Greetings OSWA members, families and friends  Spring 2018; Feb, March and April

It has been a gorgeous spring week as we start off our spring quarter, with Daffodils, Indian plum and Nettle leading the charge of vegetation. Here it comes and after a so-far fairly mild winter.

Last quarter we had a couple very interesting tours, starting off with Oregon Barrel Works in November. Rick Deferrari was busy in the office but we were led on the tour and through various stories of barrel construction and history by Sneid Gremebly. Very interesting to see an iconic cottage industry crafting a niche in the wine country. We were told for instance that Bourbon, in order to be called Bourbon, must be aged in a new Oak barrel. How do they make it so inexpensively if this is true? Then, right toward the end of the quarter we toured Freres Lumber’s new Mass Plywood Panel facility in Lyons. Kyle Freres, Vice President of Operations met us in the parking lot and gave a brief history of the Freres plywood plant in Mill City and this new $30 million four-acre plant. They have just started production of massive sheets 48 feet long and 12 feet wide that can be made to any thickness. All the equipment was custom designed and a team from Germany came to assemble and install the equipment. We saw examples of MPP cut to be used as supports for crane machinery. Kyle was great at answering all types of questions and open to addressing issues that still need improvement e.g. a slower drying glue to allow more time for assembling the panels. Freres is waiting for final engineering certification before starting commercial production. The mass plywood panels use 15% less wood than cross laminated timbers and weigh much less than steel. Our group was suitably impressed and it is nice to see this wood production innovation here in Willamette Valley.

We always have great tours and events and it is due to our great group of directors and friends! Of course there are the OSU Forestry Extension agents who are many folk’s first contact in the forestry field; Brad Withrow-Robinson who has Polk County (along with Benton and Linn) as his territory, and Glenn Ahrens who manages the huge constituency of Clackamas county along with our Marion side. Both Brad and Glenn have events on our current quarter’s activities, so please thank them when we see them at these events.

Then to our north, our Yamhill county OSWA friends always have some interesting presentations at their monthly meetings. All of the Yamhill events are held at the Yamhill County OSU extension office; 2050 NE Lafayette Ave, McMinnville OR 97128 The events start with a social get together at 6:30 and the meetings start at 7 pm. Here are their current quarter’s offerings;
Wed., Feb. 28, 2018, Tamara Cushing will present "Accounting and Taxes for Small Woodland Owners". She is the Endowed Starker Chair in Private and Family Forestry at OSU.


Wed. April 25, 2018: "What's New in Wood Products and Why Wood Utilization is Good for the Environment" by Timm Locke, Director of Forest Products at Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI).

All of these wonderful events bring me back to the great group of directors and friends I get to work with in our Marion-Polk chapter of OSWA. All of this happens so that our group of 98 primary members can attend, learn from and enjoy. Just a couple days ago we got a new member; Clayton Abel who owns 40 acres near Monmouth. Welcome Clayton! Really there are just 30 or 40 active members that we see each May for our annual meeting and some 10 or 20 at each of the field events we put on. This is a call to get one more active director on our letter head! Consider this a first notice for you to become one of our directors. The Annual meeting will be in May, of next quarter.

This quarter will be active on all fronts. Perhaps you are logging to take advantage of the currently high log price, which, as the stock market, can correct at any time. Perhaps you are planting or replanting parts of your property. Perhaps you are taking February and March to do some pruning before the trees become too tender. All of these and about 1541 other activities are keeping you busy, or thinking about being busy on your property and there is no place better than OSWA meetings and events to talk to other forest owners to discuss, compare and wax eloquent.

From Glenn Ahrens, Clackamas and Marion County Forestry Extension, we have the following event;

**Thinning Young Stands Field Workshop:** April 21, 9am to 12 noon Schlechter Farm, Salem OR

If you are in the process of growing a young stand of established trees, between 5 and 20 years of age, the question of thinning your forest – if, when, and how much – is likely on your mind. Early thinning to space young stands can be the best opportunity to keep your trees growing well and get the work done with relative ease compared to a later pre-commercial thin. But you might already be at the right spacing to go for 20 years. Attend this workshop to help you assess your situation and decide what’s right for you. The workshop features Douglas-fir stands showing results of earlier thinning along with younger plantings needing attention in a low-elevation Willamette Valley tree farm. Chuck Schlechter (OSU Master Woodland Manager), his forester, and OSU Extension Foresters will lead participants on a walking tour to explain and discuss the examples demonstrated on the farm. You will learn how to assess the current spacing and condition of your trees and likely outcomes - with and without thinning - to help you weigh the options, depending on your goals. Different approaches and methods for thinning young stands will be demonstrated and discussed in the field. Registration required. There is no fee. Detailed directions will be provided to registered participants. To register or get more information, call 503-655-8631 or email jean.bremer@oregonstate.edu

From Brad Withrow-Robinson, Polk, Benton and Linn County Forestry Extension, we have the following schedule of events;

**Forest Health in Oregon: State of the State 2018 Conference** February 28-March 1 LaSells Stewart Center, Oregon State University. To register and view the full agenda, visit: http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/foresthealth.
Woodland Information Night Wednesday, March 7th, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Benton Chapter OSWA host: Managing for Wildlife and Diversity., Corvallis Speakers: Fran Cafferata Coe, Cafferata Consulting, Jim Rivers, OSU College of Forestry, and Brad Withrow-Robinson, OSU Forestry & Natural Resources Extension (e-mail jody.einerson@oregonstate.edu to register).

Woodland Management...a basic forestry shortcourse. Offered in 2 locations:

Tangent 6:00 - 8:30 pm Wednesdays April 4, 11, 18, and 25, plus Saturday field session 4/28 OR
Dallas 6:00 - 8:30 pm Thursdays April 5, 12, 19 and 26, plus Saturday field session 4/28

Registration deadline March 27 (e-mail jody.einerson@oregonstate.edu to register).

These events and others are always available on Brad’s “Woodland Compass” and “Needle” forestry news, which you might be interested to receive.

And now for our chapter’s own events (to which everyone is invited too, public, neighbors, other OSWA chapter members) your directors came up with the following;

On Tuesday, February 27th at 9 am, please meet the rest of our group for a tour of a complete, professional Saw Shop! L & L Equipment, at 1145 SW Oakdale Ave, Dallas will host our chapter on a tour of their facility. As a west valley resident we were sorry to see Chuck Pratt close down the Willamina Saw shop and now we either visit L&L in Dallas or NW Logging Supply in McMinnville. There are some upsides of this, as the professional saw shops have much more in stock and when you come with us you will see what I’m talking about. Learn about the different saw sizes, qualities and options. All of the accessories for successful timber falling or wood cutting, as well as services and supplies of all sorts that it is hard to be without. Chain grinding, saw tuning and repair, safety equipment etc, etc. If you don’t already patronize L&L you owe it to yourself to come on this tour. Next quarter we will likely be doing a similar tour or two in Marion County.

On Thursday March 8th at 2:30 pm, at Oregon State University we will have a tour of the new Peavey Forest Science Center, under construction! If you haven’t heard, the Iconic Peavey Hall at OSU is being replaced by a new one, utilizing the newest materials and technologies in the wood industry. Come see the innovated use of advanced wood products including cross-laminated timber made in Oregon. The look and atmosphere of the complex reinforces Oregon State’s international status as a premier forestry, natural resources, and wood science institution devoted to improving our forest landscapes and ecosystems.

Safety & proper attire. All visitors to the site must wear long pants and proper footwear: medium to heavy-duty, closed-toe shoes or boots. Hard hats, safety glasses, and high visibility safety vests will be provided to each visitor. Any visitor not properly attired, who does not adhere to the safety protocols explained to them, will be removed from the tour immediately. Each visitor is required to complete and sign the Liability Waiver prior to the tour

Parking. Permits are required for parking on campus. Check campus maps for lots with parking stations. Parking is $1.00/hour in B zone lots. Parking is most available near Reser Stadium.

Space is limited so registration in advance is required: Call Benton County Extension 541-766-6750 or e-mail Jody Einerson jody.einerson@oregonstate.edu. Include name, phone, e-mail and number attending.

Online resources – before the tour. Before you tour the site, or if you can’t make it to the tour, you’ll want to watch informational videos about the project. These can be found at the project website: http://ofsc.forestry.oregonstate.edu/

You’ll notice and I mentioned in our last newsletter, that there are just 8 directors at the top of this page with one gap, for you! Please consider joining us at our brainstorming sessions once every three months.