Influential Oregon Family Forest Landowners Earn “Tree Farmer of the Year” Title for 2012

By Cynthia Orlando, Oregon Department of Forestry

Bill and Joan Arsenault of Elkton, OR, were selected Oregon’s Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year for 2012 at Oregon Tree Farm System’s Annual Awards Luncheon at Portland’s World Forestry Center on November 19th. The Arsenault’s own and manage 277-acres of forested property in the Elkton area of Southern Oregon. In addition to regular pre-commercial and commercial thinnings for stand improvement, reforestation with Douglas-fir and interplanting as-needed, the Arsenault’s work to control invasive species like blackberry and scotch broom on the property, maintain roads for fire suppression access, and provide for numerous public and educational tours.

Tireless advocates with prior honors - Bill and Joan Arsenault have previously been named Douglas County Tree Farmer of the Year three times (1989, 1995 and 2011). Over the years the Arsenault’s have hosted many tours at their Paradise Creek Ranch property for groups including the US Fish and Wildlife Service, The Board of Forestry’s Committee for Family Forests, and a watershed group interested in their stream enhancement work. “Bill Arsenault has been a strong and influential voice for the stewardship of forestlands in Douglas County and Oregon,” said nominating forester Rick Barnes, a member of Oregon’s Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year Selection Committee. “He’s been a tireless advocate for bringing science to bear on the Forest Practice Act rules. He’s also been an outstanding voice for family forestland owners, one of the most influential and articulate family forest landowners in the state of Oregon,” adds Barnes.

The Arsenaults have been zealous supporters of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. They’ve also made their Paradise Creek Ranch property available to Elkton High School to use for several natural resource classes. On November 19th, the Oregon Tree Farm System recognized their accomplishments as well as those of eight other family forestland owners representing various Counties. They are listed on page 19.
Happy holidays to you and your family!

Happy holidays to you and your family! We hope you enjoy this second edition of the Oregon Family Forest News. Several of you have commented positively on the new format. Our goal is to provide the best, most current information to members of both OSWA and Oregon Tree Farm, while preserving our organizational identities. We hope you will continue to suggest improvements and additions that may interest you.

In early 2013, OSWA members will receive a letter launching a new annual fund drive. We hope to augment our dues revenues and patron program income in order to meet our mission, which I boil down to: education, promoting good forest management, and representation. Our budget is included in this issue so you can see where the Boards’ focus will be in 2013.

I hope you will continue to support us financially with your dues, donations and participation.

OSWA Welcome’s Nine New Patrons

“It never rains, it pours”.

I recall a tag line used by Morton Salt in the 50’s – “It never rains, it pours”. Those of us on the wet side certainly have experienced pouring of late. My neighbor’s culvert couldn’t handle the deluge sending a torrent down my entrance road and washing recently applied three quarters minus into a ditch.

Oregon Tree Farmers might think that information on American Forest Foundation (AFF) Charter Membership is pouring into their mailboxes. As I wrote in the October Issue, OTFS is one of four state affiliates of AFF testing the membership model. You probably have received at least three mailings and should expect at least one more.

AFF historically was sponsored by and received financial support from the timber industry. Over the past two decades, the sponsorship evaporated and financial support has dwindled. Operational funds have increasingly been drawn from the Canadian Softwood Endowment which is not a sustainable business model. As an OTFS member, you are familiar with the demands of sustainable management. If you have not yet become a Charter Member, I encourage you to review the information sent by AFF and consider joining.

BTW, Oregon is far ahead of the other test states, South Carolina, Pennsylvania and Missouri, in tree farmers joining as charter members but then, we are noted for being early adopters (women’s suffrage and the Forest Practices Act).

I congratulate Bill and Joan Arsenault of the Paradise Creek Ranch in Douglas County for being named Oregon Outstanding Tree Farmers for 2012. This year as in prior years, I am thankful that I am not on the selection review committee. It would be difficult for me to choose the most outstanding tree farmer from the list of outstanding tree farmers.

Oregon Tree Farm System • www.otfs.org
187 High St. NE, Suite 208 • Salem, OR 97301 • 503-362-0242
OSWA Executive Directors Report

OSWA's fiscal year ended October 31st. OSWA had a successful year on many fronts but continues to have a few challenges. I believe we should be proud of our successful chapter activities; Annual Meeting; Howdy Neighbor Tours; the progress we made with the Wildfire Reduction Act in the short 2012 legislative session; our stature with the governor’s office, the legislature, state agencies, and our partners; and our publications including the new joint OSWA/Oregon Tree Farm System newsletter (Family Forest News). Our challenges continue to be centered on growing of our membership and finding financial stability. I believe our current Board approved strategy to address these challenges will have success. I predict 2013 will be another good year for OSWA.

OSWA’s membership did drop about 3% in 2011/2012. We started the fiscal year with 1381 memberships which equates to roughly 2800 members. We begin fiscal year 2012/2013 with 1338 memberships. To maintain OSWA’s financial stability and keep membership dues unchanged we need to end the 2012/2013 fiscal year with around 1500 memberships. OSWA had 1545 memberships at the end of the 2008/2009 fiscal year, but membership has been in decline since then. We are off to a good start with several new members in November which is typically a slow membership growth month.

The 2011/2012 budget had a loss of $4200 which was much smaller than what was predicted in September. The generosity of those chapters who volunteered their membership dues back to OSWA made all the difference, in helping keeping OSWA more financially stable. These chapters will be recognized as 2013 OSWA Patrons.

OSWA starts the year with a Cash Reserve of about $42,000. Although this is quite low for an organization the size of OSWA, the board has put together a plan to stabilize OSWA’s financial situation and work toward building a better reserve for unexpected expenses. The recommended reserves for an organization the size of OSWA is about one half year’s expenses. It will take some time for OSWA to increase its reserves. The 2012/2013 budget assumes growing OSWA membership, increasing revenues from the Patron Program, initiating an internal OSWA Supporter Program, and minimizing costs where possible while continuing to provide all the services OSWA members find valuable.

I hope everyone will have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

By Jim James

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Dear OSWA and Oregon Tree Farm System Leaders,

As longtime participants in both organizations, we appreciate the valuable contributions that both make to family forestry in Oregon. The new joint newsletter raises new opportunities and several questions which we hope you will answer for the memberships.

1. Given that the two organizations share many common goals but also have goals and missions that are uniquely different, how do you plan to make good use of the various points of cooperation (shared newsletter, office space, etc.) while also recognizing the differences and maintaining your unique identities?

2. To grow, thrive, and fulfill its mission OSWA must connect with and support a wide range of family forest owners. In the past, one strategy for doing this included providing unbiased information on the multiple systems of certification available to family forest owners. Is this still a priority, and, if so, how do plan to achieve this while also being closely aligned with one of the certification systems?

We wish both organizations well and believe that success depends on maintaining unique and independent identities.

Sincerely, Peter and Pam Hayes
2330 NW Belgrave Ave.
Portland, Oregon 97210

Dear Peter and Pam,

Thanks for the great question about maintaining OSWA and OTFS identities while working collaboratively together. Taking advantage of commonalities while still maintaining one’s identity has thoroughly been debated by both the OSWA and OTFS Boards. It continues to be a topic at Board meetings. The Memorandum of Understanding, signed by both organizations in 2011, clearly defines the separation as well as ways we can work together. Both boards have made it clear that each organization maintains its unique niche.

One of OSWA’s greatest strengths is the diversity of our membership. This diversity includes many things including whether to certify one’s forest and if so, which certification system will align best with the member’s goals and objectives. Both American Tree Farm System and Forest Stewardship Council have great programs for small woodland owners. As you know, OSWA has members who certify their forests to both systems with many who have dual certification. One will not see OSWA, as an organization, promoting one certification program over the other. What you will see is OSWA reaching out to all partners of small woodland owners, looking for synergies, and collaborating when possible.

I can appreciate how a joint newsletter could be interpreted as more than just a partnership between two organizations who both strive to provide benefits to small woodland owners. I can assure you both boards are aware of a potential conflict and I am confident both organizations can and will maintain their separate identities. Thanks for the question. I have communicated with FSC affiliated organizations and OSWA is open to any collaborative efforts.

Jim James
Wildfire Protection Act

By Travis Medema, Oregon Department of Forestry

The Governor’s budget for the 2013-2015 Biennium invests up to $3.6 million of General Fund as part of an increase in resources to control forest fires while they are still small. The proposal also includes a phased-in increase in General Fund responsibility for payment of large-fire costs over several biennia. The proposal results in a reduction of Eastern Oregon landowner assessments for fire prevention in order to help sustain that segment of the state’s forest products industry while efforts to increase timber harvests in that area are developed.

THANKS

By Tom Fields, Fire Prevention Coordinator, Oregon Department of Forestry – December, 2012

The sign said it all. As I was driving through the outskirts of Roseburg a couple of weeks ago, a sign showing Smokey Bear with his hand in the air proclaiming “THANKS FOR A GREAT SUMMER” reminded me just how well everyone worked together to make 2012 a success.

I’ll get to the stats in a minute. But first, I just wanted to remind you all of the extreme conditions we faced this past summer and how we managed to dodge the bullet. Conditions were so tinder dry that many large landowners closed their lands to the hunting community to keep their assets from going up in flames. Most of the state faced “extreme” fire weather conditions with public and industrial fire prevention restrictions pushed to the limit. Industrial operators on the west side of the Cascades were under Industrial Fire Precaution Level 3 (Partial Shutdown) and some ODF districts were even contemplating going to IFPL 4 (General Shutdown). Scientific data gathered by meteorologists and fire behavior analysts was off the charts and supported the extreme fire danger messages. The fire season was the second longest in the past 10 years at 156 days. We did have a few fires during these extreme conditions that were snuffed out through aggressive initial attack, but for the most part, the public got it and threw carelessness out the window.

Between the Oregon Department of Forestry and forest protective associations, we had at total of 588 human-caused fires burn 874 acres in 2012. This marks the second consecutive year that human-caused fires have been below 600. That’s amazing considering that the 10-year average is 724 fires and nearly 4,300 acres burned. Debris burning and equipment use continues to be the most prevalent causes, but were still well below the average.

One troubling category in 2012 was arson. Forty-four intentionally set fires burned 200 acres. That’s eleven more fires than the 10-year average.

Before you know it we’ll be talking about 2013. As a small woodland owner, some of you may have your home, or other homes, near your property. Take advantage of this opportunity to create defensible space between structures and the forest. Remove flammable vegetation anywhere from 30 to 100 feet around the perimeter and keep the forest floor “clean” by eliminating ladder fuels that can carry fire into the canopy. To defend your trees, thin where you can and prune low hanging branches up to at least a 3 to 1 ratio from the underlying vegetation. This will not only slow fire spread, it will allow firefighters to do their job more efficiently in a safer environment.

Have a great winter and THANKS AGAIN for doing your part to prevent careless human-caused fires.
Dear OSWA Members,

STAYIN’ ALIVE”  
(Thanks to the Bee Gees for OSWA’s new theme)

I’ll bet you can go all day/week/month without thinking of a potential new member. That’s why “group think” is superior. Get a bunch of folks together: focus, brainstorm, prioritize, assign tasks, set a deadline, report back. Oops! That sounds like a membership committee. And it’s just what every chapter needs.

Why new members? During the recession and continuing today, hundreds dropped their OSWA membership. Maybe they can live without tours, meetings, current information, and political issue updates. But should they risk not supporting an Executive Director who carries our message to ODF and others, and a lobbyist who educates for tree farmers daily? With a new crop of legislators coming in, who will explain the intricacies of the natural resource issues to them? The bottom line is that membership dues support our ability to practice forestry. Who else is advocating for you and your tree farm? With falling or static membership, OSWA maintains a precarious balance. Yes, we know that thousands of Oregon tree farmers do not belong to OSWA, yet expect that their needs will be met. We need to help these potential members see the light!

Between a rock and a hard place: That’s us! If we do not increase membership, then dues will have to increase…and some will drop out in protest, We stand on a slippery slope. This is obviously lose-lose.

How about a Win-Win scenario? New members = new ideas. We always need an infusion of “new.” Make it your personal resolution to find a new member or two.

The personal touch works best:

- Mentor a new member...be their sponsor
- Be a friend you’d like to have
- Call lapsed members
- Invite to a tour or meeting
- Be on your chapter membership committee

Let’s get going! We’re all counting on YOU! And thank YOU for renewing your membership. You belong to a wonderful group of people dedicated to growing the world’s best trees.

Nancy Hathaway  
Chair of OSWA Membership Committee

Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) Report

By Jim James - December, 2012

The GAC met December 4th and outlined OSWA’s priorities in the 2013 legislative session. The Wildfire Protection Act (WPA) will continue to be OSWA’s number one priority. The governor’s budget allocated $3.6MM of general funds specifically needed for the WPA. The Oregon Department of Forestry will introduce the bill and OSWA will support it. OSWA will introduce legislation to allow pole buildings on land zoned as forestland, make the use of log brands voluntary in Western Oregon like it is in Eastern Oregon, and allow forestland owners to purchase farm plates for low mileage vehicles used in the management of a forest, similar to farm plates available to owners of land zoned as agricultural lands. OSWA will also support budgets for Oregon Department of Forestry and OSU Forestry Extension and monitor other legislation that could impact small woodland owners.

The GAC will have one hour conference calls beginning at 7:00 am every other Tuesday during the legislative session. The next call is Tuesday, January 29th. Legislative Updates will be sent to everyone who has requested to be included on the GAC. Contact Jen Rains jenerains@gmail.com if one would like to be part of OSWA’s GAC and is not currently receiving the Legislative Updates.

The date for OSWA’s “Day at the Capital” has been set for Tuesday, April 23rd. Save this date for a trip to the Capital to meet the leaders in the legislature, visit with your representatives, and tour the Capital. More information will be available as we get closer to that date.
OSWA Signs Available for Purchase

By Jim James

The new OSWA signs are now available. The cost is $35 for the 2 ft. by 2 ft. sign with OSWA's logo. Members are encouraged to purchase a sign and place it on their property. The idea for an OSWA sign came from the Membership Committee. There are a lot of potential OSWA members who have no idea OSWA even exists. By placing a sign on one’s property, others will become more aware of OSWA’s existence. Members can display the signs with pride.

To order a sign contact Jim James jimjamesoswa@yahoo.com or Jen Rains jenrerains@gmail.com. Delivery of the sign will be coordinated with each member who orders one. There will be an emphasis on delivering them at chapter activities when the Executive Director is in attendance. The signs became available just before the Columbia and Washington County annual meetings in November. A combined 30 signs were purchased at these two events which is a great start for the OSWA sign program. The Executive Director intends to attend each chapter’s annual meeting and will have signs available for purchase at these events. They will also be available to purchase at Tree School on March 23rd.
**John Westall Appointed to OSU Advisory Committee**

*By Jim James*

Thomas Maness, Dean of the College of Forestry at Oregon State University, recently appointed John Westall, Benton County OSWA member, to serve as the small woodland owner representative to OSU Forestry’s Advisory Committee for the Research Laboratory for Fish and Wildlife Habitat in Managed Forests. John replaces Gary Springer, another Benton County OSWA member, who now serves on the Oregon Board of Forestry.

The Fish and Wildlife Habitat in Managed Forests program was established at the request of forest landowners in 1994 and is funded by a $0.10 per thousand board foot harvest tax. The mission of the program is to provide new information about fish and wildlife habitat within Oregon’s actively managed forests through research, technology transfer, and service activities. Current priorities for new program activities favor those that contribute to the scientific information base that supports the Oregon Forest Practices Act and also Oregon’s actively managed federal forest lands. The goals are to provide the information needed by forest managers to guide responsible stewardship of fish and wildlife habitat resources consistent with land management objectives, and by policy makers to establish and evaluate informed forest policy and regulations. One can learn more about these research projects on the OSU College of Forestry website. www.forestry.oregonstate.edu.

John Westall and his wife Pat Wheeler have owned and managed their forestland in Benton County since 1994, when they became OSWA members. They are actively engaged in all aspects of forest operations including inventory, thinning, pruning, planting, riparian restoration, and management for wildlife and endangered species. John completed OSU Extension’s Master Woodland Manager training in 2009, and has worked with the Luckiamute Watershed Council. Before retirement in 2008, John was a member of the Chemistry faculty at OSU where he taught and conducted research in environmental and analytical chemistry. During his academic career, he participated in national advisory and review committees sponsored by the U.S. EPA, the U. S. Department of Energy, the National Research Council and other organizations.

**Forest Leadership Academy January 18th and 19th, 2013**

*By Jim James*

As reported in the October Family Forests News, the Partnership for Forestry Education is hosting the 2013 PNW Forestry Leadership Academy at the Oregon Garden Resort in Silverton, Oregon on January 18th & 19th. Partners include Oregon Tree Farm System, Oregon Small Woodland Association, Oregon and Washington Society of American Foresters, Oregon Forest Resource Institute, OSU Forestry & Natural Resource Extension, Cispus Institute, Washington Farm Forestry Association, and Washington Tree Farm Committee. Members of OTFS and OSWA interested in developing leadership skills are encouraged to attend. The normal registration fee is $125. However, scholarships are available to OSWA and OTFS members with a registration fee of only $25 which includes all meals during the event and a room at the Oregon Garden Resort. The first 45 OSWA and/or OTFS members to register will receive the scholarship which is underwritten by a grant to the Oregon Tree Farm System from the American Forest Foundation. Only about a dozen scholarships remain available at the printing of this article. Contact Jen Rains jenrains@gmail.com if you would like to attend, to request the OSWA or OTFS scholarship, or if a registration form is needed. The registration form must be sent to Society of American Foresters (SAF) to the address on the form. There is limited space at the academy and limited OSWA/OTFS scholarships so register as soon as possible, if one plans to attend.

OSWA will have an Executive Committee/Board meeting in the morning of Friday, January 18th at the Oregon Garden Resort. The academy begins with lunch on that Friday and concludes at 2:00 pm on Saturday, January 19th. The program will focus on working across generations, managing effective meetings, forming effective teams, working with volunteers, understanding collaboration, and using effective outreach messages for diverse landowner audiences and for diverse media. The speakers and schedule is included in the registration form. This will be a great opportunity to tune up and/or learn more leadership skills and to interface with others with similar interests. Please contact Jim James jimjamesoswa@yahoo.com if there are any questions.
Timber Resource Value Fire Insurance Offered to OSWA Members

By Jim James

As reported in the October Family Forest News, Willis of Oregon is offering OSWA members an insurance policy that will cover resource value losses following a forest fire. Those insured will be reimbursed, after allocations for salvage and deductibles, for losses should a fire burn up any of their timber resource value. Each participant can select the deductible level they prefer amongst standard available options. This type of insurance has never been available in Oregon before and it is now available only to OSWA members.

To qualify, one must be an OSWA member, have a third party certified forest plan, successfully complete an application to determine the premium, and sign up for the insurance. Each insurance premium will be specific for the forest owner’s resource value, the deductible they choose, and the history of fire in the geographical area their forest is located. A detachable application, to determine the premium an insured party would need to pay, is on the next page. Anyone interested should complete the application and return it to Willis of Oregon for an evaluation. There is no obligation for filling out an application. If one is interested in the insurance, but does not currently have a third party certified forest plan, they should contact Jim James (541) 619-4252 or jimjamesoswa@yahoo.com to see if becoming certified before the deadline is an option.

OSWA members purchasing the insurance will be part of a pool of participants that will share a potential insurance payout of $25MM per year. Should the total payout in any given year exceed $25MM in losses, the year’s total losses will be evenly prorated to the recipients, not to exceed the $25MM payout. If enough OSWA members insure through Willis the amount of the total payout can be increased to reflect the size of the OSWA pool.

To qualify, one must apply for and purchase the insurance annually at the end of each year, but for this initial startup, participants will have until February 1, 2013 to apply for the insurance and will need to purchase the insurance before March 1st. The insurance will cover forest fire losses in 2013. For this startup year, Willis will offer this insurance to OSWA members if at least twelve or more OSWA members wish to participate in the program. Willis of Oregon has received five applications prior to this newsletter. Over twenty of the respondents to the insurance questionnaire in the OSWA August newsletter indicated they would be interested in purchasing Timber Resource Value Insurance. If anyone has questions, they can contact Joe Luchsinger at (503) 450-9819 or joseph.luchsinger@willis.com.

Applications should be emailed to Willis at timberinsurance@willis.com or fax it to (503) 274-2155

You can also mail any applications to Willis of Oregon, attention: Joe Luchsinger
222 SW Columbia St., Suite 600
Portland, OR 97140
Standing Timber Insurance Application

Coverage:
Standing Timber insurance covers your trees against loss due to fire and perils associated with fire. Minimum premium of $350 applies. The perils of wind, and freeze, may be available for an additional premium.

1. ABOUT YOU

1. FOREST OWNER DETAILS
Business Name .................................................................
Contact Name........................................................................
Mailing Address:
Line 1 ............................................................................. Line 2 .................................................................
Line 3 ..................................................................................... City .................................................................
State .................................................................. Zip Code .................................................................
Telephone No.................................................................
E-mail Address .................................................................

2. PAST INSURANCE
Have you ever had any standing timber insurance policy declined or cancelled, a renewal refused, had special conditions imposed, or had a claim rejected .................................................... Yes ☐ No ☐

3. YOUR GROWING TREES (PHYSICAL INVENTORY AND VALUATION)
If you have a full schedule for your forests by location, block, area, species, date of planting (age) and value, please attach as an appendix to this form, in place of completing the table here.

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<th>Main Species grown</th>
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Standing Timber Application 1 September 2012
4. LOSS HISTORY BY EVENT FOR THE PAST 10 YEARS

- If you have no losses in any particular year, declare ZERO in the first column for total damaged area for that year.
- If you have NO LOSS HISTORY INFORMATION for the past 10 years, please explain reasons here:

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<th>Cause of Loss (EVENT) Fire/wind/other….. name</th>
<th>Value of Loss after salvage (EVENT) (US Dollar)</th>
<th>Total Area of all your timberland in THIS year (acres)</th>
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If you need more space to complete per event loss history last 10 years, please attach details as an annex to this document.

5. MANAGEMENT PLANS & CERTIFICATION

5.1 Do you have a formal management plan for your forest? Yes ☐ No ☐

5.2 Is your forest certified as sustainable? (Forest must be certified to a credible third party certified sustainable forestry program such as the American Tree farm System, Forest Stewardship Council, and Oregon Department of Forestry's Stewardship Program) Yes ☐ No ☐

5.3 What is the distance to your local fire station (miles)? ___________________________

DECLARATION

Declaration I / We declare that answers and statements made in this document are correct.

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<td>Name in CAPITALS</td>
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STANDING TIMBER APPLICATION

EMAIL TO: TIMBERINSURANCE@WILLIS.COM OR FAX TO: 503-274-2155 2 September 2012
Bill and Joan Arsenault Named Oregon Tree Farmers of the Year
The News-Review, 12-08-12

TELKTON — The name Paradise Creek Ranch is truly fitting for Bill and Joan Arsenault. The couple own and live on 277 acres in the Coast Range eight miles west of Elkton. The two say they believe they live in paradise.

The way they’ve managed the land — its trees, wildlife, fish, water and pasture — since purchasing the land in 1971 has earned them the Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year honor for 2012.

The selection is made by the Oregon Tree Farm System, a nonprofit group that promotes the conservation and growing of forest resources in a sustainable manner on family forests. The group also promotes the conservation of water and wildlife.

“I’m very flattered,” Bill Arsenault said. “I look at (the award) as a culmination of 35 to 40 years of effort on this land.”

The Arsenaults are the first Douglas County landowners to earn the state award that has been presented annually for more than 40 years.

Bill Arsenault, 85, said that when he and his wife head out on a trip, they ask themselves why they’re leaving.

“We truly believe this is one of the most beautiful places in the world,” he said of the property that features Paradise Creek and Little Paradise Creek, as well as valley pasture land and timbered mountainsides.

“We ask ourselves, ‘Why go anywhere else?’ It’s gorgeous here at home. It truly is,” Arsenault said.

The couple have spent years managing and maintaining the land and its resources since moving to their property in 1976. They arrived after Bill Arsenault retired from the defense electronics industry in Southern California. He then worked as the chief electronics engineer for Roseburg Lumber for 15 years before retiring in 1992 and focusing all of his time and effort on the Paradise Creek Ranch.

Even before retiring to the ranch full time, Arsenault was involved in small woodlands activities. He and his wife were honored as the Douglas Small Woodlands Association’s 1989 Tree Farmers of the Year. They were also members of the American Tree Farm System.

After leaving Roseburg Lumber, Arsenault gave even more of his time to forestry related activities. He is president of the Douglas Small Woodlands Association, past president of the Douglas Forest Protective Association’s board and a founding member of the Committee for Family Forestlands. He’s also a member of the Douglas County Woodlands Advisory, the Forest Practices Advisory Committee On Salmon and Watersheds and the Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers.

In addition to managing their trees, the Arsenaults have fenced their pasture off from the creeks to keep livestock out of the riparian areas and to protect plantings along the banks. Boulders have been placed in the creeks to help slow the flow during high-water seasons and to provide habitat for fish.

Joan Arsenault, 83, said she and her husband are a team, “but he’s been the one up and down the freeway, going to meetings and being part of committees.”

Bob Young, a forester with the Oregon Department of Forestry’s Roseburg office who worked with the Arsenaults on their ranch’s management plan, said nobody has been more involved politically in the small woodlands industry than Bill Arsenault.

(continued next page)
“The fact that they’re deserving is an understatement,” said Young. “Bill promotes a stewardship mentality that takes care of all the resources on the land … the timber, the water, the fish, the wildlife.

“What Bill is about is a real balanced approach to management,” Young added. “Bill understands sustainability … that it’s not just for wildlife, but for human beings, for society as a whole.”

Young and Rick Barnes, a forestry consultant with Barnes & Associates of Roseburg, worked together on the nomination form that detailed the management plan for Paradise Creek Ranch and activities in which the Arsenaults participated off the ranch.

“They’ve been great stewards of the land,” said Barnes. “A lot of small woodland owners are involved, but Bill has gone way beyond the call of duty. He’s been active for many years and has been a tremendous leader in the industry.”

The Arsenaults have given numerous tours of their land to school and public groups in an effort to educate others about sustainable management. One person who took a tour was Douglas County Commissioner Susan Morgan.

“Those of us who are fortunate to know Bill and Joan are amazed by the energy and wisdom they bring to furthering the art and science of forestry and land management,” said Morgan. “Their commitment to lifelong learning and to sharing their knowledge adds tremendous value to our county.”

Over the years, the couple have had about 17,000 Douglas fir trees logged off their land. There’s been both select cutting (pre-commercial thinning with no revenue involved and commercial thinning for revenue) and clear cutting.

But the Arsenaults estimate they’ve had 38,000 seedlings planted on their property. They said trees on their land grow about 4 feet a year. The ranch has trees that range in age from 4 to 70 years.

“There’s more timber on here today than 10, 15 years ago,” said Bill Arsenault. “Across the board, we don’t want all old growth.

“Old growth is fairly dead as far as animal growth is concerned. Young stands provide habitat. Five- to 10-year-old stands are alive with wildlife.”

Joan Arsenault said living on the land and improving it is “a tremendous opportunity to make a difference.”

“I guess I’m a great lover of nature and growing things,” she said. “We add diversity to our forest. It ties into our love for the land, keeping it vibrant, keeping it alive, taking care of it.

“I’m thrilled with getting a crop, seeing logs going down the road, getting an income, but also knowing a new crop is coming with a new planting,” she added. “It’s fun to see a new crop of trees grow and prosper. It’s part of the cycle.”

• News-Review Features Editor Craig Reed can be reached by calling 541-957-4210 or by email at creed@nrtoday.com.
At OTFS’s Annual Awards Luncheon, held at the World Forestry Center in Portland on November 19th, Jamie Knight was selected as OTFS Inspector of the Year. Jamie, an Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) forester working in LaGrande completed 11 inspections in 2012, and has a long history of Tree Farm volunteering and other activities in support of family forest landowners and stewardship of Oregon’s forests.

She has a number of duties for ODF in Northeast Oregon. She manages the Private Lands Forest Network, a private 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 nurseries lift the seedling months before they can be planted. The Private Lands Forest Network built a tree seedling cooler on ODF’s LaGrande compound to keep the seedling dormant and in good shape until they could be planted.

Jamie 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.

With regards to her volunteer Tree Farm efforts, Jamie 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!”

Jamie’s boss Mark Jacques states, “She always readily accepts new/add-ed 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.”

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 Heffernan and Harry Merlo, host tours and complete their applications for Western Regional Tree Farmer of the Year.
On Wednesday, December 12th, the Oregon Senate confirmed Gov. John Kitzhaber’s appointments of Tom Imeson as chair and Michael Rose as a member of the state Board of Forestry. They will fill vacancies left by current chair John Blackwell and board member Steve Wilson, whose terms expire at the end of December. Both Blackwell and Wilson asked that Kitzhaber not reappoint them, so that they could pursue other personal and professional interests.

Imeson, of Portland, is currently public affairs director at the Port of Portland. He has extensive experience in state and federal government, with a focus on natural resources and energy. He worked for 15 years on U.S. Sen. Mark Hatfield’s personal staff and on the staffs of the Senate’s Energy and Natural Resources and Appropriations committees. He was chief of staff for Gov. Neil Goldschmidt, and later became vice-president for public affairs and communications with PacifiCorp. He has served on a number of civic and state boards, including the Land Conservation and Development Commission and the Board of Higher Education. “I have a deep appreciation of the critical role Oregon’s forests play in our state,” he said, “including their importance to our economy, and their contributions to wildlife habitat, recreation and other values.”

Rose, of Elkton, has represented forest industry workers for 36 years, through the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers/Woodworkers District Lodge in Gladstone, and the International Woodworkers of America Local Lodge in Reedsport. A logger with International Paper Company’s Gardiner facility, he has worked in the forest products industry for 20 years. “All of my family and friends, and many of our local economies, depend on the timber industry,” he said. “I think my interests and experience will help in maintaining a productive forest while addressing the needs of a clean, healthy environment.”

Blackwell said that “service to Oregon as chair of the Board of Forestry has been among the most challenging and fulfilling aspects of my professional forestry career. I’m proud of the board’s shared accomplishments over the past four years, and pleased with the quality of leadership and staff at the Oregon Department of Forestry.” Blackwell, of Portland, previously chaired the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission, and served in a number of executive capacities with the World Forestry Center, including as founding president.

Wilson, of Oregon City, is leaving the board to spend more time with family and to focus on his new job with an employee benefits consulting firm in Portland. He retired earlier this year as assistant directing business representative with the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers.

Kitzhaber said Imeson and Rose will bring valuable leadership, skills and perspectives as the forestry board continues with significant work, including charting future management of state-owned forests for the greatest benefit to Oregonians. “Tom has a rich background in public service, particularly in forest policy at the state and federal levels,” he said. “Managing all of our forests with sound policies is essential to Oregon’s economic recovery and long-term wellbeing.” He also praised the work of Blackwell and Wilson. “The board is in a good place and is working well,” he said. “The board, the Department of Forestry and the state as a whole are better off because of John’s leadership.”

The board consists of seven citizens serving four-year terms. Functions include appointing the state forester, providing broad oversight of the department, setting management direction for state-owned forests, adopting rules governing timber harvest and other practices on private forestland, and promoting sustainable management of Oregon’s 30 million-acre forestland base. More information on the board is available at www.oregon.gov/ODF/BOARD.
The U.S. Supreme Court may decide to punt on an Oregon logging road pollution case that has already bounced through the federal courts since 2006, justices indicated on Monday, December 3rd, a move that could spawn years of additional litigation. The justices’ comments came after the Environmental Protection Agency issued a new rule Friday, November 30th clarifying that polluted run-off from logging roads shouldn’t be treated like “point source” run-off from factories and feedlots under the Clean Water Act.

EPA’s new rule was intended to be timber-industry friendly, directly contradicting a 2010 decision by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals that the Supreme Court had decided to review. Instead, the change could end up prompting the court to decline the case, leaving the 9th Circuit’s decision in place for now or prompting a second round of lawsuits over the new rule. EPA’s 11th-hour rule change “surprised” the justices, Chief Justice John Roberts said. Instead of discussing the substance of the case during oral arguments today, the justices focused on whether or not they should even consider it.

Timber industry officials nationwide are hoping for a clear win in the Supreme Court. The underlying lawsuit says EPA is incorrectly interpreting the text of the Clean Water Act, as passed by Congress, so an EPA rule change may not resolve the legal issue.

The 9th Circuit concluded that the text of the Clean Water Act indicates that loggers in western states, even on private lands, need stormwater permits for active logging roads that drain to streams through pipes, ditches and culverts. Timber groups say permits would stall logging, create regulatory chaos and foment a spate of lawsuits from environmental groups. State laws, including Oregon’s Forest Practices Act, already require best management practices for logging roads, they note.

The Portland-based Northwest Environmental Defense Center (NEDC), which brought the original lawsuit in 2006, says permits would prompt better tracking of pollution and more road improvements. Sediment runoff from logging roads can harm salmon listed under the Endangered Species Act and other fish.

Attorney Timothy Bishop, speaking for the timber industry and the state of Oregon, spent most of his time Monday arguing that the court should still review the case.

“What we would like to do is to get sorted out once and for all here an argument that otherwise would drag through the courts for the next five or six years,” he said, according to the court’s transcript. Jeffrey Fisher, representing NEDC, said the justices should dismiss the case, deferring it to lower courts to study the issues raised by the new rule. The Supreme Court may signal soon how it intends to proceed. If it decides to consider the case, a decision might come by next spring.

Meantime, Congress could prevent future lawsuits by amending the Clean Water Act to make it clear that logging roads don’t require permits. U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Oregon, has been among those favoring that approach.

Anne Hanshu Reappointed to Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) Board

By Jim James

On November 19th, Oregon Forest Resource Institute’s Executive Director, Paul Barnum, announced that State Forester Doug Decker made four appointments to the OFRI Board. They were reappointments of Anne Hanshu, representing Small Woodland Owners; Ron Stuntzner, Class 1; Cali Daly, Class 2. These appointees will serve a second four year term. Also appointed was Bill Marre’, Class 3. The Senate President Courtney and Co-Chairs Hanna and Roblan appoint the public representative on the OFRI Board. A letter recommending Jennifer Allen’s reappoint to the OFRI Board was also sent to these legislative leaders. The new terms will begin on January 1st. Dave Schmidt, representing Small Woodland Owners, is also on the OFRI Board and served on the Nominations Working Group. Thanks to Anne and Dave for the important work they do for Small Woodland Owners on the OFRI Board.
Blue Mountain Forest Cooperative

By Bob Parker

Ask any family forestland owner in northeast Oregon what their top forest management concerns are and the first thing that pops out is usually Markets. Small wonder – logs markets in the region stink and that’s not likely to change much for a long time. What sets us apart is that although the forest industry across the state has been in a slump for some time, eastern Oregon has lost most of its sawmilling capacity and folks in Baker county not only struggle with low log prices but hauling all the way to John Day, La Grande, Union or Pilot Rock eats a big chunk of whatever profitability there might be. And with so few purchasers, mill to mill competition is pretty much non-existent so shopping around for higher prices just isn’t an option.

So what to do? When profitability goes to zero (or below) it can be pretty hard to justify hanging on to a large capital investment like a woodland property. But like most family forestland owners, folks here have a deep love and passion for their woodlands – something that goes way beyond just the dollars and cents picture – and a good dose of the “rugged individualist” attitude to boot. i.e., we don’t take things sitting down, thank you very much.

Nearly 10 years ago, the Baker County Private Woodlands Association (BCPWA) concluded that the best option for going forward was to take matters into our own hands and find a way to develop our own products and markets, providing extra profitability that would flow back to the landowners. Several enterprise options were analyzed such as small-scale sawmilling facility, biomass combined heat and power production, and shavings for animal bedding. But so far, none of these penciled out although one or two were tantalizing close.

In 2011, the BCPWA decided that the simplest, low-cost, low-risk marketing option would be for woodland owners to join together and bundle our annual sawlog harvests together as a single log sale offering to the sawmills. By offering a substantial volume of logs that would be delivered consistently throughout the year, and by guaranteeing consistently high log quality, the hope is that we will be able to negotiate a significant premium for our logs, boosting overall profitability. And by the same token, we could offer consistent, reliable work to logging contractors and thus negotiate favorable harvesting rates which would further increase profitability. The low degree of sawmill competition doesn’t work in favor of the Cooperative but a significant volume offering should still be a significant value for sawmills that are struggling to meet their raw material demands.

And so the Blue Mountain Forest Cooperative was born! The BCPWA filed with the State of Oregon to form a cooperative which late last year became a formal, legally recognized entity. The Cooperative is associated with but separate from the BCPWA. The goal is for the Blue Mountain Forest Partners Cooperative (BMFP) to be a regional rather than just a Baker county organization and the concept has been presented to woodland owners in Baker, Union and Wal-
On November 30th, Governor Kitzhaber released his recommended 2013-2015 budget, which he will submit to the Legislature when it convenes early next year. The economy continues to grow very slowly, and the budget remains challenging. With the funds available, the Governor’s budget addresses priorities in education, jobs, and reducing the cost of government—primarily with changes in PERS and in the corrections system. In his remarks, the Governor mentioned forestry as part of the foundation of Oregon’s wellbeing and economic recovery, and his budget includes some key forestry investments.

Among them is the Wildfire Protection Act, a reform crafted over many months by a range of stakeholders and with the strong support of the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and the Board of Forestry. The Act increases investments where we know they are most effective: up front, in firefighting assets that we can position when and where fire danger is most severe. This keeps more fires small, and reduces costs in the long run for landowners and for the public.

With that foundation, the Act also moves towards a 50-50 sharing of large fire costs, which landowners have paid fully in most years. And it provides an offset for fire protection rates on lower-productivity, fire-prone eastside lands, a measure that can help keep those lands viable as working forests.

The budget also includes authorization for use of lottery-backed bonds to allow the Department of Forestry to purchase 20,200 acres to complete acquisition of the Gilchrist State Forest, which began several years ago. This will mark an important milestone for the Department, Oregon’s state forest system, and the state as a whole.

Acknowledging the importance to Oregon of federally-owned forestlands, the Governor’s budget also provides lottery funds to support collaborative groups developing projects that enhance forest health while also providing raw materials for mills.

As part of a focus on water, the budget includes funds, shared among several natural resource agencies, to continue important research about the effectiveness of regulations in meeting water quality standards.

There were two other notes of particular interest to the Department of Forestry. The budget includes funding for four new positions in the Department’s Information Technology Program, essential to modernization and improved customer service, and replacement of an aging, structurally unsound warehouse in ODF’s South Cascade District. The inclusion of these elements during challenging budget times is a tribute to strong relationships with ODF stakeholders, and to a clear, unified message about the importance of forests and other natural resources. ODF will join with our partners to make the case for these investments as the Legislature conducts its budget deliberations, leading toward an adopted budget about mid-year.

Influential Oregon Family Forest Landowners continued from cover story

**Benton County**
Wayne & Verlyne Phillips
W & V Phillips, LLC

**Columbia County**
Dennis Nelson
Keasey Family Tree Farm

**Douglas County**
Bill & Joan Arsenault
Paradise Creek Ranch

**Jackson County**
Ed & Jody Reilly

**Lane County**
Darrick & Shannon Salyers

**Lincoln County**
Dave Schmidt
Schmidt Family Forest

**Linn County**
Jim and Ed Merzenich
Oak Basin Tree Farm

**Polk County**
Robert & Kay Feldman
Feldman Tree Farm, LLC

**Yamhill County**
Roger Fendall
Beckon Ridge Tree Farm

Addressing the attendees included the leaders of family forest landowners key partners: Dr. Thomas Maness, Dean of OSU College of Forestry, Meg Mitchell, Deputy Regional Forester with the Forest Service, and Oregon Department of Forestry State Forester Doug Decker.
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<td>OTFS Board Meeting</td>
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<td>January 17, 2013</td>
<td>Lane County Chapter Annual Meeting</td>
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<td>January 18-19, 2013</td>
<td>OSWA Board Call &amp; Executive Committee Meeting</td>
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<td>Leadership Conference at the Oregon Gardens</td>
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<td>January 29, 2013</td>
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