weeds. On our farm we spray a 5-foot diameter circle around each seedling for 2-3 years following planting. Weed control also reduces mortality caused by meadow voles.

Several events are planned to help our members manage their land and to learn what others are doing.

Wednesday, May 11, 6:30 - 8 pm. Plant ID class by Brad Withrow-Robinson at Waterloo Park. RSVP to Jody (contact info below) requested.

Saturday, May 14, 10 am - 3 pm. Managing dry sites in the Willamette foothills (while fighting invasive species). This will be a walking tour of our Oak Basin Tree Farm south of Brownsville. We will discuss issues such as thinning fir and pine stands, species selection on dry sites, and oak restoration. Lunch and refreshments will be provided on this "Howdy Neighbor" tour. RSVP to Jody Einerson at 541-766-6750 or jody.einerson@oregonstate.edu. From Hwy 228 in Brownsville, turn south on Washburn Street (aka Gap

Road.) Continue about five miles and turn left (east) on Northernwood Drive. Travel to the end of the paved road, stay left, follow signs.

June 9-11. OSWA statewide annual meeting in Baker County.

June or July TBD. Evening pole harvest tour and follow-up to our pole yard tour held in March.

July 30, 11 am - 2 pm. Summer picnic and potluck at Henry Wolthuis's place on Wiley Creek near Sweet Home.

August 20, 4 - 7:30 pm. TFOY tour at the Holmbergs. Joe and Shirley are the Linn County Tree Farmers of the Year for 2016. There will be a potluck picnic.

To receive updated messages on these and other events in Benton, Linn, and Polk counties subscribe to the *Woodland Compass* and *The Needle*. This e-mail service is provided by OSU Forestry Extension. To subscribe contact Jody Einerson (jody.einerson@oregonstate.edu) or call the Benton County Extension Office (541 766-6750).

I look forward to seeing you at our next event. ♦

Linn County Annual Meeting

by Sherm Sallee

Every year on the third Saturday in January, Linn County Small Woodlands chapter holds its annual meeting. Again this year, it was held in Scio at the Odd Fellows Hall and about 75 people attended. We started the evening with a fantastic potluck from some of the greatest cooks in Linn County. Following the dinner, we were entertained by presentations from several of the 4-H forestry project youngsters. We found out what they had learned over the last year in their project. Also, they thanked us for the youth scholarships that the organization presented to them. Next, Katie Kohl read letters from our two college scholarship award winners telling

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	Larry Mauter	805-400-8552	osomauter3@att.net
Director	Lee Peterman	541-223-3935	petey711@hotmail.com
Director	Dan Thackaberry	541-258-5422	farmerdan17@gmail.com
Director	Henry Wolthuis	541-367-4764	wolthuis2@comcast.net

Standing Committees

Activities	Mary Brendle	541-367-2845	brendle@wildblue.net
Tree Farm/Yr	Joe Holmberg	541-259-3963	praediolum@yahoo.com
Education	Fay Sallee	541-451-5322	sksallee@yahoo.com
Seedling Sale	Bonnie Marshall	503-769-6510	bonnieym@wvi.com
Scholarships	Katie Kohl	541-451-1734	kohl@proxaxis.com
Linn Deputy	Rodney David	541-967-3950	rdavid@linnsheff.org
		800-884-3391	♦

Linn County Seedling Sale 2016

by Sherm Sallee

how their educational year has proceeded. They also thanked the organization for the financial support provided to them this year.

Next, presentations about the upcoming seedling sale and goods from the woods event were made. This led into the first of several door prize drawings, always a very popular portion of the evening. Recipients were very happy with their prizes and thanked the donors for their generosity.

The business portion of the meeting covered a presentation from the treasurer and the minutes from the previous annual meeting. This was followed by election of the new directors and thanks given to the retiring directors. Bill Bowling was elected for a second 3-year term and is the vice president. New directors elected were Larry Mauter and Lee Peterman.

Jim James, OSWA Executive Director, gave a short presentation on the state of OSWA and the riparian rule changes that are coming from the board of forestry. Next, we honored our Linn County Tree Farmers of the Year Dave and Karen Bateman. We viewed a video taken on their tree farm and were able to ask them a few questions. Dave and Karen were presented special jackets from the organization. Nathan Adelman then discussed federal programs available to small woodland owners.

President Jim Merzenich recognized Mary Brendle for the significant efforts she has done for the chapter during her term as director. Mary has been instrumental in arranging many educational opportunities for the members. Jim also recognized Joe Holmberg for all his efforts in helping select tree farmer of the year candidates over the years.

President Jim Merzenich and Brad Withrow-Robinson, OSU Extension Forester, outlined 2016 activities for chapter members. They provided a handout list that includes tour and education opportunities. Please keep your calendar open for next year's annual meeting on the third Saturday in January 2017. ♦

The seedling sale event was held on February 6 at the Linn County Fairgrounds. The weather cooperated and the public turnout was very good. We sold over 6000 seedlings to about 200 different customers. Order sizes ranged from as few as a couple seedlings to over 300 seedlings.

As usual, we had outstanding help from many Linn County Small Woodland chapter members, 4-H members and parents, and college scholarship winners. Several of these folks helped on Friday before the sale to prepare the orders from customers that had pre-ordered and pre-paid. There were 110 of these pre-orders. Others helped on sale day to aid customers in selecting seedlings for their special needs, getting the seedlings to them and finally collecting the funds.

A special thank you goes to Lon and Laura Rankin, Don and Carol Cree, Mary Brendle and Jim Cota for picking up the seedlings from the nurseries and delivering them to the fairgrounds. Also, a very special thank you to Roy Stutzman for donating moist sawdust used to wrap the pre-orders. This year we had donations

of coast redwood seedlings from Plum Creek, Douglas-fir from Lon Rankin and Jim Merzenich and sword fern from Fay and Sherm Sallee.

Funds raised from this event are earmarked for use in the chapter's educational activities. The bulk of the money goes to cover college scholarships for Linn County students attending an Oregon school majoring in a natural resource field. Another portion of the funds is awarded to 4-H forestry students, recognizing their achievements over the previous year.

Mary Brendle, with the help of OSU Extension, arranged for 12 wood product vendor displays in conjunction with the seedling sale. This has proven to be a great addition to the seedling sale and provides an opportunity for local woodworkers to display and sell their products.

Next year's seedling sale/goods from the woods event is set for February 4, 2017. **We are looking for people who would like to serve on the seedling sale committee. If you have an interest in participating with the committee, please contact Fay or Sherm Sallee.** Information about seedling sale pre-orders will be available in November 2016. If you have any questions please contact: Fay or Sherm Sallee, skssallee@yahoo.com. or 541-451-5322 ♦

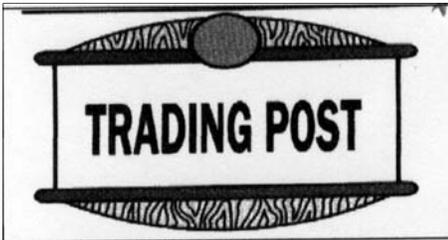


Wood workers display products in conjunction with seedling sale



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Linn County Scholars

By Katie Kohl

The Linn County chapter sponsors scholarships for local students studying forestry and related natural resource fields. Mikaela Gosney is our sophomore scholar at OSU in Natural Resources and just beginning, as she says, “to delve more deeply into the world of forestry as well as fish and wildlife conservation. At this point in my academic career I am starting to home in on what I want to do with my education and am extremely excited for what my future studies bring. I give my all to my education, and am maintaining my 4.0 grade point average, which I hope to continue to do.” Wow! She’s taking tough courses, is achieving the highest academic evaluations and continues to be excited about her studies. Last summer she worked at Oregon State’s North Willamette Research Center in Aurora, “picking berries, doing field maintenance and

assisting in research testing the effects of fertilizers on various plants.” Mikaela was a superb assistant at our Seedling Sale this spring. She is currently looking for summer work in the field of forestry and “is willing to work in any type of environment (recreation, surveying, research) that pertains to my degree and future career goals. If anyone has any work opportunities I would appreciate being contacted!” at mikaelagosney@gmail.com.

Kristen Tolle is our graduating scholar at OSU in Forest Engineering with a minor in Business. She has achieved, all four years, top grade honors. She has worked summers with Weyerhaeuser and will be hired as a PDC (Professional Development Candidate) for their marketing team in Longview, Washington. “I cannot wait to start this new chapter in my life!” We will miss Kristen in our woodlands, at our Annual Meeting and our Seedling Sale, but she promises to “stay involved with the Small Woodlands Association so I can continue to show my gratitude.” ◆