It’s Tree School Time, Again!

Tree School 2009 in Clackamas County will be Saturday, March 21. Mark your calendars—if you haven’t already done so! Tree School Coordinator and Clackamas County tree farmer, Merrily Enquist, has just finished preparing the registration booklet and everything went to the printer on December 30.

As you can imagine, Merrily and several of her good friends, have had a very busy Christmas holiday season getting Tree School ready for the presses. This year’s snow and ice made the process that much more interesting. A special thanks to Merrily, our Tree School Registrar Cheryl Keithan, and our graphic designer Kim Minten for another stellar job. The 2009 Tree School registration booklets should go in the mail by January 9—be watching for yours.

We have 62 classes planned for Tree School. And, 39 of these are “newbies”—the most ever. This means something for everyone…we hope. Of course, our popular Exhibit Area will be back, again, with another great array of goods, services and even demonstrations this year. Come prepared to shop and stock up on your needs.

As always, we expect a full house. Register early to insure getting your first choice classes. And, help us reach out to new forest owners and Christmas tree growers by sharing information about Tree School with them. Simply call the Extension office in Oregon City with names and addresses and we can send registration booklets—or, stop by to pick up additional copies for your distribution.

Finally, check us out on the web. Go to the Clackamas County Extension website at http://extension.oregonstate.edu/clackamas/index.php for information about Tree School and an electronic posting of the registration materials. We should have everything posted there after January 12. You can download the registration form if you don’t want to wait for your copy in the mail.

See you at Tree School, March 21, at the Clackamas Community College in Oregon City.

Michael C. Bondi, Extension Agent—Forestry, Christmas Trees & Staff Chair

Oregon State University Extension Service
WOODLAND NOTES
Clackamas County  200 Warner-Milne Road  Oregon City, OR 97045  (503) 655-8631

Agriculture, Home Economics, 4-H Youth, Forestry, Community Development and Extension Sea Grant Programs, Oregon State University, United States Department of Agriculture and Clackamas County cooperating. The Extension Service offers its programs and materials equally to all people.
Upcoming Education Programs

Hopkins Demonstration Forest—Community Forestry Days
Saturdays: Saturday, January 10 and February 14 (8:30am-4:30pm each day)
Hopkins Demonstration Forest, Beavercreek

January plans: winter storm clean up of fallen trees and limbs, slash burning (weather permitting), tree planting from transplant bed, and checking culverts and ditches for drainage control.

February plans: tree planting, animal damage control, mountain beaver trapping and slash burning (weather permitting).

Wanted: woodland owners who can work side-by-side with community volunteers sharing your forestry knowledge.

Who’s invited: you, your family members, friends and neighbors.

What you need to do: call Tim DeLano at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest to let him know you are coming, what tools you can bring, and to make your reservation for a free lunch. Call 503-632-2150.

Christmas Tree Workshop: A Grower’s Technology Economic Assessment Model (TEAM) for Specialty Crops
OSU North Willamette Research and Extension Center, 15210 NE Miley Road; Aurora

Part I: Wednesday, January 14 (10:00am-2:00pm)
Part II: Tuesday, January 20 (10:00am-2:00pm)

The Technology Economic Assessment Model (TEAM) is a computer program designed to help farmers make long-term decisions when considering implementing new technologies or evaluating cropping system changes. TEAM uses previously generated enterprise budgets to establish a baseline for analyzing potential profitability. This is a hands-on workshop in a computer lab setting where you can discover the value of this risk management tool.

Part I of the workshop is a training where you will learn the basics of TEAM including: opening and saving files, developing budgets and developing analyses for specialty crop investments. Part II is an Advanced TEAM training where you will use your knowledge gained in Part I to develop customized analyses of your operation. “What if” analyses and interpretation will be a feature of this training.

The cost of each session for this workshop will be $30 per person. Seating is limited due to the number of computer stations. Register early to save your place. Lead instructor will be Jim Julian, a faculty research assistant at NWREC. Contact Jim to register for these sessions at james.julian@oregonstate.edu or call 503-678-1264, X-117.
Plant Your Trees RIGHT!
Wednesday, January 28 (7:00-9:15pm) and
Saturday, January 31 (9:00am-2:30pm)
OSU Extension office, 200 Warner Milne Road, Oregon City, OR
Use Meeting Room entrance, in the back of the building

This is Extension’s annual tree planting clinic and tune up for the coming season. The first evening covers the basics of preparing your land for planting, how seedlings are raised in the nurseries, ordering procedures and information for trees so you get what you need and want, tax benefits for tree planting, and weed control options.

The Saturday session will cover the proper care and handling of seedlings, planting techniques and equipment, animal damage protection, finding contractors to help with your project…and, a field demonstration and practice time getting hands and boots muddy planting trees!

If you’re new to planting or just want to review the latest on techniques, don’t miss this important session. Advance registration required. The cost is $20 per family. Contact the Extension office for more information. The instructor for this class will be Mike Bondi, Extension Forestry Agent. See the registration form at the end of this newsletter.

Christmas Tree Acquaintance Class
Friday, February 6 (1:00-4:30pm)
OSU Extension office, 200 Warner Milne Road, Oregon City, OR
Use Meeting Room entrance, in the back of the building

Designed for those who are considering growing Christmas trees…or those who are new to the industry. This beginning session provides the basics of what you need to know. Examine what it takes to be a successful Christmas tree grower and commitments for time, equipment and financial resources. Is this business really for you? Get answers to your questions BEFORE you get started.

Extension Agent Mike Bondi is the instructor and will review the development of the yule tree industry and markets…and what future markets might be. Find out what educational and technical assistance is available, too. Registration is required. Seating is limited. The fee is $25 per family and includes one packet of materials containing several of Extension’s key Christmas tree publications and resources.

Questions? Call 503-655-8631, Monday through Thursday. To register, please use the form at the end of this newsletter.
Agricultural Waste Pesticide Collection Event!
Saturday, February 7 (9:00am-3:00pm)
FREE Collection Site: 14434 SE Industrial Way, Building C, Clackamas, OR 97015

Do you have old pesticides you want to get rid of?

- Take advantage of this opportunity, to safely and anonymously dispose of cancelled highly toxic pesticides, or any other pesticides, too.

- This collection event is for waste agricultural pesticides in Marion and Clackamas Counties, concentrating on the Pudding and Clackamas River Basin areas.

- You must pre-register. To get an application, contact, Clean Harbors, or partners below.

  Clean Harbors Environmental Services: Call Alan Ranf at 800-819-5912 or 503-305-2158
  Email: ranf.alan@cleanharbors.com Fax 503-786-7877
  14434 SE Industrial Way, Building C Clackamas, OR 97015

  Marion SWCD: Call Scott Eden 503-399-5741x118
  Email: scott.eden@or.nacdnet.net Visit http://www.marionswcd.net for information

Marion County OSU Extension: Call Tom Silberstein 503-373-3756; Tom is the Ag Crops & Forage Extension Agent covering Clackamas County. He is available to confidentially answer questions.
Email: tom.silberstein@oregonstate.edu

Managing Your Woodlands
~ a basic forestry short course ~
Mondays and Wednesdays: February 16, 18, 23, 25 and March 2 and 4 (7:00-9:15pm)
Saturday, March 7 (8:30am-4:00pm)
Hopkins Demonstration Forest, Beavercreek, OR

The basic forestry short course is Extension’s semi-annual introduction to managing your woodlands. We cover the basics of planning, growing and caring for your forest. We’ll introduce you to important terms, services, supplies and where to go for help. We’ll discuss taxes and business management principles. Start your new year by getting more actively involved in managing your forest property to meet your needs. Cost is $35 per family. Use the form on the last page of this newsletter to sign up. Registration in advance is required.

Monday, February 16: Introduction and Overview
- Intro to woodland management: what, why and how
- How to plan for your property’s productive future

Wednesday, February 18: Growing Trees & Forests
- How trees grow: the basics
- Forest Management: thinning, pruning, inventory

Monday, February 23: Planting Trees, Protecting Forests
- Reforestation: site preparation, tree planting, weed and animal damage control
- Preventing fire, disease and trespass

Wednesday, February 25: Making Logs from Trees
- Harvesting: knowing the rules and hiring loggers
- Marketing: what's your wood worth and who's buying

Monday, March 2: Multiple Uses of your Resource
- Forest resources beyond the trees…floral greens, mushrooms, native plants, recreation
- Streams, wetlands, water resources, fish and wildlife…and micro-hydro, too
- Agro-forestry and multi-cropping systems

Wednesday, March 4: 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, March 7: Field Tour and Skill Building
- Meet woodland owners, see what they’re doing
- Practice new skills from the class
Fall in wood products market redirects environmentalist strategy

The following article, was published in The Oregonian, Saturday, December 20, 2008. The author is Michael Milstein—a writer who closely watches forest practices in the region. I’m sure you seen Milstein’s work numerous times over the years.

We are reprinting this story here for those who may have missed it and to draw attention to several key issues facing forestry in the Northwest. This article highlights the long-standing conflict between those who advocate for preservation and those who support active management of forest resources. For most woodland owners, this discussion is nothing new. In fact, you have been talking about these kinds of issues for years. The gradual decline of the forest industry leads to a variety of larger and much more significant social, economic and environmental concerns than many may have appreciated.

A bulldozer hauls selectively harvested trees out of the 7,200-acre Van Eck Forest in Lincoln County. The stands might have fallen to development, but the Pacific Forest Trust assured their protection through a Working Forest Conservation Easement that ensures it will be managed as a sustainable forest.

You might guess environmental groups would be glad timber prices have collapsed to where loggers' chain saws have fallen silent and sawmills are shutting down. Instead, they're nervous. If logging doesn't pay, the same timber companies some environmentalists have blamed for ruining the forest may get rid of the forest -- selling off their prime real estate. Then subdivisions could grow instead of trees, absent the wildlife, clean water and other benefits forests typically present.

A rising number of environmental groups now want to help the timber industry stay in business by providing funds or other support. The question is whether they can save timber companies and mills reeling from the collapse of housing and construction.

"It's a new day -- it's a new landscape," said Guido Rahr, president of the Wild Salmon Center in Portland. "We have to realize private-land timber companies are our friend. Once land gets broken up into smaller pieces, our ability to protect it is eliminated."

Though some logging practices can harm fish, he said, the loss of forests altogether is much worse. That's even more true as trees are increasingly counted on to soak up greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming.

Some land conservation groups such as Ecotrust, The Nature Conservancy, The Conservation Fund and Pacific Forest Trust have for years tried to protect prime forest by buying it or purchasing easements that limit development. But, they cannot alone safeguard enough land.

"We do not at this point have the capital to be meaningful players," said Lawrence Selzer, president of The Conservation Fund, which is based in Arlington, Va. He said the solution is to work with large forestland owners to help them profit from their forests so they do not sell the land off.

An estimated 1.5 million acres of forestland is lost in the United States each year, said Constance Best, co-founder of the Pacific Forest Trust. So far, Oregon has not seen as much loss as many other states. Trees grow so well in Oregon it often makes more financial sense to hold onto the land.

But as population grows and expands into rural areas, the real estate value of land may increasingly outweigh its value as forest.

Radical rethinking
Holding onto working forests is the single largest conservation challenge facing the country, Selzer said. But some environmental groups have focused so much on trying to block activities such as
logging, he said, they have a hard time shifting their sights to support continued cutting.

"The environmental community has spent 40 years perfecting the art of saying no and has almost no ability to say yes," Selzer said.

However, Doug Heiken of Oregon Wild does not see a high risk of forest sell-offs in Oregon, as long as land-use laws keep it under control. He said it's more important to reform clear-cutting and road-building practices, and warned about promoting the business prospects of timber companies.

"I'm a bit hesitant to make forestry a highly profitable enterprise, because it means there's going to be more logging," he said.

The financial argument for maintaining private forests has steadily weakened for years, as wood that grows quickly in far-flung places like Brazil filled the world market and pushed timber prices down. That's good for consumers, but not for forest owners hoping to profit from long-term forestry.

In pure dollar terms, with forests, "you're almost always better off selling it versus holding it," said Matthew Donegan, co-president of Forest Capital Partners, a Portland investment firm that owns and manages more than 2.5 million acres of forest around the country.

In Idaho, the company calculates that selling forest outright would bring in 6.5 times more money than holding and harvesting it over the long term. In western Oregon, the payoff is not as great -- selling brings in only 1.5 times more than holding the land.

That's because Oregon's land use controls make real estate development less lucrative and because trees grow well on the wetter west side of the state, Donegan said. Forestland loss has been minimal in western Oregon.

The picture is different in northeast Oregon, though. Trees grow more slowly and sawmills have shut down, so it's more difficult to make logging pay. There, selling forestland generates almost three times as much revenue as holding it over the long term.

In 2001, the Pacific Forest Trust protected 7,200 acres of Douglas fir and hemlock forest in Lincoln County, known as the Van Eck Forest, with a
A conservation easement that prevents development but promotes sustainable forestry.

Additional logging regulations could make forests less profitable and lead to more land sales, said Ray Wilkeson of the Oregon Forest Industries Council. It could also resurrect a version of Measure 37, which was supported by timber companies, opening the door to more development.

He said his group will ask the Legislature next year to give forest owners more protection from regulations by allowing them to make claims for lost revenue caused by any new regulations in the future.

Polling by the forest industries council over the past 10 years shows that Oregonians did not support bans on clear-cutting -- a profitable logging practice -- if it means the land could be sold for development.

"They may not like the looks of it, but they understand that subdivisions affect their quality of life," Wilkeson said.

Donegan said collaboration between timber companies and the conservation community represents new and welcome opportunities.

"It's something where we can work constructively with the conservation community," he said. "There's a lot of fatigue in the industry from the timber wars, and this is moving past that."

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**Other News You Can Use...**

**Tree Grower Pledges $1M to OSU**

OSU News Service, December 4, 2008
Corvallis Gazette Times

Hal Schudel, the founder of Holiday Tree Farms — the largest Christmas tree grower in the world — has together with his wife, Lois, pledged $1 million to Oregon State University for agricultural scholarships. A former OSU agronomist, Schudel has not forgotten how he got his start. A $500 scholarship during the Depression helped him earn his bachelor’s degree from the University of Nebraska. A fellowship to OSU enabled him to earn his doctorate.

“I know what scholarships did for me personally, and I know what challenges young people are facing today,” Schudel said. “There are some great kids out there, but they need to be given a little boost, so they, too, can follow their dreams.”

The Schudels’ commitment to OSU will help meet the $100 million goal of the university’s scholarship initiative. To date, more than $72 million has been raised for student support.

Schudel changed the shape of the Christmas tree industry — and the trees themselves. He popularized the lush, triangle-shaped, plantation-grown conifers that decorate many homes and offices during the holiday season. After graduating from OSU in 1953, Schudel started a landscaping business but struggled to make ends meet during the winter. He taught for a few years at OSU before deciding to start growing Christmas trees as a way to expand his business.

When Schudel first started Holiday Tree Farms in 1955, most people cut down wild, sparsely limbed conifers for Christmas trees, now commonly known as “Charlie Brown” trees. Together with Paul Goodmonson, a former OSU Extension forester, Schudel pioneered a new business based on pruning and growing trees in rows like a crop on good, well-drained hill land farms in western Oregon.

It took eight years to harvest the first trees, but the full look of the pruned Christmas tree soon became wildly popular. The industry boomed, especially in Oregon, which is the top Christmas tree-producing state in the country. Holiday Tree Farms, now operated by Schudel’s three sons, ships more than a million trees every year.
REAL Tree Effort Moves to Arizona, too

This past Christmas tree season included additional marketing education and outreach in the southwest U.S. sponsored by the Pacific Northwest Christmas Tree Association (PNWCTA). In 2007 the PNWCTA launched their first attempt to spread the message about the environmental benefits of the real Christmas tree in the industry’s primary market region—California, where nearly ½ of all northwest trees are shipped. Extension helped with marketing outreach effort by making television appearances on news and talk show programs in target California cities in 2007.

Last month, just after the Thanksgiving holiday, the PNWCTA real Christmas tree marketing program returned to California and expanded the outreach to Arizona, too. Besides the in-studio television work done like 2007, this year’s effort included several “on-location” television segments done with reporters and cameras coming to retail tree lots in San Diego, Sacramento and Phoenix. Also, the 2008 program included live and tape recorded radio segments broadcast in California and Nevada. Again, Extension helped as the television and radio personality bringing the real tree message to consumers.

Christmas Tree Pest Plan Coming

Developing new integrated pest management strategies for the Christmas tree industry is a priority project for the coming year. This first step is to prepare a pest management strategic plan for this crop that identifies the most common pest problems, current control measures and areas where more effective control is needed.

Growers, Extension faculty and industry representatives will gather in February finalize much of the detail for the plan. Extension Christmas Tree Specialist, Chal Landgren, is coordinating this, important project that could lead to funding support for finding new methods for controlling Christmas tree pests in the Northwest.

What’s new at Hopkins?

The new classroom and meeting building for the Hopkins Demonstration Forest is about to break ground—hopefully by late January or early February depending on final approvals by Clackamas County. The 2400 square foot structure will be all-wood construction and feature a Cascade-style design.

In the meantime, fund raising continues to seek donations for the completion of the project—including all of the interior finish work, electric, heating, cooling, plumbing, appliances, and the interior furnishings. An estimated $150,000 or the equivalent will be needed to finish the building.

Currently, about ½ of the total project budget has been raised with donations of cash, supplies and labor. These donations will provide the resources needed to build a weather-tight building. The goal is to finalize construction by late summer.

If you’d like to help with the classroom/meeting building at Hopkins, contact Forests Forever, Inc. President Ken Everett at 503-655-5524. Donations of cash, materials or labor are all welcome.
Education Consortium Looking for New Contributors

For the past four years Forests Forever, Inc. has built a dedicated group of businesses, agencies, philanthropic organizations and individuals who have come together to fund the forestry and natural resource education programs at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest near Beavercreek. Each year, FFI recruits additional Consortium members to continue the growth of the non-profit’s outreach programs and to replace funders who have stepped away for the coming year.


“Our goal is to raise about $90,000 each year to fund our full-time educator at the Tree Farm and to provide the support resources so he can do the job of helping kids, teachers, the public visitors and woodland owners learn about sustainable forest management,” said Bondi. The Consortium members listed above have collectively donated more than $66,000 to the fund raising effort for the coming year.

Anyone interested in joining the Consortium team should contact Bondi or Poppino.

Weyco Public Seedling Sale Days

Weyerhaeuser Nursery in Aurora will be holding its annual public tree seedling sales on the second Saturdays of February and March (i.e., Feb. 14 and March 14). Programs both days start at 8:00am and end at Noon. Dozens of tree species (reforestation, Christmas tree and ornamentals) will be available for purchase in quantities ranging from one seedling to hundreds and thousands.

For the past several years, OSU Master Woodland Managers, like Doug Shannon shown here, have helped at the seedling sale by providing tree handling/care and planting demonstrations and staffing information booths about Extension Forestry program services in the county.

MWMs Ready to Help

Need someone to talk to and practical advice on managing your land? Consider turning to a Master Woodland Manager in Clackamas County. Extension has 35 trained Master Woodland Managers—all forest owners themselves and located throughout the county. MWMs can provide you with ideas, suggestions, useful tips, information about where to go for professional help…and motivation for moving forward on your property.

Call the Extension office in Oregon City for information about Master Woodland Manager assistance and connecting with someone who can best address your needs. MWM assistance is provided as a public service of the Oregon State University Extension Service.
Following the voter’s passage of Ballot Measure 3-311 in November to form the Clackamas County Extension and 4-H Service District, the Clackamas County Commissioners filed necessary paperwork with the State of Oregon, to officially create the new District on November 26. Now work focuses on establishing a plan for Extension’s future in the coming year and the first District budget. The fiscal year for the new District will be July 1 through June 30.

During the coming months Extension’s staff will be examining community needs and opportunities and working with local stakeholder groups associated with Extension to build priorities for programs and services. Currently, Extension works with more than 30 advisory committees and organizations to deliver its outreach throughout the county. During the recent campaign to form the new District, more than 400 individuals and organizations, across all of Extension’s programs, came together to manage the effort, provide the financial contributions, place road signs in the county, write letters-to-the-editors in local newspapers, publish the arguments for the Voter’s pamphlet, and speak on Extension’s behalf.

Future issues of Woodland Notes will carry a copy of our one-page Focus on Extension—a bimonthly publication that has been published for county decision makers for the past six years. We provide Focus here for our Extension forestry and Christmas tree clients to increase your awareness about all of Extension’s programs in the county.

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Plant Your Trees Right
Wednesday & Saturday, January 28 & 31, 2009
OSU Extension Office, Oregon City OR

Names of all attending ______________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________

Address __________________________________________________________________________
City, State, Zip ____________________________ Daytime Phone ____________________________
Email ____________________________________________________________________________

**Registration is required.** Seating is limited. Cost is $20 per family (one set of materials). Mail this form and your payment to OSU Extension Service, 200 Warner-Milne Road, Oregon City OR 97045. Make checks payable to “OSU Extension Service.” **Registration deadline is Wednesday, January 21.**
Christmas Tree Acquaintance Class  
Friday, February 6, 2009  
OSU Extension Service, Oregon City OR  

Names of all attending ________________________________________________________________  
__________________________________________________________________________________  
Address ____________________________________________________________________________  
City, State, Zip______________________________________Daytime Phone ________________________________  
Email____________________________________________________________________________________  

Registration is required. Seating is limited. Cost is $25 per family (one set of materials) Mail this form and your payment to OSU Extension Service, 200 Warner-Milne Road, Oregon City 97045. Make checks payable to "OSU Extension Service." Registration deadline is Thursday, January 29.

Managing Your Woodlands  
Hopkins Demonstration Forest, Beavercreek OR  
February 16 thru March 7, 2009  

Names of all attending ________________________________________________________________  
__________________________________________________________________________________  
Address ____________________________________________________________________________  
City_________________________________________ State _________________ Zip __________________  
Daytime Phone_______________________________________________________________________  
Email _____________________________________________________________________________  

Registration is required. Seating is limited. Cost is $35 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, February 11, 2009
January 10 Hopkins Demonstration Community Day

January 14 & 20 Christmas Tree Workshop

January 28 & 31 Plant Your Trees Right

February 6 Christmas Tree Acquaintance Class

February 7 Agricultural Waste Pesticide Collection

February 14 Hopkins Demonstration Community Day

February 16 thru March 7 Managing Your Woodlands