The OSWA 2018 membership dues rates will remain the same in 2018 as they have been since 2015. Several members have mentioned the confusion during the holiday season when OSWA typically mails out renewals in mid-December. To avoid this confusion, this year renewal forms will be mailed to members early during the first part of November.

Membership dues are due on January 1st of each year and payable by January 31st. Historically, only about 70% of the renewals come in by January 31st and the remainder trickle in through the rest of the first half of the year. It was July last year when renewals were finally cleaned up and members not renewing were dropped. It is hoped this new renewal schedule will help facilitate more timely renewals.

New members who joined at the full membership rate during 2017 will be invoiced a proportional rate for 2018.

OSWA has created an incentive program to encourage members to renew by January 31st. All members who renew by January 31st will have their names placed in a drawing for Awesome OSWA products. In February, four names will be drawn to receive a free Awesome OSWA product of their choice. Some can be viewed on the OSWA website, www.oswa.org.

In the past five years, about 92% of OSWA's members renew their membership each year. OSWA adds new members each year which has resulted in membership growth since 2014. Membership growth was 4% in 2013 and 2014, but 1% in 2015, 2016 and 2017. OSWA ended our 2016/2017 fiscal year with 1565 primary memberships. The OSWA Membership Committee has set a 4% growth target for 2018 in the OSWA 2018 Work Plan. This is the same growth rate we experienced in 2013 and 2014. The work plan was approved by the board on September 29th.

Every OSWA member plays an important role in OSWA's success. Together, OSWA will continue to provide the services members expect. Please renew your 2018 OSWA membership by January 31, 2018.
OSWA President’s Message

Rick Barnes

It is the time of year to begin thinking about renewing your OSWA membership. Our members are the conduit of our organization. Without your membership, OSWA will cease to exist. For the minimal dues we pay, we get a mighty bang for our buck.

OSWA is incredibly important to all of us as small woodland owners. This past legislative session was one of the best examples possible of the value of our organization to our members. There were a number of bills where any one of them alone had the potential of having devastating impacts on our ability to practice forestry. There are people who are putting tremendous efforts and a lot of money into trying to end forest land management. They are clever in their endeavors and are very well funded. Your OSWA leadership, under the guidance of Jim James and Roger Beyer, were able to ward off much of the threat. This was accomplished with the help of a number of our members showing up at hearings in Salem, filling not only the hearing rooms, but also overflow rooms. That sent a strong message and made a difference. Member participation is one of the greatest strengths of OSWA.

Another great benefit of OSWA are the educational opportunities. The tours, workshops and meetings OSWA and our local chapters offer are invaluable to our members. Our members are passionate about what they do and are always willing to share their knowledge. There are often several ways to accomplish a task and I know I seldom attend a Small Woodlands event without taking something home in my pocket.

With numbers, we have strength and power. During the downturn of the economy in 2007 – 2010, we lost quite a few members. That, along with our aging membership, folks moving or selling their timberlands among other reasons, our membership is down. We have been working on increasing our membership and have made slow progress. I encourage you to not only renew your membership but help recruit new members. If you have a neighbor, friend or relative that would benefit from OSWA, let them know of the many benefits of joining. With an increase in numbers, it is also a way to keep our dues as reasonable as they are.

I encourage you to join me and renew your membership early. Watch for your renewal information to arrive in your mailboxes early November. Maintaining each and every one of you as members, participants and supporters of OSWA assures our organization stays healthy and able to work on your behalf.
Tree Farm Chair’s Message  
Scott Hayes

In this issue you’ll read about our 2017 Oregon Tree Farm System annual meeting on October 21st. I think the 145 attendees had a great time. A special thanks to Julie Woodward for organizing the meeting setup and the family-focused events at the Oregon Gardens’ Discovery Forest – a successful event in spite of some interesting fall weather! Also accolades to Tammie Cushing and Lauren Grand for leading an inspector’s workshop, and to Linda Butts for helping on luncheon logistics.

In this edition of the Family News, you will find an article on our 9 county tree farmers of the year and the 2017 Outstanding Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year – the Cafferata family from Lane County. Congratulations to all for their hard work and amazing dedication their forests.

This year marked our second voluntary fund drive. The Tree Farm board thanks the 85 members who so far have donated over $7,500 to the Oregon Tree Farm system. I’m also very pleased to announce that our “grandfathered” landowners collectively have pledged $22,000 each year. Together, these funds are critical to help us meet our mission of improving the quality of services provided by Oregon’s Tree Farm volunteers to you, increasing our help to un-engaged landowners, and maintaining the certification status of the Oregon Tree Farm System.

Who are the ten Grandfathered landowners? Many have been in the tree farm system for over 40 years and each own more than 10,000 acres. Their lands, like yours, are managed under the new ATFS certification standards. These members include Cascade Timber Consulting, Starker Forests, Giustina Resources, Giustina Land and Timber, Miami Corporation, Hood River County, Evenson, Frank Resources, Freres Timber, and Avery. Thank you for supporting the Oregon Tree Farm System.

At the board meeting following the annual meeting, Rex Storm was elected Chair of the Oregon Tree Farm System. Rex and his wife Kathy have a tree farm in Columbia County. His leadership and vision, plus his connection to Oregon’s logging businesses through Associated Oregon Loggers, will help guide the board to new heights during the next two years.

The board also elected Mike Cafferata to the board. He volunteered to serve as Secretary, replacing Anne Hanschu. The 2017 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year, Steve and Wylda Cafferata (yep, Mike’s parents), are now board members for two years. Reelected to the board were Michael Atkinson, Lauren Grand, Jamie Knight and Steve Vaught. Congratulations to all!

All board members and inspectors are volunteers. I hope you consider becoming a volunteer. Your involvement will make the Oregon Tree Farm System even better.

Oregon Tree Farm System • www.otfs.org
187 High St. NE, Suite 208 • Salem, OR 97301 • 503-362-0242
OSWA’s 2016-2017 Fiscal Year ended October 31st. We had a successful 2016/2017 Fiscal Year and have a positive outlook for 2017/2018. Positive, but not without challenges.

We had great success in the 2017 Legislative Session by stopping some really bad legislation and getting most of the funding we wanted for Oregon Department of Forestry and OSU Extension. The short 2018 Legislative Session has the potential to be equally challenging. See OSWA’s board approved 2018 Legislative Priorities on page 9.

Efforts to restrict some operations on forestland have already raised their ugly heads. The Lincoln County initiative petition to ban the use of aerial applications of herbicides on forestland passed by 61 votes. We are confident it will be overturned in the courts because it violates the state’s preemption laws that preclude counties from overriding state laws, but Lane County may have a similar initiative petition voted on in the May election and it appears this process may continue.

OSWA will conduct several Neighbor to Neighbor woods tours and hold our 58th Annual Meeting in Lane County, home of the 2017 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year, Steve and Wylda Cafferata. Our partnerships with OSU Extension, Oregon Forest Resource Institute (OFRI), Oregon Tree Farm System, Oregon Department of Forestry, and industrial forestland owners is strong and will create continued opportunities for success in 2018. Our greatest strength, however, is the talent and expertise within our membership base and willingness of members to get involved, which puts OSWA in a position to be ready for whatever challenges lie ahead. We are poised for whatever comes our way.

The Board of Forestry will be addressing riparian protections in the Siskiyou Region and Eastern Oregon as well as Marbled Murrelet protections in 2018. The Oregon Department of Forestry is taking a reasonable and collaborative approach to addressing these issues, but all three issues will require OSWA’s undivided attention to make sure responses to these issues are reasonable and based on scientific information. With the terrible and smokey 2017 fire season in everyone’s memory, there should be great opportunities to address landowner concerns with current overly restrictive prescribed fire smoke management rules and also address the Forest Service’s let it burn strategy’s impact to neighboring private owners.

Final 2015/2016, 2016/2017 Approved & Final and 2017/2018 Approved Budget

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By Jim James
Smoke in the Air

By Tom Fields, Fire Prevention Coordinator, Oregon Department of Forestry

Many of us are still clearing our lungs from the smoke that blanketed the state from the 2017 fire season. Air quality from the more than 1,900 fires was considered the worst on record in the state over the last 50 years. Close to 680,000 acres burned in Oregon in 2017, which is well above the average of 494,000 acres. Lands protected by the Oregon Department of Forestry made up around 42,000 acres of the total, about 7,000 acres above average.

Of note in 2017 were the numerous lightning-caused fires scattered along the Cascades from the California to Washington borders. Chetco Bar, High Cascades, Umpqua North, Miller, Whitewater, Jones and Milli were fires and complexes that started in July and August and burned throughout most of the summer. The highly publicized human-caused Eagle Creek Fire east of Portland started August 30th and burned 48,831 acres. ODF participated in unified command with local, state and federal partners on most of these fires in an effort to reduce impacts to private and BLM lands under the agency’s charge. Two significant fires directly under ODF’s protection were the Flounce (587 acres) and Horse Prairie fires (16,334 acres). Horse Prairie was also human-caused and remains under investigation.

On behalf of the Oregon Department of Forestry, I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to all of you that may have lent a hand over the course of the season. Time and time again this summer, forest workers and private landowners answered the call, especially when available firefighting resources were bare to none.

As the smoke clears and we head into fall, please keep fire prevention front and center. The risk of fire can persist well into the winter depending on the amount of moisture we receive, as well as east wind events. Even on cold days, low humidity and wind can take a slash burn or warming fire and push it beyond expectations. If your winter plans call for burning, be sure and follow protocols for a safe and effective burn. Work with your local ODF stewardship forester during the notification, planning and reporting process.

As a small woodland owner, you can start the new year by doing your part to prepare for the 2018 fire season. Winter weather typically brings down trees and blocks roads. Two important mitigation steps you can take are keeping roads open and clear for firefighting access, and actively managing your forestland in a manner that promotes low intensity fires when they occur.

Finally, when it comes to protecting your home in your natural setting, 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 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 Keep Oregon Green.

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Member Associated Oregon Loggers Professional Logging Program
After the Fire

Post Wildfire Landowner Assistance: Every Acre Adds Value

Overview

The Oregon Department of Forestry works aggressively to contain and stop wildfires. After a fire, ODF helps landowners with reforestation expertise and connecting them with the right people.

During the fire

Be safe, stay informed. During large wildfires, typically, the firefighting team sets up a fire camp. The team’s information officer will regularly provide updated information. This may include public, media, and individual meetings. Law enforcement may also designate an information contact person or place.

The fire is over when it is contained and the firefighters leave. Active wildfire information can be found at http://tinyurl.com/ODFfireblog.

After the fire

Contact the local ODF stewardship forester. Use the Find a Forester tool. These foresters can help you find the resources and answers about what to do after a wildfire impacts your land.

Stewardship foresters are professional foresters who provide technical help and management guidance to forest landowners. They can help you develop a restoration plan to achieve your goals.

After a wildfire, most landowners ask about restoring their land. Here are steps to help do this:

Assess damage. Smaller fires, burning only brush and small trees, may not require restoration. More intense fires that consume larger trees and most vegetation, and damage soil may require restoring soil, grass, and trees.

Create a landowner restoration plan. Determine short-term and long-term goals for restoring your property and make plans to achieve them. Stewardship foresters can help with your plan by providing information about:

- Salvage harvesting and clean-up
- Timber production
- Grazing land
- Stream health
- Soil productivity
- Fish and wildlife habitat

Execute your plan. Action right after a fire can help you better achieve your goals. For example, quickly establishing desired grasses and trees will help prevent unwanted weeds and brush. To successfully implement your plan, you may want to continue consulting with and utilizing the stewardship forester’s expertise.
After the Fire

Landowner Help

Resources
- Oregon Department of Forestry local offices
- Find an ODF Stewardship Forester
- Oregon Department of Agriculture

Salvage and restoration
- Logging
  - ODF local office
  - FAQS — Frequently Asked Questions
- Tree Planting
  - ODF local office
  - Seedlings & Reforestation
  - OSU Extension

Financial Assistance
- FSA Emergency Forest Restoration Program
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts (ODA - SWCD)
- Oregon Watershed Councils
- USDA and Natural Resource Conservation Services

Technical Assistance
- Education/Reference
  - Oregon Department of Forestry
  - Oregon State University (OSU) Extension Service
- Grass seed & Rebuilding Fences
  - Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODF&W)
  - Farm Service Agency (FSA)
  - NRCS
  - ODA - SWCD
- Mechanical barriers
  - ODF local office
  - NRCS
  - Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
- Forage and Financial assistance
  - ODF&W

Wildlife
- Snags and downed logs
  - ODF local office
  - ODF&W

(503) 945-7200
(503) 986-0178
(503) 947-6000
(503) 808-2468
(503) 737-2713
(503) 692-6830
(503) 414-3200
Help Us Help You

By Nancy Hathaway, Chair of OSWA Membership Committee

In early November, you will receive your 2018 invoice for membership in the Oregon Small Woodlands Association (OSWA). Although 2018 dues are not payable until January 2018, many members have asked to be invoiced in 2017 so they can pay and deduct their OSWA membership dues as a business expense in 2017. As you know, about 90% of your OSWA membership dues could be deducted as a business expense. You are advised to check with your accountant. Members have also asked not to be invoiced in traditional December when the holiday season and year end activities can lead to temporarily forgetting to pay one’s dues on time. Please renew your membership before the deadline of January 31st.

Every year OSWA represents all woodland owners at Oregon’s legislature. Because we are primarily family owners we are often sympathetically listened to by legislators and we have the real ability to influence outcomes. We also represent you at meetings with the Board of Forestry, Oregon Department of Forestry, Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Department of Revenue, Oregon State University Extension Service, Oregon Forest Resource Institute, Oregon Forest & Industries Council, US Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation System, and other agencies or organizations that are engaged on issues important to family forest owners.

Collectively, OSWA spends about $140,000 each year on salaries for an Executive Director, our lobbyist who represents us in Salem, and the bookkeeping support to keep the organization functioning properly. No one could afford to do this on their own, but collectively, we can afford to receive all the personal benefits OSWA provides. Your membership dues are an investment. Other than these three paid individuals, all organizing of tours, meetings, and testifying in Salem is done by our member volunteers. Volunteers and the membership are the strength of the organization. Everyone is needed to continue to be successful. Collectively we can succeed, but we need everyone to renew their membership and play an important role in our success.

At the state level, here’s what OSWA accomplished in 2017 with our organizational structure, with active volunteers and with our natural resource allies:

• Stopped a bill that would have sunset all the special tax assessments family forest owners enjoy. Some members determined this would have increased their property taxes by 200 to 400%
• Stopped a bill in the 2017 legislature that would have increased harvest taxes to $10/thousand board feet to pay for the general fund’s portion of fire protection and make other payments to unrelated activities
• Stopped a bill in the 2017 legislature that would have greatly reduced a forest landowner’s ability to control unwanted vegetation with herbicides
• Stopped a bill in the 2017 legislature that would have converted Oregon Forest Practice laws into a California like permit system which would have resulted in greater restrictions and expense in operating on forestland
• Held a Day at the Capitol for members along with Society of American Foresters and Associated Oregon Loggers to meet legislators and voice our opinions
• Secured additional funding for Oregon Department of Forestry’s Fire and Private Forest Division budgets for programs important to OSWA that were missing from the governor’s budget
• Secured additional funding for the statewide budgets that fund OSU Extension programs important to OSWA that were missing from the governor’s budget
• Participated in the Board of Forestry’s activities related to new westside riparian protections, evaluation of riparian protections in the Siskiyou Region & Eastern Oregon, finalizing modified bald eagle protections, evaluation of Marbled Murrelet protections, and smoke management review
• Participated in the SW Oregon Sudden Oak Death Task Force

At the state level, OSWA also:
• Published quarterly newsletters and the quarterly Northwest Woodlands magazine
• Held an informative Annual Meeting with Awards Banquet
• Sponsored four Neighbor to Neighbor woods tours
• Was available to assist members on a variety of issues and questions
• Collaborated with partners Oregon Tree Farm System, OSU Forest Extension, Oregon Forest Resource Institute, Oregon Forest & Industries Council, and Department of Forestry on many issues important to family forest owners
At the chapter level. OSWA also:

- Collaborated with OSU Extension and others for programs of interest to members
- Held Chapter Annual Meetings
- Held wood tours, picnics, and chapter get togethers
- Represented the chapter on all state level objectives and actions

Strange as it may seem to us, every day some group is planning a way to reduce your effectiveness in the woods.

And in Oregon that could mean an initiative petition that could disrupt our ability to manage our forests that would be voted on by the uninformed general public.

Consider your potential business expense deductible membership dues as an investment in continuing to be able to manage your timberland. Help us help you control your future. Please renew your 2018 OSWA membership. Strength lies in numbers. To be effective we must continue to ban together to make a difference. Invite your friends and neighbors to join as well.

2017 “Sharpening Our Edge” Honor Roll Totaling $9,843 in Donations

Michael Anderson
Bill Arsenault
Michael Atkinson
Rick & Audrey Barnes
Bud Baumgartner
Richard Beers
Tempe Berggren
Patricia Bersch
Gary & Mary Betts
Roger Beyer
Charles Bickford
Doug Bingham
Paul Blunck
Dallas Boge
Jim (L.J.) Brady
Willie Bronson
Alice & Peter Bregman
Gary Bush
Steve & Wylda Cafferata
Richard Caldwell
Donald Cameron
Ken Canon
Flynn Case
Mary Castle
Dennis Chapman
Mitchel Clarke
Linda Crew
Gordon Culbertson
Dale Cuyler
Van Decker
Macey Dennis
Ron Dilley
Patricia Dinsmore
John Dugan III
Catherine Dunlap
Robert Edgerton
David Ehlers
Karl Entenmann
Dan Fennell
Richard Fennell
Greg Fox
Rob Freres
Robert Furer
Duane Grant
Nancy Grayson
Timothy Gurton
Norman Hall
Scott Hanson
Steve Harrel
Sean & Shari Hathaway
Nancy Hathaway
Scott Hayes
Dave Heida
Kent Hempel
Tom Hewes
James Hildreth
David Hill
Sanford Hillman
Arnie Holland
Linda Hooks
John Kartye
Diane Kelso
Clyde Kersting
Andrew Kittel
Roger Kozera
Gregory Lancaster
Tom Lancefield
Ron Larson
Sara Leiman
William Lenon
Donald Loeffler
John Macconochie
Bob Mahaffy
Dan Mast
Rod Mathews
Cecil McKay Jr.
Claude McLean
Maynard Meadows
James Merzenich
David Messerle
Jan Irene Miller
Annabelle Morgan
Dennis Morgan
Frank Morris
Margaret Mulolland
Tom Newton
Dan & Katherine
Jeremy Norby
Tom Nygren
William Ocumpaugh
Joann P. Overton
Greg Palmer
Judson Parsons
Mike Payne
Kenneth Payne
Steven Peterkort
Wayne Phillips
John & Marianne Peirce
John Potter
Bill Potterf
Donna Rae
Rick & Carol Reece
Richard Rohl
Mark Rohrbacher
John Rosebrook
Dave Schmidt
Deon Schroeder
Bill Seifer
John Seiser
William Sheppard
Robert & Shumaker
Sen Speroff
Anthony Spiering
Robert Stewart
Roy Stutzman
Summerhill Ranch Ltd
Darci & Charlie Swindells
Alan Thayer
Janice Thompson
Margaret Tilbury
Peter Tryon
George Vickery
Ilene Waldorf
Steve Walker
Alan Whitney
Mark Monser
John Wood
Bill & Hazel Wottlin
Shirley Wright
Robert Young
OSWA Board Meets and Approves 2018 Work Plan

By Jim James

On September 29th, the OSWA Board met and approved the 2018 Work Plan, 2017/2018 Budget (OSWA’s fiscal year is November 1st through October 31st), 2018 Calendar of Events, and 2018 Legislative Priorities. These approved items can be found in the Members Only section of the OSWA website.

The board also approved a recommendation to modify the OSWA Bylaws to allow officer elections to be determined by a membership vote during the OSWA Annual Meeting, instead of a vote by mail election added to the Bylaws several years ago. The change will be presented to the members for a vote during the Members Meeting at the 2018 OSWA Annual Meeting. It will allow members present at the annual meeting to elect officers as in the original OSWA Bylaws. This change will save OSWA over $1000 per year, the cost of including election ballots and envelopes in the newsletter. Typically, about 70 members return the ballots each year. Most officer races are uncontested. If the new Bylaws are approved, contested races will be determined by a secret ballot process. Non-contested races will be determined by a show of hands at the Annual Meeting. The OSWA Board will approve the final Bylaws language at its March 23, 2018 Board meeting.

OSWA Website Update

By Jim James

OSWA Chapters now have an easy process and ability to get their chapter information on the OSWA website. Webmaster Liz Gale has set up an easy way for the chapter’s website gatekeeper to send her information for a quick addition to the chapter portion of the website. It is explained on the website. Each chapter needs to identify an individual who will be responsible for changing website information and the rest just requires keeping the information current.

The OSWA website can be a great tool for informing others about OSWA and encouraging family forest owners to join our great organization. A chapter’s role is to keep their information current and informative. For additional information contact Jim James jimjamesoswa@yahoo.com.
THE FOCUS FOR 2018 WILL BE:

- Revive the $500,000 omitted in the state 2017/2019 budget for Eastside fire tax relief and getting adequate Sudden Oak Death (SOD) state funding
- Secure adequate general fund for additional large fire costs incurred by the Oregon Department of Forestry
- Support, when consistent with OSWA Policies, legislation proposed by OSWA’s Natural Resource partners
- Monitor all proposed legislation with potential to impact small woodland owners in Oregon

KEY OSWA LEGISLATION PRIORITIES

SUPPORT:

1. Support both new and continuing funding for Oregon Department of Forestry programs which are consistent with OSWA priorities.
2. Support funding for Oregon State University forestry extension services.
3. Support legislation proposed by Oregon Forest & Industries Council (OFIC) and other allies which are consistent with OSWA policies.
4. Support issues related to the use of wood products.

MONITOR:

1. Monitor all water issues.
2. Monitor Oregon Department of Revenue forest land taxation proposals.
3. Monitor all tax legislation affecting small woodland owners.
4. Monitor Oregon Department of Forestry proposals.
5. Monitor land use issues impacting all types of resource lands.
7. Monitor fire chief’s legislation dealing with fire district boundaries.
8. Monitor linking inheritance tax in Oregon with federal law.
9. Monitor catastrophic fire reforestation assistance proposals.
10. Monitor all pesticide legislation.
11. Monitor all legislation seeking reimbursement from ODF to other state agencies or local governments.

ACTIONS ITEMS:

1. Continue working with OFIC, AOL, OTFS, and other Natural Resource partners to assure private forest landowner representation on the Board of Forestry.
2. Continue working with ODF and other interest groups on forest fire funding issues and smoke management.
Neighbor to Neighbor - Why We Belong
By Tami Braz

As you approach the end of Wildcat Rd. in Camas Valley, the cozy log cabin of Marion and Pat Rentz and the entrance to their 264.9 acre Wildcat Creek Ranch Tree Farm spreads before you. Around their home, ornamental and natural plants mingle with a lifetime collection of furnishings, flowers, rocks, birdhouses and decorations. Prominently displayed by Marion and Pat’s front door is their 50-year American Tree Farm System sign awarded to them in 2011 and a new Certified Tree Farm sign given to them in 2017. By their gate hangs an older, rusty Tree Farm sign and a Douglas Small Woodlands Association member sign.

Marion and Pat bought their land in 1957. Marion was familiar with the area and knew it was excellent tree growing ground. He was raised in Drain and worked summers for the Coos Forest Protection Association. Pat, who was raised in the Hubbard Creek area, said “It was a job where a husband and wife could raise a family and work together at home.” Marion said Pat wasn’t sure about life so remote at first but the trees “grew” on her - pun intended! They began selling naturally seeded White, Grand and Douglas-fir Christmas trees from the previously logged land. The first year, and for over 30 years after, they thinned, spaced, sheared and sold Christmas trees. The tree thinning projects over the years, including the conversion of about 75 acres of Christmas trees, have now become a thriving free-to-grow forest.

For 60 years the Rentz family has lived on the sustainable, natural regeneration of their forest without ever needing to plant a tree! One time they did plant supposedly fast-growing Scotch pine, but they died. Marion says they “are living a rich life, taking what the forest offers to harvest.” Their mission statement for Wildcat Creek Ranch is to “enjoy the many benefits of our land using best available management practices.”

Marion continued to work on call 24/7 for both Coos Forest Protection Association (CFPA) and Douglas Forest Protection Association (DFPA) per diem, as fire warden and working to staff Signal Tree and Dutchman lookouts. He could be on-duty and do chores about their property. He drove the fire truck everywhere. Pat also worked summer look-out.

Marion was on the steering committee during the formation of the Douglas Small Woodlands Association (DSWA) in 1976 and has been a member for 41 years. He was honored with the first “Tree Farmer of the Year” award in 1977. There was a 20th commemorative tour of the Rentz tree farm with DSWA in 1997. The Rentz’s have been tireless supporters of DSWA, serving on the board, participating in tree farm tours, workshops and the annual dinners. Marion and Pat feel the main benefit of belonging to DSWA is...
meeting other land owners and OSWA keeping pressure on the legislature on behalf of small woodland and family forestland owners. They love the tours on other members’ land. “Everybody does something different and you learn what works, even if you think he’s doing it wrong,” laughs Marion. He said he has learned from every tour and he and Pat have made lasting friendships with other DSWA members along the way.

In case all this wasn’t enough, in 2004 Marion and Pat purchased an additional 80 acres on Thunder Mountain in the Glide area. The land had been logged and replanted but had little to no brush control. For eight years they worked on vegetation management and thinning to get the remaining trees released to grow. Marion and Pat have a succession plan and Marion is passing his legacy on to their son and grandsons, teaching them how to work in the forest, run chain saws, set chokers and how to log with a CAT. Smiling, Pat said she has set a few chokers herself! Their grandsons bale clover and rye hay. They have also built a family campsite by the creek for recreation.

Currently they are clearing roadsides that are becoming overgrown and salvaging stressed trees with an eye on gaining access to other areas for thinning. Their management goal is to log about 100,000 bf a year in a constant thinning rotation.

Marion lives by the golden rule, “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” He also said to “Live every day like it’s your last”. Going into to their woods gives Marion life and promise as he looks at his life’s work, for the next project, things un-done and the renewal of the forest. It makes him feel like he’ll live forever. His legacy of Wildcat Creek Ranch will to all who are lucky enough to know him. Marion and Pat’s love for each other and the land is obvious. They have been married 64 years, the trees have had 50 years in the ground - a very good life. Marion said “If a guy knew it’s going be his last day, he’d want to go out and plant a tree. In 10 years no one may remember him, but his tree farm will live on.”

Marion passed away a couple of months after Tami Braz interviewed him and Pat for the Douglas Small Woodlands Association’s newsletter. Marion’s smile, sense of humor and willingness to share his wisdom and thoughts will be missed.

Past President of Washington County Chapter, Jim Brown Passes

Jim Brown, past president of Washington Small Woodlands Association passed away on August 3rd suddenly and peacefully of cardiac arrest. He was 75 years old. Jim was an active and engaged small woodland owner who spent much of his time working on his property south of Gaston. He was sensitive to the economic and ecological values on his land and worked hard to be a good steward.

The following paragraph from his obituary sums up the Jim we knew.

“His many interests included cars, music and home décor from the 1930’s and ‘40’s. He was supremely economical, using whatever he owned until there was no use left in it. He had a knack for tackling impossible projects and making them work out well. His zany sense of humor caught the attention of students in the classroom and intrigued his children and grandchildren. He lived his life with zeal, never raised his voice, but always made his point, took care of responsibilities, had a strong sense of right and wrong and more interests and projects than a lifetime could hold.” (Crown Memorial Center)
Riparian Workshop at World Forestry Center

By Greg Peterson, Benton County member & Professional Engineer

The Society of American Foresters (SAF) coordinated a riparian workshop on August 10th at the World Forestry Center in Portland focusing on what science tells forest managers about recommended riparian protections. Speakers demonstrated how riparian protection policies often do not follow known science and many policies overly restrict harvest near forest streams with unintended consequences. The workshop messages were for policy makers in the Pacific Northwest. There were many state and federal legislators or their aids in the audience along with many professional foresters.

Twelve renowned experts discussed riparian management issues in western forests. Concern about the impact of timber harvest on Northwest water resources and fish goes back 60+ years and has been the focus of numerous studies since. These studies link physical effects of harvests, road construction, and herbicide application with biological, sediment, and water quality responses, creating a solid scientific basis for understanding how riparian protections affect aquatic ecosystems and streams.

The first paired watershed research study, on Oregon’s Alsea River in the 1950’s, showed that negative impacts to water temperature, suspended sediment, and dissolved oxygen could be minimized by retaining a riparian buffer around fish-bearing streams, improving road construction methods, and reducing fresh slash in streams. Ongoing research on the effectiveness of alternative forest management practices, have outpaced the evolution of Northwest riparian policies, exposing an urgent need for new RMA (riparian management area) paradigms and policies. Not all riparian restrictions are warranted.

Western federal forests and federal O&C lands have seen a ten-fold harvest reduction from their 1989 peak, financially devastating rural communities. Such a hands-off approach also increases forest fuel loads, leading to far more federal forest wildfires. On federal forests, no-touch policies in RMAs also result in high fuel accumulations, causing these RMAs to be far more fire prone than well-managed adjacent forests. No-touch RMAs pose extreme fire risks and they have been shown to act as fire corridors, rapidly spreading wildfire between watersheds. In several documented cases, no-touch RMAs burnt with 100% mortality, while adjoining managed forests were untouched by wildfire.

Studies show riparian buffers on the north side of streams do not need to be more than 20 ft wide (for prevention of stream bank erosion), although California and Washington still call for wide buffer widths on both sides of streams. Oregon forests have about 1-2% of forestland in Riparian Management Areas (RMAs), while California and Washington have restrictions resulting in 11-13% of a forest in RMAs, significantly impacting harvest methods/costs, economies-of-scale, roads/landings, and overall forestry return on investment (ROI). California and Washington have seen about a 50% reduction in private forestland, due to development and marijuana/vineyard conversion, as landowners see opportunities for less regulatory restriction and improved ROI. Oregon forestland reduction rate is less, due to stronger land use laws, but the incentives still exist. Forest conversion rates across the west are increasing, as many small woodland owners reach 70 years of age.

Federal legislation and oversight

All states are subject to 3 major federal laws affection riparian management;

- The 1972 Clean Water Act (CWA), which requires states to develop point and non-point source pollution control programs, like the forest practices acts
- The 1972 Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), providing funds to states with approved plans to preserve, protect, develop, and where possible, restore or enhance coastal zones
- The 1973 Endangered Species Act (ESA), which identifies species or subpopulations needing additional protection to avoid a “take” of that species.

These 45 year old laws were intended to broadly improve then gross environmental challenges of their time, such as rivers catching fire, untreated wastewater discharge, and the like. They did not recognize that ecosystems vary widely and that they often have many site-specific characteristics, that defy generalization. They also couldn’t anticipate today’s issues and scientific developments, which has led to inflexible “command and control” administration of these laws, and too many environmental issues decided by the courts rather than by science. Unintended consequences are rampant and these 3 laws need to be updated.

EPA provides funds to states and oversees state handling of 5 riparian issues; 1) water quality standards, 2) development of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for streams listed as impaired, 3) assessment of Oregon Forest Practices Act
OSWA News

(FPA) rules under the Coast Zone Management Act (CZMA), 4) ongoing listings and assessment of riparian species under the ESA, and 5) any new regulations designed to clarify the extent of “Waters of the U.S.”

**Anti-degradation standards for water quality** – EPA guides, funds, and ultimately approves state water quality standards, with one component being anti-degradation, designed to protect high-quality water that would otherwise meet biological-based numeric criteria. Oregon’s PCW (Protecting Cold Water) standard is such a case. A standard of 0.3°C (said to represent temperature probe accuracy) was arbitrarily selected to represent the maximum allowable man-caused temperature change at any point at any time. The PCW erroneously presumes that any temperature change will persist downstream and ignores significant natural variability, caused by groundwater inflow, confounding factors, and weather, which cause stream temperatures to naturally vary several degrees over a short time. Separating a man-made temperature effect from natural variability is a challenge, and poorly conducted studies too often default in this effort and label all temperature change as man-caused. Well-designed studies are designed to adequately address natural variability by using digital probes and data loggers to collect water and weather data for at least 2 years pre-harvest and 5+ years post-harvest, and also measure flow at least 4 times/summer. Practical considerations limit most studies to an accuracy of + 0.7 to 1°C, and achieving a +0.3°C PCW accuracy remains elusive, since it requires synchronized study of a large number (>244) of streams, rigorous field protocol, and a very large budget.

Oregon’s Forest Practices Act’s (FPA) recent revision to increase riparian buffer width was based on Oregon Department of Forestry’s (ODF’s) RipStream study of 18 isolated private harvests near headwater stream reaches, but had significant scientific limitations and poor accuracy. Riparian policy change should be based on a synthesis of multiple well-executed studies, with good accuracy and more comprehensive assessments, such as are available from long-term watershed studies, like Oregon’s Hinkle Creek, Alsea River, and Trask River, as well as Idaho’s Mica Creek. These long-term watershed studies looked at the effect of a harvest in a small watershed, as well as a similar watershed without a harvest, with both located within a larger watershed. Such nested, paired watersheds, enable direct comparison between paired watersheds, both before and after harvest, which is termed a before-after/control-impact (BACI) design. These long-term, nested paired BACI watershed studies show that:

1) following a harvest, stream flows often increase, and temperatures decrease in about one third of the streams, stay about the same in a third, and increase in about a third
2) harvest-related temperature increases usually last for about one hour/day, for 1-2 weeks, and return to pre-harvest levels about 1000 ft downstream, with such peaks becoming unmeasurable after several years.
3) any temperature impact is local and temporary, with no measurable change at the watershed exit
4) headwater fish production is often light limited, so small increases in sunlight increase fish density and biomass, as likely caused by increased primary production and warmer early season water temperature.

These studies indicate current riparian and upland management practices do not negatively impact the ecosystems of working forest streams, and in fact, fish are shown to benefit from increased sunlight in actively managed riparian buffers and forests.

Forest researchers recognize that this cycle of minor disturbance and rapid recovery needs to be factored into RMA rules and forest water quality standards and suggest several changes;

a) revise state RMA policies so small, brief, and infrequent exceedances of water temperature or other water quality standard don’t trigger an impaired water classification
b) any harvest impact should be characterized as a non-point source, rather than the PCW’s current characterization as a point source
c) regulatory compliance should be monitored 1000 ft downstream of a harvest, rather than at the downstream edge
d) incentivize RMA thinning and fuel reduction, which requires reasonable equipment access and invasive species control. This will also improve fish productivity in light limited areas

**TMDL Assessments** – The CWA states the need to develop TMDL (total maximum daily load) pollution assessments for water bodies identified as water quality impaired and not protective of beneficial uses, such as fish or drinking water. TMDLs are designed to calculate the pollution loads from point (i.e.pipe) and non-point (forestry/agriculture activities) sources and determine what reductions are necessary to protect beneficial uses. Based on TMDL calculations and models, additional regulations, beyond the FPA, may be recommended in certain watersheds.

continued on page 16
Coastal Zone Management Act – States receive EPA funds to develop CZMA pollution control plans. EPA Region X has not fully accepted Oregon’s coastal program, with the central issue being the adequacy of Oregon FPA rules for riparian areas. EPA has compared riparian rules for Oregon, Washington, and California, suggesting that the Oregon FPA rules are less. Science has shown that riparian buffers have a well demonstrated “law of diminishing returns”, with the biggest benefit coming from the portion of riparian buffers immediately adjacent to the stream. Arguments in this matter should not be political opinions about which states have stricter riparian rules, but rather how science can effectively and efficiently be used to protect water and fisheries.

ESA listings – Ecosystems are unique and complex, often with microclimates, requiring comprehensive study of both onsite and offsite influences, to guide any manipulative course of action intended to enhance conditions for threatened or endangered species. The regulatory focus too often defaults to limiting forest management/harvests and is just beginning to realize the effect of invasive and/or competing species, such as;

- barred owls to spotted owl recovery
- California Seal Lions & cormorants to salmon/steelhead/sturgeon recovery
- invasive fish species (Walleye, hatchery fish, etc) to salmon/steelhead recovery
- jays/ravens to marbled murrelet enhancement

Controlling competing species is a necessary tool to enhance the chances for an ESA recovery.

Invasive plant/tree species, such as juniper, medusa head grass, scotch broom, Himalayan blackberry, Japanese honeysuckle, and others increasingly impact ecosystems across the west, affecting the viability of land stewardship and often throw a wrench into ESA recovery plans. The spread of noxious/invasive species has dramatically changed native ecosystems and no-touch RMA policies give these species an ideal toe-hold, by providing a perpetual seed source. Without controlling noxious/invasive species, a natural ecosystem can’t return, and ESA species recovery will be very challenging.

A clear message from the speakers at the workshop is that federal laws to protect the environment are often not based on science and as new science evolves in conflict with their policies, there is a reluctance to change. Over hauls in these federal laws are needed to avoid unintended consequences. List of speakers with power points can be found on the SAF website.

Dan Upton, Yamhill Cty. 2017 Outstanding Volunteer of the Year

By Jim James

OSWA Chapters now have an easy process and ability to get their chapter information on the OSWA website. Webmaster Liz Gale has set up an easy way for the chapter’s website gatekeeper to send her information for a quick addition to the chapter portion of the website. It is explained on the website. Each chapter needs to identify an individual who will be responsible for changing website information and the rest just requires keeping the information current.

The OSWA website can be a great too (Correction) In the August Oregon Family Forest News, I inaccurately reported that Susan Wilkins was the Yamhill County 2017 Outstanding Volunteer of the Year. Dan Upton was the Yamhill County Outstanding Volunteer of the Year for 2017. Susan Watkins was the 2016 Yamhill County Outstanding Volunteer of the Year. I apologize for my blunder.

Consulting forester, Dan Upton is a long time Yamhill Small Woodlands Association board member. Dan steps up when needs arise. He has given presentations on Forestry in Scandinavia and Chile to the Yamhill County chapter. Dan helps get interesting, informative educational speakers for chapter meetings, arranges tours, and is actively engaged in the chapter’s activities. His ideas, suggestions, and hard work for the Yamhill Small Woodlands Association are greatly appreciated by his chapter and those who enjoy his activities. Congratulations Dan.

I for informing others about OSWA and encouraging family forest owners to join our great organization. A chapter’s role is to keep their information current and informative. For additional information contact Jim James jimjamesoswa@yahoo.com.
Landowner Assistance After the Fire

By Ryan Gordon, Family Forestland Coordinator Oregon Department of Forestry

The 2017 fire season once again challenged firefighters and created impacts statewide, burning about 678,000 acres across the state. Extremely successful initial attack minimized fire impacts on the 16 million acres protected by ODF—only about 42,000 acres of ODF-protected lands burned, even though half of all fires started on ODF-protected lands. Family forest landowners were most impacted by the Chetco Bar, Horse Prairie, and Eagle Creek Fires.

Assistance is available to landowners impacted by wildfire regardless of the fire’s size or origin. The type of help available depends on location and specific needs. As always, a good first step is to contact a local technical service provider you trust. This may be a Stewardship Forester from ODF, but you might also reach out to the local Forestry Extension Agent, an NRCS staff person, or a representative from a local soil and water conservation district. ODF’s Stewardship Foresters can help evaluate site conditions and connect landowners with available resources: http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/Working/Pages/FindAForester.aspx

Post-fire assistance comes through a variety of partners, including the Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and OSU Forestry and Natural Resources Extension. The FSA Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) can provide financial assistance to help landowners re-establish forests following disasters like wildfire. NRCS may also have resources to address some wildfire impacts. The availability of these programs is limited and dependent on many factors. It’s best to talk with the local Stewardship Forester or contact these agencies directly.

Even if financial assistance is not available, foresters with both ODF and OSU Extension can help landowners create a plan for restoration. Part of that plan may include salvage logging, which does require landowners to file a Notice of Operation with ODF (https://ferns.odf.oregon.gov/e-notification) and comply with the Forest Practices Act. Other considerations may include impacts to streams, wildlife habitat, soil productivity, and grazing lands. More information about post-fire restoration is available on ODF’s Website: http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/Fire/Pages/AfterAFire.aspx

Seedling availability is always a key part of the post-fire conversation. It is important to plant trees grown from seeds that are adapted to local conditions. These seedlings are rarely available following an unexpected wildfire event—they must be grown. Locating the correct seed and growing trees to the appropriate size for planting takes time. Demand for space in nurseries to grow seedlings always increases following wildfires. Landowners should not expect to get seedlings immediately and may need to wait several years. To help meet the needs of family forest landowners, ODF does have access to some seed through the Schroeder Seed Orchard and Oregon Seed Bank. ODF typically works with local partners, including OSU Extension and OSWA Chapters, to help meet seedling needs, but it can be challenging. Again, it is best to work with the local Stewardship Forester and plan ahead.


Ryan Gordon, Family Forestland Coordinator with the Oregon Department of Forestry, can be reached at 503-945-7393 or Ryan.P.Gordon@oregon.gov.

Cost-share Funds Available

By Thomas Whittington

The Oregon Department of Forestry is accepting applications for cost-share funding to develop or revise a forest management plan. Application deadline is January 31, 2018.

Funds are available to develop or revise forest management plans for qualified forestland owners. The cost-share funding can be used to reimburse the landowner up to 75 percent of their out-of-pocket costs paid to a consulting forester for work on a forest management plan. The forest management must be developed according the 2017 Oregon Forest Management Planning System Guidelines<http://outreach.oregonstate.edu/programs/forestry/planning/templates> and approved by the local stewardship forester.

To apply, the cost share application must be completed and submitted to an ODF office. Blank application forms are available at: www.oregon.gov/ODF/Documents/WorkingForests/ForestStewardshipProgramCostShareApplication.pdf.

To find the closest office to submit your application, use the find an office tool at www.oregon.gov/ODF/AboutODF/Pages/MapOffices.aspx. For more information, please email Thomas Whittington at thomas.whittington@oregon.gov.
Philomath High School students are growing trees, measuring trees, logging trees and even teaching elementary students about them. That’s thanks to Simon Babcock, the Philomath High School Forestry Program instructor, who spends a lot of his time getting students outside the classroom to provide them with practical field experiences for career and technical development.

The community of Philomath supports the high school forestry program by participating on Babcock’s advisory committee and assisting in many other ways. But sometimes forestry and natural resource programs, such as the one in Philomath, need additional funds for projects and equipment beyond what is available in school budgets. This is where the Oregon Natural Resource Education Fund has been making a difference.

The Oregon Natural Resource Education Fund (ONREF), www.onref.org, is part of the Oregon Community Foundation. It was established by the forest sector to provide grants for sustaining natural resource education programs in Oregon high schools. The fund started in 2001 and the vision has become a reality by distributing more than $80,000 to high schools across Oregon. The Oregon Society of American Foresters (SAF) has a subfund as part of ONREF. SAF members oversee the fund activities. They are able to direct funds to support statewide qualified programs with an added commitment to promoting post-secondary education in forestry.

Each spring the ONREF Board of Directors makes recommendations on the grants to fund. SAF members follow up in the high school with presentations, often at school board meetings or assemblies. In the last few years, more grant funds have been requested than ONREF has available. ONREF is working with Oregon Community Foundation on ways to make more partnerships for support to these valuable high school programs. If you or your organization has an interest in supporting the organization and making a contribution to high schools, please contact, Damien Sands, OCF, dsands@oregoncf.org.

“ONREF funds have given my program and others a lot of opportunities that wouldn’t be available to the students without this funding,” Babcock says. A Philomath High School student put together a short video to highlight the importance of forestry and ONREF funds. Check it out at www.onref.org.
Former State Legislator Joins OFRI Board

By Inka Bajandas, OFRI Public Outreach Manager

University of Oregon administrator and former state legislator Chris Edwards has been appointed to the Oregon Forest Resources Institute board of directors. Oregon State Senate President Peter Courtney and House Speaker Tina Kotek jointly appointed Edwards, who is the assistant vice president for strategic initiatives at the University of Oregon, to serve as the board’s public representative. He replaces Tillamook School District Superintendent Randy Schild, who chose not to seek reappointment after serving three years on the board.

Edwards’ role at the University of Oregon includes involvement with the creation of the new Phil and Penny Knight Campus for Accelerating Scientific Impact program. Before joining the university’s administration in 2016, he served in the Oregon State Senate for seven years, representing District 7, which covers north and west Eugene, Santa Clara and Junction City. While in the senate, Edwards chaired the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. He also served in the Oregon State House of Representatives before his appointment to the senate.

The 13-member OFRI board includes representatives of forest products producers of varying size that pay harvest taxes to support OFRI’s programs. The board also contains one member representing small woodland owners and one representing forest-sector employees. Ex officio members include the public representative and the dean of the Oregon State University College of Forestry.

About the Oregon Forest Resources Institute: The Oregon Forest Resources Institute was created by the Oregon Legislature to advance public understanding of forests, forest management and forest products, and to encourage sound forestry through landowner education. A 13-member board of directors governs OFRI. It is funded by a portion of the forest products harvest tax.
Emphasizing The Family of Family Forest Landowners
Tree Farmers Attend Workshops at Annual Meeting

By Julie Woodward

Family came first at this year’s Oregon Tree Farm System’s annual meeting, held in October at The Oregon Garden in Silverton. The theme for this year’s meeting was “Emphasizing the Family of Family Forest Landowners.” It included workshops and family activities in the Rediscovery Forest, a working demonstration forest in The Oregon Garden that’s managed by the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI).

Families were welcome to participate in a forest discovery station with hands-on learning activities led by OFRI Environmental Educator Rikki Heath and could also tour The Oregon Garden. Many people took the “track challenge” to identify the tracks of different animals they might find on their tree farm. A series of workshops aimed to connect families and their tree farms were offered in the Rediscovery Forest. Participants braved a cold and rainy morning while huddled together in the Rediscovery Forest’s Discovery Pavilion to hear from experts and tour the forest.

Brad Withrow-Robinson of the Oregon State University Forestry & Natural Resources Extension Program and Mike Cloughesy, OFRI director of forestry, provided information on a new Douglas-fir stand density management tool. Brad shared the science behind making choices on when to thin a forest and matching those to the landowner’s objectives. One goal may be to avoid harmful overcrowding later by removing excess trees early on in a stand thinning. Participants received the new Douglas-fir stand density table, which shows how stand density, tree size and competition interact. Plots were flagged in the Rediscovery Forest to demonstrate different trees per acre and density. If you’d like to learn more about this topic, OSU has some great blogs about thinning, the density management tool and managing young forest stands. Check out the “Tree Topics blog” at http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/treetopics/. Or read the blogs “preparing for thinning” in August, 2017, by Amy Grotta and the “Spacing Young Conifer Stands” in January, 2016, by Brad Withrow-Robinson.

Glenn Ahrens, OSU Forestry & Natural Resources Extension agent for Marion, Clackamas and Hood River Counties, shared his expertise on successful reforestation and establishing a new forest. Glenn emphasized ordering tree seedlings early, at least two years in advance, if possible. He shared sample stock types and stressed the importance of selecting the right species for the right site from the right seed zone. More information is available on the website for forest landowners, KnowYourForest.org, under the “learning library.”

Mike Barsotti and Bob McNitt represented the Willamette Valley Ponderosa Pine Conservation Association. They shared information on establishing and managing pine trees. The association has been an integral part of the ponderosa pine demonstration area in the Rediscovery Forest. The demo pine plantation recently was thinned using four different prescriptions. Participants learned about those prescriptions and could tour the site to see the pros and cons of each choice.
A meeting and workshop was also provided for the Oregon Tree Farm System Inspectors. Inspectors are an important part of the forest certification process. Tamara Cushing and Lauren Grand from OSU Forestry & Natural Resources Extension provided useful information on the national woodland owner survey and how to engage more woodland owners in meaningful conversations about their woods.

Oregon inspection coordinators Mike and Connie Atkinson provide the valuable service of tracking the inspections each year and coordinating with the American Forest Foundation. Mike and Connie presented Kellie Carlsen with the "Oregon Inspector of the Year" award at the banquet that immediately followed the workshops and annual membership meeting.

Thank you to all the tree farmers and organizations who participated in the workshops and attended the banquet this year. We hope tree farm families continue to make valuable connections to their tree farms.
OTFS Fund Driven Donors Have Donated $7,793

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Oregon Tree Farm System Announced 2017 Oregon Outstanding Tree Farmers: Steve and Wylda Cafferata

By Mike Barsotti

On October 21st during the Oregon Tree Farm System’s (OTFS) Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon at the Oregon Garden Resort in Silverton, OTFS announced Steve and Wylda Cafferata of Springfield as Oregon’s 2017 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year. Their work was celebrated during the Awards Luncheon, along with the other eight county nominees.

The Cafferatas own a 79-acre forest east of Springfield. Their goals for managing their forest include demonstrating responsible forestry, producing income from timber harvest, providing diverse wildlife habitat, establishing a family gathering spot, and maintaining their own mental and physical fitness. To keep their forest healthy, they strive to eliminate invasive species, restore trees in brushy areas, and thin stands to improve forest health and resilience.

The Cafferatas also value forestry education, demonstrated by their sponsorship of tours for youth groups, college students, other family forest landowners and natural resource professionals. They are leaders in several local and state level community and forestry organizations.

"On behalf of the Oregon Department of Forestry, I congratulate the Cafferatas on receiving the Tree Farmer of the Year award," said State Forester Peter Daugherty, "I also thank them for their diligent work and example of excellent forest management."

The Oregon Tree Farm System also recognized eight other family forest landowners for exceptional, sustainable forestry management. The other honorees were:

- Bob and Marianne Kahl (Clackamas County)
- Eve Lonnquist (Columbia County)
- Ken and Linda Dollinger (Klamath County)
- Mike Newton (Lincoln County)
- Ivan and Rebecca Wolthuis (Linn County)
- Dave Hibbs and Sarah Karr (Polk/Benton Counties)
- Steve and Lynn Harrel (Washington County)
- Edward and Patricia Zakocs (Yamhill County)

For 51 years, the Oregon Tree Farm System has recognized family forest landowners who provide forest benefits and products using sound forestry management.

The American Tree Farm System and its state chapters operate an internationally recognized forest certification program overseen by and for family forest landowners to promote sustainable forest management through education, recognition, and assistance.

Nine County Nominees for 2017 Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year

By Jim James

There were nine nominees for 2017 Oregon Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year. All nine were at the OTFS Awards Luncheon on October 21st to receive their recognition.

They are as follows:

**Benton/Polk County – Steve Hibbs & Sara Karr**
Steve and Sara own 87 acres of forestland in Polk County certified to the American Tree Farm System in 2017. They have owned the forestland for 20 years. Their primary objectives are to preserve the biological productivity of the property; create or maintain habitat for wildlife and diverse plant communities; produce income from periodic timber harvest; protect certain ecological features such as older oaks, madrones, maples, a wet meadow area, and a band-tailed pigeon habitat; have stands of different ages; and meet family objectives for awareness, recreation, and family involvement in the property. Steve and Sara were selected runners up for Oregon 2017 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year.

**Clackamas County – Bob & Marianne Kahl**
Bob and Marianne own 45 acres of forestland in Clackamas County certified to the American Tree Farm System in 2013. They have owned the forestland for 25 years. Their primary objectives are to maintain a forest with healthy native trees, plants, and wildlife; have creeks and wetlands that will provide appropriate drainage and habitat for native plants and animals; and provide a level of income that will allow the land to economically survive as a forest for the foreseeable future. In the last five years, they have harvested 4 acres; reforested the clearcut harvest with Douglas fir, Western redcedar, and Ponderosa pine seedlings; tubed cedar seedlings to protect them from deer browse; and controlled invasive species and grasses with herbicides and mowing.
Columbia County – Eve Lonnquist
Eve owns 129 acres of forestland in Columbia County certified to the American Tree Farm System in 2011. The family has owned the property for 100 years. Eve has owned the property for 28 years. The primary objectives are to maintain a place for family and friends to gather for fun; produce a sustainable income; enhance wildlife; maintain aesthetics; and protect soil and water resources. In the last five years, they have done pre-commercial thinning; commercial thinning; a small clearcut to remove some drought killed trees; collected firewood; done planting and replanting in areas with poor survival; worked to preserve a white oak stand; seeded skid roads with rye grass, legumes, and wild flowers; replaced two culverts; and harvested an area with root rot and planted 1/3 Western red cedar and 2/3 red alder.

Klamath County – Ken and Linda Dollinger
Ken and Linda own 32 acres of forestland in Klamath County certified to the American Tree Farm System in 2015. They have owned the forestland for 20 years. Their primary objectives are family enjoyment and recreation, wildlife enhancement, stream and riparian restoration, aspen enhancement, forest health improvement, and fuels management and fire protection. In the last five years, they have done a non-commercial thinning in overstocked Ponderosa pine, hand piling of slash, burning of slash piles, and fencing to protect riparian areas.

Lane County – Steve & Wylda Cafferata
Steve and Wylda own 79 acres of forestland in Lane County certified to the American Tree Farm System in 2010. They have owned the forestland for 8 years. Their primary objectives are to model good forest management to produce forest crops; have diversity of wildlife with an emphasis on bird habitat; operate a family owned business; have a multi-generational gathering spot; and use the property as a means to keep mentally and physically fit. In the last five years, they have done a pre-commercial and a commercial thinning; controlled hardwoods; done pruning on younger stands; controlled invasive species; maintained roads with grading, water bars and rock surfacing; done wildlife surveys with game cameras and bird observations; done growth measurements; and enhance fire protection. Steve and Wylda were selected as Oregon’s 2017 Outstanding Tree farmers of the Year.

Lincoln County – Mike and Jane Newton
Mike and Jane own 310 acres of forestland in Lincoln County certified to the American Tree Farm System in 1963. They have owned the forestland for 56 years. Their primary objectives are to show how to manage a high site forest maximizing forest growth while protecting wildlife, water quality, biodiversity, and recreational opportunities; involving the family in every aspect of managing a forest; using the forest as a place to teach management options to family and students; have a showcase for sustainable forestry; and share forestry knowledge with others. In the last five years, they have done a clearcut harvest; reforested with Douglas fir and other native tree species; controlled unwanted vegetation with herbicides; interplanted were necessary; maintained roads; and hosted countless tours to share management information.
Nine County Nominees for 2017 OTF of the Year – Continued

Linn County – Ivan & Rebecca Wolthuis
Ivan and Rebecca own 155 acres of forestland in Linn County certified to the American Tree Farm System in 2010. They have owned the forestland for 8 years. Their primary objectives are to invest in growing timber on what was predominantly agricultural land; maintain wildlife diversity on the property; create recreational opportunities for family; create work opportunities for family in maintaining a healthy forest; and develop a pond for recreation, wildlife, and fire protection. In the last five years, they have done pre-commercial forest planning, controlled invasive species; harvested hardwoods for firewood; done a small clearcut harvest; planning to replant in 2018; preformed road maintenance; and began construction on a multi-purpose pond.

Washington County – Steve & Lynn Harrel
Steve and Lynn own 17 acres of forestland in Washington County certified to the American Tree Farm System in 2004. They have owned the forestland for 40 years. Their primary objectives are to produce timber; maintain wildlife with a major game passage area; controlling invasive species; keeping a healthy forest; living on the property while maintaining an important way of life; and sharing with others the history and management knowledge on their forest. In the last five years, they have completed a commercial thinning harvest, controlled invasive species; addressed forest disease in an area with root rot; and maintained areas used by wildlife.

Yamhill County – Edward & Patricia Zakocs
Edward and Patricia own 108 acres of forestland in Yamhill County certified to the American Tree Farm System in 2001. They have owned the forestland for 21 years. Their primary objectives are to maintain timber in a working forest; maintain wildlife habitat for endangered species living on the property such as the Kinkaid’s Lupine and Fenders Blue Butterfly; maintain trails for horseback riding and walking; and maintaining a legacy forest management plan that allows for appropriate upkeep of the property as a working forest. In the past five years they have mitigated fire danger by removing brush, tree spacing, and selective thinning; controlled invasive species; planted trees in areas previously without trees; and maintaining a series of trails for horseback riding and other recreation.
Cascade Timber Consulting Receives the Hagenstein Award

By Jim James

Cascade Timber Consulting was recognized along with the Hill Family with the OTFS Hagenstein Award for 2017. Dave Furtwanger accepted the award for Cascade Timber Consulting. This award is given each year to a company or individual who has made significant contributions to promoting, supporting, and sustaining Oregon’s family owned forestlands. Cascade Timber Consulting is a strong supporter of the Oregon Tree Farm System and the Oregon Small Woodlands Association. They manage over 145,000 acres of forestland in Linn County and are a great partner to their family forest landowning neighbors.

Kellie Carlsen Receives Inspector of the Year Award

By Jim James

Kellie Carlsen was recognized as the OTFS Inspector of the Year on October 21st. It was also announced that Kellie has also been selected as the Western Regional Inspector of the Year by the American Forest Foundation. She will compete with four other regional winners for National Inspector of the Year at the American Tree Farm System National Leadership Conference in late January. Kellie is a recently retired Oregon Department of Forestry Stewardship Forester located in Lake County. She has been very active in promoting the American Tree Farm System to family forest owners in Lake and Klamath Counties.

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Richard and Anne Hanschu Honored as Outstanding Volunteers

By Scott Hayes

Anne and Richard Hanschu were honored as the Outstanding Volunteers for 2017 during the October 21st Annual Meeting at the Oregon Gardens. Actually, they were honored for 18 years of volunteer service!

They both have a long history in the Tree Farm System, with Anne’s father Barney Doneen buying their forests in 1956 and enrolling them in 1958 in the original West Coast Tree Farm Association (now ATFS). Anne took over the Tree Farm in 1991. She and Richard built their home on Parson Road on one of their timber tracts in 1994 and in 1996 they made a permanent move from Oklahoma.

Winning the Washington County Tree Farmer of the Year in 1999, they were selected the Oregon Outstanding Tree Farm in 2000, quickly advancing to Western Regional Winners. That began their eighteen years as dedicated volunteers. In 2008 they hosted the National Tree Farm Convention field tour, pulling off one of the best field trips for over 750 tree farmers and visitors from around the country.

Anne served on the Oregon Tree Farm board as treasurer, annual meeting luncheon coordinator, and as the best Secretary any board could wish for! Richard coordinated the Washington County tree farmer selection committee and, during Tree Farm Board meetings, developed into the “official coffer maker”. (The board is seeking a volunteer replacement!) When you see Anne and Richard, please congratulate them on their volunteer service to the Oregon Tree Farm System.

Anne and Richard Hanschu

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THE ACTIONS WE TAKE TODAY DETERMINE THE FUTURE OF OUR FORESTS
What We Need from Congress
By Scott Hayes, with comments from Sharon and Dean Defrees and Hans Rudolf

Every other year the American Forest Foundation sponsors a fly-in to Washington, D.C., where tree farmers lobby Congress. Most people give lobbyists a D on their report card, but when lobbyists are volunteers – and Tree Farmers – well, that’s an A+ grade! And our Senators and Representatives agree!

On October 3rd, Tree Farmers from 28 states met in the Washington Plaza Hotel for a day of training. AFF staff briefed us on the issues, we learned how to navigate the “Hill” and what to expect when meeting our Congressmen and Congresswomen, and then we planned our visits for the following day. Hill Day was a huge success! 64 Tree Farmers from across the nation visited 140 Representatives and Senators and we heard strong bipartisan support for the issues that affect Tree Farms.

So what was the “ask”, and who went from Oregon? Our delegation was Scott Hayes, Dick Courter, Hans Rudlof, Sharon and Dean Defrees, and George McKinley.

Hill day started visiting Senator Merkley, except for George who was visiting Senator Stabenow. Due to tight scheduling times we split into two groups, with Sharon, Dick and Scott visiting Representative Bonamici and her staff and Representative Blumenauer’s staff. Dean, Hans and George visited Senator Wyden’s staff then Representative Walden and Representative Schrader and their staffs, followed with a visit with Representative DeFazio’s staff.

Each visit was different, with the discussion usually focused on our tree farm stories and the importance of taxes, technical assistance, wildfire, and cost share funding.

Sharon Defrees, who along with Dean and her father-in-law Lyle were the 2016 Outstanding National Tree Farmers of the Year, noted, “Landowners bring credibility to the table when we sit down with our lawmakers and their staff. Being non-paid lobbyists with a real passion for what we do gives us a unique voice as we share our concerns.” This was Sharon’s second Hill visit.

After each visit, which usually lasted fifteen or twenty minutes, we left a professional AFF packet that outlined our asks:

- Reauthorize the 2018 Farm Bill to support rural family forest owners by maintaining funding and access to forest conservation programs like the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Conservation Stewardship Program, Conservation Reserve Program and Regional Conservation Partnership Program
• Increase Markets for Wood
• Encourage Investment in Forested Watershed Management
• Promote Landscape Scale Restoration programs to address wildfires, insects and disease, or wildlife management
• Increase Cross-Boundary Wildfire Mitigation
• Mitigate the Threat of Invasive Species
• Continue support for Forestry Outreach, Education, Research, and Inventory
• Maintain deductions for regular forest management expenses
• Maintain deductions for and amortization of reforestation expenses
• Maintain the capital gains treatment of harvested timber
• Eliminate the estate tax
• Allow forest owners to deduct true losses from disasters like wildfire
• Wildfire Disaster Funding Act of 2017
• Timber Innovation Act

Dean Defrees highlighted a critical purpose of these meetings. “In my opinion one of the most important aspects of the fly-in is developing relationships with our legislators and their staff. The week after being in Washington a staff member contacted me about a local issue needing more information. That would not have happened without previously laying the groundwork in D.C.” This was Dean’s second time on the Hill.

After a long day and lots of walking between five different House and Senate buildings, a reception was held in the Russell Senate building in the grand Kennedy Caucus Room (where historical hearings, such as Watergate, were held). We were joined by Alabama’s Representative Martha Roby who presented the 2017 National Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year award to Glenn and Scarlett Riley of Abbeville.

For Hans Rudolf, it was his first time on the Hill. “I have a few things that stood out. First, being able to meet with Oregon’s Congressional Representatives and discuss programs and bills that impact the landowners I work with – that really hit home. Knowing these folks understand how private landowners are impacted by actions made in Washington showed me these programs are important. Second, being able to walk around the downtown and National Mall area and see some of the sites was great…memories that will be with me for a long time.”

Scott learned the importance of having a good elevator speech, or in this case an airplane aisle speech. On the way home on an Alaska flight, AFF staff’s comment that most members go home weekends to meet constituents was true. Senator Wyden and Representatives DeFazio, Blumenauer and Bonamici were on board.

My face-to-face aisle speech started with, “Senator Wyden, we met with your staff yesterday and had a great visit about issues important to Oregon Tree Farmers. We’re sorry we missed you, but we did see you on the TV monitor giving a speech on the Senate floor.” He apologized about the conflict and added, “It’s a busy time, and yes, you tree farmers and forest owners are important to Oregon and to the Country. We’re doing everything possible to help you all. I appreciate you taking the time to come to D.C. and visit with my staff.”

My guess is the Senator will find time to sit down and visit with Tree Farmers in 2019.
Oregon Family Forests

Upcoming Events

November 4, 2017
Columbia County Annual Meeting

November 18, 2017
Washington County Annual Meeting

January 12, 2018
OTFS Board Meeting

January 18, 2018
Lane County Board Meeting

January 18, 2018
Jackson / Josephine Annual Meeting

January 20, 2018
Linn County Annual Meeting

January 20, 2018
Benton County Annual Meeting

January 31 – February 2, 2018
ATFS National Leadership Conference