

Two new members appointed to Oregon Forest Resources Institute

A former teacher and a forestry engineering consultant, both of whom also own family tree farms and volunteer their time to educate students about forestry, are the two newest members of the board of the Oregon Forest Resources Institute.

The new directors are Anne Hanschu of Forest Grove, and Ron Stuntzner of Coos Bay. They were appointed by Oregon State Forester Marvin Brown for terms beginning January 1 and expiring in three years. They will replace Steve Woodard, owner of Woodard Forests, and Carol Whipple, of the Rocking C Ranch, respectively, both of whose terms expire in January.

In addition to the new appointments, Brown reappointed Gary Springer, of Starker Forests, and Greg Miller, of the Weyerhaeuser Company, for second terms.

OFRI's board includes 11 members appointed by the state forester. There are also two ex-officio members, the dean of the Oregon State University College of Forestry, and a public member appointed jointly by the president of the Oregon Senate and the speak-

er of the Oregon House of Representatives.

Oregon law stipulates that each of three producer classes be represented by three board members. The classes are categorized by timber harvest volume into small, medium and large producers. The other two forester-appointed members include one member to represent small woodland owners and one representative of forest industry employees.

Hanschu fills the position on the board held by Woodard and reserved for small woodland owners. Stuntzner is taking Whipple's place as one of the three Class 1 representatives, defined by rule as those paying the harvest tax on 20 million board feet or less per year.

The Oregon Forest Resources Institute was created by the Oregon Legislature in 1991 to improve public understanding of the state's forest resources and to encourage environmentally sound forest management through training and other educational programs for forest landowners. OFRI is funded by a dedicated harvest tax on forest products producers.

New funding opportunities for Oregon nonprofit organizations

Nonprofit organizations throughout Oregon that respond quickly and thoughtfully to current issues and events shaping our world, have a new opportunity for funding. Oregon Humanities (formerly Oregon Council for the Humanities) invites requests for Responsive Program Grants (formerly Opportunity Grants) for up to \$1,000.

To download the Request for Proposals and find out more about how to apply, go to oregonhumanities.org. Proposals are reviewed monthly and decisions are made by members of Oregon Humanities' statewide volunteer board of directors.

Responsive Program Grants fund activities that are not part of an organization's standard programming. Instead, these grants support programs creat-

ed in response to pressing, current issues or events locally, nationally, or internationally that the applicant organization is uniquely situated to help the public explore. Proposed programs should offer opportunities to engage the public in thoughtful dialogue informed by one or more humanities disciplines. Though proposals for all kinds of program formats are welcome, special consideration will be given to programs that are interactive in nature and that aim to bring together diverse groups of Oregonians.

For more information about Responsive Program Grants, contact Oregon Humanities Director of Programs Jennifer Allen at 503-241-0543, ext. 118, or j.allen@oregonhumanities.org.

Real Christmas trees better for environment

The delight of gazing at a light-strewn, decorated live Christmas tree and the festive feeling its evergreen aroma inspires does not need to be accompanied by a nagging sense of guilt.

The Oregon Farm Bureau wants to inform consumers that, despite what they may have heard over the years, buying a fresh Christmas tree is a better environmental choice than buying a plastic tree.

Why? Live trees from Oregon are local, renewable, recyclable, are not made from petroleum, nor did they use the energy to be shipped half way around the world from China.

"Oregonians should feel good about purchasing an Oregon-grown Christmas tree this holiday season," said Oregon Farm Bureau President Barry Bushue, a nursery operator in Boring. "Live trees are sustainably produced by family farmers and are 100 percent recyclable. Besides knowing they

are supporting local agriculture, consumers can also enjoy the fragrance and beauty that only a fresh Christmas tree can bring."

Some people mistakenly believe that Christmas trees are clear-cut en masse from forestland. Not so.

Like wheat or corn, farmers grow Christmas trees in fields, or nursery plots. But instead of an annual harvest, the trees typically take five to six years before they are ready for sale. Christmas tree growers have rotating plots with trees of varying ages to ensure that each year there are enough mature trees by November and December. After a crop of trees is harvested, another is planted.

There are around 720 li-

censed Christmas tree growers in Oregon, according to the Oregon Department of Agriculture. The climate of the Willamette Valley is perfect for raising evergreens, and the almost 8 million trees harvested in Oregon are of exceptional quality. Oregon's trees are so preferred, in fact, that our state is the number one producer of Christmas trees in the nation. Last year, Oregon's Christmas tree production was valued at \$122.8 million, making it the eighth largest out of 220+ agriculture products raised in the state.

And, of course, fresh Christmas trees are biodegradable. Many communities publicize Christmas tree recycling programs soon after New Years.

Corps seeking public comment

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is seeking comments on an application for a permit to conduct work in waters of the United States.

Public Notice NWP-2008-472 describes a proposal by the Port of Chinook, Wash., to dredge up to 20,000 cubic yards of sediment over a 5-year period from the port's mooring basin at about River Mile 6.2 of the Columbia River.

The Corps is soliciting comments on this proposal from the public; federal, state and local agencies; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties. The public notice with more information is available at <http://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/op/g/public.asp>. Comments must be received by December 10.

The Corps will issue or deny a permit for this work under authority of Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 for work in or affecting navigable waters of the United States. The Washington Department of Ecology will issue or deny a permit for this work under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972.



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