2019 Membership Renewals – Due January 1st Will Be Mailed in Early November

By Jim James

For 2019 membership renewals, OSWA will use the same membership renewal process we started in 2018. Invoices will be mailed out in early November to avoid any confusion during the holiday season when OSWA had previously mailed out renewals in mid-December. Many members wish to pay their dues early so they can deduct a portion of their dues as a business expense in the previous year. Ten percent of OSWA dues are spent on lobbying which is not a business deductible expense, but the remaining 90% can be a business expense. OSWA recommends members check with an accountant. The OSWA 2019 membership dues rates will remain the same as they have been since 2015.

Membership dues are due on January 1st of each year and payable by January 31st. Historically, only about 70% of the renewals come in by January 31st. Last year using the invoices mailed in early November improved the renewals somewhat, but OSWA needed to send out reminders throughout the first half of the year to finally have a 95% retention rate. The final retention rates for 2017 and 2016 were at 92%. A reminder will be mailed in January to those who do not renew early in 2018.

New members who joined at the full membership rate during 2018 will be invoiced a proportional rate for 2019. Those who joined at the full rate at the end of 2018 will be credited as having paid their 2019 dues when they joined.

In 2017, OSWA created an incentive program to encourage members to renew by January 31st. All members who renew by January 31st will have their names placed into a drawing for Awesome OSWA products. In February, four names will be drawn to receive a free Awesome OSWA product of their choice. Some of the options can be viewed on the OSWA website, www.oswa.org. Those names drawn will be notified in February.

OSWA had a positive 6% membership growth in 2018 with 95% retention and adding 178 new members. The OSWA Membership Committee has been active encouraging family forest owners to join OSWA along with our partners; Oregon Tree Farm System, OSU Extension, and Oregon Department of Forestry. Welcome new members. Please become engaged. Please reach out to local chapter members or to me at the state office if you have any questions about OSWA or your membership.

Every OSWA member plays an important role in OSWA’s success. Together, OSWA will continue to provide the many services members enjoy and expect. Please renew your 2019 OSWA membership by January 31, 2019.

In 2017, OSWA also enacted our Sharpening Our Edge Fund Drive. Members can donate to the fund drive when they renew their membership. In 2018, $12,873 was donated by 139 members. The names of the OSWA Sharpening Our Edge Honor Role are listed on page 6.
OSWA President’s Message

Mike Barsotti

Looks like the rains are finally here and won’t be leaving us until late spring. For me, the good thing is that the rain now means I can burn the slash piles from this year’s harvest. The bad, if there is a bad, is that this valuable rain that is great for the trees, will last and block out the sun for five months. But separate from the things to do on the tree farm, is that November brings two related items that I’d like to discuss.

It’s time to pay OSWA dues and for OSWA to get ready for the 2019 legislative session. I link these two together because dues allow us to have a strong presence at the legislature. A presence that has saved us lots of money over the years, and that has given us the best chance of being able to continue managing our tree farms to meet our varied and unique sets of objectives.

We never know the complete picture of bills that will be presented at any given legislative session, but we usually know some issues for which we need to be prepared. Prepared to present to legislative committees how any given bill will impact family forest landowners and the lands they manage. Sometimes the consequences are intended, but often the impacts on us are unintended and the sooner legislators understand them the better. Impacts good or bad, our presence in Salem to tell our story is very important.

We are very fortunate to have Roger Beyer, and family forest landowner and past state senator, watching out for us. We make a great team. Roger keeps track of bills that will or may have an impact on family forestlands, and OSWA members testify before committees the positive and, it seems more often, the negative impacts a bill will have on us.

Our dues pay for Roger and for maintaining a strong and credible organization. Our dues are a defined dollar amount we can either gladly or reluctantly pay. What we save by having a presence at the Capitol is most often not clearly defined but just the same, very real and often a greater dollar amount than our dues. Two recent examples that come to mind that would have really cost us were bills to elimination special property tax assessments and to increasing the harvest tax to pay for a bunch of things that had little to nothing to do with harvesting timber or managing our forests.

One issue that is guaranteed to be on the upcoming session’s calendar is carbon. It was an issue at the 2018 short legislative session but was too complex to deal with. The governor has made it one of her priorities and has creating several working groups to address some of the complexities that lead to the tabling of it last winter.

One of the complex carbon issues needing to be defined is how much carbon is stored in Oregon’s forests. The Oregon Department of Forestry was assigned the task of putting together an ad hoc committee to answer the question. Our Executive Director, Jim James, and member Mike Barnes have been representing us on this committee.

This committee is just one of so many meetings where Jim is the face of OSWA to our partners. I’m sure none of us know just how often Jim is sitting in meetings with those organizations

continued on page 5
Now that the fall rains have arrived and autumn leaves color the woods, it’s a good time to sit with a warm drink, reflect about another year’s growth in your forest and plan next year’s activities.

What happened over recent months that might warrant an update to your forest management plan? A habitat or recreation enhancement to your property could be a priority in the coming year. Through the log market ups & downs, it appears 2019 should bring timber demand and opportunity to plan a harvest or thinning. Your access roads and trails may need a bit of maintenance. Is it time plan either an investment or gain some income from your forest? Regardless of whether or not a project is planned, you might envision different or adventuresome ways to enjoy your forest experience.

If you want to learn more about forests and ways to manage for your objectives, there are helpful tools available. Oregon’s forest community is rich with informative assistance and organizations that share our forest interests. I recommend six interesting websites to explore online for information and resources about small forest landownership:

- OSU Forestry Extension Service:  https://ExtensionWeb.forestry.oregonstate.edu
- OR Forestry Partnership:   https://KnowYourForest.org
- OR Small Woodlands Association:  www.OSWA.org
- OR Forest Resources Institute: www.OregonForests.org
- Amer. Forest Foundation:   https://MyLandPlan.org
- OR Dept. of Forestry:   www.oregon.gov/ODF

WoodsCamp Comes to Oregon. Sponsored by the American Forest Foundation, a new internet tool is being tested in three small areas of our state—centered on Baker, Jackson, and Washington counties. Beginning in December, WoodsCamp is an online resource aimed at helping small forest landowners connect with programs and professionals to help care for their land. This tool has been piloted in the southeastern US. Now available: Oregon. woodscamp.com

Tree Farmers Celebrated at OTFS Annual Meeting! Attended by 140 tree farmers and their families, the October 27th event was held at Silverton’s Oregon Garden. The program featured the 2018 recognition luncheon, an informative workshop about vegetation control, the annual member’s meeting to elect board members, and the quarterly OTFS board of directors meeting.

At the luncheon, six county tree farm families were honored, and the Marsha Oakes-Carr family tree farm from Benton County was recognized as the ‘2018 Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year.’ Additionally, Mike Cloughesy and Dick Courter each received the ‘Hagenstein Family Forestland Award’, in honor of their decades-long service to OTFS and the family forest community.

2018 Certified Tree Farm Census. Through October, OTFS encompasses 726 certified tree farm owners, covering 739,288 acres statewide. The number of certified parcels is more than
OSWA Executive Director’s Report

OSWA’s fiscal year ended October 31st. We have had another successful year on many fronts and can see some opportunities and possible challenges as we move into our 2018/2019 fiscal year. A summary of a few of our accomplishments in 2018 can be found on page 7 of this newsletter and in my comments below.

OSWA Events – OSWA had another great Annual Meeting hosted by Lane County. Over 90 members enjoyed a variety of mill tours, 180 members participated in the annual meeting and awards banquet, and 140 participated in the Outstanding Tree Farer of the Year woods tour at the Cafferata Family Forest. The 2019 Annual meeting will be in Corvallis, June 20th – 22nd. We will tour the Carr/Oaks Family Forest, the 2017 Oregon Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year, on June 22nd. OSWA will have four other Neighbor to Neighbor Woods Tours in 2019 along with many chapter events and meetings.

Membership – Membership retention was at 95% in 2018, much better than the 92% retention we have averaged over the last few years. Our membership grew by 6% ending the fiscal year with 1662 memberships and over 3000 members. Seven chapters (Benton, Douglas, Jackson/Josephine, Lane, Linn, Washington, and Yamhill Counties) grew by more than 8% with three in double digits. Congratulations to the members of OSWA’s Membership Committee for their efforts to retain and grow the membership. Membership in OSWA is a good investment in family forest owner interests in Salem, collaborating with partners to provide the information family forest owners need to know in managing their forests, and the friendship and comradery found in each OSWA chapter. Invite your forest owning neighbor to join OSWA.

Legislature – OSWA accomplished our primary objectives in the short 2018 Legislative Session. We were able to convince the Ways and Means Committee to reinstate the $500,000 in Eastside landowner fire protection tax relief that was in the 2013 Wildfire Protection Act but was omitted by the 2017 Legislature. Oregon Department of Forestry also received general fund dollars to pay for the excess firefighting costs from the 2017 fire season. Private forest owners already pay for over half of ODF’s firefighting costs. There is always a concern the legislature might think landowners should pay more. Oregon forest owners already pay a higher percentage of fire protection costs than in any other state. Oregon Department of Forestry does an outstanding job and our investment in fire protection is a good investment, but the general public should also pay their fair share. ODF also received additional funding to fight Sudden Oak Death in Curry County. OSWA has some objectives for the 2019 session to allow a second dwelling on forestland when needed to have a family member assist in the management of the property and to fix an oversight in Oregon’s forest liability law that protects a forest landowner from liability when the property is open to the public. A court case has omitted invited guests from landowner liability protection. That was not the intent of the original law and it is a priority for OSWA to correct that oversight. The 2019 Legislative Priorities approved by the board are on page 8.

Board of Forestry – The Board of Forestry will be addressing potential new rules for riparian protections in the Siskiyou Region and for Marbled Murrelets in 2019 and 2020. OSWA has been engaged with Oregon Department of Forestry on these issues and will continue to be engaged. With three new members of the Board of Forestry, OSWA will be reaching out to them to introduce them to OSWA and inform them about issues important to family forest owners. In 2018, OSWA actively participated in two Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife Commission meetings when the Commission was determining whether to raise the level of the Marbled Murrelet from Threatened to Endangered in Oregon’s Threatened and Endangered Species Act. The Commission had been sued by an environmental organization to up list the bird. OSWA was successful along with other natural resource allies to convince the Commission that there is no emergency to up list the Marbled Murrelet at this time. US Fish and Wildlife surveys clearly show Marbled Murrelet populations have been increasing in Oregon over the last 15 years, there is little science as to what habitat Marbled Murrelets actually need, and a current Marbled Murrelet study at Oregon State University will, within a few years, dramatically increase what we now about the Marbled Murrelet. OSWA will make these same arguments when the Board of Forestry officially starts their discussion about actual FPA Marbled Murrelet protections.

The volunteer spirit is alive and well within OSWA. Because of the member dedication, I am optimistic about...
Tree Farm Chair’s Message Continued

double the tree farm count. For its internationally-recognized forest certification program, the OTFS program annually completes over 50 required Oregon certified tree farm inspections—and dozens of other tree farm contacts—conducted by OTFS volunteer inspectors by December. Thank you inspectors!

Autumn Reminder About Your Forest Roads. Check your road drainage to prepare them for wet season performance. Oregon’s forest practices regulations require that inactive forest roads be adequately maintained to prevent muddy water runoff from roads into streams, wetlands or lakes.

✓ Clean culvert openings, water bars, and other road cross-drain structures
✓ Clean debris from ditches
✓ Redirect road surface runoff quickly off-the-road
✓ Monitor your road drainage through the wet season, and make minor fixes to keep drainage functioning properly
✓ Goal is to keep road runoff where it belongs: draining into the forest floor where it can filter into the ground.

Fund Drive. Thank you for considering your tax deductible donation to support the good work of certified tree farm inspections and services—during the 2018 OTFS Fund Drive mailing.

2019 Calendar – Oregon Tree Farm.

Jan. 11 & April 5  OTFS Board meetings – Salem, OR
Oregon sending a delegation of twelve tree farmers & volunteers

Thanks for your investment in certified family forests and management plans!

President's Message Continued

that share an interest in healthy sustainable forests. I know I’m often surprised to hear about a meeting and that Jim was there representing us. I’m not surprised how much they request and respect his input. It is having us through Jim at these meeting, even when we do not have an “ask”, that has our partners listening when we need their assistance.

Dues are seldom that check you enjoy writing but I believe it’s a great value and an integral part of managing a tree farm.

OSWA’s Budget

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| Expenses | Chapter Dues Rebate | 16,790 | 17,000 | 16,600 | 17,000 |
|          | Wages & Prof. Services | 110,649 | 110,000 | 111,500 | 112,000 |
|          | Legislative Expense | 36,000 | 36,000 | 36,000 | 36,000 |
|          | Publications | 22,995 | 23,000 | 21,000 | 23,000 |
|          | Office & Op. Expenses | 84,343 | 91,200 | 106,900 | 60,200 |
| **Totals** | **270,777** | **277,200** | **292,000** | **278,200** |

| Profit | 5,877 | 7,300 | 8,000 | 8,800 |

OSWA’s future. We will become a stronger organization as we grow and become even more effective in representing the interests of Oregon’s family forest owners. Our partnerships with allies is also a strength we will continue to promote and be an active participant in.
OSWA News

2018 Sharpening Our Edge Donors

Doug Anderson
Dave Anicker
Suzi Armstrong
Bill Arsenault
Michael Atkinson
Rick & Audrey Barnes
Mike Barsotti
Bud Baumgartner
Tempe Berggren
Charles Bickford
Doug Bingham
Dallas Boge
Ronald Bradby
Jim Brady
Peter & Alice Bregman
Darlene Bryant
Steve Bryrant
Kelly Bulkeley
Molly Butler
Steve, Wylda Cafferata
Richard Cardwell
Donald Cameron
Ellen Campbell
Ken Canon
Flynn Case
Dennis Chapman
Dustin Clarke
Mitchel Clarke
Eugene Cooper
Mark Copeland
Gordon Culbertson
Van Decker
Lyle Defrees
Macey Dennis
Patricia Dinsmore
John Dugan III
Arthur Dummer
Catherine Dunlap
Robert Edgerton
Stephen Edwards
David Ehlers
Richard Enger

Karl Entenmann
Eric Evenson
Dan Fennell
Jack Finzel
Greg Fox
Alex Freadman
Robert Furer
John Glenn Jr.
Roje Gootee
Nancy Grayson
Kent Grewe
Alan Guttridge
Norman Hall
Richard Anne
Hanschu
Scott Hanson
Steve Harrel
Nancy Hathaway
Sean, Shari Hathaway
Dave Heida
Diane Helfrich-Kald
Sanford Hillman
Andy Kittel
Arnie Hollander
Linda Hooks
Jacob & Mary Huber
Dave Hunt
Alan Johnson
Joseph Kaliszewski
Clyde Kersting
Dan Kintigh
Joel Krause
Tom Lancefield
Sara Lieman
William Lenon
Clancy Logan
Kirk Lunstrum
Bob Mahaffy
Letitia Manley
Bonnie Marshall
Dan Mast
Cecil McKay Jr

Claude McLean
Jason Messerle
Gene Milbrath
Michael Moore
Dennis Morgan
Annabelle Morgan
Margaret
Mulholland
Michael Newton
Tom & April Newton
Tom Nygren
Paul Nys
Jerri O'Brien
William Ocumpaugh
Greg Palmer
Judson Parsons
Mike Payne
Greg Peterson
Wayne Phillips
Bill Porfily
John Potter
Bill Potterf
Jim Potterf
Patricia Rentz
Forrest Richen
Scott Russell
Eddy Schlossstein
Dave Schmidt
Deon Schroeder

John Seiser
Fern Seward
Felix Smith
Rick & Jacky Sohn
Sen Speroff
Anthony Spiering
Gary Springer
Thad Springer
Scott Stankewitsch
Robert Stewart
Roy Stutzman
Ron Swisher
Alan Thayer
Judy t'Hooft Fleek
Margaret Tilbury
Peter Tryon
Walter Tschudy
Stanley Vejtasa
George Vickery
Iiene Waldorf
Bruce & David Wallace
Warren Weathers
John Westall
Mark Willhite
Ed Winslow
Carl Witzig
Mark Wonser
Robert Young

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Save the Date
OSWA 2019 Annual Meeting
June 20th– 22nd
Corvallis – Benton County
Winter Waterfowl: Oregon small woodland association’s 2018 successes

2018 was another busy and productive year for OSWA. At the Capitol: OSWA was successful with its priority efforts at the 2018 Legislative short session. The $500,000 Eastside Fire Tax Relief, which was dropped during the 2017 session, was reinstated; additional state funding was provided for Sudden Oak Death (SOD) control in the south coast area; and the Oregon Department of Forestry received additional funding to pay for the expensive 2017 fire season.

A Carbon and Invest issue was introduced during the short session. It failed to get any traction, but the legislature promised a carbon bill in 2019. OSWA has been participating in the governor’s Natural Resource Carbon Working Lands Committee and Oregon Department of Forestry’s Carbon Working Group on Carbon issues. The Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) will be advising our lobbyist, Roger Beyer, on this issue. Roger is well respected in Salem and did an outstanding job of achieving OSWA’s priorities in 2018.

OSWA Board Meeting - Oct. 19th

By Jim James

The OSWA Board met on October 19th to review the organization’s activities in OSWA’s 2017/2018 Fiscal Year that ended on October 31st and to approve the 2018/2019 Workplan, Budget, Calendar of Events, and 2019 Legislative Priorities. The 2019 Legislative Priorities are on page 8. OSWA’s actual 2017/2018 budget was in line with the budget approved by the board. See Executive Director’s Report for details. The face to face board meetings for next year are scheduled for March 26th, June 20th, and September 27th.

Jim James announced OSWA’s plans for five Neighbor to Neighbor Woods Tours in 2019. One will be during OSWA’s Annual Meeting, now scheduled for June 22nd visiting the Carr/Oaks Family Forest in Benton County. Douglas County and Clackamas County have already secured a tour event. Any chapter wishing to host a Neighbor to Neighbor Woods Tour in 2019, please contact Jim James.
OSWA 2019 Legislative Priorities

Approved By Board October 19, 2018

The focus for 2019 will be:

• Introducing and working for the passing of legislation that would provide family forest owners provisions for a second dwelling on their property for family members that provide forestry assistance, consistent with the concept of family help that is available to owners of lands zoned for agriculture and define forestry assistance to include succession planning.

• Introducing and working for passage of legislation that would fix an oversight in current forest liability laws to provide the same liability coverage for invited forest guests as uninvited forest guests.

• Monitor all proposed legislation with potential to impact small woodland owners in Oregon.

• Support, when consistent with OSWA Policies, legislation proposed by OSWA’s Natural Resource partners.

KEY OSWA LEGISLATION PRIORITIES

SUPPORT:

1. Support both new and continuing funding for Oregon Department of Forestry programs which are consistent with OSWA priorities.
2. Support funding for Oregon State University forestry extension services.
3. Support legislation proposed by Oregon Forest & Industries Council (OFIC) and other allies which are consistent with OSWA policies.
4. Support issues related to the use of wood products.

MONITOR:

1. Monitor all water issues.
2. Monitor Oregon Department of Revenue forest land taxation proposals.
3. Monitor all tax legislation affecting small woodland owners.
4. Monitor Oregon Department of Forestry proposals.
5. Monitor land use issues impacting all types of resource lands.
7. Monitor any fire chief’s legislation dealing with fire district boundaries.
8. Monitor linking inheritance tax in Oregon with federal law.
9. Monitor catastrophic fire reforestation assistance proposals.
10. Monitor all pesticide legislation.
11. Monitor all legislation seeking reimbursement from ODF to other state agencies or local governments.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Propose legislation on a second family dwelling on forestland for forestry assistance.
2. Propose legislation to include liability coverage for invited forest guests that is provided by law for uninvited forest guests.
3. Working with OFIC, AOL, OTFS, and other Natural Resource partners to position for assurances that two private forest landowner representatives will be appointed to the Board of Forestry in 2020.
4. Continue working with ODF and other interest groups on forest fire funding issues and smoke management
OSWA Ireland Tour 2019

By Mike Barnes

Join 30 of your fellow tree farmers on a 2-week trip to Ireland, April 22 through May 4, 2019. There is room for only 4 more tour participants. Do not miss out on this great opportunity. The Society of Irish Foresters will serve as the hosts for the tour. We will visit a Christmas Tree farm owned by the President of the European Christmas Tree Association, family forest owners, public forests, large and small manufacturing facilities and a number of cultural and historic sites. A visit to a peat production farm and an authentic medieval castle dinner will be included.

Ireland has been engaged in an aggressive reforestation program for several years to replace the forests decimated over the past several centuries. The primary species is Sitka Spruce originally from Oregon. Discussions from professional foresters will focus on the state of the forest industry and harvesting in Ireland.

The Irish people have historic connections to the United States with mass migration during the Potato Famine. The tour will stop at historic sites and some authentic Irish music and pubs along the way.

Tour cost is estimated at $3,500.00 to include air, lodging, bus, admission to venues and meals. Contact Mike Barnes (mbarnes@viclink.com) or OSWA for more information.

OSWA News

2018 OSWA Patrons

Thank You

Gold
Hancock Timber Resource Group
Oregon Forest Resource Institute
Port Blakely Tree Farm
Rosboro
Starker Forests

Silver
Barnes & Associates
Boise Cascade
Alice and Peter Bregman
Cascade Timber Consultants
C&D Lumber
Dale Cyler and Brenda Woodard
Freres Lumber Company
Giustina Land & Timber
Giustina Resources
Hampton Affiliates
JD Fulwiler Insurance
Olympic Resource Management
Roseburg Forest Products
RSG Forest Products
Schmidt Family Forest, LLC
Seneca Sawmill
Stimson Lumber Company
Swanson Group
Weyerhaeuser

Bronze
Campbell Global
Coast Range Conifers, LLC
Frank Lumber Company
International paper
Andy Kittel
Lone Rock
Northwest Forest Properties
Northwest Hardwoods
Miami Corporation
New Smoke Management Rule Update

By Scott Hanson

Throughout 2017 and 2018, the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) in collaboration with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) have been reviewing current ODF Smoke Management Rules through a Smoke Management Committee made up of representatives from agencies, forest owners, health organizations, community leaders, and legislators. The agency final recommendations were open for public comments in August and September. Both agencies are reviewing public comments and will make their final recommendations to the Board of Forestry in December and the Environmental Quality Commission in January 2019.

Once the new rules are approved they will be sent to the Secretary of State for promulgation, most likely in February 2019. The plan will then be sent to the federal Environmental Protection Agency for final approval, anticipated sometime in the Spring of 2019. Once implemented, forest owners should find more opportunities to conduct prescribed burning in their forests. One goal of the new rules will be to reduce fire hazards in the forest under controlled conditions, improve forest conditions to minimize the spread of large wildfires, and overtime reduce the amount of uncontrolled smoke during fire season.

Thank you OSWA:

Rosboro Company, LLC would like to thank the members of the Oregon Small Woodland Association for helping provide the valuable timber resources needed to operate our manufacturing facilities. We appreciate the dedication and commitment it takes to operate a successful tree farm and recognize the educational contribution OSWA members make by demonstrating excellence in tree farm management.

Rosboro has been in business in Springfield, Oregon since 1939. We specialize in the production of glulam beams, studs, and dimension lumber.

Our manufacturing facilities utilize primarily Douglas-fir logs 5” to 20” scaling diameter along with some white woods 5” to 11” in scaling diameter.

Our Log Yard is conveniently located at the corner of 28th and Main in Springfield, OR. We have easy access onto 28th street and take great pride in offering an efficient log yard with minimum turn-around times.

We thank you for your business and hope to be your preferred destination when you have logs, standing timber, or land and timber to sell!

For Information and Prices Call: Brian Tenbusch @ (503) 569-8740
Sherman and Leslie Weld were selected as Linn County’s tree farmers of the year for 2018. The Weld family tree farm consists of 140 acres overlooking the Calapooia river valley near Holley. The property was purchased 50 years ago by Lester and Faye Weld, Sherman’s parents. About 8 acres of the site was a landfill for the family’s Sweet Home Sanitation business. Today that acreage is a 25-year-old Douglas fir plantation. The acreage also includes former grazing and orchard land. In the past twenty-five years much of this land has been cleared, sprayed, ripped to a 36 inch depth and planted in Douglas-fir. These stands are now being commercially thinned.

The tour of the Weld Family tree farm was held on Saturday September 22nd beginning at 10 am. Over seventy guests in addition to many members of the Weld family participated. A tractor drawn wagon was provided to transport guests to the five tour stops but many people chose to walk and enjoy the views. As introductions were being made a brief, but intense, rain shower failed to dampen their spirits. The skies soon cleared and the rest of the day was pleasant and warm.

At the first stop we viewed a five acre stand that was planted on ripped pasture ground just 4.5 years ago. This stand occurs on a well-watered north-facing slope. Virtually all of the seedlings survived and are now growing well with long annual leaders. This stand was planted at relatively dense 8’ X 8’ spacing and options for pruning to reduce defect (e.g. removing double tops) and pre-commercial thinning were discussed.

We next moved up the hill to view an active “cut-to-length” thinning operation in a 20 year old stand. The trees in this stand were planted at a 10’ x 10’ spacing (435 trees/acre) and had been previously pruned but not thinned. We watched the harvester fall, limb, and buck the trees and convert them into saw, chip-and-saw, and pulp logs. These logs are then laid in piles perpendicular to the thinning corridor. A Forwarder then picks up the logs and moves them out of the thinning unit where they are piled. The whole process takes less than a minute per tree and more than half of the trees were being removed from the stand. We thank Melcher Logging for doing the demonstration and Chris Melcher for explaining how the thinning system and computerized cutting head operates.

After viewing another stand ready to be thinned, and a third stand that had just been thinned, we viewed the log deck. Milt Moran, of Cascade Timber Consulting explained how the saw, chip-and-saw, and pulp logs were marketed and sold to different mills. The landowner, Sherm Weld, thanked Cascade Timber Consulting and Melcher logging for their assistance in managing this tree farm.

We ended the tour with a picnic lunch hosted by the Weld family. The Weld Family Tree Farm represented Linn County in a bid to be named 2018 Oregon Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year that was announced on October 27th during the Oregon Tree Farm System annual meeting at the Oregon Garden in Silverton.
2018 Fire Season Summary

By Bobbi Doan, ODF Public Information Officer

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), which protects roughly 16 million acres of private, state and federal lands, officially declared the end of fire season on Oct. 29.

For ODF, fire season is declared and terminated at the district level, based on local fire danger conditions. Of the Department’s 12 districts across the state, Central Oregon and Southwest Oregon Districts saw drier, warmer conditions early on, officially kicking off the season June 1. Over the course of the 2018 fire season, ODF and its forest protective association partners suppressed a total of 1,059 fires. An estimated 75,531 acres burned on ODF-protected land this year, more than doubling the 10-year average.

Oregon’s complete and coordinated wildfire protection system — consisting of ODF, landowner partners, agency cooperators, and the fire contracting community — was successful under extremely challenging conditions this year. In spite of statewide drought conditions, ODF and partners again succeeded in keeping 95% of all wildfires to less than 10 acres with aggressive and successful initial attacks.

From mid-June through much of September, a combination of historically high temperatures and near-record low precipitation levels and fuel moistures resulted in a significant fire activity increase across the state, in spite of an above-average snowpack and precipitation the previous winter.

Dry lightning storms were also a contributing factor. More than 2,800 lightning strikes in mid-July ignited hundreds of starts, at least seven of which became large fires in southwest Oregon. Another lightning event in August with 2,335 strikes ignited hundreds of starts in central and eastern Oregon. Of these hundreds of starts, the majority were caught and contained in initial attack, with only eight large fires established in central Oregon.

“With numerous large fires and limited resources across the nation, the 2018 fire season brought real challenges,” said ODF Interim Deputy Chief for Fire Operations, Russ Lane. “For ODF, we also saw a number of successes. Thanks to aggressive and safe firefighting, we were able to keep several potentially large fires small in scale while keeping firefighter injuries to a minimum. We are grateful for our partnerships and their invaluable roles within Oregon’s complete and coordinated fire protection system, including forest landowners, rural fire districts, and federal and state partners.”

Nationally, as well as in Oregon and Washington, we were at Preparedness Level 5 (the highest level) for 32 days, 8 days shorter than the record-holding 2017 fire season, Increased wildland fire activity on the national level required major commitment of limited resources, adding complexity to an already dynamic fire season.

With the transition out of fire season, ODF districts across the state are shifting their attention to wildfire prevention efforts. Working with partners, landowners and members of the public, the shared objective is to minimize potential fuels for the coming fire season, mitigating risk while remaining vigilant with any activity associated with fire.

“Fire prevention remains our top priority,” Lane said. “Human-caused fires — especially debris burning and illegal, abandoned campfires — continue to raise concern, and we are focusing outreach and messaging efforts there alongside our partner Keep Oregon Green. Combined with fuel reduction and mitigation, we are constantly looking for new ways to raise awareness and support Oregonians in our shared objective to reduce wildfire and keep Oregon green.”
Oregon Department of Forestry Announces New Board of Forestry Members

*By Ryan Gordon, Interim Director Public Affairs*

The Oregon Department of Forestry welcomes three new Board Members. Governor Kate Brown announced her nomination of Joe Justice, Brenda McComb, and Jim Kelly on Aug. 30, 2018. The Oregon State Senate confirmed appointees on Sept. 26 with their term beginning on Sept. 28, 2018. The incoming Board Members replace Sybil Ackerman-Munson, Tom Insko, and Gary Springer.

“We are immensely appreciative of Governor Brown’s appointment of our newest board members,” said Tom Imeson, Board Chair. “Each of these individuals bring unique strengths and diverse perspectives that will benefit Oregon’s forests and Oregonians.”

Joe Justice is the Region Manager of Hancock Forest Management lands in northeast Oregon. He is the President of the East Oregon Forest Protection Association and has also served as a member of the Eastern Oregon Regional Forest Practices Committee. Joe has been a member of the La Grande School Board for the past seven years and is currently the chair.

Justice began his career in forestry as a regeneration forester in the Oregon coast range. He has worked on the land he currently manages in La Grande since 2000, starting as a silviculturist and eventually moving into logging administration, log marketing and management. He holds a degree in Forest Management from Oregon State University.

Brenda McComb retired as Vice Provost for Academic Affairs at Oregon State University (OSU) in 2016 and is Professor Emerita in the Department of Forest Ecosystems and Society at OSU. She currently serves as the Interim Associate Vice Provost and Dean of Students at Stanford University. She has previously served on the faculty at the University of Kentucky, University of Massachusetts Amherst, and OSU. She also served one year as chief of the Watershed Ecology Branch for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Corvallis.

McComb earned a BS and MS from the University of Connecticut, and a PhD in Forestry from Louisiana State University. She continues to advise graduate students working on forest habitat selection studies, teaches graduate and professional education courses, and is a consultant on forest management issues.

Jim Kelly is an entrepreneur with a long history of civic involvement. Since 1999, he has owned and managed a ranch that produces grass-fed beef in rural Grant County. Jim has served on Boards of 1000 Friends of Oregon, the Portland Housing Authority, and Business for Social Responsibility. He is co-founder of the Oregon Business Association and served on that organization’s Board for 17 years.

Kelly is a lifelong Oregonian who grew up in northeast Portland and founded a successful hardware company. He is also co-founder of the North Star Civic Foundation, a small Oregon non-profit involved with public policy issues.

Outgoing Board Members include Sybil Ackerman-Munson, Consultant at Ackerman-Munson Strategies, who concluded her second term of service June 2018. Tom Insko, President of Eastern Oregon University, concluded his second term of service August 2018. Gary Springer, a forester with Starker Forests in Corvallis, concluded his second term of service June 2016. Board Chair Tom Imeson, joined by ODF staff, have expressed deep appreciation for the service given by all three departing Board Members.

The Oregon Board of Forestry consists of seven citizens nominated by the Governor and confirmed by the Oregon Senate. The term of office is four years, and no member may serve more than two consecutive full terms. Responsibilities include appointing the State Forester, setting management direction for state-owned forests, adopting rules governing timber harvest and other practices on private forestland, and promoting sustainable management of Oregon’s 30 million-acre forestland base.

More information on the Board of Forestry can be found at www.oregon.gov/odf/board.
Woodland owners who actively manage their lands have a lot to consider as they carry out their goals. An important consideration is how to identify and protect wetlands on one’s property. This article will help guide landowners through Oregon Forest Practices Act (FPA) rules for forest operations that occur near wetlands.

**Stemming the Loss of Wetlands**

The Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL) notes that: “Oregon currently has approximately 1.4 million acres of wetlands. Historical agricultural and urban development greatly affected the extent and quality of Oregon’s waters and wetlands. Oregon’s tidal and non-tidal wetlands once covered as much as 2.3 million acres in the late 1700s (Dahl 1990).

The DSL administers a permit system for removal or fill of material in wetlands and waterways. However, non-federal forest management practices subject to Oregon’s Forest Practices Act conducted in any non-navigable water of this state are exempt. Removal or filling in of wetlands associated with a change from forestland to some other land use, or work in a Scenic Waterway might require a permit from an agency other than ODF, and should be addressed in a written plan in addition to a Notification of Operation.

**Definitions**

In the Oregon Forest Practices Act, wetlands are defined as: “…those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands include marshes, swamps, bogs, and similar areas. Wetlands do not include water developments as defined in section (81) of this rule. (OAR 629-600-0100(92)).

The FPA classifies wetlands as one of four types:

- significant wetlands
- stream-associated wetlands (less than eight acres)
- other wetlands greater than one-quarter acre
- other wetlands less than one-quarter acre

“Significant Wetlands” are noted in statute, and include:

- Wetlands larger than eight (8) acres,
- Estuaries
- Bogs
- Important springs in eastern Oregon.

Definitions of each along with the terms “Waters of the State,” “Side Channel” and “Hydrologic Function” can be found in Division 600 of the Forest Practices Act (pages 4-10 of the 2018 FPA rulebook).

**Seeing wetlands in the forest**

Wetlands may not always be obvious. A low spot that doesn’t support trees but rather shrubs and herbaceous plants might meet the wetland criteria. Some plants use wetlands opportunistically, others require wetlands to thrive. Skunk cabbage (Lysichiton americanus) and sedges are examples of a species that likely indicates a wetland. By mid-summer, wetlands may appear dry and difficult to recognize but still meet the criteria for wetlands.

Wetlands can be some of the richest sites in your ownership. The FPA describes a “unique concentration of public resource values in and near waters of the state because those areas are critical for the overall maintenance of fish and wildlife and for maintain water quality”. Protection measures are focused in riparian and wetland areas. Here, the emphasis is on providing water quality, and fish and wildlife habitat.

A Notification of Operation to ODF through the FERNS system begins a review of the proposed operation. Wetlands are part of the resource review. The local ODF stewardship forester or a staff specialist can help landowners identify wetlands on their forest land.

**Planning for Protection of Various FPA Classes of Wetlands**

A written Plan of Operation is required prior to conducting operations within 100 feet of a wetland greater than eight acres, a bog, or important spring of Eastern Oregon or within 300 feet of an estuary. The written plan should describe how the values of the protected resource will be protected. The operation must provide for a) Live Tree Retention, b) Soil and hydrologic function protection c) Understory vegetation retention and d) Snag and down wood retention. Written plan requirement for wetlands greater than eight acres may be waived if the operation is not going to affect the physical components of the Riparian Management Area (RMA) in any way.

**Protection Standards**

“Significant Wetlands” - Riparian Management Areas (RMA) must be retained adjacent to significant wetlands.
The RMA width for wetlands greater than eight acres is 100 feet from the edge of the wetland.

The RMA for an estuary, bog, or important spring of Eastern Oregon may vary in width and should be developed in consultation with an ODF stewardship forester and ideally a representative from another agency, such as Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Trees may be harvested in an RMA for a significant wetland. Approximately half of each species present must be retained according to four different diameter classes. Trees that border the wetland should be retained. Soils and hydraulic function must be protected. Disturbance of understory vegetation must be minimized. All snags and downed trees within the wetland and the wetland RMA must be retained.

Stream Associated Wetlands
Stream associated wetlands of less than eight acres are classified according to the stream with which they are associated. For Type F and/or Type D streams, the RMA width is according to rule or is extended to include associated wetlands and side channels plus 25 additional feet. Protection of vegetation, hydrologic function, snags and downed wood is according to the stream standard.

Other Wetlands
Resource protection is required for “other wetlands,” “seeps” and “springs” but not an RMA or a Written Plan of Operation. Harvesting should be conducted in a way that avoids disturbing soils and hydrology in a wetland, regardless of size. Rutting of soils and/or diversion of water flow should be avoided. If the “Other Wetland” is greater than one-quarter acre in size, down logs and snags should be left within the wetland, unless safety is a warranted concern.

“Other Wetlands” less than one-quarter acre in size still warrant consideration and protection of soils, vegetation and hydrologic function. These may be overlooked during planning due to size and/or harvest method, though landowners can identify “Other Wetlands” prior to harvest to achieve proper protection.

Rule Compliance
The protection standards for wetlands of all sizes put forth in the FPA rules are enforceable. Landowners and/or timber harvest operators may be subject to enforcement and possible civil penalties if damage occurs. One criteria in assessing damage is whether an unsatisfactory condition on the ground can be readily corrected. As wetlands soils and hydraulic function take a long time to develop, disruption of soils and/or hydrology is not a condition that will quickly self-correct.

The results of a recent study of FPA compliance statewide indicate a need for greater awareness about “Other Wetlands” before harvesting begins.

Wetlands add diversity to the landscape and provide natural resource values. “No net loss of wetlands” a national goal. For the non-industrial owner, a small wetland may greatly benefit many types of wildlife while helping preserve water quality. The Oregon Department of State Lands has some good information on wetlands on the agency website https://www.oregon.gov/dsl/WW/Pages/WetlandConservation.aspx.

Landowners may call on a local ODF stewardship forester for follow up to these topics and for more detailed explanation of rule requirements.
Benton County Oaks Family
2018 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year

By Mike Barsotti.

On October 27th, the Oregon Tree Farm System announced the Oakes family as Oregon’s 2018 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year. Their efforts were honored during an awards luncheon at The Oregon Garden in Silverton.

The Oakes own several parcels of forest land, approximately 800 acres, west of Monroe and near Alsea in Benton County, and in northern Lane County. The homestead parcel, west of Monroe, was purchased in 1883 by Don Oakes’ great-grandfather. Their forests are currently being cared for by the fourth generation.

Goals for their forests include producing income from timber harvest, providing wildlife habitat, maintaining a family gathering spot, and sharing what they have learned with other woodland owners, local organizations and the general public.

Don and Donna Oakes passed the ownership on to their six children in 1999, forming the Oakes Investment LLC. Their daughter, Marsha Carr, who passed away this summer, took on the leadership role after her retirement.

“Marsha worked with Dad to learn about forestry and eventually took the Master Woodland Manager course from the OSU Extension Service,” said brother Darrell Oakes. “She did plot studies, marked trees for thinning and recovery after storm damage, and recently laid out a major road project.”

Marsha was an active member of the Benton County Small Woodlands Association, and helped her father manage the LLC properties.

Their forests are certified by the American Tree Farm System meeting their standards of sustainability. Their management goals and action plan are defined in their management plan, which was first hand written by Don years ago. Marsha took on the current version this past year. Darrell stated, “The plan is an educational tool for the next generation. They can look at what we were thinking to guide them in managing the property”.

Four generations of the Oakes family being honored as Oregon’s 2018 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year. From left to right, Don Oakes, Darrell (son), Rachel Unrein (granddaughter), Kayla Carr (great granddaughter), Natalie Unrein (great granddaughter), and Dan Carr (grandson).

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Hagenstein Family Forestland Achievement Award

By Mike Barsotti

Mike Cloughesy and Dick Courter were awarded the Hagenstein Family Forestland Achievement Award at the Oregon Tree Farm System’s (OTFS) Annual Awards Luncheon Saturday, October 27th.

Mike has been supporting the management of family forestlands since he took on the Douglas County OSU Extension position in 1987. He has also served woodland owners as the Lane County Extension agent, the OSU Director of Outreach Education and Assistant Forestry Extension Program Leader, and in his role as the Oregon Forest Resources Institute Director of Forestry. He has promoted educational opportunities for family forest landowner throughout his forestry career in Oregon.

Dick Courter has been assisting woodland owners since establishing his consulting business in 1978. In addition to his consulting work, Dick has been a leader in the Tree Farm program for over 20 years, both in Oregon and at the national level.

This is OTFS’s fifth annual Hagenstein Family Forestland Achievement Award. It was established in 2014 to honor individuals or organizations that have made significant contributions to the health and sustainability of family forestland management.

With the passing of Bill Hagenstein in September 2014, a forester who spent his professional life promoting the management of the country’s northwest forests and was one of the 13 men who met in the old Portland Hotel to certify the country’s first tree farms, the award was renamed in his honor in 2016.

Donations to Oregon Tree Farm System are Tax Deductible

By Dick Beers

Oregon Tree Farm System, Inc. (OTFS) is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit organization. Donations made to OTFS or its Memorial Fund are tax deductible. In 2018, 135 members donated $11,800 to OTFS. Thank you to the list of donors on page 20. These donations are an important part of the OTFS budget that helps OTFS members maintain their American Tree Farm System (ATFS) certification, keeps member informed through newsletters and a website, and represents members in Washington DC through OTFS’s partnership with ATFS’s parent organization the American Forest Foundation.

It is not too late to make a 2018 donation to OTFS. There is no fee to be a member of OTFS, so OTFS relies on volunteers and donations to conduct its business and to serve its over 700 members. There are two donation options. One is a direct donation to OTFS. Those funds will be used to meet OTFS’s annual expenses. The other is a donation to OTFS’s Memorial Fund. Memorial Fund donations are invested in programs that generate income. The income from these investments can be used by OTFS to meet financial needs when available and when needed. The principle of donations cannot be spent, only income from the donation investments. The principle remains in place to provide continued potential revenue over time.

If you would like to make a tax deductible donation to OTFS, mail your check to OTFS, 187 High Street NE, Suite 208, Salem, OR 97301. Donors will receive a donation receipt that validates the donation. Donations will be used to keep OTFS relevant to its members. Contact OTFS Administrator, Jim James, jimjamesoswa@yahoo.com if there are any questions.
Marsha Carr and the Carr/Oaks family from Benton County were selected as Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year on October 27th at the Oregon Tree Farm System Annual Awards Luncheon at the Oregon Garden in Silverton. See article on page 16. Rich and Connie Gaebel from Washington County were Runner-up. There were four other qualified nominees.

**Clackamas County**
Tim Dahl and Debi Poppe are Clackamas County Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year. They purchased 15-acres of neglected forestland near Redland in 1986. Over the years they cleared brush, converted rot-diseased areas, planted trees and thinned to create what is today a healthy, sustainably managed forest.

Tim Dahl being honored as Clackamas County’s 2018 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year at the Oregon Tree Farm System’s Annual Awards Luncheon in Silverton. From left to right: Lisa Northrop, Deputy Regional Forester, PNW Region, USDA-FS, Tim Dahl and Lena Tucker, Private Forests Division Chief, Oregon Depart. of Forestry

**Lane County**
Linda Hull is Lane County Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year. Linda and her late husband, Paul, purchased their 120-acre property near Cottage Grove in 1976. The property has been passed down through the Hull family since John and Amanda Hull got it as a Donation Land Claim in 1891. Linda and her children manage the forest for timber and wildlife habitat.

Linda Hull honored as Lane County’s 2018 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year at the Oregon Tree Farm System’s Annual Awards Luncheon in Silverton. From left to right: Lisa Northrop, Deputy Regional Forester, PNW Region, USDA-FS, Linda Hull, Mark Yearous (family logger) and Lena Tucker, Private Forests Division Chief, Oregon Depart. of Forestry

**Linn County**
Sherman and Leslie Weld are Linn County Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year. They own a 140-acre forest near Sweet Home. Sherman’s dad purchased the property in 1968 to raise cattle. It was passed down to Sherman and his three brothers. Over time, Sherman bought his brothers’ shares. The Welds determined that growing trees was a better and higher use of the land. With help from local tree farmers, they converted the land to a healthy, sustainable forest with timber and wildlife habitat as key objectives.

Weld family honored as Linn County’s 2018 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year. From left to right Milah Weld (granddaughter), Lisa Weld (daughter-in-law), Scott Weld (son), Maren Weld (granddaughter), Shelly Weld (daughter), Sherman Weld, Leslie Weld (wife), Sten Weld (grandson), Hailey Rice (Sten’s fiancée), Barbara Weld (sister-in-Law), and Al Weld (brother)
Umatilla County
Tom and Cindy Beechinor are Umatilla County’s Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year. The Beechinors own several forested properties in the Milton-Freewater area of northeast Oregon. Tom’s great-great-grandfather came to the Walla Walla River Valley in 1863. Their main objective in managing their property is to maintain and enhance a vigorous forest to pass on to their children. They have planted over 15,000 tree seedlings over the years, and thinned trees to improve tree health and reduce the risk of fire.

Washington County
Rich and Connie Gaebel are Washington County’s Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year and Runner Up for Oregon Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year. They purchased their property near North Plains 40 years ago as a place to hunt and recreate. The property had limited access and had not been maintained. The Gaebels invested in access, improving the forest, and having a place to call home with a focus on wildlife, generating income from timber harvest, and improving the forest.
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PNV Forest Vegetation Management Conference: Vegetation Management in the Wildland Urban Interface

December 4-5, 2019

Holiday Inn Portland South • Wilsonville, OR

**Meeting Location:** The conference will be held at the Holiday Inn Portland South at 25425 SW 95th Ave. in Wilsonville, OR. The hotel can be reached at: 503-682-2211 or hiportlandsouth.com

**Lodging Information:**
A block of rooms has been reserved at the Holiday Inn under: Western Forestry and Conservation Association. Single or double rooms are $89 plus tax. After 11/21/18, reduced rate rooms will be subject to availability.

**Registration:**
The registration fee is $275 if received by November 28 or $325 after November 28. The registration fee includes a reception and two lunches. Checks should be made payable to Western Forestry and Conservation Association. Purchase orders, VISA/MasterCard, and American Express are accepted. Tax id # 930-331-712.

**Cancellations:** Cancellations received by November 28 are subject to a 15% service charge. Cancellations received after that time will be charged the entire registration fee, but substitutions are always welcome.

**Continuing Education Credits:**
Conference attendees will be eligible for 12.5 CFE Cat 1 credits through the Society of American Foresters. Pesticide license recertification credits have been applied for through the states of Idaho, California, Oregon and Washington. ISA credits have also been applied for.

**Registration Questions?**
Western Forestry and Conservation Association
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**November 17, 2018**  
Washington County Annual Meeting

**December 13, 2018**  
GAC Call and EC/Board Call

**January 11, 2019**  
OTFS Board Meeting

**January 17, 2019**  
Lane County Annual Meeting  
Jackson/Josephine County Annual Meeting

**January 19, 2019**  
Linn County Annual Meeting

**January 26, 2019**  
Benton County Annual Meeting

**January 30, 2019**  
Douglas County Annual Meeting

**March 26, 2019**  
OSWA Board Meeting

**June 20-22, 2019**  
OSWA Annual Meeting