



The Quarterly Bark

Volume 32 | Issue 2

April 2025

Family Forest Convention 2025

Save the Date for June 19-21!

Plans for a wonderful OSWA-OTFS Family Forest Convention are well underway. Based at the Scout Lodge in Philomath, there will be mill and woodland tours, a morning OSWA Annual Members Meeting & Elections (seeking VP candidates!) followed by learning opportunities in workshops and panel discussions, capped off by a day with our 2024 Tree Farmers of the Year, Pam & Jock Dalton, and a tour of their tree farm. There's also a plan for a day-before-it-all-begins-in-earnest tour at Terry Lamer's tree farm. If you haven't had a chance to marvel at his redwoods, this is your chance. Information should be in the mail soon, including area hotels and camping options, but getting the date on your calendar is the first step. We hope to see you there!

Passing the Torch

Grateful farewell to Rick Zenn

Warm welcome to Mike Cafferata

When the Executive Director Search Committee shared their hope of having a new ED by the beginning of April, even they admitted that the tight timeline was more "aspirational" than actual. And yet, voila, they did it! Although Mike will continue in his role at ODF until the end of June, and only officially take the Executive Director reins on July 1, the Search Committee met their aspirational goal—and with great results. We will have a more substantive farewell to Rick and welcome to Mike in our July edition, but the news was too good not to share.



At Tree School Clackamas. Above: words of wisdom | Right: Mike already on duty!

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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

OSWA Lobby Day at the Capitol

On March 6, OSWA members from throughout the state travelled to Salem to spend the day speaking with legislators about issues of concern to family forest landowners. We started the day with breakfast and a conversation with Senator David Brock Smith which resulted in what is now SB 485 which aims to improve the estate tax realities for family forest landowners and their heirs. Then we headed for the Capitol and broke into groups so as to meet with as many Senators and Representatives—or their Chiefs of Staff—as possible. In addition to verbally highlighting issues of concern to small woodland owners, each group left behind an OSWA one-page document to serve as a written reminder of our visit, the diversity of our membership and the key issues facing us. At lunch, Seth Barnes of the Oregon Forest Industries Council shared his perspective on the issues at hand for the forest sector in the current long session. Of great concern to everyone, on both sides of the aisle and in multiple sectors, are the number of pieces of legislation under consideration, particularly those with significant funding needs attached to them. Our final visit of the day was with Representative John Lively, chair of the committee grappling with what has become the latest Fire Omnibus Bill, HB 3940, which, among other things, seeks to broaden the sources of funding for the costs associated with fighting wildfire. Although the day was long and tiring, each of us left feeling renewed gratitude for Nicole Mann's thoughtful and clearly well-respected work on our behalf in Salem—as well as gratitude that we could leave the crowded offices and marble halls behind and return to the quiet of our woodlands.



FPC | GAT updates

The **Forest Policy Committee** continues to meet on the last Friday of the month at 7am via Zoom. Areas of particular focus continue to be PFA related issues, from stream classification to post-disturbance rules, and reforestation. Dave Bugni has agreed to chair the reforestation subcommittee, as we continue discuss the barriers to reforestation success for small woodland owners and how we might help our members and others to overcome them. If you are interested in joining the forest policy conversation, please reach out to Dan Newton | 360-606-5042 | newtimber@hotmail.com

The **Government Affairs Team** meets every other Monday at 4pm via Zoom. Rick Spring, OSWA Second VP from North Bend, serves as the committee chair. At each meeting, Nicole Mann updates attendees on the status of current legislation, shares her sense of “the mood” of legislators on various bills and topics, and provides initial alerts of where and/or when small woodland voices might be needed, whether in spoken or written testimony. Many of us have already testified on issues such as funding for the OSU Statewides (which include research and outreach programs vital to both the forest and ag sectors, including Extension and 4H) and potential changes to the hiring process and qualifications required of the State Forester. The list of active bills is slowly being whittled down from its start in the 3400 range, but there are still plenty of bills left that might impact us—from the estate tax fix to lumber grading to wildfire funding—and our ability to manage our woodlands. All that to say: since we’re not quite halfway through the long session, there is still time to get involved! All our perspectives and all our voices matter. Let [Rick Spring](#) know if you want to be added to the GAT team.

Did you forget to renew your membership for 2025?

Don't miss out on OSWA news, fellowship, education & advocacy! Renew at <https://oswa.org/join-or-renew>

Learning from Sister Organizations: OSAF & ORTWS

Wylde Cafferata

OSAF is the Oregon chapter of the Society of American Foresters and ORTWS is the Oregon chapter of The Wildlife Society. On February 6-7 these two organizations held a joint Annual Meeting with the theme: Thriving Together: Fostering Resilient Forests and Flourishing Wildlife. As a small woodland owner and member of both Oregon Small Woodlands Association and The Oregon Tree Farm System, there was a great deal to learn from the OSAF/ORTWS meeting. So often we tree farmers pigeon-hole ourselves in the yearly round of tree farm tasks and fail to think about the whole world of forest research that impacts what we do. At the conference, there were two general sessions on each of the two days, and then three strands of concurrent sessions. Without summarizing the entire conference, I'd like to bring you some of my take-home ah-ha moments. I came home totally energized and am excited to share that energy!

1. The Interim State Forester Kate Skinner advised explaining active forest management by using a gardening metaphor: take out the weeds, thin the carrots, protect the soil. I have lots of friends who still think our forests are best left untouched. Perhaps this metaphor will help.



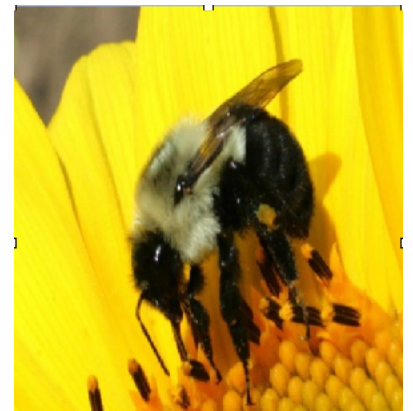
2. In a panel discussion of the Endangered Species Act, the point was raised that too often the ecosystem is evaluated on a species-by-species



basis; the tension between protecting individual species and protecting the interwoven ecosystem needs addressing. As small woodland owners, we need to pay attention to, and speak up about, potentially unintended consequences of single-species protection.

3. There's a new kind of agreement for woodland owners that replaces the old "Safe Harbor Agreements" with something called CBAs, Conservation Benefits Agreements. Finding out more about these could be useful. <https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2024-05/conservation-benefit-agreements-fact-sheet.pdf>

4. Seven different presentations stressed the need for more habitat for pollinators. We were reminded that 88% of flowering plants depend on pollinators. Many pollinators are polylectic, meaning they take pollen from a variety of plants. We are advised to check with our local OSU Extension agent for a list of plants suitable for our local areas. A wonderful presentation by Lindsay Davis-she oversees creating pollinator habitat on Hampton Lumber Company lands-inspired me to create pollinator plots under our power lines. And I'm inspired to check out the Oregon Bee Atlas. You might want to as well. <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/bee-atlas>



5. There were four different presentations on the importance of early seral habitat to a whole host of creatures, with early seral defined as the period of time between disturbance (such as wildfire or clear cutting) and canopy closure. AJ Kroll, a PhD wildlife biologist who has devoted his career to the conservation of biological diversity on managed landscapes, described the results of a ten-year study on the impact of herbicides on wildlife, comparing plots with no herbicide use to those with light, moderate, and heavy applications. Fifty-four species of insects, birds, and mammals were monitored. Fascinatingly, while diversity dropped in the first two years after herbicide applications, by year four there was no evidence of differences among the four types of treatment areas. AJ, who is usually a calm man, gave what was for him an impassioned plea to use the herbicide tool to provide more wood to build the homes America needs.

6. And then there were six presentations on barred owls and their impact not only on the spotted owl but on the northern pygmy owl, the western screech owl, and the northern saw whet owl, all of which they eat. A description of the pilot



project to shoot barred owls informed us that two trained technicians (i.e. hunters) were required on each of the four pilot sites, full-time, all year round. Furthermore, once the barred owls were eliminated from a site, more barred owls moved in. On only one of the pilot sites, located in southern Oregon/northern California, was there some hope of success since that site had fewer barred owls to begin with, so there were less to move into a site where the owls had been removed. The expense of the pilot project, and potential cost

of an expanded project, boggled our minds. Additionally, the ethical considerations are complex and troubling. It is not, however, as I had previously thought, the case of controlling one species to protect another, but rather controlling

one to protect four. Furthermore, as my wildlife biologist daughter reminded me, we control the population growth of many species to protect the overall health of the ecosystem. Why is it different for owls? Why indeed, but I am still pondering. To spike even more interest in owls, there was an exhibit of live birds as well!



7. Because of my interest in wildlife, I spent more of the conference time in the conference strand on Wildlife in Managed Forests, taking pages of notes on black-backed woodpeckers, marbled murrelets, black bears, the Sierra Nevada red fox, both mountain beaver and flat-tailed beaver, the Cascade frog, the red-legged frog, the pinyon jay, and the varied thrush. However, in the straight Forestry Strand, there were dozens of presentations ranging from discussion of the Private Forest Accord to tribal forestry to protecting our forests from pests such as the Emerald Ash Borer and conditions related to drought and climate change. The two days were totally packed.

Membership in the Oregon Chapter of the Wildlife Society is open to all Oregonians, and the dues are moderate: <https://ortws.org/>

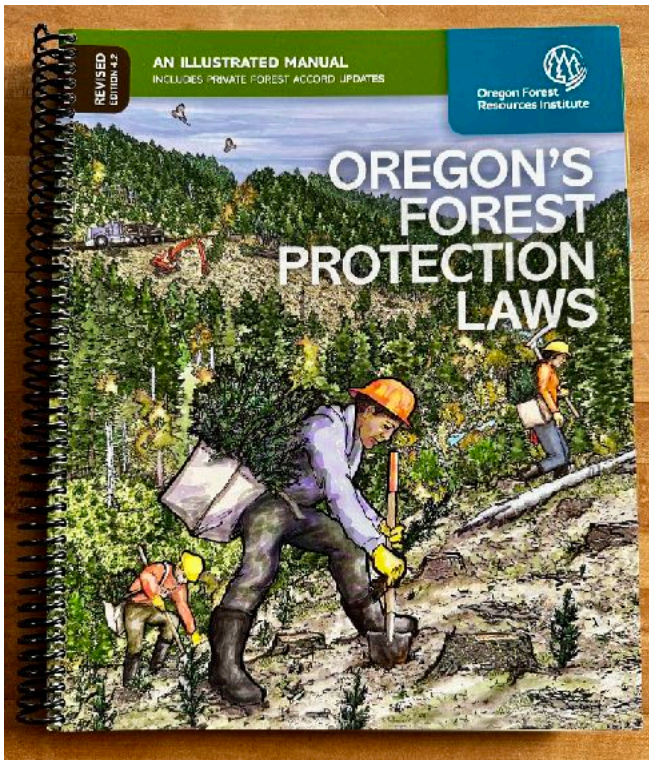
The Oregon Society of American Foresters membership is for professional foresters and those in related fields, but they welcome anyone interested to attend their meetings. <https://forestry.org/oregon/>

These conferences happen every year, so you might think about attending in 2026. I know I am looking forward to attending again already.

Printed copies of the new *Illustrated Manual* are available

By Julie Woodward | Oregon Forest Resource Institute

The hard copy version of the updated *Oregon's Forest Protection Laws: An Illustrated Manual* is now available to order from OFRI's website.



The Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) will ship a free printed copy of the manual starting in April to anyone who orders it from the Institute's online publication library. Those planning to attend the Oregon Family Forest Convention in June can also pick up a copy of the manual at the OFRI booth.

OFRI first published the *Illustrated Manual* in 2002, using detailed illustrations to offer guidance to forest landowners and operators on following state forestry laws. It has since gone through several revisions as the laws have changed. This most recent update to the manual was necessary following major changes to Oregon's forest practice regulations resulting from the Private Forest Accord agreement between the timber industry and environmental groups.

A free webinar OFRI is hosting on April 22 will introduce participants to Oregon's forest protection laws and the updated *Illustrated Manual*. Register for the webinar via Zoom.

Creating the revised fourth edition was a significant undertaking that spanned nearly three years. This process included a public review and close coordination with the Oregon Department of Forestry, which administers the Oregon Forest Practices Act. Learn more about the making of the updated manual on the OFRI blog post.

Links from text:

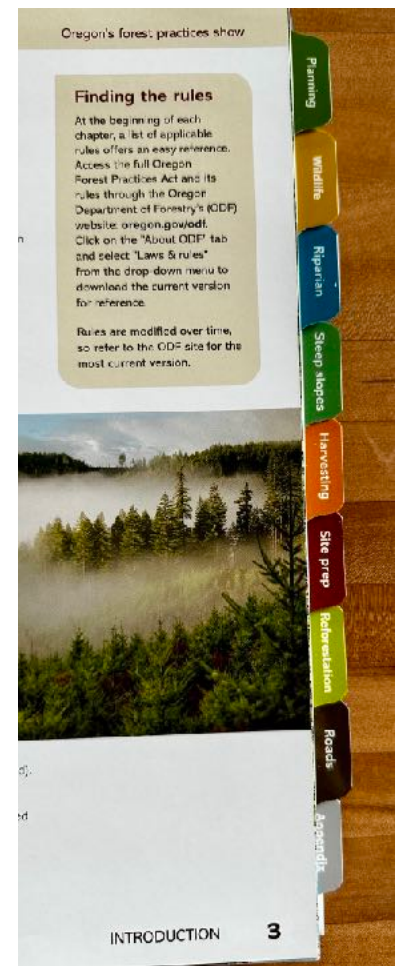
"Order a printed manual," link: <https://oregonforests.org/publication-library/oregons-forest-protection-laws-an-illustrated-manual-2025>

OFFC Link: <https://oswa.org/events/family-forest-convention>

Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_tA1BJ5JQQcSTSIhImhj9w#/registration

ODF/OFPA link: <https://www.oregon.gov/odf/working/pages/fpa.aspx>

Blog link: <https://oregonforests.org/blog/the-making-of-a-manual>



Wildlife in Managed Forests: Collaborating with foresters and biologists

By Fran Cafferata and Julie Woodward

The joint annual meeting of the Oregon Society of American Foresters and the Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society was held February 5-7 in Salem. The Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) attended the event, and our Wildlife in Managed Forests program held a special session focusing primarily on early-seral habitats. If you missed the event, this article summarizes the abstracts from all the presentations from this session.

Mark Swanson from Oregon State University started with an overview of how early-seral habitats have historically been present on the landscape. The late 20th century saw an increase of appreciation for the early-seral, pre-forest stage of forest development, as initiated by natural disturbances such as high-severity wildfire and volcanic eruption. Scientists and managers increasingly recognize distinctive attributes of early-seral conditions on forest sites, including abundant snags, down woody debris, and non-tree vegetation such as shrubs, forbs, graminoids, mosses and lichens, as well as structurally open conditions and enhanced rates of processes such as nutrient cycling (e.g., nitrogen fixation).

Mark's talk focused on examples of management actions such as the retention of living and dead structures, or "biological legacies." This can be done through harvest to enhance complexity and through diverse planting strategies that include broad-leaved trees or even non-tree flora. Another strategy that recognizes the importance of fire in physically and chemically enriching the early-seral environment is to plan regeneration harvests that emulate natural disturbances and diversify landscapes. He also addressed the question of how much we can rely on unplanned natural disturbances to generate complex early-seral, pre-forest patches, and whether to augment that process with modified silviculture.

Graham Frank from Oregon State University has been studying how forest harvesting can create habitat for early-seral forest species, but may not fully emulate habitats created by natural disturbances such as wildfire. To understand these differences and how they might vary across taxa, his study compared biodiversity of birds, bees, carabid beetles and plants across tree stands aged

2 to 20 years following stand-replacing fire on federal forests or clearcut harvests on private, intensively managed forests in southwest Oregon. In the youngest stands (2 to 5 years old), he found lower species diversity in harvested stands. These initial contrasts were associated with the faster development of vegetation cover in stands regenerating post-fire, especially herbaceous and deciduous broadleaf species. Unlike other taxa, bee species diversity was initially higher in harvested stands, but fire-origin stands supported more solitary cavity-nesting bees throughout the early-seral period. This guild of bees was associated with spring flowering plants and downed dead wood. In the oldest stands (16 to 20 years old), species diversity of birds, carabids and plants in harvested stands was at least as high as in fire-origin stands, and the composition of bird and carabid communities had converged between disturbance types. Herbaceous and broadleaf vegetation can compete with conifer crop trees, but the study results suggest that promoting these elements may help bridge a biodiversity gap between recently harvested and fire-origin stands across multiple taxa.

Andony Melathopoulos from Oregon State University presented on bees in early-seral habitats. Oregon has over 780 species of wild bees. Managed woodlands provide opportunities for either identifying existing habitat or creating new habitat in association with timber harvest. In his talk, Andony described new tools woodland owners can use to make such decisions more precisely. We encourage readers to check out the Oregon Bee Project, a cooperative effort between the Oregon Department of Agriculture, the Oregon State University Extension Service, the Oregon Department of Forestry, and a diverse set of stakeholders who are actively engaged in caring for our bees. Additionally, Andony and others are working on a tool to help landowners select the right plant for the right bee in the right location. The tool isn't quite ready yet, but it can be viewed here: [Melittoflora – Oregon Bee Atlas Plant-Pollinator Interactions](#) and Andony is welcoming feedback.

Lindsay Davis from Hampton Family Forests provided a talk on how landowners can provide seed mixes for pollinators on their properties. Hampton Lumber has

been establishing and managing pollinator habitat since 2017 across their working lands, experimenting with different techniques and applications. Lindsay shared her planning, procedure, process, efficient implementation and costs to establish and maintain pollinator habitat across a variety of working lands. For more information, please reach out to Lindsay at LindsayDavis@hamptonlumber.com. She is more than happy to share her work with you! Another useful resource is the Wildlife in Managed Forests: Native Bees publication available at OregonForests.org/publication-library.

Next, Laura Six from Weyerhaeuser Company presented on the impact from widespread forest fires in 2020 across the western Oregon Cascades in forested riparian areas along small streams. While ecosystem response after fire has been well studied, the response of riparian areas, and specifically that of understory riparian vegetation, is not as well understood — especially across watersheds of differing management intensity. To examine the effects of widespread fire on riparian vegetation community, Laura and her team collected data on overstory, shrub and forb layers each year after fire within forested buffers along small perennial streams. They found that overstory mortality was more immediate in more intensively managed watersheds, but individual species response to fire differed. They documented loss in species diversity and cover in both the shrub and forb layer after fires, but in less intensively managed watersheds, they also observed some recovery within three years after widespread fire. However, wildlife composition after widespread fire differed by management intensity. Fire disturbances drive complex responses in various layers of riparian vegetation. Laura's team plans to continue this monitoring effort to better understand the effect of fire on terrestrial ecosystems. This work is being done in concert with a sister project studying the aquatic system.

Rose McDonald from the University of Oregon presented her research on seeding strategies for pollinators in early-seral habitats. Rose noted that global declines in pollinator populations suggest the need to explore habitat enhancement strategies in systems often overlooked for pollinator conservation, such as salvage-logged forest stands. Forest stands affected by wildfire, then subsequently salvage-logged, offer unique opportunities for widescale habitat enhancement, and

Rose's previous research shows that floral enhancements can be effectively integrated into typical salvage-logging procedures. Following the 2020 Holiday Farm Fire in Oregon's Cascade Range, Rose seeded native wildflowers within salvage-logged stands and tracked the effect of these enhancements on floral resource availability, as well as pollinator abundance and diversity. Her results indicate promising increases in floral diversity and abundance at the enhancement sites, suggesting that enhancements may accelerate recovery beyond typical post-fire succession. Additionally, she found evidence of increased pollinator abundance each year following restoration.

For the last two talks, we transitioned from early-seral habitats to late-seral habitats in theme with OFRI's Wildlife in Managed Forests program, which is designed to help people understand that every age of forest provides habitat for some species of wildlife.

Jeremy Rockweit from Oregon State University spoke about his research on how mature-forest resilience from repeated wildfire supports habitat for northern spotted owls. Jeremy shared that fire exclusion practices in western North America over more than a century have resulted in widespread forest ingrowth and homogenization, particularly in forests historically maintained by frequent fire, resulting in altered habitat for wildlife species.

Historically, active frequent-fire regimes maintained a heterogeneous patchwork of vegetation types that developed in response to the complex interactions between top-down and bottom-up drivers of fire behavior. Now, these forests are more vulnerable to uncharacteristically severe wildfire, owing to a combination of accumulating fuel loads and climate change, which are creating conditions more likely to result in extreme fire behavior.

Jeremy explained that fire refugia are areas that burn less frequently or severely than surrounding areas, and as such, represent anchors of resistance and resilience because they sustain older forests. These areas act as a ready seed source for post-fire forest regeneration, and they also provide cover for wildlife, including threatened and endangered species, during and after fire. Previous research indicates fire refugia tend to occur in topographically sheltered locations where cold-air

pooling and increased soil moisture create conditions favorable for lower-severity fire and the gradual development of old forests through repeated low-severity burning.

Jeremy's research examined the concept of fire refugia to address the question of how top-down (weather and climate) and bottom-up (topography and vegetation) drivers of fire behavior influence the post-fire persistence of nesting and roosting forest habitat used by spotted owls in southwestern Oregon and northern California. Results indicated the relative importance of top-down drivers decreased with each successive reburn, while the relative importance of the bottom-up drivers of topography and vegetation remained unchanged. These results indicated increasing resilience of fire refugia for spotted owls with each successive reburn and suggested the self-reinforcing role of fire in these landscapes can be leveraged by managers tasked with maintaining both viable populations of native species and resilient landscapes.

Our final talk of the session was by Mark Kerstens from Oregon State University. Mark is studying habitat associations for the black-backed woodpecker in unburned forests. Woodpeckers are often described as "double keystone species" because they increase food availability and create cavities used by other species. The black-backed woodpecker has been described as reliant on forests that have experienced high severity fires. However, burned areas can become unsuitable for breeding over relatively short timeframes after fire as succession progresses and key habitat features are lost.

Recent studies have found breeding pairs of black-backed woodpeckers in unburned green forests in the western portion of their range. Additionally, previous research

found that reproductive output and juvenile survival were similar in green and burned forests, but that breeding sites in green forests were almost exclusively restricted to stands dominated by late-seral lodgepole pine. In this study, Mark investigated the factors that influence habitat selection within the green forests of southcentral Oregon to understand how woodpeckers select habitat at landscape scales during breeding. To do this, he used vegetation data measured at nest sites in green forests and paired it with randomly selected plots at the landscape scale to quantify second-order habitat selection; then, he paired this with a geospatial approach to produce a predictive map of habitat suitability across the Oregon Cascades ecoregion. Mark's work helps landowners understand that, within the range of the black-backed woodpecker, leaving components such as snags within otherwise green forests will help provide nesting and foraging habitat.

Learn more about these studies and other forest wildlife research that's pertinent to private forest landowners and managers at OFRI's Forest Wildlife Research Summit on Oct. 30 at Oregon State University in Corvallis.

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

**Forest Wildlife
Research Summit**
STATE OF THE STATE

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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October 30, 2025 • Oregon State University









Oregon Forest Resources Institute

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.

The Committee for Family Forestlands



OSWA members serving on the CFF:

remaining
2025 meetings
June 18
September 17

Dave Bugni
NW Oregon
Gary Jensen
SW Oregon
Maurizio Valerio
Eastern Oregon
Kate McMichael
at large

Meetings take place at ODF in Salem, but a virtual option is available as well.

Sign up to be notified of meetings, receive the agenda, and learn more about the Committee's work on the [CFF webpage](#).



SFO Office Update

Keeping Small Forest Landowners in the Information Loop

In case you haven't been to the ODF website recently, here is a description of the purpose and goals of the [Small Forestland Owner Office](#):

The mission of the Oregon Department of Forestry's (ODF's) Small Forestland Owner (SFO) Office is to help landowners reach their economic, ecological and stewardship goals for their forests through compassionate, responsible and transparent assistance. As a result of the Private Forest Accord and subsequent legislation, ODF was provided new resources in both people and programs to help better serve small forestland owners. The SFO Office priorities are to connect small forestland owners to resources and support compliance with the Forest Practices Act through education, local field support and timely assistance.

For this issue of the Bark, the SFO Office wanted to share a link to their recently completed [RCA training video](#). If you have concerns about completing your Road Condition Assessment form—or even if you're just curious—check it out!

Fire Ecology of Oregon Forests

A webinar series for forest owners and managers



[Fire Ecology Home](#) [Schedule](#) [Class Resources and Recordings](#) [Nondiscrimination and Accessibility](#)

Did you miss parts or all of this timely webinar series over these past months? No worries! The recordings and post-class resources are available here: <https://blogs.oregonstate.edu/fireeco/>

Benton County Chapter News

A Love/Hate Relationship with Mechanical Things

Diana Blakney

For a few years after our mother died, I commuted monthly from Seattle to the timber farm my two siblings and I inherited. Thanks to the internet, I was able to keep up my day job when I was at the farm. My husband accompanied me on some occasions, but his job required a physical presence. My Colorado sister had her ranch to run as well as a full-time job. My Philadelphia brother had a full-time job and lived a continent away.

Spending alone time at the farm where we kids used to spend long summer days with our grandparents and uncle was a blessing. It brought memories and regrets, as well as a burgeoning awareness of the responsibilities that come with forest land ownership.

Thereupon begins my tale of love and hate with mechanical things.

In summers long past, we kids helped our uncle mow the fields. He drove the tractor and pulled a mowing attachment that required sitting on a metal seat and lifting and lowering the mower blade upon his shouted command. It was so much fun! At some point, he taught us kids how to drive the tractor. Again, it was so much fun! As an adult, my sister remembered these lessons as she continued operating a tractor and many other mechanical devices on her Colorado ranch. My brother once took small engine repair in high school and increased his mechanical aptitude by working on his many motorcycles. Not me. I sat at a desk and occasionally used the copy machine.

Jump ahead to the years immediately after we inherited the farm and I, the closest-to-Oregon sibling, began my monthly commute. I would usually arrive at the farm late at night after having left Seattle after work. The farmhouse would be dark and scary. Come dawn, I could see that the grass around the house and the apple orchard needed mowing. I could see tree limbs that needed cutting. I could see weed whacking



2025 Benton Small Woodlands Association Board Members

President: **Diana Blakney**
Treasurer: **Jane Brandenburg**
Membership &
Program Director: **Sarah Edwardsson**
Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year
Coordinator: **Dena Oakes**
Education **Rita Adams**
OSWA Liaison &
OTFS/OSWA Ambassador: **Nancy Hathaway**
Media Coordinator: **Sarah Johnson**
At Large: **Dave Ehlers**
Ed Easterling
Darrell Oakes
Pat Boren
Mike Magee
Lily Hull

opportunities everywhere. And that is before I checked the forest roads for downed trees and other obstructions.

My typical day would go like this: full of energy, I hop on the riding mower, drive it over a rubber mat, and get the blade hopelessly tangled. I grab the small mower, pull hard on the starting cord about a hundred times, and fail to get it started. I locate the weed whacker, get it started, run out of string in five minutes, and spend the rest of the day locating its manual for string installation instructions, and driving into town to buy more string. I refuse to even look at the tractor or the multiple chain saws!

The mishaps continue as the years go by, but I will spare you and avoid further embarrassing myself. Luckily, our brother finally retired, moved to the farm and has taken over maintaining and operating our mechanical friends. Me? I contentedly walk along the forest roads with my gloves and hard hat, carrying small snippers.

Mechanical tools can be a landowner's best friend if one knows how to safely use them, and if one knows how to maintain them. For me? I'm happy with my snippers and, although they are too polite to say so, I think my siblings are thrilled that I have finally recognized my limitations.

The Benton Small Woodlands Annual Members Meeting

a Celebration of Fellowship and Education

Mike Magee | BSWA Board member

This year Benton Small Woodlands Association held their annual meeting on Feb 8th at Mary's River Grange in Philomath. The grange's open floor plan is an excellent venue for a large variety of meetings and social gatherings. When the grange was closing in 2009 the local agricultural community rallied to save it and volunteers have put in many hours to update the 90-year-old building and keep it going as a local Grange. BSWA is proud to support its ongoing use. The facility maintains its historic charm by using only wood to heat the building, and while the weather was mild, which contributed to a full house, it was cold, and we really appreciate Dena and Darrel Oaks coming in early to get the fires going.

I am relatively new to the OSWA family and am always struck by the fellowship and education this meeting provides. The depth of knowledge and experience present enhances my ongoing learning opportunities from so many people who are willing to share their time and expertise. We get to hear what our ODF and OSU Extension partners are working on that impact us, from the RCA process, reminder of fire season, and the emerald ash borer threat. Our OSWA president brought us up to date on important multiple legislative activities, which always reminds me to get out of my bubble and attend to the bigger picture.

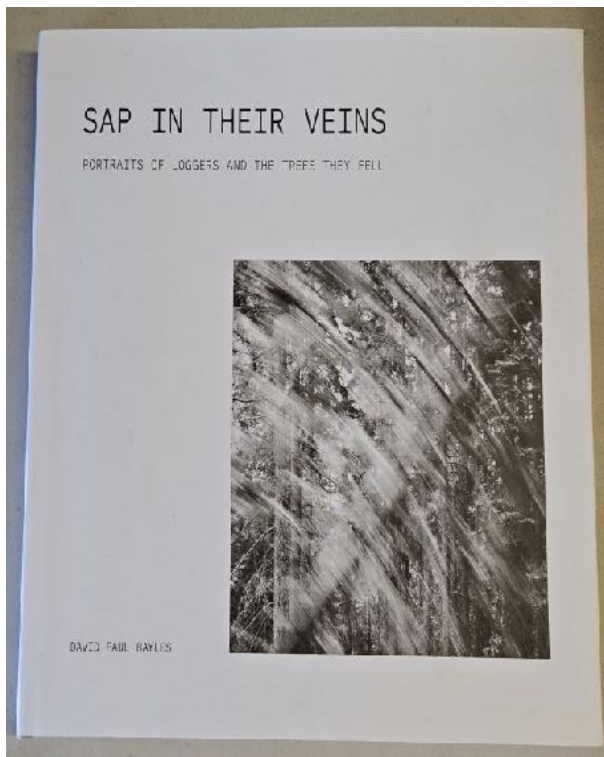


One of the highlights of the meeting for me was the enthusiastic presentation by Kate McMichael and Lily Hull of Women in Timber. They spoke on the advocacy work this group does using the latest technology to bring forest literacy education into our public schools, from preschoolers on, as well as to the 4H Forestry program. We all need to support this organization and the great work they do establishing our next generation of forest stewards.

Something a little different this time was a talk by David Paul Bayles on his book of photography, *SAP IN THEIR VEINS, Portraits of Loggers, and the Tress They Fell*. A series of pictures chronicling the people he worked with. More by accident than design David obtained a job in northern California as a logger while working to finish a degree in photography. Through his hard work and perseverance, he was soon accepted into the fold of this unique group. He came to realize he



wanted to tell their stories, of people who really care for the forests, documenting the common humanity we share, without judgment or politics. An accomplished photographer as well as a wonderful story teller, David kept the audience enthralled bringing to life the people in his photographs. Some stories were funny and humorous, others were poignant and sad, but all were so relatable.



A part of this meeting I enjoy is seeing people recognized for their contributions in making our organization so successful. This year Ed Easterling announced Sarah Edwardson as the Benton Outstanding Volunteer of the Year. An honor well deserved for her hard work and passion in driving our membership and events programs. Always creative and on the lookout for new events, it was through Sarah's idea and efforts that brought David in to speak about his work.

And finally, a shout out to Hiatt Bakery for providing an excellent lunch. The bakery is in rural Benton County south of Philomath. It is opened seasonally and is well worth a visit.

BSWA Outstanding Volunteer of the Year 2025

**Membership
Events**



**Coincidence
Experience
Drive**



Sarah Edwardsson



What Can I Build on My Land?

Sarah Edwardsson

On February 22, a group of around 20 Benton chapter members and friends gathered at Rich Clark and Robin Moxley's tree farm just outside of Alsea for an informative and wide-ranging discussion around improvements they have recently added to their property.

The tour was billed as "What Can I Build on My Land" and Rich led us through the what's and how's of putting up a 24'x24' pole building and related infrastructure. Most importantly, he highlighted the personal considerations involved in the "why?". Most of us being of a certain age, the idea of enjoyment and convenience resonated with the group.

Rich then outlined the elements of site, access, proposed uses, and most practically, the costs and tax implications of various types of improvements. Not least (and not the most straightforward) was the process of working with Benton County in permitting.

Rich put together a very helpful guide with some of the relevant text from the county website, and even shared one of his completed applications.

Critical to the success of his projects were the contractors, Josh Cantrell, who did the site prep, and Dave and Cody Johnson of Cojo Services, who did the excavation and concrete work for the pole building.

Running power to the location presented some interesting challenges. Water was the last to be tackled, and the ins and outs of drilling a well was discussed. As a final treat, we got to see Josh Cantrell skillfully operating his mini-excavator.

Thanks to Rich and Robin for hosting a great day in the woods, and especially for Robin's homemade cookies! No doubt there were many conversations as participants left, thinking about how the lessons learned could apply to their own situations and daydreams.

Save the Date for Upcoming Events

Saturday, April 12th in the morning: Wildflower Hike

Saturday, July 26th: BCSW Annual Picnic

Additional details to come!

Join our Facebook group here [BCSW FB Group](#).

Visit us online at <https://oswa.org/benton>
and watch for emails from our President, Diana Blakney.



Oregon Small Woodlands Association Neighbor to Neighbor Birdwalk Sunday, May 11th 8 am – Noon (Lunch 12 – 1 pm)



Join the Benton Small Woodlands Association along with local birding legends Joel Geier, Tim Johnson, & Mike Unger for a BirdWalk through the beautiful diverse woodlands of the J2E Tree Farm. Owners Dave & Sarah Ehlers will host along the Luckiamute River and Vincent Creek, across the valley from Fort Hoskins.

We will embark upon a leisurely stroll through the woods, listening, calling and viewing our local bird population.

The walk will be just over a mile on fairly flat mowed paths and gravel roads and will explore a variety of habitats including ponds, riparian areas with mixed hardwood & conifer forests, oak woodlands, upland prairie and coniferous forests. We will share practices and strategies to encourage birds on your property.

No prior birding experience is required, and extra binoculars will be available if you need to borrow a pair. **Registration Required*

This will be an Oregon Forest Resources Institute and Oregon Small Woodlands Association Neighbor to Neighbor Tour, with the BSWA's special guests, the OSU Graduate Student Bird Nerds. Lunch will be provided and please bring your own chair.



Register Here:
<https://beav.es/Nwm>

Need help registering? crystal.kelso@oregonstate.edu or call (541) 730-3539



OSWA folks, please register under the "General Public" option

Lane County Chapter News

April is the cruelest month

Kate McMichael

Woodland owning has had a definite impact on how I feel about the change of seasons—as well as the seasons themselves. I've never been a fan of summer: too hot. And fire season. Fall has always been a favorite: cooler days, changing colors, the end of fire season. Winter has recently taken the top spot: even with all the potential for snow and wind and ice damage, it is the season when all the “other” vegetation dies back and our baby trees (and some youngsters by now too) are suddenly the tallest green things around. What a boost! Plus, it's the season for planting baby trees—what's not to love?

But spring is really a mixed bag. More and more I agree with T.S. Eliot's opening line of his epic 1922 poem *The Wasteland*: “April is the cruelest month...” Just when I've started to feel like I have a handle on our pages-long tree farm to-do list, here it comes: the grass! the weedy things! the bracken! Yes, there are some lovely things: red flowering currant, Oregon grape, the return of the turkey vultures with their graceful soaring and swooping around our house, sometimes right at deck level.

But the return of the competing green almost does me in, every time. It begins to feel like a race: will the grass take over, with its wired-for-ultimate-survival mat of roots, starving my baby trees of the water they need? will the bracken shoot up, spread its lacey-but-impenetrable leaves that obscure every hole, rock, stump and fallen tree so that I trip over each and every one of them if I dare to walk where they seek to prevail? will the scotch broom that I weed-wrenched from our west unit, day after day, poke up again, sneering at her herculean effort? will we manage to get the spot spraying done, the microsites completed, the tubes and shades re-deployed before the rain stops, the temps soar, the invasives win?

Yes, the days are longer, but my body's useful hours of work time seem not to increase with the hours of daylight; I am still tired from winter planting and the morning light arrives late enough that I want to sleep for just those few more minutes before the to-do list calls. But spring and the wave of green it unleashes is unrelenting.



Lane County Board of Directors

Kate McMichael | President
Rick Olson | Vice President
Jo Von Dollan | Treasurer
Wylda Cafferata | Secretary
Gary Jensen | Past President
Gordon Culbertson
Tom Bauman
Dan Kintigh
Tim Gurton
Becca Fain
Theresa Hausser
Dan Menk | ODF
Lauren Grand | Extension



This morning we stood on our deck and admired our newly "mowed" (with the blades on our weed-whackers) drain field. But now, only hours later, as more spring rains pelt the window, I know the battle is barely begun. It's April after all—and winter is three long seasons away.

A New Face Up the McKenzie

Western Lane has a new Stewardship Forester

Jesse Kennedy has recently joined the West Lane/South Cascades district. Prior to ODF, he worked in private timber (Roseburg, Seneca and SPI) and has a background in cruising, silviculture and operations. His hobbies when not working include gardening, painting and rock hounding.

Welcome, Jesse!



Upcoming Events

April 1

Spray Smart: Calibration,
Application & Record-keeping

April 17

Fresh Starts: The Role of Young
Forests in Wildlife & Land
Management

May 8

Prune Like a Pro: Essential Tree
Pruning Techniques for Woodlands

2025 Board Meetings

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!



May 17

Annual Members Meeting
at Cafferata Penn Road Tree Farm

watch your email & our website for more details!

Our annual Seedling & Native Plant Sale on February 1 was chilly, but well-attended. Many thanks to Lindsay Reaves for wrangling all the details and to our Board and other faithful volunteers who made sure the event ran smoothly.



Proceeds from the Seedling Sale fund much of our support of educational programs throughout the year, including the Oregon Natural Resources Education Fund (onref.org), local program Forests Today & Forever (foreststodayandforever.org), and Oregon Women in Timber's Forest Products Month activities during October (orwit.org). Other options for supporting local forestry education programs and students interested in pursuing forest sector careers are currently being discussed by the Board.



Shout-outs to Lauren Grand & Dan Menk (ODF) for being on hand to answer myriad questions and provide information about local forestry education opportunities.



Some of the leftover seedlings became part of the Oregon Logging Conference Family Day as well, distributed both at the Extension table in the Wheeler Pavilion as well as by OWIT's beloved Coni-fir.

Forest Skills in Action

A Hands-On Workshop Series co-hosted by OSU FNR Extension & the Lane County Small Woodlands Association.



Oregon State University
Extension Service



February kicked off the series with a tree-planting workshop at Kintigh's Nursery. It felt a bit like a reunion for the Lane 2024 MWM class, although others joined in as well. It was a beautiful morning—well worth the reschedule necessitated by freezing rain. Board members brought an assortment of tools, tips and tricks to share with participants.

April's installment will be held April 1 at Bauman Tree Farm. Entitled "Spray Smart," the workshop will include include calibration, application and record-keeping. Board members will again be in attendance, with a show-and-tell of their own equipment, PPE and hard earned experience.

May 8 will see us back at Kintigh's Nursery to hone our pruning skills.

Future workshops will undoubtedly follow, as each entry in this series inspires ideas for others. Watch our website and *The Leaflet*.

Psst! Two LCSWA member woodlands are part of this tour.

Stay in the Know:



Oregon State
University

The Leaflet

Local workshops and announcements to help you branch out on up-to-date forestry and natural resources information.

Subscribe to The Leaflet!



Fresh Starts: The Role of Young Forests in Wildlife & Land Management

Join us for a field tour exploring how forests grow back after harvest or wildfire!

We'll visit different properties—both public and private—to see how young forests take shape and provide habitat under different conditions.

On this tour, we will:

- Visit areas that have regrown after wildfire, with and without salvage logging, and compare the differences.
- Explore recently harvested sites and see how landowners help forests recover.
- Learn how young forests provide habitat for wildlife and contribute to a healthy landscape.
- Discuss how different management choices impact forest recovery over time.

This is a great chance to see forest regrowth and learn from real-world examples and get a fresh perspective on young forests!

Come explore the story of young forests—sign up today!

April 17, 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Field sites near Vida, OR

Fee: \$10

Register for Fresh Starts

<https://beav.es/Grf>

On March 27, our LCSWA chapter joined the monthly Oregon Society of American Foresters Emerald Chapter meeting to learn more about timber taxation and assessment in Oregon. Terry Lamers, of the Marion-Polk OSWA Chapter, spoke about the Small Tract Forestland tax option. Chris Edwards, President of the Oregon Forest Industries Council, spoke about the Forest Products Harvest tax. Lindsay Reaves, Board President of the Western Lane Forest Protection Association, explained the role of forest protection associations throughout the state and encouraged landowners to learn more about their local districts.



It was such a lovely opportunity to have dinner together and mix a bit of socializing with an opportunity to learn more about something that impacts all of us to some degree.

There were many familiar faces, but some new ones as well—not surprising since it was two different organizations. One fun discovery is that the Society of American Foresters has developed an Affiliate Program for non foresters who are interested in supporting SAF and participating in some of their programs. To learn more about SAF, visit their website: eforester.org. To learn more about Oregon SAF visit: forestry.org/oregon.



Terry Lamers: is the STF option right for you?



Chris Edwards: where does it all go?



Lindsay Reaves: not a tax, but an assessment

Notes from the Mountaintop

By Dan Kintigh

Kintigh Nursery hosted two educational gatherings last month. We're always excited to share knowledge, inspire, and aid in others' success.

1. OSU Lane County Extension co-hosted a tree planting skills class. [Lauren Grand](#) is the extension forester that organized the event which LCSWA co-sponsored. This session gave participants the opportunity to learn about different stock types and how to plant them. We are obviously biased on the planting ease of our Elle Pots, but did show other types of seedlings to provide a full scope. Attendees got to view and handle various stock types and planting tools and learn the correct way to get the tree in the ground among other things.

2. The forestry program has been absent from Thurston High School for over 40 years so we were pleased to hear that the class has been brought back. The teacher of the class, Andy Peterson, and his family have been doing forestry and farming as long as mine.

[Quinn Kintigh](#) gave them a nursery tour, explained the new technology Kintigh Nursery is pioneering for growing seedlings, and the basics of growing seedlings. Hopefully, seeing all the new innovation that is going into growing seedlings will inspire some students to look at forestry/seedling growing for a career. Quinn also explained seedling stock types and planting them. The session went long and the students had lots of questions. Quinn sent them home with some trays and seed to try themselves. We need more high school students getting introduced to forestry and this is a great start!

**Dan will also be hosting the
Prune Like a Pro Workshop on May 8.**

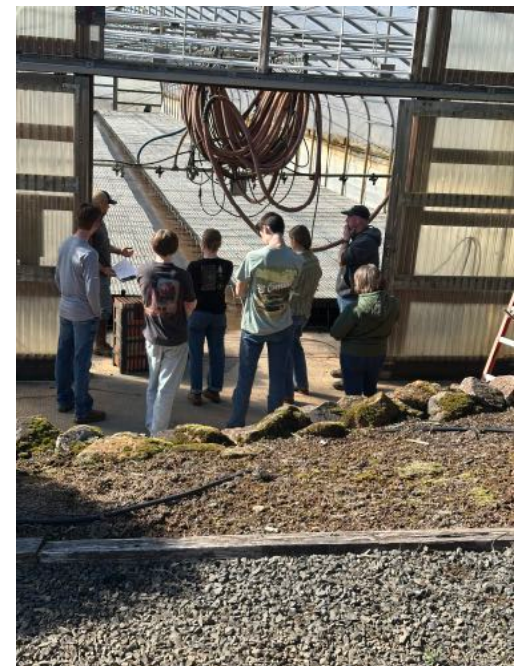
**His handouts on both planting and pruning
are available (including for download)
on the Kintigh's Nursery website:
<https://www.kintighs.com/>**

**Under the Resources link
on the page header
select "Tips for Tree Growers"**

**Buttons for each handout
are at the bottom of the page**



What better way to start a morning than a tree planting workshop?



Thurston HS Forestry touring Kintigh's Nursery



[kintighs.com](https://www.kintighs.com)
Healthy Trees Start from the Roots

Lincoln County Chapter News

President's Reflection

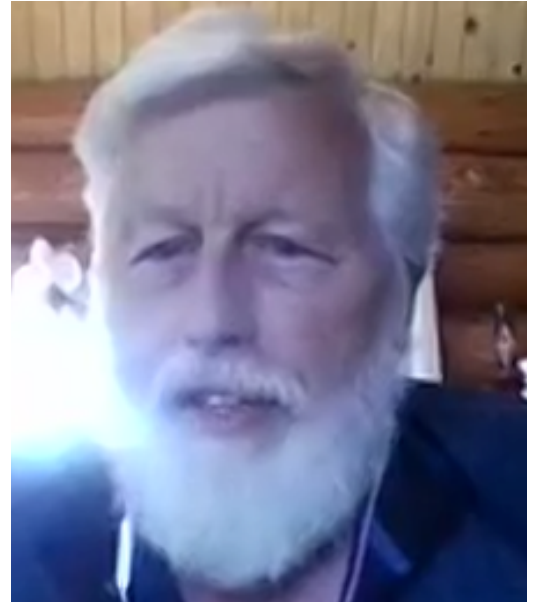
Ben Barclay

In January I was elected to be the new President of the Lincoln County chapter of OSWA. I will have to lean on past President Joe Steere to keep me headed in the right direction and guide me through the forest of duties and rules of the road. Joe has been a great leader for the chapter for a few years and it is time for someone to step up and give him a break. So here I am hitting the ground running (more accurately, crawling) and fulfilling my need to become more involved in the processes that affect us all in the forest industry.

I graduated from OSU in Civil Engineering Technology (now Construction Engineering Management) and spent about 45 years in Alaska before returning to help my sister with the tree farm we inherited from my dad. He had purchased the farm from his uncle in 1952 so it's been in the family for nearly 100 years. Along the way, I found a way to get an MBA in Global Finance- a new perspective from construction and engineering.

During the formation of the new Timber Accord I heard cries for public testimony on this and other bills and ignored most of them-too busy was the excuse. After review of the final document, I realized we all should have been more involved in the drafting of these new rules that have such a significant impact on our "business". So, this is me getting involved. After the fact but anticipating the next round of rulemaking.

I would hope that more science could be used and less emotion. I like to tell anyone that will listen that while we saved the Spotted Owl, we created a hundred ghost towns in Oregon... This will require more education of the public in areas not significantly involved in the forest industry-urban areas to be specific. There is urban/rural divide in Oregon that must be corrected to prevent further rulemaking that leans toward destruction of the forest industry as well as other areas of what were a big part of the economy of Oregon and beyond.



Lincoln County Board Members

Ben Barclay, President
Joe Steere, past President
Judy Pelletier, Secretary

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

Notes from January 25th 2025 meeting at the OSU Extension Office Newport Oregon

Attendance: Joe Steere President, Scott Steenkolk VP, Jan Steenkolk Treasure, Connie Battles regional VP, Tim & Susan Miller, Annabell Morgan, Ben Barclay, Peter Bregman, Jim Holt, Jeff Skirvin, and Kari Steere note taker. This was the second meeting in a row with low attendance.

Meeting guests: Dan Stark (OSU Extension), Ken Nygren (Yamhill OSWA and State OSWA Board), and Waldport High School Forestry students.

Ken Nygren with Connie Battles provided updates on State Level OSWA work:

A Thank You Plaque for donations from our chapter was presented by Students from Waldport High School Forestry Club. They also brought in a letter and signed photo from Taft High School.

Dan Stark, OSU Extension requested ideas where he and Extension can help and if there are Forest Taxation questions. He announced a Basic Forestry short course in a 4 class series, a Forestry Technician Program, and series of workshop/ planning sessions on Management Planning, Ties to Land and Succession. He also relayed that Society of American Foresters has a new certified tag.

Chapter Business:

Treasure's Report by Jan Steenkolk:

2024 Tree Seedling sale netted \$4010.16 after the cost of seedlings. A motion was passed to reimburse Joe for lunch, seedlings for sale at seedling sale fundraiser, and for two memberships as payment for recipient's service to chapter.

Presidents Presentation on Lincoln County Issues by Joe Steere:

Riparian Buffers and safety issues with public utilities and roads were discussed. Forest Practice Rules have a provision to cut riparian buffers if public safety is affected. There is a need to educate landowners and managers of this provision and to work with utilities and road managers. A Lincoln County small tract timber owner is needed to fill a slot on the **Land Classification Committee's** annual meeting where parcels are evaluated whether they should be taxed (Property tax) as a timber conservation tract (TC) or removed from the TC tax designation. This determines whether lot is protected by ODF Fire or not. Contact ODF Toledo if interested. **PLLW** (Partnership of Lincoln Lands and Water) is looking for ideas and public speakers for evening talks on local timber, farm and fishery issues. **FEMA** flood plain rules: although the County has rules, but nobody knows how to permit or enforce them. And lastly, Joe is now a Tree Farm Inspector. So if we need to get a local Tree Farm of Year into tree farm system, he can do the inspection

Elections:

Ben Barclay was elected President after President Joe stated that he wished to retire. Board members remain the same except that Andy Kittle who now resides in Idaho. Ben spoke about why he is ready to serve. The Annual Seedling Sale will still be managed by Joe Steere.

Donations:

A motion was passed to donate \$2000 to each (Waldport and Taft High) forestry class with the amendment that LCOSWA be informed of how the money will be used. A Motion was approved to donate \$1000 to Western Resources Legal Center (organization that provides law students with instruction and opportunities to develop legal skills and knowledge of natural resources and environmental laws through legal representation of clients in natural resource related industries)

Meeting Adjourned

2025 Annual Native Tree Seedling Sale Report

On March 1st, 2025, the Lincoln County Small Woodlands Association hosted our annual native tree seedling sale at Table Mountain Forestry on Business HWY 20 in Toledo, OR. The Table Mountain Forestry site is the perfect location for our seedling sale.

We thank all who helped and everyone who attended our sale on this day in central Lincoln County. It was so good to see and visit with members and folks who attended. We want to express a special thanks to Waldport High School Forestry Program students Jasmine Carlson and Parker Mills along with Lincoln County OSWA Volunteers for their enthusiastic help in setting up tables and seedling selections, manning stations, filling and tallying orders, as well as cleaning up afterwards.

This annual event is designed to provide the public with affordable native tree seedlings to promote natural resource conservation awareness and to increase forest owners' knowledge and abilities as stewards of their land. Native tree and shrub seedlings were available. The event is especially timely and beneficial after many trees were damaged in the wind storm, last year's ice storm and by the heat wave three years ago.

As usual, morning sales were very intense, and a few purchases were large. Awesome prices of \$2ea make this seedling sale event a fantastic opportunity thanks to Chapter President Joe Steere who led the operation with orders, inventory, organization & sales. Along with Joe Steere, our current Chapter President and Chapter Treasurer Jan Steenkolk, Secretary Judy Pelletier, and members Cathy Steere and daughter Kari Steere and sister Janice Hathaway, our Chapter President-elect Ben Barclay, Reece Dobmeier, Regional VP Connie Battles, OSU Extension Forester Dan Stark, Jim & Todd Holt, Alan Fujishin, Tim Miller, Christiana Woods, and Jasmine Carlson and Parker Mills, Waldport Hi Forestry Program, pitched in to see that the sale ran smoothly. Not only did Jan Steenkolk provide us delicious chili and doughnuts but she also reported that we made \$\$\$ before expenses. Thanks to Kyle and Ashley Humphreys, Table Mountain Forestry LLC, for letting us use their shop, and to Miami Corp, Stimpson Lumber and Brooks Nursery for the Seedlings.

All in all, it was a very rewarding day. If you couldn't make it this year, by all means, come next year!

Linn County Chapter News

President's Column

Opportunity Out There

Tree farm tours offer guides to manage brush

By Jim Merzenich | LCSWA president

Most Linn County tree farms are in the Cascade foothills at an elevation ranging from 500 to 2,000 feet. Following a timber harvest an area must be cleared of brush in a process called site-preparation. Non-native grasses and weeds may quickly appear even on a well-prepared site.

If left unchecked, these grasses utilize the available soil moisture in our dry summers and cause conifer seedling mortality. By controlling the competing vegetation around each planted seedling for at least two years, you are conserving the moisture needed to develop a healthy root system.

Exotic invaders such as Himalayan blackberries, Scotch broom, and Canadian thistle may soon appear in the planted stand and also need to be controlled. Scotch broom seeds remain viable in the soil for up to 80 years. Canadian thistles emerge from hidden buried roots (e.g. rhizomes) and thrive in burn sites. Controlling noxious weeds while maintaining native shrubs and wildflowers for pollinators and songbirds is primary goal in young plantations. These issues are discussed on our tree farm tours. A workshop on noxious weed control, sponsored jointly by the Benton and Linn chapters of OSWA, is planned for the fall of 2025. Here are some other thoughts ponder.

1) The legal requirement is to have 200 well dispersed trees/acre six years after harvest. If you plant at a 12-foot spacing (300 trees per acre) you can meet this requirement and reduce the cost of a pre-commercial thin.

2) As the climate changes the need for both pre-commercial and commercial thinning increases. We have a 60-year-old stand of mixed Douglas fir and Ponderosa pine that was thinned in 2005 to a 20-foot spacing (~ 100 tpa). These trees are thriving on a steep and rocky west facing slope. Elsewhere in the valley I see stands of a similar age dying from drought. We are also thinning our 30-year old stands to about 150 tpa.



2025 Board Members and term expiration

Jim Merzenich — president, 2027

Christy Tye director — incoming treasurer,
scholarship co-chair, 2025

Shirley Holmberg —director, treasurer, 2026

Jim Cota —director, 2026

Lauren Parks —director, incoming secretary,
memembership chair, 2026

Tim Otis past president — director, 2025

Bonnie Marshall — director — scholarship
co-chair, 2025

Anna Merzenich — director, 2027

Mike Barsotti — past president, 2027

3) On some sites you may be harvesting your last Douglas fir or grand fir. Consider planting tougher fir sites with incense cedar or Valley pine. Although markets for pine and incense logs are weak now, who knows what they will be 60 years from now when your heirs will be doing a final harvest? Happy tree farming.

Every year we have a statewide tree farm competition. Tree Farmers from Linn County have participated in this event for 24 of the last 25 years. This success rate is largely the result of the hard work of our Linn tree farm coordinator, Joe Holmberg. Thank Joe for his efforts.

The primary purpose of the tree farm competition is to promote responsible forest management across the breadth of this nation. To achieve this goal we must honor tree farmers for sound forest management in every possible county so they can then serve as a model for others.

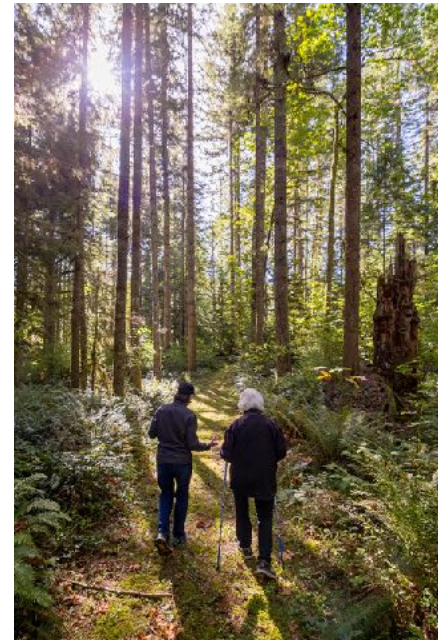
Large or small — new to tree farming or not — we have stories to tell and successes and mistakes to relate to others. Please get your farm certified and consider being recognized as the next Linn County tree farmer of the year.

Where the City Meets the Trees

Forester offers the public a look at tree-farming issues.
Tour kicks off list of LCSWA events

By Larry Mauter | LCSWA member

Forester Greg Harty is living on the edge — his 50 acre-tree farm on Golden Valley Drive near Lebanon is located in an area referred to as the “wildland-urban interface.”



The public has an opportunity to visit the working forest Saturday April 5. The 10 a.m.-2p.m. tree farm tour kicks off a list of events sponsored by the Linn County Small Woodlands Association. A sack lunch will be provided. Registration is required by Monday March 31. Contact Crystal Kelso at crystal.kelso@oregonstate.edu or 541-730-3539 to register.

“I have developed the Golden Valley property for nearly 30 years and would describe it as a multi-use, highly diverse, Willamette Valley fringe, transition-zone forest,” said Harty in an email. “If you want to shorten that, you could just say it's a highly diverse forest.”

Harty has 40 year experience as a forester working throughout the West developing forest models on private land. Topics of discussion April 5, Harty said, will include forest design — fitting the forest to the property; evaluating forest productivity — how to tell a good site from a bad site; forest diversity; non-economic forest products; protecting and improving water resources; pond location and construction; oak management and blackberry control.

LCSWA President Jim Merzenich is urging attendees to bring binoculars. “We expect to see many native songbirds,” he said. “Owner Greg Harty has done a remarkable job restoring a damaged stream-bed, controlling noxious weeds, and integrating cattle grazing with oak restoration and timber management,” said Merzenich.

The parking for the event will be immediately adjacent to Richie Ranch Lane, about one mile from Brewster Road on Golden Valley Drive.

The walking tour will be mostly on roads. There is one stretch toward the end of the tour that might be difficult for some people due to steepness and length, Harty noted.

Additional tours and events planned by the LCSWA in 2025 include:

Marble Ranch Walkabout | Saturday May 10: 10 am to 4 pm

Southeast of Crawfordsville rancher John Marble manages cattle while restoring both wetland and forest habitat. On this walkabout we will view an active thinning operation and view areas managed for both timber and wildlife. This will be followed by a catered lunch and discussion period.

Wildflower Tour | Thursday May 15: 4 to 7 pm

On this “twilight tour” OSU Extension forester Lorelle Sherman will describe the native flora as we walk the loop trail at McDowell Falls County Park.

Pamelia LLC Tree Farm Tour | Saturday June 7

West of the Mt Jefferson wilderness area, Bonnie and Lance Marshall will discuss the long-term management of timberland ranging to over 3,000 feet in elevation.

Oregon Small Woodlands Association (OSWA) **Family Forest Convention** | June 20-22

The convention in Philomath will include tours and classroom discussions related to Forest Land management. The state tree farmers of the year are Jock and Pam Dalton of Polk County. Their tour and luncheon will be on June 22.

Other Events

Santiam Mill Tour | The Santiam mill (Weyerhaeuser) east of Lebanon. This will be an afternoon tour.

Nature hike and tour at Gordon Meadows | These pristine meadows are located at an elevation of about 4,000 feet 25 miles east of Sweet Home. (weekday in mid July)

Linn County Tree farmer of the year tour | late summer or fall

Blue Den Ranch Tour & Summer picnic | The Bentz family were the national tree farmers of then year in 2002. The tour and summer picnic will be in September.

Noxious Weed Control | In the fall we will have a joint workshop with Benton County on noxious weed control. This was the number one concern from those who completed our survey. Event to take place in September.

Shake the money tree

Scholarship available to Linn County students majoring in forestry or related natural resource field

By Bonnie Marshall | LCSWA scholarship co-chair

The Linn County Small Woodlands Association (LCSWA) is offering up to four renewable college scholarships to Linn County students majoring in forestry or a related natural resource field.

Each scholarship provides a minimum of \$2,000 per year. They are awarded based on academic achievement, honors and awards, school and community activities and academic plans. The application process has been updated. It is now available to complete online and submit, or to download, complete, and submit via email or US mail. The application can be found on our website at linncountyswa.com.

Committee members Mary Brendle, Nancy Mauter, Lena Tucker and committee co-chairs Christy Tye and Bonnie Marshall have been tasked with “getting the word out” about our scholarship. They are reaching out to Linn County high schools, online schools, and other organizations to tap into prospective applicants. Current undergraduate and graduate students from Linn County may also apply. If you know of any Linn County students who might be interested in our scholarship, please reach out to them with this information.

Scholarship money is provided from revenue earned from the annual LCSWA seedling sale.

It is never too early to plant a seed for future foresters. As you interact with young folks, encourage them to check out forestry as a possible career path that offers diverse opportunities based on their personal interests.

Friendly Fire Explored

Interest in prescribed burn associations seen at workshop

By Larry Mauter | LCSWA member

Bugs, helpful fire, land trusts and government assistance were topics of discussion March 5 in Corvallis. Close to 50 forest land owners and interested persons attended a meeting at the Oregon State University Peavy Science Center during the annual Woodland Information night.

The event is co-sponsored by the Linn and Benton County chapters of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association.

Kayla Bordelon, an OSU Extension Service regional fire specialist, explained the focus and background of beneficial fire in the Willamette Valley.



Fire: Kayla Bordelon explained the benefits of nearby property owners coming together to stem the threat of wildfires
Photo by Larry Mauter

She said there is movement toward establishing “prescribed burn associations” that would include multiple property owners “sharing equipment and labor” similar to old-fashioned barn raisings.

A workshop was held Feb. 26 on the topic at the Oak Creek Conservancy, near Corvallis with 35 organizations in attendance, said Bordelon.

“What we found ... is that people want to understand what trainings are available to get them up to speed on

uses of prescribed fire, liability” and other issues, Bordelon explained.

A heightened awareness of destructive fire potentials as well as the need to maintain landscapes is fueling the interest, she said.

Another factor, said Bordelon, is the “super expensive” cost of hiring a contractor for controlled burns — coupled with the lack of availability of those crews because they are off fighting wildfires.

“It’s not viable for small acreage most of the time,” she said.

Native tribes in the valley, she noted, practiced occasional burning for thousands of years, for food production and fire protection. That has led, she said, to the variety of native vegetation we see today.

While she is based in Linn County, Bordelon said her office’s service area stretches over nine counties.

Another workshop on the topic is planned for April 4-6 at the Siskiyou Field Institute in Selma Oregon. It is offered by OSU Extension, Oregon Department of Forestry and the Rogue Valley Prescribed Burn Association. Cost is \$50 but scholarships are available.

Three other speakers shared information on their work and agencies.

Stephanie Rice walked through the process of getting assistance offered to tree farmers by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Her focus was the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program(CSP).

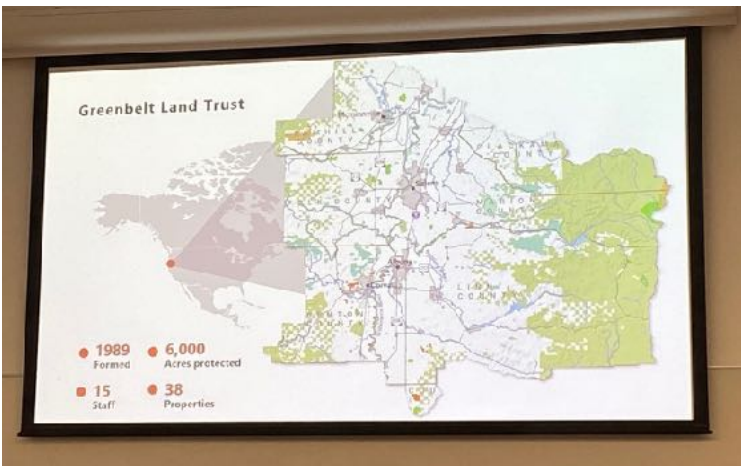
EQIP grants, she said, are the “main heavy- lifting program” offered to forest owners. Forest management plans are required as part of the application process, said



NRCS talk: Peavy Science Center at Oregon State University was the site for the March 6 Woodland Information Night.
 Photo by Larry Mauter

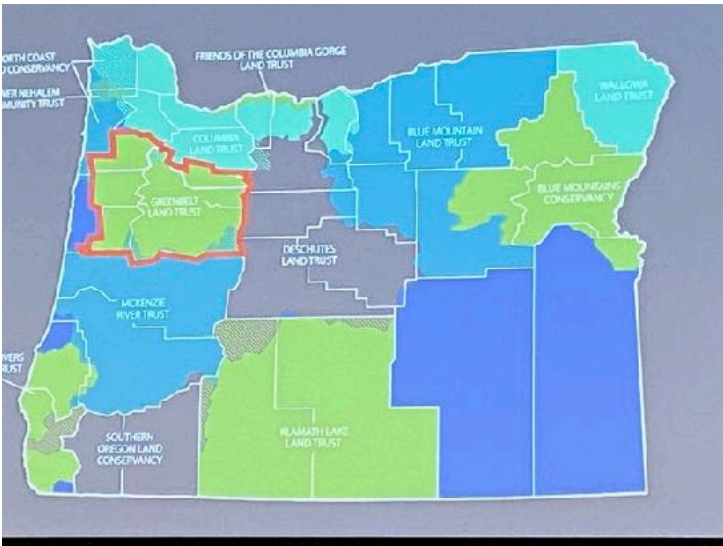
Rice, but landowners themselves can write the plans, she added.

Overall, it is a two-year process to be awarded a grant. “We are the government. There is some paperwork involved,” Rice said. Grants, once awarded, usually cover 50 to 90 percent of the cost of projects, she added. Technical assistance to landowners is also part of the USDA role, she noted.



Greenbelt Land Trust: The Greenbelt Land Trust includes six counties in western Oregon. | Photo by Larry Mauter

Anna Conerly showcased the Greenbelt Land Trust. It was formed in 1989 and currently has 6,000 acres protected over 38 properties.



Oregon Land Trust: There are 13 land trusts throughout Oregon.
 Photo by Larry Mauter

The trust is among 13 in the state. Their goals are to set up conservation easements to protect critical habitat on land that managed both for wildlife and forestry. Matt Mills, a Corvallis resident, represented the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF).

He updated the tracking of the deadly emerald ash borer working its way into the Willamette Valley.

The pest has been identified in Marion County, he said. Another pest — the Mediteranian oak borer — is a threat to be watched as well. It was found in California in 2017, a year later in Wilsonville and Woodburn, in Troutdale last year and recently “outside of Brownsville,” said Mills.

Mike Barsotti and Jim Merzenich of the LCSWA provided introductions for the speakers. LCSWA and member Shirley Jolliff provided sweets and coffee during an intermission.

New Look for LCSWA Panel

Woodlands group board now woman-majority for first time

By Larry Mauter | LCSWA member

When the Linn County Small Woodlands Association (LCSWA) board met March 20, local history was made. A majority of the nine board members are now women — a first for the organization.

That fact was cemented at the Jan. 18 annual members meeting as Anna Merzenich was elected to the board.

Incoming President Jim Merzenich was also elected for three-year term as was Mike Barsotti, now past board president.

Board business was a slice of the meeting. It also featured a noon potluck dinner and speakers from federal, state and local agencies providing tips about services and potential funding help.

4-H scholars showcased their forestry projects and received scholarship money earned from the annual LCSWA seedling sale.



Part of the annual meeting features 4-Hers demonstrating their forestry projects. | Photo by Larry Mauter

Oregon State University student Joseph Passenant also spoke, thanking members for their support with OSU tuition.



4-H forestry books were on display and ready for inspection.
Photo by Larry Mauter

Taking over the scholarship committee as co-chairs will be Bonnie Marshall and Christy Tye.

LCSWA's annual seedling sale proceeds have paid for dozens of college scholarships through the years to "grow our new foresters," said Tye.

Tye will also be assuming the role of LCSWA treasurer this year.

Another board member, Lauren Parks, will serve as board secretary and membership chair. OSWA President Rick Zenn said at the meeting that Parks will also serve on the statewide membership committee.

"OSWA is really a grass roots organization," said Zenn, with about 1,600 families as members. "We don't always agree, but we work together," he said.

Zenn also thanked the Linn chapter for financial and organizational efforts in hosting the 2024 statewide OSWA convention.

Steve and Katie Kohl — 2024 Linn County Tree farmers of the year — were recognized with a video tour of their tree farm. The Kohls also received LCSWA jackets and a colorful Broom Magic broom.

Merzenich — the new chapter president — previewed upcoming activities such as tree-farm tours and workshops.



Katie and Steve Kohl: Katie and Steve Kohl received “tree farmer of the year” jackets and a Broom Magic broom from outgoing President Mike Barsotti. | Photo by Larry Mauter

There was a Woodlands Information Night March 5 in Corvallis and an early April tree farm tour near Lebanon, he said.

About 75 people attended the gathering at the Z Hall in Scio. This year’s gathering was moved up to noon to avoid night-time driving. 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.

Seedling sale crests 10,000 plants

LCSWA volunteers, 4-Hers handle heavy lifting to raise scholarship funds

By Larry Mauter | LCSWA member

With volunteer hours counted and seedlings disbursed, the 30th annual Linn County Small woodlands Association seedling sale is in the books.

More than 10,000 seedlings — 20 species — were sold. Much of the sale was handled online, with 208 pre-orders that were bundled in damp sawdust by a corp of volunteers Feb. 13 and 14.

Nearly 1,300 items were sold Saturday Feb. 15, said Lena Tucker, seedling sale chair. The Saturday pickup day included woodworking artisans and exhibits as part of a Local Woods Fair.

“The seedling sale was a huge success. That wouldn’t have been possible without the help of our volunteers — 26 from the LCSWA and 18 from the Clever Clovers 4-H club,” said Fay Sallee, LCSWA 4-H forestry adviser.

“They had to overcome the icy weather conditions to get to the Linn County Fairgrounds,” said Sallee.



Christy Tye, LCSWA board member, checks out the packaged inventory ahead of pickup day.

They were able to stay on schedule filling the preorders by everyone staying on task. It took the 44 volunteers 423 hours over three days, she noted.

“Our most popular conifer tree sales were Willamette Valley ponderosa pine, Incense cedar and Douglas-fir,” said Tucker. “We have noticed many people wanting to plant giant sequoia and coastal redwood as well.”

New this year, Big-leaf maple, Oregon white oak and Western crabapple were popular. Also Twinberry (from the honeysuckle family) and Evergreen huckleberry were a favorite with our customers, said Tucker.

“We would like to thank the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis for its donation of live potted trees to include in our sale,” she added.

Proceeds from this year's seedling sale will help to fund up to four \$2,000 scholarships for Linn County students who are majoring in forestry or related natural resources fields.

Mark your calendar for next year's seedling sale. It will return to the Santiam Building at the Linn County Expo Center on Saturday, Feb.14, 2026. The online seedling store will open for pre-orders in early December.



Above: LCSWA member Fay Sallee offered hints to customers about plants for sale on Feb. 15. | Top right: Kids at sale: Clever Clovers 4-H Club members were part of the volunteer squadron. | Middle right: Lance Marshall handled sawdust mixing duties as seedling orders were bundled. | Bottom right: Tree guards with bamboo sticks were part of the offerings at the sale.
