

October 3, 2012



OSA Members,

It is hard to believe that three months have passed since we had our annual meeting in Sunriver, maybe harder to believe is that it is October already—my time does fly when you're having fun. I just wanted to give everyone a little update on what is going on and continues to go on with our association.

First and probably the most exciting is our new logo, which will be on your updated rosters, coming very soon to a mailbox near you. We also will see press releases on this soon, as a part of our awareness program in educating just what OSA has to offer.

Next, we have been active in the “canola growing zone” issue with the ODA. As an association, we stand behind our resolution from 2009 that supported the current zone, but we would remain open to any science based research that shows it would not harm or hinder any of our members. We have also stated we would like to be involved in future rulings as it has a direct impact on our group. As things develop here we will be in touch, so if you have any input or concerns please contact the chairman of the domestic committee, Brian Martin, or any of the members of the board.

Along those same lines, but not part of the above issue, is the stewardship subcommittee working on the definitions of terms used in the breeding and producing of seed genetics. The purpose again is so we all speak one language as we move ahead. Brian Martin has been in discussions with the individuals who volunteered, and hopes to have something for us to look at before the end of the year so we can discuss in an open forum at our Mid-Winter meeting.

This leads me to my next point! Please mark on your calendars the dates of our next two meetings. Our Mid-Winter meeting will be Tuesday, January 15th, 2013 at the Salem Conference Center. Our agenda is still open so if you have a topic you wish to discuss please let myself or Greg Miller know what these might be. This will be a full day of activity, which, if all goes according to plan, will end with a reception where we will invite Oregon legislators to join us as part of the OSA awareness program.

Our summer convention, I am happy to inform you, will bring some changes this year, all of which will be for the better. First, the date is moved back in June to avoid any conflicts with school, graduations, or even association meetings. Our meeting dates will be June 26-29, 2013 at Salishan Resort in Gleneden Beach, Oregon. Our meeting will start Wednesday and conclude with a Friday night dinner you will be sure to remember. Our convention chairperson, Nancy Aerni, is working hard on this already. In an effort to support this convention, we will be sending out registration forms to book your hotel stay early to make sure we have enough rooms held. By booking early, prior to the Mid-Winter meeting, you will be entered into a drawing for either a free night stay or a round of golf for 2. The winners will be announced at the Mid-Winter meeting.

Another item that we are working on in an effort to improve membership communication and to give a platform for our associate members is the revamping and updating of our website. Our Public Relations committee, headed by Bryan Muntz, is working with Pac/West to get this going as soon as possible. We hope to have an update to you by the Mid-Winter meeting.

We have several other issues in the works—John Thyssen has been involved with the inventory survey, and continues to do so, and we need to thank him for all his work on this. Too, I would like to thank all of you who help keep this program up to date by submitting information. By doing so as an industry, we have the best information possible which helps us to be more proactive instead of reactive. Greg Miller is working with Jonathon Meng of WMS and Company to get the OSA impact information together, and to publicize what our industry has to offer the state of Oregon. One last item to bring up is the Phytosanitary working group, which Sharon Davidson and Greg Miller are heading in partnership with PSA to make sure our thoughts and concerns are being addressed.

There are other things in the works, and more I am not yet aware of that we should be working on. **PLEASE** let us know what's important to you. Contact any of the board with your ideas or concerns, and contact any of the committee chairs if you have a point that needs to be addressed.

Our association is only as strong as its members, so please raise your hand and get involved; we need your help to make this group as strong as it can be **NOW**. We must be strong now and for the future. If not, others will dictate what and how we can do our business, and then no one wins. **BE PROACTIVE!**

I want to thank everyone for contributing to our association. It is what keeps us heading in the right direction.

Duane

