



OREGON TREE FARM SYSTEM

Our Values: Connectivity; Collaboration; Stewardship; Inclusivity; Gratitude

Our Mission: Empowering private landowners to manage their forests sustainably

Our Purpose: Impacting the world by making Oregon a better place one acre at a time

OTFS Board Meeting Minutes August 14, 2025

Called to Order 6:35

Roll Call:

Present: Tom Agens, Mike Barsotti, Rick Barnes, Dave Bugni, Steve Cafferata, Wylda Cafferata, Mary Chamness, Dick Courter, Jock Dalton, Dave Ehlers, Lauren Grand, Kate McMichael, Jim Merzenich, Steve Vaught, Sue Zeni, Julie Woodward, Amanda Sullivan

Absent: Dick Beers, Mike Cafferata, Pam Dalton, Ed Easterling, Darren Goodding, Norm Michaels, Ted Reiss, Margaret Miller, Dave Wells

Reading Values, Mission, Purpose Statement: Wylda Cafferata

Additions/deletions to the agenda. David Bugni

- There were no additions or deletions to the agenda

June 19, 2025 OTFS Board Meeting Minutes:

- **VOTE:** Jock Dalton made a motion to approve June 19, 2025 OTFS Board Meeting Minutes. Kate McMichael seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Sue Zeni, Dave Bugni

- Prior to the meeting Sue had e-mailed board members OTFS Balance Sheet as of August 4, 2025, OTFS Budget vs Actuals: January-December 2025 Cash Basis August 3, 2025, and OTFS Profit and Loss Detail January 1-August 3, 2025.
- **VOTE:** Jock Dalton made a motion to approve the treasurer's Reports. Rick Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Time & place suggestions to discuss the Memorial Fund (e.g. during the 2025 November Annual Meeting) Dick Courter, Dave Bugni

- It was decided to schedule a 2-hour block of time at the November 25th 2025 Annual Meeting. This will give Dick up to 1.5 hours for a presentation and 30 minutes for follow-up Q&A. Dick's presentation will start with the history of the memorial fund and

proceed to current information that would be helpful for the board to know. He would like a screen and laptop to be available at the meeting.

- Dick has concerns about the OTFS Profit and Loss report including line items about the Memorial Fund. These concerns will be addressed in his presentation.

Potential new Vice Chair Candidate (s)?

- There are not currently any candidates for Vice Chair. The Governance Committee will continue to discuss options at their next meeting.

ATFS 2025 National Leadership Conference summary of activities: Jim Merzenich

- There was a good presentation by the regional winners, and the regional winner who beat us ended up being the National winner. It was great to talk with other people who are so enthusiastic about being tree farmers.

National Tree Farm Tour: Wylde and Steve Cafferata

- The walking tour was a big hit. Each group was led by one of the 4 brothers of the 4-generation tree farm. Walking through the acreage gave participants a large amount of time to talk and co-mingle. The family had written their own (100 year!) forest management plan and actively used it. Steve and Wylde know the local National winners and will send the contact information to Mary so we can invite them to future events.

Reports from Working Groups

- Governance: Dave Bugni
 - Please see the Governance Working Group Report which is placed after our general meeting notes.
- Finance: Sue Zeni
 - We are discussing where we keep data and funding.
- Recognition: Steve Vaught
 - We currently have 4 candidates: Lane, Yamhill, Columbia, and Grant. We will visit Lane, Yamhill, and Columbia in August and Grant in October once fire season has passed. The videos are in progress and half of them have been completed. There has been a slight change to the criteria sheets increasing the priority of fire protection.
- Communication/Landowners Journey: Kate McMichael, Lauren Grand
 - We have been working on a marketing campaign to reach people who are not currently members of OTFS. We are considering focusing on OSWA members

who are not OTFS members and possibly working with OSWA to reach OTFS members who are not OSWA members. We'll keep you updated. No new progress on the Acre-by-acre program.

- Kate would like to meet with the Working Group chairs to get some additional updates for our OTFS website so that it doesn't become static.
- Please take the survey from Ecotrust if you haven't yet. You can copy and paste the below in your browser to access it:

<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.surveymonkey.com%2Fr%2FUFMP2025&data=05%7C02%7C%7C27e10e3e2d5647fa7f4e08dddb6be4fa%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638907978631898370%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIlwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoitWFrpbGlzIdUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ddaVdWStSbal3L9Yjvux9vd8JarKZPadhTsn8rSJHAE%3D&reserved=0>

- Kate is also looking for volunteers to be on a Unified Management Plan focus group. Mary, Sue, Steve, and Wylda are already participating.
- Events: Dave Bugni presented information provided by Pam Dalton/ Wylda Cafferata
 - Pam been in contact with Les Ricket (*CCFFA President*) about someone manning the booth for OTFS on Sept 27th for the Hopkins Field School. He has contacted Charlie Vannice and he said he would be glad to combine both the CCFFA booth and OTFS booth and man them. Les thought this would be acceptable since many of the activities were classes outside and people were coming and going to the booths. Thank you also for agreeing to teach a class about OTFS (*during the lunch hour I (Dave Bugni) will present a program about OTFS*).
 - Our next event would be Lane or Douglas Tree School on Oct 25th. Steve and Wylda have volunteered to man this booth.
 - Our Annual meeting on Nov 15th will be Celebrate Family Forest: Wood, Water, Wildlife, Recreation. Wylda was excited to share that all the speakers have accepted and been lined up. The Keynote speaker is Ann Stinson who wrote the book *The Ground Under My Feet*.
- Certification: Steve Cafferata
 - Through the end of July there have been 5 new tree farms, 50 recertified, 5 Pioneered, 46 Decertified and 29% of the ownerships shape files are in the database. There are 1280 Tree Farms. Last year there were 1325. This year there are 727,000 acres in OTFS. Last year there were 733,000. There are 7 backlogs and 46 more to certify, all of which will be done by the end of the year. Starker is working on 84 of their own to certify.

- Discussion about the reason tree farms are being decertified and/or Pioneered. Often, it's when a change of ownership takes place such as a sale or passing to the next generation. Frequently the forest management plans are lost, or the new owners aren't interested. Dave requested a one-page summary and snapshot of overall impression about what Steve notices regarding the slow reduction of certified tree farms.
- For more information, please see the OTFS Inspectors' Letter and Report which is placed after our general meeting notes. Some numbers may be different than above due to the date reports were made.
- Memorial Fund: Dick Courter
 - Recently he has been having difficulty accessing Vanguard Funds and is working on fixing this. There have been no new donations since last meeting. Dick Powell has recently passed away and there will likely be an upcoming donation made in his name.

Other items:

- Review of upcoming OTFS-related activities through to next meeting (Calendar of Activities)-
 - Dave requested that board members review the OTFS 2025 Board Calendar of Events listed towards the end of our packet and get back to him within the next few weeks with any additional items that should be listed. Next meeting we want to finalize and move it from draft status.
- Review of potential agenda format modifications-
 - Dave put together a list of ideas to assist in board meeting (page 23 of board packet) that includes time limits for reports. The goal is to keep within scheduled meeting time, but limit report times so everyone has the chance to be heard.
- Discussion with World Forestry Center about having a static OTFS display-
 - Discussed several different options including a sign with QR codes which take people to the OTFS website and/ or videos from Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year which are on the YouTube channel. Kate will follow up with OWIT to get World Forest Trade Center contact information and share with Dave. Dave will visit the center to see where a display could work and then reach out as the OTFS chair.
- ODF Board's lack of interest in addressing ODF finding regarding the level of SFO noncompliance in successful reforestation.
 - Discussion about a possible joint OTFS and OSWA board letter sharing concerns with the CFF board. Many of the units of concern have been replanted but not cared for and the trees do not survive to free to grow.

- Verbiage to allow minimum fund amounts that can be dispensed at the discretion of the chair.
 - Once the budget has been approved, the funds in each category can be used without needing additional board approval. There was a discussion about how to handle additional expenses that may arise.
 - **VOTE:** Dick Courter made a motion that the chair have authority to approve expenses up to \$500. Steve Vaught seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Discussion regarding Chair presenting complete meeting package to board for review at least one week prior to meeting (agenda plus **all** supporting materials e.g. Treasurer's report, minutes, etc....)
 - The board liked the meeting packet and would like to continue them in the future.

Partner Updates:

- Partner Report
 - AOL: Amanda Sullivan. The National Wild Turkey Federation is looking for bids from consulting foresters to do inspections on the burned areas of the Umpqua National Forests. She will send contact information to Steve Cafferata.
 - SFI: Dave attended the Sustainable Forest Initiative meeting representing OTFS. OTFS and OSWA are both partners with this organization. SFI donates \$6,000 a year to OTFS.
 - OSU Extension: Lauren Grand. A lot of new positions have been created and hired for. A fire work force is being developed. Harper is helping workers receive temporary visas to work in silviculture. Kelsey is working as an educator with the McDonald and Dunn Research Forest. Rachel is working with agriculture and forest technology. She has skills in website design and AI development. John Riggins is a Forest Health Specialist hired to replace Dave Shaw who will be able to retire. Interviews are being scheduled to hire a new MWM and WOWNet leader. The College of Forestry is doing an ecological forest management series and there will be Zoom training teaching people how to collect and clean Ash seeds so they can be used for research.

ATFS National Leadership Award: Mike Barsotti

- This is a national award we haven't nominated anyone for before. Dave encouraged all board members to review pages 22-25 of the meeting packet for more information about nominating for this award. Dick Courter has been a OTFS member since the early 90's and has done a lot for our organization. Mike Barsotti volunteered to write the

original nomination draft and then board members could add to it. It will be due on November 1st. Multiple board members supported doing this.

- OFRI: Julie Woodard. We are getting the Illustrated Manual distributed. Anyone is welcome to contact OFRI and have one sent out. Oregon Forest Facts has been updated and is being distributed to educators. They have begun working on updating the Reforestation handout. Margarette Miller will return in September (welcome back!). Julie gave a presentation on a recent values and beliefs survey OFRI had gathered. There is a lot of overlap between landowners and the public with both showing a strong interest in wildlife and concern about wildfire. Support is high for forestry and forest practices, especially regarding reforestation and protection of streams and wildlife.
- SIC: Tom Agens had to leave the meeting early but sent the following to board members by e-mail. SIC appreciates the outreach that OTFS provides. I particularly like the “chapter kits” that the Landowner Journey Working Group put together a couple years back and think those are an excellent tool for engaging current and future landowners into the OTFS. I was listening to the discussion earlier in the agenda on ways that OTFS might spur ODF into action on the reforestation survey findings for SFLOs. If the board feels there is something that the SIC can help to address, just let me know. Being based out of WA I’m not too familiar with the new Private Forest Accord and its related compliance monitoring, but I can certainly help facilitate discussions between OTFS and SIC. We have not scheduled our next meeting, but it usually occurs in October.

Good of the Order:

- Kate has agreed to attend and speak at a multi-day forestry conference in September. She will also represent and be a voice for small landowners. This is a huge undertaking- thank you Kate! We will look forward to getting an update at the October 9th OTFS Board Meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:19