Summer Will Be Busy Time to Learn

This summer will be a busy time for education programs targeting woodland owners and Christmas tree growers in the area. The Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association (CCFFA) has a host of summer activities planned. OSU Extension in Clackamas County is working with the CCFFA to organize several of these events. Also, Forests Forever has summer program activities at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest. Finally, the Pacific Northwest Christmas Tree Association is sponsoring their summer meeting and tour at OSU and in the Corvallis area this year.

Here’s a summary of what is scheduled at this time. There could be other education programs and events organized during the summer that you may be interested in—we’ll let you know any additions as we know them. But, for now…mark your calendar!

- Hopkins Demonstration Forest Forestry Day (May 10; a work day and a learning day)
- Benchmade Knife Factory Tour (May 14—registration required; details inside)
- Loren and Sylvia Bowman’s Delph Creek Forest Tour (May 31; details inside)
- Hopkins Demonstration Forest Forestry Day (June 14; a work day and a learning day)
- Pacific Northwest Christmas Tree Association Summer Meeting (June 20-21; details inside)
- Freres Lumber Company Mill Tour (June 27—registration required; details inside)
- Hopkins Demonstration Forest Forestry Day (July 13; a work day and a learning day)
- Noble Fir Christmas Tree Culturing Clinic (July 23; registration required; details inside)
- CCFFA Summer Picnic and Tree Farmer of the Year Tour (August 2)
- Hopkins Demonstration Forest Forestry Day (August 9; a work day and a learning day)
- Christmas Tree Grading and Measuring Field Demonstration (August 19)
- Hopkins Demonstration Forest CCFFA Work Party (September 13)
- Hopkins Demonstration Forest Forestry Day (October 14; a work day and a learning day)
- Tree Farmer Recognition Banquet (October 25)

Michael C. Bondi, Extension Agent—Forestry, Christmas Trees & Staff Chair
Upcoming Programs, Events and Activities

**Hopkins Demonstration Forest—Community Forestry Days**

**Saturdays: May 10, June 14 and July 13 (8:00am-4:00pm each day)**
Hopkins Demonstration Forest, Beavercreek

Forests Forever’s Community Forestry Days continue to be a big hit. The once per month events commonly attract 20-40 attendees that engage people in working at the farm while learning about forestry. Join us to help out. It’s always great to connect the public participants with real, live forest owners who can share their knowledge and insights.

The early summer will focus each month on trail building and upgrades aiming toward a major hiking event in the autumn. Other tasks will be addressed, too. Community Outreach Educator, Tim DeLano, is planning lunch for all volunteers. Let him know if you’re coming and find out what equipment to bring by calling 503-632-2150.

**Benchmade Knives Factory Tour**

**Wednesday, May 14 (8:30-10:30am)**
300 Beavercreek Road, Oregon City

This tour will highlight the unique knives manufactured by Benchmade right here in Clackamas County. This 20-year old company is developing a world-wide reputation for quality and innovation. Their use of non-traditional materials and modern manufacturing methods is setting their quality and reputation apart. This special tour is for woodland owners and Christmas tree growers—the kind of people who appreciate a good knife for work and recreation.

This tour will include an overview of the company, its philosophy and their market. We will view all aspects of production from cutting the knife and handle blanks to the grinding and edging procedures and assembly.

The Benchmade Knives Factory Tour is limited to the first 30 registrants. Closed shoe or boot footwear is REQUIRED. Eye protection will be provided. Contact the OSU Extension office to sign up (503-655-8631). There is no fee.
Delph Creek Tree Farm Tour
Saturday, May 31 (11:30am-3:30pm)
35911 SE Bowman Road, Estacada

Loren and Sylvia Bowman, Clackamas County Woodland Farmers of the Year in 2003, will be hosting a great day on their farm along Delph Creek, east of Estacada. The event begins with lunch provided by the Bowmans. Their forest tour follows lunch and will feature tour stops and discussion about pre-commercial thinning, commercial thinning, vegetation management, cost-sharing opportunities for woodland owners, stream enhancement and bridges and culverts—lots to see and do! This will be an excellent tour for new woodland owners as well as veterans, plus a great chance to meet other landowners.

Registration is required for food planning. Use the registration form at the end of this newsletter or contact the OSU Extension office to sign up (503-655-8631). There is no fee.

PNWCTA Summer Meeting and Farm Tour
Friday and Saturday, June 20-21
LaSells Stewart Center, Oregon State University, Corvallis

Contact the Pacific Northwest Christmas Tree Association in Salem to register for their annual Summer Meeting and Farm Tour. The phone is 503-364-2942.

Details for the Friday indoor program include: PNWCTA Market Expansion Report and Plans for 2008; A Mexico Market Update; Digital Farming; Green Certification—who and how; An Insecticide and Fungicide Update, Using Foliar Nutrients and Optimizing Nitrogen Fertilizer Applications.

Saturday will include field tours to the Holiday Tree Farms Nursery to look at conifer nursery production and to Stroda Farms to look at several fields examining disease and insect issues in multiple rotation plantations, use of growth hormones for true fir leader control, new herbicide labeling for Casaron, and cover crops and mulches.

Freres Mill Tour
Friday, June 27 (8:30am-Noon)
Carpooling from Safeway parking lot, Molalla

Freres Lumber Company is a fourth generation family-owned forestry business continuously operating since 1922. Their primary production has been lumber, plywood and veneer. Dave Hill, the President of the Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association, has been working with Andy Heuberger, Freres’ Log Buyer, to set up a great tour. Highlights will include the veneer plant (peeling logs), the veneer drying facilities and their new 10 megawatt co-generation facility that provides power at the mill. Don’t miss this tour.

The Freres Mill Tour is limited to the first 30 registrants. Contact the OSU Extension office to sign up (503-655-8631). There is no fee.
Noble Fir Christmas Tree Culturing Field Demonstration
An Evening with John Tillman
Wednesday, July 23 (4:30-8:30pm)
Location to be announced to registrants

Back by popular demand! John Tillman, Washington state tree grower and contractor and known throughout the Pacific Northwest for his tree culturing skills and his interest and ability in teaching others, has graciously agreed to join us again this summer for an in-depth look at how to produce outstanding quality noble fir trees.

The agenda for the evening will include the basic how-to’s, from basal pruning and young tree set up to mid-year and late cycle culturing principles. John will focus on correcting tree form and shape problems and strategies for producing the kind of trees you are interested in growing—based on size and taper.

This educational event will be a how-to demonstration clinic. We will limit the attendance to 35 so attendees can see, hear, and have their questions answered. Pre-registration is REQUIRED—use the form at the end of this newsletter. This program includes a $30 registration fee per person to cover program expenses.

Finally, we will take a 30 minute dinner break between 6:00-6:30pm. Bring your own sack dinner. Beverages will be provided. Questions? Contact the OSU Extension Office in Oregon City at 503-655-8631.

Other News You Can Use…

Tree School Another Big Success!

Tree School in Clackamas County attracted approximately 700 participants to its annual one-day mini college for family forest owners, Christmas tree growers, loggers and professional resource managers. The event was held on March 29 at the Clackamas Community College in Oregon City.

Now in its 18th year, Tree School has become a model for a large, high-profile education program that provides knowledge and skills for its attendees and makes a real difference in how the land is cared for while improving profitability for landowners.

Although many Tree School participants return to the event year after year, Tree School 2008 attracted 241 “first timers.” That is the largest number ever. “I believe this is good evidence that we reach out widely each year to make sure everyone in the community knows about Tree School and the value of this program,” said Mike Bondi, Clackamas County’s Extension forestry agent and creator of Tree School.

According to Hal Broughton, from Lake Oswego and one of Tree School’s first timers, “This was the most amazing event I’ve ever seen in my life. Lots of great classes. Great exhibits and business involvement. The energy and enthusiasm of all the people there was just infectious. I can’t wait for next year!”
Tree School Makes National Stage

Clackamas County’s Tree School will be a featured presentation at the biennial meeting of the Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals to be held May 20-23 in Madison, Wisconsin. Extension Agent Mike Bondi and Tree School Coordinator Merrily Enquist will travel to the Midwest for the meeting and to deliver their presentation highlighting the development of the program, how it is organized, and its impacts in the community. Each participant at the meeting will receive a Tree School planning notebook and copy of an 18-minute video prepared by the Clackamas County Government Channel showcasing the event.

Tree School Focus Groups Next Item of Business

Two focus groups will be convened in June to begin the process of gathering ideas for Tree School 2009. The Forestry focus group will be Tuesday, June 3 and the Christmas Tree focus group will be Thursday, June 5. Both sessions will begin promptly at 7:00pm and adjourn by 9:00pm. Both meetings will be held at Hopkins Hall, Hopkins Demonstration Forest, Beavercreek. Refreshments provided.

Everyone is welcome. But, please do call Merrily Enquist to express your interest in participating in either of these events. Merrily can be reached at 503-460-0519 or maenquist@usa.net.

“Focus group input by Tree School participants is a critical part of our process to determine what people need and want to learn,” said Merrily. “We value everyone’s ideas and suggestions and try to do our best to find the instructors to address these needs. That’s one way we ensure we have the best possible program to offer each year.”

Call today to reserve your spot in the focus group circle!

Clackamas County Forest Owners Restore Solar Lumber Kiln

Twelve years ago, OSU Extension Wood Products Specialist Jim Reeb, decided it was time to start looking at solar technologies for drying lumber. Today, this idea seems like it was ahead of its time. Working with the Forest Research Lab on campus in Corvallis, Reeb designed a portable solar kiln and mounted the 8’ x 20’ structure on a trailer so it could be moved around the state to evaluate its usefulness in locales.

The kiln has been used to dry wood in Corvallis and trips to Astoria, Klamath Falls, Bend and Burns. But over the years the kiln had fallen into disrepair. When Clackamas County’s Tree School came calling to have the kiln present at their event this past March for a discussion of lumber drying, Scott Leavengood, OSU’s Director of the Wood Innovation Center, decided it was time to bring the working order.

Master Woodland Manager Monte Molalla, putting finishing touches on kiln.
“The kiln spent the last several years in eastern Oregon and was in really bad shape,” said Leavengood. “In fact, it was unusable. It needed an EXTREME MAKEOVER but it also needed a champion—someone willing to put some time and energy into the project. And, we recognized the kiln needed some improvements in design to work more efficiently.

Mike Bondi, Extension Forestry Agent in Clackamas County provided the impetus to bring the kiln back to life. He lined up a place to house the kiln for its repairs and found a team of volunteer landowners to help with the restoration.

“Quite honestly, I don’t think a project like this happens in most other parts of the state,” Bondi said. “We have an incredible group of dedicated and resourceful landowners and professionals in this county who know how to make things happen. I’m really proud of their accomplishments.”

The kiln is now ready for testing. Kevin Kaster, Kaster’s Kustom Cutting in Mulino, and Toby Sart, Aurora, will be the first in the county to put the kiln through its paces, try drying a variety of lumber sorts, and gather data to gauge the kiln’s efficiency and practical use. Scott Leavengood has information now available on his Wood Innovation Center website about the kiln, including a slide show of the restoration process, and data being collected. Check his site at http://owic.oregonstate.edu/ and click on Whats New: Mobile Solar Kiln.

A tour to observe the kiln in action will be scheduled for later this summer after we’ve had the chance to get practical experience with solar lumber drying and have more information to share.

**Solar Kiln Restoration Team**

- Lester Helmig, Molalla, Master Woodland Manager, provided a home for the kiln at his shop for more than a month during the restoration process. Lester was the guy who made this project happen, not only providing the work site, but helping us realize that we needed professional help—and that help was right in our group-MWM Monte Waldorf.

- Monte Waldorf, Molalla, Master Woodland Manager, the “brains” behind the redesign of the solar glass panels—designed, measured, ordered materials, guided the construction process and did final finish work with flashings and sealing.

- Robert Helmig, Molalla, Master Woodland Manager, worked on clean up of the kiln and installation of the glass panels.

- Kevin Kaster, Molalla, local portable sawmill owner; helped with installation of the glass panels.

- Loren Bowman, Estacada, Doug Shannon, Molalla, Scott Russell, Scappose—all helped with tear out, scraping, sanding and painting the kiln. After a long day of hard work, the kiln actually looked like it really did have potential!
Pleasant Valley School Project Big Success

Last summer, sixth grade school teacher David Scharfenberg participated in the Oregon Teachers on Summer Assignment (ORTOSA) program hosted at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest. The six-week intensive forestry practical field experience is designed to provide teachers with a broader understanding of forestry, forest science and land management. Hopefully, teachers can incorporate some of their new knowledge into their classroom and school settings.

David did. Before the end of last summer he hatched a plan with the other two teachers in his Hopkins group to rehabilitate a brushy, underproductive and underutilized area at Pleasant Valley Elementary School on Foster Road, Portland. His goal was to create a demonstration forest and outdoor learning laboratory.

During the past several months, Scharfenberg has been working with his students, their parents and other teachers and administrators at Pleasant Valley to clear unwanted vegetation on an 1½ acre site. More than 50 people were involved on each of two brush cutting and slash clearing days. Students from the Sabin-Schellenberg vocational forestry program helped, too, as did some of our Clackamas Master Woodland Managers.

On April 19, Scharfenberg plus about 75 youth, parents and community members planted about 700 trees at their new demonstration site in what has become an outstanding example of forestry in action. Congratulations to David!

Now recruiting ORTOSA students for summer

We are now screening candidates for this summer’s Oregon Teachers on Summer Assignment program sponsored by the Oregon Forest Resources Institute. Between one and three teachers will be selected depending on the pool of candidates.

The OSU Extension forestry program in Clackamas County has hosted the ORTOSA experience for teachers the past four years at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest. The six week program will begin on June 23 and complete on August 1. Teachers work 40 hours each week on forestry field projects. Planned activities for this summer include forest inventory, road and trail layout and planning, and riparian inventory and plan preparation.

New Christmas Tree Extension Specialist On The Way

On May 1st and May 2nd, candidates interviewed for a new Extension Specialist position with Oregon State University. The new faculty member will have statewide responsibility for leading Extension’s Christmas tree education, outreach and research programs. The position will be housed at the North Willamette Research and Extension Center near Aurora.

“This is an extremely exciting time for OSU and for the Christmas tree industry in Oregon,” said Mike Bondi, Extension forestry and Christmas tree agent. Bondi says that Oregon has not had a full-time faculty position dedicated to the needs of Christmas tree growers in this state for more than 25 years. Oregon is the largest Christmas tree production state in the U.S. and accounts for about ¼ of the nation’s annual supply of trees for households in the country.

Bondi is the Chair of the Search Committee that has been recruiting candidates for the Specialist position. Other committee members include Joe Sharp, Yule Tree Farms, Aurora; Bryan Ostlund, Pacific Northwest Christmas Tree Association, Salem; Rich Regan, District Horticulturalist, North Willamette Research and Extension Center, Aurora; Linda McMahan,
Horticulture Extension Agent, Yamhill County Extension, McMinnville; Ed Peachy, Horticulture Researcher, OSU, Corvallis; and Paul Adams, Extension Watershed Specialist, OSU, Corvallis.

The Committee says the successful candidate will be capable of teaching landowners and growers, will be able to lead a world-class research program, and will have a vision for the kind of program we need in the Pacific Northwest to help the Christmas tree industry remain a leader in the country.

It is expected that the new Specialist will be on staff by early summer.

**FFI Classroom Update**

The fundraising effort for Forests Forever’s new classroom/meeting building has now topped the $100,000 mark—about 5 months into the campaign. This giving includes cash contributions and donated building materials.

“Our goal is to raise about $300,000,” said Ken Everett, president of Forests Forever, Inc. and the manager of the building project fundraising effort. “We have a long way to go but we are making excellent progress and will soon be halfway to our goal.”

Everett said that most of the donations thus far have come from family forest owners in the county, as well as contributions from the forest industry. “Momentum is growing with each and every gift as more and more folks realize that there is a lot of support for this community project and want to be a part of making it happen.”

According to Everett, “Forests Forever will soon apply for several significant foundation grants too. If these gifts become a reality, we will get much closer to having a first-class forestry education facility in Clackamas County.”

For more information about the forestry and natural resource education classroom and meeting building, contact Everett at 503-655-5524.

**Extension District—the latest update**

On March 18 resolutions from 16 of Clackamas County’s 17 incorporated cities were presented to the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners. Each of the resolutions allows the inclusion of their city’s jurisdictions to be included within the boundary for the proposed district. The only city not providing a supporting resolution was Johnson City.

Since the later part of March, legal documents to form the district have been developed. On May 1st the County Commissioners will declare an order to initiate the formation of the proposed Extension District and announce a public hearing on Thursday, June 19. The hearing will provide an opportunity for anyone in the public to voice their opinion about the District formation proposal. If the County Commissioners choose to move the District concept forward, voters in the county will decide the fate of the issue at the ballot box in November 2008.

For more information on the Extension District process, contact Mike Bondi at 503-557-5880.
Noble Fir Christmas Tree Culturing Tour
Registration Form
Wednesday, July 23 (4:00-8:30pm)

Attendee Name(s) ____________________________________________________________

Mailing Address ______________________________________________________________________________________

Daytime phone ________________________________________Email ___________________________________________

Registration is required and limited to 35 people. Cost is $30 per person. 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. Be sure to bring a brown bag dinner and be prepared for the outdoors. Registration deadline is Friday, July 11.

Delph Creek Tree Farm Tour
Registration Form
Saturday May 31, 2008 (11:30am-3:30pm)
35911 SE Bowman Rd Estacada

Attendee Name(s) ____________________________________________________________

Mailing Address ______________________________________________________________________________________

Daytime phone ________________________________________Email ___________________________________________

Mail this form to OSU Extension Service, 200 Warner Milne Road, Oregon City OR 97045. There is no fee for this tour but pre-registration is required to give the Bowmans a count for lunch. Travel directions provided to all tour registrants.