



*An Association of Small Woodland
Owners Dedicated to the Protection,
Management, Use, and Enhancement of
Oregon's Forest Resources
...and having a good time doing it*

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Greetings OSWA members, families and friends; Spring-Summer 2021, May, June and July

Spring has been here for a while, but the most important day is Peak Green, after which things just can't and don't get any greener. This is only to be seen in hindsight, so let's look forward to it!

With vaccinations coming along but infections spiking again, our directors took a reasoned approach to deciding what to try to arrange for us to do this quarter. We were still keeping things outdoors and requesting reasoned social behavior in the events we tried to get lined up, but this Covid issue is very deep-reaching and everything including folks 'willingness quotient' have dried up. We attempted to get a presentation from an OSU expert on finance to explain the incredible lumber price vs HoHum log prices, but no-go. And, a perennial favorite; a tour of the magnificent Hampton Lumber mill of Willamina also ended up with no returned calls.

While we as a chapter have shied away from various virtual experiences, (thinking there are plenty of folks that do a better job at it) we are going to have to ask you to follow along and try some of these links and listings of items of interest. For instance, many good overall explanations of the log and lumber price derailment can be found on You Tube, from differing viewpoints including Canadian and southern pine states. Just search and watch your way through a dizzying number of opinions. Then, to look at the Hampton Lumber mill(s) just type that into your You Tube search and you will hear David Hampton describe the two mills (one Twin, one Quad) and the community around it, the largest producing lumber mill in the US. It is really amazing what all can be found on the internet, but I'd rather be outside.

One thing that has come up in our directors' conversations is the way we have diverged from our by-laws. The last issue of the by-laws was written in 1980 and it is a really nicely written document, much along the lines of a business group that covers the bases, though it perhaps doesn't describe the association we have become. I've read a few by-law documents and many of them address quite nicely the way that there are opposing views and how to settle differences by vote. Our group doesn't seem to have those differences and nothing really comes down to a vote that settles in favor of one side at the grief of the other. This has sort of created a cavalier attitude perhaps, where we jokingly held our annual meeting election, inviting any and every one to join us at the directors' table, and then go on with things as they have been, without a change of the administration! Perhaps there wants to be a change of administration! The by-laws say that a president is supposed to leave after one year, maximum two, with the fudge factor that Terry and Don used to throw at me that says 'until the successor is elected and qualified', allowing me to stay in this job for over 20 years now.

So, let's be ready for some discussion when we get together for our annual meeting in the August, Sept, and October quarter. Our next newsletter will include the parts of the by-laws we might want to look at and perhaps ask for suggested ways we can get some newer, youthful blood into the group.

More Discussion and feedback please; to help us plan

Regarding Covid 19 vaccinations and our association trying to be normal again; there was some discussion in our virtual directors meeting regarding how we can meet and act around each other. As your newsletter editor I wrote that short letter about a month ago, urging all to take advantage of the Tribal vaccination program out here in Grand Ronde, hoping that we can ALL get the jab and that all of us can subsequently participate in our meetings and camaraderie. There were suggestions in the group that perhaps only those that are fully vaccinated should be allowed to participate, where we can all be comfortable, but maybe that's not ALL of us. So, what do we do since we want everyone to participate? Theoretically, if we knew we were all vaccinated, none of this would even require discussion and all would be well. But we aren't there yet, or are we? What do you think? Please give me a call and let me know! 503-876-2197



Photo to left: Most of us know how the bark 'slips' on trees in the spring and summer. Here is some bark that slipped clean off the tree! We have done pole peeling days in the past I believe, but there is always more to be discussed!

Thankful by one of our members Bruce Bull

I'm thankful my "forest" is my haven, not my livelihood. Like so many others, our 15 or so treed acres were hit hard by Mother Nature's events over the last few months. High winds then heavy ice dropped or snapped some 300 trees. The forest has been, let's say, reshaped. When I drive by large forests and worse, homes, completely devastated by fire I've a pang for the owners who have lost so much. I wonder why I was spared much of my living laboratory. It is a micro-environment in which I'm fortunate to participate as an ill-equipped and even less-in-control manager. Season after season, year after year, the forest changes, as do I. Sometimes slow subtle changes, other times significant. In 2019 we executed a long overdue commercial thinning. The roughly 60% of remaining trees were exposed and vulnerable to weather extremes. Yes, I was momentarily saddened that so many trees were lost, but over the last couple years I've planted lots of seedlings and now I'm motivated to plant bunches more.

Sure, I might pointlessly wish for different inputs: less wind, much less ice; earlier, less intensive, and more sustained thinning; more forestry knowledge and more application of that knowledge earlier in both my life and in the life of the forest. But we play the hand in front of us. It is what it is, as one flippant platitude reminds us. Indeed, we influence but ultimately can't control our entire journey—or our forest's.

Myopically I mistakenly assume today will be very similar to yesterday, and tomorrow will be similar to today—but there are no guarantees. Wind, ice, fire, drought, climate change, Covid, accidents, age—just to name a few—change forests and us. Sometimes fast sometimes slow, change happens. How we react to it is up to us. In an unprecedented year in which many have lost much, I choose to be thankful.