

# *FOCUS on Extension*

## *Serving Clackamas County Citizens*

Clackamas County Extension Office, 200 Warner Milne Road, Oregon City, OR 97045, 503-655-8631

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### **New Forest Educator Working at Hopkins**

Peter Matzka is the new Forest Educator at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest in Beaver Creek. Matzka worked this past year at Hopkins under a contract with the non-profit Forests Forever, Inc. (FFI). FFI owns and manages the forest.

Beginning in January, Matzka's contract was taken over by the Clackamas Extension Service District. According to Mike Bondi, Extension's Regional Administrator, "We are moving forward with plans to create a new permanent faculty position and re-establish the education relationship between FFI and OSU. The contract we now have with Peter is an interim step as we proceed and hope to be ready to hire this summer."

Matzka is an OSU graduate with all three of his degrees in forest engineering—a BS, MS and PhD. Besides his technical expertise, he has developed a strong interest and desire to work with youth. Prior to coming to the Hopkins Demonstration Forest, Matzka was employed by the Oregon Forest Resources Institute doing youth education at the Oregon Garden in Silverton and working with forestry career education in high schools. Matzka, his wife, and two children live in Silverton.



*Michael C. Bondi*  
Regional Extension Administrator - Clackamas Region

### **4-Hers Will be Experiencing Citizenship in Salem This March**

Instead of taking a vacation over spring break, young people ages 13-19 are invited to attend the 4-H Experiencing Citizenship Conference. This event is held at the Salem Convention Center and includes sessions at the Oregon State Capitol. Participants learn about the importance of service, hone their critical thinking skills, see the state government in action, and engage in discussion on emerging topics with leaders from several state departments. Last year Clackamas County had the largest delegation, and we have a faculty member, an alumnus, and a current 4-H member on this year's planning committee. Those who work at the capitol should keep an eye out for us March 22-25!

For more information: <http://oregon.4h.oregonstate.edu/Experiencing-Citizenship-2015-webform>.

*Wendy Hein*  
4-H Youth Development Faculty



4-Hers in front of Oregon's Capitol.



4-Hers practice their legislative skills in a mock hearing.

## January Farmer Meetings Draw Big Crowds

The dark days of January are the preferred time for many winter farmer meetings and educational events. The North Willamette Horticultural Society met in mid-January for three days at the Clackamas County Event Center in Canby. The event drew about 250 farmers and agricultural professionals for sessions focused on organic culture, vegetable and berry production. Each of these topics included a full day of presentations from many OSU faculty.

The attendance for the Horticulture Society meeting was actually lower than normal this year—in part due to another meeting at the same time in Corvallis. The Nut Growers Society held a one-day educational program that drew approximately 700 growers, most of them hazelnut farmers. The hazelnut industry is centered in the Willamette Valley of Oregon. This region produces about 99% of the U.S. Hazelnut crop annually. The industry has been growing rapidly during the past ten years. OSU is in the process of hiring an Orchard Crops Extension Specialist with primary focus on hazelnut production. The position will be located at the North Willamette Research and Extension Center in Aurora. This will be the first time a faculty member at the Center will work with this crop.

Finally, another crop growing rapidly in the Willamette Valley is blueberries. This year's annual Blueberry Conference was the last week of January in Portland and was attended by over 400 growers and professionals. Extension faculty work closely with the Oregon Blueberry Commission to organize this one-day program with topics about global and national markets, berry production latest information, health benefits of fruit, and promotional activities to grow the marketplace.

*Michael C. Bondi  
Regional Extension Administrator - Clackamas Region*

## Learn Valuable Lessons with Family and Community Education

The Oregon chapter of Family and Community Education (FCE) was formed in 1932. Since that time, the OSU Extension Family and Community Health Program and FCE have enjoyed a collaborative partnership. The partnership brings forward research-based information to enhance the quality of people's lives. This is a partnership that OSU is still proud to be a part of today.

Members of FCE participate in Study Groups once a month. One person from the Study Group learns the lesson and then presents it to the smaller group. As a part of the collaboration, the OSU Extension Service develops three lessons each year. National FCE develops an additional six lessons. The 2015 FCE lessons address topics such as sugar, soups, and bees. The OSU lessons are titled:

- Oregon Cranberries
- *Walk With Ease: The First Step to Better Health*
- Whole Grain Foods for Every Meal of the Day

If you are interested in finding out more about this program, joining a study group, or creating your own study group, contact Katlyn Axmaker at 503-655-8631.



*Kelly Streit  
Family and Community Health Faculty*

## Oregon 4-H Livestock Judging Team from Clackamas County

For the first time in over ten years, a team from Clackamas County represented Oregon in the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest, held in Louisville, KY. And our own 4-H member Jacob L. Johnson placed third overall individual in Sheep Judging! The event gives the youth the opportunity to judge at some really outstanding farms including a market hog facility to judge market swine and a registered Hampshire sheep farm where they had to judge rams, breeding ewes, and market lambs. Finally, the participants spent a day at the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville where they got to watch the Shorthorn heifers, Dorset ewes, and Hereford heifer shows. The Clackamas County team, consisting of Connor McCabe, Jacob L. Johnson and Cody Wafford all judged a variety of livestock from meat goats to polled Hereford heifers. Trinity Rodrigues was also a member of the team but did not judge; instead she helped out by manning one of the ewe classes.

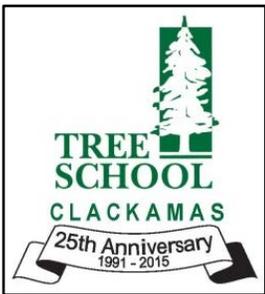
“The contest was really excellent! EXTREMELY well run!” commented Becky Sintek, the team coach and chaperone for the trip. The team, overall, placed 27 out of 32 and everyone learned a lot and had a great time!



Proud of Jacob Johnson after placing third in Sheep Judging.

*Jan Williams  
4-H Youth Development Faculty*

## 25th Annual Clackamas Tree School



Registrations have come in faster than ever for the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Clackamas Tree School. Over 500 registrations were received in the first ten days and classes were completely filled in less than four weeks. Tree School is going strong for good reason. With the catalog going out to 15,000 woodland owners in the area, there is high awareness of this annual education opportunity. Tree School consistently fills the need for family forest owners to learn and share about woodland management.

Tree School founder Mike Bondi’s idea for Tree School has evolved over the years. After the first Tree School at Estacada High School in 1991, he moved it to Clackamas

Community College where it grew steadily to the maximum capacity of about 70 classes. Mike says “Tree School has succeeded as a model for forestry education, more than I could ever imagine. Year after year, people keep coming. I think it’s because of the great networking and the useful knowledge and skills they can learn.”

Extension Forester Glenn Ahrens took on leadership of the Tree School Team in 2012. “I taught classes at Tree School for years and I always thought it was a great event. But I didn’t realize just how valuable it was until I got to work with the community here at the heart of Tree School. As I get to know the people in my territory, I am amazed at how many woodland owners have been to Tree School.” Classes this year will include topics to support successful management of diverse woodlands including seedlings and planting, forest management, marketing and business, forest health, and many more.

*Glenn Ahrens  
OSU Extension Forester*

## What's Happening

### February:

**Weston Miller on KATU's AM Northwest**, Mondays, between 9:00 and 10:00 am on KATU television station, Weston Miller is a returning guest and gives tips on home and urban horticulture. Contact Weston Miller 503-650-3124.

**Grow PDX with Weston Miller**, Wednesdays from 1:30 to 2:00 pm on 107.1 FM. Grow PDX is a show focusing on horticulture, urban gardening, community food systems, and agriculture. Contact Weston Miller 503-650-3124.

**4-H Dog Bowl**, Saturday, February 21 from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Clackamas County Event Center. 4-H participants show off their knowledge and skills. Spectators welcome. Contact Jan Williams 503-650-3127.

### March:

**Weston Miller on KATU's AM Northwest**, Mondays, between 9:00 and 10:00 am on KATU television station, Weston Miller is a returning guest and gives tips on home and urban horticulture. Contact Weston Miller 503-650-3124.

**Grow PDX with Weston Miller**, Wednesdays from 1:30 to 2:00 pm on 107.1 FM. Grow PDX is a show focusing on horticulture, urban gardening, community food systems, and agriculture. Contact Weston Miller 503-650-3124.

**Community Forestry Day**, Saturday, March 14 from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm at Hopkins Demonstration Forest, 16750 S Brockway Rd, Beavercreek. Contact Glenn Ahrens 503-655-8631.

**Molalla Grow Healthy Kids and Communities Molalla Action Team Meeting**, Thursday, March 19 from 4:30 to 6:30 pm at the Molalla High School. A community meeting focused on increasing the healthy opportunities in Molalla. Contact Beret Halverson 503-650-3131.

**4-H Tack Sale**, Saturday, March 21 from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Clackamas County Event Center. Admission is \$1. Contact Wendy Hein 503-655-8635.

**4-H Book & Bake Sale**, Saturday, March 21 from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Clackamas County Event Center. Admission is \$1. Contact Jan Williams 503-650-3127.

### April:

**Weston Miller on KATU's AM Northwest**, Mondays, between 9:00 and 10:00 am on KATU television station, Weston Miller is a returning guest and gives tips on home and urban horticulture. Contact Weston Miller 503-650-3124.

**Grow PDX with Weston Miller**, Wednesdays from 1:30 to 2:00 pm on 107.1 FM. Grow PDX is a show focusing on horticulture, urban gardening, community food systems, and agriculture. Contact Weston Miller 503-650-3124.

**Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association Annual Meeting**, Thursday, April 9 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm at the Clackamas Old Spaghetti Factory. Association business will be discussed and a guest speaker will present. Pre-registration is required. Contact Jean Bremer 503-655-8631.

**Community Forestry Day**, Saturday, April 11 from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm at Hopkins Demonstration Forest, 16750 S Brockway Rd, Beavercreek. Contact Glenn Ahrens 503-655-8631.

**Molalla Grow Healthy Kids and Communities Molalla Action Team Meeting**, Thursday, April 16 from 4:30 to 6:30 pm at the Molalla High School. A community meeting focused on increasing the healthy opportunities in Molalla. Contact Beret Halverson 503-650-3131.

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