



The Quarterly Bark

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April, 2019

HB 2152 threatens tree farm tax breaks

By Jim James,
OSWA Executive Director

OSWA's Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) has asked all members to contact their legislators in opposition of HB 2152. Many members have already taken action and there is a buzz in the Capitol about OSWA's outreach. **If you have not already done so, please contact your legislator and cc Representative Nancy Nathanson, Chair of the House Revenue Committee.** We need to keep the pressure up.

Rep. Nancy Nathanson's email address is Rep.nancynathanson@oregonstate.gov

Background on HB 2152 – HB 2152 is a bill that would sunset all the special forest tax assessments utilized by OSWA members. It is a Revenue Committee Bill with no specific sponsor. These special tax assessments are designed to encourage family forest owners to manage their forests as forests under Oregon's land use laws. It is hard to interpret the bill as written because each special tax assessment is listed by its ORS number, not its title, but here are the ten forest related special tax

assessments listed and the anticipated tax revenue collected if HB 2152 passes as written:

ORS 307.827 Environmentally sensitive logging equipment & 307.831 Skyline and swing yarders (Section 52 & 53) Revenue Impact: \$ 5,800,000

ORS 308A.362 Riparian Habitat Land (Section 56) Revenue Impact: \$300,000

ORS 308A.300 Open Space Lands (Section 55) Revenue Impact: \$1,500,000

ORS 308A.415 Wildlife Habitat Special Assessment (Section 57) Revenue Impact: \$1,600,000

ORS 308A.456 Conservation Easement (Section 58) Revenue Impact: \$800,000

ORS 321.354 Special Assessment of Western Oregon Forestland (Section 59) Revenue Impact: \$90,900,000

ORS 321.722 Small Tract Forestland Program (Section 60) Revenue Impact: \$22,600,000

ORS 321.833 Special Assessment of Eastern Oregon Forestland (Section 61) Revenue Impact: \$10,000,000

ORS 321.272 Western Private Standing Timber (Section 59) Revenue Impact: \$449,900,000

ORS 321.829 Eastern Private Standing Timber (Section 61) Revenue Impact: \$24,600,000

Forum offers lesson in leadership

By Wylda Cafferata

OSAF stands for the Oregon Society of American Foresters, part of the national SAF organization. On February 1-2, OSAF held its annual Leadership Conference in conjunction with members from Washington, Idaho, and Alaska. The premise of the conference was that there may be such people as "born leaders," but all of us can learn to be more effective leaders. A second premise was that forestry, whether practiced on federal, state, tribal or private land, needs leaders now more than ever. My notes show at least ten lessons to help land managers brush up on leadership skills.

Lesson # 1: Recognize that everyone's background of power and privilege, whether possessing a great deal or very little, is different; avoid assuming everyone has a similar story.

Jessica Homyack, a researcher for Weyerhaeuser Company, gave conference participants a quiz with questions ranging from the books in your home growing up to threats received due to race or gender. The point of the quiz was to show that people we meet have different

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Number 7 is the Small Tract Option used by many OSWA members. Number 9 would add the value of one's timber in the value of their property for calculating one's annual property tax.

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A Joint Publication of the Benton, Lane, Lincoln, & Linn County Chapters of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association



HB 2152

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Google this link to find your representative:

<https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/FindYourLegislator/leg-districts.html>

Your message will have greater impact if you personalize it and use some real-life examples based on your tree farm management. Feel free to include financial information if you chose. It will be more effective to explain what you will be forced to give up (retirement saving, education for grandchildren, long term care saving, habitat restoration) rather than just say it will cost you more money. Remember, the Governor and legislative leaders have made raising more revenue for the state one of their highest priorities, so just stating it will cost you more money may be an incentive for them to pass the bill. Here are some talking points one could consider:

--Encouraging shorter forest rotation by taxing the value of standing timber

annually would jeopardize the environmental benefits created by longer timber rotations enjoyed by all Oregonians.

--Forcing forest owners to cut their timber at a younger age to reduce their tax burden could result in fewer forests with longer rotations that could not only impact any ecological values of having a variety of forest ages but will also be inconsistent with the motives of the Clean Energy and Jobs bill.

HB 2152 is contrary to some of the principal goals in Oregon's proposed Clean Energy & Jobs bill. The proposed tax structure of HB 2152 will take away any incentives to pursue longer rotations

--Including the value of standing timber in the assessed value of property would incentivize landowners to harvest their timber at the youngest possible age. The Oregon tax expenditure report makes the following statement: "Presumably, the purpose is to improve the financial viability of timber production by eliminating the property tax burden and to lessen the incentive to prematurely liquidate immature timber by decreasing the holding costs of keeping the timber on the stump and growing. Before 1977, both land and timber were taxed as property. In some cases, this led to

premature harvesting to lower property tax burden. To encourage holding timber to longer rotation ages, the property tax on the value of the timber was eliminated"

Reach out to neighbors with timberland who are not OSWA members and share your concerns and how to respond. It is time for a full court press type effort. Thank you to all the members who have already contacted their legislators. Email Jim James if you have any questions, jimjamesoswa@yahoo.com. ♦

Benton hosts annual OSWA meeting June 20-22

Benton County is hosting the Oregon Small Woodlands Association annual meeting. It is slated for June 20-22. The theme this year is "Research, Policy and Practices for family forest land management." Four options are available Thursday, June 20. The program and awards banquet will be held Friday at the Benton County Fairgrounds. On Saturday, June 22, the 2018 Tree Farmers of the year tour will visit Oakes Investment LLC, near Monroe. The tree farm has been with the family since 1883. ♦



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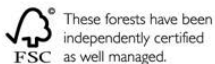
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OSU Extension Online Calendars

Benton, Linn, and Polk Counties events:
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/benton/forestry/events>

Sign up for the *Compass and Needle* mailing list to receive an email notice when an event is scheduled.

Contact Jody Einerson:
jody.einerson@oregonstate.edu
541-766-6750

Lane County events:
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/lane/upcoming-classes-events>

Contact Lauren Grand:
lauren.grand@oregonstate.edu
541-579-2150

Upcoming Events

*Mike Newton Eddyville property tour, **Saturday, May, 8 am-12 pm.** See info p. 12.*

*Lane County board meeting, **Thursday, May 9, 2019, 4-6 pm, ODF, Veneta.***

*Annual OSWA Meeting, **Thursday, June 20-Saturday, June 22.** See info p. 12.*

*Lincoln County Farm to Forest Tour, **Wednesday, June 19.***

*Benton County chapter annual picnic, **Saturday, July 27, 11 am--4 pm.** See info p. 12.*

*Benton TFOY Tour, Diana & Bill Blakney property, **Saturday, September 21.** See info p. 12.*

Lane County Chapter News

President's Update

by Gary Jensen

Winter has come and gone. We are now headed into the spring and summer seasons, and looking at many issues that may affect us as woodland owners. This year finds Oregon's Legislature in session. It is on a course to introduce new laws concerning how we can manage our lands, how counties can tax us for the value of the forests and the state impose fuel taxes under proposed carbon cap legislation. All will have an impact on forest land owners. It is hoped that you will be willing to express your concern and interest to representatives not only within your district but state wide. You do have a say so please voice your concerns.

Google this link to find your representative:

<https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/FindYourLegislator/leg-districts.html>

The bills are:

HB 2020, Carbon Reductions,

HB2152 Sunset Special Assessments for Forest Lands, and

HB 2656, Change the Forest Practice Act to Restrict Current Forest Management Practices.

Lane County Information:

Winter began mild but by February we had received heavy rains and snow, leaving Lane County with many challenges. Many experienced power outages for a week or longer, as well as blockage of driveways and building damage from falling trees. The storm has left us with much to do around our residences and tree farms. Just be cautious when out using your chain saw or running equipment.

The question for now is: Will we have as strong of log market as last summer? And that is hard to answer. But current expectations are not as high. We are dependent upon the national economy and the growth of residential building, which appears to be slowing down. Expectations currently are looking at Douglas-fir log prices in the \$600 - \$700 /mbf range. Not necessarily bad when compared to the last 10 year averages.

In March, LCSWA was fortunate to have an Irish forester visit the South Willamette Valley. Donal Magner, who spent a week visiting Oregon, shared two of those days with us in the Eugene area. During that time he toured Weyerhaeuser's Springfield Forest Lands, the Petersen Family Ranch, located in Upper Camp Creek,

and took a special tour of the Seneca Sawmill complex. Donal was very impressed with what he was able to experience. He had a special thanks to Todd Payne, Chief Executive Officer Seneca for the one on one tour of the Seneca facilities.

Upcoming Events: Later this spring or possibly early summer, Lauren Grand, Oregon State Extension, with support from LCSWA, is working on putting together a tour of Weyerhaeuser's Springfield TOPs program and a Lane County Log Buyers Forum. Both will be very informative for our members. LCSWA is in the process of planning a summer or possibly fall Tree Farm tour .

Lane County Extension Forester:

Lauren Grand – Lauren can be reached through the Eugene Office for Extension Service.

996 Jefferson St.
Phone: 541 579-2150
Eugene, OR 97402
lauren.grand@oregonstate.edu

Next quarterly Board Meeting:
Thursday, May 9, 2019, 4-6 pm
ODF Veneta

Take care and enjoy your forest. We look forward to seeing you at LCSWA's upcoming events. ♦

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OSAF leadership lessons

(continued from p. 1)

backgrounds, and when we engage people in problem-solving, we need to be careful to listen for and elicit the experiences they bring to the table that are different from our own so that all voices can be heard and trust can be built.

Lesson # 2: Words matter. Choose them carefully.

Next, participants met in small groups to discuss a variety of leadership questions, including this one, "What words would you most like to hear from a boss that would make you feel motivated and successful?" Our group came up with two sentences leaders could use:

"I'm excited about what you are doing. " Tell me more about it."

"What do you need from me to help you with this project?"

None of our group liked to be told, "Good job" as it is too bland and too generic.

Lesson# 3: We can be leaders simply by explaining our passion for what we do.

The third event of the Leadership Conference consisted of a panel of foresters who replied to a series of questions related to being SAF foresters, including these: "How did you hear about SAF? What can we do to encourage your membership?" The resounding response from all panelists was that they wished they had known about SAF earlier, and "earlier" included middle and high school as well as college. Those of us who are excited about forest management need to grasp opportunities to let people know the many possibilities and variations of careers in the forest. One additional, related, thought came from a nineteen year-old panelist: "wake up every day passionate about what you do."

Lesson # 4: Take opportunities to step up and lead.

John McNulty, National SAF

President, and CEO of Seven Island Timber Company (in Maine) made the distinction between having a job and having a profession. Like the young panelists, he has delighted in finding people, "just like me" within the forestry profession, people who want to be outside, and who care about getting worthwhile work done effectively and efficiently. He pointed out that there are often opportunities to step up and accept responsibility, and it is how we react to these opportunities that define us. He urges himself as well as others to challenge orthodoxy and to have confidence tempered with humility. He believes luck is compounded of preparedness and opportunity, so he pointed out to participants that good luck is often a choice, not an accident.

Lesson # 5: Take on the hard problems.

Anthony Davis, Acting Dean of the OSU's College of Forestry advised participants, contrary to what he himself had been told as a young professional, to avoid the "low-hanging fruit," the easy problems. Instead, he advised challenging ourselves with difficult issues. Disregard fears of failure and concentrate on pushing yourself to engage with what you have passion for.

Lesson # 6: Shed your defenses.

Lesson Six came from Anthony Davis as well. He discussed the importance of accepting and managing change without being defensive. Leaders need to engage with all stakeholders. He emphasized that true visionaries are hard to find, so we need little pieces of vision from lots of folk.

Lesson # 7: Rely on the expertise of others.

George Geissler, the Washington State Forester, described the many stages of his career. In all of them, he reached out to a multitude of experts and tasked himself to both use their expertise and to put it into terms the general public could understand. He urged participants to gather information from a wide variety of sources and make it intelligible to people outside our profession so we don't end up just

talking to ourselves.

Lesson # 8: Leaders show empathy.

Sara Duncan, who is a communication expert with the Oregon Forest Industry Council, reminded participants that, as forestry managers, we need to communicate proudly and positively about what we do. This is how our social license to practice forestry is maintained. The pathway to effective communication is empathy; we need to really listen and show we care about the people we want to lead.

Lesson # 9: Mentoring is a win-win proposition.

Mike Cloughesy, Forestry Manager for the Oregon Forest Resources Institute, asserted that because foresters care about their profession, mentoring other foresters brings both personal and professional rewards, rewards that amply repay the investment made in time. He advised that there is no need to look for someone to mentor: mentoring at its best arises when people ask for help. When they do, Mike advises reaching out to them with your skills and empathy.

Lesson # 10: A plethora of leadership tips

A panel of forestry leaders gave the following advice:

Be informed, prepared, concise, and persistent

Lose the jargon; speak so you can be understood

Be clear who you represent, particularly if other than yourself

Always walk the talk.

None of these ten leadership lessons are new. Most of us have heard all of them, in some form or other, before. Nevertheless, if more of us applied more of them more consistently, all of us and the forests we love would benefit. ♦

Linn County Chapter News

Step up to help

Lee Peterman, Linn County SWA President

As 2019 is now a couple of months old, and chapter annual meetings have concluded or are taking place, it's time for a change of the guard. Bylaws differ from chapter to chapter, but the most fundamental of those bylaws deal with the change of leadership--such as when and how the retiring president steps back from the podium, and a new candidate steps up to carry the torch for their chapter. Bill Bowling, the retiring president for the Linn County chapter, has served his time and has presented the 'gavel' to me. (There's an inside joke about the gavel, but that's for another time.)

I never thought I'd be the incoming president for the Linn County Small Woodlands Association; I never thought I'd be a "tree-guy" in Linn County either, but people rarely make big changes until events force them to. Life has a way of presenting one with opportunities that cannot be ignored. Bogwood, the 80 acre property I am lucky enough to be co-owner of, has been the very embodiment of the big change in my life. The purchase of it has most certainly been the point at which my learning curve about

white oak and wetland prairie restoration and all things forest and tree(s) went from zero to stratospheric.

..... show up and get active in chapter activities.....

It was a simple postcard sent by an entity called OSWA which touched off the ignition of the rocket that began my interest in acquiring more forest knowledge; that postcard was an invitation to attend a "Howdy-Neighbor" woods tour on the Avery family property with lunch and a walk through the old-growth western hemlocks. This association, OSWA, turned out to be a group of like-minded folks who have a wealth of knowledge of both the academic and practical kind. I saw the value of joining on that first tour and still firmly do. While never having thought of myself as a tree-guy, I knew that this group of tree folks, former foresters, and small land-owners could help novices like me.

Volunteering to help with chapter events was easy and natural after military service. The board members at the time sensed an easy mark and made their pitch: would I consider joining the board as a junior member-at-large? Not sensing the trap and not being able to say no, I stepped up as asked. In far too short a time, I found myself agreeing, reluctantly, to becoming the chapter vice-president and events-coordinator; little knowing of the aforementioned by-laws which limited the tenure of the president and forced the automatic progression of the vice-president to president. So now, a mere five years after joining OSWA, I have been presented with a new situation I could not avoid, namely stepping up and taking up the torch, or in this case, gavel, for the chapter.

All this meandering leads to the point of this president's message:

Word of the Moment:

Activism--the policy or action of using vigorous campaigning to bring a political or social change.

As the incoming president, I am asking for members to show up and get active in chapter activities. There are challenges facing the Linn chapter--future social events are being planned. This requires more folks to show up and help. Assisting in the sales of OSWA items at Tree School in March and at the annual meeting in Corvallis in June are two examples. I call on the members of the chapter to join me and the board by stepping up and volunteering to arrive early and asking how to help out, as well as staying a bit after to assist in cleaning up following the conclusion of an event. One does not have to become a board member, just be there and be active. Chapter members, by engaging, help their

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board do more, which in turn brings greater success to the chapter. It's a win-win, the board doesn't burn-out from pulling all the weight, and the members have the sense of camaraderie by belonging to a winning team.

One might perhaps consider taking the bigger step and attend board meetings, which are open to members, or even consider joining the board !

The word activism has some negative connotations in these politically charged times, however, it need not be thought of as a bad word. The antonym of activism is moderation and I think, therein lies the key: activism for the chapter is important; moderation, or status quo, is the norm. I make an appeal: Step up, do something a bit outside your comfort zone, help out your chapter and we all win. *(Editor's Note: Please see 'OSAF Leadership Lessons', p. 1)*

A parting thought:

"The best friend on Earth of man is the tree. When we use the tree respectfully and economically, we have one of the greatest resources on the earth."

--Frank Lloyd Wright ◆

Linn County seedling sale has boom year

by Bonnie Marshall

Nearly a hundred volunteers over two days pushed the 24th annual Linn County Small Woodlands Association seedling sale to near-record numbers. More than 9,000 seedlings were sold February 2 before noon — including almost 150 pre-orders that were packaged February 1. Both those figures are near-records.

"It was one of our best years ever," said Sherm Sallee, a co-founder of the event.

"Nursery stock this year came from Brooks Farms of Salem, Seven Oaks Native Nursery in Albany, and Heritage Nursery in Salem"

Next year's silver anniversary seedling sale will be Saturday Feb. 1 with preorders packaged January 31.

The event at the Linn County Expo provides \$5,600 in scholarships annually to both university forestry students and Linn County 4-Hers involved in forestry.

In addition, the event allows LCSWA members and the general public to get quality nursery stock at a good price, said event chairwoman Bonnie Marshall.

Scholarship winners, 4-Hers and their parents, as well as members set up and operate the sale.

"I just love seeing the generations come together, with the 4Hers, their parents, and our members participating," said Marshall.

A wide variety of Oregon native plants and shrubs, along with conifers make up the sales. Plant varieties have expanded through the years, said Marshall, in her third year leading the event.

Nursery stock this year came from Brooks Farms of Salem, Seven Oaks Native Nursery in Albany, and Heritage Nursery in Salem, as well as member donations of Douglas-fir seedlings. ◆

Linn County Chapter Officers

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Director	Bonnie Marshall	503-769-6510	bonniem@wvi.com
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Scholarship	Katie Kohl	541-451-1734	kohl@proaxis.com
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Linn County scholars update

By Katie Kohl

Linn County Small Woodlands Assoc. is currently supporting four university scholars. We also have a recent graduate. Here is an update on the students and their activities.

Gracie Olson (Sweet Home), is a sophomore in forest engineering at Oregon State University. She has been focused (with superior grades) on forest surveying, GIS and other engineering classes. She is looking forward to her selection to the professional school track and, therefore, invited to its field school scheduled for late summer. Gracie has worked the past two summers for ODF as a firefighter as part of the initial attack crew. She is “looking forward to a different experience as a timber cruising intern next summer with Cascade Timber Consulting.”

Kimberly Ortiz (Scio), a sophomore dual-enrolled in Umpqua Community College and OSU, experienced “challenging courses” last fall and is “looking forward to more next term as I work toward my degree.” Along with studies, Kimberly helped the UCC’s women’s basketball team make it to the “final four” of the NWAC championship in March. She is now looking forward to “finding a summer internship that will help me prepare for working in forest management.”

Daniel Virtue (Sweet Home), a sophomore in forest engineering at OSU, is enthused about taking more engineering and forestry classes. His favorite courses were statics (an engineering class) and forest surveying. He, along with Gracie, are on track to get into pro-school which means he’ll go to field school at the end of next summer. Daniel worked last summer as an intern at CTC in Sweet Home; “the main thing I did at CTC was

cruise timber, but I also got to survey, layout timber sales and learn about road, bridge and culvert design.” He was a volunteer at the February seedling salad hopes to return to CTC this summer.

Jonah Nicholas (Albany), a junior in forest engineering at OSU, had a “great experience” working last summer and fall for six months as a forest engineering intern at the OSU College of Forestry. The majority of the summer and fall was spent performing forest road maintenance, cataloging the deeds and parcels of forest ownership for OSU, performing small topographic surveys in the forest, planning and overseeing the construction of the new Lewisburg Saddle parking lot, and creating maps using GIS programs.

“On an educational note, my classes this past fall term at OSU have been amazing. This was my first term as a junior, allowing me into the College of Forest Professional School, which means that, finally, a majority of my classes are focused on forestry.”

Mikaela Gosney (Brownsville) graduated in June 2018 from OSU Natural Resources, forestry emphasis with top honors. She has completed a six-month internship with a private natural resources management company, Campbell Global. She gained experience with unit design and layout, road layout, GIS, firefighting, and much more. Currently, she is looking for a natural resources job. “I just want to continue working in the woods and helping promote healthy ecosystems!”

Our scholars expressed thanks for our supporting them with \$1,000 annual scholarships to focus more on their education.

The chapter feels grateful for our association with such talented, responsible and caring young men and women. ♦

Linn County hosts Woodland Info Night

By Lee Peterman

Linn County Chapter hosted a Woodlands Information Night (WIN) March 6 at the OSU Extension classroom in Tangent.

WIN is an annual event sponsored between the Linn and Benton Chapters of the Small Woodlands Association. This year’s event was well-attended—more than 26 people were present on a snowy night.

On this occasion, there were two guest speakers. Both spoke on land management planning, with additional emphasis on products and other opportunities to profit from non-timber products.

Matt Fehrenbacher of Trout Mountain Forestry in Corvallis and Portland, spoke specifically about management plans for small woodland owners. He touched on some of the concerns and what land owners and managers should consider before and while writing and implementing their management plans.

Jim Merzenich, Brownsville area landowner, also spoke about his land management plan, but with a greater emphasis on non-timber forest products and projects on his tree farm such as; running a small herd of highland cattle, distilling of essential oils, cutting hardwood saplings for broom handles, hosting a Bluebird trail and inviting friends and relatives to participate in recreation activities, as well as conservation easements for endangered wildlife, like the Fender’s blue butterfly.

Refreshments were graciously baked and provided by Kathy Otis and Shirley Jolliff; it was apparent that the cookies, biscotti and mint-brownies were received enthusiastically. All credit goes to Tim Otis as Linn County vice president and events coordinator for the behind the scenes work for inviting the guest speakers as well as setting up the room.

(continued p. 9)

Weld tree farm tour features thinning work

by Jim Merzemoch
Past President

Sherman and Leslie Weld are Linn County's tree farmers of the year for 2018. The Weld family tree farm consists of 140 acres overlooking the Calapooia River Valley near Holley. The property was purchased 50 years ago by Lester and Faye Weld, Sherman's parents. About 8 acres of the site was a landfill for the family's Sweet Home Sanitation business. Today that acreage is a 25-year-old Douglas-fir plantation. The acreage also includes former grazing and orchard land. In the past twenty-five years, much of this land has been cleared, sprayed, ripped to a 36-inch depth and planted in Douglas-fir. These stands are now being commercially thinned.



The tour of the Weld Family tree farm was held Saturday Sept. 22. There were more than 70 guests, in addition to many members of the Weld family. A tractor-drawn wagon was provided to transport guests to the five tour stops. Many people chose to walk and enjoy the views. As introductions were being made a brief, but intense, rain shower failed to dampen their spirits. The skies soon cleared and the rest of the day was pleasant and warm.

At the first stop we viewed a five-acre stand planted on ripped pasture ground just five years ago. This stand occurs on a well-watered north-facing slope. Virtually all of the seedlings survived and have long annual leaders. This stand was planted at a relatively dense spacing and options for pruning to reduce defect (e.g. removing double tops) and pre-commercial thinning were discussed.

We next viewed an active "cut-to-length" thinning operation in a 20-year-old stand. These trees were planted at a 10' x 10' spacing (435 trees/acre) and had been pruned, but not thinned. We watched the harvester fall, limb, and buck the trees, and convert them into saw, chip-and-saw, and pulp logs. These logs are then laid in piles perpendicular to the thinning corridor. A forwarder picks up the logs and moves them out of the thinning unit where they are piled. The whole process takes less than a minute per tree. More than half of the trees were

Weld family honored as Linn County's 2018 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year. From left to right Milah Weld (granddaughter), Lisa Weld (daughter-in-law), Scott Weld (son), Maren Weld (granddaughter), Shelly Weld (daughter), Sherman Weld, Leslie Weld (wife), Sten Weld (grandson), Hailey Rice (Sten's fiancée), Barbara Weld (sister-in-Law), and Al Weld (brother)

being removed from the stand. We thank Melcher Logging for doing the demonstration and Chris Melcher for explaining how the thinning system and computerized cutting head operates.

After viewing another stand ready to be thinned, and a third stand that had just been thinned, we viewed the log deck. Milt Moran, of Cascade Timber Consulting, explained how the saw, chip-and-saw, and pulp logs were marketed and sold to different mills. Sherman Weld thanked Cascade Timber Consulting and Melcher logging for their assistance in managing the tree farm. We ended the tour with a picnic lunch generously hosted by the Weld family.

The Weld family represented Linn County in the statewide tree farmer of the year competition. The primary purpose of this annual event is to promote tree farming and responsible forest management. Large or small, new to tree farming or not, all tree farm families have stories to tell and successes and mistakes to relate to others. Please consider following the Weld Family's example by being a future County Tree Farmer of the Year. ♦

Lincoln seedling sale

(continued from p. 11)

Plus, we had an opportunity to discuss many issues that we face as a rural community. Not only do we recognize that we need this camaraderie to survive, but we also recognize that services such as this help combat false notions and accusations that we face as growers and as an industry. Part of the money will be used to support issues critically important to the organization and to finance our annual meeting and dinner, held March 30.

The event is for the members, prospective members, family and friends with time for socializing. Although designed to be a family event, the meeting features a lineup of speakers on a variety of subjects pertinent to tree farmers. ♦

Woodland Info Night

(cont'ined from p. 8)

Much appreciation also to OSU Extension's Brad Withrow-Robinson and Jody Einerson for producing the notices in the Needle as well as allowing us use of the classroom. ♦

Lincoln County Chapter News

President's Update by Peter Bregman

The timber industry in Oregon is facing a difficult time. The balance between the urban population and rural population is becoming a threat to the practice of **tree farming**.

Since I have been a member of OSWA, it seems as though we are frog-like. When in a pan of cool water, we feel fine. But now, Salem is turning up the fire, to take over the rural community; the temperature is getting hotter and hotter. It looks like we are going to be cooked, but like the frog, we won't even feel it.

My recommendation to us is that we need to put our differences aside and tackle these challenges together. By all of us working as one, we can

weather the storms. Get involved! Join the OSWA team, which is working on your behalf. Before we get cooked, jump out of the cooker and join the team!

The following are the issues, as described by OSWA director Jim James:

HB 2656 will be devastating to forest owners. It will modify Oregon's forest practice laws, prohibiting even-aged management, road building, and use of herbicides on most private forests in Oregon. OSWA members need to make

their opposition be heard. We need every member to email their legislator in opposition of HB 2656 and cc House Energy and Environment Committee Chair Ken Helm
Rep.kenhelm@oregonlegislature.gov.

HB 2152 bill sunsets all special tax assessments in 2026 except those used on agricultural lands. The bill references the ORS numbers for each special tax assessment, but without looking up the specific ORS number, it is hard to tell what they mean. Basically, it sunsets every special tax assessment available to family forest owners. (See HB 2152 article on p. 1) The last page of the Taking Points identifies 10 ORS numbers in the bill that are special tax assessments for forestland. The dollar amounts are the state estimates of the amount of additional taxes that would be collected if the special assessments were gone. The bill is a Committee bill, so no legislator has their finger prints on the bill as a sponsor. It was created by the leadership of the House. The bill would also sunset the provisions passed in the 1970s that removed the value of standing timber from property taxes, treating timber as a agricultural crop where by taxes are paid at time of harvest. This provision will increase forest property taxes astronomically.

Here is an edited version of my Letter of Concern about **HB 2152**:

"I, Peter Bregman, still a newcomer to this state, see a real problem ahead from the state's population growth, bureaucracy on the rise, demand for social services at an all-time high, pollution caused by all this growth, and demands by the larger population wanting to possess what they don't have, all resulting in destruction of our natural recourses, impacting wildlife, permanent clearcutting to create roads, factories, office buildings, shopping centers, recreation space, doubling cities in size, and so much more when you

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start thinking about it.

The bureaucrats and politicians need more money for all this growth, but where can they get it? From many groups, including the one group that preserves our natural environment, provides habitat for managed wildlife, preserves an unpolluted environment, provides clean water and streams for fish, etc. Test the creeks coming from the cities instead of testing the water coming from our land!

My recommendation is simple. We need to all work together to find a better balance between population growth and preserving farm and forest land. Leave *farm land* as *farm land*, and plant the cities, shopping centers, and factories on land not suitable for agriculture. ♦



**Save the Date
Lincoln County
Farm to Forest Tour
Wednesday, June 19**

Brisk business at Lincoln County seedling sale

**Lincoln County
seedling sale a
success**

By Judy Pelletier

Another successful tree seedling sale is in the books. Thanks to hard work, vigorous preparation, organization and effort by our OSWA Lincoln County Chapter volunteers, the sale on Feb. 23 was an eagerly anticipated event. Buyers poured in to take advantage of good deals and popular trees and shrubs when we opened for business, keeping the tills busy for three hours. The sale has been held this time of the year for several years, in the 4-H building at the Lincoln County Fairground in Newport.

Thanks to Joe Steere for his able management and supervision. He knows what tree farmers and the public need and want. We appreciate Miami Corp. and Brooks Nursery for their support by donating some of the seedlings.

Also many thanks to other members who made it run smoothly:

Joe Steere and Joe Steenkolk for delivering seedlings to the sale, and

to all those for helping to unload, setup, do promo, information, sales, check out, run the till, provide accounting, and (lastly) cleanup

Others who helped include the following: Cathy Steere, Jan and the Steenkolk family members, Tom Wiley, Steve and Susan Allen, Rex Capri, Pami Monnette from the OSU Extension, Peter Bregman, and Judy and Jerry Pelletier.

If we were to have paid for all the hours spent in preparation for the sale, procurement of trees, setup, cleanup, return of the left-over products, it would have left little profit for the chapter.

The camaraderie, the social interaction, getting to know each other as members of a trade group, that is the true profit from the event.

(continued p. 9)



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Benton County Chapter News

President's Update

By Karen Fleck Harding

The Benton County Chapter graciously welcomes three new members to its Board of Directors this year.

Dena Oakes joins us as secretary, Jane Brandenburg joins as treasurer, and Sarah Edwardsson joins us as membership coordinator. It's wonderful to have this new energy merging with the stable, continuing leadership of our chapter.

We are particularly delighted to have all this supportive energy as we work together to plan the **OSWA annual meeting and Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year tour**. We are hosting. Be sure to put it on your calendar for **June 20-22**. The theme of the event is "Research, Policy, and Practices for Family Forestland Management." There will be some great local tours on Thursday afternoon to Hull Oakes Historic Mill in Bellfountain, GP and Thompson's Mills in Philomath, and OSU's Forest Research Laboratory on campus. Friday's events will be held at the Benton County Fairgrounds and will feature some informative and motivating presentations on current topics to include fire, carbon and marbled murrelets. This will be followed by a banquet dinner and awards ceremony. On Saturday, we will travel to the Carr-Oakes Family Forest in Bellfountain to celebrate our 2018 Benton County Tree Farmer of the year being awarded the Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year for Oregon. We'll have a tour of their family tree farm followed by a catered luncheon. If you were there for the tour last year, you know it's worth visiting again. If you missed last year, you won't want to miss this chance to see a great example of family working together to manage their woodlands. If you've never attended an annual OSWA meeting, here's your best opportunity... since it's in right here your own back yard.◆

Benton County Upcoming Events

By David Ehlers

Tour of Mike Newton's Eddyville property Saturday, May 11 8 am to 12 pm

Come hear from Mike about his thoughts on site prep, planting seedlings, weed control, and other aspects of intensive management in coast range forest management.

We will park and meet behind the Marys Peak True Value Store, on Applegate in Philomath, on Saturday, May 11, at 8 am, carpool **only in 4x4 vehicles**. We will be limited by number (30) and/or by 4x4 vehicles. Bring water, snacks, and clothing appropriate for the weather of the day. Questions: Brad Withrow-Robinson brad.w-r@oregonstate.edu
541-766-3554

Thursday, June 20-Saturday, June 22 2019 OSWA annual meeting Corvallis / Benton County

Thursday: Morning--OTFS Board Meeting
Afternoon--Tours
Evening--OSWA Dinner & Board Meeting

Friday: All-day Program
Evening--Silent Auction, Social, & Awards Banquet

Saturday 2019 Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year Tour
Oakes-Carr-Johnson Tree Farm
Benton County

Benton County Chapter annual picnic Saturday, July 27

11 am 4 pm Sarah & Dave Ehlers' J2E Tree Farm Hoskins
Details to Follow

Benton County Tree Farmer of the Year tour Saturday, September 21

Morning Tour, followed by lunch
TFOY Honorees: Diana & Bill Blakney
Details to Follow

Carbon--Better in the woods or in the wood product?

By John Westall

Maureen Puettmann and Elaine Oneil discussed the ins and outs of carbon accounting and forest management options for enhancing carbon sequestration at the Benton County OSWA Chapter's winter lecture on Friday, January 11. Approximately 50 people turned out to hear the discussion at the Corvallis - Benton County Public Library. Maureen and Elaine are both affiliated with the Consortium for Research on Renewable Industrial Materials (CORRIM, <https://corrim.org/>), a nonprofit research organization. A video of the entire lecture is accessible through the CORRIM web site.

Maureen began by describing the work she is doing with CORRIM on life cycle assessments (LCAs). LCA is a process through which the environmental footprint of various

products is determined. While LCAs can be done for all sorts of products and environmental impacts, Maureen focused on the carbon footprint of wood products, that is, the net amount of carbon stored or released through all steps in the production of a wood product – for example, site preparation, planting, harvesting, transport, processing, by-products, delivery and end use. Obviously gathering and processing the data is an enormously complex task, but the CORRIM LCA process is governed by a set of detailed rules established by various national and international standards organizations. The goal is a “label” on wood products, much like the familiar nutrition label on food products: standardized so product-to-product comparisons are meaningful, reliable and transparent, with the raw data available if wanted.

While methods for the LCA analysis have been standardized, methods for assessing storage and release of carbon through various forest management strategies are less cut and dried. Elaine illustrated one approach by showing the changes in the amount of carbon in various storage compartments (for example,

root, stem, crown, litter, dead wood, lumber, chips, harvest emissions, manufacturing emissions, etc.) over several rotations. The models used in these studies are complex, but papers available through the CORRIM web site provide a convenient introduction. Here are some of the “take-home” messages on forest management practices to increase carbon storage.

One message that came through loud and clear was to “keep forests as forests.” At the individual level, this goal may involve engaging the next generation and succession planning. At the state level, it was noted that Oregon is maintaining “forests as forests” at a higher rate than Washington or California, presumably due, at least in part, to the Oregon land-use system.

Next, it was pointed out that if one considers just the carbon in the trees, up to a limit, longer rotations would lead to greater sequestration of carbon, but rotations that are “too” long may lead to logs that are difficult to market.

On the other hand, the LCAs show that wood products may offer a greater carbon sequestration benefit than carbon storage in the forest itself. Two routes can be important: wood products that are “long lived,” say more than a hundred years, and wood products that substitute for materials that require a lot of carbon to be released from fossil fuels in their production, such as concrete and steel.

The small-woodland owner generally does have control over the size of logs that are harvested and sold, and the mill to which the logs are sent, but often no direct control over the product itself.

So, back to the question, “Carbon – Better in the Woods or the Wood Product?” To quote the answer we are used to hearing from our OSU Extension agent, “it all depends;” but now we are in a better position to know on *what* it depends, to follow the arguments, and to ask better questions. ♦

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Oregon 2018 Tree Farmers of the Year honored

By Mike Barsotti

Oregon Tree Farm System announced family with deep Benton County ties as Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year

The Oregon Tree Farm System has announced a family with deep ties to Benton County as Oregon's 2018 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year. The Oakes family's efforts were honored Saturday during an awards luncheon at the Oregon Garden in Silverton.

The Oakes own several parcels of forest land, approximately 800 acres, west of Monroe and near Alsea in Benton County, as well as in northern Lane County. The homestead parcel, west of Monroe, was purchased in 1883 by Don Oakes' great-grandfather. Their forests are currently being cared for by four generations.

Goals for their forests include producing income from timber harvest, providing wildlife habitat, maintaining a family gathering spot, and sharing what they have learned with other woodland owners, local organizations and the general public.

Don and Donna Oakes passed the ownership on to their six children in 1999, forming the Oakes Investment LLC. Their daughter, Marsha Carr, who passed away this summer, took on the leadership role after her retirement.



Members of the Oakes family (l to r) being honored as Benton County's Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year. They are (l to r): Joey Howell (great grandson), Donald Oakes, Rachel Unrein (granddaughter), Natalie Unrein (great granddaughter), Dan Carr (grandson), Kayla Carr (great granddaughter), Darrell Oakes (son), Dena Oakes (wife of Darrell)

--photo credit, Mike Barsotti

"Marsha worked with Dad to learn about forestry and eventually took the Master Woodland Manager course from the OSU Extension Service," said brother Darrell Oakes. "She did plot studies, marked trees for thinning and recovery after storm damage, and recently laid out a major road project."

Marsha was an active member of the Benton County Small Woodlands Association, and helped her father manage the LLC properties.

Their forests are certified by the

American Tree Farm System meeting their standards of sustainability. Their management goals and action plan are defined in their management plan, which was first hand written by Don years ago. Marsha took on the current version this past year.

Darrell stated, "The plan is an educational tool for the next generation. They can look at what we were thinking to guide them in managing the property." ♦



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Woods Words

Polecat--a. A skunk or civet cat.
b. A no-good man.

Porcupine--A frayed mess of wires on the unravelled end of a wire rope.

Prohibition shoe--A well oiled shoe; it stays dry inside.

Short haul--a. An easy show, or a short distance, b. To cut a man out of his fair share of something, c. To take the easiest way when doing a job.

--from *Woods Words*, by Walter F. McCulloch, Dean of School of Forestry, Oregon State College, 1955-1966. ♦

Linda Hull named 2018 Lane County TFOY

Linda Hull is Lane County Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year. Linda and her late husband, Paul, purchased their 120-acre property near Cottage Grove in 1976. The property has been passed down through the Hull family since John and Amanda Hull got it as a Donation Land Claim in 1891. Linda and her children manage the forest for timber and wildlife habitat.



Linda Hull honored as Lane County's 2018 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year at the Oregon Tree Farm System's Annual Awards Luncheon in Silverton. From left to right: Lisa Northrop, Deputy Regional Forester, PNW Region, USDA-FS, Linda Hull, Mark Yearous (family logger) and Lena Tucker, Private Forests Division Chief, Oregon Depart. of Forestry.

--photo credit, Mike Barsotti

Book Review: Bark-Forest Bathing, by Dr. Qing Lee

By Wylda Cafferata

If you haven't heard of "Forest Bathing" yet, you probably will soon. Dr. Qing Li is the Chairman of the Japanese Society for Forest Medicine, and his book's alternate title is *The Japanese Art and Science of Shinrin-Yoku*, which translates to Forest Bathing in English. His premise is that he has always felt happier and healthier in forested landscapes, but now he can prove scientifically that relaxing in a forest leads to definitive health benefits.

The book has sections claiming that walking in a forest regularly, at least once a month, lowers blood pressure, speeds up digestion, lowers the stress hormones cortisol and adrenaline, enhances the parasympathetic system, improves sleep patterns, reduces feelings of confusion, sadness, terror, guilt, and exhaustion, and boosts the immune system. Much of the proof is anecdotal, or else based on experiments with quite small sample sizes, but nevertheless the practice has wide acceptance in Japan, which boasts a national health program for forest bathing dating back to 1982, with hundreds of thousands of people

visiting Shinrin-Yoku sites every year. The author states that, "Shinrin-Yoku is ...more than just a walk. This is not exercise, or hiking, or jogging. It is simply being in nature, connecting with it through our sense of sight, hearing, taste, smell and touch." For small woodland owners, forest bathing will take a shift in perspective. Of course most of us say how much we enjoy time in our forests, but our time there is devoted, for the most part, to checking culverts and roads, dealing with invasive species, evaluating management strategies, and working on the many aspects of forest management. If we do rest for a moment to drink in the forest, it is only for a moment. Dr. Qing Li gives specific instructions on how to use each of our senses to gain the claimed health benefits, but there is

no mention anywhere of analytical thinking. We might do well to work at this shift by applying some of his strategies, including walking barefoot, putting our hands on trees (and not to measure them), dipping our toes in streams (which means taking off our boots), walking much slower than our normal pace, divesting ourselves of phones and cameras (not to mention diameter taper, pruning saws, backpack sprayers etc.) and keeping this up for two hours per visit.

The book is an engaging read. Every page features photographs of beautiful forests both in Japan and around the world. There is an entire section on essential oils from trees and directions for making diffusers, with recommendations of which oils-pine, cedar, spruce etc.- to use when for maximum health benefits.



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(continued from p. 15)

There's a list of which cities world-wide having the most green space, and re-telling of folktales illustrating that forests have long been associated with human well-being.

The book is a quick read-large print and lots of photos helped me through the 300 pages in little more than an hour. I'm not sure it made me a proponent of forest bathing, but at least when I hear the term again, I won't think it refers to a plunge into our fire pond. And if I can find a place without trailing blackberries, I will try taking off my boots. ♦