

Oregon Seed Association Newsletter
August 2, 2017 - Edition 7

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[A Message from your President](#)

It is with great honor, and admittedly a bit of panic, to be president of the OSA for the 2017-2018 term. When I joined the Board several years ago, I had no intention of moving through the chairs, as I could not see how I would have time to serve the industry. However, under the passionate leadership of our past presidents, the OSA evolved into an organization with defined purpose and direction and I found myself *wanting* to move through the chairs. Now, I hope I can serve the membership as well as our past presidents and keep the OSA pointed in the right direction.

As we welcome new board members Tim Ford and Debra Barnes, I want to again thank outgoing Board members Greg Loberg and Rick Myers for their years of service. I also want to thank Scott Harer for his leadership over the

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Convention

past year and for guiding the OSA with passion and integrity.

Several important issues were discussed in our meetings at the summer convention and the Board and I are already engaged with stakeholders to bring resolution and answers to the membership. We are committed to putting the best interests of the industry first and will approach all issues with this philosophy.

As I started to assemble my presidential goals, I wrote out 8-10 I thought were important for the industry. When I looked back to the goals Greg and Scott outlined, I realized mine were much the same. Some may say this was plagiarism, but to me it was clear validation that the OSA is on the right path and that one goal is necessary – *maintain the perpetual motion started by those who came before me.*

--Jeff Martin, OSA President

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Get more info here!

**Welcome Debra Barnes, SiteOne Landscape Supply
and Tim Ford, Lebanon Seaboard Corporation
to the OSA 2017-2018 Board of Directors!**

[Committee Activities](#)

Committees and their members serve a vital purpose in forming the direction of the Oregon Seed Association and promoting the cause of the organization:

- Committees serve as a training ground for future association leaders

- Committees serve as a conduit through which the Board receives member input
- Committees enhance the effectiveness of the Board of Directors by providing research analysis and advice needed for policy decisions

Are you interested in serving on a committee? If so, contact the committee chair directly by clicking on their name below. We would love to have you get involved!

In this edition, we will highlight each committee's current goals for the upcoming year.

International Committee

Chair: [Paul Hedgpeth](#), Columbia River Seed

Goals:

- Partner with other groups and agencies to find a long term solution to Oregon's containerized shipping problems.
- Quantify seed exports from Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. This will help articulate that Oregon leads in grass seed exports and is significant in showing the vested interest OSA has to local and state economies.
- Work with federal and state agencies on the challenges facing phytosanitary issues.
- Invite an international speaker to speak about the Oregon seed industry from a global perspective.

Domestic Committee

Chair: [Doug Pickles](#), Lewis Seed

Goals:

- Maintain and enhance partnerships with organizations and associations key to OSA, such as the Oregon Dept. of Ag, OSU, and OSU Seed Certification. It is imperative we foster a good working relationship with these organizations.
- Continue working with the Data Subcommittee to keep expanding the production survey so members have the most relevant information available.
- Continue working with the Emerging Professionals Subcommittee to keep them informed and bring their ideas and issues to the Board.
- Continue monitoring issues related to legislation, traffic, trade rules and ethics.

Data Subcommittee

Chair: [James Schneider](#), Barenbrug USA

Goals:

- Continue to improve the way data is input.

- Add relevant new market data points that would be helpful in developing trends and/or relationships.
- Improve confidence in the data with increased communication from industry stakeholders.

Science & Technology

Chair: [Mandi Mack](#), Vista Seed Partners, LLC

Goals:

- Work with the group that was formed during the summer meeting with OSA and OSU to address rule changes and proposals including sewn-in OECD tags.
- Work with stakeholders to resolve issues pertaining to auto-samplers, including proper calibration and chain of command.

Legislative Committee

Chair: [Phill Lindgren](#), Grassland Oregon

Goals:

- Work on a company farm tour for legislators. Get input on places to visit and legislators to invite.
- Develop long term legislative strategy that includes advocacy at the capital.
- Work with coalition on the radish and clover slow pay-no pay contract bill.
- Stay engaged and keep membership informed on bills affecting the industry.

Public Relations Committee

Chair: [Scott Harer](#), Columbia Seeds

Goals:

- Create ways to promote the association and the seed industry.
- Enhance awareness with state agencies and legislators.
- Work with other committees, such as scholarship, to promote awareness of OSA and the opportunities within the industry.

Associates Committee

Chair: [Doug Pickles](#), Lewis Seed Co.

Goals:

- Maintain the new annual sponsorship packages and make changes as needed.
- Recruit new associate members.

Scholarship Committee

Chair: [Nancy Aerni](#), Turf Merchants

Goals:

- Continue to help students meet their goals of a college education.

- Create awareness of the Oregon seed industry and the career opportunities therein
 - Work with the Emerging Professionals and Public Relations groups to arrange a career booth at the state FFA convention and other job fairs to show the opportunities within our industry.
 - Include information on the scholarship opportunities we provide to students interested in the seed industry.

Internship Program Goals:

- Match Emerging Professionals with member companies' needs.
- Recruit college students and provide on the job experience.
 - Helps future class selection/interests
 - Helps pay college tuition
 - Introduce students to different career areas within different types of companies
- Retain new talent in the Oregon seed industry.
- Create good will with the college.

BREAKING NEWS!

[Ports hail longshore contract extension](#)

The Pacific Maritime Association says it has reached a three-year contract extension with the International Longshore and Warehouse Union hopefully preventing any work slowdowns like one three years ago that damaged agricultural and non-agricultural exports and the U.S. economy.

[Read more here.](#)

We want to share your company news! If you have something exciting happening, contact [Angie Blacker](#) with a press release or news article and it will be posted to the OSA website.



Annual Summer Convention

June 23-24, 2017

Riverhouse on the Deschutes, Bend Ore.

The Annual Summer Convention in June was well attended and many members noted it was one of their favorite conventions thus far. On Thursday, members met for an early round of golf followed by a pre-convention meet and greet at the Deschutes Brewery.

Friday morning kicked off with a prayer breakfast led by keynote speaker, Dave Johnson. An Olympic decathlete who took home the bronze in the 1992 summer games in Barcelona, Dave also gave an inspirational keynote to members about how a team approach will help to overcome adversity, whether in life or in sports. We still have a few copies of his inspiring book, "Aim High" available for \$16.50 (includes postage). Contact [Anne Johnson](#) to purchase a copy.



Friday included an informative panel discussion on seed testing, to updates from committees. Friday night, everyone gathered to honor past presidents and play lawn games at a tailgate-themed reception. To raise money for the scholarship program, Board officers Scott Harer, Jake Stockfleth and Jeff Martin good-naturedly helped to raise over \$300 taking turns for over an hour in a dunk tank.

[Watch video of Angie Blacker dunking then President Scott Harer](#)

On Saturday, members heard from Paul Phillips of Pac/West Communications, who provided an in-depth overview of the legislative session and tips on how to stay engaged and in front of bills that affect the industry. A closed session for Active voting members followed before members dispersed to play in the annual golf tournament, go white water rafting or just relax.

Saturday night, members gathered for the main event, the annual banquet and silent auction. The evening consisted of a happy hour of mingling while bidding on amazing auction



items! Awards were presented as well as the passing of the gavel, followed by country western line dancing!



New Association Members

As with any convention, it was time to say good bye to some outgoing Board members and welcome in the new. In that spirit, OSA welcomed five new member companies into the association during the convention: DuPont Pioneer, S&S Seeds LLC, Hagan Hamilton Insurance, Aldrich CPA's + Advisors LLP, and Schaeffer Manufacturing.

The Board said goodbye to Rick Myers and Greg Loberg with sincere appreciation for their service and years of hard work.

Passing the Gavel

On June 24, outgoing President Scott Harer passed the gavel to Jeff Martin, who will serve as OSA President for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. The Board also welcomed Tim Ford of Lebanon Seaboard and Debra Barnes of SiteOne Landscape Supply to the Board.

A current [list](#) of Board members can be found on the website.

Auction Results

A record amount of over \$11,000 was raised this year from auction bids, cash donations, golf mulligans and let's not forget the dunk tank fundraiser!

All proceeds benefit the OSA scholarship program, and we thank everyone who participated, and to those companies that donated cash or auction items.

A full list of contributors can be found later in this newsletter.









[See more convention photos here>>>](#)

Scott Harer presents Claus Sass with the OSA Honorary Life Member Award

On June 24, Scott Harer shared a story with OSA convention attendees about his experience as a young man in the seed industry and his first business trip, where he had the fortunate luck to meet Claus Sass. Scott spoke of Claus' kindness and generosity, and how Claus had taken him under his wing and provided great advice. Scott told convention goers that the same generosity and kindness still exists with Claus today as he presented him with the OSA Honorary Life Member Award. We thank Claus for being a trailblazer and giving so much and many years to the seed industry. Claus retired from DLF Pickseed, where he served as General Manager after the merger of DLF Trifolium and Jenks Seed Connection. Claus went on to serve as Board Chair for Linn Benton Community College and on the board for Albany Partnership for Housing and



Community Development, and as a long standing board member of the Fish House, helping those in need in Albany. His community dedication has been remarkable!

RESOLUTIONS:

- Members passed a resolution to work with Oregon State Grass and Legumes Committee to change OSU Seed Certification rules to have OECD tags printed prior to testing.
- Members resolved to work with Jim Cramer to develop language that states a dealer is required to have at least one contracted grower with OGSBA in order to negotiate.

FRED EBBINGE PRESENTED OSA AWARD AT ISF WORLD SEED CONFERENCE

During the ISF World Seed Congress in Budapest, Hungary, in May, then-OSA President Scott Harer presented DLF Pickseed's (Netherlands) Fred Ebbing with an OSA plaque in appreciation of his dedication and many contributions to the seed industry. Fred has spent 40 years at DLF committed to improved customer relations in the seed industry. OSA appreciates Fred and his expertise on all aspects of working in a global market!



2017 Scholarship Recipients



The following scholarships were presented to the recipients at their school award ceremonies in June by committee member Phani Bangalore and his wife, Geetha.

Brenda Birrueta

Brenda is from Lebanon, Oregon, and the daughter of Celestino and Carmen Birrueta who are both long time employees of Barenbrug USA. Brenda is the first of her family to attend college and her family is proud of her achievement.

Brenda just finished her sophomore year of studies at Oregon State University, majoring in Business Administration with a minor in Spanish. She spent her freshmen year at Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Arizona.

While attending school, Brenda also holds down a job. Her current employer states that she walks in the door with a smile on her face and is a pure joy to have in their office. Brenda never complains about her heavy work load, she always remains positive and stays on task. In school, her advisor writes that Brenda demonstrates an ability to work within a team, also exhibits leadership skills, and is a valuable contributor to the community around her.

Brenda's current career plans are in Human Resources. She is hoping to find an internship this summer working for a local company in a similar aspect of Business Management.

Nicole Cavill

Nicole just finished her four years at Central Linn High School in Halsey, Oregon. Nicole plans to become a physical therapist, and will be attending the University of Montana to study exercise science and sports medicine this fall.

While at Central Linn, she was very active with FFA, holding offices in her school's chapter. Her advisors write that she displays a high degree of integrity, responsibility and ambition, in addition to her excellent scholastic accomplishments. She is a dependable team player and exhibits enthusiasm, reliability, and is most trustworthy. She also has a love of horses and is a part of the equestrian team, taking on the responsibility of being Team Captain this past year. She leads by example. She has a passion for helping others and likes to keep busy.

Nicole is the daughter of John and Laura Cavill. Laura is employed by DLF Pickseed USA.

Key Issues:

OSA, ODA, and OSU Seed Certification to Meet

Members of the Executive Board of OSA will meet with the Oregon Department of Agriculture and Oregon State University Seed Certification to discuss concerns raised during the annual summer convention. Board representatives will also meet with the Oregon State Grass and Legumes committee prior to their meeting in October to discuss printing of OECD tags.

University of Illinois Develops Test for Palmer Amaranth

The Illinois Crop Improvement Association announced that Pat Tranel, a University of Illinois molecular weed scientist in the crop sciences department, and graduate student Brent Murphy have developed a way to identify Palmer amaranth DNA from within a mixed seed sample without having to grow the plants or test individual amaranth seeds.

The assay, which uses a method known as quantitative PCR, can detect genetic variations unique to Palmer amaranth even when flooded with samples from closely related species, including waterhemp.

Read the full story [here](#).

Legislative Update

The legislature adjourned on July 7 after more than five months of disgruntled debate over balancing the state budget. Balancing a \$1.8 billion structural budget shortfall was the single most dominant factor of the legislative session. The shortfall—driven predominately by unsustainable growth in government programs and unfunded pension liability that continues to suppress the fiscal health of the state—was balanced through targeted new revenues and cuts to nonessential programs.

- **New Revenues:** The budget deficit associated with the state Medicaid program amounted to more than half of the total shortfall. After careful consideration and stakeholder engagement, the legislature balanced the Medicaid shortfall through new and expanded taxes specifically on the health care industry. These new taxes, while controversial to some, are critical in continuing the work of the state in transforming the Medicaid delivery system.
- **Cuts:** The Ways and Means Committee reduced state spending by nearly \$500 million. Spending cuts varied in size and will be felt across all agencies. Budget writers were able to balance the budget without devastating cuts to critical programs, a feat that cannot be overlooked.

The legislature should be recognized for its fiscal restraint in balancing the state budget. The enduring legacy of the 2017 session, however, will not be for its accomplishments but rather its failures. The session began with record new revenue, but despite such growth, the costs of continuing government services were nearly double. The unsustainable growth in personnel costs is being driven by increasing payroll, pension and benefit costs, a crisis in the waiting if and when revenues decline. There has never been a more perfect moment for the legislature to address true spending and revenue reform to make government more efficient, dedicate more resources to classrooms and restructure the tax system. The foundation of a so-called “grand bargain” was within grasp, but there was a clear absence of motivation for anyone to wade into an uncomfortable negotiation.

Your government affairs team will be completing a detailed policy analysis and preparing formal reports for you on the measures that passed during the 2017 session. Soon, attention will shift to the next election as legislators prepare for re-election and interest groups begin staking their ground for ballot measure campaigns. There are already several initiatives proposed for the 2018 election cycle, including another gross receipts tax, a requirement for taxpayers to publicly disclose their tax returns, eliminating the three-fifths requirement for tax votes in the legislature and a repeal of the legislatively enacted health care taxes. Additionally, the deadlines for the 2018 session will come quickly. Bill drafts will need to be submitted in less than four months, and the next session will begin in just over six months.

Update on the GE Patent Holder Bill, HB 2739:

Now that session has officially adjourned, HB 2739 is dead. It never got out of the Rules committee after its second public hearing. While the bill did not advance this session, it is possible we'll see a similar concept pop up in future sessions. It will most definitely be on our radar!

State Pre-emption stays under fire again!

HB 2469 and HB 1037 were introduced as companion bills that would eliminate the state preemption on genetically engineered (GE) agriculture and allow cities and counties to establish their own regulations came under fire again in the 2017 session. The bills would not only give local cities and counties jurisdiction they would include anything from outright prohibitions and control areas to labeling requirements and a localized pin-and-mapping system—creating a patchwork of regulations across the state.

Advocates of the measures, primarily organic farmers, argue they need mandated coexistence to protect themselves from pollen drift that could potentially result in them being out-of-compliance with their customer contracts. Opponents of the group include a broad-based coalition of the agricultural industry, arguing it would be virtually impossible to comply with a patchwork of regulations, especially for farmers who own land in multiple cities or counties. Additionally, they argued that local governments are ill-equipped with the expertise needed to create meaningful regulations for the complex industry. Opponents of the measure also pointed to the success stories of voluntary coexistence between neighbors in the Willamette Valley, arguing that promoting voluntary coexistence is much more effective than creating a prejudice against an industry.

Due to the overwhelming number of testifiers, the committee members opted to limit their questions and comments during testimony. Additionally, the committee did not take any action to move either bill out of committee so the bill 's died. We are prepared to see them back in subsequent sessions.

What's New!



In June, the Board launched an exciting new program that will save you money while growing the association. We are excited to

present the “**Membership Recruitment Incentive Plan.**”

The plan will award member companies that recruit a new company into the organization with a **credit equal to 20 percent of their dues for one year**, which can be applied towards dues, sponsorship packages or registrations at events. **New members will receive prorated dues if joining mid-year.**

For more information contact [Angie Blacker.](#)

Thank you to these 2017 Annual Sponsors:

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Contributor: Berkley Agribusiness-Risk Specialists



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**Thank you to these donors* for their contribution to the Silent Auction.
The proceeds we raise help to benefit the OSA scholarship program.**

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UPCOMING EVENTS: Save These Dates!

Mid-Winter Meeting – January 16, 2018

[Salem Convention Center, Salem, OR](#)

Annual Summer Convention – June 20-21, 2018

[Skamania Lodge, Stevenson, WA.](#)

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MANDI MACK (3)
Vista Seed Partners LLC

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2017-2018

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