There are many opportunities to enhance species diversity in small woodlands, which is an important part of having a diverse forest. So how do you achieve it, especially if what you are starting out with is a plantation forest, with only a few species? The transition to an older forest with many plant species will not happen quickly. However, at every stage in a forest’s life cycle, there are opportunities and choices one can make to move the needle to a more species-rich forest.

This article takes us through these choices, stage by stage.

Preparing to grow a new forest: Have more than zero tolerance for shrubs

One of your best chances to grow a more diverse mature forest is on a just-logged site, even before you plant any new trees. This is (perhaps ironically) often one of the most diverse stages in forest development, when many sun-loving leafy plants show up. They provide important food and cover for many birds and other animals. The trick is to balance this vegetation with the needs of growing tree seedlings.

You’ll still need to establish a stand of young trees successfully to meet Forest Practices rules.

(continued p. 2)
Growing a Diverse Forest
(continued from page 1)

The other planting decision you can use to enhance diversity is tree spacing. By planting trees further apart (say at 12-foot instead of 10-foot), you are giving more room and time for shrubs to re-establish. You can also resist the urge to come back in and re-plant species that did not make it (as long as you’ve met Forest Practice Act reforestation requirements). Instead, allow hardwoods to fill in small gaps.

Tending a young forest: Stay proactive

Your job of growing diversity is not done after planting. Invasive weeds and crowding are two things to keep an eye on. Some specific tips:

- Stay on top of invasive weeds before the canopy closes. Resist the temptation to leave blackberries or scotch broom to get shaded out once tree crowns touch. Unfortunately, shade is not a particularly selective form of weed control: by the time the weeds get shaded out, so will many of the understory plants you desire.

- Extend the life of your understory by thinning early and often.

- Thinning also is an opportunity to diversify the tree canopy, by choosing to leave behind ‘underrepresented’ species. Thin around and release other minor species, as long as they are vigorous.

Harvest: leave a legacy

A mature forest can have many kinds of plants growing in the understory that you want to keep. When it comes time to do a timber sale, how can you carry that diversity into the next-generation forest? This is your opportunity to leave legacies.

- Retain some hardwood trees. Better to leave a single-stemmed bigleaf maple, than to cut it and deal with the inevitable stump sprouts.

- Mark and protect clumps of native shrubs.

- Be opportunistic.

- Make proactive decisions.

- Small tweaks to your management practices can maintain and enhance species diversity according to your interests.

The bottom line with all of this is that growing a multi-species forest does not have to be a revolutionary form of forest management. Talk with a professional forester or Extension agent to design a site-specific strategy.

*(Clear-cut from authors’ Tree Topics blog at: http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/treetopics/)*
Order Seedlings Now

As a result of good log prices in recent years, harvests have been robust. This has resulted in high demand for reforestation seedlings.

Order seedlings now!

OSU Extension Online Calendars

Benton, Linn, and Polk Counties events:
http://extension.oregonstate.edu/benton/forestry/events

Sign up for the Compass and Needle mailing list to receive an email notice when an event is scheduled.

Contact Jody Einerson:
jody.einerson@oregonstate.edu
541-766-6750

Lane County events:
http://extension.oregonstate.edu/lane/upcoming-classes-events

Contact Lauren Grand:
lauren.grand@oregonstate.edu
541-579-2150

Upcoming Events

Living on the Land Series: Thursday, October 5, 6-8 pm. Walterville Grange Springfield. Lauren Grand--lauren.grand@oregonstate.edu.

Woodland Management and Restoration Tour: Bird Haven Tree Farm Conservancy: Saturday, October 7, 9 am. 41795 Kingston Lyons Drive SE, Stayton.

Oregon Season Tracker Trainings: Self-paced online portion opens 9/27, to be followed by one classroom session: Tuesday, October 17 (Monroe Public Library), Wednesday, October 18 (Gates Fire Hall), or Wednesday, November 15 (Linn County Extension Office, Tangent), all from 6-8 pm. Contact Jody at 541-766-6750 or jody.einerson@oregonstate.edu.

Ties to the Land--Lane County: Saturday, October 14, 9 am-12:30 pm. "Keeping land in the family-maintaining generational ties". Emerald People's Utility District Meeting Room, 33733 Seavey Loop Rd., Eugene. Lane County Extension, 541-344-5859.

Living on the Land: Thursday, October 19, 6 pm-8 pm, Walterville Grange, Springfield. Lauren Grand--lauren.grand@oregonstate.edu.

Woodland Talk: "Growing a Diverse Forest": Thursday, October 19. Tentatively 7-8:30 pm. Hosted by Linn Chapter OSWA and OSU Extension. Call Jody Einerson at 541-766-6750.

Forest Carnivore and Habitat Workshop: Thursday, October 19, 8 am-4 pm, Linn Co. Fair & Expo Center, Albany. Julie Woodward, OFRI, 503-807-1614, woodward@ofri.org.

Oak Mistletoe Field Class: Thursday, October 19, 9 am-4 pm, Douglas County. alicia.jones@oregonstate.edu.

OSWA Annual Meeting & Oregon Tree Farm System Annual Meeting, Workshop, and Recognition Luncheon: Saturday, October 21, 11:45 am-2 pm. Details p. 16.

Woodland Management Shortcourse: Thursdays, October 26, November 2, 9, 16. 6:30-8:30 pm. Linn County Extension Office, Tangent. $50/individual, $60/family. Call Benton County Extension, 541-766-6750.

Selling Logs from your Property: Friday & Saturday, October 27-28, Friday 5-8:30 pm & Saturday 9 am-5:30 pm. Eugene. Details p. 6. $40-50/person. Lauren Grand, 541-579-2150, lauren.grand@oregonstate.edu.
Lane County Chapter News

Fall 2017 Activities
by Gary Jensen

I would like to begin by recognizing Lane County’s Tree Farmer of the Year for 2017, The Caffereta Family Forest. Steve and Wylda Cafferata, along with family members, are all involved in the management of the tree farm, which is located at the east end of Deerhorn road just east of Springfield. The family has a strong commitment to forest stewardship and the active management of the tree farm. They have actively worked on controlling vegetation, maintaining forest roads, and enhancing wildlife habitat. Steve and Wylda are dedicated supporters of the Lane County Small Woodlands Association, (LCSWA) with a strong community commitment. We commend them for their commitment and recognition as Lane County’s Tree Farmer of the Year, 2017.

Summer has provided us with what have become annual occurrences, forest fires and heavy smoke in the Willamette Valley. There are no easy answers to the problem, just the hope that we get through it without fires on our tree farms. As fall approaches we should be seeing relief and hopefully some rain. Summer has provided a strong market for logs, with prices on Douglas-fir reaching the high 600 to the mid 700 dollars per MBF. The challenges are finding a logger and being able to log during the fire season. With the destruction from the strong storms in both Texas and Florida, I would expect that we continue to see the demand for our regional forest products, and thus a strong market going into 2018. So, 2018 might just be another good year to plan a harvest.

One issue some may face if they have harvested this summer is finding seedlings for reforestation. Most of the nurseries are sold out.

Seat on the Board of Forestry:
With the recent resignation of Gary Springer, who is a small woodlands owner and professional forester, we now have a board that lacks representation from forest land owners, 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 similar background as Gary 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.”

I am not sure this represents small wood land owners. If you have an interest in serving on the Board of Forestry, consider contacting Oregon State Boards and Com-missions, Executive Appointments Office at 503 378-2317. The Governor has said she will fill the position sometime this fall.

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Upcoming events:

LCSWA Quarterly Board Meetings:
Thursday, October 12, 4-6 pm, West Lane ODF, Veneta.
Thursday, December 7, 4-6 pm, West Lane ODF, Veneta.

Annual Meeting:
Thursday, January 18, Elks’ Club, West 11th, Eugene.

Logging Symposium:
Friday & Saturday, October 27 & 28. See article, p.5
Presented by Lauren Grand, OSU Extension Agent, and supported by LCSWA.

Lane County Extension Forester:
Lauren Grand--reached through the Eugene Extension Office:
996 Jefferson St., Eugene.
Phone: 541-579-2150 Email: lauren.grand@oregonstate.edu

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

Lane County Tree Farmer of the Year:
Cafferata Family Forest
Steve & Wylda Cafferata

Seneca Sawmill Company and Seneca Sustainable Energy

NOW BUYING
Douglas fir, Hem-fir Logs, Timber & Timberland, as well as Oregon Forest Biomass

CONTACT
Log and Biomass Buyer: Greg Willie
Office (541) 461-6259 or Cell (541) 915-0631
Post Office Box 851 - Eugene, Oregon 97440
Alan & Joan Petersen come from a rich family heritage of ranchers and tree farmers. Both raised in the Camp Creek valley, they have a deep commitment to their community. Alan has numerous years of serving on the Lane County Small Woodlands Board, with Joan by his side. Over this past year they have provided exemplary service helping the Lane County Chapter to sponsor, plan for, and provide tree farm tours within Lane County. Always present at board meetings, they are a positive presence providing productive input and are always ready to take on a new challenge. Alan and Joan are outstanding supporters of LCSWA.

"The key to effectively marketing your trees is knowing what you have. Most small woodland owners miss out by thinking all logs are the same product."

Lane County Chapter Board of Directors

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Dick Beers, Vice President
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Chuck Volz
chuckvolz67@gmail.com

Selling Trees: Start Planning Early
by Lauren Grand, OSU Forestry and Natural Resources Extension Program

Trees are an incredible resource that benefits our community in many ways. Wooded properties are fun to explore and help provide communities with shade, clean water, and food and shelter for animals. Trees are also a valuable renewable resource that provides economic stimulus and materials such as beams to build houses. Landowners may choose to cut trees on their property for many reasons. For some, it’s the culmination of decades of planning and hard work to produce a valuable crop. For others it might be a liquidation of an asset to meet a sudden financial need. Still others might be undertaking a thinning operation to improve forest health, diversity, and habitat.

Whatever your reason is for selling logs, there are some key things to consider when managing a successful timber sale.

The first, and most important, step in any timber sale is to carefully think about your goals and objectives as a woodland owner. Goals help you identify what is most important to you when completing work on your land. One way to do this is to create a forest management plan.

(continued on p. 6)
Maintaining forest health, habitat creation, income, and recreation are all goals that might be reached with the help of a timber harvest. Oregon state law requires that landowners notify the State Forester prior to selling any of the logs from their property. You can complete the necessary form at OR Department of Forestry, or at your local office.

The key to effectively marketing your logs is knowing what you have. Most small woodland owners miss out by thinking all logs are the same product.

Knowing what you have means you can take advantage of potentially higher value poles or export logs if the market is right for it.

You can begin to follow the market by collecting information on what products and types of logs that log buyers are looking for. Log buyers are the most direct sources of current information about prices and the range of species, sizes, and quality levels for his or her mill. Your goal is to match what you have with what the mills are buying. Record what you learn and follow up regularly to identify patterns.

Prior to any harvesting activities, make sure you own the trees you plan on selling, especially if your timber harvest is near a property line.

Clearly marking property lines will eliminate any confusion and help maintain neighbor relations. If you are unsure of your property lines, it’s well worth having a licensed surveyor establish the legal boundaries for you.

Properly designed and maintained roads ensure you can take advantage of any market opportunity. Anything less will severely limit equipment access and may prevent or delay your harvest plans. If you don’t have road access to your trees, Oregon law allows landowners to cross another’s property, if no alternative is available. Talk to your neighbors and put access agreements in writing before starting any work.

When you’ve identified a good time to sell, call as many log buyers as possible. The highest bid isn’t always the most profitable bid. When choosing a bid, consider special requirements that could increase operation costs, as well as distance to the mill. The farther the mill, the higher the trucking costs. Once you’ve chosen a buyer, have a purchase order drawn up so both parties agree on the specs and price of the logs to be delivered.

Choose the logger through a competitive bidding process. Invite at least three loggers to tour your sale area individually. Be clear about your plans and ask each logger to submit a bid. The lowest bid isn’t necessarily the best bid. Choose the logger that has a good price, but will also meet your objectives for log production, resource protection, and responsible business practices. These should be reflected in a written, legal agreement. Remember, the most desirable loggers are busy, so plan at least three to six months ahead.

Stay involved throughout the logging process, observing operations and frequently communicating with the logger. Much can go astray without your vigilance.

Once the harvest is over, you may need to replant the area depending on the quantity and quality of trees you cut. The Oregon Department of Forestry will send you a letter if reforestation is required.

Selling logs is a complicated process that requires time and a thorough understanding of the timber industry, but when done correctly is a useful tool to help you meet your management objectives. Those lacking experience should consider seeking the assistance of a consulting forester.

"The highest (log) bid isn’t always the most profitable bid. When choosing a bid, consider special requirements that could increase operation costs, as well as distance to the mill."

OSU Extension Service in Lane County will be hosting a two-day workshop entitled:

"Selling logs from your property"

on Friday, October 27 from 5:00 – 8:30 pm and Saturday, October 28 from 9 am – 5:30 pm at Crow Middle/High School in Eugene.

Details and registration information about this event are available at:

http://extension.oregonstate.edu/lane/upcoming-classes-events.
Lincoln County Chapter News

President's Update  by Peter Bregman

Michael Steenkolk--in memoriam. Many of you may already know that Joe and Jan Steenkolk's son, Michael, was killed in a head-on collision accident on Highway 20, near mile marker 30. Michael was 52 years old. Those of us, who understand what it means to lose a child, extend our sympathies to Joe and Jan's family, and we all share in their loss. Joe and his family are key family members of our chapter.

2017 Lincoln County Fair

I would like to thank Tim Miller and Valerie Grant for keeping us involved in the Fair this year, by keeping our name, logo, and tradition as a timber growing community on display. We thank them for having arranged for a logging truck with a load of logs to be on display at the Fairgrounds. Our Chapter partnered in sponsoring the Music Event with a $500 donation.

At our last Board meeting, we discussed how important it is for us, as timber growers, to remind the community that we are an important part of the economy of this county, along with the fishing industry. We are a sustainable industry, and maintaining the environment is important to us.

We clear-cut and replant on a 50-year rotation, unlike the clear-cutting that occurs with new developments and shopping centers, which are forever.

We are the Forest Keepers of the land and suppliers of products created by nature. Our chapter of small woodland owners and large-scale timber owners must work more closely together to communicate that message. In addition, we need to educate the youth in our community about the many benefits of growing trees.

Valerie Grant, OSU Extension Forester, is developing educational programs to communicate that message to our community youth. She is working with chapter members to publicize that message. We can all help her by being strong supporters of the chapter. We, as members, should be PROUD to be part of OSWA work, in preserving our standing and our involvement in preserving our “Right to Farm”. Anyone who has a tree farm should consider becoming a member so that we can show a strong united front to inform other community members about the contributions that small woodland owners make. Asking your neighbor to join is the best way to grow our membership.

The Eclipse. The eclipse created some serious accidents leading up to the actual event on August 21. It was watched by thousands of people from many parts of the world. Tourism is an industry that will outpace the other two main industries in the county, the timber and fishing industries. It could be argued that the timber and fishing industries have reached a maximum level as to what can be produced on a sustainable basis, while the tourist industry continues to expand, with significant impacts. Many thousands of acres have been permanently clear-cut to make room for shopping centers, homes, hotels, and other supporting building projects. This will slowly continue to change over time, but it will have an impact on the way we do our farming. One recent example is the passing of Measure 21-177, the ban on aerial spraying.

The Log Export Terminal

Some of you may have noticed that progress has been limited, with the fishing industry having an impact on the re-election of board members, making our chances less promising. There are financial factors that are to our advantage in a grant that could provide funding for a log terminal. Tim Miller and Judy Pelletier attended the Lincoln County meeting, in which new board members were installed and a new president elected, influencing future decisions.

Your OSWA chapter was very much involved in the early stage of the public meetings that were held about 3 years ago. We stated the advantages to the local economy of having that facility.

In this last meeting we attended, we repeated our position—that the pending grant would be lost if the commissioners did not follow through on that issue, and the subsequent loss of that income. This log facility would provide savings on transportation costs, as well as create a more competitive market for the available logs to be harvested.

Tim, Judy, and I will monitor that progress, keeping you informed.◆
The Lincoln County chapter designated Michael Newton as its 2017 Tree Farmer of the Year. The tour of Newton Forests, near Eddyville, on June 24, focused on the Newton Family’s approach to creating a healthy, productive forestland through trial and error.

Mike and Jane Newton purchased 147 acres in 1961, after it had been cut and high-graded without reforestation. Over subsequent years, land was gradually added, for a total 293 acres. Forest properties in poor shape acquired by the Newton family were reclaimed with a heavy investment of family labor. These properties are now outstanding examples of productive small-woodland forestry. They are owned by Newton Family Forest, LLC.

"...foster a family legacy with pride, satisfaction, income, and involvement"

The intro kicked off with coffee and donuts, and a pre-tour discussion. There were 2 walking woods tours. The event concluded with a hosted lunch and time for questions and answers.

It was truly a group effort and a fine picnic by OSWA and its Lincoln County membership! Peter Bregman, Chapter President, provided the tent, tables, chairs, food, and grill for the banquet. The Steenkolk family, along with Peter, worked under the food tent. Allison provided a 12 passenger OSU Extension van, Jim James provided vans and networking, Joe Steenkolk ordered the toilets, Tom Newton and Peter helped Mike mow & prepare the site.

The key tour highlights were the history of the property and management strategy through family succession, multiple thinnings achieving good distributions of ages, and reforestation, with herbicide use to control unwanted vegetation.

The Forest Management Summary

Long rotations yield high volume, high quality logs, and harvests from multiple thinnings. Thinnings of younger stands provide sustainable income and variable habitat. Manage for some diversification of habitat, providing forage for many species of wildlife. Fifty-year old trees put on lots of volume so don’t clear-cut before age 50, preferably 60 years. Above all, foster a family legacy with pride, satisfaction, income, and involvement.

The Newton Family Forest, LLC is kept under family management. Budgeting long-range for perpetual harvests of patches every 6 years, the trust is planning to stagger harvests and reforestation from 20- to 30-acre patches, to yield about 1.5 million board feet (mmbf) /year.

A walk through mixed-stand hemlock/fir transition forest site concluded the site tours. The discussion addressed all three story layers--upper, mid, and lower. This site also stimulated discussion of wildlife management—the many species and their reliance on planning for a diverse forest to support those species.

In summary, key elements of forest management are that long rotations produce high volume. Allowing for multiple thinnings and cyclical harvests supports stands in various stages of maturity, a more sustainable income, and variable habitats at each phase.
Much of the forested area in Linn and eastern Lane Counties is located within the boundary of the Oregon Department of Forestry South Cascade District for fire protection. Two Forest Protective Associations (FPAs) are located within the South Cascade District. These are the Linn Forest Protective Association (LFPA) and the East Lane Forest Protective Association (ELFPA).

Members in each FPA are forestland owners who choose to join the association. Each association’s board of directors helps prepare an annual fire protection budget for the district. This budget then leads to setting the fire assessment fee for the district. All forestland owners within the district boundaries are assessed an annual, per acre, fire protection fee regardless of whether they are members of the association or not. Becoming a member of a FPA and serving on the association’s board of director gives the forestland owner a say in how their fire protection assessment is determined.

In addition to fire protection, the LFPA members determined there was a need to contract with the Linn County Sheriff’s Office for a forest deputy to patrol the association’s timberland. To pay for this added protection, the members of the association decided to assess themselves an additional per acre fee. This fee only applied to the association members and did not extend a fee to the other landowners within the district boundaries.

This additional fee came to about $0.17 per acre for the fiscal year 2017.

If you would like to learn more about the Forest Protective Association in your area, you can contact your local Oregon Department of Forestry Office and they will direct you to one of the FPA board members. If you have any questions about the Linn Forest Protective Association, you can contact me at sksallee@yahoo.com or call me at 541-451-5322.

Judy Pelletier is the Secretary of the Lincoln County Chapter and is active in all events. Her administrative duties help make chapter events more successful. She is one of the jewels of the Lincoln County Chapter.

Book Review:

Seeds
How Grains, Nuts, Kernels, Pulses and Pips Conquered the Plant Kingdom and Shaped Human History
by Thor Hanson
by Wylda Cafferata

Sometimes a book comes along that is so well-written, so enticing, so making-you-turn-each-page-with-delight, that you remember the pleasure of reading it long after you’ve forgotten most of the details of what you’ve read. Seeds is such a book. In his introduction, Thor Hanson writes, “Seeds are a marvel, worthy of our study, praise, wonder, and any number of exclamation points.” He proves these assertions amply through thirteen chapters divided into five sections. It is tempting to list each chapter by title, beginning with the introduction, “Fierce Energy”, but book reviews can’t be that lengthy. (continued on p. 16)
Dave Hibbs and Sarah Karr hosted the Benton-Polk Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year tour at their Cedar Spring Tree Farm in Airlie on September 2. Dave and Sarah were nominated by the Benton County chapter, but their property is just over the line in Polk County – hence the joint recognition. Approximately 40 people attended.

Mike Albrecht introduced the tour, citing their work on hosting birding and wildlife tours, Sarah’s work on connecting knowledgeable birders with forest landowners, and Dave’s work as an extremely thorough (from personal experience) certification inspector for the Oregon Tree Farm System.

The joint economic and ecological goals of their management became apparent at the first stop, at which we were presented with species lists for their property: big trees, small trees, shrubs, birds and four-legged critters. Dave introduced Jenna Curtis, OSU graduate student in wildlife, and Chad Marks-Fife, wildlife biologist for the US Forest Service, who accompanied the tour.

Dave explained that they piled pruned Douglas-fir boughs as nesting habitat for the Pacific wren – having the wren around is worth the messy appearance and whatever changes in fire risk that go along with the small piles.

There is a mineral spring on the property that has hosted a flock of band-tailed pigeons for at least 150 years on record. As we approached, the flock waited patiently by the spring, then on cue, burst into the air with a great flap-flap. We did also find a pile of pigeon feathers by the spring and one larger feather near the pile, which was identified as that of a Cooper’s hawk, which was appparently responsible for having dispatched the former owner of all pigeon feathers.

Along the trail we found a great horned owl pellet with the skeleton of a Townsend’s or coastal mole. Chad and Jenna pointed out the large, round humerus (upper arm bone) of the mole, which has evolved for all that digging.

Moving on from wildlife to timber management, Sarah and Dave exhibited the farm tractor, brush rake, yarding winch and fire wagon that they have as part of a tractor co-op with other families. With minimal attention to scheduling, tractor availability has not been a problem, and costs are divided three or four ways.

We moved on to inspect a patch that was in its seventh growing season. The previous stand at this site had been pre-commercially thinned, commercially thinned, and was on a very promising trajectory, but was then decimated by blowdown after a neighbor’s clear cut. Dave and Sarah planted 400–500 trees per acre (continued p. 14)
Eligible non-industrial private forest landowners may gain technical and financial assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service through Farm Bill programs in order to plan and implement projects that achieve the objectives of this conservation strategy. The Forest Resistance and Resilience Strategy will improve forest health and diversity; and mitigate the risks of catastrophic fire, insects and disease in focus areas of Benton and Linn County. Monoculture forests are particularly susceptible to risks for fire, insect pest and disease outbreak, and drought events that have severe effects that compromise the capability of the forest system to maintain or return to a functioning ecological state. This strategy aims to mitigate risks that are expected to be further elevated with projected climate variability. By implementing conservation practices to increase resistance and resilience to disturbance events, landowners can reduce the susceptibility to effects that impair the long term function and lessen the ecosystem services provided by forests.

Strategy Goals & Objectives

The goal of the proposed conservation strategy is to encourage management actions that achieve forest resistance and resilience to disturbance measures, especially during periods of increased climate stress. This will include promoting health and vigor of productive areas through thinning of young stands. Also, management that transitions vegetation to better suited species on sites poor or marginal for Douglas-fir production would help to insulate the productive sites from disturbance that could have catastrophic effects. The primary objectives of this strategy reflect the priorities expressed by the Benton and Linn local working group for forest land in 2016 and 2017. These objectives include:

- Improve forest health
- Mitigate insect and disease risk
- Reduce risk of catastrophic fire

Financial Assistance is offered for these Conservation Practices:

- Forest Stand Improvement
- Forest Slash Treatment
- Tree/Shrub Pruning
- Brush Management
- Herbaceous Weed Control
- Tree and Shrub Establishment
- Tree and Shrub Site Preparation
- Conservation Cover
- Forest Management Plan.

Landowners who are interested in applying for assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program can contact NRCS:

Wallace Jennings  
Soil Conservationist  
wallace.jennings@or.usda.gov  
(541) 967-5925 x115  

Greg Vollmer has been a Master Woodland Manager since 2007 and active in the Benton County Chapter since 2008, serving as Program Chair and currently serving as Secretary/Treasurer. He does a lot of behind the scenes work at chapter annual meetings and other events and has hosted numerous tours on his tree farm. He and wife, Barb, were Benton County Tree Farmers of the Year in 2015. Greg served on the Benton County Extension Committee to promote a 2017 ballot measure for a Benton County Extension Service District.
For me it is the education I receive through all the activities membership provides.

The **Annual Meeting** is a chance for all members to get together, exchange progress on our farms, and enjoy dinner with other member and their families. Speakers provide information on safety/fire concerns, political and governmental issues, and programs to aid in our care of our tree farms.

The **Seedling Sale** provides a source for all species of trees and its profits sponsor our scholarship program. Bonnie Marshall, as chair of the seedling sale committee, has done a great job taking over for Sherm Sallee.

The **Annual Picnic** provides an opportunity to visit one of our member’s tree farm. Enjoy great food and catch up with friends and their families after a long and busy summer.

**Tours** provide opportunities to see firsthand how others manage their tree farms or how our trees are processed into final products.

**Workshops** are scheduled several times through the year. Workshops bring tree farm professionals and government officials together to make us aware of processes and programs used in managing our tree farms. Lee Peterman, our activities manager, has put together great programs.

The **Tree Farmer of the Year program** offers an opportunity to honor one of our own for their exceptional management of their tree farm. This year, Ivan and Rebecca Wolthuis and family were chosen. Their tour was another chance to learn about options for tree farmers. Joe Holmberg worked with Ivan to put together the paperwork needed to be considered for Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year.

The decision will be made Saturday Oct. 21, 2017 at the Oregon Tree Farm System annual meeting held at the Oregon Garden.

**Woodland Information Night** is a partnership with the Benton County chapter to put together an informative program addressing concerns of all tree farmers.

These are just a few of the ways the Linn County Small Woodlands Association serves its members. In order to continue these programs, we need to maintain and grow our membership. Jim Merzenich, chairman of our membership committee, has worked diligently to communicate with our existing members and aggressively pursue new members. To support him and our chapter, we need to talk with our neighbors, friends, and others about what membership means to us.

This year we will have vacancies on the board of directors. I encourage you to consider becoming part of the leadership of our chapter. We need a diverse group, including women and young people, who are interested in helping make our chapter great.◆

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**Linn Co. Small Woodlands Picnic**

*by Sherm Sallee*

On a perfect summer day in August, a group of small woodland owners and friends gathered at Udell’s Happy Valley Tree Farm near Lebanon. The purpose was to meet new and old friends, learn a little about tree farming, and have a great meal. All these objectives were met.

We started at 9:00 am with coffee, tea, juice and pastries. Following introductions and a brief description of the property, we took a pickup tour (continued on p. 14)
The 2017 Linn County Tree Farmers of the year are Ivan and Rebecca Wolthuis. A tour of their Mountain Springs Tree Farm, located north of Sweet Home, was conducted on July 8. This was a “neighbor to neighbor tour” with approximately 40 attendees and three new OSWA members signed up.

We first viewed 50 acres of former pasture ground that was planted to Douglas-fir in 2011. Prior to planting, this site was ripped with a deep chisel plow to break up the compacted soil caused by both grazing and abuse. (Note that this was the location of the annual 4-wheel drive “Mountain Mud Festival” before being purchased by the Wolthuis family.) The trees planted in the ripped furrows are mostly growing well and are now ready to be pre-commercially thinned (PCT). Seedling survival was good across this site due to effective weed control. Tree growth rates vary substantially based on the soil depth. Forestry Extension Agent Brad Withrow-Robinson discussed the benefits of PCT, and we had a lively discussion on the intensity of thinning needed.

On the walking tour, we next viewed a small 25-30 year-old Douglas-fir stand that was ready for a commercial thin. This stand was adjacent to a poorly-stocked older stand containing a mixture of older fir, maple and alder. The plan is to harvest and plant the poorly-stocked stand which is on better site, while commercially thinning the younger stand.

Continuing on the tour, we viewed a complex mixed-age stand that contained small openings, large scattered trees, and small pockets that were in need of thinning. We discussed the benefits of thinning and maintaining this stand versus clear-cutting the stand and starting over. After viewing a drier west-facing stand that had been planted with a mixture of Douglas-fir and Incense cedar, we returned to the home site and had a wonderful catered lunch compliments of OFRI.

The Wolthuis family served as gracious hosts. It was apparent that Ivan and Rebecca, along with their four children Sean, Bradley, Jenna, and Mark are accomplished, energetic, and proud land stewards. The variety of stands that we viewed, and the discussion of various strategies to handle the different stands, made this a wonderful learning experience for all attendees. Please try to participate in the next tree farm tour.

Thanks to Jim James, Bill Bowling, Brad Withrow-Robinson, Joe Holmberg, Lee Peterman, and the entire Wolthuis family for making this tour a success.

"Prior to planting, this site was ripped with a deep chisel plow to break up the compacted soil caused by both grazing and abuse."

Lee Peterman is the Vice President of the Linn County Chapter. He chairs the Events Committee and assists in chapter activities. Lee is a familiar face at chapter events and takes an active role in making sure events are successful.
to portions of the property. This included a look at the results of a couple of small clear cut areas. We discussed the procedure of site preparation and planting. One area was treated in the fall, following harvest, then planted that winter. The other area was left untreated for a year to allow the vegetation to sprout, and was then treated and planted the following year. The area that was planted in the first year following harvest shows the results of an extra year of growth while the area treated after letting vegetation grow for a year does not show better vegetation control. As a result, we no longer delay site preparation and planting. Another point of interest here is that a portion of the area is quite wet. The harvested Douglas-fir trees were not doing well in the wet area. We decided to plant Willamette Valley ponderosa pine in this wet area. The pine is doing quite well and the Douglas-fir planted outside the wet area is also doing great.

Our final stop on the tour was at a pond that Bert and Betty Udell constructed when they first purchased the property in 1964. The pond is doing quite well and was a thing of beauty with the water lilies in full bloom. A fish or two even surfaced for the group.

A potluck lunch with grilled hamburgers and hot dogs followed the tour. As usual, the Linn County Small Woodland cooks created a meal to die for. Fay Sallee brought some exhibits that 4-H youth had put together showing insects found in the forest. There was also an exhibit showing different facts about Oregon. It is set up as a quiz with an answer sheet provided.

Jim Cota, who was not able to attend, donated the hamburger from a 4-H auction beef he purchased. Brad and Christy Tye grilled the meat and arranged the food for serving. Debbie and Bill Bowling made a special trip to get a backup grill. Lee and Shirley Peterman brought extra bottles of water. Mike Barsotti took lots of photographs to document the fun. Brad Withrow-Robinson got out information about the event through his e-mails and website. He also attended the event and was available for answering many questions.

### Benton TFOY Tour

(continued from p. 10)

because they were unsure of survival. Dave discussed goals and vegetation management for the reforestation seedlings: removal of 20% of the competing vegetation will generally ensure survival of the seedlings, while removal of at least 80% of the vegetation is necessary to increase tree growth and may result in "a year" of increased growth by the time of harvest. So you have to consider extra growth vs. extra expense and loss of wildlife habitat. Dave and Sarah chose to forgo the "extra growth." They like the messy (diverse) regeneration units. Now the plan for pre-commercial thinning is to wait until crown closure, to suppress grass.

After the tour we adjourned to Adair County Park for a picnic. Thanks to Dave and Sarah for hosting an enlightening tour, both on the wildlife as well as the silviculture, and to all the volunteers who organized an excellent picnic lunch.
Lane County Hosts Annual OSWA Meeting
by Jim James

OSWA enjoyed another successful Annual Meeting June 15-17 in Florence. The Board meeting, Friday program, and Saturday woods tour were all well attended. Lane County was a wonderful host.

Keynote Speaker, State Forester Peter Daugherty spoke about the partnership between forest owners and Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and his vision for continuation of that partnership. He discussed his emphasis on results-based regulations and his support for voluntary measures, like the Oregon Salmon Plan, to address desired forest conditions.

ODF gave updates on riparian rules, bald eagles, invasive species, Sudden Oak Death (SOD), and programs available through ODF to assist landowners. Other topics covered were a legislative update, smoke management issues, Swiss Needle Cast, history of West Lane County, and tsunami research.

Following some local entertainment, the Awards Banquet honored several members.

Awards banquet honored Outstanding Volunteers from the different county chapters. Steve Cafferata received the 2017 Riggin’ Slinger* award. The Oregon Tree Farm System recognized Connie Atkinson as Volunteer of the Year. Connie puts in countless hours assisting her husband Michael in managing the OTFS national certification program and interfacing with the OTFS Inspectors. She keeps the OTFS database up to date and is a valuable resource to OTFS.

**Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year Woods Tour**
On Saturday June 17, 150 participants visited the Rankin Forest. LLC. Hosts Dave and Dianne Rankin and OSU Extension. Forester Lauren Grand made presentations on operating a portable sawmill, managing a coastal forest using diverse aged stand management, and strategies in thinning young stands of Douglas-fir. Participants learned about the history of the property and how the Rankin’s management strategy provides a multitude of economical, environmental, and social values on their property. ✦

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*Rigging slinger*—The head man working on the rigging crew; he spots the rigging where he wants to get the next turn, directs the choker setters, is next in line to the hooker (foreman of the logging crew).


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Dick Couter presents the Rankin Family with an Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year Plaque

Steve Cafferata receives Riggin’ Slinger Award

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FSN: Connecting Forest Landowners with Seedlings, Services and Contractors
[www.forestseedlingnetwork.com](http://www.forestseedlingnetwork.com)
Seeds Book review
(continued from p. 9)

The five sections, Seeds Flourish, Seeds Unite, Seeds Endure, Seeds Defend, and Seeds Travel are illustrated with line drawings, cartoons, and historical quotes. By the time you reach the last page, you come to understand and share the author’s fascination with his subject. He writes, “This book is both an exploration and an invitation. Like seeds themselves, it began as something small, an interest that grew with my own curiosity, following the winding path that seeds have paved through evolution, natural history, and human culture.” Tree farmers have always appreciated seeds, of course, but Thor Hanson’s book gives greater depth and breadth to this appreciation. It is well worth reading and passing along to friends.◆

Tree Farm System Annual Meeting

The Oregon Tree Farm System will hold its annual meeting at the Oregon Garden in Silverton on Saturday, October 21 from 9 am to 2 pm. A morning program on "Emphasizing the ‘Family’ of Family Forest Landowners" is planned. There will also be a ‘forest discovery station’ for the kids, hosted by Rikki Heath, OFRI. Families can also tour The Oregon Garden—admission is included in the registration.

The Oregon Tree Farm System inspectors will have their annual meeting and workshop from 9:30 am-11 am, hosted by Tamara Cushing and Lauren Grand, OSU, and Connie Atkinson, OTFS inspection coordinators.

The sessions will be followed by a brief business meeting, then a lunch honoring the county TFOYs, and announcement of the Inspector of the Year and Oregon TFOY for 2017.◆