Forest Health Conference
State of the State 2018

by Wylda Cafferata

Forest Health Conference Proceedings can be found online at
www.oregon.gov/ODF/ForestBenefits/Pages/ForestHealth.aspx

Often new forest owners say, “I just want to keep my forest healthy.” However, as Dave Shaw, of OSU Extension and College of Forestry and organizer of the two-day Forest Biennial Forest Health Conference made clear in his opening comments on Day 1, forest health is an exceedingly complex concept. He informed the audience--consisting of about 170 landowners, agency representatives, and students—that forest health needs to be examined from multiple perspectives. In addition, it’s important to consider the needs of different timber-types and ownership patterns. He noted the difference between tree health and forest health, quoting an old pathologist saying: a healthy forest has a healthy amount of disease.

He emphasized that a definition of forest health is personal, depending on one’s experiences and interests. Nevertheless, Dave says we can make an attempt to make objective assessments upon which we can all agree. He went on to list the components of forest health to be covered at this conference:

- Wildlife
- Insects
- Non-native Species
- Douglas fir issues
- Fire in Oregon
- Forest Mortality
- Silviculture
- The Future of Forest Health

Wildlife

Moderator Fran Cafferata Coe pointed out that wildlife is key to overall forest health. A forest that does not support wildlife is a warning that forest health is in jeopardy. Wildlife provides essential eco-system services, she noted, and part of the big picture in managing for overall forest health is to manage in a way that allows wildlife to persist across the landscape in the long term. She urged land managers to keep the needs of wildlife in mind at every forest stage and in every management action.

The first presenter on wildlife, Dr. Jim Rivers of OSU’s Department of Forest Ecosystems and Society, reminded the audience of the global importance of animal-mediated pollination with over 300,000 species of flowering plants depending on it, including 75% of the world’s crops. Despite informing the audience that the term “emerging research” is coded speech for “no results yet,” Jim provided the audience with fascinating information from current studies. When describing Oregon’s more than 500 species of native bees, he noted that bees are vegetarians, while wasps are carnivores. With the exception of non-native honey bees, most of Oregon’s bees are solitary nesters, either in the ground (75%) or in cavities, and active only three to six weeks a year, depending on which plants are in flower. In our forests, their needs are for flowers such as salal, Oregon grape, lupine, and snowberry. There is evidence that bare soil can help bees find nesting sites. Herbicide intensity studies show that heavy pesticide use is detrimental to habitat but moderate amounts are tolerable. Jim advised the audience to keep an eye on ongoing research.

Seral community: an intermediate stage found in ecological succession in an ecosystem advancing towards its climax community

Next, Thomas Stokely, who is a doctoral candidate in the OSU Department of Forest Ecosystems and Society, presented research findings from his study on the interactions among silvicultural herbicide treatments (none, moderate and heavy), conifer plantation development, early-seral plant communities, and deer and elk in the Oregon Coast Range. He has collected six years of data that indicate no evidence that herbicide treatment influenced the abundance of deer and elk on the sites, nor the amount of foraging. What the animals ate varied under different treatments.

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Forest Health Conference
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In all cases they prefer native vegetation. He showed slides that indicated plantation development was very different depending on herbicide treatment.

AJ Kroll, Weyerhaeuser research biologist, rounded out the wildlife presentations, by making an impassioned plea to both retain and recruit snags and downed wood on managed forests, in order to sustain the diversity of wildlife that depend on these structures for habitat, as well as contributing to soil stabilization.

Insects
The keynote speaker, Dr. Jeff Hicke from the University of Idaho’s Geography Department, addressed the group on the topic, "Climate Change and Bark Beetles in Oregon: What Might the Future Bring?"

He discussed the extent of bark beetle outbreaks, the ecology of the beetles, case studies of historic prevalence, and future projections. Jeff stated that all forest types worldwide are subject to beetle attack and showed a world map with red dots representing outbreaks to show the beetle attacks are becoming more widespread. They are a bigger cause of forest mortality than wild fires. Large healthy trees are capable of defense, but drought, stress, and stand density all impact the severity of attacks. With warmer winter temperatures, more beetles survive to attack in the spring. Stressed trees give off pheromones that attract beetles.

The three major species in Oregon are the fir engraver, the mountain pine beetle, and the western bark beetle. Jeff provided multiple examples of beetle damage covering many species. For example, there is a predicted expansion of the spruce beetle on the Oregon coast due to increased winter survival. He advised forest managers to keep a close eye on the Douglas fir beetle and the western balsam bark beetle. He mentioned that beetle mortality increased the risk of wild fire as well as affecting recreation due to the necessity of closing campgrounds, decreases in water quality due to an increase in organic compounds, and reduced carbon sequestration capacity.

Beetles are a bigger cause of forest mortality than wild fires

Christine Buhl, ODF’s State Forest Entomologist, added that the time to manage for bark beetles is before they attack by planting trees on appropriate sites, weeding around trees to help them fight off drought-stress, and avoiding mechanical and chemical injury to trees. She pointed out that death from insect damage is usually caused by atrophied roots, collapsed vascular tubes, and less resources for growth and defense. She encouraged forest managers to make use of the fact sheets on the ODF Forest Health website on how to mitigate by species, and to be aware of conditions on the land they manage.

http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/ForestBenefits/Pages/ForestHealth.aspx

Lastly, Bill Schaupp, an entomologist with the USDA Forest Service addressed the question, “Is the flat-headed fir borer responsible for the die-off in southern Oregon Douglas-fir?”

In all cases they prefer native vegetation. He showed slides that indicated plantation development was very different depending on herbicide treatment.

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

Basic Woodland Management Shortcourse, OSU Extension: Wednesdays, April 4, 11, 18, and 25, Tangent & Dallas classes, register by March 27, contact Jody Einerson, jody.einerson@oregonstate.edu, 541-766-6750.

Lane County SWA Annual Meeting: Thursday, January 18, 5:30 pm—Social, 6:30 pm—Dinner, 7 pm—Meeting, Eugene Elks Club. See info p. 5.

Thompson Tree Farm Tour: Saturday, April 7, 8:15 am. Meet north of Hwy. 20 across from Blodgett Country Store at 8 am. See info p. 13.

Lane County SWA Board Meeting: Thursday, May 3, 4-6 pm. ODF, West Lane, Veneta.

Mike Newton Eddyville Tree Farm Tour: Saturday, May 5, BCSWA.

OSWA Neighbor to Neighbor Tour/Benton Co. TFOY: Saturday, May 19, 8:30-1:30 pm. See info p. 13.

OSWA Annual Meeting & TFOY Tour: Thursday-Saturday, June 28-30. Lane Co. SWA, See info p. 9.

Benton County Annual Social Picnic: Saturday, July 28, Nancy Hathaway & Greg Peterson Tree Farm.

I would like to thank all who attended LCSWA’s annual meeting in January. We had a successful meeting, with 80 members in attendance, and, as usual, a great dinner at the Elks. Attendees were updated on proposed laws and regulations that could potentially restrict the use of pesticides on our forests. Rick Dancer followed with a presentation on how we can better communicate with our communities and get our message out. Jim James, OSWA’s Director updated us on OSWA activities, from lobbying to ‘howdy neighbor tours’, as well as our challenges with membership retention. Gordon Culbertson of Forest2Market provided us a review of log markets and an estimate of what we might see this summer.

During the business session we re-elected the following 3 board members--Wylda Cafferata, Rick Olson and Chuck Volz--for another three years of service. We closed the meeting with our routine raffle.

**Lane County Information**

With the selection of LCSWA members Steve and Wylda Cafferata as Oregon’s Tree Farmer of the Year, the process of planning for this year’s OSWA annual meeting moves forward. The meeting is scheduled for June 28-30th, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The Cafferata tour will be on Saturday. The event will be held in the Springfield area. OSWA will be getting out the information and registration forms shortly.

**.....consider serving on the Board of Forestry....**

Another issue of concern to OSWA is the membership of the Board of Forestry. The governor has yet to make an appointment. With the board resignation of Gary Springer, a small woodlands owner and professional forester, the board of forestry lacks representation from forestland 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”. It is questionable if these criteria would represent small woodland 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.

**OSWA Membership:** Lane County has seen a slight decline from 2017. I would like to encourage all to renew their membership. We all receive many benefits from membership in OSWA, and I encourage you to pay and submit your dues back to OSWA as soon as possible. Also take the time to invite a neighbor to join.

**Lane County Ext. Forester:** Lauren Grand--can be reached at: 996 Jefferson St., Eugene, OR 97402 541-579-2150, lauren.grand@oregonstate

**Next quarterly Board Meeting:** Thur. May 3, 4- 6 pm ODF, West Lane, Veneta.

Take care and enjoy your forest. We look forward to seeing you at LCSWA’s upcoming events.◆
Lincoln County Extension Service, Oregon State University is pleased to introduce our new Master Gardener, Forestry, and Small Farms Coordinator, Pami Monnette. A familiar face to many, Pami comes to us from Linn-Benton County Extension, where she diligently managed the Master Gardener Program, assisted in the Master Food Preservers program, and provided institutional support for pest monitoring programs in partnership with the Processed Vegetable Commission. A graduate of both Western Oregon University and Oregon State University, she holds a bachelor's degree in Geography from WOU and Masters in Public Policy from OSU.

Her dedication to studying food systems and rural development and eight years with Oregon State University Extension Service will doubtless serve her well in her new role. Pami is excited to begin working with and getting to know the Lincoln County Master Gardeners / OSWA/ Farm Bureau Members/OSU volunteers, learning more about the eccentricities of our coastal growing conditions, and helping to build a helpful and responsive small farms program in Lincoln County. She will assist with the Forestry program in Lincoln County.

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New Publications

Lincoln Co. Welcomes Pami Monette

by Valerie Elder

Lincoln County Seedling Sale Volunteers

Mike Barsotti, Nancy Mauter, Emily Henry, and Shirley Jolliff

Pami Monette & Son

by Rich Clark

Amphibians in Managed Woodlands: Tools for Family Forestland Owners
This is a well written, thorough, and beautifully illustrated article, written by Lauren Grand (OSU Extension), Ken Bevis (WA Dept. of Natural Resources), and Fran Cafferata Coe (Cafferata Consulting). It includes fantastic photos of native salamanders and frogs. There are sections related to amphibian habitats, common amphibian threats, and recommended habitat enhancement techniques. It's on the Woodland Fish & Wildlife site: http://woodlandfishandwildlife.com/news/amphibians-in-managed-woodlands-tools-for-family-forestland-owners/

Finding Frogs, Noticing Newts
Here's an article written by the Extension Service. It includes some practical tips on where and when to find frogs and salamanders—from eggs to adults. http://extension.oregonstate.edu/lane/sites/default/files/finding_frogs.pdf

Family Forests and Wildlife: What You Need to Know
This publication, the keystone in a series by the Woodland Fish and Wildlife Group, will give you some ideas on where to begin in deciding how to best manage your woodland for wildlife habitat. It was written by Fran Cafferata Coe, Nicole Strong (OSU Extension), and Ken Bevis. http://woodlandfishandwildlife.com/news/family-forests-and-wildlife-vigorous-forests-and-healthy-wildlife/.

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I would like to thank Lee Peterman and Jim Merzenich for filling in for me at the annual meeting. I apologize for not being there, but family needs required me to be in Michigan. We are beginning the new year with new projects, opportunities for education, and communication with other tree farmers on successes and failures.

You can see all the past and upcoming events on the NEW WEB SITE http://linncountyswa.com/. Please visit it often. It is your board’s way of keeping you up to date on happenings in your chapter. You will find information on the annual meeting, the seedling sale, and upcoming events. The article by Jim Merzenich, ‘Philosophy on Tree Farming in Oregon’s Willamette Valley’ is particularly worth reading. It gives a nice historical, and current, perspective on the useful role of the small woodlands owner.

I encourage you to provide articles and pictures for inclusion on the chapter’s web site. Contact Jim Merzenich, our web page coordinator, at 503-799-6772.

I would like to welcome our new board members--Jane Strom, Tim Otis, and Jim Cota. Thank you for volunteering to serve on the board. I would also like to thank the outgoing board members--Dan Thackaberry, Jim Merzenich, and Henry Wolthuis. Your participation in the past has made our chapter one of the best. ◆

Linn Co. Annual Meeting
--by Sherm Sallee

Linn County Small Woodlands Association has a tradition of holding its annual meeting on the third Saturday of January in Scio. This year was no exception. We had a great turnout of over 80 members and family attending. Once again, our Linn County food preparers outdid themselves by providing a fantastic potluck dinner.

Jim James discussed the latest information from our Salem OSWA office. Dave Furtwangler, from Cascade Timber Consultants in Sweet Home, talked about the support they can provide to our small woodland members. Katie Kohl talked about the status of our college scholarship program and the outlook for the coming year. She also introduced two of the award winners, and they briefly talked about their college learning experiences. Fay Sallee introduced 11 of the 4-H forestry scholarship award winners, and they each talked about the most interesting aspect of the 4-H forestry project.

At times during the evening, Jim Merzenich and Lee Peterman drew tickets for door prizes that were donated by Economy Supply, Cascade Power Equipment of Lebanon, and by members. This is always a very popular portion of the evening, with many attendees taking home nice prizes.

Our business meeting consisted of reviewing the board actions for the past year, the treasurer’s report, and the election of officers and directors for the coming year. We also discussed upcoming events that the membership will have the opportunity to attend. One such activity is the ever popular annual seedling sale held in February. Bonnie Marshall discussed the status of seedling orders. Fay Sallee and Christy Tye solicited help from the attendees for the sale.

One highly anticipated portion of the evening was our opportunity to view the video of the 2017 Linn County Tree Farmer of the Year winners. Ivan and Rebecca Wolthuis, along with three of their children, were in attendance to answer questions and receive a token of our appreciation in the form of a handmade broom.

Brad Withrow-Robinson, the OSU Forestry Extension agent for Linn, Benton and Polk Counties gave a presentation on Extension activities over the last calendar year. He provided great pictures of the many events.

At the conclusion of the evening, Jim Merzenich held a brief oral auction. He auctioned off a wood duck nest box, built and donated by Jim Cota. Bonnie Marshall was the winner of this item. The second item was a handmade broom donated by Jim Merzenich. There was strong bidding between Tim Otis and Brad Withrow-Robinson. The funds from the sale of these two items went toward paying for the use of the facility for the evening. ◆
Linn Co. Seedling Sale

by Bonnie Marshall

The annual seedling sale, sponsored by the Linn County Small Woodlands Association on February 3rd, 2018 at the Linn County Fair and Expo Center was another outstanding success, thanks largely to all the volunteers willing to donate their time and energy year after year. Our seedling sale provides a wonderful opportunity for chapter members to meet and work together, interact with our scholarship recipients, and tap into the energy and enthusiasm of the 4-H members and their families.

The “Goods From the Woods” event was happening alongside the seedling sale. It provided a nice display of sale items made from local wood products by local vendors. There were also opportunities to talk with our OSU Extension Agent Brad Withrow-Robinson or a representative from the South Santiam Watershed District, as well as to learn about other resources available to small woodland owners and the benefits of joining Oregon Small Woodlands Association. We were also able to draw in a few customers from the Quilt Show being held next door.

The proceeds from the seedling sale help fund 4-5 college scholarships to Linn County students studying toward a forestry or natural resources related degree. In addition, they also help fund cash awards to local 4-H students that demonstrate proficiency in their forestry projects.

Friday morning, February 2, was especially busy with members picking up seedlings, plants, and sawdust from nurseries and locations near and far. They joined other volunteers setting up tables, organizing supplies, as well as gathering, bundling and wrapping seedlings for the 123 pre-orders. A total of 41 volunteers made this all happen, including 25 4-H youth members, parents, and leaders!

Saturday was another busy day for the 34 volunteers—twenty OSWA members and thirteen 4-H members and families. Volunteers greeted people at the door, answered their questions, distributed pre-orders, and helped people with an additional 111 orders. Between the two days, we processed over 7,400 seedlings, most of them native to Oregon.

In addition to our regular in-demand conifers, Valley ponderosa pines, and western red cedars, several of our hot items that sold out early this year were the quaking aspen and the coast redwood. If you missed out this year, remember to get your pre-order in early for next year’s sale! Watch for our seedling sale packet to arrive in your email mid-November.

If you have questions or would like to be added to our email (or snail mail) list, please contact Bonnie Marshall at bonniem@wvi.com or 503 769-6510.

Next year’s seedling sale will be held on Saturday, February 2, 2019 at the Linn County Fair and Expo Center. Hope to see you there! ◆
Lincoln County Chapter Board Members

President  Peter M. Bregman  541-563-6428  pmbregman@msn.com
Vice Pres.  Joe Steenkolk  541-875-1541  jjs@casco.net
Treasurer  Jan Steenkolk  541-875-1541  jjs@casco.net
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Board mem.  Valerie Grant  541-444-1088  tmillerfarms@gmail.com
Board mem.  Jim Denison  541-979-6176  jim-denison@hotmail.com

Lincoln County Chapter News

Here we are--March 2018 already! At the time of this writing, it is March 8th; there is a real storm outside. Time to bring you the latest news in Lincoln County.

By the time you receive this writing, we just will have had our annual tree sale. Joe Steere and Joe Steenkolk saw to it that all the trees were there. We have held our tree sale for the last number of years in the 4-H building at the Lincoln Co. Fairground in Newport. It was a busy day, with both the public and tree farmers purchasing a variety of trees and shrubs. It is very difficult to determine the needs and wants of the people at any time. However, because of the supervision of Joe Steere, we were lucky that we were able to offer an extra variety of trees and shrubs.

The sale was a success financially, and the chapter members who volunteered for the event to make it run smoothly were able to answer all the questions that were asked that day. Part of that money will be used to support the Lincoln Co. Fair again this year, both by sponsoring an event and by bringing the presence of the timber industry to the fair. Another portion of the money will be used to finance our annual meeting and dinner, hosting that event for the members. Even though the sale was a profitable event money wise, if we were to consider all the hours spent in preparation for the sale, getting the trees there, setting up, cleaning up, returning the left over products, and dividing all that by the actual profit made, we would not have been able to pay more than 50% of minimum wage, leaving no profit to the chapter.

HOWEVER, the camaraderie, the social interaction, and getting to know each other as members of a trade group represented the true profit from the event—which money could not buy. Plus, we had an opportunity to discuss many issues that we face as a rural community. Not only do we recognize that we need this camaraderie to survive, but we also recognize that services such as this one help combat wrongful environmental accusations that we face as growers, and as an industry.

On Saturday March 17, we held the chapter’s annual meeting. The meeting was a family event, with time for socializing and was also a means to convey current information that we need in planning for the future. Jim James, our OSWA executive director, brought us up to date on the status of our memberships and where Measure 21 on aerial spraying is in the courts.

The board re-elected and approved the same slate of officers. Board members accepted the responsibility to serve for another year. Jim Holt was approved and appointed as a new member of the board.

The event was held at the chairman’s tree farm, which included a tri-tip dinner provided by the chairman’s family.

The meeting was intended to bring the family together, and as such, to understand changes that are occurring and how we as an OSWA family can unite together to bring about changes that will be positive for both the rural and urban communities.

Measure 21 is still in the court, and it may be a long time before it is resolved in Lane County. The same group proposes a broader initiative. You all know that I am from the central valley in California where much of the good wine comes from. The area does not have the conflict
between two opposing groups that we see here - maybe because we drink more wine and are more tolerant of one another. Understanding the economic ties between these two groups (industry and environmentalist activists) demands respect for the rules in place for protecting all residents from exposure to any negative effects from aerial spraying, a common phenomenon in the valley that occurs yearly in the wine industry, not just on a 40 year rotation! See Gary Jensen's comments in the Lane Co. article.

I just recently learned that Agent Orange was applied here by the forest service during the Vietnam War era. I was in the service during that time, and some of my friends have developed health issues from exposure. In recent conversation with friends in the Waldport/ Tidewater area, people were exposed and affected by the action of the Forest Service in applying 2,4-5T and 2,4-D in the National Forest, including over-spray/drift on to private lands. More information on Agent Orange is available at Wikipedia.

That spray exposure apparently caused some serious harm, conflicts, and fear to the populace, and that fear is still present in this and other areas. The Film “Behind the Emerald Curtain” looked like it could have come from that time period, and so maybe we need to go back and make sure that we all understand that the material used today does breakdown and does not have the effect on the environment as it did in those days.

Elk in Lincoln county: I just read the article in the Capital Express about the elk in this area and how to solve the problem between woodland owners and elk. In that article, our fellow member Tim Miller stated that he was keeping the elk out of his plantations by building a 6 ft. New Zealand electric fence. Elk are common in this area, and we all appreciate their presence; however, herds that are too big do a lot of unreported damage, and there are more elk than what is needed to foster a stable and healthy population. After my 1st timber harvest, I had been advised to plant half in western red cedar and the other half in Doulas-fir. Even so, the stand of Doug-fir was badly browsed. It is a good looking stand now because of the remaining cedars that are finally coming to size and are still well spaced, so that in time, it may fill in. During the first 10 years, the elk had their dessert from those trees. Finally I learned that I could get a land owners permit and get even with them! And we have every year since then by putting a couple in the freezers and making me satisfied in more than one way!

We are still planning a trip for the chapter to the Valley of the Giants this summer, Joe Steere and Joe Steenkolk are organizing that event and are just looking as to when it would be the best time that information will be known in May.

In my next article I will write about estate planning. I have some good experiences there that I would like to share.◆

OSWA Annual Meeting
June 28-30
--by Jim James

The 2018 OSWA Annual Meeting will be hosted by OSWA’s Lane County Chapter, Thursday June 28 to Saturday, June 30, in Springfield.

"Managing Family Forests into the Future"

Thursday’s events will include local mill tours and OSWA Board meeting. Friday will have a full program of speakers, covering topics of interest to OSWA members, Annual Silent Auction, and Awards Banquet held at the Holiday Inn in Springfield. Saturday will be the 2017 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year woods tour, visiting Steve and Wylnda Cafferata’s Cafferata Family Forest just outside Springfield. Annual Meeting Brochures will arrive in mailboxes in early May.◆

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On March 17th at President Peter Bregman’s Bayview Eagle Roost Tree Farm, approximately 65 members, family, and friends attended the 2018 Lincoln Co. Chapter Annual Meeting.

The event kicked off with a social hour. Following that, Joe Steere introduced Matt Thomas, Toledo Unit Forester (Boss). Matt introduced ODF’s new North and South County Steward Foresters Joe Kock and Andrew Arvin, respectively. Matt also introduced Forest Enforcement Deputy from the Sheriff’s Office Nicholas Vaille. Matt then gave a brief review of the research done by DEQ, ODA, OHA, and ODF.

We then received reports or updates from Alan Fujishin of Gibson Farms, OSU Extension Service Forester Valerie Elder, Rex Capri, and OSWA Exec. Director Jim James.

Matt Thomas explained that a partnership of DEQ, ODF, and Dept. of Agriculture randomly sampled for herbicides in a 5-year study. The Yamhill River Basin results were well below action levels, but DEET was common.

Alan Fujishin spoke about the Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership, which is one of the pilot projects in a Newport grant, addressing water issues, priorities, and needs through collaborative planning. The Farm Bureau, Dept. of Agriculture, landowners, rural communities, and small woodland owners form the partnership. The next meeting of the new Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership is on May 30th. Joe Steere mentioned the progress on the rule-making process for TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load), which sets the clean water standard for content of bacteria and dissolved oxygen.

Valerie Elder, OSU Extension Forestry & Natural Resources agent, announced that Pamela Monnette has been selected to provide leadership for the small farms program, the Master Gardener program, as well as to coordinate the forestry program for the county. They plan to hold “Tree School” in Lincoln County.

Rex Capri spoke about the International Terminal in Newport. The last logs were shipped out in 1999, but commercial fishing boats use the new terminal now. After all the grants and bonds, the taxpayers are left with a $21 million obligation, but the trawlers only bring in $400K. The woodland owners/industry hope that the new port manager will do right, representing the interests of everyone. Andy Kittel said that the port didn’t fulfill the mandate, which is to act in the economic interests of the whole county, for all of the residents.

Jim James thanked Tim Tracey (NW Hardwoods), Andy Kittel (Silkwood Communications), and Joe Steere (Miami Corp.) for their continued patronage. Measure 21 needed more involvement from those who opposed it. The measure has not been processed through the court. See Jim James’s article, p.12.

Jim Denison was honored that evening in absentia, by Norm Marsh, who worked with Jim for many years. Norman spoke about Jim, elaborating on his experience, his knowledge of the county, and his many awards. Norm was also the individual that worked with Jim when the coastline was being divided into parcels, the first real survey after the chain gang. Jim surveyed and sub-divided the property for Mo Bregman. Jim Denison was the role model for Peter Bregman and got him involved in OSWA helping him to improve and manage the 200 acres he owns. The Bregman’s and the Denison’s developed a real friendship over the 14 years, after Jim was appointed by Mo to show Peter all the corners of that property. Having Gary Nyhus (surveyor for Lincoln county) and his two sons there, (one who also just graduated as a surveyor) continued that legacy. Peter wanted to recognize Jim and Betty Denison, who play a big part in keeping everyone on, and in, line.

Thanks to Peter Bregman, Joe Steere, Jan and Joe Steenkolk, and their granddaughters, for the many hours of organization, setup and help, and for the delicious dinner had by all. Thanks to Nic Dahl, who donated the chainsaw. Everyone had fun with the raffle. Although there were many winners, the raffle winner was Susan Allen, winner of the Stihl chainsaw. ◆

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Mark.Willhite@juno 503-695-6419

Congratulations to Benton Small Woodlands members!! We tied with Washington County for the highest annual renewal rate of all the county chapters!!

As we greet spring into our lives again this year, the Benton Small Woodlands Association is greeting nine new members to our local chapter. Early this year, we sent an invitation to all woodland owners in Benton County to join in the fun and educational endeavors of our group. If your friend or neighbor woodland owner has not yet joined, we hope you’ll reach out to them with a personal invitation to join. It would also be wonderful to broaden our membership with more youth—if you know any budding young woodland managers, give them a call!

I am honored to have been selected as President of the Benton Small Woodlands Chapter for 2018-19. I’m excited to be working with a great group of enthusiastic volunteers. Dave Ehlers, our President-Elect is generous with his creative ideas and energy. As Program Chair, Dave is doing an awesome job organizing interesting educational events, like lining up speakers for our recent Woodland Information Night. On March 7, at the annual Woodland Information Night, we heard from three speakers about what we can do to promote forest pollinators, wildlife habitat and forest diversity. Check out what’s coming up in the next few months in the Calendar of Events!

Greg Vollmer has agreed to be both Treasurer and Secretary, but only for one more year! So, we need your help—please attend the board meetings: first Monday of the month at 4 pm at Benton Extension office—and get your feet wet—you’ll be ready to take over for Greg next year!

Nancy Hathaway is a member of the board of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association, so she has agreed to serve as liaison between our chapter and the state organization, keeping us abreast of what’s happening in Salem. Rita Adams enjoys working with students so much that she will continue in her capacity as chair of our K-12 Education Programs, as she has done passionately for many years. Dave Hibbs, our 2017 Tree Farmer of the Year, is chair of the Tree Farmer of the Year Committee. He is currently planning for the tour of our 2018 Tree Farmers, the Carr-Oakes-Johnson Family. See the full announcement on page 13 for this exciting event, coming up on May 19th.

Our Membership Chair is currently unfilled – but Mike Albrecht is enthusiastically welcoming our new members, making sure their questions are answered, and they’re informed of upcoming events. Sarah Carr is our new coordinator for our blog page on the Oregon Small Woodlands website. Check it out at www.oswa.org/blog/benton/. And Rich Clark, your Quarterly Bark editor, is a Benton chapter member, keeping us informed across neighboring chapters. Pat Boren, Roger Workman and Laura Harmsen–also active Benton Chapter board members–are always ready to help out where needed.

During my term as president of the Benton chapter, I hope to find ways to ensure that the diverse voices among our local membership are reflected in our activities and are heard by the Oregon Small Woodlands leadership. Here on our 285 acre woodland in Wren, Tom and I have been busy (over 400 hours between us) removing “lots” of English hawthorn last fall and Scotch broom this winter on our recent 55 acre addition. It is rewarding to see the changes! Since Woodland Information Night, the mantra of “thin early, thin often, and be messy” has been circulating through my head as I walk through our forest this spring. At OSU’s Forest Health Conference last month, I learned that the flat-headed borer is of particular concern in drought stressed firs growing among the oaks and on the edges of the forest and that thinning can be helpful. We like to do our own forest work – we have plenty to do - and look forward to an active retirement together.

Barbara Lachenbruch &
Everett Hansen

Robert Pond
Diana Blakney
Scott Thibert
Paul & Caron Klopping
Tiffany Hopkins
Eric Thompson, Thompson Timber

Benton County wishes to extend a warm welcome to our new members. We hope to see you at many tours and talks. Our goal is to help you meet your forestry goals. ◆
OSWA members toured the George W. Peavy Forest Science Center construction site on March 8, 2018.

The new George W. Peavy Forest Science Center currently under construction is unique among OSU buildings. This 3-story classroom, lab and office building will be a showpiece for the Oregon timber industry and position OSU as a leader in the field of wood product commercial construction. All wood was sourced from within a 240-mile radius.

In 2012, Gov. John Kitzhaber directed state agencies to identify at least two state capital projects to be built highlighting the use of wood products. The 2015 Legislature authorized $29.7 million in state bonds, the rest to be raised through donations. Cost overruns, a dearth of skilled workers, and a tight construction market have escalated the total cost to $79.5 million. Dean Thomas Maness believes the building will be transformational in leading the way to new markets in mass wood construction.

Widespread enthusiasm is being shown for mass timber structures, such as cross-laminated timber (CLT,) to push beyond wood’s perceived boundaries, achieving building heights and spans that would have once required a concrete or steel structural frame. Originally conceived in Europe using spruce, OSU researchers showed that the use of Douglas fir and other refinements can significantly enhance CLT. The new Peavy Hall is a demonstration of this revolutionary building technology. The CLT panels were manufactured at D.R. Johnson in Riddle, with plywood panels made at Freres Lumber in Lyons.

CLT consists of layers of dimension lumber (typically three, five, or seven) oriented at right angles to one another and then glued to form structural panels with exceptional strength, dimensional stability, and rigidity. Panels are particularly cost effective for multistory and large building applications up to 12 floors. Some designers view CLT as both a stand-alone system, and a product that can be used together with other wood products, such as mass plywood panels. CLT and mass plywood offer two-way span capabilities, making them well suited to floors, walls, and roofs, and may be left exposed on the interior for aesthetics. The composite action between CLT and concrete provides extreme stiffness and minimal deflection, which, along with an insulation layer between the materials, provides good acoustic separation between floors.

Recent advances in CLT panel connectors controlled structural flexing during extreme seismic and wind loads. The construction was recently shake-table tested over 9.2 Richter scale.

Editor’s addendum: Corvallis Gazette-Times article reports “CLT panel in Peavy Hall fails”. A 4-foot-by20-foot CLT panel, made up of five layers of 2X6 boards glued together at right angles, came crashing down after it delaminated at one end: gazettetimes.com/.

Herbicide Spray Ban Update

--by Jim James, OSWA

The initiative petition to ban aerial application of herbicides in Lincoln County that narrowly passed in 2017 has been litigated. It is unclear when the judge will rule. The lawsuit against the petition’s outcome is based on Oregon state law that precludes counties from regulating agriculture or forestry. The so-called Preemption Laws give the state absolute authority to regulate forestry and agricultural practices. Therefore, the lawsuit claims Lincoln County has no authority to regulation forest practices, as outlined in the initiative petition.

Those familiar with the state’s preemption laws predict the court will render the Initiative petition invalid. There was a similar lawsuit in Jackson County. There, an initiative banning GMO agricultural products in the county was ruled invalid because of state law.

A similar initiative petition process to ban the use of the aerial application of herbicides is ongoing in Lane County. It will not be on the May 2018 ballot, but it could show up in a future ballot measure.

As an organization, OSWA supports the safe and legal use of herbicides. Herbicides are a valuable tool in managing forests. They are well
He emphasized that drought and beetle outbreak occur together. Fir borers prefer dying, burned, and recently downed hosts. They are useful as the "clean-up" crew to begin the decomposition process. They are phloem-borers that do not go into wood as other borers do. They are difficult to detect since there are no clear diagnostic signs. Thinning may reduce moisture stress, but is not a panacea, since borers are found in thinned and unthinned stands.

Non-Native Species
Wyatt Williams, ODF Invasive Species Specialist, defined invasive species as those that are non-native to Oregon compete with humans for resources, and have catastrophic consequences for the economy and/or the environment.

The live-plant trade brings in 70% of invasives, and another 20% come in on wood packing material. Prevention and early detection are the keys to control. The hot line to report invasive species is 1-866-INVADER.

The biggest current threat is the emerald ash borer that has killed over 100 million trees in 30 states and is as far west as Colorado. Since Oregon ash is an important riparian species, 45 agencies in Oregon are collaborating on a response plan.

Wyatt mentioned invasive woodborers, gypsy moths, gorse, and Oregon hawkweed as posing threats to Oregon’s forest health. Ellen Goheen, U.S. Forest Service Plant Pathologist, discussed forest phytophoras. The name literally means "plant killers". They are fungal-like creatures that behave more like algae. They live in moist environments but can survive in dry times. We have 32 species in Oregon. P. lateralis attacks Port Orford cedar and causes 95% mortality in five years, and it also attacks Pacific yew. The Dorena research station is working on breeding Phytophthora-resistant Port Orford cedar strains. Other phytophoras are P. cambivora that attacks chinquapin in the mid-Cascades and southern Coast Range, P. pluvialis that does needle-damage to Douglas-fir in SW Oregon, and P. ramorum, aka Sudden Oak Death.

Sarah Navarro, ODF Forest Pathologist, gave more details on P. ramorum. It was first identified in Oregon in 2001 and has spread every year. There is now a new strain, known as EU1 that impacts Douglas-fir. In 2017, 39 new sites were identified, so the quarantined area was increased. Of immense concern is that there is not enough money allocated to work on both strains of P. ramorum so many areas remain untreated and it is feared the spread is inevitable.

(continued p. 15)
We have been dedicating a fair amount of screen space and class time lately to the idea that many family forest landowners would benefit from thinning their young stands. We explored the reasons to consider young stand thinning (YST, also known as pre-commercial thinning or PCT) as well as some approaches in a series of posts on YST at http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/treetopics/.

YST is consistent with the situation and goals of many family forest landowners, which often include growing older and more diverse forests. That said, like many other well-grounded activities, YST is not without some potential drawbacks. Few of them are significant enough to justify not thinning at all, but each requires some thought and consideration to avoid unintended consequences. We present some of those potential drawbacks that you need to consider when planning a YST, along with some links to other information, below.

Weeds. Yes, blackberries and other weeds can make YST difficult, and may slow the growth of your trees, but do not change the need for YST if you find that you have more trees per acre (tpa) than your desired target. YST is probably a better justification for keeping ahead the weeds, than weeds are a justification for delaying or not doing YST.

Sunscald. Your trees can be burned if young tender bark is abruptly exposed to the sun and gets too hot. We see it particularly on warm, dry, south facing sites, and it is more commonly seen because of pruning than thinning. If your site meets that description, it might be wise to thin and prune separately. Consider modifying the pruning operation (do smaller lifts, leave a SW-facing branch or two in exposed places like south facing road sides, don’t prune those areas in late summer).

Insects and diseases. These are the most significant concerns related to YST. There is the potential to create a bug problem while trying to avoid a density related stress problems. The outcome depends on the amount, timing and handling of the slash produced. The cause for concern varies by tree species.

Valley ponderosa pine. We have written about problems with slash and the Ips beetle before. There is an excellent review there, and also one about slash management. The destructive bark beetles thrive on stress and also disturbances that produce debris they use to multiply. Creating lots of slash in a thinning operation can easily lead to an Ips outbreak, and certainly represents the biggest single challenge to managing pine in our area. Generally, the key to preventing large brood build-ups of the Ips is to clean up thinned or storm-damaged stands early. Trunks should be cut from the roots, made into firewood, and stacked to encourage rapid drying.

Douglas fir. Black stain root rot is an increasing problem in some areas in western Oregon. A fungus causes it, but it is carried by insects that are keyed-in on stress and disturbance (just like the Ips). Local outbreaks in young plantations may be associated with nearby disturbances such as harvests, road construction or brushing. It can also be associated with YST. Where other local disturbances or presence of disease cause concern, the most significant management recommendation is to avoid attracting and feeding the insect vectors by thinning in summer, after the insects’ breeding season. Look for more about this disease in future blogs/articles.

Larger slash needs to be chipped, burned or spread out to dry, rather than left in slow-drying piles. Timeliness is important to prevent larvae from completing their development in June.

Linn Co. Past President Jim Merzenich presenting a handmade broom to Linn County 2017 Tree Farmers of the Year Ivan and Rebecca Wolthuis
Furthermore, there is a new EU1 strain in the UK known as Sudden Larch Death. Sarah emphasized that funding for more research and treatment is crucial to protect Oregon.

**Douglas-fir Issues**

Anna Leon, a Weyerhaeuser forest pathologist, studies Douglas-fir pests from the time the trees are in the nurseries until harvest. In the orchards, cones are the product so the Douglas-fir cone moth and cone worm are important. Seeds from the cones are used to grow container trees and bare-root stock. For the container seedlings, it is crucial to sterilize containers and manipulate environmental airflow. For the bare-root trees, both damping-off and root rot are problems. Sometimes, nutritional issues can look like pathogens.

Insects are a problem as well, and fumigation with methyl bromide is often used, though solarization that uses no chemicals as well as a new chemical from WSU researchers is appearing to do well. While the seedlings are in storage, temperature control is crucial to control pathogens. Planting quality can be an issue, followed by browse and rodent damage. Black stain is being found in five year old Douglas-fir stands.

In mid-rotation to harvest, abiotic issues such as wind, ice, and animal damage are of concern, as well as drought and Douglas-fir pests including Swiss Needle Cast, the Douglas-fir bark beetle, laminated root rot, and Sudden Oak Death. Gabriela Ritokova, Assistant Director of the OSU Swiss Needle Cast Cooperative, continued the story of Swiss Needle Cast. It is native to North America and specific to Douglas-fir. It clogs the stoma in trees ages 10 and up so needles die and drop off. It does not usually kill the tree, but inhibits growth, and affects trees primarily within 25 miles of the coast. With climate change, the threat appears to be growing with the easternmost sites 70 miles from the coast. There are no silver prevention bullets, Gabriela advised, though thinning can help. Fertilization does not, the fungicide BRAVO works but is expensive, toxic, and must be applied yearly. Gabriela referred land managers to the OSU Swiss Needle Cast Cooperative website. [http://sncc.forestry.oregonstate.edu](http://sncc.forestry.oregonstate.edu)

Michelle Agne from UW concluded the session by discussing the interactions among insect, disease, and climate change in west side Douglas-fir. Warmer, wetter winters, less snow-pack combined with hotter, drier summers leads to an increase in mortality, more drought stress, decreased growth, and a predicted decrease in the D. fir range by 2060. Indirect effects include increased risk from fire, pathogens, and insects. The presentation was a gloomy way to end the first day’s proceedings. ◆

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**Woods Words**

**Ballix**—Any kind of messed-up situation

**Barber chair**—A tree which is split up the trunk in falling, leaving the split portion on the stump, instead of breaking through cleanly to the undercut

**Bark eater**—a. A logger b. A sawmill hand

**Eyeballing a line**—Making a preliminary survey by eye, mostly by guess, not by instrument.

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This concludes the review of topics covered in the first day of the Forest Health Conference.

There will be an article in the July issue of the Quarterly Bark on topics covered in the second day of the conference. Topics include the following:

--Fire in Oregon
--Eastside Fire
--Westside Fire
--Forest Mortality
--Silviculture & Forest Health
--Discussion of Threats to Forest Health
--Take Home Message ◆

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Swiss Needle Cast is present throughout western Oregon, but it is most significant along the coast where it must be considered as part of every management decision. Potential implications of SNC to young stand thinning include retaining alternate species, and selecting Douglas-fir keepers based on needle retention.

Young stand thinning is an important woodland management practice that can help you keep your woodland vigorous and resilient to drought and other stress. A little caution can help it deliver on that promise.