The WOODLANDER UPDATE

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UPCOMING MEETINGS
JANUARY 2010
Jan 6 Board of Forestry
Jan 15 Executive Committee
Jan 21 OSWA Board Call
Apr 30-May 1 OSWA Annual Meeting

E NEWS
WWW.OSWA.ORG/UPDATE
for local chapter, state, and national news and events, grants, marketing tips, educational opportunities, & helpful management techniques.

OSWA NEWS

Linn County tree farmers recognized for excellence
Kevin Weeks

The purpose behind the Fun Forest Tree Farm is in its name. The managers of the Linn County tree farm have been named Oregon’s Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year for 2009. The Oregon Tree Farm System on Monday recognized Jim Cota, Robbie Melcher and Scott Melcher during a ceremony at the World Forestry Center in Portland.

Cota and the Melchers operate the 1500-acre forest near Sweet Home. The partnership acquired the land in 1999, replanting many areas previously harvested and in need of tree regeneration. The tree farm, growing a mix of mostly conifers, in addition to wood production provides recreation services such as camping, ATV trails and fishing sites.

The tree farm also places a focus on outreach and education to the central Linn County region, including working with Sweet Home High School on redeveloping a forestry program for students.

OSWA Advocates for Federal Estate Tax Reform

OSWA is one of 91 natural resource-based groups that co-signed at letter to House Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader Boehner urging Congress to act this year on estate tax reform by passing HR 3524. Without new legislation, estate taxes beginning in 2011 will return to 55% on all estates over $1 million.

HR 3524, the “Family Farm Preservation and Conservation Estate Tax Act” was introduced by Representatives Mike Thompson of California and John Salazar of Colorado, on July 31, 2009.

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Our Mission Statement
To provide opportunity to Family Woodland Owner by:

- Educating and informing the owners of forested tracts and the public regarding forestry and family forestland management issues.

- Providing a medium for the exchange of ideas about family forestland by land owners, public agencies, consultants and timber industry personnel.

- Serving as a forum to make recommendations for investigating and solving problems, and for improving forest management, harvesting, and marketing.

- Disseminating information on the establishment, growth, harvesting and marketing of forest crops produced on family forestlands, and to foster the wise use and protection of forests and encourage better forestry practices.

- Representing the owners of family forestlands to the general public and before legislative bodies and regulatory agencies.

- Complying with ORS Chapter 65 and as authorized by ORS 65.061.

President’s Message…
By Ken Faulk

The time and place for the 2010 OSWA Annual Convention have been set. We will get together at the Monarch Hotel near the Clackamas Town Center on Friday, April 30th and Saturday, May 1st. This convention will celebrate OSWA’s 50th anniversary.

I was recently reminded of our 2007 convention held in Benton County at Adair Village. Those of you who attended that year will remember a very interesting talk given by our keynote speaker, Mr. Norman J. Wiener. Mr. Wiener told us about the building of Camp Adair during WWII. He was speaking from first-hand knowledge because he was there in 1942. He is also a former practicing attorney in the timber field.

My recollection of the speech by Mr. Wiener was prompted by a letter he sent to me this past October. When he read the Fall 2009 issue of Northwest Woodlands with it’s theme of forest catastrophes, he recalled an article he had written in 1963. Mr. Wiener’s article was entitled “Timber Catastrophes – The Lawyer’s Job” and was published in the Willamette University Law Journal. The article was written shortly after the Columbus Day Storm of October 12, 1962 which devastated our northwest forests.

Accompanying Mr. Wiener’s letter to me was a copy of this 30 page article. The theme of his writing is tort problems resulting from catastrophes to timber. Below I am listing just a few important and interesting things I learned from reading his article. Bear in mind, these are only my interpretations, not legal advice.

Generally, if I am aware of a tree’s dangerous condition, I may be negligent and liable for damages if a tree falls on land other than mine. Even without my prior knowledge of a tree’s dangerous condition, I may still be determined liable based on the density or sparsity of human population in the locality in which the tree falls. So, different rules may apply to my tree which falls in a neighborhood than to my tree that falls from my tree farm onto an adjacent property.

Do I still own a tree that falls across a property line? Yes. As owner of the tree, I have the right to enter my neighbor’s land to retrieve that tree, but I must do so in a reasonable time and with reasonable care. If, however, a neighbor has given me notice to remove the tree from his or her property and I don’t do so in a timely manner, then the neighbor may remove the tree.

Mr. Wiener covers a wide range of topics in the article including liability for beetle damage, fire, and blocking of a stream. He also addresses such subjects as protection by insurance, contract problems incident to catastrophes affecting timber, tax problems incident to catastrophes to timber and much more.

I have felt for a very long time that the law, as it relates to tree farming, forest land ownership and timber, gets far too little attention in our educational pursuits. Reading Mr. Wiener’s article makes me aware of how little I know about my liability and responsibility as a forest land owner.

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OSWA NEWS

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Thank you, Mr. Wiener, for making “Timber Catastrophes – The Lawyers Job” available to us. I recommend reading it to all OSWA members.

A copy of “Timber Catastrophes” will be on file at the OSWA state office for your reference. Or, if you prefer, search on-line under Willamette University Law Review archives to find out how to get a copy of the article.

Till next time

cont’d from page 1 (OSWA Advocates for Federal…)

This legislation provides a new approach to handling estate taxes on working farm, ranch and forest land, and on lands protected by conservation easements, preventing anyone inheriting working lands from having to sell their lands (or their timber) to pay the estate tax. The bill fixes current problems with special use exemptions in the estate tax.

• Anyone inheriting working farm, ranch, or forest land, and continues to use the land as working land or covers the land with a permanent conservation easement, can exempt the value of the working lands (including the timber value) from the estate tax due on the decedent’s estate.

• Recaptures the tax, if the land is sold to someone outside the family, or the heir ceases to use the property as a working farm, ranch, or woodland. The rate of the recapture tax is the rate that would have been imposed on the land at the time of the original landowner’s death. The value used to determine that tax, however, would be the value at the time it was sold outside the family or when its use as working land stopped.

• Timber harvesting does not trigger the recapture tax, if the harvest is carried out under a written management plan or third-party audited forest certification system.

These special exemptions only apply if:

• the landowner is a US citizen,

• the land must be located in the US;

• the landowner or a member of the landowner’s family has held the land at least 5 of the 8 years prior to the landowner’s death; and

• the land is used as a farm for farming purposes — including production of timber, wildlife habitat, etc.
Oregon Small Woodlands Association

50th Anniversary
2010 Annual Meeting
Hosted by Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association

APRIL 30–MAY 1, 2010

Monarch Hotel & Conference Center
12566 SE 93rd Ave.
Clackamas, OR 97015

Celebrate the Past...Embrace the Future
Sustaining our forests and our families

SAVE THE DATE
“It’s a fun place to be,” said Jim Cota. “I especially hope kids can come here and develop the same love for the land that I have.”

Cota said the tree farm also sought out the technical assistance of the Oregon Department of Forestry for establishing fire ponds to make water accessible in remote areas of the tree farm, thus lowering the potential for a catastrophic fire at Fun Forest.

Local chapters of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association select the County Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year in Oregon. The Oregon winner is selected by a team of professional foresters from the public and private sectors.

The Oregon Department of Forestry, an active partner of the Oregon Tree Farm System, helps landowners manage their forestlands to ensure that family-owned tree farms achieve economic, environmental and social benefits.

County Oregon Tree Farmers of the Year Recognized
The 2009 County Oregon trees farmers of the year were recognized at the 43rd Annual Oregon Tree Farm Awards luncheon November 23 at the World Forestry Center.

This year, 10 tree farmers were recognized for their outstanding land management.

The winners were:
Nancy Ross Hathaway, Benton County
Paul Evans Bishop, Jones Creek Tree Farm, Clackamas County
Kent Tresidder, Tresidder Tree Farm, Coos County
Nancy Benzel, Hillside Meadows Farm, Douglas County
George McKinley, Greenwood Forest, Jackson County
Cameron Curtiss, Rock Creek Ranch, Klamath County
Jim & Betty Dennison, Bull Elk Tree Farm, Lincoln County
Jim Cota and Robbie & Scott Melcher, Fun Forest Tree Farm, Linn County
Yamhill S&WCD, Miller Woods Tree Farm, Yamhill County
Scott & Marge Hayes, Arbor House Tree Farm, Washington County

OSWA extends it congratulation to these outstanding tree farmers!
The West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District named OSWA as its 2009 Non-Profit Partner of the Year. This recognition was for the cooperative work accomplished over the past year.

In September, OSWA co-hosted a Forest Neighbor tour in the west Portland hills. OSWA partnered with West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District to develop the tour concept, identify and engage other partners, and plan and execute a very successful tour. Earlier this year, OSWA and Woodlands Carbon helped organize and participated in a full-day workshop for small landowners on ecosystem services, where carbon was a key focus of the program.

OSWA plans to partner with West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District, as well as other Conservation Districts, to share information and engage with more small woodland owners during 2010.

The American Forest Foundation named Clint Bentz, a Scio forest owner, chairman of its board of trustees on Friday.

The foundation, which represents 90,000 forest owners, is the oldest and largest forest landowner group in the nation.

Bentz, a second generation tree farmer, owns a 700-acre forest at the foothills of the Cascade Mountains with Douglas firs, hemlock, maple and alder. Bentz, 50, is also a CPA and partner at Boldt, Carlisle, and Smith, LLC in Stayton, specializing in estate succession planning for family farm and forest owners.

With the economy delivering a harsh blow to the timber industry, the foundation has also been focused on addressing issues of forest loss, emerging markets, climate change and taxation.

In Oregon, family-owned forest operations make up about 40 per cent of private forestland owners.

“Family owners are very sensitive to pricing,” Bentz said. “There’s some concern of whether or not they’ll be able to survive.”

Bentz and his parents won the National Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year in 2002. Bentz also helped rewrite Oregon’s property tax system for small landowners and is currently working on an overhaul of Oregon’s estate tax system.

Editor’s note: OSWA congratulates Clint on his new leadership role. We look forward to working together to advocate on behalf of small woodland owners in Oregon and across the country.
Lumber recovery may come next year
A trade group predicts Lane County’s biggest manufacturing industry will begin a slow climb

By Sherri Buri McDonald, The Register-Guard

Western lumber mills should see brighter days next year, according to the latest forecast from Western Wood Products Association, a Portland trade group.

The glimmers of recovery will come after five straight years of losses, the forecast said.

The U.S. financial crisis and collapse in residential construction pushed lumber demand to its lowest level in modern history, so it will take a while to crawl back up, according to the new forecast.

“Given the unprecedented downturn, recovery for the lumber industry is unlikely to follow the same path as it has in the past,” said David Jackson, the association’s economist. “The challenge for mills will be adjusting to a ‘new normal’ for the future.”

With 3,700 workers in September, wood products manufacturing still is Lane County’s largest manufacturing sector, even though the sector has lost 500 jobs since September 2008, said Brian Rooney, labor economist with the state Employment Department.

The “new normal” at many local mills has been lower production, reduced hours and, in some cases, a smaller work force.

Weyerhaeuser spokesman Greg Miller said the company is hopeful that the industry will turn around next year, but “I’m not sure that we share as much optimism as Western Wood Products Association.”

“My own view is that consumers need to have a lot more confidence in the job picture out there” to see a solid recovery, Miller said.

Weyerhaeuser’s Cottage Grove sawmill has responded to the weak market by taking more downtime than usual this year, he said.

The mill was down this week, and production will cease again the week of Thanksgiving, Miller said. Each downtime affects about 200 production workers, he said.

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“The downtime has been occurring all year long because of the poor market conditions and weak customer demand,” Miller said. “It’s reflective of the entire recession that we’ve been in and continue to be in.”

Miller said he wasn’t aware of any downtime at the company’s engineered wood products division in west Eugene, which employs about 400 people.

Roseburg Forest Products, which operates multiple facilities in the Roseburg area, will cut hours at its Dillard sawmill starting Monday, said Hank Snow, vice president of human resources.

The mill had been running three 40-hour shifts every week; now each shift will be 30 hours, he said.

The move, projected to last through the end of the year, affects about 200 workers, Snow said.

“Market conditions are terrible, and the prices don’t justify running the volume,” he said. “We can’t get enough orders to sell everything we make.”

cont’d on pg 12
ODF Budget Update

Following are excerpts from an Oregon Department of Forestry Executive Team memo to staff regarding the agency budget situation.

This is an update on our where we are in implementing our agency budget for the 2009–11 biennium, which began July 1. We’ve had to make significant organizational changes over the past 12 months, particularly in the State Forests and Private Forests programs, to live within our means. Now that we are into the biennium, three additional planning steps are underway that will likely bring additional change.

Changes to administrative programs

As we have been planning and implementing the changes in State Forests and Private Forests over the past year, we have also been examining the functions within the agency administrative programs to see how the operating program changes would impact administrative work, and vice versa. We have said all along that administrative support levels must align with operating program needs.

We are now at the point where the administrative changes need to be considered, and for the past two months, the administrative program directors have been considering the impacts of the State Forests and Private Forests program changes in the broader context of needs for the Fire Protection program and legal and regulatory requirements at the agency level.

Out of this current work, we expect three things to happen. First, we will implement or continue to implement some changes in administrative program work and procedures to reduce costs and generate budget savings over the biennium. Secondly, we will implement some new administrative cost savings measures across the entire department to again reduce costs during the biennium. The third action is that we will move forward to implement some budget reductions in the administrative programs to bring down our overall costs and align with the reduced work of the operating programs. Actions approved by the Executive Team will begin to be implemented in early 2010.

Further state level budget reduction planning

As you know from previous messages, the Oregon Legislature will be convening in a special session in February of next year. The Oregon economy continues to be in serious recession, and revenues for state government operations are very uncertain.

Much of the February session will be centered around the budget and revenue situation. In order to prepare contingencies for a worsening budget or revenue outlook, the legislative leadership has asked all agencies funded with state revenues or lottery funds to prepare further budget reduction options up to a 10% of current budget level. For us, that means a General Fund reduction of about $4 million.

The Executive Team has chosen to return to our original strategic plan for General Fund budget reductions that we used for the regular legislative work last summer that produced the budget we now have. This means that we will propose reduction options that further reduce the Private Forests program, but because this doesn’t get us to the full 10% reduction level agency-wide, we will also have to propose reductions in the Fire Protection program. And because part of the funding of the Fire Program’s share of agency administration in this biennium is General Fund, we will also have to submit reduction options for agency administration programs.

Stimulus planning and new federal funding

We’re continuing to work aggressively to obtain and now implement federal stimulus dollars, which have provided opportunities for some employees affected by layoffs. We are working very hard to leverage and capture all that we can effectively implement as we work to provide meaningful forestry services to landowners and our state forests.

The federal budget for fiscal year 2010 was recently completed. State and private forestry programs through the US Forest Service for wildland fire protection increased by 23%, while the remaining state and private programs that we work with most closely increased by 16%. We won’t know for a couple of months how those increases will specifically translate to our agency, but it is safe to say that we will see an increase in federal funding in both our base level federal program work and also in our grant level work.
Two new directors named to OFRI board

A former teacher and forestry engineering consultant, both of whom also own family tree farms and volunteer their time to educate students about forestry, are the two newest members of the board of the Oregon Forest Resources Institute.

The new directors are Anne Hanschu, of Forest Grove, and Ron Stuntzner, of Coos Bay. They were appointed by Oregon State Forester Marvin Brown for terms beginning Jan 1 and expiring in three years. They will replace Steve Woodard, owner of Woodard Forests, and Carol Whipple, of the Rocking C Ranch, respectively, both of whose terms expire in January.

In addition to the new appointments, Brown reappointed Gary Springer, of Starker Forests, and Greg Miller, of the Weyerhaeuser Company, for second terms.

OFRI’s board comprises 11 members appointed by the state forester. Additionally, two ex-officio members include the dean of the Oregon State University College of Forestry and a public member appointed jointly by the president of the Oregon Senate and the speaker of the Oregon House of Representatives.

Oregon law stipulates that each of three producer classes be represented by three board members. The classes are categorized by timber harvest volume into small, medium and large producers. The other two forester-appointed members include one member to represent small woodland owners and one representative of forest industry employees.

Hanschu fills the position on the board held by Woodard and reserved for small woodland owners. Stuntzner is taking Whipple's place as one of the three Class 1 representatives, defined by rule as those paying the harvest tax on 20 million board feet or less per year.

The Oregon Forest Resources Institute was created by the Oregon Legislature in 1991 to improve public understanding of the state’s forest resources and to encourage environmentally sound forest management through training and other educational programs for forest landowners. OFRI is funded by a dedicated harvest tax on forest products producers.

Anne Hanschu, Little Beaver Creek Tree Farm Inc.

A teacher by profession, Anne Hanschu has worked for nearly two decades to create a thriving tree farm that is also an educational venue for conservation and forestry that is visited by educational tours and visitors from around the world. In 2000, she and her husband, Richard, were named Western Regional Tree Farmers of the Year by the American Tree Farm System. Their 494 acres of tree farm properties are located near Banks.

Ron Stuntzner, Stuntzner Engineering & Forestry LLC

In 1968, Ron Stuntzner opened a forestry and engineering consulting business that has grown to four offices - in Coos Bay, Forest Grove, Dallas and Brookings. He owns and manages a family tree farm and has been active with educational advisory groups for OSU’s College of Forestry. He has organized a group of foresters, engineers and land surveyors on the south coast to present educational and career opportunities in these professions to high schools students from Coos, Curry and coastal Douglas counties.
Taxes fund environmental suits

By Mitch Lies, Capital Press

The federal government has paid out billions of dollars to environmental groups for attorney fees and costs, according to data assembled by a Cheyenne, Wyo., lawyer.

Karen Budd-Falen of Budd-Falen Law Offices said the government between 2003 and 2007 paid more than $4.7 billion in taxpayer money to environmental law firms — and that’s just in the lawsuits she tracked.

The actual figure, she said, is far greater.

“I think we only found that the iceberg exists,” she said. “I don’t think we have any idea how much money is being spent. But I think it’s huge.”

“That money is not going into programs to protect people, wildlife, plants and animals,” Budd-Falen said, “but to fund more lawsuits.”

Budd-Falen, whose firm regularly represents farms and ranches, for years was aware that nonprofit, tax-exempt environmental law firms were generating sizable revenue from attorney fees paid by the federal government. In June, she submitted a formal request asking the Department of Justice for information on just how much was being spent.

“They said they don’t track that information,” she said.

After the response, Budd-Falen sat down with a paralegal and started what she said was a time-consuming process of uncovering and compiling the data.

“The numbers were just shocking,” she said.

Budd-Falen documented that between 2000 and 2009, three tax-exempt, non-profit environmental groups — Western Watersheds Project, Forest Guardians and Center for Biological Diversity — filed more than 700 cases against the federal government.

“Ranchers and other citizens are being forced to expend millions of their own money to intervene or participate in these lawsuits to protect their way of life when they have no chance of the same attorney-fee recovery if they prevail,” Budd-Falen said.

Budd-Falen found in one 15-month-long case that Earthjustice Legal Foundation and the Western Environmental Law Center filed for $479,242 in attorneys’ fees.

Brian Smith, a spokesman for Earthjustice, said the foundation counts on those fees in part because it represents groups free of charge. He said the foundation bases its fees on the going rates for attorneys. Also, he said, if the government was doing its job, the foundation wouldn’t be so active.

Budd-Falen, however, said she doubts the steady stream of lawsuits will stop, or even slow. “Why would you stop filing litigation when you can get that kind of money?” she asked. “They are not filing these suits to try and protect the environment,” she said. “They are filing these suits to make money.”

Environmental groups, she said, are eligible for government funds under the Equal Access to Justice Act, which provides for the award of attorney fees to “prevailing parties” in cases against the government.

In order to prevail, under the act, all a group has to do is show a government body changed some policy or program as a result of the suit.

The firms also are accessing government funds through the Judgment Fund, Budd-Falen said. The fund is a line-item appropriation in the federal budget used for paying claims against the government.

Much of the funds to pay the attorney fees, she said, are being pulled from the budgets of cash-strapped regional offices of natural resource agencies.

“Those budget items ought to be used for range improvement projects, trails or campgrounds, whatever the agency is supposed to be doing,” she said.

Budd-Falen said it is important to bring to light the cost of environmental litigation in the hope Congress might scale it back.

Also, she said, it is important for the public to realize just how much taxpayer money is being spent on these cases.

“We are going to get back to this again and track some more of these dollars,” she said, “because I think we ought to know (how much we’re spending on this). And if Congress or the Justice Department won’t do it, I think somebody has to.”
Woodlands Carbon End of Year Report

As 2009 comes to a close Woodlands Carbon continues to develop access to carbon markets for family woodland owners.

The main accomplishments for our first year were:

- Developed inventory standards relevant for all emerging carbon markets.
- Developed landowner contracts.
- Trained over 200 landowners and consultant foresters at four workshops.
- Landowner contracts were signed by participants from all over the state. They include, Blue Den Ranch, managed by the Bentz Family, the Heffernan Family Trust of Union County, two properties of Ken and Karen Faulk in Benton County, and properties owned by the Woodard and Petersen families in Lane country.

As markets continue to develop Woodlands Carbon will be working with a number of groups to help us sell carbon offsets and develop a range of products to meet landowner and buyer needs.

Woodlands Carbon will attend OSWA’s annual meeting and 3 Tree School Events to provide information to OSWA members. We will conduct 6 Woodlands Carbon training days for 250 landowners and foresters.

Managing Insects and Diseases of Oregon Conifers

This publication will provide information to help manage insects and diseases of the Oregon conifers. You can order the publication from your local OSU Extension office or visit the OSU Extension online catalog at http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog and search for EM 8980.
Snow said Roseburg Forest Products has been cutting back hours at its plants since the summer.

“We’ve just gradually been reducing shifts in other plants. The sawmill had not taken reductions up until now.”

Roseburg Forest Products forecasts modest improvement in the spring, but no marked improvement until spring 2011, he said.

To survive the recession with minimal layoffs, Roseburg Forest Products has used the Employment Department’s Work Share program at several of its facilities, now including the Dillard sawmill. Under the program, instead of being laid off, employees work reduced hours and receive reduced unemployment insurance benefits, which helps fill the income gap.

The Western Wood Products Association projects that only 31 billion board feet of lumber are expected to be used in 2009 — less than half of the amount consumed in 2005, which was the peak of lumber demand.

Housing traditionally accounts for 45 percent of annual lumber consumption, the association said. This year, only 551,000 houses are expected to be built nationwide, down 30 percent from last year. The second largest market for lumber — home repair and remodeling — has fared slightly better through the recession than homebuilding, but it’s also down.

U.S. lumber mills have responded to the slackened demand. Western lumber production this year is estimated at 10.2 billion board feet, down 21 percent from last year, the forecast said.

For next year, the association predicts lumber demand will rise 11 percent to 34.5 billion board feet; housing starts will increase 21 percent to 668,000; and Western mills will produce 11 billion board feet of lumber, up 8 percent.
Clark Seely, Oregon’s Associate State Forester, retires after 35-year career

For Clark Seely, retiring this fall after a 35-year career with the Department of Forestry, his life as a forester has, ironically, not necessarily been all about trees.

“I didn’t come into the profession knowing that, but if I have had a learning moment over 35 years – that’s the learning,” Seely says, reflecting on his career. “It is all about people and not necessarily about the trees. And looking back, that’s what has made it such a wonderful journey.”

Seely, 55, has served as the Associate State Forester—the agency’s second-in-command—since 2004. Seely began his career as a forester trainee in Astoria and held field positions in all corners of the state, before rising to Protection from Fire Program Director, Assistant State Forester in the Administrative Services Division, and finally Associate State Forester. His replacement, Satish Upadhyay—a former budget analyst with the Oregon Department of Administrative Services—started in mid-November.

Thoughtful, thorough and pragmatically optimistic, Seely has been universally regarded both inside and outside the department as one of the hardest working executives in Oregon state government, known for his careful planning and preparation, and his thoughtful, collaborative and organized approach to problem solving.

Since joining the department’s executive team in 1999, Seely has been the driving force behind business improvement initiatives that use technology and best practices to improve business processes, and that make the department better able to serve the needs of constituents.

Through it all has been his kindness, and his always-on-target advice and direction. Without a doubt, as the agency says farewell and thanks to one of its most respected leaders, that will be one of Seely’s lasting legacies.

Editor’s Note: OSWA found Clark to be a knowledgeable, helpful and supportive partner at the Department of Forestry… he will be missed. OSWA wishes Clark and his family all the best in this new chapter of their lives.

Order Now for the Holidays

Purchase a wide-range of high quality OSWA logo products.

Our goal at the Awesome OSWA store is to deliver high quality products that you are proud to wear and use, as well as gift with pride to family members and friends. By wearing, using and displaying Awesome OSWA products, you are helping promote our association to colleagues, neighbors and friends.

For more information and to order online, visit www.oswa.org or contact Ilene Waldorf at 503-829-3181 or iwal@molalla.net

Thank you for supporting our Association through your purchases of Awesome OSWA products.
Climate Change debate continues as global policy makers converge on Copenhagen.

The world’s elite leaders and policy makers are meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark, ramping up their efforts to lower our global carbon footprint and its effects on the climate.

What is a carbon footprint? It is the amount of carbon released into the atmosphere by your day to day activities. If you drive a car you have a carbon footprint, if you fly on an airplane you have a carbon foot print. If you build a house and heat it with energy created by fossil fuel, you have a carbon footprint. Add all that activity together across society and you have a global carbon footprint.

A number of governments, companies and individuals want to reduce their carbon footprint as many scientists suggest too much carbon in the atmosphere has negatively affected our climate.

By that they are suggesting the combined social, environmental and associated economic costs of the change outweigh the benefits of human made fossil fuel based products. They see an urgent need to provide capitoll to developing nations to help them change to “cleaner” technologies and energy sources. This approach, as implemented under the Kyoto protocol, has been problematic for many reasons, including not capping the developing nation’s use of fossil fuel, and not allowing developed nation’s forests to count as a credit.

Any global or national policy solution seems as far off as ever, with an increasing number of voices asking the question regarding the most effective way to reallocate a vast amount of capital and human resources to tackle human caused climate change. The global economic slowdown, delay in health care legislation, and new temperature data also muddies the waters of an already complex debate at national level.

That debate, on how best to reduce our carbon footprint has centered around three main strategies. Two are long term, Clean and Switch, while the other, Store, is a medium term strategy to help control the costs to the global economy as the first two strategies come on line.

Cleaning means capturing the carbon released from fossil fuels in to the air as they are used.

Switching relates to using less fossil fuel intensive products for our needs include using woody biomass for energy production and wood products for buildings. The wood products a forest produces for the local economy help to reduce our carbon footprint when they are used instead of more energy intensive products, such as steel or concrete.

Storing means the additional carbon stored day to day by forests and other ecosystems.

Forestry has a major role to play. However an argument continues on what forestry carbon is additional and permanent and how it qualifies as a credit that can be bought to “offset” carbon pollution. This is a policy choice that appears to have less to do with science and more to do with the type of land use a variety of stakeholders wish to see on the landscape.
ATFS Forest Certification Program Strengthens Its Standards

The American Forest Foundation (AFF), the nation’s oldest and largest network of woodland owners, announced that its Board of Trustees has adopted a new, revised standards for the American Tree Farm System (ATFS), its woodland certification program. Bob Simpson, AFF Senior Vice President for Forestry Programs, said “The changes do two important things: they go further in protecting woodlands of high conservation value, and they streamline the process for woodland owners participating in USDA conservation incentive programs.”

The new standards were developed by an independent panel of experts, representing academia, conservation organizations, Federal and State governments, landowners, and foresters. David Ford, OSWA’s Executive Director, served as a landowner representative and chaired the panel during the year long process.

Designed especially for small woodland owners, who provide nearly two-thirds of the wood fiber used for paper products in the U.S., ATFS requires adoption of a woodland management plan that will ensure conservation of multiple resources—water, wildlife, timber, scenic views, and recreation. The new standards will require certified woodland owners to consider and minimize adverse impact of timber or other activities on places of unique historical, cultural, or wildlife value.

Another practical impact of the changes will be in equalizing the woodland management plans required under ATFS and under various USDA conservation incentive programs. In the past, a woodland owner may have been required to produce and follow two parallel plans with very similar goals but differing in the details.

The new standards take effect January 1, 2010, and landowners will have one year to make sure their woodlands meet the new standards. The American Forest Foundation will use the transition year to educate landowners and train the over 4,000 volunteer inspectors who administer the ATFS certification program.

AFF President and CEO Tom Martin said, “I am very proud of our volunteers who work so hard to make forest certification understandable and accessible to small woodland owners.” Most of the ATFS members own only 100 acres or less. Martin sees the strengthening of the ATFS certification as an important step in gaining and expanding woodland owners’ access to the green marketplace. “As the focus for many woodland owners shifts from primarily timber production to other uses including wildlife, nature appreciation, safe drinking water, and climate change, the certification program is an important tool to demonstrate their commitment to conservation forestry.”

New Estate Planning Tool Available for Forest Landowners

The updated tax publication “Estate Tax Planning: what will become of your timberland?” developed by the USFS and its collaborators is now available. An electronic version is available at http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/gtr/gtr_srs112.pdf
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FSN Now Accepting Small Seedling Sale Announcements

The Forest Seedling Network web site (http://www.forestseedlingnetwork.com/) has a section under the RESOURCE Tab where organizations can list their Small Lot Seedling Sale information. This service is available at no cost to organizations and businesses who sponsor occasional events where people can purchase small numbers of seedlings.

Submit your information to bob@forestseedlingnetwork.com.

1. At a minimum you information should include:
   a. Sale date, time and location.
   b. Your organization and a contact person.

2. A copy of any Flyers, Order Form or map. It would be helpful if they were in PDF format however we will work with whatever you have.

3. Any other information you believe is pertinent.

Comments and suggestions are always welcome. For more information, please contact Bob McNitt at bob@forestseedlingnetwork.com or by calling 503-769-9806.

In Memory Of...

Mr. Edmund Hayes, Jr. passed away peacefully on December 3, 2009. Ned’s involvement with the small woodlands community was an important part of his life and he enriched our lives and our community in many ways over the years. He was a long-time OSWA member and contributor, and was active in the World Forestry Center and other civic organizations. A memorial celebration will be held at 4:00 p.m. on January 4 at the World Forestry Center. OSWA wishes to extend their sympathies to the Hayes Family.

New Members

BAKER CHAPTER:  DAVID JOHNSON
CLACKAMAS CHAPTER:  MERRILY ENQUIST
                  ANITA ENSLEY
COLUMBIA CHAPTER:  CHIP BUBL
                    MARY CRAIG
DOUGLAS CHAPTER:  STEVE HALL
JACKSON/JOSEPHINE CHAPTER:  MIKE MITCHELL
                           JIM WEAVER
WASHINGTON CHAPTER:  JOHN HARDISTY

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