OSWA News

OSWA Board Reduces Dues for Smaller Landowners

By Jim James, Executive Director

At the OSWA Board meeting on Feb. 3rd, the Board addressed several issues related to OSWA’s dues structure. It approved a recommendation from the Membership Committee to reduce the dues for members with 15 acres or less to $45 per year, effective March 2012. The dues for all other members will remain the same at this time. The Board also directed the Membership Committee to evaluate the current dues structure for equity and fairness based on membership size and location (east side or west side) with a progress report at the June Board meeting and a recommendation for change, if warranted, at the September Board meeting. Each chapter was asked to have an active Membership Committee member participate in this review. The Board also approved a recommendation to have only four anniversary dates (dues invoice dates) per year; March, June, September and December. Members with different anniversary dates will be changed to the closest to these four months.

The Board also approved a revised 2012 Calendar of Events and a revised 2012 Legislative Priorities. The revised documents can be found in the Members Only Section of the OSWA website. The Board also authorized a revised 2012 Budget that contains an expenditure of $2,000 for membership promotional materials. In 2011, OSWA’s membership declined 2%, which is an improvement over declines of 8% in 2010 and 10% in 2009, but a trend that needs to be changed. The Board approved the Membership Committee’s Membership Plan at the September 2011 Board meeting and encourages chapters to actively invite neighbors and friends to join OSWA, become involved in the chapter and state wide activities, and to enjoy the benefits of OSWA membership.

2012 Legislative Session Begins

By Roger Beyer

After 152 years of meeting only in odd numbered years, the Oregon legislature convened on February 1, 2012 for Oregon’s first annual session. This change came about in 2010 when Oregon voters passed Ballot Measure 71, a constitutional amendment requiring annual sessions. This amendment passed in all 36 counties with an overall vote of more than twice as many yes votes as no, so Oregonians have clearly endorsed the concept. There may be downsides to annual sessions but at least for this year it has given us a window of opportunity to work on some OSWA priorities.

Our first issue is HB 4042, sponsored by Rep. Gilliam, which changes how Oregon pays for the costs of wildfires. Currently, forest landowners pay 50% of the cost of fire prevention and about 88% of the cost of fire suppression. This bill is designed to bring equity between landowners and the public for suppression cost and authorizes the Department of Forestry to use general fund resources to mitigate forest patrol assessment rates in areas of low productivity and hire fire occurrence, a key provision.
**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.

---

**WHO IS NEDC AND WHY SHOULD WE CARE?**

NEDC has recently appeared as more than a blip on our horizon. Recent articles and the November Oregon Tree Farm System Annual Meeting have tried to educate us about the NEDC vs. Decker lawsuit. This edition of the Update includes another article on page 11.

First, the lawsuit: NEDC filed against the State Forester and others, charging that run-off made logging roads a pollution point source. Nowhere in the lawsuit is water quality an issue.

This is a lawsuit over the definition of point v. non-point and who controls the Clean Water Act (CWA). The term point source was created to address man-made conveyances (pipes & ditches) which direct polluted water to the navigable waters of the nation. This Act was originally designed for industry and municipalities, with agriculture and forestry activities purposely excluded. Since 1976, Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has stood by its MOU with Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), maintaining that water quality standards are adequate. If so, is this a purely political inroad to control forest operations? Is this an opening salvo to shut down state forests, federal forests already having been shut down? The problem with federal environmental laws like the CWA is that they were not fully defined so that there could be some latitude in implementation. The bad news is that this has made them vulnerable to court challenges decades later.

I googled NEDC which is located on the 137 wooded acre campus of Lewis and Clark in Portland. It is a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection of the environment and natural resources of the Pacific Northwest. However, I could not determine if they were as dedicated to the environment as OSWA members who actually have real skin in the game. Their 17-member board is almost all practicing attorneys with law student volunteers doing the work in the Project Groups: Lands and Wildlife, Water, and Air. They evaluate notices of proposed agency actions and also evaluate requests received from other environmental groups. That’s how, why, and when they decide to take action.

Under the CWA, any citizen group can file and, as a bonus, claim legal fees if sufficient legal points are won.

So, right away, and at least on paper, I found many similarities between OSWA and NEDC: concern and stewardship for the land, need for a forest management plan, desire to implement best management practices, similar organizational structure, political agenda, and fee/dues schedule. But, here we have a university-sponsored group of students whose assignment is to challenge regulations, and in this case, without any technical basis or environmental benefit, so who will have the ultimate say? Congress may have to write a new law clarifying the language, or the US Supreme Court may come up with an opinion first.
MESSAGE FROM JIM JAMES

OSWA has several events scheduled in 2012. Here are a few:

OSWA Annual Meeting and Howdy Neighbor Tour – June 21-23

The 2012 Annual Meeting will be hosted by Washington County and will be held at Pacific University in Forest Grove. This year’s theme is “Neighbors Helping Neighbors”. There will be a Board of Director’s meeting in the evening of Thursday, June 21st. The program on Friday, June 22nd will include current issue updates, an overview of insurance needs and options, new tools for small woodland owners, and a focus on topics about how neighbors can and are helping neighbors. There will be an awards banquet that evening. During the Annual Membership Meeting at lunch on Friday, two vacancies on the Executive Committee will need to be filled. Ken Faulk’s term as Past-President will expire and Katie Kohl, Secretary has requested that she not be re-elected. Nancy Hathaway will become the new Past-President, Scott Hayes will become President, and a new President-Elect and VP will be elected by the membership. Anyone interested in being elected to the Executive Committee please let your Chapter President and Nancy Hathaway know. A nominating committee will be appointed by Nancy in mid-April. The Saturday Howdy Neighbor Tour will visit Peter Hayes’ 160 acre parcel near Forest Grove. A variety of forest topics will be observed and discussed. OSWA will have its annual Silent Auction on Friday along with Awesome OSWA products for sale. Please mark your calendar for this fun and rewarding event.

Howdy Neighbor Tours

OSWA would like to have four Howdy Neighbor tours in 2012. Two have been scheduled. One during the Annual Meeting on June 23rd and one the following Saturday, June 30th at James and Phyllis Dahm’s Whiskey Creek Ranch (2011 Oregon’s Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year) in Klamath County. Anyone chapter wishing to host a Howdy Neighbor Tour, please contact me.

Tree Schools

OSU Extension has several Tree Schools scheduled for 2012. The Clackamas County Tree School is scheduled in Oregon City for March 24; Douglas County has a Tree School scheduled for March 29th in Roseburg; the NE Oregon Tree School is scheduled for April 14th in Baker City; Rouge Tree School in Grants Pass is scheduled for April 28th, and Lane County has a series of forestry programs scheduled for February and March. Check the OSU Forestry Extension website for details.

Take advantage of these great opportunities.

Herbicide Aerial Application Investigation Planned

The Pesticide Analytical Response Center (PARC) in collaboration with the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) is conducting a Pesticide Exposure Investigation in the Hwy 36/Triangle Lake area. Some of the residents in this area requested an investigation at a Board of Forestry meeting last fall. At question is the adequacy of Oregon’s Forest Practices laws related to the use of herbicides.

Phase I of the investigation, done in the Triangle Lake area, is mostly completed.

Con’t on page 8
OSWA NEWS

OSU Extension Changes

By Brad Withrow-Robinson OSU Extension Forester

The OSU Forestry & Natural Resources Extension program has seen some significant personnel changes in recent months, including the retirement of longtime Linn/Benton County agent Rick Fletcher and the transition of Clackamas County agent Mike Bondi to an administrative leadership role. That, coupled with a declining overall program budget has led to the need to reorganize and reallocate existing staff in order to continue serving all Oregonians. Essentially, because our declining budget precludes our ability to refill vacancies with new hires, Extension agents will be relocated and/or covering larger areas.

As a result of these changes, I have been reassigned to a new area made up of Polk, Benton and Linn Counties. Amy Grotta will add Yamhill County to her existing area of Columbia and Washington Counties and Glenn Ahrens will cover Marion County along with Clackamas and Hood River Counties.

This will be a significant change for me, and for many of you in this three county area. Both Amy and Glenn are excellent agents with great depth and breadth of forestry skills and knowledge, and the three of us will work to coordinate and find any efficiencies we can to provide effective programming in the north and central Valley. We are anticipating that the transition process will happen gradually over the first 6 months of 2012. There is still a lot of coordination and planning to do to make this happen smoothly, and we will do our best to keep you informed.

Here is a rundown of the changes being implemented in northwest Oregon:

Brad Withrow-Robinson is transitioning from Yamhill, Polk and Marion Counties to a new service area of Linn, Benton, and Polk Counties

Glenn Ahrens is moving from Clatsop & Tillamook County to Clackamas County, and will also pick up coverage for Marion and Hood River Counties

Amy Grotta will increase her service area to include Columbia, Washington, and Yamhill Counties

Jim Reeb will transition to a three county service area including Lincoln, Tillamook, and Clatsop Counties

You’re looking out for your land.
Who’s looking out for you?

Your land is important to you and your family. And you and your family are important to J.D. Fulwiler. That’s why we have been providing personalized insurance coverage to OSWA members for over five years. If you are looking for options for your liability insurance, please contact Jan Oyala at 800-735-8325 for more information about how we can help you.
OREGON TREE FARM SYSTEM NEWS

Webinars

ATFS is striving to provide the information family forest landowners need to keep their forests healthy, productive, and enjoyable. It has developed a series of webinars to provide important management information to tree farmers. Topics cover a range of topics from invasive species to legacy planning. Here is what’s coming up:

Timber Tax Basis

March 6, 2012 at 11 a.m. (Pacific Standard Time)

This webinar is designed to give you a detailed and clear understanding of timber tax basis, a deduction that many landowners struggle with after timber sale or loss of timber from fire, theft or storm. Properly and timely setting up your timber basis is an important step in saving taxes, time, and hassle.

More information on how to join in on these informative sessions from home can be found at http://www.treefarmsystem.org/ATFSwebinarseries or by emailing ATFS at webinars@forestfoundation.org.

2012 National Tree Farmer Convention

This year’s National Tree Farmer Convention is earlier than usual. It will be June 14-16 in Jacksonville, Florida. The annual Tree Farm Conventions offer a great opportunity for education, networking with other family forest landowners, and fun. Details can be found at http://www.treefarmsystem.org/tree-farmer-conventions. The American Tree Farm System will continue to update this website as additional information is finalized and becomes available.

2012 Photo Contest, Sponsored by STIHL, Inc.

The American Tree Farm System has once again partnered with Stihl, Inc. to host the 2012 Photo Contest. Entries are now being accepted, and we will continue to collect photos for the contest through June 1, 2012. Aside from the generous prizes offered by STIHL, the annual photo contest is a great way to show off your hard work on the ground and to share your family’s Tree Farm legacy with the entire ATFS network and beyond - get your entries in today!

There are two categories for photos:

• Category 1, Scenic Tree Farms Landscapes: Scenic Tree Farm landscapes with or without your Tree Farm sign (Tree Farm signs are preferred!)

• Category 2, Multiple Tree Farm Generations: Photos featuring multiple generations on your Tree Farm, walking, recreating, or learning in the woods

The photographer of the winning photo in each category will receive a $500.00 product certificate redeemable for STIHL brand products/accessories at a local STIHL dealer. The photographer of the runner-up photo will receive $250.00 in the form of a STIHL product certificate.

Katie Zolezzi, daughter of Craig and Cindy Royce of Lane County, was a First Place winner for 2011. More details at http://www.treefarmsystem.org/stihlphotocontest.

Robert “Dee” Anderson departs OTFS Board

Longtime volunteer Robert “Dee” Anderson departs Oregon Tree Farm System, Inc. (OTFS) Board member with 18 years of service and leadership. Dee served as State Chair from 2001-03.

A Tree Farm and OSWA member, Dee has a long history of volunteering. He is a Master Woodland Manager, graduating in OSU Extension’s second MWM class. Dee also has worked with OSU’s Project Learning Tree program, helping instruct teachers on Oregon’s forest resources.

Dee represents family forest landowners as a Director of the Eastern Lane Forest Protection Association, advising Oregon Department of Forestry’s fire prevention efforts.

Dee and his wife Marge live on their 160-acre tree farm southeast of Cottage Grove. They were honored as Lane County’s 1993 Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year.
Board of Forestry to Evaluate Riparian Protection on Medium and Small Fish Bearing Streams

By Jim James

In January, the Board of Forestry voted 5 to 2 to move forward with a process to determine if additional protections in Oregon’s Forest Practice Act are needed on medium and small fish bearing streams. Some preliminary results from a 10 year study on stream temperatures, called RipStream, suggests that when riparian buffers are reduced to the minimum conifer basal area (the accumulative cross sectional area of conifer trees in the riparian zone measured at breast height) required by Oregon’s Forest Practice Act, a few of the streams measured had some minor increases in temperature. The state water temperature standard, set by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), is that water temperature cannot increase any detectable level. Two board members voted no on the basis that the study results have not yet been finalized, the results of another water quality study, called Hinkle Creek, are not yet complete, and the suggested increase in water temperature from the RipStream study was so minor that there is no urgency to act until results of the studies are official. However, five board members voted to take the preliminary steps in starting a rule making process.

The Department of Forestry has suggested some minor tweaks to the existing rules may be necessary. This issue will be discussed by Regional Forest Practices Committees over the next several months who will advise the Board on any actions that should be taken. Should it be determined action is needed, a rule making process will begin that will follow the procedures necessary to make a forest practices change which requires a thorough scientific review, a cost benefit evaluation, and includes public comment. Although unofficial, some suggestions being batted around include slightly increasing the basal area requirements on the South side of medium and small fish bearing streams, but it is premature to speculate if changes are needed or if they are what would be required to keep forest stream temperatures at state water quality standards. This is an important issue to all Oregon forest land owners. OSWA will stay involved through its role on the Committee for Family Forests, which advises the Board of Forestry on issues impacting small woodland owners.
Oregon’s small woodlands connect forests and families with past, present and future

By Doug Decker, Oregon State Forester

During its November tour of family forests in Washington County, the Oregon Board of Forestry and Department of Forestry staff had an opportunity to see first-hand the degree of dedication Oregon’s family forest landowners are investing in their lands and in their future. It was a memorable day, featuring an in-depth look at the challenges and opportunities associated with this class of forestlands.

One of the more interesting discussions for me focused on the challenge of passing lands and a management ethic from one generation to the next. A panel of next-generation forest owners, who are in the process of taking over the lands from their elders, pointed out how these challenges ranged from tax and financial implications, to family decision-making models.

Some told of how a parent’s sacrifices back then are paying a range of social, economic and environmental dividends today. Others wondered aloud what Old Dad was thinking about when he acquired a certain parcel, or why he made the choices he did about species planted, thinning done or not done, roads laid out in certain ways. For these younger voices, their inherited forest was a backdrop for their own growing up, with family roots planted deep in a particular place. That personal stake in the game motivates this next generation to learn more, to do more, and to want the best for their forestland.

I was struck by the way in which family stories and memories are indeed so closely linked with the land, and that in some cases the management objectives today stem directly from the character and the vision of those now gone, or no longer able to engage with the management activities themselves. That’s what a legacy is all about.

At the close of our conversation on that cold day in November, one of our Board members put it very nicely: in some ways, stewardship is all about a willingness to live with the choices and consequences of our actions. Family forest landowners have invested themselves and their families in these lands for multiple generations—and are taking steps to make sure the legacy of their lands lives on into the future. It’s an important Oregon tradition worth continuing, and there are committed experts out there willing to help.

Pilot project tests improvements to the ODF notification system

By Kevin Weeks, ODF Public Information Officer

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) is pilot-testing some changes to its forest operation notification and inspection processing systems from February through April 2012 at the Coos Bay, Dallas and Klamath Falls offices. This project is in response to direction from the 2011 Legislature to review the administration of the Forest Practices Act and make recommendations that could result in cost savings and improved customer service.

The Department contracted with a business consultant to undertake an extensive analysis and redesign of Forest Practices Act administrative processes. Landowners, forest operators and public members provided valuable input in meetings and focus group sessions.

The main elements of the notification changes being tested include: 1) More consistent entry of notification data into a central geographic information system (GIS); 2) streamlined processing of notifications and capturing field inspection data; and 3) Increased ODF Stewardship Forester field inspection time and landowner/operator interactions, as less time is spent on paperwork and map preparation.

Con’t on page 10

Yaquina Forestry Services
Serving Private Timberland Owners Since 1978

Professional Forestry Consulting

Timber Harvest Administration
Timber Sale Assistance
TSP to NRCS Forest Plan
Timber and Timberland Appraisal
Timber Inventory and Cruising
Carbon Sale Inventory
Management Plans
Land Management Assistance

8349 NW Oxbow Dr, Corvallis, OR 97333
541-757-6540 (o) 541-754-0507 (f)
www.yaquinaforestry.com

Member Oregon Small Woodlands Assc.
Committee seeks to reduce wildfire protection costs to landowners

by Rod Nichols, ODF

Like other small businesses, family forestland owners strive to hold down operating expenses. One of those costs - wildfire protection – has exceeded the general inflation rate for many years running. OSWA is a key player on a committee formed on behalf of the Board of Forestry to recommend changes to Oregon’s wildfire protection system that would bring down fire protection costs.

Throughout its deliberations that began last November, the 18-member Fire Protection Funding Committee (FPFC) has focused on an oft-demonstrated principle: When a wildfire breaks out, timing is everything. If it escapes initial attack and grows large, suppression can take days to weeks and run into millions of dollars. But if firefighters are able to stop it quickly at a small size, firefighting cost will be significantly less and timber loss reduced.

Restructuring the multi-layered fire funding system (which puts boots on the ground and helicopters in the air) so that fewer fire starts grow into costly and damaging incidents dominates the committee’s discussions, and with good reason. Preventing just one large wildfire each season could lower fire protection costs to landowners, which they pay through the state’s Forest Patrol Assessment and Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund.

With technical assistance from Department of Forestry (ODF) staff, the FPFC is working to fulfill its charge to generate proposals for ODF to consider as the agency drafts legislative concepts for the Board of Forestry’s consideration and decision for the 2013 legislative session.

Additionally, the committee has been tasked with addressing the challenge of how to cover costs associated with protecting forestlands that have a high incidence of wildfire but lower revenue yield. A handful of forest protection districts east of the Cascades and in southwestern Oregon account for the bulk of firefighting expenditures state-wide, chiefly due to lightning-caused fires. This history of frequent and large fires has pushed up the assessment rates and added to the financial pressures bearing on landowners in the “high fire” districts. While they experience more wildfire than other regions of the state, their timberlands cannot produce the level of income achievable in, for example, the lush forests of northwestern Oregon.

More information on the work of the Fire Protection Funding Committee can be found on at: www.oregon.gov/odf.

Phase II will require pre- and post-evaluations of conditions around areas where herbicides are applied. PARC is looking for landowners who plan to aerially apply herbicides this spring in 8 different Oregon Townships. They are T15S R6W, T15S R7W, T16S R6W, T16S R7W, T16S R8W, T17S R7W, T17S R8W, and T17S R9W. Any notifications of operations for an aerial application of herbicides in these townships could receive a request to participate in Phase II of this investigation. This will involve 1) a pre-spray testing of exposure in the area by testing of urine, air and other environmental samples prior to aerial herbicide application, 2) a similar sampling during the spraying and post-spraying, and 3) PARC will provide observers on all spray operations to document that the operation was conducted in compliance with the pesticide label requirements and Forest Practice regulations.

The Departments of Agriculture and Forestry will each provide an observer to cover both State and Federal regulatory requirements. The EPA may also wish to have an observer.

Any OSWA member who wishes to know more about this investigation, please contact Jim James at jimjamesoswa@yahoo.com.
Lincoln County 2011 Master Woodland Manager Excellence Award Presented to Joe and Jan Steenkolk

By Jim Reeb OSU Extension Forester

On January 28th at the Lincoln County Annual Meeting, Joe and Jan Steenkolk were recognized by Oregon State University Extension Service for their many hours of volunteer work as Master Woodland Managers helping other landowners become better stewards of their properties. Joe and Jan must not have read the fine print about donating back 80 hours of time after graduating as Master Woodland Managers. They have been MWMs for well over 20 years and continue to give back to OSU Extension and to other Lincoln County landowners through their time with Oregon Small Woodlands Association (OSWA) and the American Tree Farm System (ATFS). Just a few examples of their efforts include their work with the Lincoln County Chapter of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association tree seedling sale, the Small Woodlands Association annual meeting, and the Lincoln County Tree Farmer of the Year nomination committee and tour. Joe and Jan hosted the OSU Extension Forestry Team during their 2009 annual meeting in Newport.

They have invited the Lincoln County Mycological Society to hunt for truffles on their property and are excited to do this. They have years of successful tree farm experience and enjoy sharing their knowledge so others can benefit.
OSWA NEWS

Cont’d from front page (2012 Legislature...)

for OSWA members in eastern Oregon. The bill unanimously passed the first policy committee and is now in the budget committee.

HB 4072 is a bill to allow state agencies to contract with fire protection association districts for employees. The three fire associations which have been using this process for years have recently been told the practice wasn’t legal. The associations have been contracting with the Oregon Department of Transporation (ODOT) in order to keep employees full time and retain the experienced crews. This bill simply allows that relationship to continue and for the associations to retain their valuable work force.

SB 1546 is a bill relating to trees. This relating to clause immediately caught my attention as anything dealing with trees could be put into the bill. As drafted, the bill allows ODOT to enter private land in order to assess trees along state highways as to potential danger. If trees are determined to be a danger, the department would be authorized to cut them down. I worked with the sponsor of the bill to establish legislative record that the landowner would retain ownership of the trees and ODOT would work with landowners during the process so that the land owner could capture the value of the trees.

The session is constitutionally limited to 35 days. Legislative leadership has set a goal of February 29th for adjournment, so issues are moving quite rapidly. If asked by OSWA to contact your legislator about an issue, please don’t hesitate or it will be too late. Legislators will be running for re-election as soon as the session is over, so your input on issues will be more powerful than ever.

Cont’d from page 7 (Pilot project...)

ODF’s goal for the pilot project is to evaluate and improve our customer service, and we appreciate hearing your thoughts and feedback. If you want to provide feedback on our pilot please send an e-mail, fax or regular mail with the subject line “Budget Note 2” to:

Email -- information@odf.state.or.us Fax — (503) 945-7490 or Mailing Address: Oregon Department of Forestry, Private Forests – Budget Note 2, 2600 State Street, Salem, OR 97310

Caring for the Next Generation

As a leader in the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® program, International Paper promotes the perpetual planting, growing and harvesting of trees while protecting biodiversity, wildlife, plants, soil, water and air quality. Each time we use paper, packaging or other wood products, we help landowners grow more trees. Together, we can ensure a bright future for the next generation.

To learn more visit us at internationalpaper.com

©2011. International Paper Company. All rights reserved. Sustainable Forestry Initiative and SFI are registered marks owned by Sustainable Forestry Initiative Inc.
**OREGON NEWS**

**NEDC vs. Decker Update**

*By Jim James Executive Director*

In 2006, the Northwest Environmental Defense Council (NEDC) filed a lawsuit in District Court against, then State Forester Marvin Brown and four timber companies who were hauling logs from state timber sales in NW Oregon. NEDC claimed the operators were violating the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) because they had not acquired National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits required by the CWA for point sources of water pollution. The District Court dismissed the case ruling that forest roads were a non-point source of pollution and were regulated under the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) silvicultural exemption regulations. NEDC appealed this decision to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals and in August 2010 ruled NPDES permits are required on forest roads. This decision was appealed, but in May 2011 the 9th Circuit reaffirmed its decision and denied a request to stay the decision pending a Supreme Court appeal. At that time, a NPDES permit to use forest roads became the law of the land for Western states covered by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. Congress, in passing the 2011 Omnibus Appropriations Act, added a rider that stayed the 9th Circuit’s decision until after September 30, 2012.

An appeal was filed with the Supreme Court. In January, the Supreme Court asked the US Solicitor General (SG) for an opinion regarding whether the Court should review the decision. Twenty nine state Attorneys General have written to the SG urging him to recommend a Supreme Court review. Similarly, associations representing state foresters, state water quality agencies, state departments of agriculture and state fish and wildlife agencies have written EPA urging them to defend their regulations. This is an national issue.

The SG will receive advice from EPA and other federal agencies, develop a recommendation regarding Supreme Court review, and submit it to the Supreme Court in April or May of 2012. The Court will then decide whether to review the case by June. If the Court takes the case, briefs will be drafted and filed over the summer and oral arguments will likely be heard this fall. The Court could render a decision in the spring of 2013. OSWA will continue to monitor this issue and keep members informed about the latest developments. This is a big deal to all forest landowners.

**Workshop Announcement: Ties to the Land Workshop**

A Facilitated Workshop on Succession Planning

Keeping Family Forests and Farms in the Family

Few challenges that family forestland owners, farmers, ranchers, and other land-based family businesses face are more important than the issue of passing the business and its land base on to the following generation. Many small landowners want to preserve their family lands but don’t know how to involve family members in ownership and operation of their small land-based businesses. If this is something your family is struggling with, please join us this spring for a two-part workshop on succession planning.

Succession Planning—the human side of Estate Planning—focuses on ways to maintain family ties to the land from generation to generation, building awareness of key challenges facing family businesses and motivating families to address those challenges. This workshop is a mix of pre-recorded presentations and practical group activities to help families develop techniques needed to address tough issues. Topics covered will also be relevant to professionals working with landowner families.

This workshop is sponsored by the Marion/Polk Chapter of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association, OSU Forestry & Natural Resources Extension and Willamette University Department of Environmental and Earth Sciences.

**Workshop Location & Registration**

Date: Thursday March 22 (part 1) and Thursday April 19 (part 2).

Time: 6:00p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

Workshop location: Willamette University, Salem. (Room location and parking information to follow)

Workshop Fee: $40 per family. The fee includes both sessions with refreshments and one copy per family of the workbook: Ties to the Land: Your Family Forest Heritage ($25 value; additional copies will be available at the workshop or may be purchased online).

Registration information: To register on line go to the Forestry and Natural Resources Calendar of Events http://extension.oregonstate.edu/yamhill/calendar-events or contact OSU Yamhill County Extension office 503.434.7517 or debra.zaveson@oregonstate.edu . For planning purposes, please register by Thursday, March 15, 2012.
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  Bill Potterf
bmpotterf@charter.net

Second Vice President  Dave Schmidt
lakehouse9@msn.com

Past President       Ken Faulk
kfaulk@peak.org

Secretary           Katie Kohl
kohl@proaxis.com

Second Vice President  Past President       Ken Faulk
kfaulk@peak.org

Secretary           Katie Kohl
kohl@proaxis.com

Treasurer           Dallas Boge
dalboge@juno.com

STAFF

Executive Director  Jim James
jimjamesoswa@yahoo.com

Office Manager      Jen Rains

THANK YOU! NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS

BAKER:               LUDD TROZPEK
BENTON:              ELIZABETH MOTTNER
                     JANET OHMANN
                     MANLEY THOMPSON
                     BUMPS FARM
COOS/CURRY:          PAUL GOETTLICH
DOUGLAS:             EVAN BARNES
LANE:                HEL BENTREE FARM
LINCOLN:             BARRY GOURLEY
LINN:                UWE FINK
MARION/POLK:         DON GESNER
                         STEVE GILBERT
YAMHILL:             CHARLIE HARRIS
                     RICHARD MCJUNKIN

"If you go off into a far far forest and get very quiet, you'll come to understand that you're connected with everything." - Alan Watts

Northwest Native Plant and Tree Sale

By Bob Shumaker – Washington County

The Washington County Small Woodlands Association has scheduled its eleventh annual Native Plant and Tree Sale for Saturday, March 10th from 9AM to 3PM. The location will be Bales Thriftway Store at 17675 SW Farmington Rd., Aloha.

All plants are certified, quality nursery stock. With almost 2,000 plants, this may be the largest one-day sale of its kind in Oregon. Many species are becoming rare in our Oregon forests and non-existent in developed areas. Check out this year’s new varieties. If you need large quantities of any plant (20 or more) use the contact information below. Check our website wcswa.org for detailed plant lists and descriptions.

Master Woodland Managers, “Naturescaping” experts and Master Gardeners will be available to answer questions about selection, suitability, planting and care. Our famous handout describing characteristics and growing habits of each plant will be available along with landscaping ideas.

All profits from the sale fund scholarships and community education. For further information, contact Bonnie Shumaker (503)324-7825, bshumaker@coho.net or Ardis Schroeder (503)628-2344.