



A newsletter for those interested in Forestry, Woodland Management and Christmas Trees in Northwest Oregon

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**Basic Forestry
Shortcourse
coming to St. Helens**
Turn to page 9 for details!

Maps in the New Millenium

We're through with the first decade of the 21st century, prompting many writers to reflect on all of the events and changes that have come our way in the last ten years. Something that astounds me is the wealth of new digital tools that are now available, and how much they've changed since the decade began.

I was reminded of this recently while meeting with a landowner and poring over a grainy aerial photo. We were trying to pick out an alder stand that his father told him existed on their property, but that he had never actually found on the ground. From our vantage point in the valley bottom, we could look up the hill and see the closest of three successive ridges that made up the property. Dad had said the alder patch was on the side hill of one of these ridges, but we weren't sure which, and the photo was hard to interpret.

Back at the office, I booted up Google Earth and zoomed in to the property. With the higher resolution image on my screen, the hardwoods stood out better. Then I used the "time slider" feature to find a previous aerial coverage that had been taken in the winter, when the alder branches were bare. Now the stand we were looking for was obvious.

But how to locate the stand on the ground? Using Google Earth's Terrain feature, the image appeared in three dimensions. With a little navigation it became clear that the alder were on the east facing slope of the property's middle ridgeline. Now the landowner felt more confident that he could strike out from the road and find the stand.

While we were doing all this, I realized how far digital mapping technology has come, and how fast. None of this would have been possible – or at least so easy – just a few short years ago. I still have a stereoscope stashed in my desk, but I wonder whether I will ever use it again. (Now, a caveat: turn to page 6 to read about how all this digital technology might get you into hot water!)

Happy New Year, and new decade, to all of you!

Look Out For Garlic Mustard

Garlic mustard often escapes notice due to its inconspicuous flowers habit and small size. However, this is one noxious weed that should not be ignored. Garlic mustard plants can grow in a shady understory, can produce thousands of seeds from a single plant, and exude chemical compounds that interfere with the growth of other plants. All of these factors allow garlic mustard to establish and spread extremely rapidly.

Garlic mustard has really taken its toll in forests of the upper Midwest, but it is gaining a foothold in Oregon. The weed is largely found in parks and open spaces around Multnomah County but has also been reported in Washington and Columbia Counties.

Winter is a good time to look for new garlic mustard infestations, because many of our native understory plants are either dormant or leafless at this time of year. Look for low-growing clusters (rosettes) of kidney-shaped leaves with serrated edges (see photo #1). By early spring, these plants will bolt and begin to flower (photo #2). Hand-pulling small infestations can be effective when the soil is loose. Sometimes rosettes are best dug (not pulled) as their roots are easily broken, allowing the plant to resprout. Remove all weed material from the site to prevent resprouting. Also, cleaning off your boots and vehicle tires after visiting infested areas is very important to prevent transporting the seeds to new areas.

For large infestations, herbicides can be used and are more effective in spring after the weather warms. Glyphosate is recommended but should be used with care because it will also harm desired native plants. Your local Soil and Water Conservation District can help you control large infestations. Often, they will come out to assess the extent of the problem and spray if necessary. In Columbia County, call (503) 397-4555; in Washington County, call (503) 648-3174; in West Multnomah County call (503) 238-4775.

It's important to report new garlic mustard populations so that regional control efforts can be most efficient. The Oregon Department of Agriculture has a toll-free hotline, 1-866-INVADER, where you can report infestations of garlic mustard or other weeds. There's also an online mapping tool, WeedMapper, where you can see previously reported locations and submit new ones. Go to <http://www.weedmapper.org> to check it out.

For more tips on controlling garlic mustard, read [EC 1592-E, Invasive Weeds in Forestland: Garlic Mustard](#), or watch an excellent [Garlic Mustard Identification and Control](#) video. Also, plan to attend a WOWnet event on February 6th to learn more (see next page for details)!



Photo #1: This is the "rosette" form of garlic mustard which is typically seen in winter.



Photo #2: In spring, the plant develops a flowering stalk with triangle-shaped leaves. Images: Oregon Department of Agriculture.

WOWnet kicks off 2010 with a focus on invasive weeds

Saturday, February 6th, 12:30 – 3:30 pm

Skyline Grange, 11275 NW Skyline Blvd. (1.6 miles east of Cornelius Pass Rd.)

This is the kickoff for a Women Owning Woodlands Network (WOWnet) group for Columbia, Washington, and west Multnomah Counties. WOWnet was formed by Oregon State University Extension Service and local groups of women woodland owners who wanted to:

1. Recognize the growing number of women taking on a wide array of active woodland management roles.
2. Raise basic forestry and decision-making skills through hands-on activities.
3. Support and increase women's access to forestry-related information and encouraging communication through state and local networks.

All are welcome! We will start with a brown bag lunch, do introductions, and talk about what sorts of things we would like to accomplish through the formation of a local network. Then we will learn about how to identify and control garlic mustard, one of our area's newest and nastiest woodland invaders. Sen Speroff, a woodland owner on Skyline Ridge, will share her expertise in combatting this invasive weed with all of us. We will be going into the woods to get up close and personal with garlic mustard and discuss the most effective strategies for dealing with it.

Bring: a sack lunch, sturdy shoes, rain gear if appropriate, and gloves. Beverages will be provided.

RSVP to Amy, (503) 397-3462. Learn more about WOWnet at <http://womenowningwoodlands.blogspot.com/>.

Added bonus: in the morning from 10 - noon, there will be a free weed workshop in the same location hosted by West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District. Learn about many other weeds, including ivy, knotweed, holly, blackberry, etc. and learn how to use a variety of tools to combat them. For more information, go to www.wmswcd.org.



Upcoming Events

Thursday, January 14th, 6:30 pm

Woodland Owner Information Night, OSU Columbia County Extension Service Office, St. Helens

New to woodland management? Come learn how to get started and where to find help.



Tuesday, January 26th, 7:00 pm

Washington County Small Woodlands Association meeting, OSU Extension Service Office, Beaverton

Speakers will be Dean Moberg, NRCS District Conservationist, and Gail Stinnett, Manager, Farm Services Agency, on new programs and opportunities for woodland owners.

Basic Forestry Shortcourse

February 10th – March 10th, 2010

OSU Columbia County Extension Service Office, St. Helens

If you have a parcel of forestland, or are intending to buy one someday, then this course is for you. This five-session course covers the basics of planning, growing and caring for your forest, and where to go for help. Cost is \$40/\$20 each additional family member. For more information and to register, see page 9 of this newsletter.

Integrated Weed Management Workshop

Saturday, February 6th, 10 am – noon

Skyline Grange, 11725 NW Skyline Blvd. (1.6 miles east of Cornelius Pass Rd.)

Sponsored by West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District. A short slideshow with the most menacing invasives will be followed by a hands-on demonstration of how to utilize the numerous tools available to landowners to combat these formidable foes! This demonstration will include lessons on how to utilize a weed wrench, knotweed injection gun and how to create a tree-ivy lifesaver rings. Call Mary Logalbo, (503) 238-4775 for details. Stick around in the afternoon for the next event on the list...

Women Owning Woodlands Network Discussion and Invasive Weed Clinic (Focus on Garlic Mustard)

Saturday, February 6th, 12:30 – 3:30 pm

Skyline Grange, 11725 NW Skyline Blvd. (1.6 miles east of Cornelius Pass Rd.)

Meet other area women woodland owners and share your interests and ideas in an informal setting. Learn about how to identify and control garlic mustard from one of your peers. Bring lunch and outdoor clothing. See details on page 3.

Tuesday, February 23rd, 7:00 pm

Washington County Small Woodlands Association meeting, OSU Extension Service Office, Beaverton

Speaker will be Paula Sweeden, PhD, from the Pacific Forest Trust. She will speak on the topic of conversion of plantation forests to more diverse forest models, and provide insights into financial mechanisms for accomplishing such conversions.

Saturday, March 20th, 2010

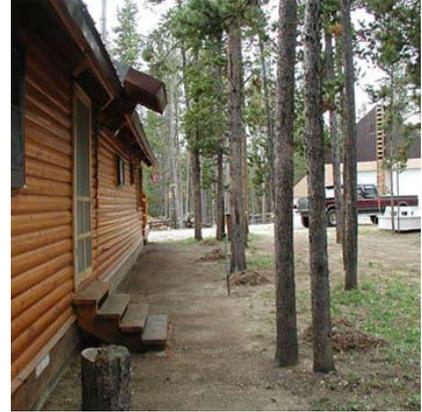
Clackamas Tree School, Clackamas Community College, Oregon City

This is the 20th year of this one-stop-shop event for woodland owners. Pre-registration is required and many classes fill quickly. Call (503) 655-8631 to receive a registration booklet.

Oregon Department of Forestry offers assistance opportunities for protecting Columbia County homes and woodlots from wildfire

The Oregon Department of Forestry currently has grant funds available to assist land owners in Columbia County in reducing their wildfire risk around homes and property. Financial assistance opportunities exist in both rebate and cost-share form depending on individual needs and interest. These projects will focus on mitigating wildfire hazards for those who live in communities at risk.

A free home assessment starts at the home itself, and moves outwards through the “home ignition zone” (HIZ). The concept of this HIZ has been developed to describe interactions between wildfire and structures. Your HIZ will vary from 30 to 200 feet depending on vegetation and topography. To learn more about your HIZ go to www.firewise.org. There are also cost-share opportunities for more traditional non-commercial fuels reduction projects to help create community fire breaks.



The local Columbia City ODF office is administering these grant funds in cooperation with rural fire districts and local emergency response organizations. These funds are provided through a National Fire Plan grant and the US Forest Service. The recent completion of Columbia County’s Community Wildfire Protection Plan was



instrumental in securing this funding. The goal of this program is to make our community more aware of the risks associated with living near wildlands, and the simple tasks individuals can do to help protect themselves and their families. We are very excited about the available grant funds as this may allow folks who could not otherwise do the work themselves to get financial assistance. For those who have the capacity to do the work themselves, this may present an opportunity to purchase equipment as part of a cost-share agreement. There are

many different ways that individuals can participate in making our community and forestland more able to survive a catastrophic wildfire.

This is a new program to Columbia County, and we are eager to get folks signed up to take advantage of these assistance opportunities. Kevin Nelson, a forester for ODF will be conducting home and property inspections for those interested in participating. Kevin is new to Columbia County, but is not new to ODF. He comes to Columbia City with a background in timber operations, forest disease management, parklands management, and private forests monitoring. He is excited to apply his experience and enthusiasm to help assist and educate local residents.



To sign up for a free comprehensive HIZ inspection, and to start the grant application process contact: **Kevin Nelson, Oregon Dept. of Forestry, Columbia City (503) 397-6361.**

It may only take a weekend to save your home.



More Than Most People Ever Wanted To Know About Navigation Systems

By Steve Graham, Washington County woodland owner

In November, an Alabama couple was rescued from the Oregon Coast Range after they followed suggestions from their navigation system down the snow-covered road that had claimed the life of a California computer programmer two years earlier.

Early this past December, Portland news outlets carried a story about a fellow whose driveway was being destroyed by visitors to a gated community being routed by their navigation systems down his private driveway only to find a dead end after ignoring the "No Trespassing" signs.

Then, over Christmas, a Nevada couple was stranded for three days on a snowbound Forest Service road in Eastern Oregon after they obediently followed directions from their vehicle's navigation system. Happily, they were prepared with food, water and warm clothing and were rescued.

If you use a GPS-based navigation system to get to my house from Portland, it will likely try to take you through an abyss where the road fell down the mountain in 1996. Luckily, there have been no blindly obedient drivers who have tumbled to that misdirection, although some obstinately follow their units' directions past the first "Road Closed By Landslide" sign only to be stopped at a merciful and substantial barrier before they sail off into space and pollute the East Fork of McKay creek far below.

Thankfully, the local news media don't care about finding my house, but the reports on the other Oregon instances showed that they don't understand GPS-based navigation any better than the average ("I don't want to know how it works, just tell me which button to push") user.

GPS stands for "Global Positioning System," a system of 24-32 satellites whirling around the earth and maintained by the U.S. government. The Global Positioning System provides no navigation information whatsoever. (The "positioning" in the title should be a clue.) All that can be derived *directly* from the GPS (remember, the GPS is in orbit, not in your hand) is: 1) where you are on the earth's surface in geographical coordinates; 2) what time it is; and 3) your approximate altitude.

The Global Positioning System has no receive capability other than that used by control centers to maintain the system – it is receive-only as far as users are concerned. Any device using GPS information for transmission to another party must use a different technology, e.g. mobile phone, radio-frequency, etc.

Navigation systems are based upon the deceptively simple principle that if you know the coordinates of where you are and you know the coordinates of where you want to go, then all it takes is some computing and an information display to get you there. While this works pretty well at sea or in the air, this is not a perfect answer for those of us on *terra firma* who have to deal with roads, mountains, lakes, rivers, and other impediments to unfettered travel. Moreover, we humans usually receive our paper mail at addresses nothing at all like N38 51.333 W94 47.941 (at least, not yet) and neither will we find it on most street maps.

Likewise, the Global Positioning System has no knowledge whatsoever of roads, addresses, mountains, rivers, corner gas stations, video rental outfits, post offices, etc. All of this is supplemental data that providers of navigation systems need to acquire from other sources in digital form including the precise coordinates as appropriate. (A road, for example, is a long series of points, not a line, as far as the navigation system is concerned. Moreover, the navigation system needs to know details about the type of road it is, whether it's paved, limited access, crosses or goes under other roads, etc.)

There are two main providers of this data: NavTeq (actually a subsidiary of Nokia) and TeleAtlas, a Dutch firm owned by the TomTom navigation system company. These firms have amassed a staggering

amount of detailed information, but errors are inevitable. Both firms provide a means of user feedback so that they can correct their data (although it takes a bit of effort). Response, however, is not instantaneous. I submitted a report to NavTeq in July of 2008 about my local problem and I see they have just acknowledged it and made a correction, which means it might be available for updating my Garmin Nüvi later this year (2010). To be fair, the updates are a lot faster for the roads more traveled.

Whereas Google Maps once was something you only used over the Internet, it has now become available on mobile devices. The advantage of using Google Maps and your smart phone for navigation is that you never have to worry about updates. On the other hand, smart phones don't work when they're out of range of enhanced mobile phone service, including the area around where I live (and the place where that Nevada couple spent three days mired in snow).

Some suggestions:

- Don't ever let a navigation system or a map override common sense.
- If a road is covered with snow and not packed down by traffic, don't go there. If it's only one car ahead of you, all you might find is somebody else to be stranded with.
- When you're out of contact with the rest of the world, it's a really bad time to try to call for help.
- If somebody puts up a "No Trespassing" sign, they probably mean it. Don't test them.
- If the road ahead of you looks wrong, it probably is.
- Don't rely on that gas station your navigation system says is at the next exit. It's probably closed.
- Report errors.

Get Involved in the National Phenology Network

Do you wonder how a changing climate might influence the trees and other plants that currently make up your woodland? Scientists are wondering, too, and you can be a part of a nationwide effort to collect data that will help them understand how plants respond to environmental change. The phenology of a plant is essentially its biological clock – the range of dates when a plant breaks bud, develops leaves, blooms, or sets seed each year. The timing of these events may be altered as the climate changes – and this may cause shifts in plants' geographic ranges and all sorts of other subsequent ripple effects throughout an ecosystem.

By observing plant phenology over long time periods, we may be able to detect how species are responding to long-term climate trends. The National Phenology Network relies on thousands of volunteers to observe plants close to where they live in order to gain a better picture of these trends.

More than 200 species of plants are included in the NPN's database, including many of our local native trees (Douglas-fir, grand fir, red alder, bigleaf maple), shrubs (snowberry, red osier dogwood) and forbs (trillium, twinflower). Anyone can contribute observations to the database. You choose the plants you wish to observe and then monitor them throughout the year, recording when they reach various points in their life cycle, and then submit the data online to the NPN. The NPN's website (<http://www.usanpn.org>) gives thorough instructions on how to do this. It's easy, and fun. Wouldn't this be a great way to engage the budding (pardon the pun) biologists in your family!



Mature fruit on redosier dogwood.
Image: R.A. Howard @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

New Publications

These publications are now available from OSU Extension. Download online at the links below, or order print copies by calling 800-561-6719.

Measuring Timber Products Harvested from your Woodland (EC 1127-E)

Authors: Paul Oester and Steve Bowers

19 pages, no charge. Available online only at:

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/> (search for EC 1127-E)

This revised publication describes measurements used to buy and sell timber products, including sawlogs, peeler logs, pulp, poles, and firewood.



Knotweed Shrubs: identification, biology and management (PNW 610-E)

Authors: Timothy Prater, Timothy Miller, and Sandra Robins

8 pages, no charge. Available online only at: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/> (search for PNW 610-E)

Gives guidance on identifying various knotweed species and tips for controlling this invasive weed.

Tree Protection on Construction and Development Sites (EM 8994)

Authors: P. Ries, D. Godwin, S. Foster, M. McNaughton, M. Cahill, T. Fitzgerald, J. Freed, S. Johns, L. Mead
18 pages, \$5.00 or download free of charge at:

<http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/jspui/bitstream/1957/13729/1/EM8994.pdf>

This guidebook provides best management practices for retaining healthy trees on development sites. It is intended for building, construction, development, and landscape care industry workers and professionals.

In addition, the Oregon Forest Resources Institute has produced this new publication:

Wildlife in Managed Forests: Stream-associated Amphibians

One quarter of amphibians in the northwest depend on headwater streams for food, cover and breeding habitat. Most of these headwaters originate in forestland. How do forest management choices affect this sensitive class of species? This report introduces you to the common amphibians of the region and explores the relationship between forest management and amphibian health.

Order or download a free copy by visiting <http://www.oregonforests.org> or call 971-673-2944.

Small Woodlands Association Tree and Native Plant Sales

Columbia County SWA Tree Sale: Saturday, March 13th, 8:00 am – 2:00 pm
Lawrence Oil, St. Helens

Douglas-fir, western redcedar, and a variety of ornamental tree seedlings are available. Sales are first-come, first-serve. Sales support educational programs and field trips for local schools.

Questions: (503) 556-8800

Washington County SWA Native Plant and Tree Sale: Saturday, March 13th, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
Bales Thriftway, 17675 SW Farmington Rd, Aloha

70+ varieties of native plants, trees and shrubs. Pre-order selected plants online at WCSWA.org

All profits used for educational purposes. This is our ninth year providing scholarships and community education projects. Questions: (503) 324-7825

Basic Forestry Short Course

February 10th – March 10th, 2010



If you have a parcel of forestland, or are intending to buy one someday, then this course is for you.

Designed by OSU Extension's Forestry team, this six-session course covers what you need to know, and who you might want to contact to begin managing your forest. Sessions will be held at the Columbia County Extension Office, 505 N. Columbia River Highway in St. Helens, except for the Saturday field trip, which will be on a local forest property.

Course Schedule

Wed. Feb. 10th, 6:30 - 8:30 pm: Introduction; How Your Forest Ecosystem Works; Understanding Forest Soils; Tree and Shrub Identification

Wed. Feb. 17th, 6:30 - 8:30 pm: Management Plans; Successful Reforestation; Sustaining Your Forest - Protection from Insects, Disease and Fire

Wed. Feb. 24th, 6:30 - 8:30 pm: The Science and Art of Silviculture - Thinning, Pruning, and Other Activities; Basic Forest Measurements

Sat. Feb. 27th, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm: Field session - Forest Measurements; Road Maintenance; Fish and Wildlife Habitat, Other Topics

Wed. Mar. 3rd, 6:30 - 8:30 pm: Fish and Wildlife Habitat; Forest Certification; Invasive Weeds

Wed. Mar. 10th, 6:30 - 8:30 pm: Taxes and Business Management; Harvesting and Marketing Products from your Woodland; Forest Laws

- *Primary instructor for this course is Amy Grotta, OSU Extension Forester for Columbia and Washington Counties.*
- *To attend you must pre-register no later than **January 25th** by completing and mailing/delivering the registration form below.*
- *Cost of the course for instruction and materials is **\$40 per participant and \$20 for each additional participant from one family.***
- *If you provide a legal description of your property, we will provide a packet of maps and photos for your property for use in discussing management options.*
- *Questions? Call the Columbia County Extension Office, (503) 397-3462*

Basic Forestry Shortcourse Registration

Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Legal description of your forestland: Township: _____ Range: _____ Section: _____

Taxlot number: _____

Make payment to OSU Extension. Bring or mail this form to: OSU Extension Service, 505 N. Columbia River Hwy, St. Helens, 97051.

Log Price Information

Below are domestic prices for delivered logs in Northwest Oregon as reported by the Oregon Department of Forestry for the past five quarters. All values are reported in \$/MBF and are averages of quotes from regional sawmills. Prices for other log sorts and time frames can be found online at:

http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/STATE_FORESTS/TIMBER_SALES/logpage.shtml

Species	Grade	2008 4 th Q	2009 1 st Q	2009 2 nd Q	2009 3 rd Q	2009 4 th Q
Douglas-fir	2S	400	315	315	355	400
	3S	335	305	295	320	365
Hemlock	2S	290	260	255	275	310
	3S	265	245	245	260	285
Spruce	2S	270	270	270	320	340
	3S	260	260	265	295	335
Cedar	2S	870	720	740	740	790
	3S	870	720	740	740	790
Red Alder	CR	475	415	430	535	515



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