



The Quarterly Bark

Volume 33 | Issue 1

January 2026

Welcome to another year of woodland partnerships & being stronger together

Membership Matters

Have you renewed your OSWA membership yet? If not, TODAY is a great day to do so. Either look for an old email from OSWA (at our house it came around mid-November) with a link to a renewal form with most of the information pre-loaded to make the process faster—or just go to oswa.org/join-or-renew.

ICYMI (*in case you missed it*)

Amidst all the great info coming out of the Salem office—kudos Mike Cafferata & Mary Berrien!—the following opportunities in particular seemed worth repeating as we all start filling up our new calendars for 2026:

Open to all OSWA members **on the second Friday of each month:**

9:00 AM – 10 AM – Zoom Skills Practice

A chance to practice and learn Zoom skills. We'll start with basics like scheduling meetings, inviting others, sharing screens, and using chat and reactions — and we can get into more advanced topics if anyone wants to... It's surprisingly helpful to practice these outside of a formal meeting. If you can't make this time slot, I'm happy to schedule one-on-one practice with anyone who'd like. It's a really powerful tool for OSWA - so really good to get comfortable with it. If you don't know how to access the OSWA.ORG website and get the link – call me and I'll walk you through it.

10:00 AM – 11 AM - New Member Meeting

A welcoming session for new members or anyone curious about OSWA. We'll talk about how to get the most out of membership, statewide activities, and how to connect with chapters. There's no set agenda — I'd like it to be more of a conversation. You're very welcome to join and share your insights or help welcome new members.

In this Issue

General News & Notes

An array of updates, announcements and reflections from OSWA, partners & friends
OTFS | OFRI | OSU | ODF

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

11:00 AM – 12:00 OSWA Member Forum (“Office Hours”)

An open time to talk about anything OSWA-related. No agenda — just a space for conversation.

Zoom links are posted on [OSWA.org](https://oswa.org) for the **January 9th** sessions. Just scroll down the homepage to the calendar or click on the Events tab.

Other calendar notes of note

Board of Forestry meets on January 7

Included on the agenda is an OFRI Presentation on a recently conducted Values and Beliefs Survey and 2025 Forest Practices Operator of the Year Awards

Public Comment Period on proposed State Forest Management Plan is open until January 31 at 11:55pm

January 6 - beginning at 1:00pm
virtual Information session

To participate in the information session, use this link: [Western Oregon State Forests Management Plan Informational Meeting](#). A recording of the session will be available on ODF’s website. Note: this is informational only. Public comment will only be accepted during the hearings below.

Rulemaking hearings—all beginning at 5:30pm—will be held on:

- **January 13** (virtual; registration required to attend)
- **January 15** (Forest Grove Community Center, 1915 Main Street, Forest Grove, OR 97116)
- **January 20** (Tillamook ODF, 5005 3rd St, Tillamook, OR 97141)
- **January 22** (Lane Events Center, 796 W 13th Ave, Eugene, OR 97402)

Learn more on the [ODF website](#) — and sign up for alerts while you’re there!

February 18

Oregon Women in Timber 35th Annual Auction

Funds raised support Talk About Trees and forestry education

Learn more at orwit.ejoinme.org/2026

February 19-21

88th Annual Oregon Logging Conference

Learn more at oregonloggingconference.com

Volunteers Needed!

OSWA & OTFS will be co-hosting a booth at OLC again this year. If you can help, please reach out and let us know!

oswaadmin@oswa.org

ortreefarmssystem@gmail.com



Grant County Passion Recognized

Roje Gootee selected as Oregon's outstanding tree farmer for 2026

By Mike Barsotti

Rickreall, ORE. — The Oregon Tree Farm System (OTFS) honored Roje Gootee from northern Grant County as Oregon's 2026 Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year at OTFS's annual meeting.

Roje Gootee of Rush Creek Ranch was recognized on Nov. 15 for her 28 years of restoring and managing her property for a wide range of conservation objectives as well as her leadership in promoting the health of Northeast Oregon Blue Mountain's forest and range lands.

Gootee first purchased 1,962 acres of forest and range in 1997. "As a 17 year-old freshman in Forestry at Utah State University, I began saving so I could one day own my own forest," she said. Over an 18-year period she expanded her ranch to 3,345 acres, of which approximately 2,000 acres are forested, the rest in range.

She has restored Ponderosa pine forests that were over harvested by the previous owner, restored abandoned farm fields to forests, improved water quality through improved riparian habitat and protected upland springs, controlled invasive weeds, reduced the risk of wildfire, and removed invading Western Juniper from range and forests.

Gootee has done much to improving the long term health of her property and its watershed. She said, "for me it's just such joy to see the land respond." Beyond her own property, she has helped neighbors develop stewardship plans for their properties and has played key roles in promoting the management of all private and public lands in Oregon's Blue Mountain region.

Gootee earned a B.S. degree in Forest Resource Management with a minor in Range Management from Utah State University in 1976 and a PhD in Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences from Washington State University in 2009.

Through her natural resource academic studies, USDA Forest Service career in forest and range management,

and the management of her property, Gootee has developed invaluable insights on how best to manage our country's dry land forests.

She has and continues to share her insights through serving on numerous local, state and national private and public natural resource related boards and commissions, as well as working with local landowners and resource professionals.

"Roje is so humble for a person that has done so much for our forests," said Bob Parker — the local forester who recommended that she be honored for her land management and community accomplishments.

In addition to honoring Gootee at OTFS's annual meeting, Dell & Linda Jensen of Lane County were awarded a Silver Award for the management of their 185-acre John Downing Tree Farm near Marcola. While the property has been in the family since 1908, the Jensens took charge of its management when inheriting it in 2022. They have spent a tremendous amount of time and energy in developing a sustainable timber harvest, improving its road system for active management, and converting brush areas back to Douglas-fir forests.

Others being recognized include:

Additional County Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year

- Laird-Shepherd Family of Columbia County, and
- Allan and Kathleen Crandall of Yamhill County

Oregon Inspector of the Year – Tim Gurton

Oregon Tree Farm inspectors are volunteer foresters who visit family forest landowners providing insights on how they can meet their forestland goals, and to certify that their forest meets the American Tree Farm System's standards. Gurton visited and certified 25 landowners.

Pollinator Award – Mary Chamness

This award is given to an individual whose volunteer efforts played a key role in the management of the organization.

Hagenstein Family Forestlands Achievement Award - Steve and Wylda Cafferata

This award is presented to an individual(s) for outstanding contributions in promoting, supporting, and sustaining Oregon's family owned forestlands.

For 59 years, OTFS has recognized family forest landowners who provide forest benefits and products using sound forestry management.

OTFS is a chapter of the American Tree Farm System which operates an internationally recognized forest certification program overseen by and for family forest landowners to promote sustainable forest management through education, recognition, and assistance.

For more information on the Oregon Tree Farm System, visit otfs.org. Click the Get To Know Us tab to see more pictures from the event (under Events) or watch Roje's video and meeting more outstanding Oregon Tree Farmers (Tree Farmers of the Year). You can also visit the [Family Forests of Oregon YouTube channel](#) to watch LOTS of videos, from both OTFS and OSWA.



Roje Gootee was a Utah State University freshman when she started saving to purchase forest property. Rush Creek Ranch is now 3,345 acres.

Seasons of Stewardship: Winter Tasks for Landowners

Margaret Miller

Winter may look like a quiet time in the forest. Trees are dormant, understory vegetation has died back and some wildlife species have settled into hibernation. However, we all know that a landowner's forest to-do list never really hibernates. With better visibility and improved access, winter is an ideal time to take stock of your forest and prepare for the year ahead.

Start with simple reconnaissance. Winter field days make it easier to check forest health, look for storm damage, examine tree crowns and identify invasive species outbreaks. It's a good time to observe seasonal streams and wet areas because higher flows make it easier to see where water naturally moves, pools and causes erosion. These observations can help guide future road maintenance or riparian improvement projects.

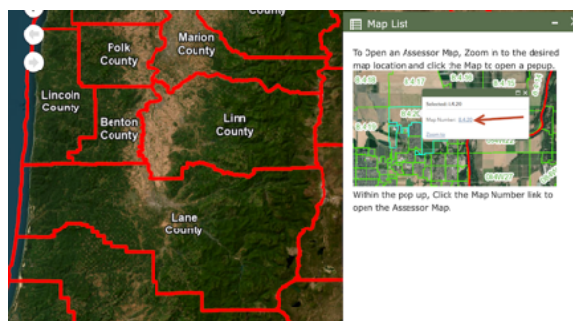
Winter is also an ideal time to walk property lines and stand boundaries; now that the leaves have fallen, boundary line maintenance is much more manageable. And what once involved digging through paper maps at the county offices has been made simple for landowners through **ORMAP**. Just locate your tax lots and review boundary information before heading into the woods. New flagging or a fresh coat of paint on corner posts or boundary trees can prevent future confusion, support timber sale planning and provide clear communication to neighbors and forestry crews.

While you're in the woods, watch for wildlife signs such as woodpecker holes, scat, fresh tracks and winter bedding areas. These clues can help you understand how wildlife uses your forest during colder months, including where important winter



habitat exists. At the same time, pay attention to forest health indicators. Woodpecker holes may signal bark beetle activity, but not every concern points to an active pest or disease issue. It's useful for your field notes to distinguish between biotic problems such as insects or fungi and abiotic stressors such as drought, wind damage or climate impacts. Broad decline across multiple species usually suggests abiotic stressors, while isolated pockets or individual trees could indicate a biotic cause. Making these detailed field notes and updating your management plan can help you examine changes over time and make future decisions.

Winter is also a great time to connect with your ODF forester. Their schedules are often more predictable during the colder months before wildfire season begins. A winter conversation or site visit can help you plan for upcoming harvests, reforestation requirements, fuels reduction work or cost-share opportunities. Reaching out early can save time later when things get busy in the spring and summer. If you're considering cost-shares, ensuring you have your farm and tract number is also a very important first step. Ask your stewardship forester for more information about these things.



And on days when it's simply too cold to head outside, you can still make progress on your stewardship goals. Winter is a perfect opportunity to explore the newly updated **KnowYourForest.org** website. This site is a collaborative

resource created by the Partnership for Forestry Education and includes practical information on wildlife habitat, forest health, reforestation, planning and much more. If you notice gaps or have suggestions for information that would be helpful to landowners, I encourage you to let me know. Your feedback helps us continue to improve and expand the resources available to Oregon's landowners.

I'm also available to help. If you have questions or feedback, or need support, please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly at miller@ofri.org. Here's to growing our knowledge as we grow our forests!

Margaret Miller, CF
Forest Landowner Education Manager
Oregon Forest Resources Institute



Partnership for
Forestry Education

The [Partnership for Forestry Education](#) is a collaborative group of state, federal and private organizations that provide valuable educational resources to Oregon's forest landowners, managers and operators.



Inaugural Forest Wildlife Research Summit: State of the State was a success!

By Fran Cafferata, Wylda Cafferata and Julie Woodward

We loved seeing so many of you at the inaugural summit! If you missed it, the presentations were recorded, and you can find them online at the [KnowYourForest Youtube channel](#).

If you've ever wondered what's really going on in Oregon's forests, from bees to birds to big old trees, the latest Wildlife Research gathering had plenty to offer. Dean Tom DeLuca of the Oregon State University (OSU) College of Forestry set the stage for the day by emphasizing the false dichotomy between forest conservationists and forest producers/consumers; he said collaboration is necessary to strengthen the system as a whole.

Our opening panel with participants from the National Council for Air and Stream Improvement, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and OSU built on that theme and offered their expertise to explore the "state of the state"

for forest wildlife research in Oregon. Some themes from this panel included how values may and do drive interests, which in turn directs research, so that the state of the state is not static and the questions we are asking change over time. The new pressures we face call for new management and new responses to old questions. Acknowledging our personal emotional connection to what we do is important...otherwise we tend to assume that what we feel is what everyone feels, which leads to multiple misunderstandings, especially as situations to which we respond constantly change. We further explored this space by acknowledging that bias in research also needs space for consideration. Building trust by working to understand ourselves and each other is part of successful research, collaboration and management.



Tom DeLuca | Dean of OSU College of Forestry

Session 1: Pollinators, deer and birds — oh my!

We kicked things off with early-seral ecosystems — the messy, sunny, brushy habitats that show up after harvest or disturbance and are outstanding wildlife hotspots.

Bees in burn piles

Lauren Ponisio from the University of Oregon is studying what happens when you seed wildflowers into burned slash piles. The short answer? Wildflowers help bumble bees. But there's more to investigate to see how bee health and abundance change over time and across landscapes. It's important to know where and when wildflowers will have the greatest benefit for bees.

What deer are really eating

Over in southeast Alaska, Claire Goodfellow is using DNA metabarcoding to find out what Sitka black-tailed deer choose to munch on. (Yes, deer poop science!) She's pairing this with forest thinning trials to help managers understand how to keep forage abundant in young-growth Tongass forests.

Birds in managed forests

Aidan Place is conducting research to help us understand songbird response through time in intensively managed forests. Passive listening devices are helping to collect this data, and it's exciting to see new technologies help us answer longstanding research questions.

Session 2: Old-growth wildlife in young stands?

This session was all about late-seral ecosystems — typically thought of as old forests with big structure. But it turns out wildlife doesn't always follow the rulebook.

Surprises in young forests

Katie Moriarty delivered a plot twist: Old-growth obligate species such as red tree voles are sometimes found right at home in surprisingly young stands. Katie reflected that scientists must have the ability both to learn and unlearn from new research. She reminded us that wildlife doesn't always read our field guides — and that conservation opportunities exist across a range of forest ages.

Marbled murrelets and fire history

Jennifer Bailey Guerrero shared new insights into murrelet nesting habitat. It turns out murrelet nest trees vary a lot in age and species, and fire plays a much more complicated role than we once thought. Mixed-severity fires, not just big stand-replacing events, help shape the structural features murrelets need. Her findings highlight the need to quantify how specific disturbance patterns and fire regimes interact both as reset and editing agents to produce the complex forest structures essential for maintaining murrelet populations.

Session 3: Fire, bees, birds and streams

The fire-focused session highlighted how wildlife responds to burns — both planned and unplanned.

Harvest vs. wildfire early-seral

Graham Frank compared the birds that show up after wildfire versus after timber harvest. The two communities start out differently (there tends to be more diversity post-burn vs. post-clearcut), but these differences converge as young forests grow. It's another reminder that management can mimic some natural processes, but neither all nor completely.

Bees love thinning and fire

Ashley Mertens showed early data from the Malheur National Forest suggesting that thinning and prescribed burning lead to the most abundant and diverse bee communities. That's good news for pollinators and wildfire risk reduction.

Holiday Farm Fire streams

Peter James shared pre- and post-fire stream data from Weyerhaeuser's property in the footprint of the 2020 Holiday Farm Fire. Stream temperatures did rise in high-burn areas as expected, but the upper limit of fish distribution didn't seem heavily affected. Ongoing monitoring will help track long-term impacts.

Smoke and songbirds

Jamie Cornelius took on a timely question: How does wildfire smoke affect birds? We know smoke is hard on people, but birds breathe even faster than we do. Her research aims to uncover how smoke exposure affects bird health, behavior and, ultimately, population trends — critical info as smoke seasons become the new normal.

Closing it out:

From research to practice

The final panel brought together practitioners from Starker Forests, Port Blakely, the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde to talk about what all this science means on the ground. The big takeaway? Research is only as useful as our willingness to apply it — and Oregon's forestry community is stepping up to the challenge.

Finally, Debbie Colbert from ODFW wrapped things up with closing thoughts that these conversations help all of us — researchers, agencies and landowners — shape the future of Oregon's forests. We all need to do our part.

If you're a **small woodland owner**, the message is clear: Whether you're hosting bees, birds or the occasional mystery vole, your forest — young or old — plays an important role in Oregon's wildlife landscape. Science is evolving right along with the forests themselves, and by following it you can help promote the health of our Oregon wildlife.



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.

Weaving Research with Reflection

The Willamette NF's rich landscape has provided opportunities for hundreds of researchers over the past century. Ecosystems are complex, and the depth of our ignorance is profound. But intrepid souls, armed with calipers and cameras and a variety of other recording devices have scrambled through the Forest seeking answers to often simple questions that, in aggregate, can lead to profound insights. This column, written first for the Cascade Volunteers newsletter, will be a regular feature to highlight the often surprising findings from these endeavors.

For more information on the rich Science-Management partnership on the Willamette, check out the H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest webpage: <https://andrewsforest.oregonstate.edu/>

The Snowflake

**Cheryl Friesen | USFS Science Liaison/
Ecologist, Retired**

The snowflake fell lightly from a heavy December sky – landing soft as a petal on the Cascade's Middle Sister. As it settled into the blanket of white, the sun rose. The sun set. The seasons changed. Springtime released winter's frozen grip, allowing the mounds of snow a chance to melt.

The snowflake sank deeper and deeper -- its melting edges sliding into the crevices of the underlying mountain, tumbling into the labyrinth of rock and lava below. The underground refuge was cold, keeping the snowflake just above freezing. It paused.

Gordon Grant, a Forest Service researcher studying mountain hydrology, pondered the snowflake from his deck on the McKenzie River: could he track its unseen and almost unimaginable journey to the river at his feet? He and his colleagues designed a study using data from seven large springs on the west side of the High Cascades: Great, Lost, Olallie North, Olallie South, Roaring, Sweetwater, and Tamolitch. Combined, they are the primary water sources for the McKenzie Watershed. Their idea was to use the springs as a window into the subsurface hydrology of the High Cascades.

Water flowing through the High Cascades landscape finds relatively gentle slopes and little dissection. Underlain by young, highly permeable rocks of relatively uniform composition, the most recent lava flows are only 3,000 years old. The lavas are exposed over large areas of the landscape, and where not exposed, they are buried only by shallow soils or glacial deposits. Deep bore holes have documented the lavas to be more than half a mile thick. The area's high permeability allows water to sink deep into the mountainous terrain, where it eventually finds release in springs.

Using data from the springs, their knowledge of tritium and noble gases, the underlying geology, topography, and physics, Dr. Grant and his colleagues were able to model the source, quantity, and transit time of the water using a series of highly complex calculations. They found that transit time to Great Spring averages 13.7 years; Olallie North 9.4 years; Olallie South 7.9 years; Roaring 3.7 years; and Tamolitch averages 6.2 years. For these five springs, the mean transit time is 7.2 years.

The bowels of the mountain release the water at a mean temperature of only 41 degrees F.

The snowflake's journey is a long one. From the soft landing on the mountainside to the tumbling expulsion from its depths, it brings life. The sun rises. The sun sets. The seasons change, the cycle repeats. Thanks to our research friends for their pondering and exploration, we can appreciate the complexity of our world and see the unseeable.



Master Woodland Manager Training

March 2026 - May 2026

Various woodland locations around Benton, Linn and Polk Counties

\$150 Individual/\$250 Couple

The Master Woodland Manager (MWM) training is offered by Oregon State University Forestry and Natural Resources Extension as a high-level course for private landowners who are interested in an intensive forest management training and sharing the knowledge gained through this training with people in their local communities.

Sessions include Management Planning, Your Landscape and Setting, Forest Ecology, Silviculture, Wildlife Management, Forest Health, Watershed Processes, Stream and Fish & Riparian, Forest Ecology, Fire on Your Landscape, Reforestation, Vegetation Management, Taxes, Harvesting, Marketing, Roads, Volunteerism, and a practice site visit.

Learn more about the MWM Program here: <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mwm>

Questions or accommodations? Contact crystal.kelso@oregonstate.edu or (541) 730-3539.

MASTER WOODLAND MANAGER TRAINING

Benton, Linn & Polk Counties



Register Here: <https://beav.es/x2K>

Questions? Contact crystal.kelso@oregonstate.edu
or (541) 730-3539



Growing redwood **AND** giant sequoia **IN OREGON**

Dan Stark, Norma Kline, Lauren Grand,
Alicia Christiansen and Stephen Fitzgerald

A resource guide for small woodland owners

EM 9475
September 2025

Credit: iStock by Getty Images, iStock.com

New resources guide now available on growing redwood and giant sequoia in Oregon

A team of OSU Extension Foresters has released a new publication, *Growing redwood and giant sequoia in Oregon: a resource guide for small woodland owners*. In this resources guide, small woodland owners and others interested in growing either or both of these species can expect to learn about the many factors to consider before planting, including site characteristics like climate and soils, forest health considerations, reforestation and vegetation management, silviculture and forest management, moving trees outside of their native ranges, growth and yield, and wood quality. It also includes considerations related to Oregon's forest practice laws, cost-share, and tax-deferral programs. Whether you are one of the many Oregonians already growing either or both of these popular tree species, or considering growing them, this publication will help you understand the site conditions where the two species grow best, as well as their limitations. *Growing redwood and giant sequoia in Oregon* is FREE and can be viewed and downloaded at <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/em-9475-growing-redwood-giant-sequoia-oregon#know-tees-redwood>. If you would like to know more about the publication, please contact Dan Stark at dan.stark@oregonstate.edu.

A familiar face in a new role

Welcome to the new WOWNet & Master Woodland Manager Coordinator, Sarah Cameron!

My name is Sarah Cameron, and I'm excited to introduce myself as the new statewide Master Woodland Manager program coordinator. I've been with OSU Extension for the past 3.5 years, where I have coordinated Tree School Clackamas and Oregon Season Tracker out of the Clackamas County Extension office. I currently reside in the north Willamette Valley (on a beautiful ¼ acre!) but grew up on a 125-acre woodland in rural southwestern Wisconsin. I was lucky to have the chance to work with both Tiffany Hopkins and Erin Giebner in their past roles, as well as the local Extension Foresters you have learned from and collaborated with. I'm thrilled to be stepping into this new statewide position and having the chance to connect further.



Sarah's planning to move communications for both programs to an e-news format, so watch your inbox! Check out [Sarah's page](#) on the OSU Extension website or reach out at sarah.cameron@oregonstate.edu.

2026 Meeting Schedule:

January 14
March 11
June 10
September 7

Meetings take place quarterly, at ODF in Salem, but a virtual option is available as well. Sign up to be notified of meetings, receive the agenda, watch past meeting recordings, and learn more about the Committee's work on the [CFF webpage](#).

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

SFO Office Update

Completion Reporting Reminder and Minimum Option Availability for 2026

Happy New Year from the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) Small Forestland Owner (SFO) Office!



Did you notify for a harvest or other activity under the Oregon Forest Practices Act in 2025? Since new rules went into effect in 2024, completion reporting is required for all notified activities by the end of the calendar year (or subsequent calendar year if a continuation is issued), except SFO Minimum Option harvests, which require reporting within 90 days of completion of the harvest. There is a "did not operate" option for activities that were notified but were not completed and for which a continuation will not be requested.

Completion reporting is done in your Forest Activity Electronic Reporting and Notification System (FERNS) account, and you can find a step-by-step completion reporting guide at www.oregon.gov/odf/working/documents/completion-reporting-guide.pdf. Note that when reporting completion for an SFO Minimum Option harvest, you will need to input the total lineal feet harvested along fish streams and along non-fish streams. If only one side of the stream was harvested, you would enter one-half of the lineal feet for that stream segment. The completion reporting guide suggests apps and techniques you can use for measuring stream feet.

Timely completion reporting for SFO Minimum Option harvests provides ODF staff the information we need to calculate availability of SFO Minimum Option harvesting, which allows SFOs to harvest closer to streams than non-SFOs and is limited to five percent of fish streams and five percent of non-fish streams in each fifth-field watershed in the state, as a five-year rolling average.

Annual calculations for 2026 have been performed and updated in FERNS, and SFO Minimum Option harvesting is available for both fish streams and non-fish streams in all watersheds throughout the state.

For assistance with completion reporting or questions about SFO Minimum Option harvesting, contact your local ODF forester or email smallforestlandowneroffice@odf.oregon.gov.

Benton County Chapter News

Sharing Space with Wildlife

Diana Blakney

There are lessons to be learned surrounding the existence of Big Foot and the belief that your favorite baseball team will go all the way. Since I happen to believe in both the existence of the hairy bipedal humanoid and the very real possibility that the Beavers and the Mariners will simultaneously win it all in 2026, I have the expertise to share the lessons learned.

Lesson One: Hope really does spring eternal. It doesn't depend on realistic assessments, and it is not diminished by the fact that onlookers may understandably slap the label "naïve" across your forehead. Hope that Big Foot lives and that baseball is fair simply represents a philosophical approach to life that embraces possibilities.

Lesson Two: Embracing possibilities in this philosophy means embracing the magical. It does not include embracing the (more realistic) possibilities that an earthquake, tidal wave or volcanic eruption will cripple or destroy the Pacific Northwest or that baseball wins only come with massive spending. Instead, it supports visions of finding Big Foot hiding amongst your trees. It allows you to imagine your favorite team's joy as they soak themselves in Gatorade or champagne.

I think small woodland owners are magical thinkers. We plant trees hoping they will grow; we create landscapes for animals hoping they will thrive. We will not live to see most of the outcomes, but that doesn't reduce the enthusiasm with which we tackle the work.

Magical thinking ignores the odds, fearlessly invests in the future and keeps Oregon green. I promise to share my (someday) photo of Big Foot if you will keep creating magic in your woods.



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**
Darrell Oakes
Pat Boren
Mike Magee
Lily Hull

Benton County Small Woodlands Association

Annual Meeting

Saturday, January 24, 2026 | 10:30 am to 2:00 pm

Marys River Grange Hall | 24707 Grange Hall Rd - Philomath, OR 97370

Limited parking: smaller vehicles & carpooling recommended

Cost: \$10.00 for lunch, please pay at the door (cash or check)

RSVP by Monday, January 19th

**Among the speakers will be folks from the Grange, Van Decker on log markets,
Oregon Department of Forestry forester Leo Williamson,
and OSWA's new Executive Director, Mike Cafferata.**

Register using the QR code or go to: bit.ly/3MgOBwG by **Monday, January 19th.**

If you experience any difficulty in registering, please contact Crystal Kelso at the Extension office at 541-730-3539

Come join your neighbors for
*Door Prizes, Chapter Business, Market Updates,
OSWA Updates, Education, and Fellowship*

Don't forget to renew your membership!

OSWA.org



Woodland Information Night

OSU's Peavy Forest Science Center
6 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, March 4th

We have three great topics this year, centered around the topic of **Technology in the Forest:**

Rachel Baschieri, Technology in Natural Resources Specialist with the OSU Extension Service will present "Technology Innovations in Forestry"

Lorelle Sherman, OSU Extension Forester will give an overview of digital land-mapping tools. The three main digital mapping applications covered will be Avenza, CalTopo, and QGIS.

AeroTract Commercial Drone Services will discuss high-tech tools and services for aiding in forestry decision-making and practices.

The workshop will be held at OSU's Peavy Forest Science Center, 3100 SW Jefferson Way, Corvallis, Starker auditorium/room 117, next to the Jefferson Street entrance.) [osu_campus_map copy](#)

Parking, free after 5 p.m., is available in the lot south of Peavy which can be accessed from Washington Way or southbound 30th St. [ParkingMap_25-26 rev 10_13](#)

Questions? Call or text Sarah Edwardsson at 541-231-7829

Lane County Chapter News

Intent vs Impact

Kate McMichael

Planting trees gives you a lot of time to think. This past week, T and I spent a few hours helping a neighbor do some infill planting. As we moved through the slash between one planting site and the next, I couldn't help but marvel at how different our lives are from what we'd imagined when we first purchased our small Vida property in 2019.

Seven years ago almost to the day, I was writing to the listing agent for a piece of property that had captured my attention and wouldn't let go. As time moved and the purchase moved forward, we dreamed of how we were going to live on our small piece of forest, how we would care for it in environmentally sound ways and contribute to the overall health and well-being of the planet by how we cared for our own small part of it. We got our first chance pretty quickly: a letter from EWEB inviting us to participate in the Pure Water Partners program. We were delighted when our riparian areas qualified for the preservation track due to their health and abundance of native vegetation. We were at the point of signing the conservation agreement and its accompanying management plan when the Holiday Farm Fire swept through and everything changed.

Well, not everything. Our commitment to the health of our riparian areas and the watershed that they feed has remained as keen as on that September afternoon immediately preceding the uptick in East winds on Labor Day 2020. If anything, our commitment to riparian restoration and to the McKenzie watershed has deepened as we have, literally and figuratively, gotten our boots and hands wet and muddy, year in and year out, as we try to help our small woodland recover from the ravages of stand-replacing fire.

And I know we are not alone—either in our commitment to the health and resilience of our woodland or in the concomitant commitment to healthy watersheds. Small woodland owners are responsible for an extraordinary proportion of riparian acres. Many of our properties are a patchwork of upland and streamside, often to a far greater extent than our larger industrial partners further upstream. While we may often grumble about restrictions and rules about how we should care for the water that runs through



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
Dan Kintigh
Tim Gurton
Becca Fain
Theresa Hausser
Dan Menk | ODF
Lauren Grand | Extension



our lands, we are also proud of our role as stewards and providers of clean water for the communities downstream of us as well.

Enter the Lane County Watersheds Bill of Rights, [Ballot Measure 20-373](#), slated for the upcoming May 19 election. Rather than celebrating the good stewardship of forest landowners and extolling our role in bringing clean water to the urban areas that rely on it, to wash their cars and dishes, water their lawns and gardens, and make their morning coffee, it seems to perceive us and our forest management efforts as causing more harm than good. Rather than noting the studies, like the EWEB study of the McKenzie, that show water quality as high until it reaches the urban edges, it seems to stoke the fear-based narrative that rural lives and practices are detrimental to water quality and harmful to watersheds. By deepening the perceptual divide between urban and rural realities, it seems to encourage a sort of watershed vigilantism that could lead to trespass and lawsuits, pitting neighbor against neighbor. Of course I could be catastrophizing a bit—and I hope I am. That said, I have significant concerns about the tone of the measure, its potential impact, its declarations that are more emotional than factual—and the Yes campaign website with its image of a 55-gallon drum of toxic *something* sitting in a forest stream does nothing to allay those concerns.

At our December Board of Directors meeting, we took some time to discuss the measure and determined, as a Board, to sign onto the Coalition that is forming to fight the measure. This was not because we don't agree that clean water and healthy watersheds are important (because of course we do); it was because we fear there are too many unintended consequences of the measure should it pass. We hope that you, our members, will take the time to fully read the measure, to learn more about it, and to make an informed decision come May. To help in the process, we are partnering with the Emerald SAF chapter and Lane Families for Farms & Forests to host an information night on January 20 at Elmer's in Eugene. We hope many of you will join us—and bring your own perspectives and questions and concerns.

Healthy watersheds: Yes! This measure as the way to insure that: Not as it's written.

Have thoughts or questions? Want to learn more about the No Coalition? Please reach out to oswa.lane.county@gmail.com and we'll do our best to connect you to answers.

Mark Your Calendar

Upcoming Events

Lane County Watershed Bill of Rights Information Evening

Cohosted by Emerald SAF & LFFF
January 20
5:30-8:30 at Elmer's in Eugene
dinner followed by speaker

Annual Seedling & Native Plant Sale

February 7
Alton Baker Park
8am—11am
Details of species, prices, etc will be posted on our social media:
[Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)

2026 Board Meetings

February 5

2:00-4:00pm | Springfield

April 2

2:00-4:00pm | Veneta

June 4

2:00-4:00pm | Springfield

August 6

2:00-4:00pm | Veneta

October 1

2:00-4:00pm | Springfield

December 3

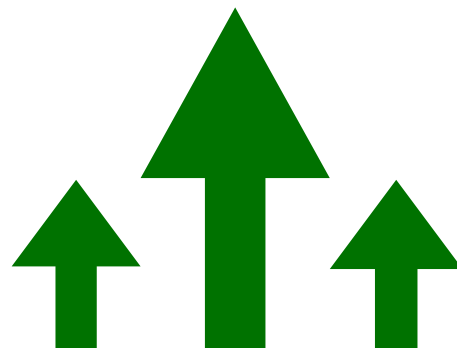
2:00-4:00pm | Veneta

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!



From seedlings to education

An example of what our fundraising helps make happen

Lane County Small Woodlands Association chapter Helps Bring "Nature for All" to Educators Across Western Oregon

Eugene, OR — Twenty-seven teachers from across western Oregon recently participated in Nature for All: Supporting Neurodivergent & Disabled Learners, a full-day workshop held Friday, November 7, 2025. The event equipped educators with tools and strategies to make outdoor and nature-based learning accessible for every student.

Geared toward 3rd–6th grade educators, the hands-on workshop focused on adapting outdoor education lessons for learners with diverse needs, including those with higher support requirements. Participants explored activities from the Project WILD K–12 Curriculum & Activity Guide, learning inclusive approaches to teaching and building confidence in creating equitable, welcoming outdoor learning environments.

The workshop was a collaborative effort between The Arc Lane County, Families Connected, OSU Extension Service – Lane County, EV Consulting, and the Oregon Natural Resources Education Program (ONREP). Organizers extend heartfelt thanks to the Lane County Chapter of The Oregon Small Woodlands Association for their support in making this professional development opportunity possible.

"This workshop was about more than just activities—it was about changing the way we think about access to nature," said organizers. "Every student deserves the chance to connect with the natural world, and we're thrilled to see educators so eager to make that happen."

The Nature for All workshop filled quickly, with all spots reserved and a waiting list of interested educators. The high level of enthusiasm underscores the growing commitment among Oregon teachers to build inclusive, adaptive, and welcoming outdoor learning spaces.

For more information about upcoming professional development opportunities from ONREP and OSU Extension, visit onrep.forestry.oregonstate.edu.



annual Seedling and native plant Sale



February 7
Saturday

Alton Baker
Park
Eugene

8am
until sold out



from a November 13
press release written
by Carrie Mack



More events past . . . and to come

Tree School Lane was a great success!

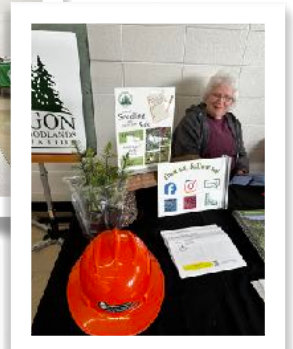
In case you missed the write-up in the November Leaflet, here it is again:

Tree School Lane 2025

Thank you to everyone who participated in Tree School Lane on October 25! We had a record turnout, with over 250 participants and 32 classes on a wide variety of topics of interest to family forestland owners, professional foresters, loggers, arborists, teachers, and forest enthusiasts of Northwest Oregon. We especially appreciate the support from our instructors, sponsors, vendors and volunteers who made this event possible.

Tree School Lane sponsors:

- Lane County Small Woodlands Association
- Aiken-Ford Lumber, Co.
- Kintigh Nursery
- Sierra Pacific Industries
- Association of Consulting Foresters
- Association of Oregon Loggers
- Oregon Women in Timber
- Oregon Tree Farm System
- Oregon Small Woodlands Association
- City of Eugene Urban Forestry Program



Clean Water, Healthy Watersheds: YES! Ballot Measure 20-373: Is this the way?

Learn more about the
Lane County Watershed Bill of Rights

Join us at Elmer's in Eugene (1036 Valley River Way) for an informational evening about the ballot measure—both its stated intent and potential impacts—as well as ways to get involved.

5:30 | social time & dinner
7:00 | speakers and Q&A

Co-hosted by Lane County Small Woodlands Association,
Emerald SAF and Lane Families for Farms & Forests



Celebrating Some of Lane County's Own

Lane County SWA Member Profile

Get to know Dick Beers!

If you don't know Dick Beers, you are missing the friendship of a great member of Lane County Small Woodlands Association. Dick can't remember how long he has been a member, but at least forty years, and maybe longer. Dick says that Education and Fellowship are the greatest benefits of membership. One of Dick's fondest forestry memories involves the time his tree farm was featured on Oregon Public Broadcasting's Oregon Field Guide. That show put Lane County on the map for a lot of Oregonians and promoted the value of sustainable logging. When asked what advice he would give to Lane County Small Woodland Association members, Dick replied, "Get involved! Find out what's going on." Good advice and coming from a good advisor. We are fortunate that Dick is a LCSWA Board Member Emeritus, and a good friend to small woodland owners.



Quinn's son: the fourth generation

PNW Christmas Tree Association

Another generation of award-winning Kintighs

Quinn Kintigh of Kintigh Nursery attended the Pacific North West Christmas tree Association trade show this August. Bob Kintigh, his grandfather and founder of the nursery, always liked to enter the tree competitions and this year Quinn decided to try his hand.

He entered four categories and received two first and one second place. This shows Quinn is capitalizing on years of Kintigh experience in growing premium trees. It takes years of cumulative skills to grow a really good Christmas tree. The other thing that helps, of course, is premium genetics.

Kintigh Nursery grows high-grade genetic seedlings for customers, using mostly its own seed orchards for Noble and Turkish Fir.

THANKS to Wylda Cafferata, Dan Kintigh & Theresa Hausser for writing up these member celebrations.

No one deserves it more! **Wylda & Steve Cafferata receive the OTFS Hagenstein Family Forestlands Achievement Award for their outstanding contributions to Oregon's family forest landowners.**



OTFS Tree Farmer of the Year Silver Award: our own Linda & Dell Jensen!



Tim Gurton

Lane County's 2025 Volunteer of the Year also recognized as OTFS Inspector of the Year and AFTS Regional Inspector of the Year

In a world of clickbait and style over substance, people like our volunteer of the year are like the sudden burst of fresh air that keeps you going when you think you just can't go anymore.

Our volunteer of the year is understated, quiet, calm...and knows what he's doing. He also knows how and why things have been done before, and when and why things changed, and how that's made a difference, and what might be worth a try now.

He doesn't make a fuss. He gets things done. He gets things done when you aren't looking and then suddenly he's done them and you're not only grateful that the work was done but now you're also grateful that you didn't have to worry about whether the work would be done—and we all know what it's like to worry about whether the necessary tasks will be accomplished.

On top of this, he's kind and gentle and such a good man that you don't even worry about how grateful you are just for his presence, even before you have time to thank the heavens that he does what he says he'll do. He shows up to meetings and events and helps as needed and as he can.

Our volunteer of the year makes possible our selection of our Tree Farmer of the Year: from getting to know the candidates through Tree Farm inspections, through explaining the process to our tree farmers, to completing the application process and facilitating the tree farmers' meetings with OSWA and OTFS representatives. And he does it knowledgeably, respectfully, effectively, and with his trademark kindness and decency.

He will probably be the only one surprised to hear his name called: congratulations and thank you to Tim Gurton, Lane County OSWA's volunteer of the year!



Forest Management with Severe Weather in mind

By Dan Kintigh

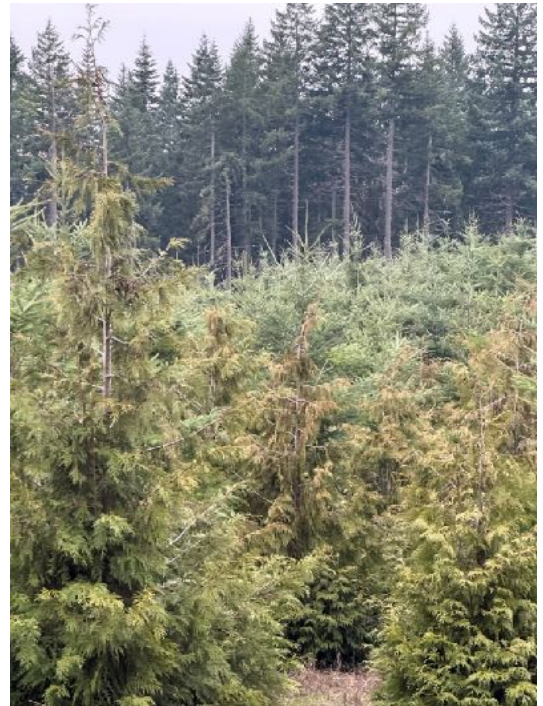
Good forest management can reduce storm damage in some cases. I've detailed here how vegetation management and thinning can prevent excessive damage to your stand, young and old, in the case of high winds, snow, or ice.

Young stands of timber that have not had to compete with brush are stronger and have better caliper, reducing breakage. My neighbor has a stand of timber that's always been covered with blackberries and brush. In January of 2024, we experienced an extreme ice storm which snapped the tops out of many of these trees. This stand also sustained damage in a previous event to this one. There was a heavy, wet snow which bent and pulled a lot of trees over. After attempting to turn upright again, they are now severely hooked.



Here's a photo slightly younger stand that was well cared for. Brush was not allowed to compete with it. This stand is half a mile from the previous stand shown. There was

some damage, but not to the extent of the stand shown with a lot of vegetation issues.



Stand density can also affect storm damage. Here's a photo of a stand that was not thinned at the proper time and had a lot of weak, whippy trees. They went crashing down with the ice weight.



This stand, less than a quarter mile from the previously shown damaged stand, fared really well in the same storm. The trees had proper spacing and had better caliper and proper crowns. They did not come crashing down in the ice storm. Proper management doesn't always solve these problems, but it can certainly go a long way in averting damage.



In a healthy stand, a tree tends to recover with vigor. Sometimes they will bud right from the break and make a nice straight leader. In this case, I cut off all the laterals below to ensure dominance.



If you have a few trees with broken tops (circled in red), it would be best to evaluate whether you really need that tree or not. If there's enough stocking, cut it down now so you don't have a big mess more than once with multiple tops and a less valuable log. If you determine that you need the tree and have the ability to access the top, I would recommend you cut out the extra branches that have turned upwards, bringing it down to one. There may be a hook, but it would be a lot better than multiple tops.



kintighs.com
Healthy Trees Start from the Roots



Lincoln County Chapter News

President's Reflection

Ben Barclay

While traveling over Christmas I saw a post on Facebook about a new 988 log handler and then a second post showing a second machine at the Port of Newport. A federal grant of \$3.4 million to be matched by \$861,000 from the Port allowed for the purchase and not much more. The purpose of course is to allow a log export facility revival.

After reading a few dozen comments and featured articles from other news sources, I was amazed by the misconceptions and outright misinformation that proliferated in the comments. Some say export will hurt supply to local mills and raise the log prices due to lack of supply. My observations driving by mills is they are full up and don't want my logs. Prices don't support me cutting a tree now anyway.

I agree that processing at home (value added) is preferable, but the lack of mills locally and low prices make exporting ok by me. More jobs for the local community, more opportunities for log market, loggers, truckers, etc, etc. Joe Steere enlightened me on the reason for low log prices here: a glut of pine in the Southeast. This is not something controlled locally. Exporting, on the other hand, is something we do control. Maybe it might provide enough profit to balance out expenses on the small landowner operations. That said, if you are philosophically against exporting logs, then don't sell there. Simple.

Ultimately, supply and demand curves always win. Lincoln county will be the winner with an active export market given the lack of local processing facilities. Now we just have to get the public educated to the benefits.

Lincoln County Chapter November Meeting

by Judy Pelletier, Chapter Secretary

November's meeting was very informative, highlighting many aspects of our chapter members' involvement and accomplishments. Several of our local board members serve in other capacities. Connie Battle is OSWA Regional VP, Walter Chuck & Casey Miller are Lincoln County Commissioners, and Steve and Wylda Cafferata serve Oregon's small



Lincoln County Small Woodlands Association Board Members

Ben Barclay, President
Joe Steere, past President
Judy Pelletier, Secretary
Jan Steenkolk, Treasurer

Steve Allen
Connie Battles
Joe Steenkolk
Scott Steenkolk
Rex Capri
Christana Woods
Todd Holts
Jim Holt
Tim Miller

woodland owners through leadership in the **Oregon Tree Farm System (OTFS)** (co-chairing its certification efforts), advocating for beneficial policies like tax exemptions (e.g., HB 485A for family forest succession), advising on sustainable forest management, and representing landowners on crucial committees like the **State Emergency Fire Cost Committee (EFCC)**, ensuring responsible stewardship and financial viability for family forests. Guest speaker was ODF Stewardship Forester, Rieghly Sitton.

Old business was first on the agenda. Ben Barclay, Chapter President, initiated a discussion on stream buffers and the GIS study to assess the percentage stream length in the buffers on private forest lands. The study on the Yaquina and Siletz drainages. Ben suggested the "Takings Law" should be investigated, but Joe Steere, past President, emphasized that it could cost up to \$12000 to file a claim. Lincoln County has taken on a policy to disqualify any acreage in openings from the special timber assessment. One option is to go into the agriculture assessment and try to show ag income. In addition, Rieghly said that firewood made in the buffers must be for personal, not commercial, use only. The assessor disqualified some of Ben's land from the timber special assessment, telling him to plant trees in the pasture, but 110ft buffer along the river and side streams takes 50% of it. He said that it didn't make economic sense. The problem comes from the county following the department of Revenue rules rather than ODF rules, and they conflict with regard to what constitutes forestlands and proper stocking. OSWA will work to find a resolution in the future.

In current business, reimbursement was approved for 1) hauling climbing poles for Taft and Waldport schools, 2) money to purchase seedlings for the 2026 annual sale, 3) for chapter membership for Table Mountain owner's shop donation and support for the tree sale, 4) for meeting snacks. Joe Steere is certified as a Tree Farm System inspector now. Ben will donate cedar & redwood boughs for wreaths at the tree sale. Dan Stark said that the OSU Extension would sponsor a wreath making event in December. Unfortunately, we didn't get enough people signed up, so this event was canceled for now.

The next subject focused on ways to get the word out about attracting new members, addressing both advantages and benefits of new memberships, concluded

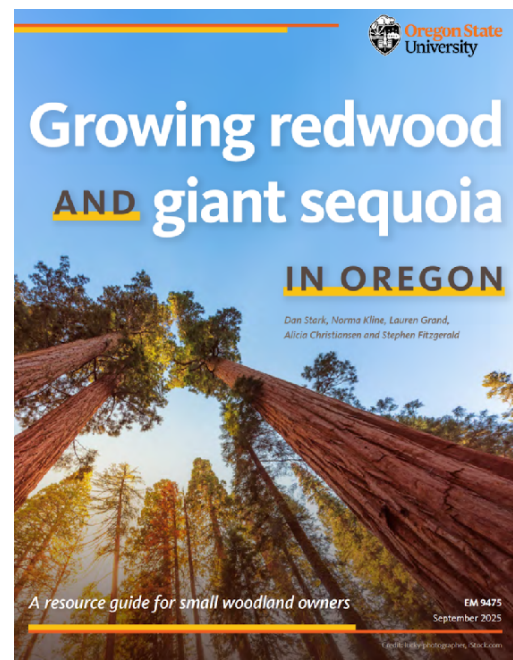
by discussion on ideas for generating more involvement with the community and recruiting new members.

ODF Forest Steward Rieghly Sitton presented information on Stream Rules and an End of the Year Summary of the past fire season. There were roughly 2960 fires, 100 more in 2025; most resulted from lightning, and 90% of fires put out were <10ac.

Rule Changes for small woodland owners was discussed and included: Stream Habitat Program funds available for culverts and road improvement post RCA (Road Condition Assessment). Discussion ensued on tether logging where parameters are limited to 20% of land area. Erosion caused by tether logging may be a problem if above a fish stream. Less than 5000ac (small) rules don't apply. Small owners suffer more because they aren't compensated for the land. Rieghly has a list of certified loggers for hire.

The new Oregon Dept of Forestry Office is on NE 73rd ST., Newport by the State Police station.

In conclusion, chapter objectives were reiterated: 1) hold 4 meetings per year- an Annual Seedling Sale, a Tree Farm Tour and Picnic, and an Annual Meeting, 2) teach people the facts, 3) encourage new membership through funding, advertising and participating in community events, school programs and online groups such as TikTok and Facebook.



Growing redwood and giant sequoia in Oregon is FREE
<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/em-9475-growing-redwood-giant-sequoia-oregon#know-tees-redwood>. If you would like to know more about the publication, please contact Dan Stark at dan.stark@oregonstate.edu

Lincoln County Natural Resource Tour

Earlier this fall, the Partnership for Lincoln Lands and Waters (PLLW) hosted their annual Lincoln County Natural Resource Tour.

We had the privilege to take roughly 35 local community leaders to three sites that highlight businesses and organizations who work in the agriculture, forestry and fishing industries.

The tour participants included Lincoln County government representatives, conservation organizations, extension agents, scientists, farmers and foresters. This year's tour visited a farm and forestry site in the Beaver Creek area and then a food web organization on Yaquina Bay.

The first tour stop highlights a local beekeeper business, Beattie's Bees, who manages honey bee hives across the Lincoln County landscape. Andrew Grant, owner, emphasized the importance of managing landscapes for multiple uses so that there is an abundance of forage plants for the bees throughout the year.

For the next stop, the group traveled up in the hills to tour a timber site managed by Manulife Investment Management. Jake Theimens, the Western Oregon Silviculture Manager for Manulife, explained the history of the timber unit and how it is being managed sustainably for timber products, habitat and recreation. They have been working with Hampton Lumber to install pollinator plantings in slash piles. The Corvallis 2 Coast (C2C) trail runs through the site we visited and Manulife has installed informational kiosks to educate hikers about timber stand management.

For lunch the tour group stopped at the Beaver Creek natural area and indulged in some amazing food prepared by Fish Mongers, a "boat to table" food truck based out of Waldport. Lastly, our group was fortunate enough to visit the Yaquina Lab at the Central Coast Food Web on the Yaquina Bay. The food web hosts a state-of-the-art processing facility, online market and business support for local producers.

All of our tour participants noted that they would recommend that local leaders attend our annual tour to become more informed about natural resource practices and industry in Lincoln County. PLLW would like to thank all of our supporters and sponsors for making this tour happen: OSU Lincoln County Extension, Starker Forests, Manulife Timber Investments, Gibson Farms, Miller Farms, Hampton Lumber and Oregonians for Food and Shelter.



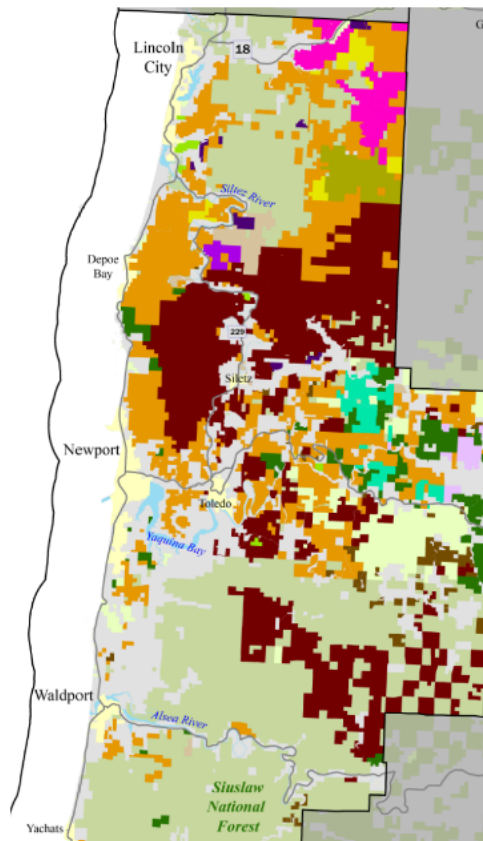


The [Partnership for Lincoln Lands and Waters](#) is a group of farmers, foresters, and supporters of the fishing industry who seek to preserve our thriving natural resources sectors in Lincoln County. Through our collective efforts, we work to tell our stories of stewardship and care of the land for the well-being of generations to come.

If you have questions about natural resource issues, are interested in our work or would like to be on the invite list for our upcoming events and tours, please email lincolnlandsandwaters@gmail.com.

Pami Monnette is the PLLW grassroots coordinator.

Mark Your
Calendar!



NATURAL RESOURCE PUB NIGHT



Oregon Dept. of Forestry Business Analyst, Joe Touchstone will explore ways the general public can engage with forest practices. Learn about the forest activity notification system (FERNS), what it's designed for and how to use it properly. Come away with an understanding of how Oregon forestry practices maintain healthy forests for all.

Join us! **THURSDAY
JAN 29
5:30 - 7:30 PM
@ BEACHCREST
BREWING**

Curious about forestry in Lincoln County? We are inviting you to grab some food & brews and connect with ODF officials, private timber, small woodland owners and other professionals to understand the nuances of producing an essential resource for our community. ***Limited Seating - talk starts at 6pm***

SPONSORED BY:

HOSTED BY:

THE PLLW COOPERATIVE IS A GROUP OF FARMERS, FORESTERS, AND SUPPORTERS OF THE FISHING INDUSTRY WHO SEEK TO PRESERVE OUR THRIVING NATURAL RESOURCES SECTORS IN LINCOLN COUNTY.
LINCOLNLANDSANDWATERS@GMAIL.COM



**PARTNERSHIP
FOR LINCOLN LANDS AND WATERS**



Linn County Chapter News

President's Column

Annual meeting features OSWA director, noon potluck & other goodies

By Jim Merzenich | LCSWA president

Our annual meeting is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 17. It will be held at the historic ZCBJ hall in Scio beginning at noon. This is a potluck affair. Please bring a main and side dish along with your plates and utensils. Coffee and drinks are provided. Ask friends and neighbors to come. All are welcome. Look for a postcard in the mail announcing this meeting.

Our guest speaker will be Mike Cafferata, the executive director of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association.

OSU Forestry Extension agent Crystal Kelso, who assists Linn, Benton, and Polk county chapters will speak and explain the role of the Extension program. She has been a great help for us this past year.

Earnings from our annual Seedling Sale support Forestry Education in Linn County and beyond. With the long-term leadership of Fay Sallee, we have sponsored a Forestry 4-H chapter for several decades. Their current work will be on display. We also provide college scholarships for natural resource students who reside in our area. We will also recognize these students.

Mike Barsotti and I will give a presentation on activities in 2025 and preview events planned in 2026. Door prizes, an auction, and other awards will highlight the afternoon.

Because board members Tim Otis and Bonnie Marshall have completed their three-year terms, we will elect two new board members to replace them. If you interested in joining the board give me a call.

Joe and Shirley Holmberg were the county volunteers of the year in 2025 because of their long-term service to Linn County and the OSWA community. Be there to thank and congratulate them.

As I was mulling over ideas to include in this message my son Matthias suggested that we take the dogs and hike to the top of our hill.



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

It was cold and foggy at home but sunny and 60 degrees on our ridge top. Air inversions can be a blessing! It's easy to worry about work that needs to be done without appreciating the present situation. Please take a walk on your property and be thankful for what changes you have made. Happy tree farming.

Upcoming Linn County Activities

LCSWA annual meeting

All members are encouraged to attend. The annual meeting is set for **Saturday Jan. 17 from noon to 4 p.m. at the Z Hall in Scio**. There is a business side and a social side to the annual meeting. The afternoon will begin with a potluck lunch. 4-H and scholarship presentations, door prizes, selection of officers and an auction are scheduled. Mike Cafferata, the executive director of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association, is the keynote speaker this year.

LCSWA 31st annual seedling sale

Saturday Feb. 14 from 8 a.m. to noon. Pick up pre-orders, shop for additional plants or chat with 4-H volunteers about how to best grow your new plants. The Santiam Building at the Linn County Expo.

LCSWA Woods Fair

Saturday Feb. 14, 8 a.m. to noon. Wood crafts by local vendors are for sale along with forestry information booths. The Santiam Building at the Linn County Expo.

LCSWA quarterly board meeting

Thursday, March 5. All members are welcome to attend. Time and location to be announced. Check the LCSWA website.

On-line seedling store open until Jan 31

Volunteers sought for three-day mid-February fundraiser

By Lena Tucker, LCSWA seedling sale chair

Our seedling sale store is officially open!

Place your pre-orders between now and Jan. 31 at our online store. <https://linncountyswa.com/> . Order early for the best selection.

We have seven conifer and one deciduous tree seedlings to offer this year. Nordmann fir — a popular Christmas tree — is available. Our shrub and perennial offerings are focused on native and pollinator beneficial species as well as adding interest to woodland gardens and landscaping. Narrowleaf buck brush, Blue elderberry, Oceanspray, Birch leaf spirea, Red flowering currant, Lemonade sumac, Meadow checkermallow and Narrowleaf mules ear are a few of the 14 shrubs and perennials we have available.

We will have a selection of all seedlings available for purchase the day of the sale, in case you missed ordering something. In addition to what is available for pre-ordering, we will also be bringing a limited quantity of Oregon White Oak and Dwarf Oregon Grape for purchase the day of sale.

We could always use help setting up and packing the pre-orders for our customers! Profits from the sale fund college and 4-H scholarships. If you are interested, please send us an email at: seedlingsale@linncountyswa.com

Thursday Feb. 12 8 a.m. Set up at the Santiam Building at the Linn County Expo Center in Albany. LCSWA volunteers and 4-H members begin at 8 a.m. setting up tables. In the afternoon we focus on filling pre-orders for Saturday. Wear warm clothing.

Friday Feb. 13: 8 a.m. Volunteers from LCSWA membership and 4-H members fill orders to be picked up Saturday.

Saturday Feb. 14: 7:30 a.m. Volunteers help with seedling sale orders pick-up, sales of remaining seedlings and cleanup of Santiam Building.

Vendors, forestry booths piggyback with Linn seedling sale

Local Woods Fair offers wood crafts, information booths Feb. 14

By Larry Mauter | LCSWA member

Wood-oriented crafts people and agencies that can help woodland owners are the backbone of the Linn County Local Woods Fair.

Its an adjunct to the very successful Linn County Small Woodlands Association (LCSWA) annual seedling sale — set for 8 a.m. until noon on Saturday Feb. 14 at the Santiam Building at the Linn County Expo Center.

“Fifty to 60 percent of the people who pick up seedlings make it to the other side of the room,” said Lee Peterman, a former LCSWA president and long-time wood worker.

Peterman said the event goes back nearly 20 years to former LCSWA board member Mary Brendle. She was looking for “a creative outlet” for local wood workers, said Peterman.

The fair has offered a variety of quality local wood work — jewelry, kitchen utensils, bird boxes, walking sticks and even chess sets in past years.

Sawyers and businesses with forestry equipment for sale have shared floor space with the bags of seedlings.

Vendors are not charged for the space at the Santiam Building, but are urged to make a donation to the LCSWA scholarship fund.

Along with vendors, organizations relating to forests and conservation “are always invited,” said Peterman.

Past participants have included Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Forest Resources Institute and local watershed districts. They have provided staffed informational booths that can be useful to tree growers.

Peterman said vendors can set up Feb. 14 as early as 7 a.m., with carts and trucks out of the Santiam Hall by 8 a.m.

To register as a vendor, contact Peterman at petey711@hotmail.com or text him at 541-223-3935.



At the 2022 seedling sale, Lee Peterman directs a shopper toward another option at the Santiam Building. | Photo by Larry Mauter



Blue bird boxes are a staple at the Local Woods Fair. The fair will be open from 8 a.m. to noon on Feb. 14. | Photo by Larry Mauter
