



The Quarterly Bark

Volume 31 | Issue 4

October 2024

Growing Up & Growing Pains

Guidelines Developed for the Digital *Bark*

an Editorial Update

With growth comes a few stumbles and struggles, aches and pains; our quarterly four-county newsletter has certainly experienced all of these. When I agreed to be volunteered as editor to keep *The Quarterly Bark* from being consigned to our joint history, I stipulated that I would simply compile material sent to me. Over time, I have found myself putting more energy into actively crafting this newsletter into a publication that (I hope) might be something we can show to prospective members with pride, reflective of the justified pride we feel as woodland owners, pride in who we are and what we do, both on our individual tree farms and in our respective counties. Also over time, some questions have arisen—from content to advertising to length—leading me to request input from the involved chapters. And, thus, the Guidelines (printed on the next page) have been developed. These are intended to serve as a framework for the digital *Bark* moving forward. Questions about application of the Guidelines in specific instances will be referred, as noted, to Chapter presidents (who will confer with their Boards, editorial leads and membership according to their respective Chapter procedures). These Guidelines are intended to be—as is the *Bark*—a living document that can continue to grow and evolve with us and then be passed on to the next volunteer editor when the times comes.

Additionally, in the course of requesting input on the Guidelines, the question of length of the current publication was raised. With the transition from a physical to virtual format, length became less of a concern. That noted, the literal growth of the *Bark* may leave some readers, busy as we all are with the work of being woodland owners, weary before even beginning to read. To ameliorate this, it is possible to simply “jump” to your own chapter by clicking on the underlined chapter names to the right. Not a cure for length-induced weariness, but at least a treatment option!

Lastly, if you have questions, concerns—or would like to write an article for a future *Bark*, please send an email to quarterly.bark.23@gmail.com. I don’t check it every day between quarters, but I do check it fairly regularly and promise to get back to you.

Thank you for reading *The Quarterly Bark*!

Kate McMichael | Editor

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Benton County

Lane County

Lincoln County

Linn County



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

Editor: Kate McMichael

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

GUIDELINES FOR ARTICLES IN *THE QUARTERLY BARK*

REVISED FOR DIGITAL PUBLICATION | September 2024

Essential Ground Rules

- *Quarterly Bark* articles must be factually accurate.
- The views expressed in reflective essays (President's reflections, book reviews, etc.) are the authors' own.
- *Quarterly Bark* authors must express themselves with civility; any disagreements must be stated respectfully. All submitted *Bark* copy will be edited for libel and taste.
- Any concerning articles or statements will be referred to the Chapter presidents/editorial leads.
- *The Quarterly Bark* reserves the right to limit or reject article submissions.

Content that is Encouraged

- In general, articles for the *Bark* should be written by chapter members for chapter members.
- In general, articles that are unlikely to be covered in other publications.
- In general, articles that are no longer than one page.
- Members may submit press releases from local or state-wide organizations with attribution.
- Articles with information that helps members manage their woodlands.
- Articles about Chapter activities.
- Articles about woodland-related activities in our local region.
- Articles and/or announcements that highlight upcoming events.
- Articles about local forest history.

Content that is Discouraged

- In general, articles about policy don't fit well in *The Bark*, because policy issues are generally too complex to be laid out accurately and completely in the one or two pages expected for a *Quarterly Bark* article. This doesn't mean that policy isn't important; it just means that *The Bark* is not the best place for a policy debate.
- Articles about state-wide, regional or national issues that are likely to be covered by organizations at these levels.

From Ashes to Action

Get ready for fall burning and beyond

Margaret Miller

Forest Landowner Education Manager | OFRI

As the leaves start to fall and Oregon's wildfire season fades, it's already time to think ahead to next year's fire season. A proactive approach is crucial to protecting your woodlands, and while fires may be winding down, there's still plenty to do to ensure your property is ready for what's next.

With the arrival of cooler weather, now is the perfect time to start gearing up for fall pile burning. Pile burning is an essential tool for many landowners to manage woody debris, but it's important to understand the requirements and regulations that come with it.

For those planning to conduct forestry slash burning on land where the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) provides fire protection, a burn permit issued by ODF is required. Here are the steps you need to take before, during and after a fall burn:

1. **Registering your burn.** At least seven days before you burn, landowners must register their burns and pay any required registration fees. Information needed for registration includes the name of the landowner, location and size of the burn unit, type of burn, fuel loading and reason for the burn. Please work with your local ODF office to register your burn!
2. **Planning/notifying about your burn.** Once the burn registration and written plan are complete, the burn unit can be planned. The landowner or burn boss may call and notify the local forestry office up to the morning of the desired burn day. The burn boss must provide the district with specific information about the unit, such as location, method of burning, fuel-loading tonnages and ignition time. Usually, final approval of the burn will not be given until after 2:30 p.m. the day before the desired burn date, when ODF will have issued the smoke management forecast and instructions.
3. **Following all ODF guidelines.** During the burn, you must adhere to all ODF guidelines, which include managing the fire to prevent escape, monitoring weather conditions and having fire suppression equipment on hand.
4. **Post-burn reporting.** Within 24 hours after the burn is complete, you must report the burn accomplishments to ODF, including how the burn was conducted and its outcomes (amount burned). This information is used to determine your final burn fees and to track compliance with the ODF smoke management program.

For more information on obtaining a slash burning permit and other fire season preparation resources, visit the [ODF Burning & Smoke Management](#) webpage.

For those landowners whose properties are not located within the ODF protection boundary, any slash burning is likely going to fall under the jurisdiction of the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's open burn program and will be required to adhere to all state and local open burn restrictions and ordinances. Please note that not all burning is classified as "slash burning"; your burning needs may fall into the category of "domestic open burning," aka yard debris burning, which may have fewer restrictions. Learn more by visiting the [Can I Burn? Mapping Tool](#).

It's always important to contact your local fire agency to determine the specific regulations that apply to your area. Visit the [Oregon State Fire Marshal - Fire Agency Contact Information](#) page for more details about who to contact.

While prescribed burning is a common fuels reduction method, it's not the only option available. For those who live in areas with burn restrictions (near population centers, for example), alternatives such as mastication or contracting with an air curtain incinerator operator offer effective ways to manage woody debris without producing excessive smoke or raising air quality concerns. These methods allow you to adhere to local regulations that restrict burning to maintain healthy air quality in nearby communities while also effectively reducing the fire hazard on your property.

To explore these options in more detail, mark your calendar for Wednesday, October 9, when Oregon State University, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, the Oregon Small Woodlands Association, ODF and the Oregon Forest Resources Institute will host a forestry demonstration in Benton County near Corvallis. The event, titled [Alternative Approaches to Woody Residue Management](#), will showcase the use of both a masticator and an air curtain incinerator to reduce fire fuel on forestland, providing landowners with practical insights on managing woody debris, especially in areas where traditional burning isn't feasible.

For more information about reducing fire hazards on your property, visit the Partnership for Forestry Education's [KnowYourForest.org](#) website.

As always, if you have feedback or need anything, please feel free to reach out to me directly at miller@ofri.org.

And stay tuned for our *Quarterly Bark* updates, which will continue to bring you the latest in educational opportunities and resources designed to assist you with your forest management goals.

Here's to growing our knowledge as we grow (and protect) our forests!

Thinking about Wildfire and Wildlife

Fran Cafferata and Julie Woodward

With nearly 1.5 million acres burned or on fire in Oregon as of mid-August, it's hard not to be thinking only about wildfire. For those affected directly by the fires, there is so much to process — not only emotionally, but also in terms of what to do next.

One step that may be overlooked as you evaluate how to respond is considering how fire affects wildlife and the natural role wildfire plays in our region's forested ecosystems. Woodland Fish and Wildlife published [My Forest Burned: Now What?](#) in 2019 to offer guidance for forest landowners on restoring their land after a wildfire in a way that emphasizes the wildlife habitat a recently burned landscape can provide.

Wildlife have adapted in many ways to deal with fire. Some fire effects are direct and lethal, particularly for species with low mobility. Some species are able to escape by burrowing underground or by leaving the area. Deer and elk can often run out of harm's way, and many birds fly away from the flames.

After a fire, forest habitats are significantly altered. For instance, a crown fire can cause massive tree mortality, displacing species dependent on green crowns and cone crops. However, the burned habitat typically recovers quickly and returns to early seral habitat that benefits species such as bluebirds, flickers and deer.

More open, drier forest stands often come through a fire with high survival of overstory trees, if the trees are mature enough, fuel loadings low enough and the fire not too hot. These types of stands are resilient to low-intensity fire, and the basic habitats can remain largely unchanged through low-intensity fire events.

If you're among the many who have found themselves in the footprint of a recent fire, you may be wondering what to do and where to start. Landowners may have many recovery objectives, including reforestation, erosion control and the management of invasive species.

A first step that can be helpful is to visit your property after it's safe to do so. Fire can be very unpredictable,

and your property may not have been affected in the same way as your neighbor's. How intense was the fire? Was the soil scorched? How many of your overstory trees survived? What actions can you take now? Woodland Fish and Wildlife recommends taking the following steps:

- ✓ Evaluate the soil and determine if erosion control is needed.
- ✓ Evaluate the need for invasive plant prevention or control.
- ✓ Evaluate if salvage logging is appropriate.
- ✓ Evaluate reforestation efforts.

There are actions for wildlife within each of these topics, and we hope as you consider what needs to be done after a catastrophic fire, you'll also ask yourself what you can do to help wildlife recover. Here are some actions you can take:

- ✓ Leave groups of snags during any salvage operations. Groups of eight to 10 are recommended for stands with complete mortality.



Mountain Bluebird, a snag dependent species. Photo by Gregg Thompson.

- ✓ Consolidate leave trees in areas where falling trees aren't a concern.
- ✓ Leave down wood (especially large pieces) during salvage efforts.
- ✓ Reforest with native, fire-resistant trees.
- ✓ Plant seedlings with uneven densities to promote future gaps in trees, which are great for wildlife.
- ✓ Seed with native grasses or a wildlife-friendly forage mix.

An unexpected wildfire can and does produce significant changes to forest conditions and profound emotional shock for woodland owners. Be assured: your land will provide renewed wildlife habitat and biodiversity, and it will regenerate a new forest rapidly. There are many resources available to you as you move forward. To learn more about steps to take for wildlife after a wildfire, check out Woodland Fish and Wildlife's *My Forest Burned: Now What?* publication, which is available for free [by clicking here](#).

If you are a landowner not recently impacted by fires, but perhaps just interested in fire awareness, prevention and mitigation, check out the numerous resources and develop a plan. OFRI offers the publication, *Living with Fire*, available for free download or order at: OregonForests.org

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

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



Oregon Forest
Resources Institute



Woodland
Fish & Wildlife

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

The Committee for Family Forestlands



OSWA members serving on the CFF:

Dave Bugni

NW Oregon

Gary Jensen

SW Oregon

Maurizio Valerio

Eastern Oregon

Kate McMichael

at large

The 2025 meeting schedule
will be posted in the January
edition of *The Quarterly Bark*

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

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



On September 5, members of the CFF presented their annual report to the Board of Forestry. The [Board Meeting](#) was recorded and can be watched on the ODF YouTube Channel. The CFF presentation was agenda item 15 and begins at 03:15:20. Dave Bugni was unable to attend in person, but provided a letter that was read as part of the presentation; Gary Jensen & Kate McMichael spoke.

Celebrating Forest products!



In 1960 President Dwight D. Eisenhower, through [Proclamation 3371](#), designated the third week of October as National Forest Products Week. It has been proclaimed anew every year since then.

How will YOU celebrate forests and forest products month this October?

2024 Annual Members Meeting

An Information Celebration!

Saturday, November 16 | 9am-2pm

the Oregon Garden



Register at OTFS2024AnnualMeeting.eventbrite.com

\$25/person | registration closes Nov 8

Northwest Hardwoods is providing 35,000 red alder seedlings to small woodland owners in western Washington and western Oregon. Seedling requests will be open until all 35,000 are spoken for. Seedlings will be available for pick up at our NWH mill locations in Eugene, Longview, and Centralia in March of 2025. More info to come—please share with anyone who might be interested!



[Request Seedlings](#)



Oregon State University
Extension Service

Emerald Ash Borer Workshop for Small Farm & Woodland Owners

Wednesday, October 2nd
10am- Noon

Philomath, Or



An introduction to Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) biology and the impacts of EAB in the Willamette Valley, as well as how to identify the signs and symptoms of EAB in Oregon Ash trees.



RSVP:
<https://beav.es/psh>

**Space is limited, RSVP Required*



Oregon State University
Extension Service

Basic Forestry Shortcourse

*Ideal for anyone
starting out taking care
of a woodland property,
or those who would
benefit from a refresher.*

Thursdays in October

10th, 17th, 24th, 31st

10am-12:30pm

Stayton, Oregon

Field Day: Saturday,
October 26th, 9am - 3pm

Cost: \$40 (\$50 per
family)

Register:

<https://beav.es/bfs24>





ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES TO WOODY RESIDUE MANAGEMENT

Wednesday, October 9th
9:30am-2:00pm
Corvallis, OR

Join us for a field tour of a suburban forestland parcel undergoing fire risk reduction and habitat restoration to explore alternative approaches for managing woody debris. We will have demonstrations of mastication and an air curtain incinerator (ACI) as well as presentations and discussion. Topics include: fire risk reduction, invasive insect sanitation, cost-share options, biochar production, smoke management, and protecting public health.



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



ALM
Advanced Land Management



Details and RSVP Here: <https://beav.es/pn9>



Benton County Chapter News

Showing Up

Diana Blakney

In the past, I have walked confidently into rooms where my position, education, and experience made me a focus of attention. I wielded power. My words had significance. People listened.

You are entitled to be credulous. You have likely only seen me in a woodland environment struggling to remember relevant acronyms, the names of shade tolerant trees, the reasons Oregon white oak is precious, and the reasons scotch broom is not.

When I retired and moved to be near the family timber farm, I ceased striding confidently into conference rooms. Instead, I slipped quietly into forests in the company of folks whose knowledge and experience so exceeded my own that I felt privileged to be able to listen to them talk.

Which brings me to the point of this essay. I joined OSWA when I knew very little about being a small woodland owner and had virtually nothing to contribute but my dues. After joining, all I did was simply show up. I showed up at tours, meetings, and lectures. I listened to members talk about concerns that didn't affect my woods and concerns that did. I heard members talk about the special challenges their land offered and how those challenges impacted their planning and their goals. I observed plots where members experimented with new plantings, different ways to control invasive species, and methods of attracting or enhancing wildlife. I toured property devoted to sustainable income generating practices, and property devoted to establishing diversity with no regard for present or future income. I have yet to see it all, but I'm well on my way to becoming conversant in this new language. And all I've had to do was show up.



2024 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

Benton County OTFY tour a success!

By Rich Clark

On a pleasant September day, approximately 50 people attended Benton County's Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year tour, with Rich Clark & Robin Moxley as hosts. Members of the Alsea Valley community and Mary's Peak Stewardship Guild also attended, as part of the Neighbor-to-Neighbor tour effort.

The previous owner, Greg Vollmer, long-time Benton County SWA member and board member, was present. Greg and his wife, Barbara, had owned the property from 1982 until last year.

The group socialized with coffee & tea from Little Heifer Coffee Company, an Alsea mobile coffee house run out of a horse trailer. President Diana Blakney welcomed the crowd with opening remarks.

Diana presented Rich & Robin with a sign recognizing them as Benton County 2024 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year.



Diana Blakney, President presents Rich & Robin with the Benton County Chapter OTFY sign

Attendees were given an outstanding workshop on understanding the new Private Forest Accord rules. Cliff Barnhart and Joe Koch led a workshop to visually demonstrate the sizes of the different RMA setbacks, as well as to estimate the financial impact of the different

RMA options--the Small Forestland Owner (SFO) and the Standard options.

Cliff is a Managing Partner of Stuntzner Engineering & Forestry and consulting forester from Stuntzner Engineering & Forestry. Joe is the ODF Small Forest Landowner Stewardship Forester for the Western Oregon District (which includes Benton County).



Joe Koch (left) and Cliff Barnhart lead a workshop on understanding the new Private Forest Accord rules

Some of the important points covered include:

- Current culvert and new rules require much larger replacement
- Must submit road assessment with Notification of Operations (NOAP)
- Buffer measurement now relates to the stream-associated wetland area, not the center of stream (at the Clark property, this added 50' to the buffer width at times)
- Tax credit for leaving small forest landowner buffer trees requires an adjacent clear cut. An operation nearby but not adjacent does not qualify the area for tax credits.

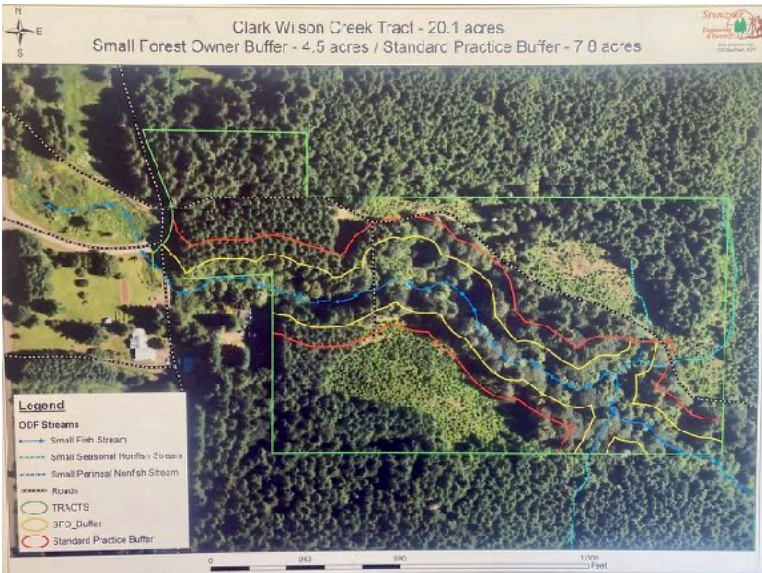
We discussed whether the stand area beside the gathering area should be thinned based on stand conditions. They flagged a tree to discuss its live crown and boring core.

The results were as follows:

- Healthy crowns
- Lack of growth ring compression in core sample
- Significant amount of sunlight still reaching the ground

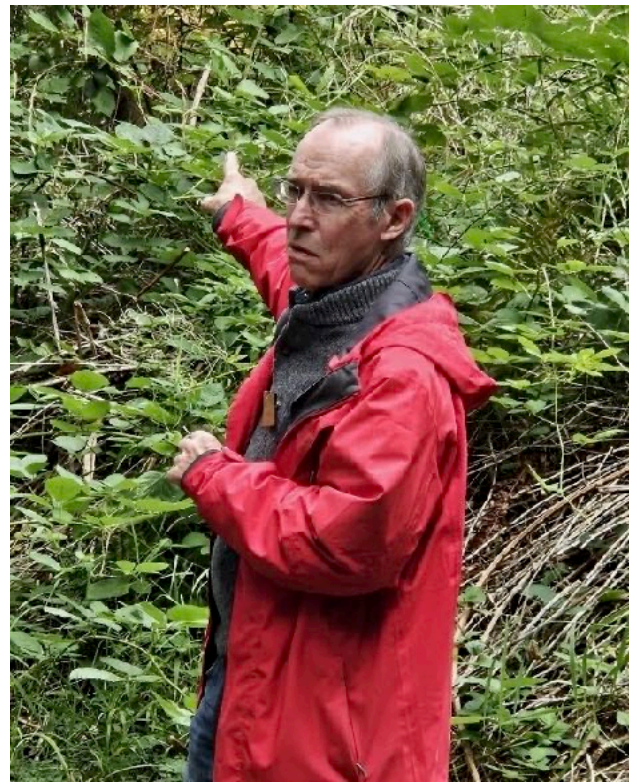
The consensus was to allow the area to grow and thin later to maximize stand growth.

The property has a small fish (Type F) stream and several non-fish seasonal (Type Np) streams. Using the standard option results in 39% of the property lying within the riparian management area.



Property map demonstrating roads, streams, RMA boundaries for Standard and SFO buffer options
Prepared by Cliff Barnhart, Stuntzner Engineering & Forestry

Dave Hibbs & Rich took the group to a seep area on a slope, where Douglas-fir trees had done poorly, but the blackberry had flourished. Dave guided the group with his ability to 'read the forest', based on the species present, and their ability to thrive on the wet site, and other factors. Greg Vollmer pointed out the location of a spring that had been certified by Benton County for domestic use, to Rich and Robin's delight.



Dave Hibbs, *professor extraordinaire*, shares his knowledge of western Oregon forests

Rich and Robin had done test plantings in February of several native species, including Willamette Valley ponderosa pine, incense cedar, Douglas spirea, and grand fir (all successes thus far). Other suggestions included willow (cuttings), cascara, Oregon crabapple, white alder, and Pacific ninebark.

Reed canarygrass, false-brome, English ivy, English holly, and false-brome were identified, and bad words were said about them.

The group then moved to the stream crossing, where a fish-friendly culvert had been placed in preparation for a previous harvest operation. The stream had previously been the site of several beaver dams, which were washed out in the flood of '96. There is a mature, wide RMA, with large bigleaf maple, aging red alder, and a variety of native shrubs and hardwood and conifer trees, as well as a Reed canarygrass invasion.

There was a lively discussion about different management approaches, within the management goals of maintaining water quality and providing aquatic habitat and functions such as shade, large wood, and nutrients. Dave pointed out the importance of

streamside hardwoods in providing insect and fish food sources, as well as habitat.

One suggestion was to re-introduce beaver, which would create fish habitat, as well as a potential water source for fires.

Rich & Robin plan to create 'horizontal diversity' in the RMA adjacent to the stream. This will be accomplished by thinning overgrown understory, then planting shrubs and trees, both hardwood and conifer. The goal is to achieve an RMA that is composed of multi-aged trees of appropriate and varied density, and native tree species well-suited to the site, a mature understory, snags, and downed wood.

The group also viewed a robust 9-year-old Douglas-fir stand, and learned about the mysterious coyote bush (*Baccharis pilularis*).

Everyone enjoyed a nice lunch, with good food, smiles, and lively conversation in abundance.



Jane Brandenburg, Treasurer (*left*), Karen Fleck-Harding, and Diana Blakney, President enjoy a day in the woods

A brief memorial service was held for two Alsea men who had recently died as a result of logging accidents, Don Lindberg and Ethan Cantrell.



Memorial

The group dispersed, having enjoyed the education from the tour, and with appreciation for being out in the woods for a day.

Benton Small Woodlands Tour

Pat and Betty Malone's Sunrise Tree Farm

By Sarah Edwardsson

On Saturday, July 13, A group of about 16 people gathered at Pat and Betty Malone's Sunrise Tree Farm for a tour of their timber planting. It was a beautiful morning and attendees were greeted with coffee and fresh scones baked by granddaughters Viv and Gillian.



Pat and Betty started Sunrise Tree Farm in 1975 by planting Christmas trees. They have a few Christmas trees left, and have been planting timber since the mid 1990's.

Our first stop was a young oak plantation. Betty told us about the hundreds of acorns planted, three to each space. They plant in the fall, and have found that planting acorns is easier and cheaper than planting seedlings. They also spot spray in the spring before planting and then around the seedling to reduce competition. After a year or two the least vigorous oak seedlings will be thinned out.

As to their choice of what to plant where, Betty stated "respect what the ground will grow" and that prompted more discussion of the needs of various species of trees on their land.

Dave Hibbs gave us a refresher on oak biology. The acorn germinates in the fall and spends the winter and early spring sending down a taproot. You won't see much above ground growth for a couple years. This is what helps make the oak a sturdy and resilient tree in our environment.

From there we advanced to an area of 25 year old Ponderosa pine that started off as a Christmas tree plantation. The Malones found after two Christmas tree

rotations that this was not the most successful crop, so they planted ponderosa pine. Rick Fletcher led a discussion of how there is a specific landrace of Ponderosa pine that we call "Valley pine" and it is the most tolerant species of wet and dry extremes. Unfortunately, there is not a strong market for the wood, but it could play a role in capturing carbon credits. Pat talked about how they mill for their own use. Betty mentioned the work she had done with an OSU marketing class to come up with a competition to find new markets for thinned, small diameter trees. Also, the Ponderosa Pine Association in encouraging research on small stands to find growth curve data.

Discussion about choosing your tree varieties – ask seed source when you buy seedlings. It is critically important to choose the correct variety for your conditions and your purpose. When planting Douglas fir, they used a 11' spacing. Planting in the fall proved to be much more successful. Even though Douglas fir can be used for timber and for Christmas trees, they are not the same genetic stock. Be sure to get the one you want as the growth habits and appearance are different.

The Malones are thinning out squirrel-damaged trees first.

Secrets in the oak trees – Betty had prepared a display that included stories and the importance of bearing trees in early surveying. There was also a very interesting cross-section of oak that showed the tree began to grow in 1724.



Malones have taken advantage of NRCS cost sharing programs for their oak restoration. Trout Mountain was their consulting forester. Discussed suitability of soils for various tree species. Management of oak understory can be done by grazing, mowing, or burning. Mowing is what they have done, which allows a trail system for accessibility and being able to enjoy more of the property. After clearing/mowing it was interesting to see what understory plants emerged. We talked about the value of plant communities versus monocultures, and the importance of varied spacings and ages within a stand both for wildlife and for fire resistance.



There was some discussion of Ips beetle and how to watch for it on Ponderosa pines.

We were also treated to a visit to a monitoring station that was placed on the Malone's tree farm by the Plate Boundary Observatory, (PBO) to measure tectonic plate movement. PBO is a component of the NSF EarthScope program to precisely measure Earth deformation resulting from the constant motion of the Pacific, North American, and Juan de Fuca tectonic plates in the western United States. To learn more:

<https://www.unavco.org/instrumentation/networks/status/nota/overview/P375>

We wish to thank the Pat and Betty and granddaughters Gillian and Viv for an exceptional tour and scones, and for their gracious hospitality.





Pictured in the photo is Treasurer Jane Brandenburg presenting our \$300 check to Deputy Sheriff Williams.

If individuals need to contact the Forest Patrol, or want to make individual contributions to the department:

Benton County Sheriffs Office
 Forest Patrol
 180 NW 5th Street,
 Corvallis OR 97330
 541-766-6858

Benton Chapter Picnic and Sheriff's Contribution

By Sarah Edwardsson

The Benton chapter has a long history of supporting the Benton County Sheriff's Forest Patrol. At this summer's picnic, we invited Deputy Sheriff Jerry Williams to explain the roles and activities that this department manages. It was interesting to learn the scope of their duties, considering the lean staffing and budget they work with. Deputy Williams told us about their training, their equipment and capabilities, and some of the various situations they encounter. Members had lots of questions and came away with a deeper appreciation of the work they do, so much of which is behind the scenes. Sheriff Williams shared his contact information and encouraged members to report unusual activity.

**BENTON
 SMALL WOODLANDS
 ASSOCIATION**

MEMBERSHIP GATHERING

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2024
 BEGINNING AT 5:30 PM
 at spectacular PATRICK HALL***

come at 4 if you'd like to attend the Board meeting

***Patrick Lumber Co.
 33415 Noon Rd
 Philomath**

**There will be snacks & tasty treats
 PLUS**

**a presentation on Oregon's Statewide Wildfire
 Hazard Map by Shannon Murray, Director of
 Strategic Initiatives, OSU College of Forestry**

<https://hazardmap.forestry.oregonstate.edu/>

**Questions?
 Diana Blakney
 (541) 230-1248
 Blakney1@comcast.net**

Lane County Chapter News

Our Forest Literacy Journey

Theresa Hausser

There are so, so many times when having a partner in the whole of life makes life, well, a whole lot more fun and a whole lot more livable. One of those times is when said partner has a reflection to share right when the Quarterly Bark needs one. Thanks, partner!

As a nice group of us* gathered at John Dugan's 26 acre property in Cottage Grove for his Lane County TFOY tour (congratulations to John and the Dugan family!), I couldn't help but reflect back on the long, strange 5 year trip** Kate and I have been on that brought us to this morning, with these people, at this carefully, thoughtfully managed woodland.

We came to woodland ownership pretty much as caricatures of forest illiterate wilderness lovers. Our hearts hurt for the dead trees in logging trucks. (Having a post-and-beam house being built was intellectually and emotionally awkward.) We literally did not see the seedlings in roadside clearcuts. We knew a few things for sure: we were going to love every one of our trees; we were going to happily tend our little corner of the planet; we weren't going to join groups and do things; and, burned out on the effects of politics on our lives, we were going to stay as far removed from any political involvement as possible. Thank goodness we'd purchased a piece of heaven and didn't have to worry about politics!

So many jokes can be inserted here. Our lives might only be, say, 170 degrees from what we anticipated, rather than 180 degrees, because we still love every one of our trees, but our lives are not at all what we envisioned. As Kate said in a Chronicle piece a year ago, they're better. And the woodland owner community has been a big part of midwifing these better lives.

Forest illiterate we may have been, but it didn't take us long to realize we should probably learn something about forests, and forester/realtor Fred Sperry set us on the right track with an OSWA membership and encouragement to look into Extension. Classes, events, tours, and the COVID opportunity to take all kinds of classes and join all kinds of groups and events without having to leave our house were a godsend for us.



Lane County Board of Directors

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



A few of the things that had enormous impact for us were the reliance on science in considering forest management and how to manage for healthy forests (a complex term, I know. Now.); the emphasis on management depending on our objectives, not someone else's abstract vision either of Eden or log trucks full of money; and the way woodland owners spoke about their woodlands. We hadn't thought we'd have that much in common with most woodland owners, especially since we weren't really keen on harvesting any of our stands. It didn't take many conversations with woodland owners to find that even owners who harvested loved their trees and their land. We weren't unique.

Nor is our "awakening" unique. A Master Woodland Manager classmate shared that prior to the class they'd been a little anxious about the perspectives we'd be exposed to: would maximizing profit through harvesting be the primary goal of all these other woodland owners? They were pleased to get to know, from classmates as well as site visit hosts, that all of these woodland owners and managers love and respect and carefully and thoughtfully steward their land, and management activities always have a purpose.

If woodland owners had presented as people looking to make a quick buck (I know: hilarious, right?) and hadn't cared about the health of their woodlands, all of the outstanding education on forest management would have been critically undermined. Woodland owners are a key component of the health of Oregon's forests, not just in how we manage our own lands but in how our stewardship lays bare the ridiculousness of some of the negative claims and assumptions about us and our forest practices. Travis Joseph of AFRC at the 2022 Family Forest Convention pushed us to tell our stories because if we don't tell our stories, someone else will. At the 2023 Family Forest Convention, Jim Merzenich said that all the county TFOY entrants have a story to tell. It's vital that those stories be told. All the ad campaigns in the world (and thanks to OFIC and Keep Oregon Green and KEZI and OWIT and others, we have some great ad campaigns) ring hollow if woodland owners aren't doing the right things by their woodlands. And those are the stories we all have: of our objectives for our woodlands; the choices we make, understanding the trade-offs inherent in those choices; the literal blood, sweat, and tears that are part and parcel of management activities; the payout in sunrises and sunsets, wildlife sightings and rain and mud and snow and choking dust and invasive vegetation that wants to kill us and our trees, as we wait those decades for a closed canopy, a stand ready for thinning, the habitat we'd been planning for, a harvest payout. Those stories matter.

And that's how Kate and I came to be leaving our house at zero dark thirty to join other woodland owners in celebrating John Dugan and his family and their care for their woodland. Because even to people who showed up forest illiterate, the care for woodlands exemplified by small woodland owners was easy to read.

*Really, you won't find a nicer group of people anywhere.

**All respect, but the Grateful Dead don't have anything on woodland owners when it comes to long, strange trips.

Upcoming Events

RECAP

October 2

Celebrate the opening of the new Extension office in Florence!
5:30-7:30pm at Lane Community College-Florence Campus

October 3

Board meeting at the East Lane/South Cascades ODF office (3150 Main Street) in Springfield, beginning at 2:00pm.

October 4

Upper Willamette Soil & Water Conservation District Celebration
5:30-7:30pm at Dorris Ranch

October 7

Forest Products Month kick-off in celebration of forestry education in Lane County
4:30-6:30pm at PublicHouse in Springfield

October 17

Succession Planning: An Evening with Clint Bentz
7:00-8:30pm at Eugene Extension Office

November 2

1-4pm

October 17

9:30am-12:30pm
Ties to the Land in-person workshops at Eugene Extension Office

February 1

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

note: flyers and registration info where needed is included on the following pages

An Evening in the Woods

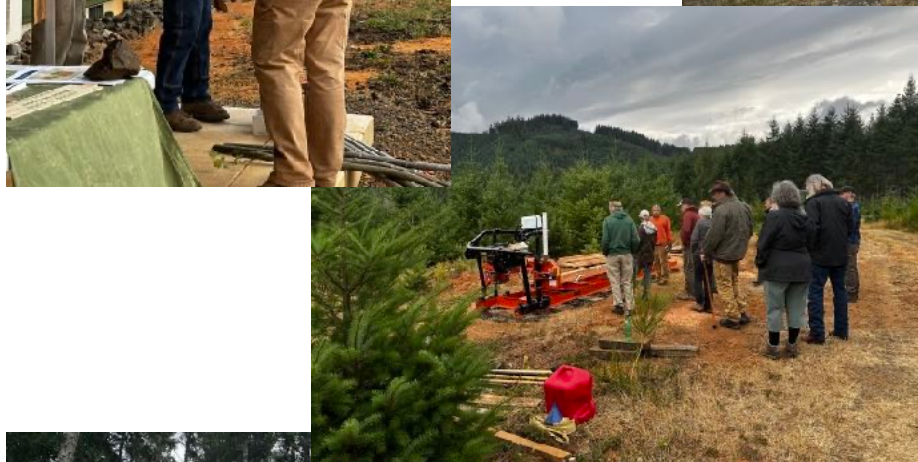
A woodlands walk and dessert potluck at Malcolm Wilson & Mary Jaeger's lovely Noti home & woodland

Jointly sponsored by OSU Lane FNR Extension and Lane Small Woodlands—with help from OTFS as well—this second “tailgate tour” of the season was a lovely way to spend a summer evening.

Malcolm and Mary graciously welcomed us to their home and shared the story of the property—including lovely maple floors hand-milled by Malcolm. After this introduction, Malcolm led a short hike through the property along a well-maintained trail, which was just steep enough to sharpen appetites for the yummy array of desserts that followed. Conversations were varied and lasted well after the scheduled time for the tour, testimony to the quality of the company, the food and the warm welcome provided by Mary and Malcolm.



A moment of additional celebration came with the presentation to Sue Zeni, our 2023 Tree Farmer of the Year and runner up for 2024 Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year, of her commemorative clock.



Celebrating our 2024 Tree Farmer of the Year: John Dugan

Property Tour in Cottage Grove

Although he wryly laughs when referring to his tree farm as the “Dugan Lane Blackberry and Stump Ranch,” John’s history with the property (purchased by his grandparents in 1921 for \$10!) is a far from a laughing matter. His attachment to the land is in his bones, having grown up there—and his attention to detail is evident when walking with him. John knows every step, every acre of his woodland: which tree species have survived, which have not, what he’s tried instead—and why. He is a tireless experimenter and hands-on steward. From Douglas-Fir to Willamette Valley Ponderosa, oak to redwood, cedar to sequoia, afforestation to ice storm damage, the 26 acres we explored with John and his sons had a bit of everything. And the late summer heat even held off until we were all back under shade for lunch. All in all, it was a great day with a great family.



The tour also marked the “unveiling” of our new Lane County Tree Farmer of the Year signs. We have signs for our county TFOYs from 2014 to the present. We plan to present them at our 2025 Annual Meeting.





**WEDNESDAY,
OCTOBER 2**

5:30 - 7 P.M.

Free to Attend

Lane Community College
Florence Campus
3149 Oak St.
North Bldg, Rooms 162 & 159

Join us in celebrating the
opening of our new office in
Florence!

Stop by for light
refreshments and chat with
local Lane County Extension
representatives about our
exciting new programming
in the Siuslaw region!

OSU Extension Service prohibits discrimination in all its
programs, services, activities and materials.
Accommodation requests related to a disability should be made
by September 19 to Lane County Extension, 541-344-5859,
Lane.Extension@oregonstate.edu.



**Oregon State University
Extension Service**



**UPPER WILLAMETTE
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

District Celebration!

Please join us to celebrate our
partners and community on:

**Friday October 4th
5:30 to 7:30pm
at Dorris Ranch**

Enjoy delicious refreshments from
Grassy Cow Catering, music from
Marty Chilla and Ron McCrae, and
learn about grassroots conservation
efforts right here in Lane County.

www.UWSWCD.org



Photos CC by Rick Olson

interested **IN LEARNING MORE
ABOUT
FORESTS
FOREST PRODUCTS
AND FORESTRY EDUCATION
in Lane County**

then join us!
October 7 | 4:30-6:30pm
PublicHouse | 418 A St #4606 | Springfield

Drop in, grab a beverage, learn more about Forest Products Month, local groups who
are passionate about forests, and educational opportunities for learners of all ages.
(Look for the table of obviously fun women measuring out matchsticks.)

Planning for the Future of your Small Woodland

an evening with

Clintz Bentz

Clint Bentz Consulting, LLC

Join with other small woodland owners to discuss the value, complexities, whys & wherefores of successful succession planning. Come with your questions. Leave with a roadmap to providing for the future of your forestland.

Thursday

October 17 | 7:00-8:30pm

OSU Extension | 996 Jefferson Street | Eugene

There is no charge for this event, but please register in advance:
lanesmallwoodlands.org/mark-your-calendar



Oregon State University
Extension Service
Forestry & Natural Resources



TIES TO THE LAND

Helping you through the social, financial and legal aspects of succession

A workshop series for small landowners considering how to pass on their land or associated business. The series includes two in-person classes and four optional Lunch & Learn Webinars.

Whether you own a farm, forest or rangeland, you care about your property and what happens to it. That's why you need a succession plan to help guide its transition to future owners.

\$50 per family
Register online at
<https://beav.es/pru>

Roseburg in-person workshops

November 1, 10 am – 2 pm

January 10, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

Eugene in-person workshops

November 2, 1 pm – 4:30 pm

January 11, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

For more information, contact Carrie Mack at
(541) 237-6808 or carrie.mack@oregonstate.edu



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Extension Service

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Locust grove that won't give up

By Dan Kintigh

When my father purchased our farm it had a small grove of locust trees that grew along the creek that were planted by the pioneers.

In 1964 on Columbus Day the storm blew over trees that then had branches turn up and grow into large trees.

There is an area of grass in the middle of the grove and is surrounded by seating which includes a large cedar bench made from two cedar stumps and two large planks. My father had the stumps dragged in from the woods and the planks custom milled.

It is a quiet place. The birds sing, the sun filters through the leaves, a stream flows nearby. The trees seem to whisper to you.

The locust trees provide a cool calming shade and they seem to invite you to stay and relax and reflect. It's no wonder that my father loved this place.

Unfortunately, the ice storm of 2024 knocked most of the grove down again. I twisted some of the logs around over to the creek and will now let them sprout and grow from the stumps and logs.



The process of triggering locust to sprout from seed is very unique . The seed is poured into nearly boiling water which makes it swell and then in a few days it germinates. I struggled with this concept of pouring seed in the scalding, hot water. Normally, that would kill any life that was in a seed.

Photo of seedling grown in our new air tray technology which makes a superior root system. These will be donated to February's LCSWA annual seedling sale.



Lincoln County Chapter News

What do you think?

Joe Steere



Is this the largest coastal redwood in Lincoln County Oregon?

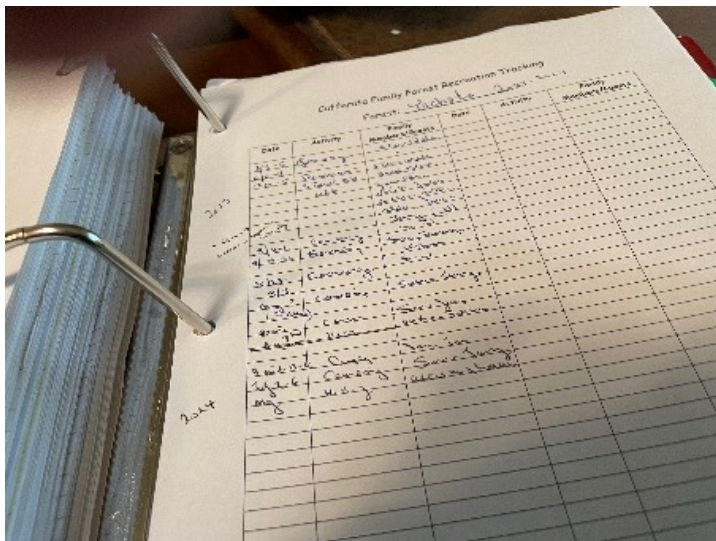
Recreation Tracking on Our Yachats Forest

Wylde Cafferata



We own and manage 120 forested acres just north of Yachats, and are certified by the Oregon Tree Farm System. Our management plan lists our five goals for the forest: Sustainable Management; Wildlife Habitat; Family Business; Family Recreation, and our own Mental and Physical Health. In our plan, we have routinely tracked our sustainable forestry activities such as thinning, pruning, herbicide use on invasive species and so forth. We keep lists of the wildlife we see and note activities that provide enhanced habitat, such as nest boxes and bio-dens. Of course we keep business records, and track hours spent working on the forest. However, recently one of our sons asked us why we didn't track Recreation. Did we consider it unimportant?

Recreation is important! Family picnics, hikes, camp-outs, wreath-making parties bring us all great joy, but disappear in the mists of time. That doesn't have to be so. We can keep records of them in our management plan, so that we remember, and that future generations of us can page through the plan and note that on such and such a date their great grandparents enjoyed the same sorts of recreation they are enjoying.



So now we track Recreation in our management plan along with the other records we keep. It was easy to create a tracking chart. Remembering to keep it up-to-date is more problematic, but preserving memories is well worth the effort!

Linn County Chapter News

Various forest management styles all play a role in Oregon forests

By Mike Barsotti | LCSWA president

During the past few weeks I've come across several different forest management strategies that gave me pause. It got me thinking about the impacts these different management strategies have on our forests and Oregon.

Four different management strategies I've heard about this past month include our Linn County chapter current Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year are Steve and Katie Kohl. They are managing their forest for old-growth characteristics.

At OSWA's tour on Sept. 10 of Roy and Mary Beyer's Central Oregon forest, we saw how Roy, a graduate forester and logger has been actively logging the property for more than 20 years.

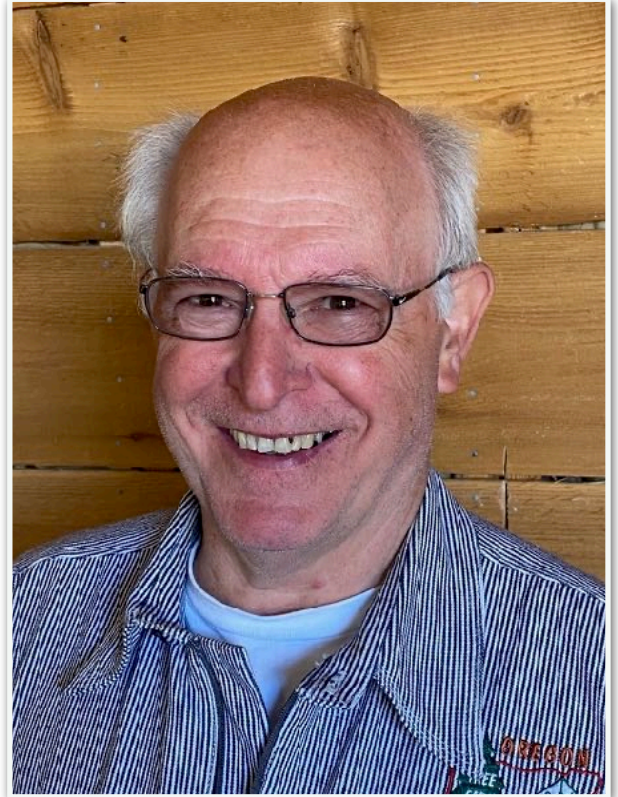
The Forest Service in Central Oregon thins and uses prescribed fire through dense Ponderosa pine stands to limit catastrophic wildfires.

And finally, at OSWA's annual meeting we learned a bit about timber harvest by ownership categories. We are all aware of the short rotations some of the large forest landowners use in managing their lands.

Some results from these different management strategies include the Kohls capturing carbon as they manage for an old-growth forest. The Beyer management strategy is improving the forest's health and ability to withstand wild fire. Their forest was high-graded before the Beyers purchased it in the 1990s.

The Forest Service's focus on reducing the threat of large wildfire apparently played an important role in saving Sunriver. My wife and I were staying there when we got a level 2 evacuation notice. At a briefing hosted by the Bachelor Butte Incident Management Team, it was noted that the Forest Service's thinning allowed them to stop the fire about four miles from the Sunriver Resort.

And with regard to timber companies using short rotations, we heard at OSWA's annual meeting that, while these industrial



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

forests make up 20-some percent of Oregon's forest, they provide 60-plus percent of the harvested timber. I hear that at both the state and federal levels, part of the solution to affordable housing and homelessness is building a lot more houses. Well, without the forest industry, where will we get the needed wood to build these houses?

John Breese, a long time OSWA and Oregon Tree Farm member summed it up best for me at this year's OSWA annual meeting. He said it is amazing how we all with our own unique management strategies provide Oregon such an effective forest sector.

Linn County upcoming events

LCSWA board meeting

Thursday December 5, 4 - 6 p.m.
at the Tangent office of OSU Extension Service
All members invited.

LCSWA Annual Meeting & Potluck Dinner

Saturday January 18, 2025 from noon - 4 pm
at Z Hall, Main Street, Scio
Door prizes, a business meeting, auctions and awards are part of the day.

30th Annual Linn County Small Woodlands Association Seedling Sale

Saturday February 15, 2025
at the Linn County Expo in Albany.
Volunteer seedling packaging is February 13 & 14.



Pre-orders for 2025 seedling sale to begin Dec. 9

Conifers will come as plugs; more plants beneficial to pollinators will be offered

By Lena Tucker| LCSWA Seedling Sale Chairperson

Linn County Small Woodlands Association (LCSWA) will host its 30th annual tree and shrub seedling sale on Feb. 15, 2025 from 8 a.m. to noon at the Linn County Fair and Expo Center in Albany.

Pre-orders can be placed online at the LCSWA seedling shop beginning Dec. 9. Watch our LCSWA website <https://linncountyswa.com/> for more details on when and how to place your pre-order. All pre-orders must be picked up on Feb. 15 between 8 to 11 a.m. at the Expo Center.

The online store ordering process is straightforward. Once you enter the seedling sale site, simply click on the category of seedlings you are looking for (conifers, deciduous trees, shrubs, flowers, native plants). You will get pictures and descriptions of all the plants offered. Click on the plant picture to display the plant info, see the stock availability, and then choose how many for your order and add to your cart.

Once you have made your choices, you can click on the View Cart button to see a summary of your order. You can make final edits to your order before you proceed to check out. Once you check out, you will need to enter your name, address, phone number and e-mail for contact information.

Establishing an account will allow customers to go back and review orders after they are submitted. Your information will only be used by LCSWA. It will not be shared. The online store will accept major credit cards and debit cards in a secure transaction. You will get an itemized receipt from LCSWA in your e-mail.

Sometimes nurseries have unexpected problems with their plants and are not able to provide all or part of what was ordered. They may occasionally be able to substitute a different size. If a nursery cancels an order prior to the day of the sale, refunds will be issued back to your credit card.

We have a few new seedling offerings this year including Oregon White Oak, tall Oregon grape, and Western Huckleberry. Order early as some quantities may be limited. We anticipate that there will be additional tree and shrub seedlings for purchase on that day.

This year the conifer seedling selections will be offered as greenhouse-grown plugs rather than bare-root stock. Seedlings grown as a plug, have a soil mass surrounding the roots, are easier to plant and have a higher survival rate. We also plan to offer native shrubs and perennials with an emphasis on plants beneficial to pollinators.

Pricing for our seedlings is reasonable as we buy in bulk directly from wholesale nurseries. The seedling sale is a fundraiser for LCSWA to offer college scholarships to Linn County students with forestry and conservation majors. During budget discussions in June, the LCSWA board agreed unanimously to increase this year's scholarship money pool from \$8,000 to \$10,000 and to hike individual scholarship funding from \$2,000 to \$3,500. Scholarships are renewable.

It also provides annual funding for 4-H scholarships. These local 4-H students, their parents and LCSWA members provide a volunteer workforce to make the sale a success.

Volunteers will package pre-orders Feb. 13 and 14.

For more information, please contact Lena Tucker at the seedling sale contact form at <https://linncountyswa.com/contact-us/>



Packing day | file photo

Linn chapter backing educational projects

OSWA gathering, short courses in forestry gain financial support

By Larry Mauter | LCSWA member

The Linn County Small Woodlands Association (LCSWA) has spent more than \$10,000 this year to further forestry education.

The bulk of the money was used to defer costs relating to hosting the Oregon Small Woodlands Association (OSWA) convention in June.

The convention included mill tours and visits to working forest projects along with educational workshops for convention participants.

“Our chapter has established an education fund processed from its annual seedling sale and a generous donation from Bob Mealey, a Linn County forest land owner,” said chapter President Mike Barsotti.

“The association also uses their education funds to provide scholarship to college students working on natural resource degrees and local 4H students,” said Barsotti.

On another front, the LCSWA is helping to fund a Basic Forestry Short course scheduled for October in Stayton. A \$400 LCSWA donation will assist the program, which offers basic forestry how-tos and rules on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in October. The classroom workshops are capped with a field day Saturday Oct. 26 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost is \$40 or \$50 per family.

“With this funding, we are able to host this edition of A Basic Forestry Short course at Camp Taloali, giving the attendees the opportunity to practice what they've learned in the classroom every week right outside in the forest,” said Lorelle Sherman, OSU Extension Service forester.



“The course helps woodland owners learn how about their land and how to keep their woods on track based on their goals and objectives for years to come,” she said.

Participants will have the opportunity to learn about forest ecology, common management activities such as tree planting, thinning, and harvesting, and rules and regulations that apply to forestlands, according to a press on the classes.

Register Here: <https://beav.es/bfs24>

For more information, contact: sarah.cameron@oregonstate.edu or (503) 655-8631

Ash borer threat expanding

State agencies report outbreaks in three new counties; traps set in Linn, Benton counties

By Larry Mauter | LCSWA member

The invasive emerald ash borer (EAB) has expanded its territory in Oregon this summer to three new counties — Yamhill, Marion and Clackamas counties — according to state officials.

The discoveries have been confirmed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, according to a press release from the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA).

Extension Service personnel have set traps in Linn and Benton counties.

“No EAB have been found in any traps (thus far) south of the current quarantine zone (Marion, Yamhill, Clackamas, Washington counties),” said Lorelle Sherman, OSU Extension Service forester. “Their flight season is usually May-October,” she added in a Sept. 12 email.

An adult beetle was found in a trap near Gaston, about seven miles from Forest Grove — where the pest was first found in June, 2022, according to the state agencies. A Portland General Electric contractor reported seeing ash trees in the Elliot Prairie area east of Woodburn showing canopy decline in July.

Cody Holthouse is compliance and regulatory manager at ODA. He chairs the state’s Interagency EAB Task Force.

“No state has been able to eradicate EAB, so since its first detection in Forest Grove, we have expected it to eventually show up in new parts of Oregon,” said Holthouse.

“That’s why folks from collaborating agencies have been methodically surveying for the insect, setting out traps beyond the known infestation area and training people to know the signs and symptoms of infestation. That definitely helps us learn where the insect is spreading.”

Holthouse said ODA will be conducting intensive searches in the coming days for EAB in areas surrounding



Mature ash tree canopy. Photo credit Larry Mauter

the new sites in Marion and Clackamas counties to find out whether it shows up farther away.

He said it is unknown if the newly discovered sites represent a spread from Forest Grove or if they were from separate introductions of the pest into Oregon. The pest often travels in loads of firewood transported by people, so the latter is quite possible.

Holthouse says ODA is currently working out the details of a quarantine to limit the movement of ash, olive, and white fringe tree wood, and other materials similar to the one in Washington County.

That quarantine restricts the movement of several tree materials, including but not limited to logs, green lumber, nursery stock, scion wood, bud wood, chips, mulch, stumps, roots, branches, and firewood of hardwood species.

A small, metallic-green beetle native to eastern Asia, EAB was first found in the U.S. in Michigan in 2002. It has since killed tens of millions of ash trees across the eastern United States, with death rates up to 99 percent, the agencies reported.

EAB's larvae burrow into the bark of ash trees, causing canopy dieback and, ultimately, tree death. The ½ inch beetle is often challenging to detect, especially in newly infested trees. Signs of infestation include thinning and yellowing leaves, bark splitting, D-shaped holes in the tree bark, and basal shoots.

Up to date info on EAB detections can be found here: <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/e6ff6b60f63b4c489cdee61315a85535>.



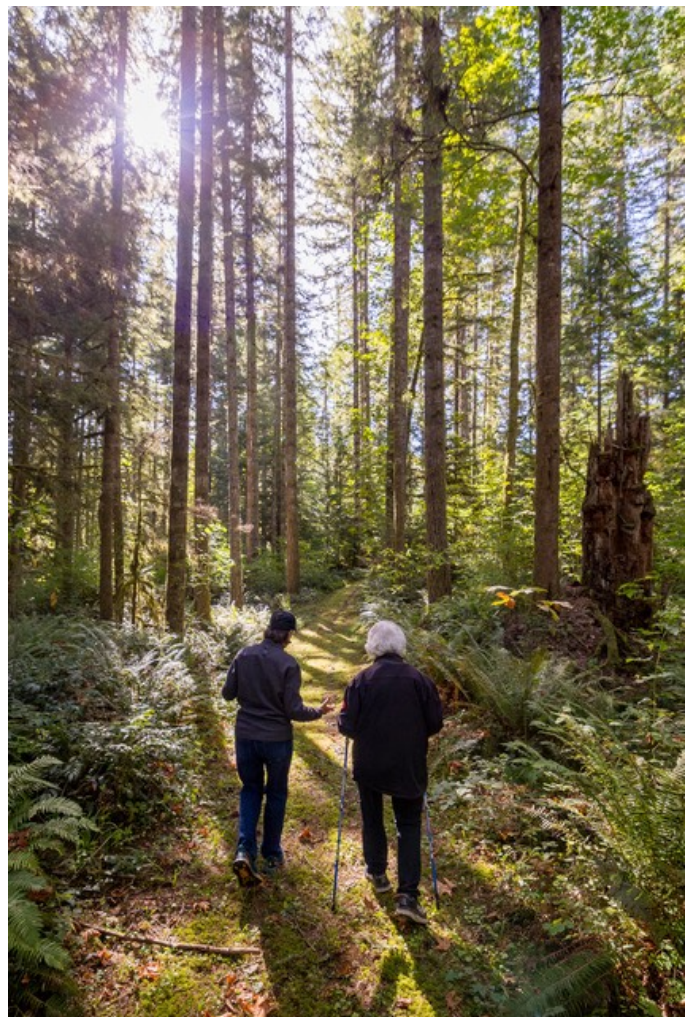
Emerald ash borer shows off its characteristic abdomen. Photo credit to the Backyard Habitat Certification Program

Sneak Peek: Details in the January Issue! **Kohl Tree Farmer of the Year Tour**



Katie and Steve Kohl opened up the gates to their tall timber on Sept. 21.

Photos courtesy Rowdy Webb



Plenty of sunshine allowed the canopy to flash late-summer colors.



The Kohls, at right, welcomed guests at Sirius Woods