THE SNAG

A Quarterly Publication by the Yamhill County Chapter of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association





Changes to OSWA Bylaws
Affect Memberships (Pg. 3)

Ten Reasons to Join OSWA (Pg. 4)

Climate change: Tribes Work to Restore Habitats (Pg. 5)

Snags – Benefits and Bonuses (Pg. 7)

A Review of SB 498 (Pg. 8)

Mediterranean Oak Borer Found in Oaks in Wilsonville (Pg. 10)

Maintenance on Amy's Trail (Pg. 10)

A Word from the President



By Darcy Davis

Greetings Yamhill County OSWA Members,

In recent history, the months of December, January, and February have been marked by ice storms, wind events, heavy rain, and snow loads that have caused power outages and property damage. In 2018, my husband installed a 20 KW standby generator. It automatically switches on when the power goes out. The freezers stay cold, the lights stay on, and we can still prepare food. Our heat comes from an outdoor wood furnace and the generator powers the fans that keep it working. The whole house generator has proved itself time and time again. The downside is that they are expensive. We budgeted and saved for several years before purchasing the generator and 1,000-gallon propane tank.

Prepare a safety plan and post it. Include emergency phone numbers and contact information. Know where the water and power shutoffs are (sketching and labeling a map is helpful). Get to know your neighbors, buy a few extra canned food items that are easy to prepare, and have a plan to keep warm. If you are using a portable generator, make sure it is in working condition. It is also important to have enough fuel on hand to last a couple of days. Water, medications, and a source of heat are fundamental

Disclaimer

Opinions stated in articles are those of the authors, not The Snag or the Yamhill County Small Woodlands Association. That said, we welcome corrections. Please submit to

The Snag 101@gmail.com.

Continued on page 2.

Contacts:

Presidents: Darcy Davis thesnag101@gmail.com

Vice President: Mike Barnes mbarnes@viclink.com

Secretary: Leonard Rydell larydell@teleport.com

Treasurer: Ken Nygren (Past OSWA President) woodsmantwo@gmail.com

Webmaster: Volunteer Needed

Additional Board Members:

Nicole Wood (State President) cola@oregon.com

Christina Rubin crbose@gmail.com

Dan Upton dan43upton@gmail.com

Susan Watkins maczenith@onlinemac.com

Committees:

Membership: Volunteer needed.

Outreach (Newsletter): Susan Watkins, Michael Rubin, Brett Aldrich, Darcy Davis

Budget: Volunteer Needed

Merchandise: Volunteer needed.

Legislature: Volunteer needed.
Door Prizes: Volunteer needed.
Meeting Snacks: Fern Seward
State website: www.oswa.org

Chapter website:

www.oswa.org/yamhill

"A Word From the President" Continued from Page One: safety concerns. Have a plan for any animals.

Growing up as the youngest in a large family, I looked forward to power outages because the world slowed down. The family gathered in one room and games were brought out. We used Kerosene lanterns and huddled around the wood stove to stay warm. It was an adventure. Fun for a couple of hours, challenging when it extended to a couple of days, and less fun when the family members became edgy. There was always a routine though, and it was comforting to know what was expected.

As woodland owners, we may experience falling trees or limbs. Use safety precautions when inspecting downed trees. If powerlines are involved, contact the power company. Seek shelter in a safe location and wait for the storm to die down before venturing out to assess damage. Having a tractor and chainsaw with people who are comfortable using them is a big help. If there was significant storm damage or blow down, contact the proper people needed to aid in cleanup.

Please stay safe and enjoy the winter season.

Warm regards,

Darcy Davis, President

Yamhill County Small Woodlands Association

"People who fail to regard the truth seriously in small matters, cannot be trusted in matters that are great."

Albert Einstein (1957), New Outlook: Middle East Monthly

Meet the New Master Woodland Manager Coordinator

Hi, I'm Erin Giebner and I am very excited to join the Forestry and Natural Resources Extension team at OSU as the Program Coordinator for the Master Woodland Manager and Women Owning Woodlands Network. My family and I recently made the cross-country move from Virginia and are enjoying exploring our new home. I am based out of



Corvallis, and I look forward to meeting each of you and learning more about how I can best support and facilitate programs that serve your needs.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Your skills are needed! Please volunteer!

- Submit an interesting article, photo, poem, etc. for potential publication in the newsletter
- Door Prize coordinator
- Open Board Member position
- Legislature communication
- Helping with events

And more!



sales@macwelding.com 503-474-2043
2705 NE Bunn Rd * McMinnville, OR 97128



Advertising Opportunity - The

Snag is a quarterly newsletter sent out to over 200 members and friends of YCSWA. Advertisers receive free newsletters for the duration of their ads.

RATES (Price includes typesetting and ad prep)

1 Issue 4 Issues
Business Card (3"x2.5") \$45 \$150
Quarter Page (4" x 5.25") \$75 \$300
Half Page (4"x10.5" or 8"x5.25") \$150 \$500

YES! I want to advertise in the YCSWA Snag.

Ad Size_____ \$ Amt ____

Company

Contact Phone

Address

City, State Zip

Email

Return to: Darcy Davis 20561 NW Fairdale Rd, Yamhill, OR 97148



"I believe that there is a subtle magnetism in Nature, which, if we unconsciously yield to it, will direct us aright"

Henry David Thoreau (1851), Walking

Changes to OSWA Bylaws Affect Memberships

By Susan Watkins

By now you should have received your Oregon Small Woodlands Association dues statement in the mail. To be a member of the Yamhill County OSWA chapter, you must be a member of OSWA. Dues are paid directly to OSWA, which then rebates a percentage back to the chapters you designate.

Under changes made in September to OSWA Bylaws, each paid membership now gets only one vote. You can purchase additional memberships for each additional member of a household who wishes to vote or hold state office.

OSWA prefers that we register and pay our dues online, if possible. Whichever way you pay, be sure to put the voting member's name first on the form.

Yamhill County chapter Bylaws must now be updated to conform to changes in the State Bylaws. The YCSWA Board plans to have updated local bylaws ready for a vote at our 2024 Yamhill Chapter Annual Meeting.

Ten Reasons to Join OSWA

By Kate Michael and Wylda Cafferata

Oregon Small Woodlands Association members are a diverse group of family forestland owners who work to promote and advocate for family forestland ownership, and have been doing so since 1960.

No matter the size of ownership, OSWA members are committed to the health and vitality of Oregon's forests.

- **1.** OSWA members include many leading experts on forestry, conservation, and wildlife.
- **2.** OSWA staff and volunteers work closely and actively with local and state agencies, legislators, and the political process. Our OSWA lobbyist in Salem works to make sure the interests and needs of small woodland owners are included in proposed legislation.
- **3.** OSWA has 14 active chapters statewide, representing 20 counties. Chapters organize local activities and produce information tailored to local needs. Chapter meetings, tours, workshops, and classes give OSWA members a chance to meet and network with similarly-minded people who face similar situations and address similar issues.
- **4.** Liability insurance for property protection and forestry operations is available in a group policy for OSWA members.
- **5.** OSWA collaborates with the Oregon Department of Forestry on private forest and fire issues, including participation on the Committee for Family Forestlands—a committee appointed by the Board of Forestry to advise on family forest issues—and traditionally having an OSWA member serve on the Board of Forestry.
- **6.** OSWA partners with the Oregon Tree Farm System on common issues, benefitting from the OTFS affiliation with the American Forest Foundation, an organization designed to represent the interests of small woodland owners at the national level.
- **7.** OSWA is part of the Partnership for Forestry Education and works with the Oregon Forest Resource Institute (OFRI) to provide educational information to family forest owners.

ALL YOUR FORESTLAND RESOURCES IN ONE HANDY GUIDE



Federal, state and local resources, along with family forest landowner associations and more.

Order your free copy today.



OregonForests.org

Photo Credits:

- Fig. 1. Amy's Trail Bench. Brett Aldrich. October 2023.
- Fig. 2. Erin Giebner Selfie. Erin Giebner. 2023.
- Fig. 3. Snowy Pond. Darcy Davis. 2023
- Fig. 4. Camas Flowers. "https://blogs.oregonstate.edu/eahgrad/2017/10/07/kalapuya-people-past-present/". 2017.
- Fig. 5. Sagittaria latifolia (flowers). en.wikipedia.org. 2023
- Fig. 6. Stump with a nest hole. Darcy Davis. February 2023.
- Fig. 7. Snag on the property line. Darcy Davis. March 2023.
- Fig. 8. Female beetle by pencil lead. Curtis Ewing, CAL Fire
- Fig. 9. Clearing Amy's Trail. Brett Aldrich. October 2023.
- **8.** OSWA chapters have direct links to OSU Extension Foresters and the wide array of educational opportunities the Forestry & Natural Resources Extension Program provides.
- **9.** Through its partnerships, OSWA is ideally situated to provide its members a unique combination of local, statewide, regional, and national opportunities for gathering, information-sharing, on-going forestry education, and addressing the multiple concerns that impact small woodland owners.
- **10.** Membership dues are proportional to the number of acres owned. Applications for membership are available on the OSWA website:

https://oswa.org/join-or-renew PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING US! "The story of the Grand Ronde Tribe is a story of a people's resilience, a people's relationship to place, and a people's perseverance through their culture. As a tribe, the responsibility to tell our history and our own story lies with ourselves and no one else."

Cheryle A. Kennedy (2018), Chairwoman Grand Ronde Tribal Council



Be a Detective! Report Any EAB Sightings

Oregon State University is offering its Forest Pest Detector course online for free, at:

https://workspace.oregonstate.edu/course/Oregon-Forest-Pest-Detector

You can progress at your own pace.
Report any suspected EAB infestation
you spot to:

https://oregoninvasiveshotline.org

Climate Change: Tribes Work to Restore Habitats

By Nicole Montesano

(Reprinted with permission from the News-Register, 09-29-2023; lightly edited)

As the climate warms and dries out the forests and prairies of Western Oregon, the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde are working to restore as much habitat as they can, trying to give native plants and wildlife a fighting chance to adapt to the changing conditions.

Part of that work involves working with the OSU Forestry Department on a project to restore resiliency to western forests by blending traditional Indigenous knowledge with a Western scientific approach. The project, led by ecologist Dr. Cristina Eisenberg, involves collecting the seeds of native plants that stabilize soil and provide nourishing nitrogen, as well as thinning overgrown woods and working to restore controlled burns to clear out underbrush that can otherwise contribute to forest fire intensity.

Anna Ramthun, a Natural Resources Specialist for the Tribes, explains that "Salmon is going to be a big priority, especially with climate change; they're a very temperature -sensitive species, so we're really interested in getting more riparian shading for rivers. A couple of our big areas are along the Santiam River in Stayton and Aumsville. We are trying to create and improve better salmon habitat in that watershed."

Ramthun notes that "the Tribe manages 2,500 acres of prairie, oak savanna, and riparian conservation property across eight sites, located throughout the Willamette Valley ... as well as 13,000 acres of mixed-use timberland, most of which is located outside of Willamina. Logging is one of the Tribe's forms of income, but we also manage for gathering opportunities, recreation, habitat, hunting and fishing opportunities, so we really want to make sure we're balancing out those uses."

Ramthun said that, "Prior to European arrival, most of the species in the area had a use, like medicine or fiber dyes" as well as food. Now, a native plant nursery provides seeds for Tribal members and for some of the restoration efforts, while elders lead classes in foraging for traditional foods.

Food species were plentiful: Oregon white oak provided acorns, big leaf maple edible flowers and seeds. The starchy roots of camas "were a major food staple; they could be stored, or roasted, and used as a source of sugar during leaner times of the year," Ramthun said. Now, camas is very rare, Eisenberg said. The dense,

Continued on page 6.

"Climate Change" Continued from Page Five:

closed-canopy forests of today, she said, do not allow camas to thrive.

Another major source of starchy calories, wapato, also called katniss or duck potato, "is a species that grows in wetland areas, shallow ponds, braided river channels where it's not in the direct flow of the river but has some direct flow of the water," Ramthun said. "Native peoples would go swimming and dig it up from the bottom with their toes."

Tarweed, in the sunflower family, was another important species, Ramthun said. "It has a very oily seed. Toward the end of the growing season, Indigenous peoples would set areas on fire, and go through with baskets and beat the seeds into the basket. They could be roasted or turned into other sources of food and used for the oils."

Numerous native berry species contributed a plentiful food source as well, and much of the annual burning was done to encourage growth of plants such as thimbleberries, richlyflavored berries related to raspberries.

The Willamette Valley looked very different in those days, covered in open oak savannas and fields of camas, growing among numerous braided river channels.

Douglas fir grew higher in the mountains, but the foothills, Ramthun said, were largely covered in oak savanna, with red alder dominating riparian areas.

"Doug fir has been worked into a lot of areas it wouldn't have been naturally, because of fire or because it wasn't necessarily its habitat, but it was put into place to support logging," Ramthun said. "That's a species that some models don't have doing as well in the face of climate change."

To manage logging operations in the modern world, Ramthun said, forest managers typically focus on eliminating species that compete with Douglas fir.

"That approach is really rough on other species, so the Tribe timber program operates differently," she said. "We don't use aerial herbicide applications, which keep down a lot of the competition. So, we tend to have a lot of the understory present in our early growth. And a lot of those are food producing: salal, big leaf maple, or basketry species such as hazel, and berry species. Red huckleberry tends to grow in those early disturbance habitats.

"Another species we're interested in bolstering is western red cedar. It has a wide variety of uses, but it was used a lot traditionally for making waterproof clothing such as hats. It's also the species that a lot of canoes were made of, so still having trees available 80 years down the line, to be used for canoes and carving, is something we're interested in, in our management practices.

Continued on page 7.

Certified foresters helping you



503-487-8277 www.whiteoaknrs.com whiteoaknrs@gmail.com

realize your ownership goals

130 NW 6th Street Suite B McMinnville Oregon

NORTHWEST LOGGING SUPPLY

Power Equipment • Sales • Service

www.nwlogging.com 503-472-4115

2330 SE Stratus Ave McMinnville, OR 97128

PHOTO SUBMISSION CONTEST

We haven't had a reader photo submission contest since September 2021, back when we had our "PILES PILES PILES" photo contest. The theme this time is

"STUMPS AND SNAGS"

Submit your photo of interesting stumps or snags to:

thesnag101@gmail.com

Entry deadline is **February 1, 2023**.

Multiple entries allowed.

The winning photo will be published



Page 7 OSWA: Yamhill Chapter



A BALANCED APPROACH

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

ALTERNATIVES TO CLEARCUTTING

FOREST PLANNING AND RESTORATION



These forests have been independently certified FSC as well managed.

PORTLAND FORESTERS - 503-222-9772

Scott Ferguson Barry Sims Mike Messier

CORVALLIS FORESTERS - 541-435-0383

Mark Miller Matt Fehrenbacher Shane Hetzler

Pamela Hines, Office Manager 503-409-2888 info@troutmountain.com

Forest stewardship for productivity and diversity

www.TroutMountain.com

FSC Trademark © 1996 Forest Stewardship Council A.C. • SCS-FM/COC-00062GN

"Climate Change" Continued from Page Six:

"It is a tree that we try and place down in our drainage areas and wetter areas."

Historically, according to Eisenberg, forest fires "used to be far less severe; they were very low, low severity fires" that maintained open understory in open canopy forests of oak trees and camas prairies.

Ramthun said western Oregon's dry season has grown longer and more severe, contributing to the threat of wildfires.

"I'd like to put some hope out there; increasing populations of native plants, particularly oak and other native species that are drought tolerant, can help with fire resiliency," she said. "Oak savanna and prairie particularly. I think higher elevation species are going to have a harder time."

"Fella can get so he misses the noise of a saw mill." John Steinbeck (The Grapes of Wrath, 1939)



Snags – Benefits and Bonuses

By Darcy Davis

Snags, or wildlife trees as they are commonly called, are standing dead trees. They provide birds and mammals with shelter to raise their young and raptors with unobstructed vantage points. There are at least 80 species of birds and more than 100 animals of all kinds that rely on dead trees for nesting, storing food, hunting, and perching. Woodpeckers rely on snags for food. The deadwood often contains a variety of insects, which woodpeckers eat after chipping away at the wood to reach them.

While woodpeckers create holes, many other birds don't create cavities but use them for nesting or shelter, such as owls. Even bees often use snags for their eggs. Bats will use slits high up on a snag. Continued on page 9.

A Review of SB 498

By Susan Watkins

Last July 1, a new law intended to protect Oregon farm and forest families took effect. The law will allow small woodland owners to "exclude" up to \$15 million of natural resource property from state estate taxes.

The law, SB 498, provides that up to \$15 million worth of land and personal property used in a forestry business will pass free of Oregon estate taxes to one or more family members if some family member(s) actively manage the forest for the five years before the estate owner's death and the five years after. Neither the legal owner nor an inheriting family member must be the person(s) managing the woods as long as the actual managers are also family members. The law is expected to enable most small family forests in Oregon to remain in the family after the death of a landowner.

As simple and sensible as this sounds, many questions remain.

One big question is who qualifies as a "family member." Although the new law is broad with respect to individuals, there is no mention of trusts or LLCs, even though many small forests are held this way.

The law also requires that the land be part of a "forestry business," but SB 498 doesn't define forestry business. However, another estate planning law, Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) Section 118.140, does: A forestry business under Sec. 118.140 is one "operated for the primary purpose of obtaining a profit in money by the planting, cultivating, caring for, preparing, harvesting, or cutting of timber or trees for market." If you are managing your woods for other purposes, for example, recreation or wildlife, your property may not qualify for the exclusion.

In addition, you must make management decisions on at least 75% of the days each of the five years preceding death and the five years following. The law is silent about how many decisions you must make each day or how important those decisions must be and is also silent about how you would prove you made decisions on the requisite number of

days. You might want to keep a calendar or diary, noting days you sprayed or cruised or planted or merely wandered in the woods checking on tree health.

In an odd twist, the Oregon Legislative Revenue Office has interpreted the phrase "75% of days" differently. The Office says the phrase means you can't lease out more than 25% of your resource land in any given year, instead of referring to the 273 days out of a calendar year that a family member must manage the property. It's no wonder these and other issues have accountants and lawyers scratching their heads.

To see how the new law might work in practice, imagine three different families with two generations involved in forest management. In one family, both generations work on the land. So long as any family member is materially engaged in managing the forest for the required ten-year period (five before death and five after), the family should be able to take advantage of SB 498.

In a second family, neither the surviving spouse or other family members may be positioned to manage the land the required 273 days out of the year, so the spouse hires a forester to manage the forest. Unless the Revenue Office is right about the 75% referring to land that cannot be leased to others, SB 498 will not help this family.

In the third family, both generations work the land, and all are members of an LLC that provides for continuous family ownership of the property even if members die. Under normal estate tax law, a deceased member's estate would include the person's share of trust or LLC property. Depending upon the language of the governing documents, the deceased member might own an interest in the property or only in proceeds generated from timber or other sales. As written, SB 498 does not address this situation.

Because of these and other ambiguities in the new law, a group of accountants and lawyers is working with Representative Kevin Mannix, who authored SB 498, to fashion a "technical correction bill" to take to the state legislature during the 2024 short session.

Continued on page 9.

"A Review of SB 498" Continued from Page Eight:

If you have suggestions for improving the law, you can contact Rep. Mannix at 503-986-1421 or Rep.KevinMannix@oregonlegislature.gov.

Families that don't qualify for the SB 498 exclusion may yet qualify for Oregon's Natural Resource Credit (ORS Sec. 118.140). To earn the credit, the value of the decedent's adjusted gross estate (AGE) must be less than or equal to \$15 million, and the resource property must be worth at least 50% of that AGE. Some family member must materially participate in forest business management for five of the eight years before and five of the eight years after the death. The maximum credit is \$7.5 million.

"Be who you are and say what you feel because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind"

Bernard Baruch (1940)

"Snags – Benefits and Bonuses" Continued from Page Seven: Some songbirds may use slits for roosting purposes as well.

Softwood trees are generally better as food foraging sites, while hardwood is often used for nesting. However, almost any kind of tree will provide benefits as a snag. As the tree decays, the soil around it will become much richer, thanks to the organic compounds it naturally adds to the ground.

Just because a tree is dead or dying doesn't mean it will be a good wildlife tree. Care must be taken to ensure that it will remain standing for some time and will not be a hazard to people or buildings.

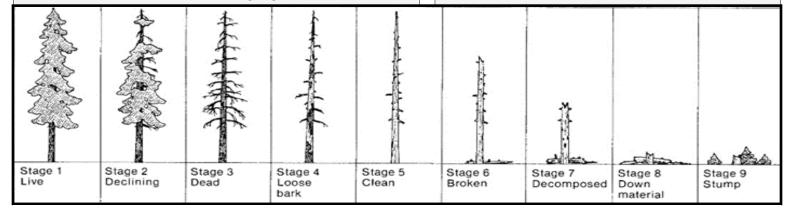
Landowners might want to have trees near structures assessed by a professional, who can also increase the likelihood of bringing in desired species by prepping the tree. For example, making vertical slits in the trunk may encourage bat nesting.

Turning landscape trees into a snag is usually done by a climber who ascends the tree or an arborist working from a bucket truck. Live trees can also be girdled to cause the tree to die slowly.

As you pass snags, I challenge you to look for the benefits of that particular tree. Personally, I have enjoyed watching as raptors hunt from high vantage points atop a snag. I also enjoy the sound of owls, the tapping of woodpeckers, and the beauty of the decaying stumps. Snags play an important part in the circle of life in our forests. A Snag is more than just a catchy name for our newsletter; proper snags also contribute to the health of our forests, and many forest management plans identify trees to be turned into snags.

To create a snag, consider these activities (and hiring a professional!):

- Girdling the tree
- Removing some branches, leaving stubs and shortened branches wherever possible
- •Cutting the tree down to 1/3 to 2/3 of its original height to reduce the risk of damaging structures or other trees if it falls (even a 10-foot snag can provide valuable habitat for many different animals)
- Installing cabling or bracing to hold the tree trunk together (if needed)
- Creating cavities for shelter and nesting
- •Roughing up the top of the cut tree with a chainsaw or ax to allow water to infiltrate and get the decay process started quickly.



Mediterranean Oak Borer Found in Oaks in Wilsonville

By Dan Upton

Mediterranean oak borer, a species of European ambrosia beetle, is a tiny brown beetle 1/10th inch long and as wide as the diameter of the lead in a #2 pencil. Like Emerald Ash Borer, awareness of its presence occurs when tree damage shows up. The oak borer (MOB) attacks the crowns of several hardwoods including oak, maple, elm, walnut, and chestnut. Oregon white oak is susceptible. First discovered in 2018 in a trap in Troutdale, in 2023 MOB was discovered inside Oregon white oak trees in Troutdale and Wilsonville.

Female beetles inoculate host trees with a symbiotic fungus that provides a food source for larvae. The fungus is also a carrier for Oak wilt, which causes leaf wilt. Tree mortality results from the combination of larvae damage to the cambium (interrupting transportation of water and nutrients) and the loss of foliage. Females mate inside the tree and upon leaving are ready to infect another tree.



MOB attacks the crown of several hardwood species. Trees under stress from drought are highly susceptible. Signs of damage include flagging, broken branches, and dead branching. As beetle populations increase, they move downward to the trunk resulting in tree mortality usually within 3-5 years.

If MOB is found in your trees, remove infected branches or the entire tree, if needed. Do not move the material away from the infection site. Burn, chip, or deep bury in place. For chipped wood, tarp for six weeks during the winter and six months during the summer.

Report any MOB you find to the Oregon Invasive Species Council's website:

www.oregoninvasivespeciescouncil.org/report -an-invader

or call Oregon's Invasive Species Hotline:
1-866- INVADER (1-866-468-2337). For consultation about MOB, contact Oregon Department of Agriculture at 503-986-4636 or Oregon Department of Forestry at 503-357-2191

"If you truly love nature, you will find beauty everywhere."

Vincent Van Gogh (1889) Letter 22

Maintenance on Amy's Trail

By Brett Aldrich

It was on a relatively warm October day in 2019 when I pulled into the newly created parking lot for the Matteson Demonstration Forest. Amy Grotta, Extension Agent and Master Woodland Manager (MWM) program instructor, was waiting with tools, hardhats, and coffee for volunteers to participate in a trail building seminar. Passionate about natural resources, she had made it a priority to develop this particular property into a real demonstration forest. At the time, it was the newest property in the OSU School of Forestry's portfolio, and Amy coordinated the seminar for anyone interested in building trails on their own property. I had achieved MWM certification months prior from Amy and was excited to jump right in on a project just like this. In the short time that I had known Amy, she had impressed me with her knowledge, patience, and vision for what could be. So when she sent out the call for volunteers. I made sure I was there.

We spent the next few hours in the forest clearing a path that had been previously mapped out for slope, grade, and drainage considerations. For now, the trail was only an out-and-back, but she described her future vision to us volunteers: a trail that traversed the whole property and looped back to the parking lot. When the day's task was completed, we all wiped our collective brows and congratulated each other for a job well done.

Continued on page 11.

"Maintenance on Amy's Trail" Continued from Page Ten:

A month later I would be back at the trail entrance to help Amy and another set of volunteers build a hedgerow made of native plants specifically for pollinators. I was always impressed at how much energy she had for these projects, which she coordinated on top of her duties as an Extension Agent for three counties. That included everything from answering questions from the public to writing Extension publications that are being published and referenced to this day. On top of that she volunteered for the Oregon Bee Atlas (OBA), documenting the diverse native bee population of our beautiful State. I ran into her unexpectedly at so many seminars and organizations like the OBA that news of her death in December 2019 came as a complete shock. I knew she had already experienced cancer, which left her with a raspy voice and a dry cough that she blamed on medications related to her treatment, but you would never have known that she was so close to the end of her journey. We weren't close friends, and yet the grief I felt was a testament to the impact that she had on the people around her.

The trail has mostly sat as we left it in 2019, except for some very amazing benches that were donated by Scott and Sue Russell in Amy's honor and a trail dedication in 2021.

This October, I received an invitation through Washington County's OSWA Chapter for trail maintenance on Amy's Trail, organized by Cathy Dummer. Again, I jumped at the chance to be a part of this legacy. And so, on a beautiful albeit cold October day, I pulled into the overgrown parking lot of the Matteson Demonstration Forest to meet Amy's husband Dave Dreher and the other volunteers. After a quick rundown of the plan, we started to open up the path again, past the pollinator hedgerow showing signs of Fall. Flowers had turned to seed and leaves were beginning to fall to the ground, cycles of life that I know Amy would appreciate. Once we were well within the treeline, the trail was in remarkably good condition. Sawing a downed tree, removing limbs hanging into the trail, and chopping the occasional blackberry cane, we didn't have to



sweat much to whip the trail back into shape. When all was done, we shared memories of Amy and made it a point to make this project a regular occurrence.

The Amy Grotta Memorial Extension Fund was created to keep projects like this alive with funding from individuals who want to see Amy's legacy and passions going. If you or anyone else is interested in donating to projects at Matteson Demonstration Forest, donation details are below. If you want to organize a project involving natural resources that align with Amy's passions and need funding, contact your local Extension Office and the Extension Forester will work with you. Make your donations to the fund by mail or online:

By Mail:

OSU Foundation 4238 SW Research Way Corvallis, OR 97333-1068

Write on the memo line of your check "Amy Grotta Memorial Extension Endowment Fund" and they will be able to direct it appropriately.

Online Giving:

For donating online please go to the OSU Foundation's Giving page (link below). To ensure that the donation is tracked correctly, under the text field "I want to give to" you will need to type "Amy Grotta Memorial Extension Endowment Fund".

https://give.fororegonstate.org/PL1Uv3Fkug

Yamhill County Chapter Oregon Small Woodlands Association C/O Newsletter Editors 20561 NW Fairdale Rd. Yamhill, OR 97148





Yamhill County

THE SNAG

Small Woodlands Association

Reestablished in 2021

Branching Out

Passing the torch to the next generation, meeting them where they are.

Yamhill County Small Woodlands Association (oswa.org/yamhill) In-Person Meeting or Zoom — Social 6:30/Start 7:00 PM OSU Extension Office 2050 Lafayette Ave, McMinnville, OR

Day	Date(s)	Topic/Presenter(s)	Location
SUN	12/10/2023 12/17/2023	Free admission to the World Forestry Center Discovery Museum	4033 SW Canyon Road, Portland, OR 97221
WED	12/13/2023 6:00 PM	Managing Cultural Resources on Your Property OSU Extension Land Steward Program	Zoom; register at Extension.oregonstate.com
WED	1/21/2024 6:30 PM	Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI)* Jim Paul, Executive Director	OSU Extension Office McMinnville, Oregon
WED	2/28/2024 6:30 PM	Maple Tapping, OSU Professor Eric Jones* and landowner Daniel Caldwell	OSU Extension Office McMinnville, Oregon
WED	3/27/24 6:30 PM	Biomass Options for Small Woodland owners* Amanda Sullivan, AOL	OSU Extension Office McMinnville, Oregon
WED	4/24/24 6:30 PM	Understory Plant Communities and Mycelium* Presenter TBA	OSU Extension Office McMinnville, Oregon
FRI	5/10/24 2:00 PM	PGE Forestry Team Presents: Wildfire Mitigation Matt Allen, Clint Robison, and Neil Schroeder	Neil Schroeder's Property Goodin Creek Road, Gaston, Oregon
WED	5/22/24 6:00 PM	YCSWA Annual Meeting*	Beulah Park, Yamhill, Oregon

*Event offered by Yamhill County Small Woodlands Association