The 53rd Oregon Small Woodlands Association’s Annual Meeting and Oregon Tree Farm System’s Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year Tour will be held on Thursday, June 13th through Saturday, June 15th hosted by OSWA’s Douglas County Chapter and OTFS. The theme this year’s meeting is “Family Forests: Our Legacy, Our Future”. There are three full days of events planned to entertain and educate family forest owners. Highlights of the activities include:

**Thursday, June 13th** – Nordic Veneer mill tour, high lead logging tour, Committee for Family Forests meeting, and OSWA Board meeting.

**Friday, June 14th** – Annual meeting program, annual membership meeting, awards banquet, and silent auction. Speakers include Art Adams, President Nordic Veneer; Tom Imeson, Chair of the Board of Forestry, Roger Beyer, OSWA Lobbyist; Scott Dahlman, Executive Director Oregonians for Food and Shelter; Bob Ragon, Executive Director Douglas Timber Operators, Roje Gootee, Grant County OSWA member and coordinator for a private/federal partnership in Grant County, Doug Robertson, Douglas County Commissioner; Doug Decker, Oregon State Forester; Jennifer Webster, PhD, Business Strategies; Bettina Ring, Senior VP Family Forests American Forest Foundation, George Taylor, Past State Climatologist, and Allyn Ford, President and CEO Roseburg Forest Products. Topics will include Issue Updates, Federal Forests, Intergenerational Differences, and a Look at Climate Change. There will be plenty of time to socialize with friends and neighbors. Participation in the Awards Banquet and Silent Auction will complete the day’s activities.

**Saturday, June 15th** – OTFS Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year Tour and Howdy Neighbor Tour at Bill and Joan Arsenault’s Paradise Creek Ranch near Elkton.

OSWA Annual Meeting 2012 hosted by Washington Chapter, Forest Grove, OR
**OSWA President’s Message**

Scott Hayes

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**Annual Meeting June 13 - 15, 2013**

Many of our members are looking forward to the annual meeting June 13-15 in Douglas County. The Saturday tour of Bill and Joan Arsenault’s Paradise Creek Ranch is an opportunity for you to visit Oregon’s best tree farm in 2012. It’s also a Howdy Neighbor Tour, made possible by generous funding from the Oregon Forest Resources Institute.

One goal of a Howdy Neighbor Tour is to increase OSWA membership. If you invite a potential new OSWA member who registers and attends the annual meeting, they will get a free membership for the rest of 2013. Plus, your 2014 dues will be reduced by half. The Executive Committee hopes this “Free + 50%” campaign entices you to say ‘Howdy!’ to your neighbor and get them involved in OSWA.

Members join OSWA for many reasons. We join to learn how to better plan and manage our woodland. We join for camaraderie. We join to learn how to leave a legacy for our families. We join to find help when harvest is needed. We join to learn about managing wildlife and native plants. We join because volunteering is fun and rewarding. We join for property rights. We join to be represented before the Oregon legislature.

Building on the representation theme, many of you know about the amazing job our lobbyist Roger Beyer is doing before the Oregon Legislature. Roger is ‘OSWA’ in the Capitol. Our ‘Day at the Capitol’ in April was a great forum where we met many representatives and senators, enjoyed lunch together, then toured the building. The take-home message for me was that our elected officials know what OSWA stands for. They know we are a powerful block of landowners and voters. OSWA is the voice in the capitol when it comes to family forests and private property rights.

*We look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting in Roseburg. Invite your neighbor.*

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Oregon Small Woodlands Association • www.oswa.org
187 High St. NE, Suite 208 • Salem, OR 97301 • 503-588-1813
Charter Membership Pilot Terminated

By now, Oregon Tree Farmers should have received a letter indicating that the American Tree Farm System (ATFS) has terminated its pilot of a membership program. Tree Farmers in Oregon and three other states, Missouri, Pennsylvania and South Carolina received invitations in 2012 to become “Charter Members” of ATFS at one of four distinct levels. While Oregon Tree Farmers responded more positively than Tree Farmers in any of the other pilot states, the results of the Charter Membership test were disappointing and the ATFS Board of Trustees has declined to expand the program to all 44 member states.

As I mentioned in my letter, all Oregon Tree Farmers remain members of the Oregon Tree Farm System (OTFS) regardless of their participation in the Charter Membership pilot. Those who did join will continue to receive their benefits through 2013. The termination of the Charter Membership initiative still leaves open the question of financial sustainability of both ATFS and OTFS. To address this issue, there will be an enhanced emphasis on Tree Farmer donations to support our educational and recognition programs. Oregon Tree Farmers will receive invitations to contribute. A significant portion of donations from Oregon to ATFS has been and will continue to come back to Oregon to support OTFS programs.

As I was composing this message, I received word that Jamie Knight of LeGrande was selected as Western Regional Tree Farm Inspector of the Year. Congratulations Jamie! She joins three other regional Inspectors from which ATFS will select the National Tree Farm Inspector of the Year. The selection will be announced at the National Tree Farmer Convention in July in Minneapolis.
It has been an interesting winter and now early spring for OSWA. The 2013 Legislative Session has had several bright spots for small woodland owners that suggest we will have some successes in 2013. Roger Beyer continues to remind me, however, legislation is a five step process and we are only in steps two and three on several bills. First a bill has a hearing, gets passed out of committee with a do pass recommendation, and then is approved by one of the legislative chambers, but nothing is a sure thing until a bill is signed into law. We had a successful and well attended Day at the Capitol on April 23rd. See the Legislative Update on page 8 and the Day at the Capitol article on page 7 for details.

Over the last few months, there has been a lot of dedicated planning going on for OSWA’s 2013 Annual Meeting. The Douglas County Chapter is putting together a great program with three full days of activities. I believe OSWA members will find this year’s meeting full of events of interest. For the first time, since I have been Executive Director, optional events are available on Thursday for those who wish to come a day early. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday June 13th, 14th and 15th. Brochures have recently been mailed to members and are also available on the OSWA website. I encourage everyone to take a look at all the options available and to participate in as many as possible. I commend the efforts of the Douglas County 2013 Annual Meeting Committee and appreciate the support we have received from the many business sponsors.

Membership continues to be a focus, as it will continue to be all year long. As of April 30th, 1250 of the 1500 members who received membership renewal requests have renewed their OSWA membership. We have also added 65 new members as of January. Chapter presidents and membership committee members have been reaching out to the 199 members that have not renewed their membership. Thank you to all the members who have been working overtime to follow up with delinquent members and recruiting new ones. Our membership target, at years end, is 1500 members. With these continued efforts, I believe we can reach our goal. The Membership Committee continues to meet and work on recruitment strategies. Anyone interested in serving on the Membership Committee that is not currently engaged can contact me for more information.

OSWA’s budget is in alignment with our expectations. Expenses have been in line with budget estimates. At this time, the wild card in this year’s budget is whether or not we will reach the budgeted revenues in Membership Dues and OSWA Fund Drive categories. The OSWA Fund Drive will be announced at OSWA’s Annual Meeting. I will continue to include an update of OSWA’s budget in my report. Please contact me with any questions.

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OSWA Budget
Thank You

2013 Annual Meeting Sponsors

Thank You

2013 Annual Meeting Sponsors

Gold
Oregon Forest Resource Institute
Port Blakely Tree Farms
Starker Forests
Washington County Chapter

Silver
Boise Cascade
Douglas County Chapter
Guistina Resources
Hancock Timber Resources
Jackson/Josephine County Chapter
JD Fulwiler Insurance
Kent Grewe
Lane County Chapter
Linn County Chapter
Longview Timber
Rosboro
RSG Forest Products
Swanson Group

Bronze
Baker County Chapter
Benton County Chapter
Cascade Timber Consulting
Coast Range Conifers LLC
Columbia County Chapter
Coos/Curry County Chapter
Grant County Chapter
International Paper
Lincoln County Chapter
Ochoco Lumber Company
Olympic Resource Management
Schmidt Family Forest
Stimson Lumber Company
The Campbell Group
Weyerhaeuser
Willis of Oregon Insurance

Thank you to over 70 new and returning members in 2013
The days are getting longer and the mercury is rising on the thermometer; tell-tale signs that fire season is just around the corner. It may be a bit early (and wet) to start moving fire equipment into position in preparation for what lies ahead, but it is time to start making plans.

If your summer plans call for work on your property, here are a few considerations for you or your contractor. First, be sure to take out a notification of operation to operate power driven machinery (PDM) that can be obtained at your local Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) office. A few items on your checklist should include a water supply (300 gallons self propelled, 500 gallons stationary), fire tools, fire extinguishers, spark arresters, and setting up a fire watch service.

So what will this fire season bring? If we only had a magic crystal ball. Best practices tell us to prepare for the worst and hope for the best. The 2012 fire season was fairly moderate on private lands protected by the Oregon Department of Forestry. Thunderstorms systematically passed us by as just 105 fires resulted from lightning. The 10-year average is 284. Human-caused fires topped out at 584, again well below the average of 731. While we lucked out in the lightning caused category, people are just doing a better job when it comes to fire prevention. And for that, we thank you.

Some things to consider in 2013 come by way of industrial operation inspection reports and the deficiencies fire wardens are seeing out on the ground. Fire extinguishers, either the lack thereof or discharged, continue to raise concerns. Many operators who have had experience with equipment fires will tell you that, in many cases, it takes several fire extinguishers to put out an equipment fire.

Water supply and readiness are two other areas in need of improvement. Industrial operators must have at least the minimum requirements on hand and, most important, the equipment must be operational. Whether you’re doing the work or you hire a contractor, make sure that pumps are routinely checked. They not only have to start, they need to generate 20 gallons per minute through 50 feet of hose and a 1/4 inch nozzle at pump level.

Fire prevention efforts extend to the landscape as well. A good road system is critical. Maintain your road system so that, at minimum, a pickup can get to vital points of your property. You could even arrange a visit by your local ODF or Association fire prevention representative to familiarize them with your road system.

Finally, make sure all workers have gone through OSHA’s required fire refresher training before fire season. Again, your local ODF representative can point you in the right direction. Associated Oregon Loggers (AOL) and ODF work together to make sure all forest workers meet these requirements.

Have a safe and productive summer and remember ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDFIRES

Learn more at www.oregon.gov/odf
OSWA’s Day at the Capitol

OSWA’s Day at the Capitol, on Tuesday, April 23rd was a great success. Over forty OSWA members and partners visited with legislative leaders during the morning, participated in an optional tour of the Golden Pioneer atop the capitol building, toured the capitol with Roger Beyer, individually visited some of their own representatives, and some participated in an afternoon Senate Hearing on HB 2441, OSWA’s pole building bill. The hearing on HB 2441 was successful. The Senate Rural Communities and Economic Development Committee approved HB 2441 and forwarded it to the full Senate with a do pass recommendation. HB 2441 has already passed the House by a 58-0 vote. Also that day, the House voted on OSWA’s HB 2615, which adds truffles to the State list of Special Forest Products. The bill passed the House with a 59-0 vote and will move on to a Senate Committee for a hearing sometime soon. Legislators meeting with OSWA included Senators Roblan, Olsen, Ferrioli, Girod, and Dingfelder and Representatives Hoyle, McLane, Gilliam, Unger, Witt and Speaker Kotek.

During the busy day, participants heard directly from legislative leaders about issues important to them and to hear about some of the challenges they face in finding balance with funding requests and available state resources. Legislative leaders heard about issues important to family forest owners. Participants came away from the day’s events with a better understanding of why it is important to communicate with one’s legislative representatives and how best to do so.

OSWA’s next Day at the Capitol will be in April 2015.

OSWA’s HB 2442, the farm plate bill, is still waiting for a hearing in the House Revenue Committee. The committee is waiting to hear from us when we are ready. We will discuss strategies for this bill at the next GAC call.

• Senate hearing on our truffle bill, HB 2615 yet to be scheduled.

• The hearings on the Department of Forestry budget and the OSU Extension budget went well, but the desired funding is still in question. The Wildfire Protection Act, HB 2050, has been connected to the ODF budget process. OSWA members provided written and verbal testimony in support of these budgets, but we may need to testify again in early May. The hearing schedules are not out yet.

• OFIC’s fire liability bill which is a high priority for OSWA had identical Senate and House versions. Both have passed their respective chambers, but still await a joint conference between the Senate and House to agree on the other chamber’s bill. OSWA may still need to weigh in to support this bill.

• SB 401, the Wild and Scenic River Bill was modified to a study on the need for and what rivers should be included in a Wild and Scenic Rivers bill. This issue is dead for now, but will remerge in the future. We will need to discuss any OSWA involvement in the study group.

• HB 2555, the bill that would have imposed a $15 harvest tax to encourage domestic use of Oregon timber is dead. However, the concept of increased harvest taxes for a variety of reasons could still be in play in some legislator’s minds. This concept will need to be monitored and discouraged for the remainder of this session.
Status of OSWA’s 2013 Legislative Priorities

By Jim James

Three fifths of the way through the 2013 Legislative Session leaves OSWA with some things to feel good about and some challenges yet to be figured out. Following is an update on the bills identified in OSWA’s 2013 Legislative Priorities.

Wildfire Protection Act (HB 2050) – The Wildfire Protection Act was included in the Governor’s budget which allowed the Oregon Department of Forestry to introduce HB 2050 in the 2013 Legislative Session. The House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee heard HB 2050 on March 25th. Three OSWA members, John Breeze, Lyle Defrees, and Scott Hanson all testified along with Roger Beyer and Jim James in support of the bill. The bill passed out of committee and was sent to the Joint Ways and Means Committee where it is now a part of the Oregon Department of Forestry’s budget. This bill has received no opposition at this time and has had support throughout this session. HB 2050 does allocate $1.6MM in general fund dollars not currently needed if HB 2050 did not proceed, so it is likely we will not know until late in this session whether the general fund dollars will be available. We have done everything we can do at this stage of the game to have this bill be successful.

OSWA’s Pole Building Bill (HB 2441) – Getting authority to build a pole building on land zoned as forest land for the purpose of storing equipment or needed in the management of forest activities has been a priority for OSWA for many years. OSWA wants equity with landowners of agriculturally zoned lands who currently have this authority. It looks like HB 2441 may become a reality. It had its first hearing on February 7th in front of the House Land Use Committee. Rodger Beyer, Gordon Culbertson, and Jim James testified in favor of the bill. It passed the committee with a do pass recommendation. The bill later passed the full House by a vote of 58-0. On April 23rd, on the afternoon of OSWA’s Day at the Capitol, the Senate Rural Communities and Economic Development Committee heard the bill. Gordon Culbertson, Gilbert Shibley, and Jim James testified in favor of the bill. It passed the committee with a do pass recommendation to the full Senate. On April 30th HB 2441 passed the Senate with a vote of 26-0. It now needs to be signed by the governor and will become law. The governor’s staff has not expressed any opposition to this bill. Time will tell, but we are close on this one.

OSWA’s Branding (now truffle) Bill (HB 2165) – OSWA’s branding bill would have made log branding optional on the Westside just like on the Eastside. After it was introduced scaling bureaus and several others raised concerns about the bill. We decided to table this bill for 2013 and work with these concerns to see if they can be resolved for a future bill. We then realized the need for a bill to make truffles a Special Forest Product. Such a bill is needed to help protect forest owners from truffle thieves. If the reason to introduce a bill is broad enough any bill can be modified as long as its original intent can be covered with the change. The language for the need for HB 2165 was adequate to allow OSWA to modify the bill to become a truffle bill. Jim Denison, Lincoln County Deputy Gary Davey, Roger Beyer, and Jim James testified at a House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee on April 16th. The bill passed the committee and on April 23rd passed the House with a 59-0 vote. It now waits for a Senate Hearing.

OSWA’s farm plate bill (SB 349) – This bill had a hearing in front of the Senate Business and Transportation Committee on February 21st. Roger Beyer, Frank Pender, and David Rankin testified in favor of the bill. The bill was forwarded to the Senate Revenue Committee to evaluate the fiscal impact. This committee is waiting to hear from OSWA to schedule a hearing. The GAC is still trying to develop the correct strategy to convince the Revenue Committee the fiscal impact will be minor. This is the same situation we had in 2011 with an identical bill. At that time the committee staff person responsible for determining cost to the state estimated a cost much higher than we believe it will be. We do not want this bill to have the same fate as in 2011. We will discuss strategies for this bill at the next GAC call on May 7th then work to have another hearing, before too long.

The hearings on the Department of Forestry budget and the OSU Extension budget went well, but the desired funding is still in question. The OSU Forestry Extension budget is linked to the College State Wide Budgets. In a hearing on March 27th Scott Hanson and Jim James provided written testimony in support of the OSU Extension programs. Because of (continued next page)
Status of OSWA’s 2013 Legislative Priorities
– continued

the general fund implications in the State Wide budgets, adequate funding will not be determined until the end of the session. The ODF budget hearing was in front of the Joint Ways and Means Committee on April 18th. Scott Hayes, Mike Barsotti, and Mike Barnes testified in support of the ODF budget. Like the State Wide budget, we will need to wait until the end of the session to see how the ODF budget fairs, but there have been no discussions about changing the percentages landowners contribute to the Private Forest or Fire Program budgets which is a big improvement from previous years.

OFIC’s fire liability bill which is a high priority for OSWA had identical Senate and House versions. Both have passed their respective chambers, but still await a joint conference between the Senate and House to agree on the other chamber’s bill. OSWA may still need to weigh in to support this bill, but it appears to have good support in both the House and Senate. This bill will clearly identify landowner liability should a fire escape one’s property and spread to a neighbor’s property.

Another bill of interest that surfaced this session was SB 401, the Wild and Scenic River Bill. As drafted this bill would have added almost every river and stream in Oregon to the list of Wild and Scenic Rivers. This would have imposed another layer of review by the State Parks Department before landowners could operate within ¼ mile of these rivers. OSWA opposed this bill because we believe Oregon’s forest practice laws already provide adequate protection for all the public values found on forested streams. SB 401 was modified to become a study on the need for a Wild and Scenic Rivers bill and should the need exist what rivers should be included. This issue is dead for now, but will likely be back in a future session. We will need to evaluate any OSWA involvement in the study group.

The Governmental Advisory Committee has a conference call every other Tuesday from 7:00 am to 8:00 am. If you are not getting information about these calls or are not receiving the Legislative Updates by email, and would like to, please contact Jen Rains jenerains@gmail.com or Jim James jimjamesoswa@yahoo.com.
OSWA News

John Belton – Involved CCFFA Member

By Scott Hanson

When I received the news recently on John Belton’s passing, a flood of memories came back into my mind. I was connecting the endless number of CCFFA programs/activities which John had a hand in designing and leading over the years. John (and brother George) received the CCFFA Woodland Farmer of the Year Award in 1992, and he and wife Carol Belton received the Evergreen Award in 2006. He has also been recognized for numerous educational efforts by Oregon State University Extension Office (Oregon City) over the years.

But beyond all of the awards there was something else about John. He was an overwhelmingly generous man in his time and talents to CCFFA. He opened his Sandy tree farm property repeatedly to all manner of CCFFA programs. A few but by no means all of Belton tree farm events include: create a Family Forest Day and a Volks March day designed to get our urban cousins out in the woods and provide a subtle message about healthy forests; explain and discuss his efforts to create and maintain an uneven age timber stand with Douglas-fir, hemlock, and cedar to CCFFA members, public agencies, and foreign contingents; arrange plant digging parties for upcoming CCFFA plant sale; host the first OSWA Howdy Neighbor Tour; show how portable sawmill products can be used around the home, and provide a audience for basket guild workers and chainsaw artists to showcase their wares. In a nutshell, John was game to use his tree farm in just about any way to help educate CCFFA members and others on the virtues and the bounty of a healthy forest.

The last four or five years of life for John and wife Carol presented many new physical and mental challenges dealing with Parkinson’s disease and dementia. John lost the ability to get out in the woods however John’s contributions over a couple of decades to CCFFA and the greater natural resource community will not soon be forgotten.

Resource Value Insurance Update

By Jim James

Willis of Oregon offered a resource value insurance policy to cover value losses from a forest fire to OSWA members if at least twelve signed up for insurance in the 2013. Several OSWA members were interested, but OSWA fell short of the twelve required to start this insurance option in 2013. Willis of Oregon will communicate directly with those who completed applications for the 2013 fire season.

The insurance policy may be available in the future if there is enough interest in OSWA’s membership. The cost per acre is based on the value of one’s timber resource, the region the forest is in, and the deductible percentage selected. OSWA’s Board will be evaluating future options with Willis of Oregon to see if a policy could be available for the 2014 fire season. Anyone interested in learning more about this insurance option or who may be interested in a policy for the 2014 fire season, please contact Jim James (541) 588-1813 jimjamesoswa@yahoo.com.

Silent Auction Items Needed

By Jim James

OSWA’s annual meeting is rapidly approaching and it is time to, once again, be thinking about donating items to this year’s Silent Auction. This event raises money to help fund activities that support OSWA members and has traditionally included many items made or prepared by OSWA members. If one wishes to donate an item please contact Silent Auction Chair Person Ilene Waldorf at (503) 829-3181 or iwal@molalla.net. Items can be delivered directly to Ilene on Friday morning, June 14th prior to the annual meeting in Roseburg, or delivered to the Salem Office the week before the annual meeting. It is important that all those donating items contact Ilene in advance to assist in the auction preparation and to coordinate delivery details. Thank you for your help in preparing for another enjoyable Silent Auction.
Forestry Board Honors Outstanding Forest Educators

Oregon Department of Forestry – NEWS RELEASE – March 6, 2013

The Oregon Board of Forestry recognized six individuals for excellence in forestry education. The 2012 Mary Rellergert Forestry Education award winners are: the Talk About Trees program; Oregon Wood Magic creators Patricia and Jeff Morrell; and Klamath Outdoor Science School co-founder Marj Glass. The annual award honors significant contributions to public education and understanding of forestry in Oregon.

Norie Dimeo-Ediger, director of K-12 education programs with the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI), and State Forester Doug Decker presented the awards during a Board of Forestry meeting in Salem.

As part of the awards ceremony, State Forester Doug Decker also presented the annual State Forester’s Award to Barte and Bond Starker for their exceptional contributions to the cause of forestry education. The brothers manage Starker Forests, Inc., an 80,000-acre commercial forest operation headquartered at Philomath.

**TALK ABOUT TREES**

Since its inception in 1991, Portland-based Talk About Trees has reached more than 2.4 million young people ranging from pre-schoolers to middle-school students with its combined classroom and field program to encourage awareness of and appreciation for the value of trees and forests in their daily lives. Eighteen facilitators contracted throughout the state teach the program, which encourages understanding of the protection, management and conservation of the renewable forest.

Talk About Trees director Joan Mason Ruud, along with Oregon Women in Timber (OWIT) members Diann Washburn and Diane Daley, received the award. OFRI has a contract with OWIT to sponsor Talk About Trees.

**OREGON WOOD MAGIC**

Tisha Morrell, University of Portland, and spouse Jeff Morrell, Oregon State University, adapted a forestry education field experience from Mississippi and brought Oregon Wood Magic to life with the help of faculty at Oregon State University’s Department of Wood Science and Engineering. Oregon Wood Magic is an interactive experience designed to educate third and fourth grade students about the wonders of wood as a material. The program takes students and their teachers through a series of nine stations that cover aspects of science and technology related to wood and wood products. Since its beginning in 1999, Oregon Wood Magic has reached more than 70,000 school children.

**MARJ GLASS**

A Klamath Falls elementary school teacher, Marj Glass first brought her passion for natural science into the classroom in 1994 when she designed a Klamath Basin Ecosystems unit that focused on forests and wetlands. Recognizing that southern Oregon students needed greater access to hands-on learning, she helped launch the Klamath Outdoor Science School (KOSS) in 1995. A rustic summer camp in the Sun Pass State Forest made up of tents and yurts, the school is beginning construction of a pavilion that will include kitchen, dining and classroom facilities. KOSS has served hundreds of students in day and residential camps since its founding.

**STATE FORESTER’S AWARD**

In 1936, Thurman James “T.J.” Starker began to purchase second-growth forests in the Oregon Coast Range. These accumulated tracts officially became known as Starker Forests in 1971. The family practices intensive forest management while also promoting and encouraging free recreational use of their lands. This includes an active educational outreach. Thousands of students have been introduced to the science of forestry through field trips and outdoor classrooms held on Starker Forests. Today, grandsons Bond and Barte Starker continue the family tradition.

“Bond and Barte Starker have been exceptional contributors to the cause of forestry education,” State Forester Doug Decker said.

The Rellergert award series honor the Oregon Department of Forestry’s former forest education coordinator, Mary Rellergert, who passed away in February 2004. Rellergert was a highly regarded forest education leader and founder of the Tillamook State Forest Education Program, which provides high quality forest learning experiences for K-12 students at the Tillamook Forest Center.

The 2012 Mary Rellergert Forestry Education Award winners were selected by a panel of forestry educators from the Oregon Forest Resources Institute, Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Natural Resources Education Program, and past recipients of the award.
Northwest Certified Forestry – A Program for Small Landowners in Oregon and Washington

For 19 Oregon landowners across more than 13,000 acres, ranging from an 18 acre family forest to the 3,700-acre City of Astoria watershed, Northwest Certified Forestry (NCF) is a valuable program that provides access to Forest Stewardship Council™ (FSC®) certification, workshops, marketing assistance, tools, and information.

“[NCF foresters] told us about their approach to certification, and we really liked how involved they were with their members,” says George Fleming, owner of 285-acre Heartland Forest in Langlois, OR about his decision to become a member of Northwest Certified Forestry. George has been a member since 2009.

NCF is run by the Northwest Natural Resource Group, a non-profit organization whose mission is to use the marketplace to restore forests and local economies. Dedicated to promoting a sustainable, environmentally sound economy in the forestlands and watersheds of the Pacific Northwest, NN RG focuses on the smaller woodlands owned and managed by private landowners, smaller forest product companies, governmental agencies, and non-profit organizations.

Forest Stewardship Council certification is a key component to the NCF program. FSC is a market-based, voluntary system for ensuring that wood products come from well-managed forests. Similar to organic certification for farmers and food processors, FSC provides consumers a way to support sustainable practices with their purchasing decisions.

In recent years FSC markets in the Pacific Northwest have grown, with dozens of Northwest retailers now carrying FSC products.

As a forest management certification system, FSC has developed a set of 10 Principles and 57 Criteria for forest management that are applicable to all FSC-certified forests throughout the world. In 2010, FSC released the US Standard v1.0 which combined the nine regional standards that previously guided forest management in different areas of the country. However, regional variation still exists within the national standard and some indicators contain specific guidance for the Pacific Coast Region (Washington, Oregon, and California).

“Our members are passionate about their forests, and FSC certification is a great tool for putting that passion into practice and meeting management objectives,” says Northwest Certified Forestry director Kirk Hanson, who also owns and manages a 30-acre forest near Oakville, WA. “Over the long term, our goal is to use FSC and other tools to optimize the economic and ecological potential of our members’ forestlands.”

In addition to providing access to FSC certification, Northwest Certified Forestry provides numerous workshops and educational resources. “[NCF] is one of the best organizations to join, particularly if you’re not familiar with forestry and logging,” says NCF member James Peet who owns a 20-acre forest near Enumclaw, WA. “Their logging class was the best of its kind I’ve ever taken.”

NCF offers Associate, Conservation, and Certified membership options. Program director Kirk Hanson (360-316-9317) and Membership Services Director Lindsay Malone (206-971-3709) welcome calls from landowners at any time. For more information and to sign up for the free NCF email newsletter, please visit www.nwcertified.org.

Photo caption: “Participants in Northwest Certified Forestry’s annual small scale logging and yarding course. Photo by Northwest Natural Resource Group”
ODF Rulemaking Process Update on Statutory Written Plan Requirements

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) is wrapping up a rulemaking process that we hope will save you some paperwork and time and generally made some rules easier to read. The Department will present the results of the eight month rulemaking process to the Board of Forestry on June 5th, 2013 in the form of a consent agenda item. The Department is asking for approval to file the permanent rule changes with the Secretary of State’s office and begin educational outreach. If the Board does approve this, the proposed effective date for these rule changes will be September 1st, 2013. Look for the proposed rule language to appear soon on the Board website at http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/pages/board/index.aspx.

The primary rule change will decrease the number of written plans the Department asks for around certain streams and wetlands. Look for the new rule language to be reflected in Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 629-605-0170 (Written Plans). This rulemaking process was required to implement the statutory (Oregon Revised Statute 527.670) changes that were associated with House Bill 2165 that was passed in 2011. Written plan requirements for specific harvest and site preparation operations, as well as road construction operations that will not directly affect riparian management areas (RMAs), will be waived. With the reduction of this paperwork, ODF Stewardship Foresters will have more time to perform field inspections and focus on operations that will be entering the RMA or have other high resource priorities.

This written plan waiver applies exclusively to statutory written plans. This is not to be confused with the 15 day waiting period waiver that allows operators to commence operations sooner. These two waivers will function independently of each other. It will be important for landowners and operators to understand the difference and administrative functions of these two waivers.

For questions regarding HB 2165 please contact Rod Nichols, ODF Public Affairs, 503-945-7427 or Ashley Probst, ODF HB 2165 Lead, 503-508-7040. An update of the Board’s June decision will be shared in the next OSWA/OFTS newsletter.

Legal Quagmire Deepens In The Ninth Circuit

The Northwest Environmental Defense Center (NEDC) is not wasting any time in pursuing permit requirements for forest roads under the Clean Water Act (CWA). Yesterday the U.S. Supreme Court “issued the judgment” in Decker v NEDC back to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, the final step following the March 20 reversal of the Ninth Circuit’s 2011 ruling. NEDC, seeking to take advantage of the process, immediately filed a motion to the Ninth Circuit asking the court to publish a new order reversing the U.S. District Court for Oregon’s 2007 decision upholding the EPA’s definition of forest roads as nonpoint sources. In short, NEDC wants the Ninth Circuit to direct the lower court to treat forest roads as point sources.

Recall that while the Supreme Court upheld the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) position that forest roads diverting stormwater are not subject to mandatory permits under EPA’s point source stormwater rules, the Court did not address the Ninth Circuit’s other ruling that these roads are point sources. The plaintiffs have claimed victory on the issue and their latest motion seeks to preserve a hook for future litigation, which they will almost certainly pursue.

Regardless of whether the Ninth Circuit issues a new order, forest roads remain vulnerable to the court’s view that they are point sources. NEDC told the Supreme Court it won’t stop litigating until permits are required for forest roads and they are certainly living up to their word. So long as the point source uncertainty remains, litigators will seek to exploit opportunities to impose point source requirements on forest management.

Congress is best positioned to end the uncertainty and avoid another legal quagmire by passing legislation upholding EPA’s longstanding position that forest roads are nonpoint sources. As the Supreme Court noted, states have established extensive Best Management Practices (BMPs) under the CWA’s nonpoint source provisions. EPA and the states have a 37 year track record of success using BMPs. All Congress needs to do is affirm what is already working so that BMPs can continue to succeed in the future.

Dave Tenny, NAFO President and CEO

NAFO is an organization of private forest owners committed to advancing federal policies that promote the economic and environmental benefits of privately-owned forests at the national level. NAFO membership encompasses more than 80 million acres of private forestland in 47 states. Working forests in the U.S. support 2.5 million jobs. To see the full economic impact of America’s working forests, visit http://click.icptrack.com/icp/relay.php?r=99056633&msgid=831476&act=GVTZ&c=532529&destination=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nafoalliance.org%2Feconomic-impact-report.
What is Integrated Pest Management?

As a woodland owner, you know every decision counts. From the trees you plant to the methods you use to harvest them, your stewardship builds a living legacy. So when invasive and destructive species threaten your woods, you want a solution that protects your trees now and preserves the health of your forest for the future. That’s the goal of Integrated Pest Management. IPM is a system of methods and practices that controls pests long-term in an economically and environmentally sound way. It’s also part of the ATFS 2010-2015 Standards of Sustainability for Forest Certification. Visit the ATFS Woodland Resource (http://www.treefarmsystem.org/woodland-resources) to learn how IPM works, why should I use it, putting IPM into practice, and finding IPM resources in one’s state.

Integrated pest management isn’t a single solution to your pest problems. It’s a process that combines common-sense methods and practices to provide long-term, economical pest control, all while keeping your property, family and the environment safe. The IPM process is as unique as your woods, but it basically follows these steps:

1. **Preventing pests.** Preventing an infestation is easier than controlling one, so start by making your woods a tough place for pests to live. When planting, choose more resistant trees if you can. Keep them strong and healthy by spacing them far enough apart and using thinning and prescribed burns to keep understory competition low.

2. **Knowing your enemy.** Not every weed or insect is harmful, and some can be beneficial. So it’s important to monitor and identify what’s living in your woods. Keep an eye out for signs of tree decline or death, and use traps that target specific species if you suspect they may be present in your stands. And if you do find a pest in your midst, learn more about it through local guides to Invasive and destructive species.

3. **Setting limits.** Spotting a single pest doesn’t necessarily mean you have a problem, and destroying every pest on your property may not be possible or safe. Part of IPM is asking: How many pests would it take to threaten the health and economic viability of my woods? That number is your “action threshold.” If your forest’s pest population is close to or exceeds this threshold, then it’s time to fight back.

4. **Taking action.** Once you know what you’re up against, you can choose from a variety of pest control methods. In IPM, you use effective but less risky methods first, such as traps or beneficial organisms. Careful and targeted use of pesticides and other chemicals can also be part of the solution. Spraying a non-specific pesticide over a large area is a last resort.

**Putting IPM into Practice** - Every forest is different, as is every pest problem. When you need to battle unwanted guests, integrated pest management lets you choose the combination of pest control methods that’s right for your woods and your goals. These methods fall under four categories: cultural, mechanical, biological and chemical.

- **Cultural** methods include selecting pest-tolerant trees, watering and fertilizing trees for optimal health, thinning your woods frequently and conducting prescribed burns. If you’re fighting an existing infestation, this may mean removing affected trees or susceptible tree species to stop the infestation from spreading.

- **Mechanical** methods focus on physically removing pests, via traps (for insects and pest animals) or weeding (for invasive plants). You may also choose to install barriers around trees to keep pests away.

- **Biological** strategies use natural predators to control pest populations. Birds, bats, ladybugs, certain beetles, predatory spiders and mites, and parasitic wasps are just some of your friends in the fight against pests. Boosting the beneficial bugs and insect-eating animals already living in your forest – or intentionally introducing them—will beef up your pest control efforts.
What is Integrated Pest Management? – continued

Chemical controls can include natural repellents and pheromones along with more traditional pesticides and herbicides. Repellents and pheromones target insect and animal pests. Repellents, which are often derived from animal proteins, can make pests fearful, or create unpleasant tastes or sensations that drive them away.

Pheromones—the chemicals pests use to communicate with each other—can be used to lure pests into traps or disrupt their mating behavior. Both natural repellents and pheromones are commercially available.

With pesticides and herbicides, caution is the key. Find the most effective and targeted chemical for your specific pest, and follow all label directions carefully when applying it. Keep in mind that some of these chemicals require permits or licenses to purchase and use. When using chemical controls, some days are better for spraying than others. Pesticides and herbicides are most effective when temperatures are above 60 degrees, and days with little or no wind are safest, because the chemicals won’t drift to other plants.

What if One needs help choosing the best method for their woods? Some of these methods may be things you’re already doing on your land, but some may be new to you. If you want more information or professional guidance on making IPM work for you, help is right around the corner. One may contact Oregon Integrated Pest Management [link to website]. Publications, workshop and training information, and state contacts for assistance with pest identification are also available. Information about forest pests and their management can be found on the Oregon State University, Forestry Extension website [link to website].

Boise Cascade manufactures engineered wood products, plywood, lumber, and particleboard and distributes a broad line of building materials. It has log using mills in Oregon located in the La Grande Area (Elgin and La Grande), Pilot Rock, Medford Area (White City) and Monmouth Area (Willamina). Log Buyer contact information is as follows:

La Grande Area Log buyers:
Bruce Skvarch 541-962-2044, cell 541-786-1319
Larry McCalden 541-962-2067, cell 541-786-1315

Pilot Rock Log buyer:
Tony McKague 541-443-3430

Medford Area Log buyers:
Mark Nystrom 541-830-7904; cell-541-821-2503
Mark Blowers 541-830-7903; cell - 541-821-2505

Monmouth Area Log buyers:
Jeff Hedlund 503-606-3864; cell - 503-551-0661
Brian Tenbusch 503-606-2038 cell 503-569-8740
Polk, Benton, Linn, Lane, Marion, Clackamas, Multnomah, South Lincoln Co., and all Southwest Washington State
WASHINGTON—United States Representatives Kurt Schrader (D-Ore), Glenn Thompson (R-Pa) and Senators Mark Pryor (D-AR) and Roy Blunt (R-MO) introduced the Forest Products Fairness Act of 2013 (H. 979/S. 463) on March 5th.

Reps. Schrader and Thompson and Sens. Pryor and Blunt authored the legislation so that American-made, homegrown forest products can qualify for the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) BioPreferred® program. The BioPreferred® program is designed to set a federal government purchasing preference and a voluntary label to promote markets for biobased products.

As currently implemented, most forest products, including products grown by America’s more than 10 million family forest owners, have been excluded from the USDA BioPreferred program.

“The Forest Products Fairness Act (FPFA) of 2013 is a simple fix—it treats forest products like the biobased products they truly are. It’s hard enough for family forest owners to afford and maintain forestland; we don’t need to make it even harder by shutting out new markets for forest products that can help family forest owners reinvest in their woodlands. That’s why this simple fix could have big impact,” said Tom Martin, President and CEO of the American Forest Foundation (AFF).

AFF, along with a coalition of 90 organizations and companies, has endorsed the Forest Products Fairness Act of 2013. When an identical bill was introduced by these Congressional leaders in 2012, it garnered bipartisan support in the House and the Senate.

“In my time in Congress, I have been staunchly committed to strengthening our nation’s economic recovery and increasing investment in Oregon’s rural communities,” Rep. Schrader said. “This bill furthers that commitment by addressing the absurdity of wood products currently being excluded from the bio-based definition and updating the antiquated definition to accurately portray the significant role our timber communities play in our nation’s economic output,” Representative Kurt Schrader said.

Nation-wide, markets for forest products are at an all-time low—with more than 1,000 mills shuttered in the last 10 years and more than 320,000 jobs lost since 2005.
Jamie Knight
Selected Western Region Inspector of the Year

Jamie Knight, an Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) forester working in LaGrande honored by the American Tree Farm System as its 2013 Western Region Inspector of the Year.

Knight has a long history of assisting family forest landowners and the Tree Farm program. She completed 11 inspections in 2012 as well as voluntarily taking on other tasks in support of family forest landowners and stewardship of Oregon’s forests.

With regards to her volunteer Tree Farm efforts, Knight said, “I became involved with Tree Farm because there weren’t a lot of inspectors in Union County and it fit in well with the work I was doing. I’ve stayed involved in tree farm because I like the benefits to not only the particular landowner, but all private forestland owners in the country. I support the lobbying that Tree Farm does to help secure funding and avoid more restrictions on private lands! I also like getting to work with the landowners and provide them with some recognition for the work they are doing on their properties. Every year, whether we nominate someone to state or not, we have a Union County Tree Farmer of the Year. It’s so fun to see how humble this group of people is to be honored amongst their peers in the county for what they consider their responsibility!”

Her boss Mark Jacques states, “She always readily accepts new/added responsibilities. She fills whatever expertise void we have including being our aerial observer after lightning storms, filling in as helicopter administrator and filling in as dozer swamper for our dozer operator. She also does wildfire news releases and helps with developing Fire incident action plans for extended attack fires.”

Knight has a number of duties for ODF in Northeast Oregon, all of which support the region’s family forest landowners. Knight manages the Private Lands Forest Network, a non-profit organization that provides seedlings, cold storage for seedlings, tools and technical advice to landowners in Northeast Oregon and parts of Southeast Washington. The organization was formed in the 1990s to solve several problems. Because of snow tree planting in the northeastern part of the state is much later than elsewhere and forest nurseries must lift their tree seedling months before they can be planted. The Private Lands Forest Network built a tree seedling cooler on ODF’s La-Grande compound to keep the seeding dormant and in good shape until they can be planted.

She is also the local manager of the Blue Mountain Western Larch Cooperative Orchard. This project is still in its infancy. The concept is to grow grafted larch in an orchard setting and meet the seed shortfalls that are being felt in Northeast Oregon and Southeast Washington.

In addition to the many Tree Farm landowner visits and inspections, Jamie has also played a major role in assisting the two recent Oregon Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year from northeast Oregon, Chris and Donna Heffneran and Harry Merlo, host tours and complete they applications for Western Regional Tree Farmer of the Year.
Care for your Forest with MyLandPlan.org

Oregon and the American Forest Foundation (AFF are partnering to utilize AFF’s recently launched MyLandPlan.org as an entry point for landowners in developing/revising their forest management plan.

The goal is to make on-the-ground stewardship of Oregon’s forests more widespread and effective. AFF’s new interactive website has been designed for woodland owners.

Family forestland owners own their property for a variety of reasons, so MyLandPlan.org was designed to be flexible, a place landowners can go to explore to learn more about their property.

With invasive species, tree disease, drought, and wildfire, keeping woods healthy can require family forest owners to take a more active role managing their land.

The many organizations and agencies offering assistance to Oregon’s family forestland owners have partnered to develop a coordinated management plan format that can address landowners goals and meet the natural resource partners’ requirements. These partners have joined with AFF to have its web based MyLandPlan a starting point for landowners.

With MyLandPlan.org’s planning tool, a landowner can map their woodlands and record features such as streams, trails, and special sites. The tool supports landowners as they identify goals for their property, and once selected, suggests recommended action steps and relevant information automatically to help reach those goals. The site also connects users to local professionals and organizations that can help them reach their goals.

Giving woodland owners the tools they need to make the best decisions for their land, and to encourage owners to seek professional advice are among the outcomes AFF and the Oregon partnership hope will be achieved through MyLandPlan.org and the Oregon Coordinated Management Plan.

If a landowner wonders about his/her forest, a visit to www.mylandplan.org is a great place to start exploring.

American Forest Foundation selects Bill and Joan Arsenault as 2013 Western Regional Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year

By Jim James, Administrator OTFS

Oregon Tree Farm System was notified on May 3rd that Bill and Joan Arsenault of Elkton, OR. will be selected as Western Regional Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year for 2013. American Forest Foundation will announce the four finalists for each of the four US regions on May 13th. This is a great honor for Oregon. Bill and Joan’s Paradise Creek Ranch is very deserving of this recognition. The national finalist will be honored at the American Forest Foundation’s American Tree Farm System Annual Meeting in July. It has been several years since the nation’s Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year has been an Oregonian. Bill and Joan are great candidates and the selection committee was impressed when they recently visited Paradise Creek Ranch.

Oregon’s Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year woods tour will visit Bill and Joan’s Paradise Creek Ranch on Saturday, June 15th in collaboration with Oregon Small Woodlands Association’s 2013 Annual Meeting, hosted by OSWA’s Douglas County Chapter. This will be a great opportunity to visit a working forest that balances the values in the American Tree Farm System; wood, water, wildlife, and recreation. Congratulations to Bill and Joan.
Looking for direction?

Find the help you need at KnowYourForest.org

Learn how to …
• keep your forest healthy
• improve wildlife habitat
• reduce wildfire risk
• earn sustainability certification
• find a forester, logger or other specialist

KnowYourForest.org was created in cooperation with the Partnership for Forestry Education, a collaboration of state, federal and private forestry organizations.
## Upcoming Events

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<td>OSWA Board Meeting, Roseburg, OR</td>
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