



*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; Fall-Winter 2021-22, Nov., Dec., Jan.

We had a good quarter in the summer and fall, with good attendance at all three events we scheduled and no reports of any Covid virus infections after any of them. It was very welcome to meet in person again, though we are keeping everything outside and distanced. As we wrote in the mid-term news; our annual meeting was productive and after that we had two good events with the Dallas city park arboretum tour and a post-Beachie Creek 2020 fire tour. Our director and *VP Bruce Bull* wrote this summary after the fire tour:

The Big Project

M/P OSWA members Jerry and Karen Lackner of Lyons graciously shared with and showed OSWA members their life changing experience from the September 2020 Beachie Fire. Residents throughout the North Santiam River drainage—as well as fire personnel—all evacuated in an effort to save lives. Upon their return Jerry and Karen saw that the fire had burned right up to their house, but thankfully not the house. However, many tens of thousands of trees, their large shop, vehicles, and other outbuildings did not survive. Over 140 of their 245 acres were burned. Those who attended saw it all.

Pictures displayed of the damage were telling. But the heartfelt perspective came from Jerry and Karen as they recounted the experience, the aftermath, and the ongoing post-disaster work. Away during the inferno, Jerry shared and speculated with members how and why the fire behaved as it did on their property. Why the fire burned what it burned and left other areas untouched may largely remain a mystery.

OSWA members in our 13 vehicles witnessed firsthand the fire damage on different parts of their forest. On the final stop we viewed up close a skidder consumed by the fire (with many live trees still around it). Tires burned off, safety glass melted, it was a monument and a testament to the power and potential destruction of fire.

The Lackner's have been very hard at work: a new shop, salvage logging, clearing, relandscaping, masticating (the monster muncher looked like fun!), ordering and preparing for 12,000 trees to plant this winter. During their sharing, Jerry voiced what may be the understatement of the year, "It is a big project."

Is your forestland in the most advantageous property-tax program? If you are not sure, you may want to review the Oregon Department of Revenue's "Small Tract Forestland" Program – google "Small Tract Forestland" or visit <https://www.oregon.gov/dor/programs/property/Pages/timber-stf.aspx>. Our behind-the-scenes investigator, *John Westall*, says we should be prepared for some not-so-easy reading. Our director *Terry Lamers* has done several forest taxation presentations for us and others, and with this newsletter he has offered to help anyone that wants, to understand what is written in the above Oregon Department of Revenue website. Give him a call at the number on the letterhead.

Treasurer's report. Our secretary/treasurer, *Pat Wheeler*, brought up an idea, proposed an action and got full board support for her idea. We are doing OK financially, growing our cushion by a few hundred dollars each year, and the proposal being that when we have more than \$4000 in our accounts, we should look to doing something positive with it. At the end of the coming quarter, when we get our county dues share check, we will be over \$4k The Oregon Natural Resources Education Fund is one possibility. See details at their website <https://www.onref.org> to learn what this fund is and does. At the next directors meeting we will visit this again and would appreciate any feedback you would like to give us. Perhaps you have another worthwhile cause that we should consider? Call Mark or Pat at the numbers on the letterhead if you would like to chime in.

Volunteerism was discussed at our directors meeting, as a result of our Dallas City Park Arboretum tour hosted by our director *Ed Miller*. As we were walking through the forest trails as a group, a couple that were volunteering asked if we were 'the new volunteer group' or something to that affect. Our *VP Bruce Bull* is looking into the arboretum volunteer program <http://www.delberthunterarboretum.org/?wrld=0009> and we may want to discuss our chapter being a 'volunteer pool'. But perhaps that is stretching it, as we all have our own volunteer opportunities already, and whether we want to work as a team or group may be the question. Please look for more on this in later issues.

This coming quarter is November, December and January, the dark months, so for things to do as a chapter, we looked at things that happen this time of year and that we might do again, leaving plenty of room for the holidays. With the wet part of winter already here, the first tour will be a sure thing on Saturday November 13. We will meet at your pres' place near Willamina for **a mushroom hunter's primer and a walking tour of an old growth stand** just a few miles further up the road. We'll start with a group walk in the woods searching for mushrooms of the edible sorts. We will discuss all the basics including reasons not to poison oneself, while looking for and probably finding several edibles. They are fruiting now with all the rain we've had, and hopefully they will do so again, on cue. After a reasonable time of looking for mushrooms, we'll hop in our cars and head up to the top of Gold Creek Rd. to take a hike in a spectacular, decadent, old growth forest in a deep canyon. The hike is medium to somewhat difficult and while it isn't as astounding as the Valley of the Giants, it is just minutes away! Find *Mark's* forestland at **6955 Gold Creek Rd., Willamina, OR 97396, Saturday November 13, 10:00 am**. Call the number for Mark on the letterhead if you would like to get directions. Be sure to bring raingear and wear appropriate boots.

Then we'll go about our holidays and **meet again in January** for the second perhaps annual Book and Puzzle Swap. This was sort of fun last year, but with the first season of Covid then, we were few while the books and puzzles were many. This event is outside, under the generous (up to 12 feet) overhangs of the sawmill shop and we are probably all vaccinated now as well as used to masks if it comes to them, so it can be a nice event for us to stock up on new reading and puzzling material. *Terry Lamers* even said he'll come and talk about his favorite books! Bring a box or bag and leave with it more or less as full as you brought it, with new stuff! Hear ye hear ye: The **second perhaps annual Book and Puzzle Swap** will occur at **10:00 am Saturday January 15 2022**, also at the Havel property near Willamina. Let's meet with our boxes of books and puzzles and be greeted by a too friendly dog and hot drinks and baked goodies. Other dogs and people friends welcome.

While we are reading this newsletter, I wonder if we can appreciate how lucky or fortunate or however you want to describe it, to be forest landowners! Mushrooms, old growth forests, books and puzzles for the dark months and trees, trees, trees; **lucky us**. I have a bumper sticker on my old beater car that says; **Trees Are the Answer**. I was waiting in some line somewhere and a fellow walked up to my window, tapped, and told me that I was right! Trees are the answer! I gave him one of our OSWA brochures and he said he would be signing up as a member, as he has some forestland near Dallas. Lucky him, **lucky us**.