The highlight of the OSWA Annual Meeting in Corvallis was our tour of the Hull-Oakes Lumber Company Sawmill. The tour was like stepping back in time.

At the end of the old Southern Pacific rail head known as Dawson Station, stands one of the last, if not the last, long-log sawmills capable of running on steam-power. (However, because of the expense, they haven't used steam for 7 or 8 years.)

The Hull-Oakes Lumber Company Sawmill is a for-order only, second-growth Douglas-fir cutting mill in the foothills of the Coast Range northwest of Monroe, Oregon.

After another mill in the family burned down, President Todd Nystrom's grandfather Ralph Hull built the mill in 1937. The milling operation has been in the family since 1883. Todd Nystrom is president and oversees most day-to-day operations. Nathan Nystrom is vice-president and tree farm manager. Jimmy Unquera is the mill superintendent.

This mill is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and the Historic American Engineering Record. The original photos and drawings are recorded in the Library of Congress.

Hull-Oakes owns tree farm parcels totaling 10,000 acres that help provide a steady log supply for the mill. With over 70 years of forest management experience, they are believers in providing long-term sustainability and maximizing growth.

Up to 60 people are employed, some of whom are 3rd generation employees, who often do more than one labor-intensive job there. Known for significant projects such as Noah's Ark, the USS Constitution, C.A. Thayer, the Ferguson Creek Fish Passage project, large ferry-slips and bridge projects, they specialize in finding the right logs for specialty orders. The bulk of the logs no longer comes from USFS or BLM, but from private owners, such as from mills that have down sized for smaller logs. The mill buys the over-sized logs up to 9' D x 85' L. They've never lost a day of work since 1937.

Today the wigwam, once used to burn waste, is a relic of the past; almost all of the mill's by-product is either sold or used to fire the boilers. When used, sawdust collected on-site is seasoned to an optimum moisture level before being fed into the furnaces that stoke the boilers. The fires are fueled by a mixture of sawdust, planer dust, and bark. Two boilers supply steam to the steam engines.

The mill is built of heavy timbers and uses massive machinery such as the 440-hp steam engine. Steam engines power the head-rig, carriage, edger, (continued on p. 2)
and log-table. Because some machinery is 100 years old, new parts are no longer made for many of them. Hull-Oakes goes to mill closures and estate sales for spare parts from defunct sawmills purchased at auction for scrap value to go into the ‘boneyard’ ready for service when something breaks down.

At the log pond, the logs are scaled on the truck, unloaded by the Gerlinger log-loader that lifts the logs with massive jaws from the truck bed and drops them in the log pond. A log pond bronc sorts logs by size, lines them up, and guides them to the log lift where the logs are selected to fill an order go to the mill first to be debarked. Accumulating bark in the pond is conveyed to the mill, then transported to the chipper.

Logs continue on the conveyor to the short transfer, or log table, where they stack up before the sprocket-and-chain-operated table moves them individually to the cradle; then each tumbles down to the log deck and into the log turner. Lifted, rolled, and shoved onto the carriage by the log turner, each log is carefully positioned to minimize waste prior to the first cut. The position of the log is aligned to the band saw head-rig by the sawyer and the ratchet setter; while they communicate by hand signals, the saw cuts the cants from the log. Then the off-bearer maneuvers the freshly cut cants onto a conveyor fed to the edger. The timber sizer cuts slabs off the top, butt, and sides.

Large cants cut on the head rig may enter a secondary process called re-sawing. Timbers, boards and dimensional lumber are cut to fit a rough grade size in the edging and trimming stages; the edger cuts them to narrower sizes, and the trim saws...
**Order Seedlings Now**

Order seedlings early to improve your choices, and to assure planting appropriate species.

Order seedlings now!

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**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:
lauran.grand@oregonstate.edu
541-579-2150

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**Upcoming Events**

**Living on the Land Workshop series**, **Wednesdays 5:30-8 pm**
(September 25-October 24), Gleneden Beach Fire Station, Gleneden Beach, see p. 10 for details.

**Introduction to Wildlife Habitats and Habitat Management**, **Wednesdays 6 pm-8:30 pm** (October 4-October 24), 996 Jefferson Street, Eugene. Event cost $15 for the first session and $10 for each additional session, $35 if you attend all 4 sessions, see p. 4 for details.

**Property Tour—Lamers Forests**, **Saturday, October 12, 9 am to noon**, Monmouth area. Contact Terry Lamers, treemaninore@gmail.com, 503-930-3946.

**Old Growth Forest Walking Tour**, **Saturday, Oct 12, 9:30 am-11:30 am**, Landowner’s property, Walterville. Event cost $10, see p. 4 for details.

**Improve the Wildlife Habitat, Health, and Resilience of your Woodlands: Forest Tour**, **Saturday, October 19, 9 am-noon**, Airlie area. Jody Einerson, jody.einerson@oregonstate.edu, 541-766-6750.

**Why are my Trees Dying?**, **Friday, Oct 25, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm**, 996 Jefferson Street, Eugene. Event cost $15 per person and $10 for each additional person from your household or ownership, see p. 4 for details.

**Tour and Equipment Demonstration**, **Saturday, October 26, 9 am**, Dallas area. Jody Einerson, jody.einerson@oregonstate.edu, 541-766-6750.

**Effective Forest Roads**, **Saturday, Nov 2, 9:00 am-3:00 pm**, Mapleton Grange, 10880 E Mapleton Rd., Mapleton. Event cost $20 per person and $30 for couples sharing materials, see p. 4 for details.

**Special Forest Products: Wreath-making workshop with Women Owning Woodlands**, **Saturday, Nov 23, 10:00 am-2:00 pm**, Spencer Creek Grange, 86013 Lorane Hwy, Eugene. Event cost $10 per person, see p. 4 for details.

**Linn County SWA Annual Meeting**, **Saturday, January 16**. Doors open at 4:30 pm, with potluck service beginning at 5:30 pm. See p. 8 for details.

**Linn County SWA Annual Seedling Sale**, **February 1**, Linn County Fair & Expo Center, see pp. 7 & 8 for details.
Fall
Fall is bringing us moderate weather, cooler days and even some rain. The summer fire season has been moderate with no catastrophic fires within Lane County, and fall is looking to be good. Unfortunately, on the side of log markets we are not seeing any positive changes. At best, log prices have remained consistent with earlier year pricing. Currently, log prices for Douglas-fir range from $500/mbf to $650/mbf while at this time last summer they were $900/mbf to $1000/mbf. What a difference a year can make! Also, this fall we are experiencing some log buyers cutting back on even buying logs. Much of this can be linked to a decline in housing construction. Thus, mills are having a difficult time selling their products and have been forced to reduce production. Also, we have experienced a downturn in the log export market with many export buyers reducing their purchases or even not buying logs. This is coming from the concerns over international trade relationships and tariffs. All of this challenges us when it comes to making decisions on harvesting our forests. Should you be looking into harvest activity, I encourage you to be cautious and judge your needs based against future opportunity. We only get a once in a life time chance when it comes to harvesting our forests. Log markets will change. I personally believe we will see a substantial increase in the need for wood products as a result of the national catastrophic weather events and fires we have experienced.

Lane County Information
LCSWA had a very successful Tree Farm tour of Gordon and Gail Culbertson’s Tree Farm off of Penn Road. The tour was on Saturday, August 17, and we had over 60 fellow tree farmers and friends join us for a great day. Wylda Cafferata has written an article giving you a review of the tour that is included in this Quarterly Bark.
LCSWA’s board is in the process of looking into subjects for upcoming events and presentations. Should you have any ideas please let us know. Also, we are in search for our 2020 tree farmer of the year and open to recommendations. Please forward any candidates you know to one of the LCSWA board members.
Lane County’s OSU Extension Forester, Lauren Grand, has been working on putting together an assortment of presentations covering Oregon Forests. They all will be happening this fall and you can get the information on them by contacting Lauren. Following is the list and should you have an interest in attending any of them please contact her. Her contact information is below the list.

List of Presentations
--Wildlife Habitats and Habitat Management
--Old-growth Forest Walking Tour
--Why are my Trees Dying
--Effective Forest Roads
--Women Owning Woodlands-Wreath-making Workshop

Lane County Extension Forester: Lauren Grand – Lauren can be reached through the Eugene Office for Extension Service.
996 Jefferson St
Phone: 541 579-2150
Eugene, OR 97402
email: lauren.grand@oregonstate.edu

Next quarterly Board Meeting:
Thursday. October 3, 4-6 pm, ODF West Lane, Veneta – Thursday, Dec. 5, 2019, 4-6 pm, ODF East Lane Springfield.

(continued p. 5)
## 2020 Annual Meeting:
Thursday January 16, 5–9 pm, Eugene Elks - W11th.
Take care and enjoy your forest. We look forward to seeing you at LCSWA’s upcoming events.

Gary Jensen, LCSWA Chair

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**Canopy View News**  
By Lauren Grand  
Lane County Extension

OSU Extension’s forestry agents in Lane and Douglas Counties are teaming up to bring you Canopy View News. Canopy View News can help you stay on top of forestry news and events, financial assistance opportunities, and other useful forest management information. This newsletter is distributed via email—once a quarter in February, May, August, and November.

Each Canopy View News issue includes a note from your foresters, a feature two-page article, a calendar of events, two or three shorter articles, and a log prices and trends report. Article topics are typically written by someone on the OSU Extension forestry team and are chosen to coincide with the potential management opportunities you might have for the upcoming season. We are also open to requests.

Recent article topics included:

-- A snapshot on wildlife cameras  
-- Drones for small woodland owners  
-- Mechanical mowing & mulching  
-- Solving the sick tree mystery with weather data  
-- The age-old secret to tree planting is…  
-- Lovely lichens lurk in your woodlands

When you sign up for Canopy View News, you will also be signed up for The Leaflet. The Leaflet is a monthly announcement on the upcoming workshops in your neck of the woods. To sign up for Canopy View News and The Leaflet visit: [https://tinyurl.com/CanopyViewNews](https://tinyurl.com/CanopyViewNews) or contact OSU Extension Forester, Lauren Grand at 541-579-2150 or [Lauren.Grand@oregonstate.edu](mailto:Lauren.Grand@oregonstate.edu).

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**Off-bearer standing next to the head-rig, with log on the carriage**  
*photo credit Judy Pelletier*

**Mill pond with wigwam in background. Log rolling onto the in-feed table for the de-barker**  
*photo credit Judy Pelletier*
Kermit the Frog once sang “It’s not easy, being Green.” I would like to politely disagree with that. “Going ‘Green” can be easy. Once the transition away from smelly and loud fossil fuel engines has begun, it can rapidly gain momentum!

When Bogwood, our woodlot, became our refuge, we made the conscious decision to steer clear of anything in the power tool and equipment realm which required any kind of fossil fuels and/or spark plugs to operate. A 7 kw solar PV system installed in 2015 generates all the electricity we need and then some. This has enabled us to switch completely over to electric and battery power in the form of Lithium-ion, 40v systems, which have become my go-to choice for lawn mowers, (both push and ‘ride-on’ varieties for yard and forest trails), chainsaws and weedeaters. I haven’t regretted the decision and although some in the Linn County Chapter of OSWA have called us ‘eccentric’, (a polite way to say ‘crazy’), it hasn’t altered my work ethic or standards. If I don’t have to use the battery powered equipment for lifting low and dead branches, the good, old-fashioned “Armstrong” method of 3’ and 6’ pruning saws do the job. Admittedly, the task is not completed as quickly and new designs in power tools can reach far higher than I am able, even with a 6’ pruning saw, but there is a sense of satisfaction through close-in working with the trees that one can never get with big, smelly and noisy pollution-spewing gasoline power tools. Keep in mind that one can safely use a battery powered chainsaw in the summer months when it is at least inadvisable to use a gasoline powered, hot exhaust-spewing-wildfire creating chainsaw at 8 am, and very likely without disturbing the neighbors! Another green purchase for Bogwood is a Polaris EV-UTV; to be used for pulling trailers full of tools for work around the property as well as fresh-cut broomsticks, or, along with “Forest Dan’s” junior arch for hauling logs from all over the property to the 220v plug-in-the-wall Timbery sawmill. Not only is the Polaris incredibly useful, it’s quiet, which allows us to see the wildlife in its habitat before it hears us and runs for cover; yet as important, as an EV, it has better torque than a noisy and smelly fossil fuel-powered UTV for pulling logs. The theme being developed here is that battery power is as good, (or better) in tools and equipment as their noisy and polluting counter parts, but with great personal health advantages as well–no fumes to breathe.

As the Earth’s climate grows increasingly hotter, 2019 is the hottest year on record, (whether folks ‘believe’ it or not, the signs and science are irrefutable). “Going green” also makes sense in that it doesn’t add more noxious gases to the already polluted atmosphere. To be sure, there is an initial outlay in tools and batteries, but I believe it’s worth it. It saves money from not having to purchase gasoline, oil and spark plugs, as well as all the attendant parts necessary for combustion engines and keep in mind, with the quieter work environment, the operator of most battery powered equipment doesn’t need to scramble about looking for one of 10 pair of ear muffs scattered about the workshop or yard! Saving money, the environment and one’s ears is a win-win. One can have the satisfaction of doing well by doing good.

On another note, the summer is winding down and autumn is coming on. It’s time to lay in a supply of cut and split firewood for the cold nights of winter. The recent acquisition of a 110v plug-in-any-wall outlet Super-Splitter will make the job easier, if not downright fun. The only loud noises created during this task will be the satisfyingly loud crack of dried wood being split to size and the occasional creak of a sore and tired back; but not from the roar of a smelly fossil fuel-powered piston engine!

“A 7 kw solar PV system installed in 2015 generates all the electricity we need and then some.”
Think about it. It really makes dollars and sense—save money, reduce pollution—both air and noise types. What I’d like to impart to the reader is this: with a bit of forethought and dedication, it really can be easy and even enjoyable, "Going Green."

A final thought:
"'Going 'Green' doesn't start with doing 'Green' acts -- it starts with a shift in consciousness."

-- Ian Somerhalder

(If the reader has any questions on the brands I’ve chosen to purchase and use, or where to find them locally, feel free to contact me. I’m not reimbursed for endorsing any battery powered or electric products, I simply believe it’s the right thing to do and the right way to go.) ◆

The seedling sale sponsored by the Linn County Small Woodlands chapter began in 1996 with a few seedlings, a few volunteers, and a couple of tables outside Albany’s old Coastal Farm Supply store. Sherm and Fay Sallee were at the helm, a position they held for over 20 years! Like many well-developed and organized events with a purpose, it has continued to grow over the years. It has evolved into an event that incorporated nearly 100 volunteers, and this last year sold over 9,000 seedlings, with proceeds still being used to fund college scholarships and 4-H awards for Linn County youth.

In keeping that tradition going, the seedling sale will be back again February 1, 2020 at the Linn County Fair & Expo Center. There will be a broad selection of conifer and deciduous seedlings, as well as a wide offering of native seedlings that grow well in the Willamette Valley area.

Now is the time to put the date on your calendar and be watching for the pre-order information packet to be emailed to you in mid to late November. It will also be available by December 1st on our website: linncountyswa.com under the "LCSWA Activities" tab. If you would like to be added to our email (or snail mail) list or sign up to help, please contact Bonnie Marshall at bonniem@wvi.com or 503-769-6510.

.... with proceeds still being used to fund college scholarships and 4-H awards for Linn County youth.

We encourage you to submit your pre-order early. Though we try to anticipate needs, we have limited supplies of seedlings from the nurseries and do occasionally sell out prior to the sale day. We invite you to join us on Saturday, February 1, 2020, as we celebrate 25 years of helping small woodland owners manage their land and grow their legacy. ◆

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25th annual
Linn County seedling sale
February 1

by Bonnie Marshall

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Contact: Derek Lee, Timber Manager
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Demonstration pine grove discussed at Linn Co. annual picnic

By Larry Mauter

Sunnyside Park lived up to its name Saturday, September 14 for the annual Linn County Small Woodlands Assoc. picnic. Temperatures were in the mid-70s on a day sandwiched between two rainy days.

Much of the conversation for the day centered on the Robert H. Mealey Pine Fund and a proposal to build a demonstration pine grove at the park. The chapter and Linn County Parks are in the early stages of discussion about the proposal. Approvals would have to come from the Linn County commissioners.

Retired Cascade Timber Consulting Inc. chief Howard Dew provided a number of published photos and newspaper clippings highlighting Mealey’s career as a forester and ardent advocacy of the Willamette Valley ponderosa pine.

Mealey has been called the “Johnny Appleseed of the Willamette Valley” because of his efforts to restore the species of pines that were the dominant tree going back thousands of years.

He grew up the son of a mill owner on property now submerged by Foster Lake. He became a forester after graduating from Oregon State College in 1936 and supervised the replanting of the 1930s Tillamook Burn.

After retirement, Mealey’s efforts focused on the Willamette Valley pine, collecting seeds and establishing a native pine conservancy orchard near St. Paul. That orchard was dedicated in 2000.

Among Mealey’s many honors, he was selected as the Oregon and Western United States Regional Outstanding Tree Farmer in 1989.

Mealey had two sons — one of them, Stephen, is a friend of LCSWA board member Sherman Weld. At the picnic, Weld recalled hiking and biking in the hills above Sunnyside. Stephen was a Sweet Home senior class president, Weld said. The two have stayed in contact through the years.

Through sales of pine seedlings sold to woodlands owners, Mealey established the RHM Pine Fund. Through investments, that money has grown to the point that the LCSWA is studying options to create educational opportunities relating to the pines.

At this point, the chapter is looking at partnering with Linn County Parks to create a pine grove with an interpretive kiosk, and perhaps a walking path.

The group is looking at a one-acre site along Quartzville Road east of the main entrance near the ranger residence.

Maps showing the location were available for study by the 30 or so attendees at the picnic.

Volunteers needed for Linn County SWA seedling sale

By Larry Mauter

Signups are now being taken for volunteers to work at the Linn County Small Woodland Association annual seedling sale.

The 25th annual sale is set for Saturday, February 1 at the Linn County Fairgrounds. The sale provides scholarship funds for Oregon State University forestry students as well as 4-H forestry scholarships.

Volunteers are needed Friday, January 31 to package seedlings that have been pre-ordered. Order forms for the 2020 sale will appear in the January issue of the Quarterly Bark and online at linncountyswa.com.

Bonnie Marshall, seedling sale chairman, informed the LCSWA board at its September meeting that orders will be similar to last year, a record year for pre-orders and sales.

The young plants will be coming primarily from Brooks Nursery and other local nurseries. Supplies sold out quickly on Saturday last year. About 1,500 Douglas-firs have been ordered, along with about 450 grand fir. Also, Marshall will be adding Oregon white oak to the order form.

The hardwood is drought tolerant and provides for wildlife.

To sign up for the 2020 sale, contact Bonnie Marshall at 503-769-6510 or bonniem@wvi.com.

Linn County SWA annual meeting January 16

By Larry Mauter

The Z Hall in Scio will again host the annual membership meeting of the Linn County Small Woodlands Association.

Board Secretary Jonathan Christie confirmed the reservation date for Saturday, Jan. 16. Doors open at 4:30 pm, with potluck service beginning at 5:30 pm. Soft drinks and coffee are provided. Bring your own table service.

OSWA Executive Director Jim James is expected to provide an update on activities of the state organization. A guest speaker from the forestry industry will be invited.

The annual meeting is a business meeting for the board of directors and general membership.

It is also the opportunity to meet scholarship recipients which LCSWA has funded at Oregon State University and 4-H.

There are door prizes and an auction of goods crafted from wood.

The annual membership meeting is also a good time to introduce a neighboring tree farmer to the organization. New members are not required to pay dues until the following year — thus allowing prospective members a chance to see the group benefits throughout a year.

The chapter and Linn County Parks are in the early stages of discussion about the proposal. Approvals would have to come from the Linn County commissioners.
Hull-Oakes Tour
(continued from p. 2)

cut them to specific lengths. Then workers sort and transfer boards for grading, drying and final planing at the end of the line. Ready for pickup, finished boards rest in the stacking yard.

Trim and waste go to the chipper to fire the boilers or to GP in Toledo. Wood chips are hauled to Toledo GP Mill and to Halsey by truck. Bark and sludge are dredged from the pond once a year. The water tower on the top of the hill supplies water.

Two saw filers at Hull-Oakes work full shifts to keep the band saw blades in prime condition because a single bent tooth can scar a one-of-a-kind board or beam. Blades are 52' in circumference and cost $1,800-$2400, and are changed 3-4 times a day. Hull-Oakes keeps a half dozen of these reusable Swedish steel blades on hand. They are purchased from a saw shop in Portland. The steel blades are re-usable, unlike carbide blades that can only be used once. Rotated out and re-sharpened after no more than 2 hours' work, new blades start at 15' wide and wear down to 10' within a year when withdrawn from service.

Mill output traditionally consists of dimension lumber and specialty products that involve the cutting in one pass of logs up to 8'in diameter and 85 long to produce large timbers. Such products include:

-- 1' boards
-- dimension
-- long dimension
-- ship lap
-- tongue and groove
-- 3’ and 4’ structural
-- domestic clears
-- post and timbers
-- beams and stringers
-- transmission cross arms

Lumber is offered rough or surfaced with boxed heart or free of heart center (FOHC) options.

No matter how big or how small, from one piece to a carload, they will quote anything they can cut!

The second segment of our tour for the day stopped at Don Oakes' small gasoline powered Linn Brand band-
(continued p. 11)
Living on the Land Class Series
offered in Lincoln County

CONTACT:
Pami Monnette
OSU Extension Service Lincoln County
1211 SE Bay Blvd, Newport, OR 97365
Phone: 541-283-5119
E-mail: pamela.monnette@oregonstate.edu

Living on the Land is a workshop series tailored for small acreage landowners and those new to managing land. Gain tools to plan and assess your land and business accordingly, as well as practical tips for common problems. OSU Extension Service in Lincoln County and Tillamook County are sponsoring the five-part series.

The classes will be held on Wednesday evenings from 5:30 to 8 pm, beginning September 25 and concluding on October 24 at the Gleneden Beach Fire Station located at 6445 Gleneden Beach Loop in Gleneden Beach. Topics include Land Stewardship Planning and Soils, Water Rights and Wells, Pasture, Manure, and Mud Management, Small Livestock and Weed Management, and Riparian and Woodland Management. Meet other land owners and experts, expanding your network of resources. Light refreshments provided.

The registration fee for the entire series is $35.00 per person. Alternatively, you may choose to register for individual workshops at $10 each. Registration is required prior to workshop.

To register by phone, using cash or check call OSU Extension Service in Lincoln County at 541-574-6534. To request a paper copy, email pamela.monnette@oregonstate.edu.

Online registration coming soon at extension.oregonstate.edu/lincoln/events/living-land.

Lincoln County Chapter Board Members

| President  | Peter M. Bregman | 541-563-6428 | pbregman@msn.com |
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| Board mem. | Pami Monnette    | 541-283-5119 | Pamela.Monnette @oregonstate.edu |

Buying Logs/Timber/Timberland

Douglas Fir  
Hemlock
Grand Fir  
White Fir
By tapping nutrients from bedrock, red alder trees play a key role in healthy forest ecosystems, according to a new study.

Researchers from Oregon State University and the U.S. Geological Survey determined that red alder, through its symbiotic relationship with nitrogen-fixing bacteria, taps nutrients that are locked in bedrock, such as calcium and phosphorus. This process accelerates rock dissolution, releasing more mineral nutrients that allow plants and trees to grow.

The study addresses the long-term implications of how nutrients make their way into ecosystems, which sustain their long-term growth and productivity and ultimately store carbon, said Julie Pett-Ridge, a geochemist in OSU’s College of Agricultural Sciences and a co-author on the study.

The research also furthers the understanding of a specific set of trees that are known for their ability to naturally fertilize forests by converting atmospheric nitrogen into forms available for other plants. This process, called nitrogen fixation, is essential for natural ecosystems.

“Nitrogen mostly comes from the atmosphere, but more than 20 other nutrients mostly come from rock,” Pett-Ridge said. “We’ve established a connection between those two processes. Nitrogen-fixing trees, which we knew were special for how they bring in nitrogen from the atmosphere, also have a unique ability to accelerate the supply of rock-derived nutrients.”

In a way, red alder “eats” rocks, said Steven Perakis, an ecologist with the USGS and lead author on the National Science Foundation-funded study.

“These trees not only can add nitrogen to ecosystems, they also can add all the other nutrients that forests require to grow and store carbon,” Perakis said. “That knowledge can contribute to the sustainability of forest practices in managed forests. Farmers figured out a long time ago that nutrients were essential for maintaining productivity. These processes take a little bit longer to show themselves in forests.”

Nitrogen is the most important nutrient for plant life. But atmospheric nitrogen is useless unless its chemical bond is broken down by bacteria. Some tree species such as red alder have formed a symbiotic relationship with nitrogen-fixing bacteria. The bacteria have an enzyme that converts atmospheric nitrogen into ammonia, which promotes plant growth.

In the study, Pett-Ridge and Perakis looked at six different species of trees growing in the Tillamook State Forest in the Oregon Coast Range: Sitka spruce, Douglas-fir, western hemlock, western redcedar, bigleaf maple and red alder.

They collected leaves to analyze their strontium isotope composition, which reveals tree nutrient sources. They determined that the red alder leaves showed a stronger fingerprint of rock-derived nutrients than the other trees.

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Hull-Oakes Tour

(continued from p. 9)

saw mill on Foster Rd demonstrated by Darwin Oakes, one of Don’s sons. Everything is manual, and the disposable band saw blades used only cost $22 each. Compare that to the Hull-Oakes Sawmill blades! Wet lumber is allowed to air dry and may eventually be placed in a solar dryer currently being built next to the saw mill. A John Deere tractor rolls, lifts, squares and stacks all of the logs and lumber.

This gas-powered mill buys blowdowns, short trees, scrap, or anything the other big sawmills couldn’t sell. Darwin and Don like to experiment, and people often bring them pieces of wood or logs from their yard such as chinkapin, cedar, oak, ash, black walnut, and yew. The mill cuts lumber up to 32’ L X 24” W logs. The mill’s products were often used for farm buildings, horse stalls, furniture, flooring, eaves, and shelving. The scrap lumber is sold as firewood.

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Nitrogen-fixing trees 'eat' rocks, support forest health

By Chris Branam, OSU Extension Service

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Alder Wanted

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Sarah & Ken Edwardsson hosted our most recent discussion group tour or twilight tour in the early evening of Friday, August 23. It was a pleasant evening, and the event was well attended by a large group of local woodland owners. The Edwardsson’s farm is located off Tampico Road north of Corvallis. The site was once part of Camp Adair and was utilized for training maneuvers.

Sarah and Ken have been working diligently over the past few years to improve their oak woodlands. They started out intending to hire an oak restoration specialist to do the work, but found that it was difficult to find an operator to take on their relatively small job (60 acres) in a cost-effective and timely manner. Their solution was to manage their own project. Referrals from OSWA members and friends lead them to look into guidance from both the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Both agencies provided plenty of advice and guidance, and eventually cost share funding from NRCS made the project possible. To selectively remove the fir from the oak forest they contracted with John Marrs, a professional feller, then used their own skid-steer combined with a couple of purchased logging arches to skid and deck the logs at a landing.

Various young people (including OSU Forestry students) have been employed over time to help them to do the work of skidding and trimming logs for the mill.

I was particularly interested in their equipment. They found that a rubber-tracked skid-steer holds its value well and that it wasn’t very cost-effective to buy one used, so they got a new machine that cost them about $50K (in 2011). Additionally, they bought a tree shear with a grapple that can cut trees up to about 12” in diameter and then it can carry it and drop it exactly where desired. The shear can cut the tree flush with the ground which they like for keeping their management options open, thus no stumps to navigate for future mowing, etc. The grapple rake attachment allows them to skid and move logs at the landing, and also to collect limb debris and pile it up for burning. They also purchased a Log-Rite ATV log arch and a second unit called a tag axle. Together they are capable of carrying up to a 40’ or longer log when the second arch is used as a tag axle to pick up the tail of the log. Their four-wheeled Kubota 900 UTV then hauls the log arches on the forest roads or through the woods to the landing. They got me thinking that a skid-steer might be a wise investment for our woodland, where we most often like to do the work ourselves.

In hiring help on the project, Sarah and Ken decided it was important to pay employment taxes and to protect their workers with workers compensation insurance. They found it to be an expensive headache; but they wanted to be certain that if one of their workers were injured, they would be taken care of. They also took out liability insurance through JD Fulwiler & Co., which provides very cost-effective coverage through membership in OSWA.

Their tree removal has focused primarily on Douglas-fir that were encroaching on their oaks. Some participants questioned the level of diversity in the resultant stand. Sarah indicated that while they were removing most of the Doug-fir, she felt they were maintaining the diversity with multiple hardwood

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species and the occasional large “wolfy” fir for habitat. They also found that after pruning the deciduous shrubs to the ground, they sprout back in the fall to provide browse for deer.

After harvest, they have been seeding with pasture grass to help hold out the invasive weeds and to support their plans to have their Highland cattle graze in the woodlands. They plan to diversify the ground cover with more native forbs in the coming year.

“We wanted to thank everyone who came to join us,” said Sarah, “and to express our gratitude for the information and observations that were shared. There is such a wealth of knowledge in this group. We learned new things about tree biology, wildlife habitat, and desirable plant species. We look forward to participating in more of these informal experiences.”

Before they concluded the lovely evening tour, Sarah and Ken shared with us a beautiful expansive view of Soap Creek valley that they opened up with their logging. The next discussion group tour has not yet been scheduled. If you would like to host a visit to your woodland to discuss forest management ideas, show us what you’re doing and invite participants to make suggestions, ask questions, discuss issues and problems and just have a general learning experience, contact Pat Boren (borenwood99@gmail.com), program coordinator for the Benton County Chapter.

“We wanted to thank everyone who came to join us,” .....
August 17, 2019 provided over 50 Lane County Small Woodland Association members and guests with a quintessential woods experience. Gordon and Gail Culbertson are Lane County’s Tree Farmers of the Year for 2019, and the tour was on their Whitewater Tree Farm on Penn Road near Walton, west of Eugene. Gordon and Gail’s goals for the property include active and sustainable management of commercial timber, recreation, and maintaining multi-generational family ownership. The Culbertson children and grandchildren shared the day, as well as Penn Road neighbors.

We met in the Whitewater picnic area under a huge spreading black walnut tree. Sunlight filtered through the leaves as Gordon and Gail reviewed the history of Penn Road logging, dating back to the 1920s and the Penn Lumber Company. Gordon and Gail acquired the property in 2007. The Douglas-fir site index is 130 (high site 2), and the forest receives 63” of rain a year, with the average high temperature 63 and an average low of 52.

The morning walking tour consisted of three stops. First, we visited a young stand planted in 2013 to discuss young stand management for wood and wildlife. Gordon explained his regime of planting, removal of hardwood, fertilization, spot spraying, tubing, bud-capping, and application of deer repellent. Christine Maynard, a wildlife biologist with Cafferata Consulting, discussed the importance of early seral habitat (forested areas with young trees) for many species including migratory song birds. She endorsed Gordon’s spot spraying, since the practice leaves native grasses and shrubs in place for forage and refuge as well as protecting seedlings from drought and rodent damage.

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**Woods Words**

*Scratch a tell*—To tell a person how to get somewhere by scratching a map in the dirt with a stick.

*Screw the pops down*—To screw down the pop valves on a steam engine so it will carry a higher head of steam than it is supposed to.

*Segment ground*—A crosscut saw tapered in thickness from the teeth to the back. Thus, it makes a cut wider than the saw back, and prevents binding.

*Trespass*—Cutting another’s timber; always by accident, of course.

At Stop 2, the alder management stop, Gordon reminded the group that red alder is third in log value behind Doug-fir and western red cedar, and not susceptible to *Phellinus weirii* root rot. Gordon plans to thin this 21-year-old stand to promote growth of red alder saw logs.

"We were all impressed by the history and renewability of the forest...."

As we walked from Stop 2 to Stop 3, Gordon explained a road project involving a written plan he'd developed for work in a riparian area and coordinated with the local ODF Stewardship Forester. The work drained and repaired a perennial muddy spot, and the fix involved major excavation, French drain and culvert installation, fill, geo-textile fabric, and loads of gravel. We passed a well-constructed equipment shed that Gordon was able to build thanks to OSWA's efforts to get the enabling legislation passed.

At Stop 3, root rot considerations and Douglas-fir thinning invoked lively discussion. Gordon has done part of the thinning himself using his farm tractor with a Farmi winch and bulldozer. The remainder of the work was done with a cut-to-length system.

Christine reminded the group that wildlife enhancement is compatible with thinning, and encouraged the group to leave a few wolfy trees for habitat as well as snags, and to pile some slash to create "bio-dens," especially for salamanders. She distributed the OFRI publication, *Wildlife in Managed Forests.*

"The day reinforced for all of us the great value we all receive from our OSWA memberships: fun, fellowship, representation, information, and inspiration."

Finally, Gordon showed the group three signed stumps, one from the 1925 logging, one from logging in the early 1990s, and one from his 2016 commercial thinning. We were all impressed by the history and renewability of the forest over the years.

By this time, Gail had lunch organized, so we completed the

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**Signs showing logging from 1925, 1989, and 2016**

*photo credit Steve Cafferata*

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woods loop by hiking down through the thinned stand to the picnic area. At lunch, Marie Bowers, President of Lane Families for Farm and Forests, expressed her appreciation of Gail and Gordon’s work and reiterated how farmers and foresters share common values. Les Fetter from the Siuslaw Watershed Council explained that their mission is to restore, protect, and be good stewards of the Siuslaw and Coastal Lake Watersheds. He highlighted his group’s free-of-charge native plant distribution the second week in February each year.

All too soon, the tour bus was rolling out along Penn Road, taking LCSWA members homeward, impressed by Gail and Gordon’s exemplary tree farm management. The day reinforced for all of us the great value we all receive from our OSWA memberships: fun, fellowship, representation, information, and inspiration.