



The Quarterly Bark

VOLUME 23, ISSUE 3

July 2017

Oak Basin tour

by Larry Mauter

Fire season

by John Westall



Jim Merzenich holding forth on oaks to a riveted audience.

In the Coburg Hills south of Brownsville, there is a 950-acre timber and cattle operation where the lives of Kincaid's lupine and Fender's blue butterflies matter.

At elevations ranging to 2,200 feet, the Oak Basin Tree Farm stretches high above the Willamette Valley. Brothers Ed and Jim Merzenich hosted more than 30 visitors on a rainy May 13 walking tour to showcase management strategies used for oak habitat and open meadows. Also on hand were representatives of local agencies Oak Basin has partnered with in efforts to restore or enhance habitat.

The brothers started with 671 cut-over acres in 1992 and have added to their holdings. "The first 10 years were just getting things in order," Jim Merzenich explained to the tour. "The whole place was overrun with non-native blackberries."

The replanted Douglas-fir stands now need pre-commercial thinning. The excess trees will be hand cut and left in place to rot, said Merzenich, a retired USDA forester. "In five to ten years you'll never know it was done."

Oak Basin has an on-site mill and drying shed but also sells logs. Besides Douglas-fir, commercial stands of Willamette Valley ponderosa pine and incense cedar have been planted through the years to complement native hardwood stands. There is also a herd of Scottish Highlander cattle that are rotated throughout pastures.

Merzenich reviewed some of the farm's trials though the years, like

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One of the challenges for small-woodland owners at the beginning of each fire season is recalling exactly which set of fire rules apply under which set of circumstances. Fortunately the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) is continually making it easier for people with internet access to make that determination. 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 just by googling something like "ODF Fire Restrictions." At press time, ODF is still finalizing 2017 updates to its fire prevention materials, making it impossible to describe exactly what you'll see on that web page.

There are three general categories of restrictions: Fire Season, Public Fire Restrictions, and Industrial Fire Restrictions. Using links on that web page, you should be able to answer the following four questions about which set of rules apply under which set of circumstances.

This article is intended to be a guide to navigating the fire rules, not a recitation of the rules themselves, which are available through ODF's web page.

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Oak Basin

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elk ripping out newly planted ponderosa pines or other plantings dying where soil was too dry or wet.

Soil varieties and moisture content have dictated planting decisions at Oak Basin. Also, efforts to enhance meadow life to favor the endangered Fender's blue butterfly and the threatened Kincaid's lupine – vital to the butterfly's reproductive cycle -- were on exhibit at several stops.

Upland meadows on the farm are managed with help from local and federal agencies. Oak Basin borders BLM property so cooperative management makes sense.

Oak Basin partners on the tour included Bessie Joyce of the Calapooia Watershed Council; Jarod Jebousek, a biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Heather Medina-Sauceda of the NRCS; and Ian Silvernail, from the Institute for Applied Ecology in Corvallis.

"We do use herbicide," said Merzenich. "Our policy with herbicide is target spraying." Along with spray, use of fire and mowing followed by spray in the fall is being used to control or contain invasive plants like berries, Italian thistle and Scotch broom.

The importance of native plants was emphasized at a tour spot by Jebousek, the biologist with the Fish and Wildlife Service. He explained that native plants attract native insects. Native birds, in turn, feed on the insects maintaining natural balance in the local ecosystem.

Oak stands are restored by removing invasive trees such as firs and maple. In some cases the oaks are thinned to allow canopies to spread, said Merzenich. If the canopies are too dense, he explained, trees don't develop acorns used by wildlife.

Restoration of lupine for the butterfly is aided by spot spraying of competitor plants. The green hillsides in May were dotted with colored flags, signaling treatments or seed collection areas for propagation.

For the Fender's blue butterfly, controlling tall fescue and oxeye daisy goes hand in hand with promoting nectar species for the butterflies, Merzenich told the walkers.

Another concept under way, he said, is the opening of corridors that

range not only through Oak Basin but also onto adjoining BLM land in the Coburg Hills.

The butterflies need these avenues of sunlight to navigate among trees, said biologist Jebousek. It's a strategy that can allow population expansion and also offer a defensive position in case of fire or other catastrophe, he explained.

The damp day started at the Oak Basin shop and mill area. A hearty lunch was provided by the Oak Basin crew with rain covers and an appreciated warming fire.

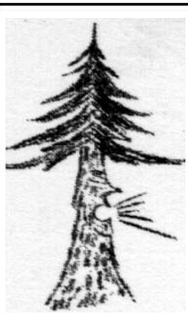
By early afternoon clouds cleared and the group – resting at about 2,000 feet -- was treated to sun-dappled views of the verdant Willamette Valley. ♦

Fire season

(Continued from page 1)

The four questions are:

1. Is my property in a forest protection district, obligating me to follow the ODF "fire rules" on my property? The restrictions are specific to the forest protection district, so one shouldn't just assume that the rules that apply to one district would apply to another. If your property is in the Willamette Valley



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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.

2. Should I be following the fire season rules? Has fire season been declared in my forest protection district? The *Fire Season* restrictions apply to everyone and typically address issues such as smoking, blasting, sky lanterns, exploding targets, and tracer ammunition.

3. Should I be following the industrial fire restrictions? Am I conducting a forest operation on my property? 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, forest thinning, land clearing, road construction or repair, herbicide application, etc. These rules have a lot of details, but ODF provides checklists that help you monitor your operation.

4. Should I be following the public fire restrictions? The *"Public" Fire Restrictions* address what you do on *your own property* that is not part of a forest operation as described above. For example, there are restrictions on open fires, mowing of dried grass, vehicle and ATV use off of improved roads, requirement for firefighting equipment in vehicles, and personal use of chainsaws in some districts. When these Public Fire Restrictions are in effect, they are posted on orange signs on roadways passing into forest protection districts.

Note that these *"Public" Fire Restrictions* apply to anyone coming onto your property for the August eclipse event. ODF is concerned about the fire risk introduced by people who are not familiar with our fire prevention measures. People coming from cities or from out of state may not appreciate the wildfire danger, so it's important for you to familiarize yourself with the rules, and be

sure that any visitors to your property understand them, too.

So, take the challenge and see if you can use the ODF web page to answer all four questions. And if you can't, call ODF and tell them what the problem is. In my experience, they really are interested.

Thanks to Ted Erdmann of ODF's Philomath office for reviewing this article. ♦

Upcoming events

OSU Extension contacts and 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> or contact Lauren Grand, 541-579-2150 or lauren.grand@oregonstate.edu.

For events in and around **Lincoln County**, see <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/lincoln/forestry> or contact Valerie Grant, 503-325-8573 or valerie.grant@oregonstate.edu. ♦

Linn County TFOY & Neighbor-to-Neighbor Tour, Wolthuis tree farm near Sweet Home, Saturday July 8. **Registration required by Wednesday, July 5.** Details p. 10.

Benton County summer picnic, Kings Valley, Saturday, July 15. Details p. 8.

Benton County Nelder plot tour, Starker Forests property east of Alsea, Saturday, July 29. More information, p. 8.

Linn County summer picnic, Happy Valley Tree Farm near Lebanon. Saturday, August 12. Details p. 10

Benton County 2017 TFOY tour, Hibbs-Karr Cedar Spring Tree Farm, Airlie, Saturday, September 2. **RSVP.** Details p. 8.

Lane County Forest Pest Scene Investigator – Root Rot tour, Thursday, September 28. Save the date and watch the Lane County Extension website listed above for details. ♦



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Lane County News

Spring activities

by Gary Jensen, LCSWA Chair

Spring has been a busy time for OSWA. With the State's legislative bodies in full session, OSWA has been quite active following and dealing with legislative proposals that have been introduced to address Oregon's financial and environmental issues. Both Jim James and Roger Beyer, who represent OSWA, have done an exceptional job keeping all OSWA members informed and updated on legislative issues that impact forest landowners. From proposals to increase forest harvest taxes to regulations restricting forest management activities, both Jim and Roger have been on the front line and have done an outstanding job.

During this period we also finalize the number of our members who have not renewed their membership for 2017 (12). LCSWA currently has 151 members as of May 1 with a 92.6% retention rate from 2016. It is important to note that our membership count is essential to OSWA. Members' dues are the foundation of OSWA funding, and that includes covering the cost of the legislative

actions pursued by Jim and Roger. If you have not done so, please pay your dues now. Should you know anyone who has not paid their dues or has been reluctant to, please encourage them to pay their dues and remain an active OSWA member. The benefit of OSWA membership far surpasses the minimal cost. We would not have the legislative input were it not for our members paying their dues.

Sign-up period for assistance to forest landowners with recent ice damage. As we recover from the winter storms and their damage, I would like to share some information from the Farm Service Agency on assistance to forest landowners who incurred forest damage from the storm.

The Farm Services Agency (FSA) has established the Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) for damage from the December, 2016 ice storm in Lane County.

The sign up period is May 8 – July 7, 2017. At this stage, no elaborate application is required; just a phone call, e-mail or visit to express interest and provide some basic information is all that is needed.

EFRP was established to assist non-industrial private forest (NIPF) landowners to rehabilitate forests damaged by natural disasters. Funding assistance under EFRP signups are specifically for:

- Removing debris from forest lands, removal of dead trees
- Replanting forests
- Road development that is deemed necessary on NIPF lands

This funding is available only for damage caused by the December, 2016 ice storm.

For more information contact Jean Larkin, County Executive Director , USDA Farm Service Agency, Lane County Office, 780 Bailey Hill Rd Suite 5, Phone: (541) 465- 6443 Ext 3046, jean.larkin@or.usda.gov.

Seat on the Board of Forestry. With the recent resignation of Gary Springer, who is a small-woodland owner and professional forester, we now have a board that lacks representation from forest landowners and particularly small-woodland owners. LCSWA has voiced its concern over this lack of representation and sent a letter to Governor Brown requesting she fill the open board seat with someone who has a background similar to that of Gary



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Springer. The Governor's response was very vague: "The Governor seeks to appoint knowledgeable individuals with a history of thoughtful collaboration, and seeks candidates from many stakeholder organizations." Not sure this represents small-wood land owners? If you have an interest in serving on the Board of Forestry you should consider contacting Oregon State Boards and Commissions, Executive Appointments Office at 503-378-2317. The Governor has said she will fill the position sometime this fall.

Upcoming events: LCSWA Quarterly Board Meeting, Thursday, August 3, 4-6 pm, East Lane ODF, Springfield.

Lane County Extension Forester: Lauren Grand – Lauren can be reached through the Eugene Office for Extension Service, 996 Jefferson Street, Eugene, 541-579-2150, lauren.grand@oregonstate.edu.

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

Consider risks of woodland ownership

by Michael Atkinson

As the legislature was contemplating a significant increase in taxes on timber, I began to think about some of the risk factors of owning forest property. These events are real, and have all occurred in the last 15 of my 53 years of ownership of 200 forested acres.

In 2002, high velocity erratic winds toppled about 40 MBF of scattered merchantable timber. Fortunately, I was already retired and had the tools and know-how to salvage at significant expense. A small forest landowner without tools and know-how would have been hard pressed to get a professional logger to clean up down timber.

In 2015, the Oregon Department of Transportation started a fire with their roadside mower, under weather conditions in which that no logger

would have been working. Thanks to wind direction, the ensuing grass fire came within 100 yards of timber that I planted in 1978. In 2016, two more fires occurred nearby one less than 1/3 mile away, and the other one-mile away. Scary situations!

The cumulative effects of the drought years of 2014-2016 have resulted in merchantable tree mortality on some soil types. With the help of a logger who had harvested a small area of 65 year-old timber on my property, I was able to salvage 15 MBF of dead or dying 55+ year-old trees. I also liquidated 4 acres of 29 and 25-year-old trees because the drought effect was killing the vast majority, and net return to me was very small as merchantability was so marginal. This operation was only possible because the logger was already present. All of this drought mortality may subside due to our wet winter, but probably is not over, due to tree health, and high engraver beetle infestation left over from three drought years.

Finally, on December 14, 2016, Eugene experienced an extraordinary localized weather event where it rained for 12 ½ hours while temperature was 29 °F to 31 °F; total precipitation was over 1 ¾ inches, which all became ice as it landed, wreaking unbelievable havoc on trees of all shapes and sizes. Limbs broke, hundreds of tops broke, (many will prove fatal to the trees), trees went down, and some trees were permanently disfigured. Re-

covery of the older merchantable trees will be confined to summer due to dirt roads, and scattered nature of down/broken trees, and, while logging is normally expensive, this will be even more expensive logging. The damaged timber is estimated to be 50 to 100 MBF over about 110 acres. The balance of my property has little recoverable volume in the damaged trees and there are scattered areas where all the trees are down or broken off. Most of this damage is permanent loss.

While recounting experiences sounds like self-pity, it is not; this is little different than any tree farmer, large ownership or small, experiences over a long enough time period. This is called "risk." How many members of our legislature have invested their money for 20, 30, or 50 years, hoping for a good rate of return? Very few people are willing to do the work, or face the risks for such time periods.

Please consider what all tree farmers are providing for free – clean water, beautiful vistas, home for wildlife, and recreation opportunities.

Finally while not free, consider the great wood products we provide while paying our taxes, and supporting the wood products industry.

Please think long and hard before imposing more taxes, and unnecessary rules that make life more difficult with little societal benefit other than politics. ♦

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Lincoln County News



President's Update

by Peter Bregman

Since our annual meeting in January, a major effort of our chapter has been opposing the Lincoln County initiative Measure 21-177 that would prohibit aerial spraying of pesticides and "create rights to natural communities and ecosystems." At the time of this writing, it looks like it is a win for those who proposed the initiative, the impact of which could be far reaching. I believe that many of those who voted for this measure (only 22% of the eligible voters) did not read the fine print and did not understand its full impact. Articles summarizing the consequences of the measure appeared in the April issue of the *Quarterly Bark*. If this measure is not stopped in the courts, it will impact our personal freedom and our ability to practice safe forestry according to the rules so firmly established in the Forest Practices Act.

This matter should never have gotten to the "ballot stage," and the lawsuit, which has been initiated by woodland owner Rex Capri, should have been joined by our industry, our OSWA organization, the large timber organizations and other related farm organizations. The battle should have been fought up front. In fact we should have fought harder to prevent it from getting to the ballot in the first place. It is now in court, where I am anticipating that it will be declared invalid as much of the language has constitutionality conflicts and ambiguous

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language. It infringes on the right to farm without a basis in factual data. Not only those issues but other factors should not have allowed an uninformed and emotionally charged public to vote on an issue with so many restrictions on our right to farm. Many of our members attended meetings of the proponents, in which we spoke out about the dangers behind this measure.

Now, with this initiative issue in court, we realized that the OSWA Annual Meeting was here and we needed to focus on other issues. Many of our members and most of our Board attended the awards banquet, at which Judy Pelletier received the Volunteer of the Year Award for our chapter. Having the annual meeting in Florence is the closest to home for a me since I joined OSWA in 2007. We decided to take the motor home and enjoyed staying at Lane County's Harbor Vista Park next to the ocean.

Alice was not able to attend all of the meetings, but my grandson Cameron attended his sixth OSWA annual meeting. During the meeting I realized that there are many issues facing our industry. Measure 21-177 is only one of them, but the biggest for our county right now. Other issues are slash burning, invasive species, fire suppression costs, and troubles with the state budget..

We had a great meeting, and we left with a lot of things about which to think. The crown of the event was to be at the tree farm of Dave and Dianne Rankin, the 2016 State Tree Farmers of the Year. Comments made by Dianne Rankin in her presentation struck me as she explained the objectives of the family. She (they) felt, that is their privilege to manage a good portion of their wetland and other set-aside or no-touch zones for conservation purposes, changing my view about that in a positive way. They are, in my view, a role model for our industry and are true conservationists with

an understanding of the whole picture of conservation. I thank them for the opportunity of being a part of their family that day.

On June 2 we had a Coastal Woodlands Road Building Workshop at our tree farm, sponsored by the OSU Extension service and organized by Valerie Grant.



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The next main event for our chapter is the tour honoring this year's Lincoln County "Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year," Mike and Jane Newton. The tour is scheduled for June 24 at the Newtons' Eddyville property, and will have been completed by the time you read this. We look forward to a great turn out, with our chapter putting on the lunch for this event. Look for a report in the next issue of the *Bark*.

Dr. Newton is one of the few professors (I am assuming) who has been able to put theory into practice in his own test fields. At 84 years old he has had the opportunity to see the full cycle of his work. The Board will do what we can to get him the nomination for the State Tree Farmer of the Year. At our Lincoln County annual meeting in January, Mike recounted how, over the course of more than fifty years, he and his family have converted the cut-over land they purchased in the early 1960s to a highly productive forest.

Now some personal info integrating what I learned from Mike Newton's session in the January meeting. In October/ November of 2014, we harvested about 15 acres of a hillside stand that consisted of mostly spruce and hemlock with some

Douglas-fir and alder. In February of 2015, I had it replanted with Douglas-fir, hoping that the young trees would have a chance to keep their heads above the brush. Last year, 2016, in the fall, I spot sprayed the blackberries that I could reach. The trees looked good and staying ahead of the brush, however, now, in the middle of June, it does not look that good; we seem to be losing the war on the blackberries.

I learned how true Newton's statements were about how fast trees can grow after a harvest under the right conditions, but also how a harvest opens things up for unwanted plants that compete with the trees. Some of my expert friends have different opinions as to what to do next. Some say, "spray it in the fall;" others say, "the trees will get above the brush, with less browsing by the elk." Now, this fall would be the only time to do a spray. At 75 years old, I will never harvest my planted trees, so the impact of this decision will come to bear on the next generation. I am sure that most of the trees will make it, and possibly be spaced just right.

Not much more news from me, other than the fact that the fishing in Alsea Bay is not so good with the presence of about a 1000 seals at the mouth of our Bay. And, at the coffee shop in the morning, I have to listen to the

fishermen tell me how their big one was eaten by a fish-snatching seal. Then follows a discussion about the mismanagement of the resource by various agencies, allowing the seals, who do not make any contribution to society, to eat the fish that otherwise could be consumed by humans. ♦

Coastal Woodland Roads Workshop held in Waldport

by Valerie Grant, OSU Extension



OSU Extension held a Coastal Woodland Roads Workshop on June 2 at Peter and Alice Bregman's Eagle Roost Tree Farm near Waldport.

Jon Souder, Forest Watershed Extension Specialist described common sources of sediment and technical and financial assistance available to small-woodland owners. Guillermo Giannico, Oregon Sea Grant & Freshwater Fish Ecology Specialist shared information on the impacts of sediment on water quality and aquatic habitat. Francisca Belart and Steve Bowers, Timber Harvesting Specialists covered maintenance and improvement techniques and contracts. Next we took a driving tour around Eagle Roost Tree Farm and Peter described his roads management strategy. Then we discussed trouble areas, and potential fixes for those spots. Thanks for hosting us Peter! ♦

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Benton County News

Upcoming events

Compiled by Dave Ehlers

BCSWA summer picnic

Join us for our annual potluck picnic at the Pat and Betsy Boren property in the Kings Valley area. This social event will also include a short tour, so dress accordingly. Drinks and table service will be provided. Bring your favorite dish and an outdoor chair if you have one.

After lunch Pat will lead a tour discussing some of the work he is doing on his property: thinning of 28 year old trees in a stand with quite a few broken tops from the ice storm a couple years ago; use of a Kubota tractor with grapples and skid pan for yarding; a new planting of Douglas-fir in a small clear cut that was logged last summer; and results from some limbing and fertilizing done over the years. Bring your experience and be prepared for an interesting exchange of ideas!

The picnic will be Saturday, July 15, 11:30 am – 3 pm, 22872 Burgett Creek Road, Kings Valley. Take Hwy 20 west from Philomath. Turn

right at Wren onto Kings Valley Hwy (223). Proceed about 3.5 miles to Alexander Rd and turn left. Go approximately 1 mile and turn left onto Burgett Creek Rd. Pat and Betsy's place is past the Girl Scout Camp, at the end of the road about 1 mile from Alexander Rd.

Tour of Nelder plots used to study of effects of planting density

A Nelder plot, also called a Nelder wheel or Nelder fan, is a systematic planting design in which plants or trees are planted at the intersection of circular arcs and linear spokes. In general, Nelder plots allow many different planting densities to be examined in a single plot (Ronald P. Barry, *Wilder Online Library*).

In 1980, OSU Emeritus Professor Mike Newton and colleagues utilized Nelder plots in an extensive study of variable planting densities and their effect upon height, diameter and volume of various tree species in the Coast Range. The resultant forest biometric data is astounding, but the opportunity to see these plots up close and in person makes a worth-

while pilgrimage for any woodland enthusiast.

Join us for a tour and lively discussion of planting densities and other management tools for optimal tree stand health and productivity.

The tour will be Saturday, July 29, 2017, 9 am-noon, on Starker Forests property east of Alsea. Look for transportation and other details in upcoming OSU Extension online publication of *The Needle*. To sign up for *The Needle*, see the instructions on p.3.

2017 Benton TFOY tour

Benton County's 2017 Tree Farmers of the Year, Dave Hibbs and Sarah Karr, invite you to their Cedar Spring Tree Farm on September 2, 2017.

The focus will be on the 20-year anniversary of management by a professional forester/ecologist and an avid birder: sound conifer silvicultural practices with unique consideration given to wildlife habitat, native species and deciduous trees. Stops will feature usual and unusual stand management options, a water-capture system and the mineral springs which serve band-tailed pigeons. Expect interesting talk and conversation from two long-time teachers. Little walking is required for this tour, but opportunities do exist for longer walks.

Arrive by **8:30 am** at the Adair County Park (just off 99W) group picnic area to be car-pooled to the property. Late-comers may drive to 14200 Airlie Road (5.4 miles west of 99W). Park under the Doug-fir trees along Airlie Road where further directions will be posted. Signage will be placed at Adair Park and at the Airlie Road site.

Lunch will be served back at Adair Park after the tour. RSVP to Jody Einerson at 541-766-6750 or email jody.einerson@oregonstate.edu.

We hope to see many members there for a fun and very interesting visit. ♦



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Member at large, Roger Workman	541-619-3586	workman919@gmail.com ♦

Democracy in action: OSWA members show up in Salem

by Wylda Cafferata

On March 30, 2017, the Oregon House Committee on Natural Resources held a public hearing on House Bill 3226. If passed, the bill would have amended the Oregon Forest Practice Act through 28 pages of new regulations, among which were: requiring that management plans include provisions for the establishment of old growth forests; requiring certification for preparers of management plans; requiring approval (rather than notification) of harvest plans; allowing local governments to impose restrictions on management in addition to state requirements.

The introductory section of the bill, the "Whereas" section, stated as fact that public resources are being harmed by unsustainable practices on state and privately managed forests, that the Forest Practice Act has changed little in over 30 years, and that existing protections under the Act fall far below the standards adopted by the scientific community.

Forty-seven people, many of them OSWA members, gave up a day to travel to Salem for the 8:00 am hearing and to testify against the bill. Fourteen people were there to testify in favor. Peter Daugherty, our State Forester, defended the current Forest Practice Act, and encouraged the committee to focus on outcomes rather than on the presence of regulations. He pointed out that although California and Washington already have the kinds of regulations called for in HB 3226, their outcomes in terms of healthy ecosystems don't match those in our state.

Other testimony helped the committee make an informed decision on the bill by pointing out that clear-cuts don't remain clear-cuts, as illustrated by a series of photographs taken at yearly intervals after harvest. It was also established that paired watershed studies, including Alsea and Hinkle Creek, show that science

refutes the claim of significant damage to water temperature by harvesting. It was impressed upon the committee that Oregon depends on forest products, and trees must be harvested to produce these products. The committee was informed that since 1994, with the sorts of regulations in force called for by HB 3326, Washington has lost 23% of its forest land to development, while in the same time period Oregon has lost 6%.

Natural Resource Committee Chair Brian Clem and Committee members listened attentively and asked several cogent questions. Subsequently the bill died in committee. However, we cannot delude ourselves that this defeat is final. Proponents of the bill declared they have only "begun the conversation." We must continue to be vigilant. That's how democracy works. ♦



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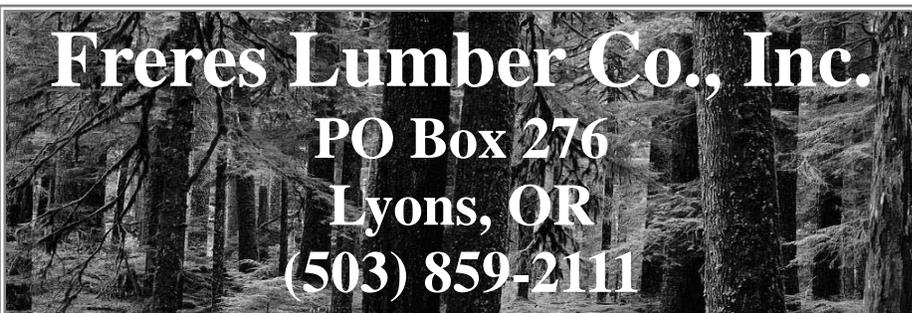
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Linn County Chapter News

President's Corner

by Bill Bowling

I would like to tell you about a project on which your board is working. At its March meeting the board formed a Robert Mealey Endowment Committee. I am sure many of you knew Bob, but for those who do not here are some excerpts from an interview with Bob that was published in *American Forests*, May-June, 1992:

"At his 580-acre tree farm in Linn County, Oregon, 80-year-old Robert Mealey is talking with a friend. 'I've only planted 150 trees today,' says Mealey. Indeed, compared with this tree farmer's standards, 150 trees is a meager day's work. That's because when Mealey spots a piece of land without trees, it's his natural predilection to plant some."

"When he got to thinking about Linn County's 100,000 or so acres of unused land, he initiated a planting effort called the Lament Valley Ponderosa Pine Program. This year [1992], approximately 64,000 seedlings have been distributed to 35 landowners. 'This program is growing like topsy,' he says."

"He's fixing what went wrong over the past 30 years of forest manage-

ment,' says a Mealey friend, Oregon State University forester Richard Fletcher. Mealey, who is described as a legend in these parts, believes land should be productive, and the income from timber cutting should be given back to the forest."

In 1998 Bob endowed the Linn County Small Woodlands Association with funds which he had earned from the sales of Valley ponderosa pine seedlings. These funds were placed in several stock funds. It was the committee's responsibility to determine first, what was Bob's vision for the funds and then to recommend uses for the funds. The committee met with Rick Fletcher, Bob's close associate and determined that forest education in Linn County was the intended use of the funds. With the vision defined the committee looked for options. One of the members suggested partnering with the city of Sweet Home to develop an area where the public could learn about forestry. Several sites were considered eventually focusing on the new Sweet Home City Hall property. One of the members had a friend on the City Council and was able to contact her with a proposal. The response was overwhelmingly positive. The committee met with the City Councilor and the city engineer at the site. All those attending were

excited about the proposal and believed that it would fit into the cities plans for the site. A report was presented at the June Linn County Small Woodlands Association board meeting resulting in a motion to pursue the proposal further. To that end the committee is meeting with the Sweet Home Parks and Recreation Division. The committee will propose that the area be dedicated to Bob and that the area be planted with a variety of trees. A kiosk will highlight Bob's life and forestry involvement. Markers will be placed at each different tree species identifying it and giving pertinent background. We are at the beginning of the process and it will take some time to complete. I will keep you informed on the committee's progress. ♦

LCSWA selects scholars

by Katie Kohl

Linn County Small Woodlands Association has selected five scholars to receive the Robert Mealey \$1000 yearly, renewable scholarships:

Mikaela Gosney, Central Linn, Brownsville and now OSU Junior, is pursuing a Natural Resources/Forest Management degree. Active in our Small Woodlands, she will be a Forest Intern with the Dept. of Parks and Recreation this summer.

Jonah Nicholas, West Albany and now OSU Freshman, is pursuing a Forest Engineering degree. An Eagle Scout (who developed a Cascadia State Park hiking trail), he will be working as a Summer Camp Adviser in Western OR & WA.

Gracie Olson, a senior at Sweet Home High School, is planning a Forestry Engineering degree at OSU. An athlete, scholar, and active forestry helper in the woods with her dad, she will be working for ODF as a summer fire fighter.

Linn County Officers

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Director	Larry Mauter	805-400-8552	osomauter3@att.net
Director	Bonnie Marshall	503-769-6510	bonniem@wvi.com

Standing Committees

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Education	Fay Sallee	541-451-5322	sksallee@yahoo.com
Seedling Sale	Bonnie Marshall	503-769-6510	bonniem@wvi.com
Scholarships	Katie Kohl	541-451-1734	kohl@proaxis.com
Linn Deputy	Rodney David	541-967-3950	rdavid@linnsheff.org
		800-884-3911	♦

Woodcastle Tour

by Jim Merzenich

On April 5 we toured the Woodcastle furniture complex located east of Corvallis on Hwy 34. Woodcastle designs and produces solid wood furniture from locally grown hardwoods including maple, white oak, and ash. Their high-end furniture is sold throughout the country with 30 percent of their sales to upscale hotels and resorts. Sales from their large onsite store represent less than one percent of their total sales volume.

The 34 tour attendees were split into two groups with Ron Loe, the company president, leading one group and Mike Alexander, the CFO, leading the other. Ron and Mike described the history of this family-owned business and walked us through the production process. Precision engineering is used to cut the raw lumber optimally into pieces needed for the various lines of furniture. These pieces are then sanded, edged, and processed for assembly. We viewed the assembly and finishing process including the construction of drawers. Finished drawers are true and precise and are interchangeable within a piece of furniture. As a bonus each attendee was

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Kimberly Ortiz, a senior at Scio High School, has a dual enrollment (Umpqua CC and OSU) leading to a Forest Management degree. Active in Scio's Forestry Club, she will work as a crew leader for thinning/pruning in neighbors' forests.

Daniel Virtue, a senior at Sweet Home High School, will pursue a Forest Engineering degree at OSU. Active in sports, 4-H, church, farm and community volunteer experiences, he will work for ODF as a summer fire fighter. ♦

Upcoming Events

TFOY tour

Please join us to recognize this year's honorees Ivan and Rebecca Wolthuis and visit their property. This is also a Neighbor-to-Neighbor Tour, so plan to bring a friend or neighbor to meet and mingle with local family woodland owners. Tour sponsors include: Rebecca and Ivan Wolthuis, OSWA Linn County Chapter, Oregon Tree Farm System, Oregon Small Woodlands Association, Oregon Forest Resources Institute, OSU Forestry & Natural Resources Extension, and Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Implementation Committee. The tour is Saturday July 8, 2017, 8:00 am to 1:00 pm, 28996 Berlin Road, Sweet Home. Look for OSWA Tree Farm Tour signs. Admission and lunch are free, but **registration is required by July 5, 2017**: 503-588-1813 or os-waevents@gmail.com.

LCSWA picnic

The 2017 Linn County Small Woodlands summer picnic is set for Saturday, August 12 at the Happy Valley Tree Farm located off Bellinger Scale Road just east of Lebanon. The address at the start of the driveway is 32511 Bellinger Scale Road. There is a large sign on the side of the road identifying the location of the former Tree Day. Continue on the gravel driveway through the double gate staying on the main road as it bends to the right leading you to the parking area.

The starting time is 9:00 am and activities will continue until around 1:00 pm. The ending time is flexible based on weather or whenever you need to leave. We will have donuts and coffee/tea available as you arrive. Around 11:30 we will grill some hamburgers and hotdogs. You are asked to bring a salad, snack or dessert to share with others. Water will be available.

This property, managed by Bert and Betty Udell, was selected as the 1982 national tree farm of the year. The Udell's were presented the honor by President Ronald Reagan.

Activities planned for the day include a tour of the property. Some points of interest are a recently planted area with tree species selected to match soil and moisture conditions, an OSU test plot, a wildlife enhancement plot and an example of partial cut area management. There are also ponds located on the property. We plan to have some educational displays set up and even a plant identification opportunity.

This is a great chance to renew old friendships and make new ones. Please bring a comfortable chair to relax in. There are lots of picnic tables available so you won't have to hold your food in your lap. ♦



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given a bread cutting board containing the Woodcastle logo at the conclusion of the tour.

Several local mills have recently closed and the supply of available hardwood lumber has declined. To insure a continuous supply of lumber Woodcastle has installed a mill and kiln which provides about 40 percent of their current needs. In the future they are prepared to cut all of the lumber to meet their needs, if necessary. Woodcastle currently uses about 1 million board feet of maple lumber annually and is the largest single user of this commodity. Woodcastle will buy hardwood logs from private landowners and pay by weight scale. Logs should be cut in lengths that are multiples of 10 feet and be from 10 to 36 inches in diameter. If you are interested in selling logs contact Ron Loe at ron.loe@woodcastle.com. If you are looking for fine furniture stop by the outlet store on Highway 34. ♦

Book Review: *Under a Flaming Sky – The Great Hinckley Firestorm of 1894* by Daniel James Brown

by Joe Holmberg

In a conversation with John Westall at the Linn OSWA seedling sale, he mentioned that he was reading "American Canopy," the book reviewed by Wylda Cafferata in the January issue of the Quarterly Bark. I told John that I had just finished "Under a Flaming Sky" which chronicles events surrounding the 1894 wildfire that obliterated Hinckley Minnesota and several surrounding hamlets. John joked that we could turn the Quarterly Bark into a literary periodical for forestry and invited me to review the book.

Daniel James Brown is also the author of the New York Times Best-seller "The Boys in the Boat". Brown was inspired to write about the Hinckley fire because his great-grandfather perished in the fire while his grandfather and great-

grandmother escaped on a burning train. I selected the volume because Hinckley along with Tillamook, Yacolt, Great Idaho and Peshtigo were some of the notorious large fires I studied in my Fire Control and Use class as an OSU forestry undergrad. On September 1, 1894, at least two forest fires converged on Hinckley trapping more than 2000 people. The tale of how two trains enabled many of those trapped to escape is gripping because of the speed of the fire's advance. Our notorious Biscuit fire of 2002 consumed 350,000 acres in a week. The Hinckley fire covered the same area in 5 hours. The Hinckley fire and the Great Idaho fires of 1910 revolutionized forest management practices. Under a Flaming Sky is a quick read. Just the thing for a night (or two). ♦