Extension Forestry Charting Future Course

The creation of a county services district for the OSU Extension Service in Clackamas County this past year provides an opportunity to begin charting a new direction for Forestry Extension. Staff at the Extension office, are now developing a strategic plan for all programs that will guide our programing during the coming 5-10 years. The strategic plan will identify key priorities and areas of focus for Extension and define where to invest staff and program resources.

“We are committed to thinking more broadly about the kinds of education programs, services and staff support required to meet the community’s needs,” said Mike Bondi, Extension Staff Chair. “We know Extension can’t do everything people may want, but we know we can grow our programs to meet more priority needs than we have in recent years.”

To this end, Extension staff will be convening between 20-30 community focus groups later this summer and fall. The focus groups will include invited and volunteer attendees. Focus groups for the Extension Forestry program will be October 6 (for woodland owners) and 13 (for Christmas tree growers and managers). Meetings will begin at 7:00pm each evening and adjourn by 9:00pm. Participants will be asked to identify priority education and research needs within their program areas and help identify the kinds of assistance, support and services needed in coming years.

If you would like to help shape Extension’s future in Clackamas County contact the Extension office at 503-655-8631.

Michael C. Bondi, Extension Agent—Forestry and Christmas Trees
Upcoming Education Programs

Community Forestry Days
Saturdays, September 12 and October 10
Hopkins Demonstration Forest
16750 S Brockway Rd; Oregon City, OR

The September and October work days at Hopkins are always big—lots to do in preparation for the rainy season. Everyone is welcome, bring your friends and family. Please call ahead to find out what tools to bring and to reserve your spot(s) at the lunch table. Call 503-632-2150. Here’s the plan for these two important days...

September 12
• Take tent canopy down, clean and put away
• Finish cleaning and stain kiosk roofs
• Stain Hopkins Hall cedar siding
• Stain Restrooms
• Concrete pour at Shop
• Road ditch/culvert maintenance

October 10 (note: this Community Forestry Day is sponsored by the Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association; also, Chiyoko Honma is preparing lunch this day and will have something special!)
• Fall forest weed control
• Roadside spraying and mowing
• Finish road ditch/culvert maintenance
• Cutting firewood and reloading all storage for winter
• Forest inventory data collection in thinning and pruning demonstration area

Work on the fire tower lookout and the classroom building will be other possible jobs depending on the current status for each of these projects.

Butte Creek Scout Ranch Tree Farm Tour
Saturday, September 19 (9:00am-Noon)
13462 S Butte Creek Rd; Scotts Mills, OR

The Butte Creek Boy Scout Ranch, straddling the Clackamas and Marion County line, is a 620 acre forest property. In 2008, Butte Creek Ranch was named one of our Woodland Farmer of the Year nominees. The woodlands tour on the 19th will showcase the forest management work the Ranch has done during the past 10+ years and how the scouting program integrates forestry with their other education and community objectives.

The tour will visit an 80 year old Douglas-fir stand thinned in 1996 and ready for another entry; a 32 acre clear cut and reforestation project now two years old; and several other stands of various ages that have been harvested and reforested during the past ten years.

Come join us for a fascinating look at forest management—Scout camp style! Anyone interested in carpooling to Butte Creek Scout Ranch should arrive at the Safeway parking lot in Molalla (Blackman’s Corner Highway 211/213) at 8:00am sharp. Call the Extension Office if you need directions.
Outstanding examples of tree farming excellence will be highlighted, again, this year—a tradition in Clackamas County for more than 50 years.

This year’s nominees will be Mitch and Belinda Triplett, Mulino; David Staats, Redlands; and Frank Schenck, Molalla. Each farm has an interesting story behind its ownership and management. The Triplett’s are new forest owners in the county who have become very active in their community and the Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association. The Staats family carries on the forestry work begun by a previous generation. Frank Schenck continues work with his family’s land that he started 25 years ago. Come hear these important stories of caring for the land, improving productivity and building a resource for the future while meeting personal goals and objectives. Help us recognize these outstanding tree farmers! Use the registration form at the end of this newsletter to reserve your spot.

Here’s the Banquet agenda. The buffet dinner menu will include: Baked Coho Salmon and Chicken Tillamook with a Pesto Mornay Sauce, Seasonal Vegetables, Dessert, Coffee and Tea.
6:00pm No Host Social Hour 6:45pm Dinner served 7:45pm Recognition Program

News You Can Use…

County Tree Cutting Ordinance to be Proposed

Over the last six months a task force has been studying a Clackamas County tree ordinance. This effort has been in response to a group of concerned citizens that did not like builders cutting down trees and then developing property. Sometime this fall, public hearings will be held prior to the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners making a decision. Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association Board member, Jim Schreiber, and former CCFFA President, Jim Wick, have been following this issue and should be contacted for more current information.

Below is a synopsis of what is now known about the task force’s recommendations to date.

- The only land affected will be unincorporated land within the Portland Metro’s Urban Growth Boundary (UGB). Land will become affected when and if it is included in the future expansion of the UGB.
- Single family lots, with homes, which cannot be subdivided because of zoning restrictions or deed restrictions will be exempt from the ordinance.
- Land with forestry or agriculture tax deferments will be exempt from the ordinance.
- All trees less than 8” in diameter will be exempt.
- Christmas trees, orchard trees and nuisance trees will be exempt.
- Landowners will be allowed to cut two trees or 10% of their trees every two years without a county permit. However, land owners that harvest more than two trees every two years will not be able to develop their property for 5 to 10 years after they harvest. This includes owners having agricultural or forestry tax deferments within the UGB.

At the present time, the greatest concern is for tree farms inside the current Urban Growth Boundary that do not have their property designated as forestland. These owners may be limited on their ability to remove trees 8” or larger. Thanks to the two Jim’s for providing this information.
Reserve Lands Process Concludes; Public Hearing Next

For the past two years the Portland Metro counties (Clackamas, Washington and Multnomah) have been examining what lands should be reserved for urban and agricultural use in the region. The idea has been to relook at the current Urban Growth Boundary (UBG) and make decisions about what lands could be identified for development…and, what lands need to be reserved for their agricultural and natural resource significance. These decisions are being raised under the assumption that the region’s population could double within the next 30-50 years and there will need to be someplace for all of the people to go.

In Clackamas County a Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) of about 30 individuals has been meeting monthly, bi-weekly and weekly for nearly two years to come up with recommendations that will go forward to the Board of County Commissioners. Representatives from each city, several hamlets and two public agencies participated on the PAC. Woodland owner Peter McDonald, Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association member from Wilsonville, represented landowners from that part of the county. Mike Bondi served as another woodland/agriculture voice on the PAC. Many other farm and woodland owners attended the meetings as concerned citizens and to provide public input.

The last meeting of the PAC was in late August and recommendations have now been submitted to the Board of County Commissioners. A Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday, September 8 to present the Commissioners proposal for reserve land designation and to take public input. The meeting will be held in the Public Services Building, 4th floor Hearing Room, 2051 Kaen Road, Oregon City, beginning at 6:00pm.

Reminder About Tough Times Info

If you haven’t checked out the statewide OSU Extension Forestry website (http://owic.oregonstate.edu/tough-times/). Dial it up to see what’s there that might be of interest. This new page has been developed to assist you in finding help, such as learning how funds allocated by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act are making their way into the forests of Oregon, and how these funds will translate into projects and jobs on the ground. Websites are also highlighted that show sources of cost-share funds for private landowners, and marketing opportunities through OSU’s Oregon Forest Industry Directory. Check it out today!

CCFFA to Host Next OSWA Convention

The Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association will be hosting the 2010 Oregon Small Woodlands Association Convention (OSWA)—sometime next spring. Next year will be the 50th anniversary of OSWA and the statewide leadership wanted to come back to Clackamas County—the home of the first local woodlands chapter in the state. Subsequent chapters formed the state organization known today as OSWA.

Planning for next spring’s meeting is just getting underway now. The meeting will likely include a general indoor session meeting, field tours and a celebration banquet. Be watching for details and see how you can become involved in helping make this meeting a great success while we showcase family forestry in Clackamas County.
Tree School Planning Underway—in earnest

The curriculum for Tree School 2010 is now being developed for next winter. Tree School 2010 will be Saturday, March 20 at the Clackamas Community College in Oregon City. We anticipate a similar program as past years—why change a program that is such a big success?

Tree School 2010 will feature about 65 classes, another great exhibit/vendor area, and a special chance to connect with friends, neighbors and other tree growers.

If you have ideas for potential Exhibit Area vendors (who would you like to see at Tree School?) let us know. We are always looking for vendors and supporters for the Tree School registration booklet and exhibit area. Personal contacts and connections can be very helpful when recruiting new exhibitors and advertisers. Contact Mike Bondi with your ideas.

Hopkins Happenings…

There’s always a lot happening at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest. Below are several items highlighting most recent projects and activities.

Classroom Now on Hold

At the August meeting of the Forests Forever, Inc. Board of Directors, the group confirmed their decision to “hold” on initiating construction of the next phase of the new classroom at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest. The first phase is nearly complete—the foundation is in, all utilities are in, and all grading and site work has been finished. An overflow parking area is now being created to handle vehicles when the main parking lot will need to be closed for construction of the building. Also, the pump for the new well still needs to be installed and water hook ups completed. The parking and pump projects should be finished before the end of September.

The second phase of construction will be the weather-tight shell for the building. “The Board has decided to sit tight at this time and not build,” said Ken Everett, FFI’s President. FFI is about $30,000 short in cash and donations to construct the classroom shell. Construction costs have risen from the initial estimates and fund raising has slowed considerably during the past 12 months.

“We really thought we would have the building up by now, but we are not quite there yet,” said FFI Board Member and secretary Mike Bondi. “But, we are continuing to look for funding contributors and are committed to making this project happen as soon as possible. We are ready to go with the construction.”

The classroom will be a 40’ X 60’ building and will have capacity for up to 120 in theater-style seating. Another feature of the building will be a catering kitchen and indoor plumbing.

“We really see this facility as a multi-purpose building. It will be perfect for woodland owner meetings, classes, teacher education workshops and community events.

Anyone interesting in helping raise the classroom, contact Ken Everett at 503-655-5524.
Fire Tower Just About Ready to Raise

The historic Clatskanie Mountain Fire Lookout is finally getting close to raising. County building permit hang-ups have delayed construction. But, we are finally about ready to build.

The first step will be putting in the foundation for the tower. Then the lower steel structure for the tower will be raised. Finally, the upper tower piece will be assembly and a new cabin will be attached to the tower section and raised into position. When complete, the tower will stand about 60’ tall.

The biggest challenge right now may be the reconstruction of the tower cabin. The original cabin was uninhabitable.

For more information about how you can help, contact Ken Everett, FFI President at 503-655-5524.

Teachers Take to the Woods

Four local teachers spent the month of July at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest learning as much as they could in four weeks from Extension Agent Mike Bondi. The project, now in its sixth year, provides a unique chance for teachers to experience the real life, practical side of growing and managing a forest.

Up until this year, the Oregon Forest Resources Institute has been sponsoring the teachers in the forest program. But, budget cuts curtailed the program for this year. None-the-less, Bondi decided to continue the program on his own.

“Tsee this project as a very important education opportunity for teachers in our area. It’s a great chance for the teachers to get an in-depth forestry orientation and connect as many educators to the Hopkins Demonstration Forest as possible”. Also, Bondi admits that the teachers provide a valuable labor source for Hopkins and helps him get things done he wouldn’t get to himself.

This year’s teachers all came from Pleasant Valley Elementary School on SE Foster Road. David Scharfenberg, a two-time veteran of OFRI’s Teachers on Summer Assignment program, recruited three teaching partners from his school so he could begin to develop a core of educators who were all interested in natural resources and forest management.

The teachers included: David Scharfenberg—sixth grade; Dwayne Odoms—sixth grade; Scott Martin—fourth grade; and John Naimo—physical education.

Bondi provided daily instruction and practical instruction on forest inventory, silviculture, surveying and mapping, and streamside management. Master Woodland Manager, John Poppino, worked with the team on silviculture and stand marking activities that will lead to a future harvesting operation at the farm.
Lodeen Family Sets Stone in Memory of Loved One
By Jim Kadera, Forests Forever Board Member

The Hopkins Demonstration Forest has its first trail memorial stone.

The family of Olaf Erven “Erv” Lodeen Jr. donated $5,000 to Forests Forever Inc., the non-profit that owns and manages the Hopkins Forest, in honor of their father, who died in April at age 73. At the family’s request, Forests Forever purchased a stone, had it inscribed and this summer placed the stone along Hopkins Trail near its Cedar Grove Shelter. Forests Forever, Inc. has operated the 140 acre Hopkins Demonstration Forest in the Beavercreek area for the past 19 years.

Lodeen worked a half century in the Northwest plywood industry before retiring to a home in Port Angeles, Wash. He long had enjoyed walking in the woods, and wanted to take one more trek before dying. But poor health kept him from taking that walk.

Lodeen’s children decided to recognize his interest making their donation for a memorial stone and trail upkeep at Hopkins. The siblings are Kevin Lodeen of Coto de Caza, Ca., and his sisters, Darcy Lodeen Bain of Tualatin, and Karin Lodeen Nealon of Dublin, Ca.

The stone is inscribed “This trail is maintained in loving memory of Erv Lodeen.” Kevin Lodeen said the stone “…looks very nice. We are all pleased with the look and design. It captures the characteristics my sisters and I remember in our father – the solid commitment to family and friends, his love of the natural beauty found in the Pacific Northwest, and most importantly, it provides the perfect tribute to his final wish ‘to have just one last walk in the woods.’”

When his children were young, Erv Lodeen frequently took them camping, fishing and picnicking in the woods, and later shared his love for green places and wildlife with five grandchildren. He kept a bird book on his kitchen table to identify any new bird that stopped in his yard.

Kevin Lodeen explained why they selected the Hopkins Demonstration Forest as the place for the memorial.

“My father lived in Oregon most of his life. My sisters and I grew up just outside of Portland. One of my sisters, Darcy Bain, still lives in Tualatin. We chose Hopkins because it is close to her and most of my father’s close friends.

“My other sister, Karin Nelson, is a graduate of Oregon State University, and we were aware of the partnership between Hopkins and OSU. Hopkins Demonstration Forest represents the kind of place my father would have loved – beautiful land, great hiking trails with picnic facilities, and most of all the educational facilities to support the mission of promoting responsible use of the land.”
Catching Up on Christmas Trees…

International Research and Extension Meeting in Oregon
Every two years, Christmas tree researchers and Extension professionals from various parts of the world, gather to discuss common challenges in the industry, what they are working on, and better ways to work together. This year’s meeting is being hosted in the Pacific Northwest. Meeting and field tours will occur between Corvallis and Puyallup during the second week of September.

“The Christmas tree family is really pretty small worldwide,” said Chal Landgren, Oregon State University’s Christmas Tree Extension Specialist for the state. “But, we’ll have researchers and Extension people from the major growing regions in the world and it’s always great to learn from each other, compare notes and find ways where we can work together more effectively to solve common problems.”

The meeting includes technical research presentations, poster sessions, and field tours.

Promoting the Clackamas Christmas Tree…and your business, too
For the third year, the Clackamas County Tourism and Cultural Affairs Department (CCTCA) is, focusing on promoting the nation’s largest Christmas tree producing county. Several local growers have participated with CCTCA taking advantage of butt tags, retails sales lot banners and fliers and other promotional opportunities. CCTCA seeks to create a “buzz” about Clackamas County as a place to come and visit while supporting the tree growers here that make the county unique.

Again this year, free banners and fliers are available. The banners and matching flyers direct consumers to information about “How To Keep Your Tree Fresh and Fragrant.” The banners and fliers are ideal for retail lots who distribute your trees to the public. Last year, tree grower Irv Wettlaufer, Timbergrove Farm LLC, used the banners and fliers and said they were very popular.

The colorful banners are 3’ x 6’ heavy vinyl with grommets and the fliers are 1/3 page in size. They come to you in a waterproof sleeve ready to be shipped with your trees in the truck. Mentioning the banners and flyers on your bill of lading will get them delivered to the lot manager.

The banners and fliers encourage consumers to click on the web site, www.VisitMyTree.com where consumers can learn how to keep their trees fresh and fragrant, learn about Clackamas County’s Christmas tree industry and access kids games and activities. Consumers can also enter a contest to win a trip to Oregon’s Mt. Hood territory. Check out the website for more information.

Also, CCTCA will pay a percentage of your butt tag order printing and shipping this year if you will include the visitmytree.com art on your tags. CCTCA is working with several printers who have the art, so you just need to ask for it, and you’ll receive the discount.

For more information, ordering banners and fliers, and butt tag details, contact Mary Stewart at 503- 570-0133 or marystewart20@verizon.net.
Sell More Christmas Trees Directly to Consumers:  
2010 Summertime Christmas Tree Farm Tour

The VisitMyTree.com program run by the Clackamas County Tourism and Cultural Affairs Department is developing a new opportunity for local growers to bring more consumers onto their farms and pre-sell Christmas trees while increasing overall farm sales, public education and tourism revenue.

As members of the Summertime Christmas Tree Farm Tour, growers will tour consumers around their farm during specified days in the summer months, showing them how Christmas trees are raised, sheared, harvested and shipped. Consumers will buy a Christmas tree farm pass that will include the tour, and other experiences or products as desired by the individual grower. Some farms will also pre-sell trees at this time. Several Christmas tree farms are already on board. There is no cost to enroll in the program.

For development assistance and more information about this opportunity contact Mary Stewart at 503-570-0133 or marystewart20@verizon.net.

Summer Weather Takes Toll on Trees in County

This has certainly been a long and hot summer. Normally, the Portland area sees about a dozen days each year when high temperatures reach 90 degrees or above. But, 2009 will be known for nearly twice this number. By August 31, we have already more than 20 days at 90+. September could easily see 2 or 3 more days based on the long-term average.

So, it’s not surprising that tree damage in our plantations has been common. We are seeing a lot of burn on the south and west side of trees—primarily noble fir, although some grand fir, too. Douglas-fir has been generally free from damage. The burn is usually on any new growth in 2009 but can extend back onto the limb and hit the 2008 and 2007 foliage, too.

Also, we have been seeing plenty of current season needle necrosis—the browning of current year’s foliage (2009) but will be seen all around the tree. Again, nobles and grand are most effected.

Finally, any newly planted seedlings from this past winter have suffered, too. We’ve seen fields with 20-40% mortality or more depending on the time of planting, site preparation and weed control. Unfortunately, without significant rainfall in the coming 2-3 weeks, more mortality will likely result. Mid August until mid September is the when seedlings often die out if they are weak in any way. Little to no soil moisture, coupled with hot, low humidity days and an easterly breeze in September could easily be too much for trees already stressed from the summer’s weather. Keep watching before assuming you’ve seen all of the mortality in your fields.
Tree Farmer Recognition Banquet
Saturday, October 17 (6:00-9:00 pm)
Arrowhead County Club, 28301 S Hwy 213; Molalla

No-host social hour at 6:00 pm            Dinner at 6:45 pm            Recognition Program at 7:45 pm
Buffet dinner includes Baked Coho Salmon and Chicken Tillamook with Pesto Mornay Sauce, Seasonal Vegetables, Dessert, Coffee and Tea

_________________________________________________________________________________________
Names of all attending

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Address __________________________________________________________

City_________________________ State_______________ Zip ____________________________

Daytime Phone________________________

Registration is required. Cost is $20 per person. Please make checks payable to “CCFFA.” Mail this form and your payment to OSU Extension Service, 200 Warner Milne Road, Oregon City OR 97045. Please register by the deadline date, Monday, October 12.