

Hello Oregon Tree Farm System Members!



Every time we drive past a Tree Farm sign, and we do that often, we think of the good stewardship that is happening beyond that sign. Thank you all for the work you do!

We have been wanting to tell you about an article that first appeared in the Society of American Foresters' newsletter about Active Management. We wrote to one of its authors, Rowan Braybrook, and asked her to rewrite it for small woodland owners and allow us to send it to you. She happily agreed and we think you will find it interesting as well as potentially useful when explaining forest practices to friends and neighbors. It is posted on our OTFS website under Resources.

You will be happy to hear that the work of the Oregon Tree Farm System goes on apace. More than 57 tree farm parcels have been certified or re-certified so far this year. The up-dated OTFSS website is up and running, thanks to Kate McMichael, our new Board member. Click here to check it out <http://www.otfs.org>. Our OTFS Operations Manual has been updated. We have a new brochure explaining OTFS which was distributed at both the Coast and Clackamas Tree Schools. We are in the process of making a video highlighting OTFS's emphasis on Wood, Water, Wildlife, and Recreation. You will be able to see it at the Family Forest Convention. Our treasurer, Sue Zeni, is working with our new accounting service, Cascade Tax Professionals, to manage our finances efficiently. Several OSWA chapters are working on sending in their nominations for State Tree Farmer of the Year. Minutes from our Board Meetings will soon be up on our website. Any member is welcome to attend Board meetings. The next one is by Zoom on May 12th, and the next in person on June 22 at the Oregon Family Forest Convention. Let us know if you want to attend the May meeting and we can send you a link.

One of our Board members, Steve Vaught, warns our membership that less-than-ethical contractors may contact you to advise you on actions you "should" take before the new Forest Practice Rules go into effect in January. You may well want to take some action, and of course most contractors are trustworthy, but be sure you know the rules before you proceed, and whether the potential benefit exceeds the costs you will incur.

You will be glad to know that your voice is represented on the OSU Starker Chair Hiring Committee. This OSU position is partially funded by the Starker family, and 25% of the associated duties consist of working with Small Woodland Owners. It is hoped this position will be filled by this June, or possibly September.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have questions about your certification or any part of OTFS. We hope to see many of you at the Family Forest Convention in June. If by any chance you did not receive a copy of the program and registration materials, let us know. We hope to see you at the November 4th OTFS Annual Meeting too. Save the date!

Steve & Wylda Cafferata, Co-Chairs OTFS 541-797-9734 or wyldac@gmail.com.