



The Quarterly Bark

Volume 32 | Issue 1

January 2025

So Much Stronger Together

Renew Your OSWA Membership for 2025!

Hopefully all of you reading this first *Quarterly Bark* issue of 2025 have already renewed your OSWA membership. And why wouldn't you? In a world of smaller portion sizes even as prices rise, OSWA offers increasing value for our membership dollars, both at the chapter and statewide level.

We all know about the magic that happens within our chapters, fueled by the energy and love poured into activities and events by extraordinary volunteers—all of whom deserve kudos for their above-and-beyond dedication. And that commitment and heart is mirrored at the state level as well: from our awesome statewide staff (thank you, Rick and Mary!) and an ever-improving website to a state President and Board of Directors committed to advocating for family forest landowners of every size and perspective, from every corner of the state, so that we all can continue to manage our properties according to our diverse management objectives, our toolboxes stocked with all the tools we need to make the best decisions we can for our forests. From stream classification to adaptive management to post-disturbance salvage rule-making, our voices are amplified at the state level, both from within our own ranks and through the strength of our relationships and partnerships: from OFRI and OTFS; to OFS, AOL and OFIC; to ODF and ODF&W; to our poised-for-the-long-session friends (on both sides of the aisle) in the Legislature. Read on to meet our new lobbyist, Nicole Mann, and learn about our new Forest Policy Committee, ably headed by Dan Newton—and mark your calendar for March 6 for an OSWA legislative day in Salem. Watch your email for OSWA updates and invitations to participate in chapter events and statewide committees, to offer your woodland for a tour or share your story in testimony at a legislative hearing.

If you've already re-upped your membership for 2025, thank you. If you've already reached out to another woodland owner to encourage them to join, thank you x2! And if you've been on the fence about renewing your membership, take a few minutes now to step up and clasp arms with your woodland neighbors and renew your commitment not just to your small woodland, but to Oregon's woodlands overall. Like our trees, we stand stronger together than alone. And it is together that we continue to make each cornerstone of OSWA—Stewardship, Advocacy, Fellowship, Education—a living and breathing reality. Here's to a SAFE 2025!

Kate McMichael | Editor

Renew your membership today: <https://oswa.org/join-or-renew>

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Benton County

Lane County

Lincoln County

Linn County



Published quarterly, in January, April, July, and October, *The Quarterly Bark* is a joint venture of the Benton, Lane, Lincoln and Linn County Chapters of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association.

Editor: Kate McMichael

To offer contributions to an upcoming edition, please contact: quarterly.bark.23@gmail.com



Meet Nicole Mann, OSWA's new lobbyist

Nicole Mann serves as Dalton Advocacy's lead advocate for all issues related to agriculture and natural resources. She serves as a trusted voice and resource for legislators and staff when exploring issues impacting Oregon producers and has played a crucial role in policy decisions in recent years. Nicole started her career as an advocate in Washington D.C. before returning to Oregon to serve as an advisor and policy analyst to senior members of the Oregon Legislature.

A veteran of more than ten legislative sessions, she has developed strong relationships with lawmakers on both sides of the aisle, as well as key decision makers within state agencies. Prior to joining DA, Nicole worked as a public affairs professional, providing strategic counsel and assisting in the execution of communications plans for a broad variety of industries and interests. Nicole draws on her diverse work history to provide clients with effective advocacy in the halls of the Capitol – both on offense and defense – and prides herself on always presenting clear and factual information in the midst of often politically charged policy discussions.

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The OSWA Forest Policy Committee (FPC)

Dan Newton

To make our voices heard, we are proud to announce that OSWA has formed a Forest Policy Committee (FPC), which met for the first time on November 14. It will be a privilege working with this talented group of people who come from across the state!

The FPC was created with the objective of bringing together energetic and initiative-taking members who can devote time, skill, and energy to advocate effectively on regulatory and legislative issues that may impact our members. The focus will be to maintain our ability to profitably own timberlands and to keep all tools available to actively perform stewardship and forestry activities. We will advocate to ensure that any proposed rules and regulations that impact our small forestland activities are:

- The least burdensome to achieve a desired level of resource protection
- Based on the best available science

OSWA's values on the website include **STEWARDSHIP, ADVOCACY, FELLOWSHIP AND EDUCATION (SAFE)**. While advocacy will be the primary focus of our work, it will also include our other values. As an example, there will be fellowship opportunities working with this fine group of volunteers!

You may be wondering what the difference is between this new committee and the OSWA Government Affairs Committee (GAC). The FPC will be a permanent, overarching committee that deals broadly with all forestry-related public policy issues; whereas the GAC is a short-term committee acting beneath the FPC, active primarily when the legislature is in session. Working together with our lobbyist, Nicole Mann, and our Executive Committee, we will prioritize the issues that may impact small forestland owners. Legislative issues will be brought to our attention by Nicole Mann and principally managed by the Government Affairs Committee (GAC), a subgroup of the FPC. Other issues may be delegated to ad hoc subgroups working within the FPC.

The FPC will meet monthly to ensure alignment, cross communication, and to proactively address any timely issues that may arise. The FPC includes members from Associated Oregon Loggers, Oregonians for Food and Shelter and the Oregon Forest Industries Council. This will foster a grassroots approach to dealing with common issues that impact our industrial and agricultural friends, and loggers with the goal of increasing our impact across multiple industries and interests.

As part of our mission, we must also educate our members about new rules and legislation and help the regulatory agencies with training to make rules more workable and understandable.

Current issues:

- Stream mapping on notifications
- Fire funding legislation
- Adaptive Management Committee – Dave Bugni represents OSWA
- Post-catastrophic disturbance rule
- SFISH tax issue
- Tax issues including severance tax
- Carbon

If you have legislative/public policy-related topics you would like brought up, please let me know.

Meetings will be held on the last Friday of each month by Zoom at 7:00 am. Meetings should last one hour. We will schedule an in-person meeting in late February in the Salem area, in conjunction with OSWA’s Lobby Day at the Capitol. [note: OSWA Lobby Day will be March 6, 2025]

Current FPC members include:

Name	Organization	Chapter/Position
Rick Barnes	Oregon Small Woodlands Association	Douglas
Seth Barnes	Oregon Forest Industries Council	
Mike Barsotti	Oregon Small Woodlands Association	Linn, President
Connie Battles	Oregon Small Woodlands Association	OSWA, Second VP
Dave Bugni	Oregon Small Woodlands Association	Clackamas, Represents OSWA on AMPC
Gordon Culbertson	Oregon Small Woodlands Association	OSWA, President
Paul Harlan	Oregon Small Woodlands Association	OSWA, Second VP
Theresa Hausser	Oregon Small Woodlands Association	Lane
Terry Lamers	Oregon Small Woodlands Association	Polk-Marion, President
Nicole Mann	Dalton Advocacy Inc.	Nicole is OSWA's lobbyist
Kate McMichael	Oregon Small Woodlands Association	Lane, President
Katie Murray	Oregonians for Food and Shelter	
Dan Newton	Oregon Small Woodlands Association	OSWA, President-elect
Ken Nygren	Oregon Small Woodlands Association	OSWA, Past President
Greg Peterson	Oregon Small Woodlands Association	Benton
Rick Spring	Oregon Small Woodlands Association	OSWA, Second VP
Joe Steere	Oregon Small Woodlands Association	Lincoln, President
Amanda Astor-Sullivan	Associated Oregon Loggers	
Nicole Wood	Oregon Small Woodlands Association	OSWA, Past President
Rick Zenn	Oregon Small Woodlands Association	OSWA, Exec Director

Questions/comments welcome. Interested in helping with either the FPC or the GAC, or both? I can be reached at:

Dan Newton | 360-606-5042 | newtimber@hotmail.com

Benton, Douglas, Lane, Linn, Washington, and Yamhill County 2024 Tree Farmers of the Year!

Wylde Cafferata

OSWA Chapters select County Tree Farmers of the Year and nominate their candidates for Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year; then OTFS's Recognition Working Group visits each nominated tree farm to select the Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year. This year, six counties nominated their candidates, including our own Benton County's Rich Clark and Robin Moxley, Lane County's John and Alesanne Dugan, and Linn County's Katie and Steve Kohl. At a gala event held at the Oregon Garden on November 16, 2024, the County Tree Farmers of the Year were celebrated.

As part of the selection process, a professional videographer visits each tree farm and creates videos for each one that includes an interview with the tree farmer, a narrated tour of the tree farm, and even drone footage of their forests. At the celebration, MCed by OTFS Recognition Chair Rick Barnes, over 100 tree farmers and OTFS

Inspectors had the pleasure of watching these videos and applauding as each County Tree Farmer of the Year received a copy of the video, a beautifully engraved plaque from OTFS and the traditional rosewood clock from the U.S. Forest Service. (The videos are available for viewing on the [Family Forests of Oregon](#) YouTube channel, in the TFOY 2024 playlist.)



As a culminating event, the 2024 State Tree Farmers of the Year, Jock & Pam Dalton, announced that Douglas County's Big K Ranch was selected to be Oregon's 2025 Tree Farmer of the Year.

OSWA and OTFS share the mission of promoting sustainable forestry throughout the state. The two organizations carry out their missions in differing ways but come together both for the Oregon Family Forest Convention in June, and the Tree Farmer of the Year Program. It is a great partnership!

Jock & Pam Dalton present 2025 Tree Farmer of the Year Award to Kathie Kesterson Gray, Seth Williamson, and Quinten Magee of the Big K Ranch in Douglas County. (Not pictured: Gary Williamson.)





OTFS has a new Chair

Greetings! I am **Darren Goodding**, from Baker City, the incoming Chair of the **Oregon Tree Farm System (OTFS)**. I am sure many of you know Steve and Wylda Cafferata and that I have some big shoes to fill coming in behind them. I am looking forward to this opportunity to serve.

I am not a stranger to Tree Farm, as I have been involved in both the Oregon and Washington Tree Farm programs for over ten years, serving in various positions including tree farm inspector, District Chair, and Eastern Washington Inspection Coordinator. I am a professional forester with a master's degree in Sustainable Forest Management from Oregon State University, and additional postgraduate work in advanced silviculture at Colorado State University. I am also a commercial drone (UAS) pilot exploring the use of drones in forest management applications.

I hope to get the opportunity to meet some of you at an upcoming OSWA or OTFS event. If you have any questions or want to know more about OTFS, please feel free to contact me at: dgoodding@nwnrm.com

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How to Love a Forest: the bittersweet work of tending a changing world

by Ethan Tapper

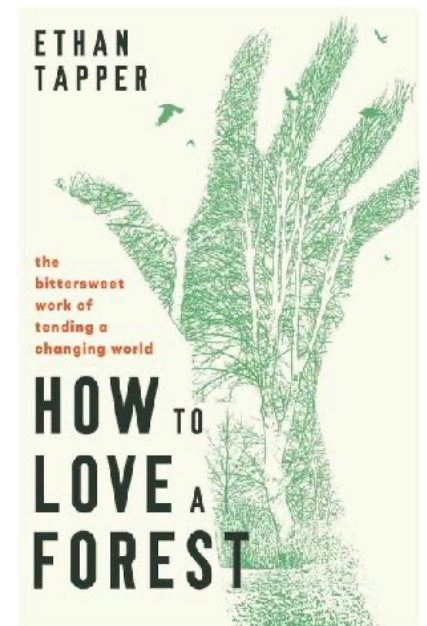
(Minneapolis: Broadleaf Books, 2024)

Book review by Theresa Hausser

Would you read a book written by the front man for a Burlington, VT based punk band? Would you read a young forester's reflective love letter to his abused woodland? What about a sweeping lament for the state of the earth that is also a manifesto for radical hope? *How to Love a Forest* is all of these things, and as such is not going to find a place on every nightstand—but it might be found in some unexpected places.

Ethan Tapper is a Vermont based forester, one of Audubon's first endorsed foresters, and was awarded the American Tree Farm System's Inspector of the Year award in early 2024. He has a very active social media presence with accounts on Facebook, Instagram, and a number of shorts on YouTube. *How to Love a Forest* is the culmination of 5 years of writing an hour a day before work—writing in his urban home before heading to the woods for the day. Speaking at the ATFS leadership conference last year, he encouraged attendees to not be apologetic or defensive about forest management activities, but to find ways to celebrate them as a concrete way to, yes, love the forest and care for it. He said that most people support forest management but don't realize it, because they don't realize that many of our woodlands cannot be restored to health without management activities.

This is one of the through-lines of *How to Love a Forest*: that management is an act of love, of stewardship, of relationship, of great responsibility and great humility in trying to leave the earth less damaged than it is now. But this is not a book about forest management. It is a chronicle of Ethan's thoughts and reflections as he gets to know and love and manage his woodland.



Based on our experience reading this book in our WOWNet book club, response to the book will be decidedly mixed. It is not for everyone. One of our book club discussions was, “Who is the intended audience for this book?” That question has stayed with me, and I’ll try to offer some thoughts to prospective readers.

What this book is not: Again, this is not a book on forest management. This is not Hanson and Zuckerman’s *A Forest of Your Own: The Pacific Northwest’s Handbook of Ecological Forestry*. It is not a history text (*How to Love a Forest* and *Strong Winds and Widowmakers* could hardly be more different), and the many sweeping historical observations, while not wrong, can come across as facile, particularly since their very sweep makes interrogation of those observations impossible. This is not a linear analysis of past and present best practices in forest management, nor an introduction to updates in forest science (though there are useful endnotes). This is not concise: I found myself recalling tips for ending sermons, but also wondering what part of a reflection warrants cutting. It is not an argument; an argument would be systematic in the points it asserts and refutes. It is not universal; it is grounded in an eastern hardwood forest and a very particular acreage, Bear Island.

What the book is: It is an invitation to share in the author’s personal journey with his battered woodland property, to witness, in effect, his love letter to the land, both Bear Island and the earth at large. The journey weaves through his anger and occasional despair over the state of the world, the world Ethan and his cohort have been bequeathed, to an acceptance of the responsibility of relationship with the land. It is thoughtful and reflective, both from a sweeping macro perspective and from the perspective of someone who has gotten to know individual flower patches. (My favorite critique of the book from the WOWNet book club was, “I feel like I’m being forced to read poetry.”)

In its heartfelt quality, its reflective tone, its spirals of anger and compassion, its never ending quest for clear-sightedness, its laying bare of the author’s thoughts and feelings, *How to Love a Forest* is a cri de coeur and a plea for acts of radical hope. For Ethan, those acts of radical hope encompass acts that a general public might find contradictory: placing his land in a conservation easement so that it will remain as forest—and using herbicides so that trees have a chance to outcompete invasive plants; loving his forest—and girdling a tree so

that it can become pileated woodpecker habitat; girdling a tree to be wildlife habitat—and hunting deer to protect the trees in his woods.

How to Love a Forest might be a book that straddles the woodland wars. A young man clearly angry about historical injustice and the damage inflicted on the planet has chosen to love a particular piece of land by actively managing it. He has, in this book, shared his love letter to his forest and offered active forest management as an act of radical hope in a burning world. This is a book that can make a great gift for the friends who can’t understand how we can love our woodlands but cut down trees, or strive for biodiversity but use herbicides, or love the wildlife in our woods but hunt. Ethan shares his own discomfort with these apparent paradoxes and we walk with him as he comes to terms with the bittersweet work of tending the changing world. If our reasoned arguments from science and experience in favor of management worked for all minds to change, minds would have changed by now. But Ethan’s path to making choices he didn’t anticipate, to accepting that his previous thoughts about leaving nature alone amounted to an abdication of responsibility, allows room for like-minded readers to reconsider their own assumptions. His is a voice we need today, making the case that forest management is, in fact, an act of love and hope. This book might not be for everyone, but I certainly hope it finds its welcoming nightstands.

“Once, I thought that being radical meant forming views as hard, as uncompromising, as unchanging as stone. Now, I believe that what is truly radical is to be as dynamic as a forest: to have the courage to adapt, to change, to constantly reimagine my relationship with this ecosystem and this glowing world...” (p. 190)

“As imperfect as they are, I know that my actions mean something to this forest and to the creatures that live here. I am doing what I can in this one forest, in this one short life, in this one precious world. So much has been lost, and so much remains. There is so much life and hope to be discovered.” (p. 193)



Rooting for Restoration

A Guide to Starting Strong in the New Year

Margaret Miller

Forest Landowner Education Manager | OFRI

As Oregon landowners welcome the new year, the promise of a fresh start naturally turns our thoughts to the future. For me, as a forester, that future is rooted, quite literally, in the act of planting for reforestation. Reforestation is more than just a requirement. It's a cornerstone of responsible land management, ensuring the forests we cherish today will thrive for generations to come.

In Oregon, reforestation is required following most timber harvest activities. You must replant seedlings within two years, and by the end of year six, these trees must be "free to grow," meaning they're healthy, thriving and free from competition. (State stewardship foresters may grant extensions to the law under certain circumstances, such as after a wildfire.)

You may be asking yourself: How many trees should I plant on my land? What spacing should I use? These are some of the most common questions landowners ask when planning their reforestation efforts. The answers depend on two key factors: site productivity and stocking levels. These terms may sound technical but boil down to ensuring the right number of trees are planted to match the land's capacity to support them. Site productivity measures your forestland's ability to support tree growth, influenced by factors such as soil quality, rainfall and elevation. And stocking level refers to the number of seedlings you need to plant per acre to ensure a healthy, thriving forest.

Think of it this way — a high-productivity site with rich soils and ample moisture can support more trees per acre, typically requiring denser planting. In contrast, a low-productivity site can support fewer seedlings per acre to match the land's

capacity. Planting the right number of seedlings ensures your forest thrives without overloading its resources.

Proper site preparation and species selection are also critical to the success of your reforestation effort. Site preparation is nothing more than creating the best growing environment for your seedlings at the time of planting. Logging slash, weeds and compacted areas can create unfavorable conditions and prevent the planting site from meeting the reforestation standards described in the Oregon Forest Practices Act. Choosing tree species that match your site's soil, climate, and future conditions can save time and money.

Commonly planted tree species for western and eastern Oregon can be found in **Figure 1** (below), which was taken from the [Guide to Reforestation in Oregon](#). As we continue to experience shifts in Oregon's climate, many landowners are considering or experimenting with species suited to warmer, drier conditions. Diversifying planting stock is also a valuable strategy because planting

Eastern Oregon		Western Oregon	
Common name	Scientific Name	Common name	Scientific Name
Douglas-fir	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	Douglas-fir	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>
ponderosa pine	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>	grand fir	<i>Abies grandis</i>
Engelmann spruce	<i>Picea engelmannii</i>	incense-cedar	<i>Calocedrus decurrens</i>
grand fir	<i>Abies grandis</i>	Jeffrey pine	<i>Pinus jeffreyi</i>
lodgepole pine	<i>Pinus contorta</i>	lodgepole pine	<i>Pinus contorta</i>
mountain hemlock	<i>Tsuga mertensiana</i>	ponderosa pine	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>
subalpine fir	<i>Abies lasiocarpa</i>	Port-Orford-cedar	<i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i>
sugar pine	<i>Pinus lambertiana</i>	California red fir	<i>Abies magnifica</i>
western larch	<i>Larix occidentalis</i>	Sitka spruce	<i>Picea sitchensis</i>
western white pine	<i>Pinus monticola</i>	sugar pine	<i>Pinus lambertiana</i>
		western hemlock	<i>Tsuga heterophylla</i>
		western redcedar	<i>Thuja plicata</i>
		western white pine	<i>Pinus monticola</i>
		white fir	<i>Abies concolor</i>
		Hardwoods	
		red alder	<i>Alnus rubra</i>

Figure 1: *Guide to Reforestation in Oregon*

multiple species can make your forest more resilient to pests, disease and extreme weather.

OFRI offers valuable resources for landowners actively managing their forests and planning reforestation. Publications such as [Establishing and Managing Forest Trees in Western Oregon](#) and [Understanding Eastside Forests](#) provide practical guidance, including tree selection tips tailored to different regions of the state. These resources are designed to support landowners in making informed decisions to ensure successful forest management.

One of the greatest challenges for young seedlings is competition from invasive plants such as Scotch broom or Himalayan blackberry. These aggressive plants can quickly overtake a reforestation site, crowding out seedlings and depleting valuable resources like sunlight, water and soil nutrients. Effective control of these weeds often requires chemical or mechanical techniques. While some landowners may have concerns about herbicide use, it's important to know that these treatments are applied by trained professionals, regulated for safety and used sparingly to target competition or invasives without causing significant adverse impacts to water quality or the surrounding environment. However, invasives are persistent and can be easily reintroduced, so staying vigilant is essential. Regularly monitor your reforestation site and act early to keep these unwelcome competitors at bay.

Even with careful planning, reforestation efforts can face setbacks, including drought, pests or wildfires. When this happens, replanting may be necessary — and while it can feel discouraging, it's part of the journey to establishing a healthy forest. Regularly assess your seedlings' progress and work with your forester to address challenges. Reforestation is a team effort, and you don't have to do it alone. Your local small forestland owner (SFO) forester or stewardship forester can provide guidance tailored to your land's unique conditions, from calculating site productivity and selecting species to meet reforestation requirements.

You can find your local forester's information using the [Oregon Department of Forestry's "Find a Forester" mapping tool](#). Simply locate your property on the map and click on it, and a pop-up will provide contact information for the foresters servicing your area. I'm also available to help; if you have questions or feedback, or if you need anything, please feel free to reach out to me directly at miller@ofri.org.

Here's to growing our knowledge as we grow our forests!

The "Information Celebration" and Wildlife

Fran Cafferata and Julie Woodward

The Oregon Tree Farm System's annual Members Meeting and Awards Luncheon was held Nov. 16, at The Oregon Garden in Silverton. The theme was "An Information Celebration," and as part of the event, talks were given by a variety of speakers. If you missed the event, this article will catch you up on the information shared during the wildlife talk. This presentation focused on current events and species to be aware of due to potential protected status changes or other points of interest. Species covered in the talk included the red tree vole, western pond turtle, marbled murrelet, barred owl and North American beaver. Read on to learn more about each of these species.

Red tree vole

On Feb. 6, 2024, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) determined that the red tree vole is not warranted for protection under the Endangered Species Act. Learn more about the red tree vole in the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) [Red Tree Voles and Forestry](#) fact sheet. A group of Oregon landowners interested in red tree vole conservation are working to develop a management strategy that is compatible with forestry while providing habitat for red tree voles.

For family forest landowners, it is important to be aware of species such as the red tree vole that may have special conservation status. More information can be found in the [USFWS notification of findings about the red tree vole](#).



Western pond turtle

The federal status for western pond turtles is currently under review by the USFWS. The decision will be made in early 2025. If listed, landowners may have to take certain measures necessary for the protection of this species.



Landowners interested in turtle conservation have many options for improving habitat for the western pond turtle. A few to think about include:

- Surveying your property for western pond turtles.
- Maintaining and providing basking structures in ponds.
- Managing upland vegetation to provide nesting cover.
- Avoiding disturbance when turtles are active.

Learn more about western pond turtles by reading OFRI's [Western Pond Turtles and Forestry](#) fact sheet.

Marbled murrelet

The marbled murrelet remains a federally threatened species and a state endangered species in Oregon. This bird species is challenging to manage because of its unique habitat requirements. Marbled murrelets spend most of their life in the ocean and come inland only to nest and raise their young in forests.



Landowners considering forest management within the range of the marbled murrelet should be aware that the federal survey protocol for this species has been updated. USFWS released the new revised protocol in January 2024 and is expected to use it for the 2025 survey season. Studies are also being conducted to test the use of automated listening devices to survey for the presence of marbled murrelet.

For more information on marbled murrelet, you can check out the OFRI fact sheet, [Marbled Murrelets and Forestry](#). The new survey protocol can be found here: [Revised USFWS Marbled Murrelet Inland Survey Protocol](#).

Barred owl

Many people are aware of barred owls and spotted owls. Both owl species are found in Oregon, many times competing for the same habitat. Barred owls are known to outcompete the northern spotted owl, which is a threatened Oregon native species. The USFWS has started a barred owl removal program in an effort to control the population of these owls and allow for habitat to be occupied by northern spotted owls. This issue is complex, and more information can be found on the USFWS's [Barred Owl Management](#) webpage.

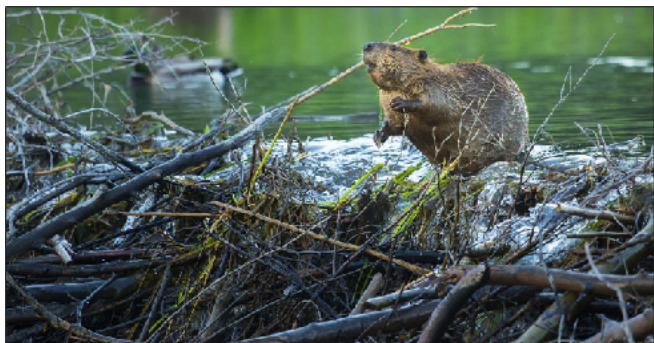


North American beaver

The North American beaver occurs statewide in all ecoregions of Oregon where suitable habitat exists. OFRI has a publication on the North American beaver that was

just updated! Updates include important information about the new state trapping and forest practice rules related to beavers. You can order or download the updated publication here: [Wildlife in Managed Forests: The North American Beaver](#).

There are so many species in Oregon to care about and to manage for. It can be overwhelming sometimes to keep up on all of them. Hopefully this “information celebration” provides a place to start to understand some of Oregon’s native wildlife that call our forests home.



Julie Woodward, OFRI, director of forestry,
woodward@ofri.org
and Fran Cafferata, Cafferata Consulting,
owner and certified wildlife biologist,
fran@cafferataconsulting.org

The Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) supports the forest sector and the stewardship of natural resources by advancing Oregonians’ understanding of the social, environmental and economic benefits of our forests. Learn more about OFRI and order or download its free educational publications at the Institute’s website, OregonForests.org.



**Oregon Forest
Resources Institute**



**Woodland
Fish & Wildlife**

The Woodland Fish and Wildlife Group is a consortium of public agencies, universities and private organizations, which collaborate to produce educational publications about fish and wildlife species and habitat management, for use by family forest owners in the Pacific Northwest. Currently available publications can be viewed and downloaded free of charge at the organization’s website, woodlandfishandwildlife.com.

The Committee for Family Forestlands



OSWA members serving on the CFF:

Dave Bugni

NW Oregon

Gary Jensen

SW Oregon

Maurizio Valerio

Eastern Oregon

Kate McMichael

at large

2025 meetings

January 22

March 19

June 18

September 17

The in-person meetings take place at ODF in Salem, but a virtual option is available as well.

Sign up to be notified of meetings and how to attend on the [CFF webpage](#)



Mark your calendar!



Learn more (tickets, sponsorship opportunities, making donations) about OWIT's 34th Annual Auction in support of Talk About Trees and forestry education in Oregon at:

<https://orwit.ejoinme.org/2025>

Wednesday, February 19, 2025
Graduate Hotel | Eugene

the 87th Annual



February 20-22

Lane Events Center & Fairgrounds | Eugene
learn more at <https://oregonloggingconference.com/>

This Could Be YOU!

OSWA needs your help

Can you help staff the OSWA table for a few hours at OLC? (You don't need to register to help out.) Chat with conference-goers, share materials, make new friends!

If you can help, please contact [Tami Jo Braz](#)





SAVE	OSU SMALL FARMS CONFERENCE
15 FEBRUARY 2025	THE
DATE	 Corvallis, Oregon

A Quick Glimpse at the AgriStress Helpline

Last updated: March 08, 2024 by Laura Siegel

The **AgriStress Helpline**[®] is a crisis line for people working in agriculture, forestry, and fishing. It includes crisis and emotional support, suicide intervention and prevention, and a database of both mental health and agriculture-related resources. Currently the helpline exists in 10 states – Colorado, Connecticut, Missouri, Montana, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and Wyoming – but more states are joining soon! The AgriStress Helpline was developed by AgriSafe Network, who partnered with VIA LINK to provide individuals in agriculture with free and confidential crisis support. The line can be reached 24/7/365 by calling or texting 833-897-2474. Phone call interpretation is available in 160 languages, and text message services are available in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese. The AgriStress Helpline is answered by crisis support specialists who have over 300 hours of extensive evidence-based training that was developed (and is maintained) by licensed clinicians and credentialed professionals from the crisis response field. To ensure quality, the crisis support specialists are continually monitored and are given supplemental training. In addition to their extensive training, the crisis support specialists take a 3.5 hour continuing education course on mental and behavioral health in agricultural communities, called FarmResponseSM

When someone calls the AgriStress Helpline, no matter who they are, they will get service. So, when someone calls the AgriStress Helpline, a crisis support specialist will use a care navigation process, to provide the caller with care that is relevant to their situation and needs. For instance, one caller may receive an emotional support crisis intervention, while another caller may receive a risk assessment. All callers will be offered follow-up resources in their community as well as the option for a follow-up call from a crisis support specialist within 24 hours.

Fire Ecology of Oregon

Webinar Series



Explore the Fire Ecology of Oregon

Join us this winter for our upcoming series focusing on Oregon's fire ecology. We'll begin with some foundational concepts, then feature experts who will dive deeper into the complexities of fire ecology for the diverse ecosystems across the state.

Series Schedule:

- 1/9 Principles of Fire Ecology
- 1/23 Fire Regimes - Past & Present
- 2/13 Fire Ecology & Soils
- 2/20 W. Cascades & Coast Range Forests
- 2/27 Oregon's Dry Forests
- 3/6 SW Oregon Forests
- 3/13 Eastside Moist & Sub/Alpine Forests
- 3/20 Sagebrush Ecosystems
- 3/27 Oak Savannah & Woodlands

Fire Ecology of Oregon Webinar Series

Thursday Evenings
6:00 - 7:30 PM

Website: beav.es/fireeco

Registration: beav.es/Gfw

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Benton County Chapter News

Experimentation and Failure

Diana Blakney

One of the benefits that comes with owning land is the opportunity to try new approaches to management. Of course new approaches, particularly those that are relatively untested, frequently meet with failure, if not disaster. But, as Winston S. Churchill once opined, "Success is stumbling from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm."

Our family tree farm has a couple of fields (formerly used to farm wheat) that host a significant population of Kincaid's lupine, the wildflower upon which Fender's blue butterfly is dependent. Notwithstanding, over the last decade, the resident population of butterflies on the farm has shrunk to the point of being nonexistent.

A few years ago, determined to support the butterflies in their survival quest, we purchased and, with back-breaking effort, planted hundreds of Tolmie's star-tulip bulbs. A tasty treat for our miniscule blue friends, we thought. Nearby butterfly populations were thriving, after all, and some of the little rascals just might be willing to change location were the dining options to their liking.

Not a single flower came up. The butterfly population continued to shrink. I admit to losing some enthusiasm as a result.

But then I remembered some nuggets of wisdom shared by fellow OSWA members during tours of their land. Often there were confessions of failure, admissions of efforts wasted, and disclosure of unanticipated results spawned by experimentation. These stories were shared knowledge, intended not to discourage but to encourage. And, yes, sometimes to entertain.

There is no shame in failure, I think. It is simply an imperfect measure of creativity.

Give us time, little blue butterflies. We'll come up with something.



2025 Benton Small Woodlands Association Board Members

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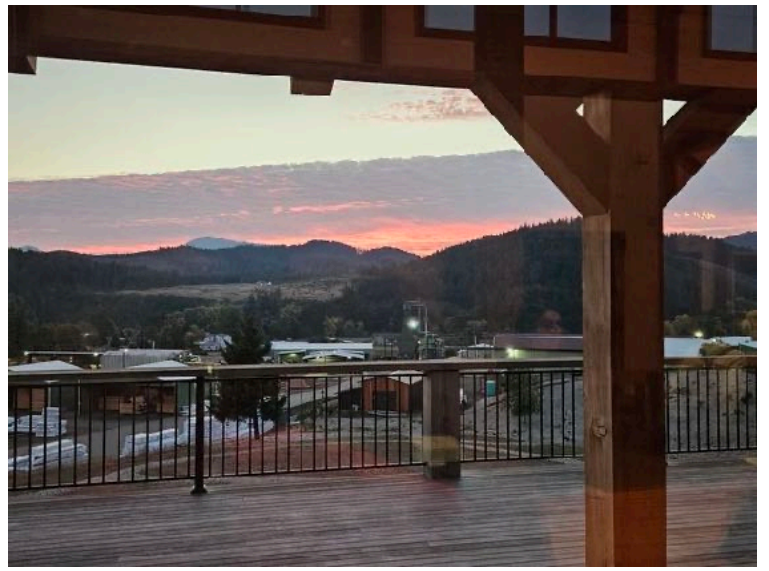
Upscale Meeting Venue in Philomath: the Patrick Lumber Timber Hall

The Benton chapter went upscale when it held its October board meeting and attendant member get-together at the Patrick Lumber Timber Hall in Philomath.

Custom designed and pre-engineered by DC Structures and DC Builders in collaboration with Patrick Lumber Company, the building is made with extraordinary timber products supplied by Patrick Lumber, which manufactures and trades wood products to diverse markets worldwide.

Ben Motter (former OSU football player and a supervisor at Patrick Lumber) and Shannon Murray (Director of Strategic Initiatives for OSU) spoke. Attendees snacked, listened, and enjoyed the fabulous venue.





Save the Date

Benton County Small Woodlands
Association
Annual Meeting

Sat., February 8, 2025
11am - 2pm

Mary's River Grange #685
24707 Grange Hall Rd
Philomath, OR 97370

Lane County Chapter News

The “not my issue” balancing act

Kate McMichael

Of all the lovely moments and memories from the Oregon Tree Farm System Annual Members Meeting in November (certainly receiving a Co-Chairs Award from Steve and Wylda Cafferata ranks among the most meaningful moments in my life), an image from one of the “Information Celebration” presentations caught my attention then—and has stayed with me ever since. Katie Murray, Executive Director of Oregonians for Food and Shelter, was speaking about their work and its direct—or not—relationship to the work any one of us does on our small woodlands. The image she chose for the accompanying slide



seems a perfect summation of my evolving relationship with the “advocacy” cornerstone of OSWA.

When we first became woodland owners, we assumed that our years of doing advocacy work—in inner city San Francisco, with homeless and mentally ill adults, recent immigrants and folks generally struggling to make ends meet in an affluent city—were behind us. As many of you have heard before, our dream for our retirement lives was utopian: we would be forest hermits, all our



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time and energy focused on being good stewards of our healthy small forest and little else. Other than a class here or there, we had no intention of meeting new people or joining groups or otherwise “getting involved” —particularly not in the messy world of politics.

When the Holiday Farm Fire rudely disrupted that dream, we found ourselves doing all those things we’d expressly planned not to do, the most surprising of which was getting involved in the GAC (which has now become the GAT—the Government Affairs Team—or Action Team—I can never quite remember). When we got the first email invitation, we somehow assumed it was something we were “supposed to do” as OSWA members. (It took us at least a year to realize it was voluntary and that many OSWA members didn’t assume that the invitation was an expectation.) But once we signed on, we were committed.

Before we knew it, we found ourselves—far outside our comfort zone—offering testimony: on harvest taxes and OFRI, on the fire experience. If I google my name now, “My name is Kate McMichael. I am a small woodland owner” from one or more of my public record testimonies comes up. Both T and I have offered verbal—voices quivering, knees shaking—testimony and longer written testimony, have invited legislators to visit our

woodland—and we will keep doing so. Not every issue impacts us. In fact, most of them don’t—but they do impact other woodland owners, some of whom have been a part of our post-fire recovery and woodland education, some of whom have become treasured friends—and some of whom we don’t and might never know. But we have come to realize that speaking up matters. And so we will keep showing up, sharing our story, connecting our experience to issues at hand—from harvest taxes to OFRI to post-disturbance salvage rules—putting ourselves “out there” to provide a glimpse at that necessary face on the otherwise anonymous “woodland owner” whose motives are easy to suspect, whose pockets are easy to lighten, whose resources—like OFRI—are easy to discount and dismember.

But our faces are not enough. YOUR face—your story, your woodland, your experience—matters too. As we prepare to enter another long legislative session, I encourage you to respond to the email invitation to join the GAT that will be forthcoming. Or consider joining the Forest Policy Committee—or both. You may find a passion you didn’t expect; you will certainly find yourself in good company—and you may find that the distance between “not my issue” and “my issue” is shorter than you think.

Upcoming Events

more information about the events on the left can be found on the following pages

January 7

final Ties to the Land Lunch & Learn webinar

February 1

Annual Seedling & Native Plant Sale at Alton Baker Park in Eugene, 8-11am or until sold out

January - March

Forestry Tech Series

April

Early Seral Field Day

2025 Board Meetings

February 1

after the Seedling sale |Springfield

April 3

2:00-4:00pm |Veneta

June 5

2:00-4:00pm |Springfield

August 7

2:00-4:00pm |Veneta

October 2

2:00-4:00pm |Springfield

December 4

2:00-4:00pm |Veneta

notes:

Board meetings take place at ODF offices, rotating between the East Lane/South Cascades and Veneta locations

Springfield: 3150 Main Street

Veneta: 87950 Territorial Hwy

All members are welcome to attend!

Ties to the Land: Lunch and Learn Webinar Series

Professionals' viewpoint
on ownership options

Last is a webinar series for small landowners considering how to pass on their land or associated business. Recordings of all webinars will be provided.

Tuesday, January 7, 2025

Cost \$15 per class, or \$50 for recordings of the whole series.

Links: <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/lane/events/ties-land-lunch-learn-webinar-series>

previous topics:

- Succession Options
- Family Meetings
- Unexpected Partner Loss

Coming soon to Lane County!

Forestry Tech Series

In this Forestry Tech Series, held in collaboration with the Lane County Small Woodlands Association, participants will get hands-on experience learning technical skills related to forest management.

Topics include:

January: Pruning

February: Planting seedlings

March: Mixing and applying herbicides

Early Seral Field Day

Join us for a field day to explore early seral forest! This is the first stage of forest succession, and this habitat type is essential for certain species of wildlife. Come learn more and find out how you can support early seral habitat on your property.

Coming in April, 2025.

Want to be added to the interest list for 2025 Lane events?

Contact us to be notified when registration opens for these upcoming workshops in Lane County.

Email: carrie.mack@oregonstate.edu

Planning for the Future of your Small Woodland

Our evening with Clint Bentz ([Clint Bentz Consulting LLC](#)) was engaging and thought-provoking—as well as a great bit of last minute advertising for Lauren Grand & Alicia Christiansen's Ties to the Land workshop. The Lunch & Learn webinars kicked off with a panel that included some familiar LCSWA faces.



The Lane County Chapter of Oregon Small Woodlands Association will host its Annual Seedling & Native Plant Sale on Saturday, February 1, 2025 at Alton Baker Park (100 Day Island Road, Eugene). Hours are 8:00am to 11:00am or until sold out. Please arrive early to receive a number for entrance. Sales are on a first come, first served basis. While waiting to enter pavilion, Oregon Dept. of Forestry representative, Dan Menk, Stewardship Forester with Oregon Department of Forestry, and Lauren Grand, OSU Extension Forester, will be on hand to answer questions. Once the sale begins, folks will be asked to enter as numbers are called.

This annual popular event offers a range of bare root/plug native seedling trees and native bare root plants. Due to limited supply from the nurseries, some species will sell out early. In order to provide seedlings for as many of those coming to the sale as possible, a limit of 100 maximum of each species will be in place from 8:00-9:00 (Douglas-fir does not have a limit). After 9:00, any quantity can be acquired.

Expected species list:

Tree species include Douglas-fir, Noble fir, Western Red Cedar, Incense-cedar, Giant Sequoia, Coastal Redwood, Grand fir, Turkish Fir, Norman Fir, Hemlock, Red Alder, Willamette Valley Ponderosa Pine, Colorado Blue Spruce (\$1.50-\$2.00)

California Black Oak | 1-2-3 gallon pots (\$8-\$30)

Dogwood | 3x9 bank pots (\$10)

Madrone | 1 gallon (\$15)

Willow cuttings

Native (bare root) plants include Nutka Rose, Snowberry, Douglas Spirea, Salal, Mock Orange, Indian Plum, Oregon Grape, Flowering Red Current, Red Twig Dogwood; Vine Maple (\$3)

Garrya elliptica (Silk Tassel) | 2 gallon (\$20)

Vexar tubes and sunshades will also be available.

NOTE: Orders are placed months in advance of the sale (all from certified nurseries). Due to weather and other conditions, nurseries cannot guarantee availability. If you are coming for a specific tree/shrub, please be aware that it might not be available. We will attempt to update our species list on our website (lanesmallwoodlands.org) and social media (Facebook & Instagram) as the date of the Sale approaches.

Payment by cash and check only.

Plan to be outside without cover available at times, and expect to observe requirements as indicated by the Oregon Health Authority for social distancing if needed. Bringing bags/boxes to take items procured is appreciated.

Lane County Oregon Small Woodland Association's annual (first Saturday in February) seedling sale is a fundraising event with proceeds going to support local forestry and woodland education.

annual Seedling and native plant Sale



February 1
Saturday

Alton Baker
Park
Eugene

8am
until sold out



Looking for a harsh site tree?

By Dan Kintigh

Incense Cedar is gaining popularity as forest owners struggle with Douglas-fir survival in increasingly hot and dry Pacific Northwest summers. In addition to its drought tolerance, it has also proven to be the “go-to” species for those particularly rocky pockets of property that Douglas-fir dies out on.

Six years ago, on my most recent planting, the unit varied significantly between places with nice topsoil and a couple spots with a lot of rock. To avoid inevitably having to re-plant dying Doug-fir in these rocky spots, I planted Incense Cedar instead. I had to move and rearrange to find pockets of soil amidst the rocks and planted Incense seedlings we grew in the nursery. I made sure to plant these in the Fall and early Winter to ensure enough time to root down through the rocks before summer arrived. This is what I call “micro-managing” your stand, and is necessary when you have a lot of variance within a unit.

Before Incense Cedar was a blip on the radar, my father planted an extremely steep and rocky area with Doug-fir. To this day, I don't know how he got the trees to survive as long as they did. However, once they outgrew what the shallow topsoil could support, they began to die off gradually. Poison Oak took over the area, but after a couple years' battle I was finally able to plant some Incense Cedar there. I had to do this in a unique way, finding pockets of soil at the base of each cliff shelf. These were just big enough to establish a seedling. It's been a number of years, but they are looking pretty good. It may take a bit longer to harvest, but it beats growing poison oak or brush there instead. It took a lot of work, but I'm quite satisfied with my accomplishment and am happy knowing my grandchildren will get to enjoy them.

Historically, nurseries have experienced difficulty finding Incense seed as it is costly to collect and not very often a natural cone crop is produced. When cones are produced, there is a very short window to collect it; too soon and the germination will be poor, too late and the cone will open, releasing seeds into the wind. The cones are about the size of a cherry and only hold four seeds in comparison to Doug-fir which has a larger cone and can hold upwards of 50 seeds. It takes a long time to fill a 5 gallon bucket with Incense cones. Of the four seeds in an Incense cone, not all of them will be viable and you may only get 2-3. In addition, cones are normally produced in the largest trees and are nearly impossible to climb, requiring expensive lift equipment. Aside from the short window, costly and timely collection, and low yields, there can be genetic flaws within collections that produce albinos, or seedlings without chlorophyll. These die within a week or two of germinating.



Dying Douglas-fir in patch of rocky ground surrounded by thriving Incense Cedar.



Incense Cedar in really rocky patch of ground.

One interesting thing about Incense Cedar is the pollen, or male flowers, which develop a full year ahead of the female flowers. They take much longer to grow. Sometimes you can see the yellow pollen tips on branches in the fall. If cones are produced the following Spring, which is rare, you will get a cone crop. Incense Cedar seed is large and you don't get many per pound. It is also a winged seed which you have to be careful to keep intact. The wing allows the seed to be carried further on the wind in the wild, but it is also where the root tip grows from. Sowing seed with a wing requires extra work and a bit more attentiveness.

Though not as durable as Western Redcedar, Incense Cedar produces a desirable, pinkish color wood. When grown in a stand, it can make a nice log without heavy limbs. If grown in the open it will get very limb-y. I remember limbing Incense Cedar for my dad using the little green chainsaw he bought just for me. It took me half a day to do one tree, but I was quite proud afterwards. The forestry industry is just now starting to look at establishing seed orchards which would help with the seed deficit. My opinion is that Incense Cedar could become an important part of the forestry industry with access to reliable seed and improved genetic selections.



Incense Cedar on steep rocky slope

More of Dan's reflections can be found at <https://www.kintighs.com/musings>. Click the Resources link on the page header for more helpful tips on species selection and successful tree growing.



Incense doing well in front of dead Douglas-fir.



[kintighs.com](https://www.kintighs.com)

Healthy Trees Start from the Roots

Lincoln County Chapter News

Lincoln County Chapter Annual Meeting in October

Judy Pelletier

Lincoln County Chapter October Annual Meeting was held at Peter & Alice Bregman's Eagle's Roost Tree Farm, N Bayview Dr, Waldport. Our annual meeting was called to order after lunch and time to socialize by President Joe Steere. Board members were Joe Steere, President, Peter Bregman, past President, Judy Pelletier, Secretary, and Board members Steve Allen, Rex Capri, Jim Holt, Todd Holt; Rex & Theresa Capri.

Rex brought up the latest report regarding the Shipping Terminal for the Port of Newport for which two positions on the port commission will be up for election. He is encouraging anyone who lives in the port district and pays taxes as result of the port's bond issue to run for a position, particularly if they have ideas for the port in order to raise more dollars by selling or leasing port services rather than through taxes. Please contact Walter Chuck.

Todd Holt stated that trees are important to the county more than ever now because there is no Ag left, no dairies, no herds. Teresa Simmons said that farmland should grow trees because she has to show a profit every year and has to pay taxes on it.

Chapter member and State Representative David Gomberg gave a good question and answer session. One issue is Timber Tax Deferral when timber is gone through no fault of the owner. Gomberg's proposal in agreement with the County Assessor's is that there should be no tax on timberland for 4 years after the fires. Another proposal is that aerial spraying will be up to local county districts. A third proposal is regarding Recreational Liability Immunity- if you didn't charge for use, you should not be held liable. Gomberg will be at LC Farm Bureau, so send him a letter with your concerns. Oregon Legislative Information System (OLIS) online. There is a weekly newsletter at state level with a coastal perspective.

Also at Joe's invitation, Rick Beasley came and spoke on why he would be a better choice for Lincoln County



Lincoln County Board Members

Joe Steere, President
Peter Bregman, past President
Judy Pelletier, Secretary

Steve Allen
Rex Capri
Jim Holt
Todd Holt
Rex Capri
Theresa Capri

Commissioner Position #2 than Claire Hall. Sheriff, police and DA support him. He's a Depoe Bay City Councilor, logger, veteran, business owner, hunter/fisherman with a thorough understanding of challenges facing Lincoln Co. He supported using resources to end homelessness, restore the economy, protect economic assets like NOAA, Mills, Fishing industry, and housing for working people. He supported no more closed LC Commissioner meetings & part time work, but ultimately, Claire Hall was reelected as County Commissioner.

Connie Battles, VP for our Regional OSWA Board and trustee for her family estate of 206 acres, was introduced to members.

Joe Steere announced that we need a Chapter President because he wishes to retire and also that he has obtained his **Inspector Certification for Tree Farmer of the Year**. He asked who wants to be LC OSWA **Tree Farmer of the Year?** LC OSWA **Volunteer of the Year?**

Treasurer's Report for our 2024 Tree Seedling Sale from Jan Steenkolk and Minutes from our chapter's Jan 27, 2024 Annual Meeting were read by Sec. J. Pelletier. Seedlings have been provided by Joe Steere. LC OSWA funded Taft & Waldport High School Forestry Programs \$2000 each on 1/25/2024 and \$505 for a First Aid Course. **FNRL** (*Future Nat. Resource Leaders*), the framework for High School programs, and **ONREA** (*Oregon Natural Resource Educators Association*) named Waldport Principal Jeff Skirvin as Natural Resources Educator of the Year. Joe asked if we wanted to contribute \$2000 each to Waldport & Taft school forestry programs. Susan Allen and Connie Battles said that the schools need to tell us what they've done with the money because Carlson, a welding teacher, was the only

one who had communicated with us. Connie B. moved to table the motion to give \$2000 to each school program until the next meeting. Jerry Pelletier seconded it, and all were in favor of waiting until the next mtg.

In discussion, Peter said we need young people to join, and he is offering to pay for new first year memberships. Connie suggested zoom calls for meetings for busy people like the Kittels, the Steenkolks, and young people who work. Jerry and Connie said that we need to attract young people to bring their energy and vision. Steven Allen asked what is the benefit for them? Teresa suggested that we try to get the word out, publicize, write and publish articles on what we do for the environment; newspapers need filler. Publicize on Arbor Day. Connie's ideas were to offer degrees in Tree Climbing, join parades, foster tables at events and fairs. Susan Gomberg suggested that members and those interested should sign up for Gomberg's newsletter and message him ideas and events to attract attention. Rick Beasley said there are 20 facebook groups on which to get out information. Connie said that she would create a facebook group after first week of November. Jim Holt suggested we all get together to record past job histories.

Our **next Annual Meeting will be on January 25, 2025** at the OSU Extension Meeting Room and the **Annual Tree Seedling Sale will be on March 1, 2025** at Table Mountain Forestry Shop in Toledo. Volunteers are needed for the sale. Some of the High School FNRL & ONREA students will help too.

Thanks to Peter and Alice Bregman for our use of their shop/meeting hall for this gathering.

The meeting was then adjourned.

FEMA Wants to Force New Flood Plain Regulations on Local Governments

by Claire Elizabeth Hall, Lincoln Co. Commissioner

About one hundred people turned out for the (12/4/2024) meeting of the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners. This was one of the largest crowds I've ever seen at one of our meetings.

They were all there for a single reason—to testify at a public hearing about new floodplain regulations that FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, is attempting to force local governments to adopt their maps and rules, under the coercive threat of taking away the federal flood insurance program from the county. We were also given a Dec. 31 deadline to act by the feds.

I told the audience that this situation stinks, that it's wrong, and it feels like government overreach at his worst. This message is coming from folks on both sides of the political aisle. The Governor sent a letter to our Congressional delegation, saying that at the very least, this process needs to be slowed down. That especially makes sense given the changing of the guard coming in the White House next month. President-elect Trump has pledged to roll back a lot of regulations that he considers to be overreach, and this situation is the kind of thing that most likely will be targeted.

The origins of this go back more than a decade at the federal level. A coalition of environmental groups sued FEMA, claiming its current development policies were/are not restrictive enough, and as a result, endangered salmon were/are being threatened. Recently, these groups brought FEMA back into court and accused them of foot-dragging. The judge agreed and set this in motion. All but a few counties in the southeast corner of the state are impacted by these new rules.

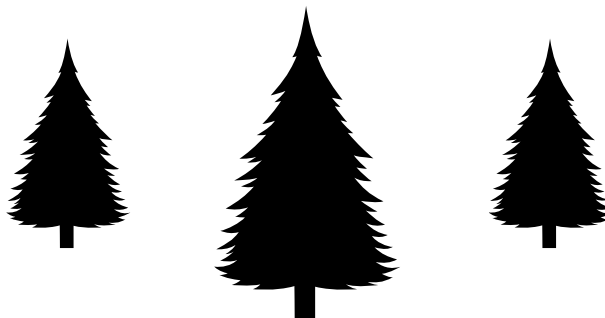
We heard from many farmers and tree growers about how these rules will hamper or prohibit all kinds of basic things. Even though rural road districts have legal authority to maintain their roads, they would now need permits to do even basic maintenance, such as dirt and gravel fill to deal with erosion of a road bed. We also heard from a woman who has a creek front home who acknowledged the concerns of others in the room but tearfully pleaded with us to adopt the rules. Without flood insurance, she would lose her mortgage, and the cost of private flood insurance (\$20,000/year in her case) would be prohibitive.

How big an issue is this potentially? Oregonians passed Measure 56 several years ago, which required government to pay compensation for what's known as **taking**—any action that reduces the potential use, and therefore value of the property. Our planning department identified and sent letters to 6,000 property owners, as required under law. Calculating the loss of value and compensating property owners would be a logistical challenge for us, to say the least.

It really sticks in my craw that some of the news coverage of this situation is being presented as conservationists versus landowners. We heard from many people whose properties have been in their family for 50, 100 years, or even longer. When you're thinking about your legacy to your descendants, you're not going to rape the land. You're going to be a good steward.

We kept the public hearing open until December 18 for written comment. We'll take up the issue again at that time. You're probably wondering what we're going to do at that point. Our direction should become clearer by then, as we review this testimony and consult further with other elected officials.

I know that my job sometimes involves making the least objectionable choice among several less-than-ideal alternatives, but there are no acceptable options in front of us right now.



Linn County Chapter News

President's Column

Reforestation success rate needs a boost

Remedy for low number on small woodland plots must be found

By Mike Barsotti | LCSWA president

A quarter of reforestation projects on family forestlands fail, according to a recently released Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) reforestation study.

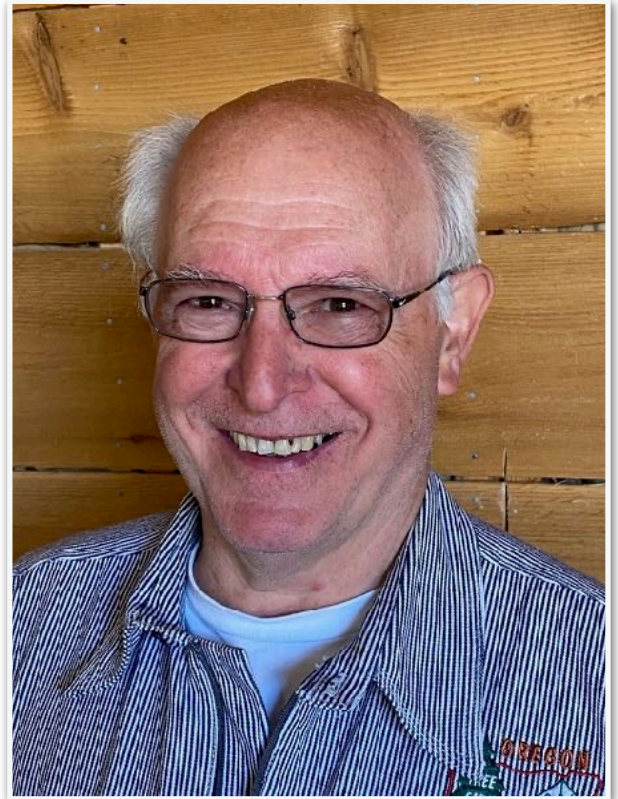
How Oregonians perceive forest landowners is extremely important. Harvest units becoming brush patches won't convince Oregonians we are doing a good job caring for the forests they love.

Oregonians like us, dislike us, or don't have an opinion. I assume we will always have those that don't like us and want to restrict our forest activities. We shouldn't be providing examples supporting their opinions.

We need to keep those who argue for more restrictions on forestry in a minority. Block legislation that unfairly restricts our ability to steward our forests. We have been mostly successful by showing Oregonians what we do and don't do. We challenge those who attempt to spread misinformation and disinformation about the effects of forest activities.

The Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) has been very helpful in telling Oregonians our story of sound forest management. The Oregon Tree Farm System's Tree Farmers of the Year recognition program also lets Oregonians see how we manage our forests. The Oregon Small Woodlands Association (OSWA) lobbying efforts have been mostly successful in defeating legislation based disinformation.

ODF released the third-party reforestation study Sept. 30. It's on their website. It looked at 2016 and 2017 harvested areas to see if they are now free and clear to grow.



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Seedling sale: Lena Tucker 541-570-5250
TFOY selection: Joe Holmberg 541-259-3963
Bob Mealey education project: Jim Cota, Larry Mauter and Joe Holmberg

While large landowners had a bit over 92 percent of harvest units free to grow — family forest ownership had only 76 percent of their harvest units free to grow.

Having a quarter of our harvested forests go to brush patches needs to be addressed. It should be corrected for a bunch of reasons. It reduces the state's acreage of forests. Brush land is more susceptible to conversion to a non-forest use.

Politically, it's hard to defend. Economically, it reduces future forest products and tax income. I started my forestry career as an ODF Service Forester working with family forest landowners to recapture cutover forest lands that had gone to brush.

Future timber and tax revenue was the justification for spending public funds to assist private landowners. Short term, brush patches are good for song birds but there are better ways to support song birds.

Reforestation is important. A Forest Practices Act administrative rule states that reforestation is considered "an essential factor in assuring continuous growing and harvesting of forest tree species, considering landowner objectives and consistent with the sound management of timber and other forest resources."

Why are reforestation efforts falling short? The report says that ODF staff noted low stocking was associated with sparse planting, high mortality, vegetative competition, or unplanted plots.

An ODF forester whose job is Forest Practices compliance monitoring told me blackberries and other brush species was the major reason he observed for failures.

I think it's a problem we need to address soon. Can we have a goal that has family forest landowners getting reforestation success rates up to the large landowners' 92 percent? I also think we need consensus on what is the major problem.

Is it a lack of knowledge on how to be successful, poor quality seedlings, climate, or just a "cut-and-run" attitude? There are most likely additional reasons. How should we address this problem?

First, who is the "we"? How about ODF, OSU Extension Forestry and Natural Resources, OFRI, and our family forest landowner organizations, OSWA and OTFS. Who did I miss?

Then one of us needs to take the lead or we will just worry about it. ODF should take the lead on this. Lack of knowledge about restocking forests is the main problem we need to address.

Linn County upcoming events

2025 annual membership meeting and potluck dinner

Saturday Jan. 18, 2025 from noon - 4 pm
at historic Z Hall, N. Main Street, Scio

Door prizes, a business meeting to elect board members, auctions and 4-H scholarship awards are part of the day. Time change allows daytime driving. Speakers will include Rick Zenn, OSWA president.

30th Annual Linn County Small Woodlands Association Seedling Sale

Thursday Feb. 13 — Day 1 — Set up at the Santiam Building at the Linn County Expo Center in Albany. Volunteer members and 4-Hers begin at 8 a.m. setting up tables. Afternoon session will focus on filling pre-orders for Saturday. Wear warm clothing.

Friday Feb. 14 — Day 2 — Volunteers from LCSWA membership and 4-Hers fill orders to be picked up Saturday. Start time is 8. a.m. Finish time depends on number of orders.

Saturday Feb. 15 — Day 3 — Seedling sale pick-up day and live sales of plants still available. Start time is 7:30 a.m. Doors open for pickups from 8-11 a.m. Breakdown of tables follows end of sales.

Quarterly board of directors meeting

Thursday March 6 — 4-6 p.m.

Directors will meet at the OSU Extension office in Tangent. Agenda will include election of officers, seedling sale financial report and activity planning for 2025. All members are welcome to attend.

Options for help to woodland owners on the table Jan. 18

LCSWA annual meeting, potluck in Scio will start at noon

By Larry Mauter | LCSWA member

Forest property owners in Linn County looking for technical or financial assistance with their woodlands should circle Jan. 18 on the calendar.

The Linn County Small Woodlands Association will host its annual membership and business meeting in Scio on that date — at a new time (noon to 4 p.m.) to reduce night-time driving.

The meeting will feature experts from various state and federal and local agencies who will explain various program options, said Mike Barsotti, LCSWA president and retired forester.

“We will have speakers that offer money and/or advise on ways we can meet our forestry goals,” he said at the Dec. 5 LCSWA board of directors meeting.

The Jan. 18 meeting will have five-minute speaking slots for about five organizations.

Among organizations that may be represented are Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon State University Extension Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and local watershed councils.

Also speaking will be Rick Zenn, OSWA’s executive director. He will share a bit on OSWA activities as well as the upcoming Oregon Legislative Session which will start Jan. 21.

The future generation — Linn County 4-H members — will also be part of the program.

Fay Sallee, LCSWA 4-H education chair, said students will make brief presentations on their forestry projects during the gathering.

Sallee said she will also have a sign-up sheet at the meeting for volunteers at the 30th annual LCSWA seedling sale. Members and 4-Hers are needed to prepare orders Thursday through Saturday, Feb. 13-15.

A potluck meal will kick off the afternoon following introductions. Participants are asked to bring a main dish and a side dish — salad or desert. There is a kitchen facility at the meeting location — the historic ZCJB Hall, 38704 N. Main St. in downtown Scio.

Past events have featured smoked fish, elk or venison sausage, outlandish deserts and optional veggie or gluten-free offerings.

LCSWA furnishes punch and coffee. Members are asked to bring their own plates and silverware. Door prizes and an auction are among the events.

The chapter will follow up with a post card in mail boxes by early January covering annual meeting details.

‘Sirius Woods’ diversity on display in old-growth grove

The Kohl family hosts TFOY tour

By Tim Otis | LCSWA past president

The Kohls purchased 25 acres of forest land near McDowell Creek in 1991. Seven years later they acquired an adjacent 18 acres. These tracts of land had been logged in the World War I era, as near as could be determined, and left, at that time to regenerate naturally.

What now occupies this site is about an equal mix of Douglas Fir and Hemlock, with lesser numbers of Grand Fir, Big Leaf Maple, Bitter Cherry, Alder, and Pacific Yew. Named by the Kohls “Sirius Woods” (after the dog star Sirius), this site of over 100-year-old forest is also occupied by a diverse understory of Red Huckleberry, Oregon Grape, Sword Fern, native Hazel, Vine Maple, Meadow Rue, Cascara, Salal, Salmon Berry, as well as numerous wildflowers and mushrooms.

This mature forest is also home (as observed by the owners) to Pileated woodpecker, wood ducks, deer, and cougars. In addition to the age of the forest, this site may owe some of its diversity to the presence of three perennial headwater streams and three ponds.

We tree farmers have many different goals and management styles. Some have newly planted tree farms, where most of the work involves getting the young trees started. Others have stands that have serious invasive species that threaten to overtake the native species.

Some have young stands that can benefit from pre-commercial or commercial thinning. Others of us may need to cut timber to generate revenue for medical costs or to pay for education. Maybe one generation has passed on and the tree farm is to be split between sibling children. This is the complexity of our task as tree farmers.



Linn County 2024 tree farmers of the year Katie and Steve Kohl, left, were honored at a recent OTFS luncheon. Making the presentation are Jock and Pam Dalton, Oregon’s 2024 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year.

Photo credit: Mike Barsotti, LCSWA president
