

P.E.O. Spring Tea and Announcement of Election of Officers

Spring is here so it must be time for the annual P.E.O. Spring Tea. The date this year is Saturday, April 27, and starts at 1:00 pm at the Cabin in Vernonia (Scout Cabin). There will be a light lunch served - fancy sandwiches, fruit, and irresistible desserts - and tea, of course, as well as coffee and punch. We will have special musical entertainment to add to the festive event.

P.E.O. is an international organization founded by seven college friends at Iowa Wesleyan College and is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year. Now with 6,000 chapters in the United States and Canada and 225,000 members, this Philanthropic Educational Organization's mission has remained steady over its history: women helping women receive higher education. There are 180 chapters in Oregon alone. The Vernonia Chapter, organized in 1945, is a small cog in that

huge wheel, but over the past two decades alone we have awarded or helped women receive over \$60,000 in scholarships. The tea party is one of the fun ways for the community to help us with that effort.

Admission to the party is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. Tickets will soon be available in the Video Department at R&S Market as well as at the door, but seating is limited so advance purchase is advised. Raffle tickets will be available, too, for three large baskets: a springtime basket filled with items to help you shake off the winter gloom; a tea basket so you can have another party if only for yourself, and a special basket with our younger guests in mind. Raffle tickets may be purchased for \$1 each or 6 for \$5 and may be placed in the receptacle for the basket(s) of your choice.

While we have fun setting pretty tables and

decorating for a fancy party, there is no "dress code;" come as dressed up or casual as you wish. That said, we do love to see the pretty and creative hats many wear! Don't have a hat? You can select one from the "vintage" collection to borrow for the afternoon. This is a wonderful opportunity for friends, mothers and daughters, or grandmothers and their grandchildren to have some special fun together. Men and boys are welcome, too!

The Vernonia P.E.O. chapter recently elected its 2019-2020 officers: Sharon Parrow, President; Patty Buchanan, Vice President; Recording Secretary, Katy King; Corresponding Secretary, Katie Poetter; Treasurer, Tobie Finzel; Chaplain, Coni Hodgson; and Guard, Beth Kintz. Congratulations, all!

UNWC Speaker on Oregon Forest Practices *continued from page 9*

grow there. Buffers for spraying around schools and other buildings are just 60 feet in Oregon (around the building, not the property line); in California and Idaho buffers are a quarter mile.

- The current Oregon Forestry Practices Act only requires the logging industry to provide adjacent landowners with a six month window in which aerial spraying may occur and it is often difficult to find out exactly which chemicals were sprayed. Gonzales said industrial logging operations may spray anywhere from five to 15 different chemicals on steep slopes and in gullies, raising concerns that, not only are chemicals containing probable carcinogens drifting in the air for up to 10 miles, but are also working their way down into drinking water supplies. There is limited data available about how these chemicals interact with each other.
- Aerial spraying is not only impacting public drinking water supplies, but is also harming the ability of a number of businesses to thrive, including fishing guides, bed and breakfasts, and most importantly organic farms - some very large, with hundreds of employees. The organic industry is one of the fastest growing economic sectors in Oregon and nationwide - in some cases aerial spraying is forcing them to destroy product because it is tainted, and even be denied their organic certification. He cited a study from 2016 from Penn State Agricultural Economist Edward Jaenicke that shows communities that support the growth of organic businesses have lower poverty rates and higher median annual household incomes - those same benefits are not found in general agricultural areas.
- Recreation is growing in Oregon and is becoming a strong economic driver, including bird watching, biking, hiking, fishing, and camping, along with businesses that support those activities like sporting goods stores, guide services, microbrews, and restaurants. Gonzales cited a study by Headwaters Economics in southern Oregon which showed that "quiet recreation" is producing more economic benefits than logging in certain areas.
- Gonzales said he offers community workshops on accessing FERNS, the Forest-activity Electronic Reporting and Notification System tool provided by the Oregon Department of Forestry. The system is used by logging companies to notify adjacent landowners of upcoming logging and when aerial spraying may occur.
- Trees intake and store carbon in their trunks, bark, branches, root networks, and the soil they grow in; this process is called carbon sequestration. Despite false claims by the logging industry that fast-growing young

trees absorb more carbon, science is now showing that older forests are better at capturing and storing carbon. Scientific best practices recommend that trees should not be harvested until they are 70-90 years old; currently most industrial logging is on a 30-40 year rotation.

• A 2011-2015 study by Oregon State University found that logging and wood product harvesting is the greatest cause of carbon emissions in the state of Oregon, resulting in the release of approximately 35% of all carbon emissions, more than transportation (23%), residential and commercial (21%), industrial (12%) and agricultural (5%). Forest fires caused just 4% of carbon emissions. Gonzales said those numbers have changed slightly in the years since the study, but the ratios remain mostly the same.

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- The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) provides labeling to identify wood products that are sustainably harvested for consumers. Oregon has just 4% of its forestland in FSC production, compared to Idaho which has 15% and California has 12%.
- Gonzales offered numerous ideas for how to improve logging and business practices in Oregon to protect the environment and also help support a robust economy. Among his suggestions:
 - Oregon needs a stronger system of mills to support smaller woodland owners
 - Restrict the export of raw logs to help create more jobs in the U.S.
 - Let forests grow longer between harvests to allow for more carbon storage
 - Protect streams and rivers with larger buffers of intact forest
 - Encourage biodiversity through selective harvests and more restrictive herbicide use
 - Buy wood products from sustainable suppliers certified by the FSC
 - Reduce logging on Oregon's public lands
 - Eliminate conflicts of interest on the Oregon Board of Forestry
 - Designate and preserve

more Oregon lands as wilderness

- Use science and ecological knowledge to manage Oregon's forests and permanently protect remaining old growth forests
- Revise how Oregon taxes timber corporations, especially large landholders with over 5,000 acres, and provide incentives for adhering to best practices and more sustainable models

"The large logging companies operating in Oregon are not sustaining forests, they're sustaining profits," said Gonzales. "Almost all the companies that operate in Oregon also operate in neighboring states that have severely more restrictive logging regulations and protections. So why is it that Oregonians aren't getting the same deal?"

Oregon Wild is currently supporting several changes to logging policies in the Oregon Legislature:

- HB 3221 and SB 926 end aerial herbicide spraying on Oregon's state lands
- SB 931 updates and improves the FERNS system and requires companies to provide more complete and timely information so rural residents can better protect themselves
- HB 2656 ends tax breaks for clearcutting and invests in climate smart forestry
- HB 2659 restricts logging practices that damage public drinking water
- HB 3044 requires more stringent reporting when applying herbicides and pesticides from the air
- HB 3042 allows cities and counties to prohibit or regulate the application of chemicals by aircraft

"We've made large, systemic and societal choices that we need to address," said Gonzales. "If we want companies like Weyerhaeuser to go easier on these lands, we have to recognize that it is going to cost them money. Our society right now is not willing to pay for that - we're not willing to pay for those values and ecosystem services. We've created this capitalist economic system and forced companies to perform. We need to shift and look at what values we want to reward, and how to compensate those values."

Notice of Budget Committee Meeting

A public meeting of the Budget Committee of the **Columbia County 4-H and Extension Service District**, Columbia County, State of Oregon, to discuss the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 will be held at the OSU Columbia County Extension office, 505 N. Columbia River Highway, St. Helens, OR. The meeting will take place on **Wednesday, May 1st, 2019 at 12:15 pm**. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the budget message and to receive comment from the public on the budget. This is a public meeting where deliberation of the Budget Committee will take place. Any person may appear at the meeting and discuss the proposed programs with the Budget Committee. A copy of the budget document may be inspected or obtained on or after April 29th, 2019 at the OSU Columbia County Extension office, 505 N. Columbia River Highway, St. Helens, OR between the hours of 8:30 am until 4:30 pm.

IT'S TAX TIME
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