

OFHA Annual Meeting – March 2011

The annual meeting of the OFHA was held on Saturday March 5, 2011 in the Natural Resources Education Center at the beautiful grounds of the Oregon Garden in Silverton, OR.

Out-going President, Bill Kennedy introduced new members of the Board: Scott Letourneau (Elk Lake), Treasurer and Jean Baecher Brown (Crescent Lake) Secretary. There are current and upcoming vacancies on the Board and OFHA is still looking for a few good people to step up and help represent their Regions on the Board. The goal is to have diverse membership throughout the state. Please consider throwing your name into the hat for a Board position.

As President, Bill had a number of goals during his tenure. He indicated that he has traveled around state visiting tracts and gathering information to share with the National Forest Homeowners' Association. (NFHA). He also was successful in improving information dissemination through the web site. We now have a newly designed newsletter that goes out in spring/summer and again in fall/winter. A web site has also been developed with a link for establishing your membership in OFHA and links to other pertinent web sites. In the future, OFHA plans to pursue having an e-mail option for sending out the newsletter.

Other presentations included an update on the Cabin Fee Act (CFA) by Board Member, Bernie Kosolo and a very positive report by Treasurer, Scott Letourneau on the financial status of the organization.

Jim Sauser, Special Use Coordinator for the Forest Service, Region Six gave an update on the Region's cabin tracts. He indicated that it had been a tough winter in some of the forests with flooding and erosion from storms. But, with the exception of one lost cabin in the Mt Hood area, most cabins had only minor damage as of March. Other issues covered by Jim Sauser included: The Forest Service is still working on fuel reduction and the removal of hazardous/diseased trees. In some areas there remain issues with water rights, septic and water systems. There are also stream/bank stabilization issues in a couple of tracts and a couple of tracts still have no electricity. The Forest Service does not have money to resolve many of these issues. With the water and septic issues, resolution is the responsibility of the cabin owners to make needed changes.

The last presentation of the day was by Paul Barnum, Executive Director of the Oregon Forests Research Institute (OFRI). Paul gave a slide show/discussion on the management of federal forest lands in Oregon. For more details, the web site is: <http://www.oregonforests.org/>

Next year's Annual meeting is scheduled for March, 2012 in the Medford area.