It’s Tree School Time

Tree School 2008 is in the final stages of planning and preparations for later this month. Hopefully, you are already registered for the event—if not, there is still plenty of space available and some great classes. For the first time in many years, we are not sold out already! At this writing we have about 515 registrations and room for 85 more. Only about 20 of the 70+ classes are closed, so we have plenty of classes available.

If you’ve struggled trying to get into Tree School in past years…or, if you’ve struggled trying to get the classes you want…then, don’t miss this great opportunity. Tree School 2008 is open and ready for business. And, don’t forget to make a special invitation to friends, family and neighbors. Let’s see if we can fill Tree School 2008.

This year’s Tree School will be another great program and this will be an especially busy month getting everything ready for action on March 29.

Tree School Coordinator, Merrily Enquist, is now organizing all of the volunteers to support the event. If you would be available for a volunteer assignment on Wednesday or Friday before Tree School, as well as on TS day, please email her at maenquist@usa.net or call her at the Extension office.

Ken Everett, owner of MAP, Inc. and our Exhibit Manager, is putting the final touches on the Exhibit Area and the 70-some businesses, agencies and organizations that will be present to share their information and services with you. Clearly, the largest Exhibit area for family forest owners anywhere, you won’t want to miss what’s new! Also, Ken is now securing another great assortment of items that he will be raffling off in the Exhibit Area with the proceeds going to support the education programs at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest.

Michael C. Bondi, Extension Agent
Forestry/Christmas Trees and Staff Chair
Upcoming Education Programs and Activities

PNWCTA Short Course

Friday, March 7
Hilton Inn, Vancouver, WA

This year’s Pacific Northwest Christmas Tree Association winter short course includes a full day of presentations and programs. The morning general session includes topics from soil erosion and the PNWCTA’s California Christmas tree marketing efforts to learning from Scandinavian Christmas tree growers and researchers, and the European’s view on current season needle necrosis.

Afternoon concurrent sessions focus on the role of genetic improvement in tree quality and production costs, methods for reducing insects on export trees, and a beginner’s guide to marketing Christmas trees.

Extension Agent Mike Bondi will be sharing the morning presentation on the California tree marketing session and leading the beginner’s class on marketing in the afternoon. To register for the PNWCTA Short Course, contact the Association at 503-364-2942.

Community Forestry Day
(formerly Volunteer Work Day)

Hopkins Demonstration Forest, Beavercreek
2nd Saturdays of each month: March 8 and April 12
(8:30am-4:00pm, each day)

Yes, the old Volunteer Work Days at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest now have a new name: Community Forestry Day. According to Tim DeLano, Extension’s Forestry Educator at the farm, “They look and smell a lot like Work Days, but with a new name.” Learning by doing is still the central theme of the day. Family forest owners are especially useful as mentors to work with our public friends that often have more limited skills and experience in the forest.

Come. Join us. You’ll be glad you did! March and April will focus on tree planting and weed control. Also, we have several trail projects going on right now.

Please call Tim to let him know you are coming and to reserve your spot at the lunch table. He can suggest tools that might be nice to bring. Also, we can always use help with lunch preparations, if anyone would like to assist with this part of the Community Forestry Days—show up to set the food out, serve the workers, and clean up. This would be a big help.
Weyerhaeuser Nursery Public Seedling Sale
Saturday, March 8 (8:00am-Noon)
Weyerhaeuser Forest Tree Nursery, Aurora

Every year hundreds of rural property owners and the general public come out to the Weyerhaeuser Nursery in Aurora to purchase seedlings during their two Public Seedling Sales. One sale date is in February and one in March. February is usually the “big event,” with several hundred participants getting into the action of tree planting. Weyerhaeuser will sell individual tree seedlings, as well as handfuls, hundreds and bags.

For the past several years, Weyerhaeuser has requested the assistance of OSU Master Woodland Managers to help the attendees by providing information about tree care and handling, tree planting techniques, and follow up maintenance.

On February 9, seven MWMs worked with landowners singly and in groups to provide information they can use. In addition, the MWMs staffed their table top display and distributed information about MWMs in the county and the kind of help they can provide.

The second and last Weyerhaeuser Nursery Public Seedling Sale will be Saturday, March 8. If you need trees for this planting season, check out this sale. Nine of our county’s MWMs will be present to help assist the public.

New Demonstration Forest Ready to Emerge
Pleasant Valley Elementary School
Foster Road, Portland

Former Oregon Teacher on Summer Assignment, David Scharfenburg, is putting his interest and knowledge of forestry to work at his school. Scharfenburg, who participated in a six-week summer program last year, at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest, became so interested in having his own forest demonstration area, that he is starting one at school. His project area is a several acre tract of land adjacent to his school and a location needing a lot of tender, loving care.

A group of about 50 parents, teachers, students and community volunteers gathered in late February for their first session to clean up a portion of the school’s property and get ready for planting trees this winter.

A second community work day is planned on Saturday, March 15…and everyone is invited! Tasks for that day will include limbing and bucking wood (trees are already felled) and feeding forest slash and debris through a chipper. Everyone is asked to bring their own tools and safety equipment. Lunch is provided. For more information, contact Mike Bondi at the Extension office.
CCFFA Arbor Week
Native Plant and Seedling Sale
Saturday, April 5 (8:30am-2:00pm or when plants sell out)
Danielson’s Fresh Marketplace Parking Lot
1500 Molalla Avenue, Oregon City

Spread the word about the Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association’s annual Arbor Week Plant Sale. The event is always popular and often sells out early in the day. The Arbor Week sale is an excellent outreach activity in the community. Encourage those you know to participate.

This year’s sale inventory includes a wide variety of native plants from local suppliers and seedlings made available through Weyerhaeuser's Aurora Forest Tree Nursery. All proceeds from the sale help support the many CCFFA programs during the year. For information about volunteering to help with this event, contact Scott Hanson at 503-631-2734.

Managing Your Woodlands
~ a basic forestry short course ~
Mondays and Wednesdays: April 28, 30; May 5, 7, 12, 14
(7:00-9:15pm)
Saturday, May 17 (9:30am-4:00pm)
Colton High School, Wall Street, Colton

The Basic Forestry Short Course is Extension’s semi-annual introduction to managing your woodlands. About 10-12 families enroll each spring and fall. This class has been taught in Clackamas County for more than 25 years and is led by Extension Forestry Educator, Gilbert Shibley. Cost is $50 per family. Use the form on the last page of this newsletter to sign up.

Registration in advance is required.

Monday, April 28: Introduction and Overview
  • Intro to woodland management: what, why and how
  • How to plan for your property’s productive future

Wednesday, April 30: Growing Trees & Forests
  • How trees grow: the basics
  • Forest Management: thinning, pruning, inventory

Monday, May 5: Planting Trees, Protecting Forests
  • Reforestation: site preparation, tree planting, weed and animal damage control
  • Preventing fire, disease and trespass

Wednesday, May 7: Making Logs from Trees
  • Harvesting: knowing the rules and hiring loggers

Monday, May 12: Multiple Uses of your Resource
  • Non-timber resources: floral greens, mushrooms, wildlife & recreation
  • Forest support of streams and fish

Wednesday, May 14: Public & Private Partners
  • Taxes: property, income and estate taxation; what you need to know to save money
  • Assistance: where to get the help you need

Saturday, May 17: Field Tour and Skill Building
  • Meet woodland owners, see what they’re doing
  • Practice new skills from the class
The Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association’s Annual Business Meeting kicks off their series of educational programs for the coming season. Everyone is welcome to attend—you need not be a member of the CCFFA. Come check out the organization and meet the landowners who make up the largest chapter of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association in the state. The CCFFA’s annual business meeting features the election of officers for the coming year, other business of the organization…but mostly a social time to connect with other forest owners…and an educational program. Please use the form at the end of this newsletter to register.

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<th>Time</th>
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<td>6:00pm</td>
<td>No Host Social Hour</td>
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<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>Dinner served (choice of</td>
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<td></td>
<td>lasagna or spinach ravioli)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>Business Meeting and Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:45pm</td>
<td>Door Prizes!!</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00pm</td>
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This evening’s education program has yet to be determined. But the good news is that Jean McCloskey, CCFFA Secretary/Treasurer, is offering to sing and dance, if needed! Don’t miss this rare opportunity.

**News You Can Use**

**Solar Kiln Project**

The OSU Extension Forestry program constructed a demonstration solar kiln for drying lumber about 12 years ago. During these years the kiln has been used around the state for classes and workshops and to gain experience about drying techniques using solar methods.

The kiln, about 8’ wide and 20’ long, is a portable unit that is attached to a trailer. The kiln arrived in Clackamas County this past month and is now being renovated prior to its use during Tree School. New windows and a new paint job are the main restoration projects underway. Master Woodland Managers Lester and Robert Helmig are housing the kiln at their office and shop in Molalla. MWM Monte Waldorf is working with the project as our “consulting engineer” providing guidance on how to design a better solar gain system for the kiln. Thanks, guys!

A work day is scheduled on Wednesday, March 5 to complete the restoration. Anyone interested in helping out is welcome. We will likely be at the Helmig Tree Farm shops in downtown Molalla starting about 9:00am and there most of the day. If you like to paint, we plan to paint the inside and outside of the kiln. New glass panels will be installed including...
an improved fastening system. Call Mike Bondi at the Extension office for information.

OSU’s Latest Publications…

Listed below are newly released publications covering topics of interest for forestry and Christmas tree growers and managers. These publications are now available on the OSU Extension website.


George Taylor to retire after 19 years at Oregon Climate Service

By KYLE ODEGAARD, Corvallis Gazette-Times reporter

George Taylor, the manager of the Oregon Climate Service at Oregon State University, will retire as of May 1 after 19 years of pouring over weather data for farmers, fishermen, skiers and others.

"I saw my role as taking a complicated subject and simplifying it for everyday folks so they can make better decisions," he said, in a news release issued today. During the later part of his tenure, however, Taylor made news as much for his long-range forecasts—spot on this winter—as for his controversial views on climate change.

Taylor believes there are signs of global warming, but that burning fossil fuels aren't necessarily to blame. Natural changes have a bigger influence, and the world has been warmer in the past, according to Taylor. That stance has rankled other scientists, the public and even Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski, who helped spur measures to combat man-made global warming.

Taylor's retirement comes as OSU is in a nationwide search for someone to head its new Oregon Climate Change Research Institute, created by the Legislature last year. That will coordinate climate-related research from the Oregon University System, and determine what further research needs exist and seek grant funding regarding global warming studies.

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The university said that the institute and its director would not take the place of Taylor, but would work in coordination with the Oregon Climate Service. The Oregon Climate Service will continue to function and be managed by Cadee Hale, who has worked as Taylor's assistant for several years.

She admitted she doesn't really know anything about the weather. "It's just me holding the place here until they figure out what to do with the Climate Service," she said.

Hale, who helped Taylor do weather reports, said he wouldn't talk with her much about climate change. "He knows so much about Oregon weather. And not from an opinion point of view, but from data that goes back years and years and years," Hale said. "I'm pretty sure he wasn't forced out. He's been here a long time."

According to the Albany Democrat-Herald, Taylor told the Albany Chamber of Commerce last month that his job title probably would be taken from him this year. Taylor was traveling back to Corvallis from Klamath Falls on this afternoon, and was unavailable for comment.

Upcoming Research Projects for Christmas Tree Growers
Several upcoming field research projects will be undertaken in the coming weeks that target needs of Christmas tree growers. A new 98-family Douglas-fir genetics screening trial will be planted soon. Five plots will be established in western Oregon and Washington. Jim Heater in the Sublimity area will host the plot for the eastern valley and foothills location.

Work with the growth regulator, naphthalene acetate, for terminal leader control on noble fir and nordmann fir, will continue but be focused on operational activities on farms. If you are interested in hosting a project site, contact Mike Bondi. Several farm sites will be identified and field trials will be installed with local growers.

Finally, trials examining the effectiveness of a potential new herbicide for Christmas tree use, Katana, will be installed in grower fields. This product has been widely used in other crops throughout the world and manufacturers are now looking at a possible label for Christmas trees. Again, contact Mike Bondi for more information.

Extension Special District Proposal
Completing City Discussions
The proposed county-wide Extension special services district is in the final stages of approval by cities throughout Clackamas County. Fifteen of the county’s 17 cities have now approved resolutions to support the formation of the Extension and 4-H district. The city approvals would allow these jurisdictions to be included within the boundaries for an Extension district and provide the opportunity for their voters to cast ballots on the issue—now tentatively planned for November 2008.

If approved by a majority of voters in the designated district area, a permanent property tax with a maximum rate of $0.05/$1,000 assessed valuation could be charged to provide the county’s local contribution to support Extension programs and activities in Clackamas County.

Two cities remain to make their decisions whether to support resolution, Wilsonville and Lake Oswego.

Extension Publishes Community Report
More than 60,000 Extension Community Reports—a 12-page color newspaper insert—were distributed throughout Clackamas County during late February. Pamplin Media Group designed the publication. Clackamas County Extension staff contributed the articles. Distribution was in all county weekly community newspapers including: Sandy Post, Estacada News, Molalla Pioneer, Canby Herald, Wilsonville Spokesman, Clackamas Review, Oregon City News, West Linn Tidings and Lake Oswego Review.
The Community Report provides an overview of the kinds of programs and activities that the OSU Extension Service offers in Clackamas County. Each of the main program areas are represented with feature stories about agriculture, 4-H, Master Gardeners, food and nutrition, forestry, watershed health, and Christmas trees. More than 30 articles highlight programs, impacts and Extension's volunteers in the community.

If you haven't seen a copy of *Extension in the News: Kids, Communities, Environment*, contact the Extension office and we'll send a copy your way. Also, if you know places in your community where the reports can be distributed for wider awareness about Extension, just let us know.

OSU's presence felt throughout Oregon:
Wide-range research programs, Oregon's economy in addition to extension offices, put $1.5 billion into Oregon's Economy

*Lauren Sigel for the OSU Daily Barometer January 31, 2008*

Universities across Oregon have some big shoes to fill, considering the economic footprint of Oregon State is estimated to exceed $1.5 billion per year, which is more than any other university or college in the state. This figure is up 50 percent from a decade ago, partly due to higher enrollment rates.

"As the state's only institution rated in the most active tier of research universities by the Carnegie Foundation, we're increasingly aware of our role as an economic catalyst and engine," said OSU President Ed Ray. Oregon State is one of two universities in America to hold all four land, sea, space and sun grants. The other is Cornell University.

That means OSU has one of the broadest, most diverse research programs in the nation. The range of research programs is so wide that OSU has earned the Carnegie Foundation's premiere designation, reserved for campuses with notably high research activity. The economic footprint includes the dollars that are spent and increases in the state's economy as a result of OSU's presence. That money includes salaries to employees, which are then spent throughout the state in various forms.

"We're not even measuring the impact to the wheat farmer, where we are helping them be more profitable and have a better crop," said Rebecca Johnson, OSU vice provost for Academic Affairs and International Programs, in an article by the Corvallis Gazette-Times. OSU has indented the economy of Oregon in more ways than one. A recent example is the use of a laser imprint system to "label" pears in a joint project between OSU and the Oregon Department of Agriculture at the OSU Food Innovation Center. The laser system doesn't hurt the fruit and enhances food security in that the labels can't be peeled off.

The university's widespread financial influence stems from OSU's presence in every Oregon county, either through a research center, an Extension office or an Experiment Station. OSU's economic output in each of the 36 counties ranges from more than a combined $652 million in Benton and Linn counties to over $100,000 in Wheeler County. Fifteen counties show more than $1 million in economic output related to OSU. Furthermore, OSU expenditures led to some 16,000 full- and part-time jobs for Oregonians statewide.

"Every taxpayer in the state can look to these numbers with confidence and know that their investments in Oregon State are paying significant, valuable dividends," Johnson said in an OSU Media release.

Oregon State University Extension Service offers educational programs, activities, and materials—without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, marital status, disability, and disabled veteran or Vietnam-era veteran status—as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Oregon State University Extension Service is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The Extension Service offers its programs and materials equally to all people. Reasonable accommodations will be provided to those with physical or mental disabilities in order to attend Extension programs. Please contact the Extension office in advance to make arrangements.
Managing Your Woodlands
Colton High School
April 28-May 17, 2008

Names of all attending _________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
Address ____________________________________________________________________________
City __________________________________State __________________ Zip ___________________
Daytime Phone _______________________________________________________________________

Registration is required. Seating is limited. Cost is $50 per family (one set of materials). Make checks payable to “OSU Extension Service.” Mail this form and your payment to OSU Extension Service, 200 Warner-Milne Road, Oregon City OR 97045. Registration deadline is Wednesday, April 21.

CCFFA Annual Meeting
Old Spaghetti Factory; Clackamas
Wednesday, April 30, 2008

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<tr>
<th>6:00pm No-Host Social Hour</th>
<th>6:30pm Dinner</th>
<th>7:30pm Business Meeting/Program</th>
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Names of all attending
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
Address
_____________________________________________________________________
City ________________________________ Daytime phone _____________________________
E-mail ______________________________________________

Registration is required. Indicate entrée choices in he box. Dinner cost is $15.00 per person. Make checks payable to “CCFFA.” Please mail this form and your payment to OSU Extension Service, 200 Warner-Milne Road, Oregon City OR 97045. Registration deadline is Wednesday, April 23.

Indicate number of desired entrees (i.e. 2 lasagna or 1 ravioli)

_____ Spinach/cheese ravioli
_____ Spaghetti with tomato sauce