

Oregon Small Woodlands Association - Yamhill Chapter

July/August 2020

Hi everyone!

Here comes summer, ready or not. Our newly planted trees have been glad to receive the June rains. What joy to see those buds open up with new growth!

Elin and I have watched many of the free "Tree School Online" webinars. I encourage everyone who can to go to knowyourforest.org/TreeSchoolOnline and see what's coming up. If you missed a webinar of interest, they are being put on YouTube to be seen whenever you want.

Log Markets: A big slowdown with many mills closing for a bit as the pandemic hit. Prices dropped, but the market has stabilized again and log prices bumped up a little.

I want to thank Nicole Wood, Susan Watkins, and Bill Spurling for the great May newsletter and for getting this one out also. We may have more coming in the future, so please send pictures, articles, or ideas to Susan Watkins at maczenith@onlinemac.com.

As noted in the June 2020 Oregon Family Forest News, Yamhill Small Woodlands Assoc. gave a donation from our chapter funds to help OSWA support ONREF. The Oregon Natural Resources Education Fund's mission is to support Oregon high school forest-based natural resource education. It's a great program to excite the next generation about forestry and forestry careers. Newberg High School's forestry program recently received an ONREF grant. We hope to have them at one of our upcoming meetings.

Remember fire season is almost here. Stay safe and enjoy the forest.

Hal Hagglund

It is not so much for its beauty that the forest makes a claim upon men's hearts, as for that subtle something, that quality of air, that emanation from old trees, that so wonderfully changes and renews a weary spirit.

___Robert Louis Stevenson



COVID-19

Our meetings continue to be cancelled due to COVID-19.

For updates, check our chapter's blog:

www.oswa.org/blog/yamhill/

Historical Firefighter

Edward Pulaski

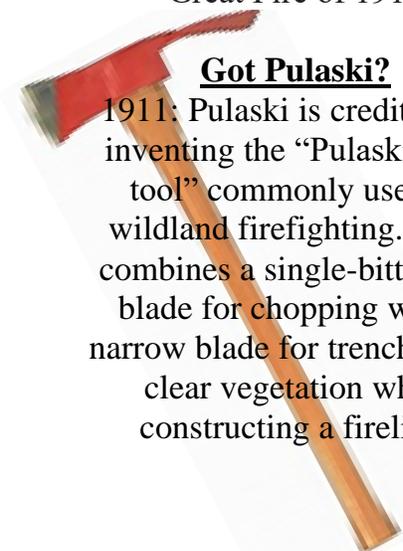
(February 9, 1866 – February 2, 1931)

It has been 110 years since Ed Pulaski saved his men!

On August 20, 1910, Pulaski was credited with saving all but five of his 45-man crew during what is known as the "Great Fire of 1910"

Got Pulaski?

1911: Pulaski is credited for inventing the "Pulaski hand tool" commonly used in wildland firefighting. This combines a single-bitted axe blade for chopping with a narrow blade for trenching, to clear vegetation when constructing a fireline.



Important Update!

OSWA Annual Meeting Online

July 23, 24, and 25th meeting in Eugene has been converted to an online program due to COVID-19 restrictions.

OSWA's Annual State Meeting will be a WebEx Meeting Friday, July 24, 2020 at 9:00 AM lasting about 1 1/2 hours. Details on how to attend will be available about July 20th and will be forwarded to those on our email list.

Thank you to Lane County Chapter and Oregon Tree Farm System for all your efforts to put this conference together and to work at transforming the information to an online meeting.

Yamhill County Chapter member Ken Nygren will be OSWA President next year, and the Chapter has nominated Nicole Wood to be President Elect.



Hagglund Biochar

I went to a workshop on homemade biochar taught by Kelpie Wilson last year. It was very interesting and got me hooked. Biochar is a great soil amendment and has many other uses. We made a burn container out of an old propane tank. You must extinguish the fire at the right point in the charcoal process. One way is to flood with water, but we use a machine to roll our tank over to smother the flames. If you're interested visit wilsonbiochar.com. It's a good way to use some of that slash or prunings.

Fire Season Awareness

**Do you see these signs around your county?

**Do you have one posted on your property?



For 75 years the **Keep**

Oregon Green Association

has been educating the public on how to prevent wildfires. Beginning its efforts in April of 1941, after public outcry over the human-caused Tillamook Burns, roughly 250 Oregon leaders came together to form a Keep Oregon Green Association. KOG's mission is to promote healthy landscapes and safe communities by educating the public of everyone's shared responsibility to prevent human-caused wildfires.



www.keeporegongreen.org

From the Tree Farm to the Zoo in Salem
Mike Barnes a fellow tree farmer

I am sitting at my desk on a sunny afternoon tired from projects out back on the tree farm. It seems I have noticed a lot of work that needs to be done now that I am staying at home more due to Covid-19. I do not need a mask out back just some tools and my trusty John Deere 350.

By the time you read this the 4th of July will have gone by. We had 4 of our 5 children and 16 grandkids in the cabin and tents out back. I know that is probably more that is recommended for a group, but we are all family and are in the forest and not in town. Life needs to have some good times even as we are in the midst of a worldwide pandemic.

When all of this shut down started, I feared the log market would collapse. It started to do just that but it seems to have found some way forward. If you have been to Lowes or Home Depot lately you will have noticed they are very busy. The home improvement projects have been a driving force behind their steady business. Take a look at the lumber market and you will notice that lumber prices are very good. The mills must be making money, so they are paying decent prices for logs in the domestic market. The Eugene area is very good now.



One significant change in the export market is the closure of PLS (Pacific Lumber and Shipping). Port Blakely has owned PLS for several years and has decided to shut down that portion of their business. That leaves only Weyerhaeuser as the dominant exporter out of the Longview area. The loss of competition is never good for us. At present the domestic market is as good or better than export, so they need to stay even or better to get the logs they need to fill the ships bound for Japan.

Cedar values are holding high with 30-foot logs selling in the \$1,300.00/mbf range. Speaking of cedar, I am still noticing the die off of mature cedar in the valley area and no one has given me a good reason for the problem.

Now for a look at what is happening or not happening in Salem. The July special session focused on police reform. I could comment on some of these changes and what many of the protesters demand but that will not be covered in this forest-oriented article. During that session 2 forestry bills that needed to be passed in order for the MOU that was signed by forest industry (including OSWA) and the environmental organizations were passed. One deals with changes to the aerial application of chemicals and the other was directed at the Siskyou region riparian protection rules under the FPA. Sitting at the table before the legislative committee were Greg

Miller (Weyerhaeuser) and Bob VanDyke (Wild Salmon Center). They testified in support of the legislation and asked for passage. Just the fact that they sat beside each other in support of legislation may just prove to be a step in the right direction for future improvements of the Forest Practices Act. Both laws passed and money was even approved to support changes to FERNS to implement the chemical reporting requirements.



I have been on the committee developing the process to search for and hire an Executive Director to replace Jim James who will retire in June of 2021. The committee has developed a budget for OSWA and Oregon Tree Farm to support the salary of the new ED and an Administrative Forester position which will continue to be filled by Jeremy Felty. It is anticipated that the search will start as soon as both organizations approve the committees process and budget. A new ED should be on board by May of 2021.

Well you have probably heard enough from me for now. I trust this newsletter finds all of you actively engaged in your forest and stay well. – Mike Barnes

Oak Gall Experience by Susan Watkins

Those of us who have oaks intermingled with our fir or who are maintaining oak meadows may have been disheartened in June to see the oak leaves yellowing and yellow eggs dotting the underside. I certainly was.

To find out what was going on, I contacted Amie Loop-Frisson at the Yamhill County Soil and Water Conservation District. My tree farm is near McMinnville, but Amie told me she is also heard from landowners in Polk County. Amie forwarded my question and photographs to Dr. Christine Buhl, Forest Entomologist with ODF.



Dr. Buhl responded immediately. "This is damage from jumping gall wasp which is one of many gall-making insects that get into oak. It may look bad, but it's only aesthetic."

Looking even worse might be twig and branch damage from squirrels digging beneath the bark for wasp larvae. According to ODF's Oak Gall factsheet, this peeling can kill twigs, but will not typically cause large-scale damage or tree mortality. Dr. Buhl cautioned that landowners should be prepared for the wasps to reappear next year, but not to be concerned.

The Oak Gall and other factsheets are available from ODF at <http://tinyurl.com/ODF-ForestHealth>