

OREGON TREE FARM SYSTEM NEWS



Oregon Tree Farm System; 2600 State Street; Salem, Oregon 97310

Tree Farmer of the Year Tour

Harry Merlo and MC Ranch

Thursday, June 23

Harry Merlo, the MC Ranch crew and the co-sponsors of the tour would like to invite you to join them for a field day to showcase innovative forest management practices and accomplishments on this 12,000 acre property, located near La Grande, Oregon.

The day will feature state-of-the-art equipment and management strategies on this unique working cattle and timber ranch that integrates sustainable values into every aspect of resource and business management. Active thinning operations, as well as tree planting, road and water quality improvement projects, the integration of cattle and wildlife and market development will be among the topics covered. There is a lot of history to be viewed on the ranch. Step back into days gone by with hand-dug mining ditches and spring board stumps that tell stories of past logging operations. Following the tour will be a free world-class old time chuck wagon dinner.

The World Forest Institute International Fellows will also join us as a special feature of the tour. Participants will have a chance to learn and discuss forestry issues on the global scale! WFI Fellows will be on hand to answer questions about forestry around the world.

Also, the book, *Vintage Merlo* (the Harry Merlo biography) will be available for purchase for \$20. All proceeds from the sale of the books will go to the World Forestry Center.

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Park and Ride locations are available in La Grande, Baker City and Hilgard Junction State Park. Due to limited parking space and wet spring conditions, participants are encouraged to take advantage of the free transportation opportunities! Following the tour, buses will take riders back to their starting locations.

The tour will begin at the MC Ranch headquarters at 9 a.m. A light snack or lunch will be served along the tour route and the tour will be followed by dinner.

RSVP's must be received by no later than June 10, 2011 to ensure adequate bus transportation.

If you have any questions regarding the tour, please call Jamie Knight 541-963-0195.

Co-sponsors:

- Oregon Tree Farm System
- Oregon Small Woodlands Association
- World Forest Institute International Fellow Program
- Union County Forestry & Natural Resource Tour Committee
- Oregon Department of Forestry
- OSU Extension Service-Union County
- MC Ranch

Dealing with Changing Realities

The MC Ranch Tour kicks off the 2011 Oregon Small Woodlands Association Annual Meeting. The theme for this year's OSWA meeting is "Dealing with Changing Realities in Woodland Management". The program will offer participants an opportunity to hear from leaders on a variety of issues that affect today's family woodland owners. Since the OTFS tour of MC Ranch is near La Grande and the OSWA meeting is in Baker City, directors of OTFS and OSWA decided to collaborate on both events.

OSWA's Annual meeting will begin on Friday June 24th at the Best Western Sunridge Inn in Baker City. The program includes experts on Developing New Partnerships, Finding New Markets, Implementing New Practices and Addressing the Challenges of Intergenerational Issues. The Friday Evening dinner celebration will be Country Natural Beef steak barbeque with the new State Forester, Doug Decker as the featured speaker. Local members of the Oregon Tree Farm System will be recognized for their 25 or 50 year commitment to sustainable forestry by being awarded special Tree Farm signs.

Two woods tours are being offered on Saturday June 25th. The morning tour will focus on thinning, slash disposal, forest health and fire issues while the afternoon tour will demonstrate creative ways to convert grasslands into healthy ponderosa pine forests.

For your convenience, the registration form for the collaborative events is included in this newsletter. Additional details are available at www.oswa.org.



REGISTRATION FORM

Oregon Small Woodlands Association 2011 Annual Meeting

Oregon Tree Farm of the Year Tour

Thursday, June 23 - Saturday, June 25 • Baker City, Oregon

THURSDAY, JUNE 23

No. Attending

Oregon Tree Farm of the Year Tour—MC Ranch \$0 (no cost) X _____

Includes lunch and dinner

Select departure location:

- Union County OSU Extension Office, La Grande
- Best Western Sunridge Inn, Baker City
- Hilgard Junction State Park

FRIDAY, JUNE 24

OSWA Annual Meeting \$75 X _____

OSWA Reception and Dinner Celebration (casual dress) \$20 X _____

Baker County OSU Extension Office, 2600 East Street, Baker City, OR 97814

Please indicate if vegetarian diet is required

SATURDAY, JUNE 25

Howdy Neighbor Tour—Mac Kerns Property \$0 (no cost) X _____

Bus will leave Best Western Sunridge at 8:00 am • Lunch is provided

Woods Tour—Sid Johnson Property \$0 (no cost) X _____

Bus will leave Best Western Sunridge at 1:30pm, return by 5:00pm • Light snack provided

TOTAL REGISTRATION COSTS _____

Attendees Name (s):

- 1) _____ 3) _____
- 2) _____ 4) _____

Contact Information:

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____ Phone _____

Mail form and check to OSWA State Office, 187 High Street NE, Suite 208, Salem, OR 97301. **Make all checks payable to Oregon Small Woodlands Association.** Early Registration is highly recommended. Deadline for registration is June 10, 2011.

Why am I Receiving this Newsletter?

This Newsletter has been mailed to members of the Oregon Tree Farm System as well as to members of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association who are not also members of OTFS. Each year, the American Forest Foundation, the parent organization of OTFS, makes grant funds available for its individual states to increase their impact.

These “Capacity Building Grants” have been used by OTFS in prior years to develop and produce tabbed dividers for management plan binders, to develop a mentored management plan training module with OSU Extension and to develop an Operations Manual for its all-volunteer Board of Directors.

OTFS received a capacity building grant for 2011 to outreach to small woodland owners in Oregon apprising them of the value of becoming members of the Tree Farm System.

An analysis of the OSWA and OTFS mailing lists revealed that of the 1400 OSWA members and the 750 OTFS members, only about 350 were members of both organizations. Part of the grant is being used to mail this newsletter to all members of OSWA. Another part of the grant will be used to contact small woodland owners in several test counties who are members of neither organization.

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.otfs.org

American Forest Foundation Pilot Project

The Oregon Tree Farm System has been selected by the American Forest Foundation to be one of four states to receive funds in support of a three-year pilot project to determine if a state sponsor is effective in improving the operation and outreach of a state Tree Farm Board.

For the past 20 years, OTFS has largely had to rely upon volunteers to manage its tree farm database, outreach to members and potential members and conduct routine business as a 501 (C)(3) nonprofit.

For the past ten years, OTFS has to rely exclusively on volunteers drawing primarily upon its 24-member Board of Directors. In that time, the American Tree Farm System established its Standards for Sustainability and became internationally recognized as a certification system by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification. Additionally, the American Forest Foundation is expanding its outreach and education efforts which are putting additional strains on states with all-volunteer organizations.

The pilot calls for the Oregon Small Woodlands Association to serve as “Administrator” of the Oregon program of the American Tree Farm System. As the “Administrator”, OSWA will assist in financial needs; function as the center for OTFS program inquiries from stakeholders; act as the mail repository; assist with publications and outreach; assist with reporting requirements and other mutually agreed to tasks.

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Currently, OTFS has office space on the Oregon Department of Forestry campus and receives mail at a Salem Post Office Box. No one is regularly in the office and the phone is not answered nor is the PO Box checked. With this pilot, the phone will be transferred to the OSWA office and OTFS will use the OSWA address for its mail. This Newsletter is being cobbled together by the Chair in the absence of the Communications Committee chief who recently transferred to Maine. The pilot will facilitate Newsletter and other outreach projects.

The OTFS Board of Directors recognizes the importance of providing services to our members and to outreach to other woodland owners. Prior to being asked by AFF to be a pilot project, the OTFS and OSWA Boards were already exploring ways to work closer together and were in the process of putting pieces of the pilot to work through a Memorandum of Understanding. The AFF pilot funding is contingent upon execution of the MOU. Both Boards are working on the MOU details and anticipate adopting the MOU at a joint meeting of the Boards in Baker City in June.

25- and 50-Year Members



The Oregon Tree Farm System is recognizing its 25- and 50-year members with commemorative Tree Farm signs. Since Tree Farm began in Oregon in 1942, 43 members have belonged to the system for at least 50 years and 159 members have belonged for 25-49 years. The oldest Tree Farm is Roseboro in Lane County which joined in August 1944. The photo above shows Florence and Eric Bauder of Washington County receiving their 50-year sign from District Tree Farm Inspector Chair Tom Nygren. We are working through the list and hope to reach all eligible Oregon Tree Farmers by the end of 2011.

Oregon Tree Farm System
2600 State Street
Salem, Oregon 97310

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