The Early Days of OSWA: The people and their vision

By: Bob Kintigh, CF

At OSWA’s annual meeting Bob Kintigh reported on the history of the early days of OSWA. Many members have requested a copy. Here are Bob’s comments.

OSWA’s official birthday is April 22, 1960, when the articles of incorporation of the Small Woodlands Association were filed with the state. The papers were signed by W.G. Nash, known as “Buck” from Creswell who became our first president, Louis Polley from Marcola and Ronald Husk, a Eugene attorney who I believe was also a woodland owner.

We owe Buck Nash for his very active involvement in woodland and agriculture issues. Buck was a native Oregonian and as an infantry officer he participated in the Normandy invasion where a mine explosion resulted in permanent injury to one foot and partial disability. He was a talented musician who had gone to Juilliard School of Music and spent time in Broadway shows. Upon returning to Oregon he purchased 165 acres of land near Creswell. I remember being at his home once and he invited me to see the inside of the house. He said I saw you looking at the outside (which was weathered old vertical siding) and I wanted to show you that it was better inside. He explained they left the outside looking shabby to keep their taxes lower. Now, how’s that for beating the tax collector. He went on to explain that he was a classical music composer but did not tell many people about it. Buck logged with an old Oliver crawler tractor. As a few of you remember they were very low. Buck would reach around from the seat and unhook the chokers at the landing without getting off. I remember too that he loaded the logs on the truck with an A-frame apparently because self loaders were just becoming available.

Louis Polley owned a tree farm near Marcola which had the distinction of having three high-voltage power lines run across it. He was also continually bothered by ATV riders. Lou was a great history buff and wrote about the history of logging in the Mohawk and McKenzie Valleys. He also put together a video of early days of logging. He served many years as an active member of the Lane County Small Woodlands Association.

The initial Board of Directors included Buck and Lou plus five other Lane County tree farmers. The best known of these was Verne Bronson with whom I had partnered in a consulting forestry business called “Tree Farm Management Service”. He was the father of Willie Bronson, a Weyerhaeuser forester and 12 other children. Last September I had the privilege of attending the ninetieth birthday party for Martha Bronson at the Bronson Farm and all the children were there. Verne passed away many years ago.
Our Vision
To see privately owned family woodlands are a thriving part of Oregon’s landscape in 2050.

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 landowners, 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 Nancy Hathaway

THANK YOU FOR BEING A MEMBER!

November is Membership Appreciation Month and the staff and Board members want to thank each and every one of you for contributing to the strength and value of OSWA. You, dear member, are OSWA. We are united in promoting healthy forests and a healthy forest economy. True, we have not yet hit nirvana, but we persist. Our agenda is ambitious, transparent and encompasses a range of mutual goals.

As I mulled over how to approach this article, I thought of what motivates us to become members and support an organization over decades, as some of you have. I considered why I had become a member. But being persistently encouraged by my father to join doesn’t really pan out as much of a story line. So I decided to search out other members who had a real story to tell.

Down the street lives Frank Morris, fellow OSWA member. Frank was a pilot in the Army Air Corps and a dentist before becoming a tree farmer. When he moved here from Idaho years ago, Frank wanted to know what Oregon had to offer. Among his dental patients was Extension Agent Stoney Jackson. Stoney advised him that buying timberland would be a good investment. So Frank started looking. In the local paper, he spotted a tiny ad for 40 acres for sale. Even though it was 8 PM Frank called... and woke up an angry logger who informed him he had to get up at 3:30 AM. They made a date and Frank ended up owning a parcel on the north fork of the Alsea River. It had been high-graded in 1929, yet after multiple harvests Frank today has over 900,000 board feet standing. He has paid back his original purchase price many times over and left a significant legacy for his sons. In his 44 years of ownership Frank has become friends with many Extension agents and fellow small woodland members, developing a solid network of information sources.

Why is Frank a member of OSWA? “We have more clout with more members! And, we choose people who can best represent us.”

So, whether your involvement in OSWA is from far away and depends on our website (currently being redesigned) and mailings; or you are a participant in many tours and on-the-ground activities, you are important. And I hope you will find a way to give input so that we can continue to count on you. I think it’s been said many ways: United we stand, together we can, win-win, just do it. Expect a personal thank you from your board...you deserve it!

Nancy

Food for thought: If you died tomorrow, would your heirs value and support OSWA?
OSWA NEWS

Con't from page 1 (OSWA Early Days)

After this initial organization I have no written records until January 1966 which announced the annual meeting for January 20. Buck Nash was still president and apparently Charlie Ross was serving as secretary. Charlie was the father of Nancy Hathaway our current president and was an important figure in the early days of OSWA. He edited the early newsletters and spiced them up with little jokes like this one from this issue. “A pioneer is a person whose annual property tax exceeds what he paid for the place to begin with”. Annual dues to the state at that time were two dollars per member.

Probably the most important meeting that occurred in the early days was the one on March 17, 1966 at the State Forestry Headquarters in Salem. Twenty-eight men were in attendance at that meeting which was called “Small Woodlands Association Steering Committee Meeting”.

Now, what did this large group of men accomplish at this meeting? The most significant was probably that the name was changed to Oregon Small Woodlands Association. Not big in a way but terribly important. They were trying to reach out to the whole state. The other change was amending the bylaws to set up a federation of County Associations. Organized associations existed in six counties at that time--Columbia, Clackamas, Lane, Linn, Lincoln, and Washington. However committees were working in other counties to organize an association. Membership at large was available to those in unorganized counties.

Just who were the people that were actively carrying on the work of the Association? The March 1967 newsletter lists committees as follows. Legislative committee: Jack Isberg chair assisted by Clyde Ramsay, Verne Bronson and Vernon Good. Public relations committee was headed by Roland Hornecker and aided by Charlie Ross and myself. Clarence Rutherford of Lane County headed the program committee and was helped by Jeff Richardson from Scotts Mills and Charlie Ross. Everett Skeans and Bob Carpenter worked on the membership committee. Eugene Cooper of Burntwood headed the resolutions committee.

Just what were the hot legislative issues of that time which brought these wonderful people together? I’m sure it’s no surprise to you that taxes were one of the main ones. The most important law we were able to get enacted by the legislature was the 1961 Western Oregon’s Small Tract Optional Tax. Through the 60s we worked to improve the law and had some successes. In the December 1969 newsletter the legislative committee reported “What we asked for was given to us”. However, it is important to remember that our bill passed by just one vote. Was it worth the great effort? The answer to that question seems to be in a newsletter item a couple years later which pointed out that the law had become very popular with our members. Other critical issues were log exports, Christmas tree trespass and air quality.

Here are some items from the October 1967 newsletter. There were 225 paid members. Clackamas County had the most members followed by Lane County. Buck Nash was president and Charlie Ross secretary. Al Parker was planning to retire. Log and pole prices were reported to be good with 16 foot peelable 2 mill bringing $75.

con’t on pg 6

Resources

http://www.oswa.org/

Visit the OSWA web site at www.oswa.org for information about your local chapter. Be sure to click on “Your Local Chapter” for a map link to your own chapter website!

ADVERTISE IN THE UPDATE!

The Update is sent to over 2,900 OSWA members and friends eight times per year.

Our members grow over one million acres of family forestland in Oregon!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rate</th>
<th>1 Issue</th>
<th>4 Issues</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/12 page</td>
<td>$70</td>
<td>$210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/6 page</td>
<td>$90</td>
<td>$270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/4 page</td>
<td>$110</td>
<td>$330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/3 page</td>
<td>$145</td>
<td>$445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 page</td>
<td>$170</td>
<td>$510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/3 page</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>$600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Page</td>
<td>$270</td>
<td>$800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Classified Ads Up to 40 words:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rate</th>
<th>1 Issue</th>
<th>4 Issues</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$70</td>
<td>$210</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rates include typesetting and ad preparation.
Executive Director’s Message by Jim James

I appreciate the opportunity to become OSWA’s Executive Director. My first two months on the job have been very rewarding. Thank you for the support I have received from the Executive Committee, the Board, the many members I have had the pleasure to meet, David Ford, and Jen Rains. It is my goal to visit every chapter within my first few months as Executive Director. I am near the halfway point. If I have not yet visited your chapter or have not yet been scheduled with you to do so, please let me know the date of your next board or chapter meeting. I look forward to visiting every chapter.

The Salem Office has been busy tracking many issues of importance to OSWA’s members. Scott Hayes (Washington County Chapter) is chair of our Governmental Advisory Committee. See the Legislative Priorities discussion in the Board Meeting Report. Roger Beyer has been hired as our lobbyist. As one might expect, funding for state programs will be the primary focus this session. Collaboration with our political allies has already begun.

Since June, OSWA has been actively participating in an Oregon Department of Forestry Budget Working Group to identify funding options and help prioritize ODF activities, in light of possible funding shortfalls. The Working Group will likely continue to meet throughout the legislative process.

The OSWA website is being revamped with the help of Marie Gale (Coos/Curry County). Our goal is to have it functional by the end of October or early November. Much of the information in the existing website is now out of date, but will be corrected soon. The new website will have a Members Only section where you can find past Woodlander Updates, minutes from Executive Committee and Board meetings, and other information specifically for members.

There are a number of issues being tracked and monitored by the Salem Office. They include the NEDC vs Brown lawsuit, DEQ water quality rulemaking, proposed Lane County riparian buffer regulations, Recovery Plans for the Mid-Upper Willamette Coho and the Northern Spotted Owl, and the Northern Spotted Owl Safe Harbor Agreement. See the discussion of some of these issues in the Board Meeting Report. Anyone wishing information on these or other issues, please contact the Salem Office.

The next Executive Committee meeting is December 2nd, 9:00 to 12:00 and the next Board Call is December 9th from 8:30 to 10:00. Any interested member is welcome to join the meetings at the Salem office or by phone. The call in number is 1-800-861-4084. Participation code is 1036304.

OSWA Board Meeting Report

OSWA’s fall board meeting was held on October 1st. The board received reports from chapters and partners and took action on decisions for the 2010/2011 fiscal year, beginning November 1st.

Budget - The 2009/2010 budget was reviewed. It appears this year’s modified budget will have revenues of about $8,000 more than expenses. The 2010/2011 budget was presented and approved. Highlights include assumptions that membership dues are stable (1489 dues paying members); $52,000 outside revenue from the Patron Program, OFRI grants, and Woodland Carbon; a part-time Executive Director (three days per week); a part-time Office Manager (four days per week); $46,000 in professional services which includes $30,000 expense for a lobbyist; and other normal operating expenses. The 2010/2011 budget does include a $14,488 contingency fund.

Work Plan - The 09/2010 Work Plan results were reviewed. OSWA’s strategic objectives were addressed and accomplished in 2009/2010, but a few work plan elements were not completed. The 2010/2011 Work Plan was presented and approved. It included the core activities found in the 2009/2010 Work Plan with continuation or completion of projects in last year’s plan. Highlights include growing our membership, active participation in the 2011 legislative session, Six Woodlander Updates, completing and updating the new OSWA website, creating a new membership brochure, developing a stronger relationship with the Oregon Tree Farm System, and maintaining the network of active chapters throughout the state. It was acknowledged that the 2010/2011 Work Plan specific elements are aggressive and some items may not get completed and those directly linked to the strategic objectives will be given the highest priority.
Oregon Tree Farm System

Annual Meeting, Workshop and Recognition Luncheon

Date: November 22, 2010
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Place: World Forestry Center, Portland

Sponsors:
Oregon Tree Farm System
Oregon Small Woodlands Association
Oregon Forest Resources Institute
OSU Forestry Extension
USDA Forest Service

Tree Farm Workshop
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Place: Cheatham Hall, World Forestry Center
Title: Updates on Log Markets, Taxes & American Forest Foundation

Log markets are very different than when the recession hit; Estate taxes, income taxes and property taxes are in flux; and the American Forest Foundation is in the process of changing its structure. This workshop will cover all of these subjects.

- An update on log markets including the recent upswing in exports – Steve “Tree Man” Bowers: OSU Extension Forestry
- An update on federal estate tax, federal income tax and Oregon property tax issues and changes coming – Clint Bentz: Boldt, Carlisle & Smith, LLC
- New opportunities for Oregon forest landowners from the American Forest Foundation – Clint Bentz: Chair of AFF Board of Trustees; and Rick Fletcher, OSU Extension Service

Tree Farm Recognition Luncheon
Time: Noon - 2:00 p.m.
Place: Miller Hall, World Forestry Center

The workshop will be followed by a brief Oregon Tree Farm System business meeting and then a lunch honoring the County Tree Farmers of the Year. The high point of the day will be the showing of a video featuring all of the county tree farmers of the year and the announcement of the Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year for 2010.

The workshop is free and the lunch cost is $25 per person. For more information, contact Anne Hanschu, at (503) 357-2551 or e-mail: netvetrdh@gmail.com

Send completed registration, along with money, to the address on the back.
OSWA NEWS

cont’d from page 3 (OWSA Early Years...)

The January 1968 newsletter contained the program for the upcoming annual meeting January 26 in St. Helens. The featured speaker was Leo Isaac better known as “Mr. Douglas–fir”. Cost of the banquet was three dollars. I was elected President and Roland Hornecker was elected Vice President, Charlie Ross Secretary and Gene Cooper Treasurer. By now there were eight counties with organized associations.

The April 1968 newsletter reported on a lengthy discussion of a resolution supporting our right to export our logs. I remember this very vividly because as newly elected president I received a lot of phone calls from reporters and others the next week. I personally feel this was the beginning of OSWA being recognized as a player in the forest industry field. The issue was still very much around when I became a State Senator in 1987. In both positions I strongly defended our right to sell our logs where and to whom we choose.

Other items from the April 1968 newsletter: Improving the 1961 Western Oregon's Small Tract Optional Text law is still an important item being worked on by the legislative committee chaired by Clem Ault and assisted by Clyde Ramsay, Vern Bronson and Vernon Good. “The US timber supply is likely to fall short about 1980”, and there are now 515 certified three farmers in Oregon.

And finally a quote from Walt Ferguson, a career Soil Conservation Service forester “I was impressed with the quality of the OSWA Annual Meeting. I thought the topics discussed reflected maturity of the organization. I particularly noted that consideration was given to matters other than taxation.”

In the July 1968 issue of the newsletter Steve Woodward reports that the lumber markets have never been better. He says that log exports are expected to push stumpage prices higher.

At a directors meeting in Salem on October 28, 1968, resolutions on the following subjects were passed; Air and Water Pollution, County Planning, Property Taxation, Taxation-Location of Farmland, Farm Truck License, Using Material from Young timber Stands and Recognition of Farm Forester’s. You can see the Gene Cooper was a busy man.

In May 1969 membership chairman Jeff Richardson reported membership at 270 and Gene Cooper reported over $600 in treasury. Rex Brown of Carlton replaced Roland Hornecker as vice president but the other officers remained the same.

The year of 1971 is remembered as the year of the passage of the Oregon Forest Practices Act. A number of our members helped in the writing of this bill and lobbying for its passage.

The 1973 annual meeting was held in McMinnville on March 9. There was a lengthy discussion of Sen. Packwood's bill that would have prohibited log exporting. A motion to oppose the Packwood bill passed.

An election of officers was held. I passed the gavel to K.C. Van Natta to lead the association on to greater heights and I rode off into the sunset.

Bob Kintigh who was the second president of OSWA is a Certified Forester, forest landowner and manager; a former Oregon State Senator and the 2006 National Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year.

Cont’d from page 4 (OSWA Board report)

2010/2011 Calendar - Next year’s calendar was presented and approved. The annual membership meeting will be in June hosted by the Baker County Chapter. The date will be selected soon. There will be three board meetings in February, June (at the annual meeting) and September. There will be nine Executive Committee meetings and six Board calls, in addition to the Board meetings. In an effort to find a time that was most convenient for most board participants, it was decided that Fridays at 8:30 am is the best time to for Board calls. Participation on these calls has been minimal. It is hoped this time slot will be more convenient. There will be a new calendar of events on the new website that will list these meetings. Chapters are also encouraged to include their events on the calendar by notifying the state office.

Legislative Priorities - Roger Beyer has been hired as OSWA’s lobbyist for the 2011 legislative session. State funding will likely be the primary focus for legislators in this session. There will be several issues OSWA will need to be engaged in and to monitor. Highlights of OWSA’s legislative priorities include:

cont’d on page 7
OSWA NEWS

Cont’d from page 6 (OSWA Board Report)

• Engaging: in the Oregon Department of Forestry budget issues to maintain the 60/40 split in the Private Forestry Program and the 50/50 split in the Fire Protection Program, supporting the programs that benefit OSWA members, and making sure any suggested changes in funding do not disproportionately affect small woodland owners.

• Monitor funding for OSU Extension and support as needed.

• Look for opportunities to support Oregon inheritance tax relief.

• Monitor any climate change legislation.

• Support allowing pole buildings in Forest Use zones under the same criteria as EFU zones.

• Monitor legislation being proposed by Senator Martha Schrader to address problems in building homes on forested properties between 30 and 159 acres. Support or stay neutral once we understand its intent.

• Monitor efforts to redefine Oregon’s definition of navigable waters.

The board approved the legislative priorities and recognized that some of these priorities may change after the legislative session begins.

Membership - It appears about 12% of OSWA’s members will not renew in the 2009/2010 year. New members represent a 4% increase, so the net result will be about an 8% decline in membership. Membership has declined for several years. Membership was identified by the board as a high priority for the upcoming year. Retaining existing members and adding new members to the association is critical to OSWA’s continued success. A Membership Committee, chaired by Nancy Hathaway, has developed strategies to improve membership. November will be Membership Appreciation Month. Every chapter will be asked to have an active membership chairman and to communicate directly with every member, to let them know how important they are and how much their participation is appreciated.

Woodland Carbon - Mike Barnes reported that Woodland Carbon has 11 OSWA members with carbon contracts to sell carbon credits. The market price of carbon is currently too low to generate any interest in selling carbon on the open market, but Woodlands Carbon is pursuing discussions with parties in Portland who have expressed an interest in carbon credits from family forests, in a voluntary market. American Electric Power (AEP) has also expressed an interest in purchasing carbon, but there has been no activity at this time.

L&C Carbon - David Ford reported that L&C Carbon is in its development stage. Dave Schmidt will be OSWA’s representative on the L&C Carbon board. David has been working on carbon markets and indicated he would be in a position to begin discussions with forest landowners early next year.

Chapter Reports - Nine chapters were represented at the board meeting and gave chapter reports. The highlights include:

Ken Faulk reported that Lane County will have its Partnerships for Forestry Education meeting on November 16th. The Lane County Chapter is trying to secure funding so OSU Extension Program can be reinstated in Lane County. In September, the Bauman Family Tree Farm was selected as the Lane County Tree Farmer of the Year.

con’t on page 12
The Oregon Woodland Cooperative (OWC) has just received a Value-Added Program grant (VAPG) for $150,000 from the Rural Business and Cooperative Development office of the USDA. The grant will prove working capital funds for the Cooperative to develop capabilities to harvest, process, and market non-timber forest products (NTFP).

The Cooperative has been in existence since 1981, and currently has 55 members and over 22,000 member acres. The Co-op has been evolving over time to meet changing market conditions and member needs. The recent downturn in lumber markets has accentuated the need for Co-op members to diversify their income sources from their woodlands. Non-timber forest products can fill the “gaps” in the income stream for members, as they increase the total income available from managing woodlands for forest products and values.

The VAPG will provide matching funds to the Co-op for identifying viable NTFPs, such as essential oils, medicinal plants in the forest, craft and niche products, and other potential income producing products. Members who wish to participate can then get expert assistance in harvesting, processing, and marketing their products. Through the grant, the Co-op will be able to acquire this expert assistance, and provide the organization and structure for processing products of members efficiently. The grant will also provide the funds needed to acquire expert marketing advice and assistance. The grant requires “matching fund” from the Co-op. These “matching funds” will be generated as “in-kind” – the value of the time and material contributions of Co-op members and partners.

This is the third VAPG that the Co-op has acquired over the past 8 years. The first planning grant enabled the Co-op to prepare a professional business plan. The second grant, for working capital, enabled the Co-op to develop capabilities for a variety of marketing strategies, such as Co-op marketing of logs and special milling of products for retail sale. The Co-op has also expanded its products to include an on-going bundled firewood program and a floral greenery retail sale program.

For more information on the grant or Oregon Woodland Cooperative, contact Tom Nygren, 503-628-5472, email: tnygren@juno.com
Forest Owners to EPA: Follow Sound Science and Restore Biomass Policy

America’s private forest owners demonstrated to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) how its GHG Tailoring Rule hobbles the production of renewable biomass energy and is a break from widely accepted science and longstanding policy. Forest owners called upon EPA to modify its “Tailoring Rule,” which undermines the “renewable” classification of forest biomass, one of the country’s most promising fossil fuel replacements.

The filing – which cites more than 40 government guidelines, statements, and scientific studies – is highly critical of the EPA's unprecedented move to treat electricity generated from sawdust, wood chips, and tree parts the same as it does coal and other carbon-intensive fossil fuels.

EPA's decision to subject biomass energy to costly pollution permits and additional red tape “is not only arbitrary and capricious decision making, but will fundamentally frustrate the renewable energy and low carbon policies established by both Congress and this Administration,” wrote the National Alliance of Forest Owners (NAFO), which filed comments on behalf of the owners of 75 million forest acres in 47 states.

The EPA has come under tremendous scrutiny since it released its controversial Greenhouse Gas Tailoring Rule in May and became the first and only major government body to break from the well-established position of treating naturally recycling forest biomass as carbon neutral.

In today’s filing, NAFO asked the EPA to reverse its treatment of biomass energy before the Tailoring Rule takes effect in January “to avoid real and irreparable harm to the nation’s forest and renewable energy sectors in the interim.”

David P. Tenny, President and CEO of NAFO, said, “Renewable biomass energy is sustainable, renewable, and not does increase carbon in the atmosphere. Additionally, it fuels employment in mills, energy facilities and working forests – forests that support 2.4 million U.S. jobs. Yet, the EPAs action is stifling investment, threatening jobs for U.S. families and our renewable energy goals.”

NAFO pointed out that the EPA has authority to reverse course, and such an action would be consistent with past EPA statements, Department of Energy guidance, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, European Union policy, and recent White House guidance.

In addition to the NAFO filing, the EPA has received critical comments about its Tailoring Rule from 37 United States Senators (PDF), 63 House members, the bipartisan Western Governors Association, and more than 100 acclaimed scientists.

Those scientists sent a joint letter to Congress and the EPA on July 20 that called the EPA’s decision “incorrect,” “not consistent with good science,” and an impediment to “the development of renewable biomass energy sources.”

Other critics, including lawmakers from both sides of the aisle, worry that the EPA's reversal of long-standing policy will lead to unprecedented and unnecessary regulation of land uses that will result in the loss of green jobs if it is not reversed.
Oregon state forester resigns

Press release from Oregon Board of Forestry

Oregon state forester Marvin Brown is stepping down at the end of the year, Board of Forestry Chair John L. Blackwell announced Monday. The Board accepted Brown's resignation after determining that the Department of Forestry needs fresh leadership.

Blackwell, of Portland, said the seven-member board believes that new leadership is essential as the board and the Oregon Department of Forestry address complex and difficult issues ahead.

“Marvin has deep knowledge of forestry, and of the many public benefits that sound forest management provides,” Blackwell said. “We thank him for his steady leadership and professionalism during challenging times.”

The Board of Forestry’s members, who are nominated by the governor and confirmed by the state Senate, oversee forest policy matters within the state’s jurisdiction, and appoint the state forester, who serves as director of the Department of Forestry.

Challenges confronting the board and department include working with forest landowners, conservation groups, community organizations, legislators and others to sustain essential services, such as wildfire protection and enforcement of environmental laws, in the face of a depressed forest economy and shrinking state budgets, Blackwell said.

Brown’s resignation is planned to be effective December 31, 2010. Blackwell said the process for selecting a permanent replacement would begin immediately.

The Department of Forestry’s responsibilities include providing fire protection on about 15.8 million acres – primarily privately owned lands – enforcing forest practices and other laws, educating landowners, managing state owned forestland, and providing urban forestry assistance.
New National Analysis on Forest Stewardship

*How the Farm Bill Has Improved Conservation*

Forest stewardship has increased on America’s family forests since the 2008 Farm Bill significantly increased forest owner access to conservation programs. The new study, Forest Conservation in 2009: A Farm Bill Progress Report, from the American Forest Foundation was unveiled today at a briefing on Capitol Hill featuring national, state, and local forest leaders.

“Most Americans think our forests are owned by state and federal governments. But the greatest segment are actually owned by families and individuals,” said Tom Martin, President and CEO of the American Forest Foundation (AFF). “All Americans rely on these forests for clean water, clean air, carbon storage, recreation and the wood products we use every day. The 2008 Farm Bill was a strong beginning toward acknowledging these public benefits and investing in protecting them.”

“Unfortunately the threats to private forests in general, and family-owned in particular, have only accelerated so we need to continue to ensure that the necessary resources are provided to help family forest owners maintain healthy and productive forests,” added Martin.

Among the report’s findings:

* Farm Bill programs helped 36,000 landowners conserve more than 1,019,000 acres of forest land just in 2009.

* Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funding for forest conservation activities increased by 134% since 2007. This is especially important since more than half of our nation receives its drinking water from forested landscapes.

* Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) funding increased 296% for forested habitats. Sixty percent of at-risk plant and animals rely on private forests for habitat.

* EQIP and WHIP together devoted over $40 million in 2009 - up from $14 million in 2007 - to practices like wildlife habitat improvement and thinning to reduce fire risk.

* The Forest Stewards Program helped nearly 16,000 forest owners develop management plans that promote good stewardship and cover more than 2 million acres. The study found that states vary significantly in their focus on forestry versus other land types, and the use of Farm Bill program resources for forests:

  * States range from 71 % to 0.05 % of EQIP funding used for forestry.

  * Alaska, Alabama, Illinois, New Hampshire, and Ohio all top the list, spending more than 10% of their funding to forestry.

Participants at the briefing included, Jay Jensen, USDA Undersecretary for Natural Resources and Environment, Cara Boucher, Michigan state forester, Dr. Rob Parkes, vice-chair, Arkansas Forestry Commission, Lisa Parkes, Arkansas Tree Farmer, and Chuck Leavell, AFF Board member, Georgia Tree Farmer and member of the Rolling Stones.

The American Forest Foundation analyzed data provided by the NRCS, Farm Service Agency, and the U.S. Forest Service, regarding the implementation of conservation programs authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill. They conducted interviews of family forest owners who have participated in one or more of the programs and are certified by ATFS. Forest Conservation in 2009: A Farm Bill Progress Report is available at www.forestfoundation.org.
Oregon Department of Forestry Budget

The fifth and final monthly meeting of the “Coalition for Oregon Forests,” a group convened by State Forester Marvin Brown to consider possible solutions to the Department of Forestry’s budget woes, took place on September 27 – with the group failing to come to consensus on how to proceed with the task at hand.

From the beginning, many members of this coalition—particularly landowners—had urged ODF to first look at ways to reduce costs and reduce spending, before attempting to identify alternative sources of revenue. But partly because many of the “cost drivers” at ODF are matters of broader state budget policy and beyond ODF’s ability to change unilaterally, the coalition focused most of its attention on the revenue side of the equation.

Particular attention was given at the September 27 meeting to the idea of assessing a fee on tax lots in wildland-urban interface areas to help cover the costs of administering the Forest Protection Act. Forest practices foresters spend a large amount of time in these areas, and are often asked to referee land use disputes and attempts by landowners to convert forested tracts to non-forest uses.

This idea, however, was shot down by representatives from the Oregon Small Woodlands Association who argued that the bulk of these new fees would be paid by family forestland owners. They also noted that the effect of this proposal would be to shift the entire cost of administering the Forest Practices Act onto the backs of landowners (40 percent of those costs are already paid through the Forest Products Harvest Tax). Such a shift would be inconsistent with Board of Forestry policy, which seeks to avoid piling on landowner costs that make keeping forest land in forest use unattractive.

Landowner representatives on the committee then returned to another often-repeated theme— which is the new taxes or new fees of any kind are probably not realistic, and that ODF’s best bet to preserve adequate funding for the Forest Practices program is to be more aggressive in seeking its fair share of the General Fund dollars in the Legislature. The Sierra Club representative, however, replied in essence that they don’t think the current Forest Practices Act and rules are adequate, and unless landowners would be willing to support tougher rules, they would have little interest in being part of an effort to increase

Cont’d from page 7 (OSWA Board report)

Dave Bateman reported Linn County’s Seedling Sale will be February 19th and will include a “Goods from the Woods” sale as well. Linn County Chapter is funding two $1000 scholarships. The Linn County Tree Farmers of the Year are Dale and Shirley Crocker of Sweet Home. The Linn County Chapter annual meeting will be January 15th in Scio.

Jean McCloskey reported the Tree Farmer of the Year will be announced October 23rd at a banquet in Molalla. Two $1000 grants are being funded by the Clackamas County Chapter.

Joe Steer reported that a summer tour in Lincoln County focusing on the Confederated Tribe of Siletz was successful.

Nancy Hathaway reported that the Benton County Chapter’s annual meeting will be January 22nd with a noon luncheon.

Ken Nicholls reported Douglas County had three successful summer tours. The Douglas County annual meeting will be in February. The date will be determined soon.

Paul Nys reported Columbia County helps send 5th graders, with assistance from OFRI, to the World Forestry Center and has a grant program for teachers who offer teaching programs with long-term connections to natural resource education. Columbia County pays $35 of each new member’s original dues and offers a tour of each new member’s woodlands. Their annual meeting is scheduled for Nov. 6th.

Dallas Boge reported that Washington County will have a Tree Farmer of the Year celebration at the annual meeting on November 16th.

The next Board meeting will be on February 3rd at the OSWA Salem office. The next Board call will be December 9th.

Board meeting minutes can be found on the website.
**CONTINUED NEWS**

*cont’d from previous page (ODF Budget)*

ODF’s General Fund appropriation. Members of OFIC’s Forest Management Policy Committee were briefed on the outcome and agreed for now at least the OFIC and OSWA should stick with the themes of reducing overall state government costs and avoiding further General Fund cuts to the Department of Forestry’s budget—despite the grim budget climate. Over the last decade, spending from General Fund for all agencies has gone up more than 31 percent— but General Fund support for natural resource agencies has gone down 2.5 percent, and now represents only 1 percent of the overall General Fund budget.

---

**Fire Season Over Early**

The 2010 fire season was one of our best. For June, July, and August, we experienced the coolest summer in the past 17 years. A wet September brought fire season to a close. Through mid September, Oregon had 589 fires burning 6,261 acres. The ten year average is 934 fires burning 25,542 acres.

---

*cont’d from page 13 (Forest Owners Petition EPA...)*

David P. Tenny, President and CEO of NAFO, said, “NAFO was compelled to file these petitions. EPA’s reversal from the proposed to the final rule was a significant step backward for renewable energy that came as a surprise without prior notice or adequate explanation in the record. If allowed to stand, this decision will cripple the biomass energy marketplace at the very moment when our nation needs additional investment to realize its renewable energy goals. It could also cause significant harm to forest owners and mills using biomass energy that, combined, form the economic and employment backbone of many rural communities.”

Tenny emphasized that the rule contradicts the EPA’s and Department of Energy’s long recognized policy that “there is a ‘scientific consensus’ that ‘carbon dioxide emitted from burning biomass will not increase CO2 in the air if it is done on a sustainable basis’.” Tenny said, “Regulating biomass energy the same as fossil fuels ignores the scientific fact that biomass recycles carbon in the atmosphere while fossil fuels add to it. This unprecedented shift in federal policy will prolong our dependence on carbon emitting fossil fuels. It will also add to the economic pressures forcing sustainably managed private forestland into other more economically competitive uses with far fewer GHG mitigation benefits.”

Tenny pointed to U.S. government data demonstrating that forestry in the U.S. has a long track record of sustainability with significant carbon benefits, “The United States is a world leader in sustainable forest management. As a result, our total acres of forest has been stable for over a century, and our volume of growing trees has increased by nearly 50 percent over the last 50 years. Each year our nation stores more carbon in its forests than it releases from them. That is why energy from forest biomass does not increase carbon in the atmosphere.”
Fall color in Oregon: now is a great time to appreciate Oregon’s rural and urban forests

Paul Ries, ODF

Whether you’re a nature lover, photographer, or just like getting your exercise in the great outdoors, right now, as the days shorten and nights grow cooler, Oregon’s rural and urban forests are starting out on an amazing transformation. This is a great time to take in the beauty of Oregon’s fall colors.

Whether hiking along a trail, driving through Oregon’s back roads or taking time out with the kids to enjoy a favorite city park, trees such as big leaf maple, red alder and dogwood all catch our eye with their brilliant hues and colors. Vine maple is another attractive native plant, turning shades of red, orange and yellow, and is common along park and forest trails. Even poison oak is attractive this time of year, and this makes it easier to spot along forest paths and trails.

This time of year often prompts both kids and adults alike to wonder, “Why do leaves change color, anyway?”

A series of dry days with cool nighttime temperatures is ideal to creating beautiful fall color, so each season is a bit unique from the next.

“The leaves of deciduous trees change color each fall due to a combination of environmental factors,” says Paul Ries, an urban forester with the Oregon Department of Forestry. “During summer months, a leaf is green because the tree is making chlorophyll through the process of photosynthesis.” As day length wanes in the fall and temperatures cool, photosynthesis begins to shut down, revealing “the natural color pigments of the leaves” - what we know as fall colors, says Ries.

And, although abundant fall rain and wind can shorten the fall color period, Oregon usually has a long fall color viewing period.

Great fall color can often be found close to home - in our city parks, on college campuses, and at our arboretums. If you’re in the neighborhood, plan a visit to one of these destinations and enjoy the changing seasons.

In the Portland area, try Hoyt Arboretum http://www.hoytarboretum.org/ to experience a diverse collection of more than 8,000 trees and plants from around the world. This park-like setting includes some 187 acres with 21 trails covering 12 miles. Located just two miles from downtown Portland, Hoyt Arboretum is a great place to take kids. The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/columbia/, northeast of Portland, is another great place to take in the beauty of the season’s colors.

In Silverton, the Oregon Garden http://www.oregongarden.org/ is a showcase for thousands of plants in more than 20 specialty gardens. Ash, maples, and ginkgo are all ablaze with color at the Oregon Garden right now.

In the Eugene-Springfield area, take a hike at Lane County’s Mount Pisgah Arboretum - a 209-acre “living tree museum” bordering the coast fork of the Willamette River, located east of I-5 and just south of Eugene. If you’ve never been there before, Mt Pisgah’s annual “Mushroom Festival” on Sunday, October 31st, may be just the time to visit.

Eugene’s University of Oregon http://www.uoregon.edu/ campus offers a chance to enjoy fall color in an attractive, more urban setting.

Oregon State University’s http://oregonstate.edu/ campus in Corvallis also features fall beauty around every corner right now.

Ashland’s 93-acre Lithia Park http://www.ashland.or.us/Page.asp?NavID=257 is a wonderful place to experience fall color splendor. Located within walking distance of downtown Ashland, Lithia Park Woodland Trail is part of a 100-acre National Historic Site. The one-mile walking trail takes you past flora and fauna in a beautiful wooded setting.

Thinking about planting a tree this fall?

While the spring is always a good time to plant trees, the fall season is also conducive to tree planting. When planting a new tree, make sure the roots are covered, taking care not to plant your tree too deeply. Instead, set it slightly above the level of the surrounding soil to allow for settling and increased soil drainage.

Also, don’t fertilize your tree after planting - wait until early spring to do this. Do add a few inches of mulch around the base of the tree.

Thinking about adding some color to your property? For fall color in small places, consider paperbark maple for its...
Expanded Critical Habitats for Bull Trout

By: Richard B. Shepard, Ph.D., Applied Ecosystem Services

On October 12, 2010 the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) issued its final rule on expanded critical habitat designations for bull trout in Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Montana, and Nevada. Approximately 18,975 stream miles and 488,252 lake and reservoir acres are included in the designation. Idaho leads the list with 8,772 stream miles; Nevada has only 72 stream miles in the Jarbidge River. Montana contains 221,471 acres of lakes or reservoirs listed as critical habitat while Oregon contains 30,256 acres. The final rule has the potential to affect a range of natural resource industries and government-funded infrastructure projects. Current operations and future permit applications for grazing, confined animal feeding operations, logging, mining, transmission/pipeline, and hydroelectric power generation might be affected. These operations and permit applications will be closely examined by regulators, resource agencies, and project opponents. Despite this greatly expanded area future operations can be permitted if the proper approach is taken to address bull trout habitat concerns.

The strategy for continuing and initiating projects and operations within designated bull trout critical habitat units is to demonstrate that the project or operation “is not likely to adversely affect” (that’s ESA Biological Opinion language) bull trout populations. This strategy has been successfully applied to renewal of commercial sand and gravel dredging operations in one of the most environmentally-challenging permitting environments: the Lower Columbia River between Oregon and Washington with many ESA-listed anadromous salmonid populations and the anti-development activism of the Portland/Vancouver area.

To implement this strategy use freely-available tools for spatial analyses that integrate terrain, landscapes, hydrology, drainage networks, bull trout behaviors and habitats, and time in a variety of models that identify limiting factors of the fish populations in the basin. The baseline digital data for these analyses are almost always readily available at appropriate scales. These analyses provide the context for the project or operation. In the case of existing operations the analyses can determine whether there is direct or indirect effects on the fish and their habitats. For new projects, careful analysis will offer insights on how to avoid jeopardy or provide benefits to the fish.

The use of analytical maps as presentation tools when addressing both technical and non-technical decisions makers enhances statistical and textual descriptions. These maps allow complex relationships to be easily and clearly seen and provide compelling support for the operator and project proponent. For example, a map that relates seasonal distribution of bull trout populations within the drainage basin to terrain characteristics (valley width, slope, and curvature; channel size, gradient and aspect) illustrates water quality dynamics and water quality parameters (temperature, dissolved oxygen, sediment transport potential). Adding the location of the project or operation supports scientific interpretation of system dynamics.

This strategy was used in the successful renewal permit application for an aggregate operator whose small storage pit on the south bank of the Columbia River limited his business. Demand for the coarse sands he sold far exceeded the capacity of his storage area. By integrating the spatial locations and operating characteristics of the dredging with the spatial, seasonal, and migratory behaviors of juvenile and adult salmon his renewed permit doubled the volume of material he was allowed to remove from the river and waived the in-water work period restrictions established by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and adopted by the National Marine Fisheries Services. Therefore, while the FWS greatly expanded critical habitats for the bull trout the proper approach can help businesses survive and thrive.

cont’d from page 14

brilliant, shiny scarlet leaves. For small to medium areas, take a look at Persian Parrotia (Parrotia persica) which can grow tall - but slowly - and has purple, yellow, orange, and sometimes even red leaves on the same tree at the same time. For large spaces and yards, Scarlet oak makes a great addition to the landscape.

While everyone enjoys fall color, many people do NOT enjoy the fall leaf drop. If there are seniors or others in your neighborhood that cannot rake up their leaves, consider offering to rake them up for them, or organize a leaf raking party to help out others. In these challenging times, it’s important to show you care.

For more information about trees and tree care:
* Pacific Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture http://www.pnwisa.org/
As you sit on the hillside...lie prone under the trees of the forest, the great door, that does not look like a door, opens."
—Stephen Graham

OFFICERS

President
Nancy Hathaway
nancyhath@comcast.net

President Elect
Scott Hayes
scotthayes@wildblue.net

Second Vice President
Donna Heffernan
nslope@coni.com

Second Vice President
Roy Hendrick, III
milepost@harborside.com

Second Vice President
Dave Schmidt
lakehouse9@msn.com

Past President
Ken Faulk
kfaulk@peak.org

Secretary
Katie Kohl
kohl@proaxis.com

Second Vice President
Treasurer
Dallas Boge
dalboge@juno.com
dalboge@proaxis.com

STAFF

Executive Director
Jim James
jimjamesoswa@yahoo.com

NEW MEMBERS

BENTON: HALSEY TREE FARM TRUST
LANE: INTERNATIONAL PAPTER

COLUMBIA: WALTER SKOWHEDE
LINN: MATT DELANEY

DOUGLAS: ERIC GEYER
WASHINGTON: MICHAEL WALLACE

JACKSON/JOSEPHINE: JOHN HUTTL
M & M’S TREE FARM