Greetings OSWA members, families and friends:  Spring 2020  Feb. March, April

Spring is here, obviously, about a month earlier than expected. Bud burst has occurred and Killdeer are nesting in the fields near our woodlands. The first buzzards were spotted and the rest were just one color.

The quarter just past we had three great events, with a sawmill field day, a seminar on assistance for projects to improve your Forest Health and a great talk of commercial forestry from a consulting forester’s viewpoint of how to better the outcome for us forest landowners. We’ve had several events and presentations regarding the commercial side of forest ownership and we will stay on that topic and bring in some related events we’ve come up with for this coming quarter.

Pull out the magic marker and the calendar, as we have all sorts of things for you to be aware of and possibly take in. Some are the doings of our chapter of OSWA or of other nearby chapters, but there are others that just fall into the category of interest to forest landowners.

Coming right up this quarter and to follow up on the commercial side of forestry, we will have what sounds like a great presentation from a LOG BUYER, Ted Curtis of the Santiam Weyerhaeuser mill. Ted worked as a scaler for the Columbia River Scaling and Grading bureau, ran a logging company and worked for Willamette and now Weyerhaeuser as a buyer for 20 years. Ted will give a presentation on log quality, specs and scaling/grading on February 12 from 6:30 to 8 pm at the Independence Public Library meeting room. As we’ve found from presentations we’ve had, spending an evening with a professional and talking about things that matter to us is about as worthwhile as it gets. We’ve had several well attended meetings in this great location, so let’s fill the room and get a lot out of the evening!

Also, in February, at the fairgrounds in Eugene, is the Oregon Logging Conference. February 20, 21 and 22 are the days of the show, but you are urged to come on Thursday and Friday, rather than the public day on Saturday, as you will find the exhibitors more tuned to the professionals (us) than the pencil-picking public. Oh, there will be pencils too, but the scramble of children high on candy is a fine thing to avoid.

As spring winds up and gets going in March, we’re going to have a tour of the Mass Plywood Panel plant of Freres Lumber at 40519 S Cedar Mill Rd, Lyons, OR 97358 on Wednesday March 11, 9 am. You have probably been following news of new structural timbers and panels made here in Oregon, and if floor, roof and wall panels as large as 12’ x 48’ and up to 12” thick doesn’t grab your attention, then how about beams and columns up to 2’ thick! Holy smokes! We’ve had tours of the Freres lumber co mills and plants, including their standard plywood, the
Cogeneration power plant and their lumber facility, with this new mill being their 3rd! RSVP required so contact Jody Einerson OSU Benton County Extension office 541-766-6311 or Jody.Einerson@oregonstate.edu. Space is limited to 25.

For the Freres MPP tour consider bringing your own hardhat and glasses if you have them, perhaps some ear plugs too. Our tour guides will provide if you don’t but we can make it easier on them. And consider putting Weyerhaeuser and Freres on your log buyer call lists when you are planning to sell some logs!

In March comes the largest Forestry Educational Event in the country: Tree School at Clackamas Community College in Oregon City. On Saturday March 21 you have your choice of 73 different classes in four sessions, dozens of exhibits to examine and an overall great day of Forestry Topics. The catalogs came out just a week or so ago and registration opened up on Jan 28, a few days ago as you read this. If you haven’t been to Tree School, you must, and it is important to sign up ASAP to get the classes you want. Over 650 attendees each year pack the best classes early…. For a smaller version of Tree School to our south, Tree School Lane will occur on Saturday, April 4, in Pleasant Hill, OR. Learn more about Tree School and Tree School events happening around the State at https://extension.oregonstate.edu/tree-school.

April brings us Tax Season and we have had a couple forestland taxation topic presentations over the last few years. In this newsletter we will simply remind you that any tax status changes you want to make must be done by April 15. Our chapter director Terry Lamers is always happy to talk to folks about their forestland taxes, so if this paragraph doesn’t ring a bell you can always give him a call at his number on the letterhead.

Tuesday April 14 at 3 pm we will have a tour of the new Peavey Hall at OSU! You probably heard of its construction the last couple years, making use of some of the new technologies of Cross Laminated Timbers and Mass Plywood Panels. Evan Schmidt from the TallWood Design Institute organizes tours and he will lead us on a tour of the building. Please be prepared to get a parking pass as parking permits are required between 7 am and 5 pm, Monday through Friday, year-round. Peavey Hall is in a B parking zone which is only $1 per hour and the tour will be over by 5 pm, so for $2 you’ll be in! Check the OSU web site for location of the parking lots and pay stations: https://transportation.oregonstate.edu/parking/maps. RSVP required so contact Jody Einerson OSU Benton County Extension office 541-766-6311 or Jody.Einerson@oregonstate.edu. Space is limited to 25.

That is a bunch of events for the coming quarter and we are looking even a little further into the future with our annual meeting coming up right at the beginning of the following quarter, on Saturday May 9! As in the past few years, we will have our meeting at the Scottish Rite Temple in south Salem from noon till 2 pm. Details for the meeting will come in the next newsletter in 3 months, but please put it on your calendar now! We urge all members to come to our annual meeting where we always have a good keynote speaker, reports about our chapter workings and requests for folks to help us on the board of directors. You get this newsletter each three months after the folks named on the letterhead get together for dinner and talk about things we might want to do. Yep, that’s about it, just a (no host) dinner where we sit and discuss items of interest and how we can provide the best membership benefits to our local chapter members.

OSWA is a statewide organization with local chapters like ours, and we work together with OSU Extension, the OR Dept of Forestry, OR Forest Resources Institute and others to bring the most pertinent information and networking to our members.