



The Quarterly Bark

VOLUME 22, ISSUE 3

July 2016

Oak Basin tour

by Mike Barsotti

Fire season

by John Westall

Complex is the term that best describes Jim and Ed Merzenich's forest. They hosted a "Neighbor to Neighbor" tour of their 954-acre Linn County tree farm south of Brownsville on Saturday, May 14. "Neighbor to Neighbor" tours are sponsored by the Oregon Small Woodlands Association (OSWA) with financial support from the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI).

Ed and his wife Nancy bought 671 acres of mostly cut over forestland in 1992. Jim, a forester with the USDA-Forest Service, then working in Portland, helped his brother with the management of the property.

"All merchantable timber and then some was logged before Ed's purchase," Jim told the group of 57 who attended the tour. It wasn't long after the purchase that Ed got a reforestation requirement letter from the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF). Jim and Ed planted 160,000 ponderosa pine and 110,000 Douglas-fir by 1996. Over the next eight years they planted an additional 100,000 seedlings.

In 2004 Jim and his wife Karen purchased an adjacent 385 acre parcel from Swanson-Superior. Jim and Karen recently built a house and now live on the tree farm.

The Merzenichs have a multifaceted set of objectives that includes a



Discussion of thinning

sustainable flow of harvestable timber; restoring and maintaining oak, meadow and other habitats; quality habitat for game and non-game species; and recreational use for their families.

With Jim's forestry background, help from a host of natural resource experts, a lot of trial and error, and hard work, the two parcels are becoming a healthy, sustainable forest consisting of a mix of commercial timber stands of Douglas-fir, grand fir, ponderosa pine, incense-cedar, Oregon white oak, big leaf maple, meadows, and oak savannas.

Located in the Cascade foothills south of Brownsville, the two properties have a variety of harsh dry sites that require much more knowledge than typical western Oregon Douglas-fir properties.

The tour consisted of 12 stations plus an ongoing conversation between stops as the group walked along a gravel road. The group saw ponderosa pine plantations, meadow restoration, Douglas-fir thinning strategies on "good" sites and on poorer sites where grand fir was doing better.

Other stops showed the results of removing Douglas-fir to leave Ore-

(Continued on page 2)

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) is making it much easier for people with internet access to determine what fire rules are in effect on a particular property at the current time. For people without internet access, a visit to your local ODF is an alternative.

A good place to start is ODF's fire "Restrictions and Closures" web page, <http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/Fire/Pages/Restrictions.aspx>, which is accessible at that address or from a link on ODF's home page. On that page there is a link to the ODF map application that allows you to find your property on a map, click on the map, and a box pops up with the current status of fire rules. Also, the box provides links to the restrictions themselves. If your property is in the Willamette Valley floor, it may not be covered by a forest protection district and the rules discussed here do not apply; however, local rural fire protection districts may still have restrictions.

The pop-up box shows three tiers of restrictions: Fire Season, Public Restrictions, and Industrial Fire Restrictions. The restrictions are specific to the forest protection district, so one shouldn't just assume that the rules in effect in one district are in effect in another district.

(Continued on page 3)

In This Issue

Upcoming Events	3
Lane County News	4
Lincoln County News	6
Benton County News	8
Linn County News	10

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Oak Basin tour

(Continued from page 1)

gon white oak and meadows where a mix of invasive species such as Himalayan blackberries, Scotch broom, European hawthorn, false brome and thistles had taken over. The invaders were being controlled through an integrated pest management strategy that includes herbicides, mowing, pulling and grazing. Bart Johnson, University of Oregon ecology professor, spoke to what the area looked like before Europeans settled the Willamette Valley, and how the Merzenichs efforts were restoring portions of their property to historical conditions.

Jim explained that he is finding that his 10 X 10 ft spaced pine plantations are more than some sites can handle. Over-stocking has led to insect problems, even where he selected the right tree species for the right site. He's been reducing

The Quarterly Bark these ponderosa pine stands to around 200 trees per acre, working only in the winter months when the insect, the native California ips beetle is not active.



Jim Merzenich making a point

ODF entomologist Christine Buhl explained the life cycle of the ips beetle and how best to manage a pine stand to avoid creating an insect problem. She also discussed other beetles and the forest conditions that lead to increased insect populations and tree mortality.

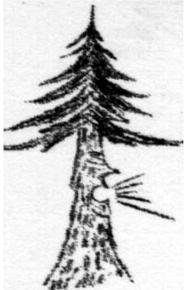
Merzenich showed how soils are a major factor in deciding how each acre can be best managed. Nathan Adelman, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Linn County District Conservationist, informed the group on how they could find soils information for their property. The NRCS has a web

site, websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov, that can provide maps and reports.

Merzenich stated that they got a lot of technical and financial assistance in their efforts to improve their forests. The US Fish and Wildlife provides both technical and financial assistance in restoring the oak savannas and meadows. He told the group to get to know their local ODF Stewardship Forester. "He can be your best ally," he said. Local Stewardship Forester, Steve Kendall, stationed out of Sweet Home, explained how the Oregon Forest Practices Act's (FPA) reforestation rules deal with various forest sites, and how best to move forward where the FPA rules don't fit with what's best for the land and the landowner's objectives.

The tour demonstrated that with an ever growing personal knowledge from successes and failures, and the assistance to local experts, a neglected property can return to a healthy sustainable forest.

It was impressive how hard the Merzenichs had worked, how much they have learned about their unique forest, and how much it has changed in the 20 plus years they have owned the property. As a result of the tour eight new members signed up to join the Oregon Small Woodlands Association. ♦



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Fire Season

(Continued from page 1)

This article is intended to be a guide to navigating the fire rules, not a recitation of the rules themselves; consult the links in the box for that.

The *Fire Season* restrictions apply to everyone and typically address issues such as smoking, blasting, sky lanterns, exploding targets, and tracer ammunition.

The "*Public*" *Fire Restrictions* address what you do, even on *your own property*, that is not part of a forest operation. For example, there are restrictions on open fires, vehicle and ATV use off of improved roads, personal use of chainsaws in some districts, and a requirement for firefighting equipment in vehicles. When these Public Fire Restrictions are in effect, they are posted on orange signs on roads as they pass into forest protection districts.

The *Industrial Fire Restrictions* apply to forest operations, which are generally any activity for which you are required to file a *notification of operation*, for example, timber harvest, land clearing, road construction or repair, herbicide application, etc. These rules have a lot of details, but ODF provides materials that makes them clear.

Compliance. Recently the West Oregon Forest Protection District, which covers mainly Benton, Lincoln and Polk counties, published results of its 2015 Industrial Fire Rules compliance inspections. The results for the 109 inspections were broken out by landowner, with a 92% pass rate for inspections on industrial lands, 86% on federal lands, but only 72% on non-industrial lands (that's us). These 2015 results are typical for other years, too. If compliance with these rules is important for industrial landowners, shouldn't it be important for us, too?

What can small-woodland owners do to improve the pass rate on inspections on their lands? Is the problem mainly small-woodland owners themselves, who are not professional loggers and run loose

operations on their own lands? Or is it mainly professional loggers, who are not paying attention as closely as they should when they are on non-industrial jobs? In the case of the 2015 inspections, a closer look at the data indicates that the lower rate of compliance rate is mainly attributable to professional loggers not paying enough attention to the rules on non-industrial lands.

Here are some actions small-woodland owners might consider if they are interested in improving the compliance rate on inspections on non-industrial lands.

Be informed about the fire rules and discuss expectations about compliance and *specifics* of fire rules with loggers (such as, what do you have for a water supply, when did you have your pump tested? — not just rely on "all applicable rules and regulations will be followed.") And of course it's best to discuss these matters as the job is being planned, not after it has already started.

Attend a local ODF "Operators Meeting," at which fire rules are reviewed. These meetings occur near the beginning of June each year.

ODF will inspect an operation at the landowner's request. If a violation is found during this inspection, no warning or citation will be issued. If ODF shows up on its own to inspect the operation and finds a violation, a warning or citation will be issued.

Develop a logging contract with the fire prevention language included in the contract. Also, it's always possible to require measures above and beyond those required by Oregon law. Two popular additions are the requirements to have the ability to reach all portions of the operation with a charged fire hose, and shutdown of the operation when relative humidity drops to 30% or less.

Why does it matter? *Oregon Forest Protection Laws* (p.83), published by the Oregon Forest Resources Institute, makes it clear why landowners need to be concerned. Under Oregon law, the operator and the landowner are treated as one entity, landowner/operator. So any fault of the operator is also a fault of the landowner.

Thanks to Bill Mahr, ODF Stewardship Forester in Benton County, for helpful comments on this article. ♦

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 **Lane County**, see <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/lane/upcoming-classes-events>

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

Upcoming events

Sawmills and Sawmilling Tour, Saturday July 16, 9-12, sponsored by Marion-Polk chapter, hosted by Mark Havel. Directions: from Yamhill River Rd. (Willamina) take Gold Creek Rd. 1.2 miles, and just across Gold Creek, watch for sign on right.

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

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

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

Lincoln County Tree Farmer of the Year Tour, Saturday, August 20, Dahl Tree Farm. More information p. 7.

Linn County TFOY Tour, Saturday, September 24, Holmberg tree farm near Lebanon. Details p. 10. ♦

Lane County News

Spring 2016 activities

by Gary Jensen, LCSWA Chair

LCSWA and our region's forests, fortunately, have had a quiet and calm spring with no major weather issues or volatile log markets. We had a very successful "Neighbor to Neighbor" tour of the Bauman Tree Farm just west of Eugene off Territorial Hwy. The tour was held on Saturday, June 4 with nearly 80 attending. The presentations were well received and covered timely concerns: how to make income from your forest and the current stress and mortality in our forests due to drought conditions.

On June 9 -11 OSWA held its annual meeting in Baker City, Oregon. The event presented current information on the status of fires and the impact they have had on forest landowners of eastern Oregon. It concluded on Saturday with a tour of Oregon's Outstanding Tree Farmer for 2015, The Defrees Ranch, LLC out of Sumpter. The event brought to light the differences in managing forests in eastern Oregon versus management of forests on the west side of the state. The Defrees actively manage their forests with the goal of developing stands of ponderosa pine reaching 100 years or older through selective harvesting / thinning practices. The forest land-

owners of the region face economic challenges from the lack of local mills and the transportation costs to deliver forest products to available mills.

Upcoming events. Saturday, August 13 a tour will be held on the Rankin Woodlands, LLC Tree Farm, located on the south slough outside of Florence. The tour will provide an overview of Oregon's coastal forests, their diversity of species and the impact new riparian rules will have on landowners. Lunch will be provided. The tour will be from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm with LCSWA's board holding a quarterly board meeting after the tour. Plan on joining us. A flyer will be coming out in July.

New Extension Forester. Lauren Grand is on board and available. She can be reached through the OSU Extension office in Eugene, 996 Jefferson St. Eugene 97402, lauren.grand@oregonstate.edu, 541-579-2150.

Take care and enjoy your forest. We look forward to seeing you at LCSWA's upcoming events.

Gary Jensen, LCSWA Chair ♦

Another day in paradise!

by Wylda Cafferata

On Saturday, June 4, about eighty Lane County small-woodland owners and guests gathered at Tom Bauman & Lindsay Reaves' tree farm for an OFRI/OSWA-sponsored Neighbor to Neighbor tour, a day filled with a diversity of opportunities to update forest management skills, learn from both neighbors and invited speakers, and enjoy a gorgeous day on the tree farm.



The whole group gathered in what's known as the Big Meadow for the traditional coffee and pastries before dispersing into the three morning classes. Lauren Grand, Lane County's new OSU Forestry Extension Agent presented a session titled,

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Lane County Forestry Extension Agent, Lauren Grand

by Wylida Cafferata

“How Does Your Forest Grow,” leading a moderate hike to explore and understand what a forest needs. Dave Shaw, forest pathologist with OSU Extension, led a session on Forest Health and Disease: Why are my trees dying? What to look for following three years of drought. Jed Kaul from the Long Tom Watershed Council led a tour featuring riparian rehabilitation and oak restoration along Coyote Creek.

Back in the Big Meadow, the group enjoyed a good lunch and had the opportunity to visit several information booths by NRCS, Long Tom Watershed Council, ODF, Oregon Herb & Craft Company and to visit a building project being completed by architecture students from the University of Nebraska.

After lunch, the group divided again, with one group visiting Coyote Creek, another learning about managing forests for wildlife and habitat from wildlife biologist Fran Cafferata Coe, and the third group attending a session put on by Steve Bowers, Jeanne Shuttleworth, and Pat Mooney titled, “Making a Living off your Tree Farm,” covering discussions ranging from thinning strategies to log prices to truffle dogs to planting Oregon grape for profit and much more.



The day ended with a choice of taking a hike through part of the tree farm or getting a more extensive view via hay ride. Everywhere on the tree farm the Bauman’s thoughtful, long-term management and consistent hard work were evident. Tour participants came away inspired by Tom and Lindsay’s achievement on their farm, and grateful for the opportunity to visit it. ♦



Lauren Grand is settling in as Lane County’s Forestry Extension agent. She has an environmental science degree from UC Berkeley with a minor in forestry, an MS in Forest Management from the University of Washington, has worked for the Fire Ecology at UC Berkeley, the U.S. Forest Service Pacific NW Research Station, a wood products and sustainability consultant to Vinawood Ltd. in Vietnam, and, most recently, the North Puget Sound Forestry Program Coordinator with Washington State Extension Service. After only a few weeks on the job in Lane County, she took time to reach out to *Bark* readers by answering questions about her goals.

What brings you to Lane County?

Lauren is passionate about closing the gap between researchers and people on the ground. She loves extension work because it provides a direct link to land owners. She is excited about helping disseminate research to people actually managing their land to help use resources in a sustainable way. She enjoyed all her other job opportunities, but is particularly pleased to be here in Lane County because she is connected directly with land managers.

What have you learned about Lane County so far? Lauren reports that the people of Lane County are the nicest with whom she has

had the pleasure of working. Forestry, and particularly trees, are a big part of the county’s identity. People really care about the environment and maintaining healthy, working forests. She finds this empowering for her position. She appreciates invitations to visit landowners on their property, both so she can learn from them about land management in Lane County, and to find out how she can be of the most help.

How do you perceive the scope of your position? Lauren thought the best way to answer this question was to discuss her goals. She is particularly interested in helping small woodland owners achieve a comfort level with land management so they can develop personal management plans and embrace all aspects of land management.

What projects are you considering initially? Longer term? Lauren has a long list of projects she is excited about implementing. Initially she is developing a database of people who are interested in particular forestry-related topics so she can begin planning workshops and classes to address their needs. She has already conducted a “Ties to the Land” workshop for landowners concerned about transferring their property to subsequent generations. She also is planning on developing a database of contractors who are willing to work with small-woodland owners, is considering quarterly newsletters, and is developing a social media presence including a Facebook page with videos called “Walks in the Woods with Lauren.” Longer term, she would like to set up a system to help landowners review their management plans yearly, and multiple ways to present new research.

What kinds of questions do you welcome and how can you best be contacted? Lauren welcomes any and all questions related to forest resources, management, plants: anything that happens on the forest. She can be reached by e-mail at lauren.grand@oregonstate.edu or by phone at 541-579-2150. ♦

Lincoln County News



President's Update

by Peter Bregman

2016 OSWA annual meeting in Baker City 2016.

By now you should all know that I do visit my family in Lodi, California regularly. We had decided to leave on June 6 to make our way to Baker City to attend the OSWA Annual Meeting. Looking at the different ways to get there, we decided to take the one with the shortest time, less than a 10-hour drive from Lodi to Baker City, for a total of about 700 miles. We took Hwy 80 to get Hwy 95 where we spent the night in Winnemucca. We had driven through there before but had never stopped; we found great accommodations in the Best Western, and had dinner at the Flying Pig restaurant, which specializes in BBQ pork – a great meal for a reasonable price.

The next day we drove over Hwy 95 through Nevada to Ontario. On the way we saw lots of private land and fields of alfalfa and mixed agriculture, as was evident in the tiny town of Orovada, sparsely populated. On the other side of the ridge to the east was a valley we wanted to see by the name of the Paradise Valley, but as this was of course a business trip, we did not want to mess up the accounting by mixing the two.

Going into the southeast corner of Oregon, with a whole new landscape of junipers and sagebrush, we crossed a part of the proposed Owyhee Canyonlands National Mon-

ument, to which the local population is opposed. It would cover about forty percent of Malheur County, and I can understand the controversy about that proposal, since the land is managed by the BLM, which is not known to manage the public land well, that, of course, depends on your understanding of managing land.

Well, we arrived on Wednesday in Baker City, where we had our Annual

Meeting about 4 years ago. I considered Baker County one of the best locations. With my background in cattle, it proved to me that a combination of timber and cattle can be one in which this diversity can overcome some of the setbacks that occur when one loses a stand of timber to fire, and the cattle can be a real protection to reduce the fire hazards.

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The Quarterly Bark

The main events on which I want to comment here was the privilege of visiting two cattle and timber operations. The first one we visited was the Gyllenberg's Beaver Mountain Ranch. This family had a major timber loss caused by a wildfire 15 years ago. The land was replanted and developed into a nice stand of 15-year-old trees, which again was destroyed by another wildfire. Not only did they lose the timber and feed for the cattle, but they also lost their main shop, which was a metal building. This was a visit with a lot of emotions by all, and it impresses the importance of neighbors helping neighbors when the chips are down, and where comradery is a key factor in rural relationships.

The second timber-cattle operation we visited was a Dutch family, so I felt very much at home. The Lyle and Dean Defrees Ranch LLC, lies in the shadow of the Blue Mountains in Sumpter Valley, with a mountain of family history going back more the 140 years, including a period when that part of the country produced gold from 1913 to 1953. It was such a pleasure, to see a family working together, Lyle, the patriarch, who is 84 years old, conducting the tours with all the facts and figures to manage 2500 acres –when someone asked the question about the number of cattle, and no cattleman

will ever reveal that number, his answer was that the number of cattle is too much to feed but not enough when they go to the sale.

We had a great time; my grandson Cameron fit right in and was not afraid to talk with anyone, which of course is a Bregman trait. It was a long ride back to Waldport of almost 8 hours, but worth the money and the time. We learned so much that it will be deducted as a business trip when I do this year's tax return. Any comments would be appreciated. ♦

Upcoming Tree Farmer of the Year Tour

Nicholas and Megan Dahl are the youngest tree farmers in Lincoln County's OSWA chapter. Over the last 5 years they have purchased about 440 acres of timber property among three different parcels.

We will have the Tree Farmer of the Year tour August 20, in Toledo, starting at 8:30 am with coffee, donuts and we will end with a BBQ lunch. Tour details to follow.

We hope that you will set that date aside, to visit with Nic and his family, to look at their work as they create a multi-generational forestland operation. ♦

OSU hires new extension forester for North Coast



Valerie Grant, new Extension Forester, whose territory includes Lincoln County.

OSU has hired an Extension Forester on the North Coast. Valerie Grant will be our new Forestry & Natural Resources Extension Agent for Clatsop, Tillamook and Lincoln Counties. Valerie started on Monday, June 13.

Valerie has a BS degree in Forestry from California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, and an MS in Forestry from West Virginia University. While in West Virginia, Valerie worked with the Extension Service in the Statewide Forestry Program. She has also worked as a Youth, Families and Communities Education Specialist II with the University of California's Cooperative Extension Service, a Forestry Technician and a Watershed Technician with the Humboldt Redwood Company in Scotia, California, and as a Forestry Intern with Weyerhaeuser in Springfield, Oregon. Valerie also spent four months studying Forestry in Ilmjoki, Finland in 2012.

As an Extension educator Valerie hopes to work collaboratively with woodland owners, forest managers, and agency partners and connect them with resources to manage, enjoy and learn from forests on Oregon's North Coast. ♦



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Benton County News

Summer picnic and tour of Schmidt Family Forest

By Roger Workman

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 north. Turn left on Hoskins Road. The entrance to the park is on the right about 1.8 miles from Hwy 223. ♦

Recent activities in Benton County

By John Westall

Bald Hill Farm. On March 31, about 33 people attended a tour on oak habitat restoration on Greenbelt Land Trust's Bald Hill Farm just outside of Corvallis. Purchased by GLT in 2013, Bald Hill Farm is a key site for prairie, oak woodland and oak savanna habitat.

Tom Snyder, Benton County District Conservationist with NRCS, began by stating that oak conservation and restoration was a priority for NRCS and explained how NRCS works with landowners on a typical oak restoration project: remove competing Douglas-fir, thin the oak, treat the slash, thin the understory and then follow up by seeding with native grasses and wildflowers. He stressed that it should be "your project, not our project." NRCS typically works with 3-5 year contracts providing approximately 50% cost share.

Following brief presentations by representatives of other conservation organizations, Jeff Baker, Steward-

ship Manager for GLT and Mark Miller, a forester with Trout Mountain Forestry, led a walking tour and discussed some of the unique aspects of the operation. A premium was placed on leaving wildlife trees with big limbs, crooks and other "defects." In an effort to help native grasses get established under the oaks, extensive beds of blackberry and false brome were treated before the thinning operation commenced. After thinning, a heavy duty tracked stump grinder was used to cut all stumps flush with the ground. Any wood that was marketable as pulpwood was sold to minimize the residual slash. Remaining slash was piled, to be chipped for biomass fuel that fall. Obviously this kind of operation is expensive. The Douglas-fir and oak saw logs produced in the operation didn't nearly cover the costs, but that's where the conservation agencies can help out.

Cedar Creek Family Forest. On April 28 we visited Cedar Creek Family Forest of Rob Blickensderfer near the southeast foot of Marys Peak. The 24-acre forest purchased by Rob in 1969 now has dominant Douglas-firs about 150-170 feet tall, with an understory of hardwoods and shrubs, the result of natural regeneration after a clearcut in the early 1930s.

Rob has an interesting program for "sustained yield" harvest. After his retirement in 1993, with no experience in logging, he says he taught himself logging from OSU Extension circulars. The fact that he's still here to tell us about it today is a credit both to OSU Extension and to Rob! He has Scott Ferguson, a forester with Trout Mountain Forestry, come out every 4 - 6 years and spend a few hours marking trees. Then Rob does the felling, limbing, bucking, dozer winching and skidding himself. In this way he has harvested 154 MBF from 20 acres in 23 years. Meanwhile the standing volume in the forest has increased by about 25%. According to Scott, Rob could

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go on logging at this rate for another lifetime.

We inspected a bridge that Rob had designed and built to get his dozer to the other side of the creek. Drawing on his background as an engineer, Rob designed the concrete footers and sized the timbers for the 20-foot, 20,000-pound load bridge, as well as a removable cover to extend the life of the timbers. The cost of the bridge came in at only \$1400, not including Rob's labor. Thanks to Rob and Scott for an informative and interesting tour. Rob showed how you don't need a lot of land to derive a lot of satisfaction from being outdoors, doing physical work, generating income, using your brain and managing the land well.

Corvallis Forest. On May 26 we toured the Corvallis Forest on Rock Creek east of Marys Peak. The approximately 2500-acre Corvallis Forest is owned by the City of Corvallis and comprises the lower 1/4 of the Corvallis Rock Creek Watershed. The upper 3/4 of the Watershed is part of the Siuslaw National Forest. Because the Corvallis Forest is part of the Watershed, it is closed to public access.

The forest currently has about 800 acres in 20-50 year-old Douglas-fir plantations, 800 acres in 50-100 year-old natural second growth, and 800 acres in old-growth reserve. Parts of the forest are being managed for sustainable timber production, with revenue dedicated to the forest.

Our tour was greeted by Jennifer Ward, the City's Watershed Program Specialist and led by Mark Miller of Trout Mountain Forestry, whose firm managed the operations we saw in the forest. We examined several examples of "alternative" management practices such as uneven-age and multi-species management, and reforestation without the usual herbicide treatments.

A variable-retention harvest was conducted in an area infested with root rot. To help prevent the spread of root rot to leave trees, a "buffer" of healthy trees was harvested between the leave trees and the root-rot trees. The root-rot area was replanted with alder. In response to the question, will alder grow here, we heard that sword fern and vine maple are indicators of a good alder site, while salal and Oregon grape are indicators of a bad alder site, and, the vigor of the seedlings seemed to bear that out.

One stand had been thinned recently at 35 years old, and a nearby stand thinned at 50 years old. It was evident that the crowns of the trees thinned at 35 years responded rapidly to the thinning, while the trees thinned at 50 years were recovering more slowly.

Another example was a variable retention harvest of 50-year old trees, with 70% harvested and 30% left in clumps centered around a dominant. This stand is sheltered from the wind and on deep, well drained soils, and blow-down hasn't

been a big problem. In a similar harvest on a more exposed site, blow-down was indeed a major problem. To create a second age class, hemlock (75%) and western redcedar (25%) were replanted.

The Corvallis Forest is a fascinating laboratory of alternative silvicultural practices that might be of interest to small-woodland owners. We appreciate the City of Corvallis giving us the opportunity to visit the site. ♦



A BALANCED APPROACH

TIMBER MANAGEMENT
▲
ALTERNATIVES TO CLEARCUTTING
▲
FOREST PLANNING AND RESTORATION
▲

 These forests have been independently certified as well managed.

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Linn County Chapter News



President's Corner

by Jim Merzenich

Summer is a great time to learn more about managing our forests by visiting

other tree farm properties.

On Saturday, July 30 from 11 am to 3 pm we will have our summer picnic at the Pebble Springs Tree Farm near Sweet Home. The address is 43955 Wiley Creek Drive. Our hosts, Henry and Mollie Wolthuis, have twice been named Linn County tree farmers of the year and were the Oregon state runner-up in 2011. This is a potluck affair so please bring a, salad, dessert, or other dish of your choice. Hamburgers will be provided by the Wolthuis family and drinks are provided by our chapter. This family event will include wagon rides, hiking, games, and a guided tree farm tour.

To get to the picnic travel east from Sweet Home on Hwy 20 (about 3 miles) to Wiley Creek Road and turn right (south). After approximately 1.5 miles the Pebble Springs Tree Farm sign will be on the left. Park along the south side of the driveway or between the house and barn, and walk downhill to the picnic area.

Look for Tree Farm tour signs to guide the way. This event coincides with the Sweet Home Jamboree Music Festival, so traffic may be busy going through town.

Joe and Shirley Holmberg have been selected as the Linn County Tree Farmers of the year for 2016. The tour of their tree farm will be on Saturday, September 24 from 4 to 7:30 pm. Note that this is a change from the original planned date which was August 20. This potluck will also be an affair with beverages and a main dish provided.

When the Holmbergs bought their fifty-acre farm sixteen years ago, the property consisted of pasture, brush (hawthorn, blackberries), and a scattering of unmerchantable Douglas-fir. They have reforested their property with Willamette Valley ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, incense-cedar, and Oregon ash while managing unique habitats for wildlife. In addition they have restored a one-hundred year old farmhouse that was virtually uninhabitable. The Holmberg farm is located at 39980 Mt Hope Drive northeast of Lebanon. You can get to their farm via either Golden Valley Road or Bellinger Scale Road.

The March 17 tour of the Bell pole yard in Lebanon was a big success and we still plan to have a field tour

discussing pole harvests in July or August. Look for new announcements on this tour.

To receive updated messages on these and other events in our area we need your e-mail address. If you are not currently receiving e-mail announcements of our events contact Bill Bowling 541-791-1370 bill@artisanlight.com, and he will put you on our mailing list. You should also be receiving the **Woodland Compass** and **Needle** from OSU Forestry Extension. The **Woodland Compass** is released every two months with news on managing woodland property. The **Needle** announces and gives detailed information on upcoming events in Linn, Benton, and Polk counties. To receive the Compass and Needle delivered to your inbox contact Jody Einerson at 541-766-6311 or jody.einerson@oregonstate.edu (with your, name, e-mail address, mailing address, and phone number — the extra information helps in keeping the list up-to-date.) I hope to see you at the summer picnic. ♦

LCSWA Scholars 2016

by Katie Kohl

LCSWA has a new and a renewing Scholar for 2016. Justin Wolfe and Mikaela Gosney, in their own words, share their forestry-related summer jobs and their academic paths.

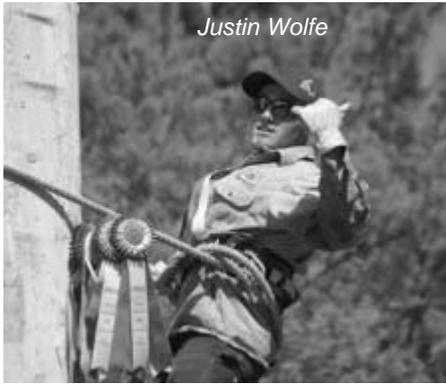
Justin Wolfe. For the past five years my interests have been focused on forestry management and forestry competitions. The picture shows me in my senior year at the High School Forestry Competition held at Central Oregon Community College in 2015. Some of the awards I achieved during this competition are shown in the picture. I received five state championship titles as well as the honorary achievements of Overall-Jack and Technical Forester, the two top awards.

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Seedling Sale	Bonnie Marshall	503-769-6510	bonnieym@wvi.com
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Linn Deputy	Rodney David	541-967-3950	rdavid@linnsheff.org
		800-884-3391	♦



Justin Wolfe

Following the four years in the Sweet Home Forestry Club, I joined the Oregon Department of Forestry, where I am currently employed for a second season to fight wild fire. The Sweet Home District has allowed me the opportunity to have many great learning experiences on fires as well as in the public interface/ fire prevention activities.

Mikaela Gosney. As I wrap up my sophomore year at OSU, the classes I have left all pertain to my Natural Resources major, focused on sustainable land management, classes such as Integrated Pest Management, Biodiversity Conservation, Wilderness Management, Forest Management for Multiple Resources, and other courses in forestry, crop science, entomology, and fish and wildlife conservation. My goal with these courses is to devel-

The Quarterly Bark
op a very broad understanding of how to manage forests and other land in a way that maximizes their resources while maintaining sustainability. My hope is that by gaining knowledge in various fields of land management, I will be appealing to a number of different employers.

I am very excited about my summer job at OSU's vegetable farm, planting, managing, and researching various crops, as well as working on pest management. I'll travel to various farms around the Willamette Valley and analyze insect traps, recording the number present and analyzing surrounding crop damage. I believe my work will prepare me to work with a great variety of vegetation and give me valuable skills about the pests that prey on plants and trees of the Pacific Northwest.



Mikaela Gosney

Katie Kohl named Linn County Volunteer of the Year

by Jim Merzenich



For more than ten years Katie Kohl has been our Scholarship Chairperson, managing this program. Money earned from our annual seedling sale is used, in part, to provide college scholarships to deserving Linn County students who major in forestry or other related fields. Katie works with advisors at each of our area high schools to insure that we have the best pool of candidates possible and then oversees the selection process. Linn County members get a chance to meet our scholarship recipients at our annual meeting when they are introduced by Katie and relate their experiences.

Katie has remained active in both the Oregon Small Woodlands Association and her community. She has served as a board member and has been secretary of our chapter. She has also consistently helped with our seedling sale and the associated "Goods from the Woods" display. Currently she is a board member of the South Santiam Watershed Council, a U.S. Forest Service outdoor school steward, and a member of the Sweet Home Tree Commission.

Please congratulate Katie on being the Linn County's chapter Volunteer of the Year. ♦

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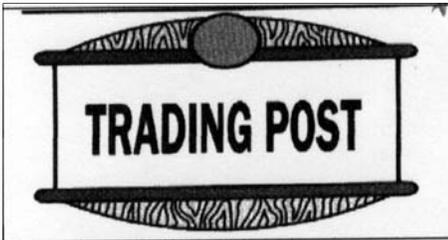
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Geospatial Tools workshop

By Sherm Sallee

OSU Extension offered a free Geospatial Tools workshop for family forestland owners on May 11 in Peavy Hall on the main campus in Corvallis. The all-day workshop provided instructions on use of Google Earth Pro, an introduction to Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) basics and a demonstration of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). The instructor was Michael Wing, Associate Professor in the Department of Forest Engineering.

The workshop provided a hands-on opportunity to work with the many tools of Google Earth Pro. In the past, basic Google Earth has been a free download. For the last year or so, the Pro version has also become free to download and adds several new, useful tools for the family forest landowners. Attendees learned

how to draw on and save maps with property boundaries, points of interest and information for our forestland property.

LIDAR is an airborne system that uses a laser, a scanner and a special GPS unit to map ground features accurately over a large area. We saw how OSU's forestry department has been using the information from these flights to add topographic information to their database.

Finally, we observed many of the features and capabilities of one of the UAS craft that the OSU forestry department uses. The weather cooperated so we were able to witness a launch and 20-minute flight of the system. The video that the camera returned was remarkable and it is easy to see how useful such a system can be.

This workshop was identified in an e-mail to Master Woodland Managers by Tiffany Fegel in early April. I highly recommend attendance to workshops of this type as they become available. ◆