

Spring 2013

I am very excited to announce that there will be a [Master Woodland Manager](#) training this year in northwest Oregon, starting in May! For those not familiar, Master Woodland Manager (MWM) is OSU Forestry & Natural Resources Extension's volunteer program. MWMs are small woodland owners that receive 60 hours of training intended to help them improve the management of their own lands as well as help others in the small woodlands community. In return, MWMs "pay back" for the training through volunteer service.

Master Woodland Managers are important assets to OSU Extension Service and to the local small woodlands community. MWMs are leaders in local organizations; organize tree sales and host field tours; work with youth; and provide one-on-one assistance to other landowners. MWMs magnify the capacity of OSU Extension to provide research-based information and support our program in innumerable ways.

If you are ready to become a more active and informed manager of your woodland, are able to be an active and engaged participant in the training, and are willing to share your experiences with others, I encourage you to consider the Master Woodland Manager training. More information is inside the newsletter. Contact our office for an application, and please apply as soon as possible as space is limited.



Here's one of our local MWMs visiting with a group of Norwegian forestry students.

For Christmas tree growers, we have a full-day program on Integrated Pest Management coming up in June. And there are many other educational programs on the horizon sponsored by local small woodlands organizations and others. A full calendar is inside. Make some time this spring to attend a program on a topic that interests you, meet other woodland owners, and take home some tips to improve the management of your land.

Amy Grotta

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Blog: <http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/treetopics>



Master Woodland Manager

Promoting knowledge and skills, excellence in land stewardship

Northwest Oregon Metro area, Spring 2013

More information: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mwm/>

Master Woodland Manager Volunteers: 20+ Years of Stewardship and Community

Are you interested in how your land can better suit wildlife, timber production, or recreation? Do you want to make sure your forest is resilient to fire, pests or disease? Would you like to make sure your roads are well-built, and know that you filed your taxes correctly?

The Master Woodland Manager (MWM) program shows you how to “read” your woodland by understanding local ecological factors (soils, historical land use, tree and plant species and associated wildlife) as well as how to conduct assessments to determine where your woodland is heading as it grows and matures. You will also learn how various management activities will help you meet your long term vision for the property.

As this is an advanced program, prior woodland management education such as attendance of a Basic Forestry Short Course or Tree School is recommended. The MWM program is provided statewide, thus it will be several years before we are able to offer it again in this area.

Schedule: Most sessions will involve one afternoon and a full day field session. Sessions will be held at locations to be determined in Clackamas and Washington Counties.

May 17-18	Introduction to MWM, Landscape Setting, Watershed Systems and Soils
June 8	Upland Forest Ecology and Management
June 28-29	Logging, Roads and Business Management
August 24	Forest Protection : Insects, Disease, and Vertebrates
September 14	Reforestation
October 18-19	Riparian Ecology and Management
November 8-9	Leadership and Volunteer Service, Graduation

First Session
May 17

APPLY NOW
extension.oregonstate.edu/mwm
503-655-8631

MWM volunteers represent a 20 year legacy, and include a wide array of people and woodlands throughout Oregon. Whether you own 5 or 1,000 acres, the MWM program will help you gain skills for tending your woodland and provide opportunities to share your passion for stewardship.

Schedule and application – This course involves 60 hours of instruction, with monthly sessions, as well as a volunteer requirement. Space is limited, so apply now. There is a cost recovery fee of \$75, which will be collected at the first session.

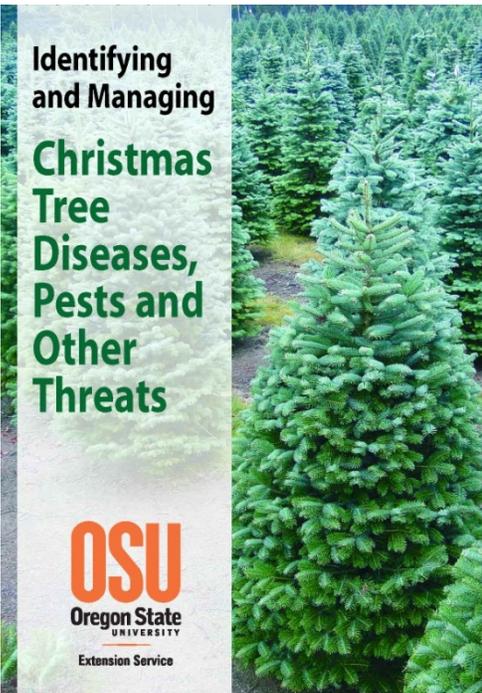
Please contact OSU Extension office at 503-655-8631 or email jean.bremer@oregonstate.edu for an application or download one online at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mwm>

Oregon State
UNIVERSITY

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT FOR CHRISTMAS TREES

Monday, June 3rd, 2013, 8:30 am – 4:15 pm
North Willamette Research and Experiment Station
15210 NE Miley Road, Aurora, OR

This workshop is appropriate for growers who manage Christmas tree operations of any size who want to better understand the insect and disease problems on their farm and expand their toolbox for dealing with these problems.

 <p>Identifying and Managing Christmas Tree Diseases, Pests and Other Threats</p> <p>OSU Oregon State UNIVERSITY Extension Service</p>	<h3>Agenda</h3> <p><i>Morning Session - classroom</i></p> <p>8:30 Registration opens 9:00 Overview of workshop 9:10 IPM – a conceptual overview 9:50 Current insects and diseases of concern in Christmas trees 10:20 Break 10:35 Using the OSU Extension Christmas Tree IPM Guide 10:55 Insect traps as an IPM tool 11:25 Chemicals as an IPM tool 11:45 Overview of afternoon 12:00 Lunch (provided)</p> <p><i>Afternoon Session- field and classroom</i></p> <p>1:00 Identification and management of pests and diseases (field) 3:00 Developing an IPM treatment plan for your farm 4:00 Wrap up and evaluation</p> <p>**ODA Pesticide Recertification credits have been applied for**</p>
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IPM Workshop for Christmas Trees

June 3, 2013, NWREC

Names of all attending _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Cost: \$60 includes one copy of the full-color diagnostic guide "Identifying and Managing Christmas Tree Diseases, Pests and Other Disorders" published by OSU Extension Service. Participants that already have a copy of the guide may register at the reduced rate of \$30.

To register:

Online at this link: <https://secure.oregonstate.edu/osuext/register/578>

OR mail your check by May 20, 2013 to :

OSU Extension Service – IPM Workshop, 200 Warner Milne Rd, Oregon City, OR 97045

Make checks payable to "OSU Extension Service."



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Is Swiss needle cast hurting me?

By Brad Withrow-Robinson, OSU Forestry & Natural Resources Extension – Benton, Linn & Polk Counties

Reprinted from TreeTopics, <http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/treetopics>

I recently got a call from a guy selling some woodland property in the Coast Range. A prospective buyer recently told him that he had Swiss needle cast (SNC) and so was not interested in buying the property. It is not hard to find the disease in western Oregon. It is a native disease of Douglas-fir and is widespread from the coast into the Cascades. But this fellow was calling for some guidance about how to respond to this concern. Was it reasonable? How can he gauge its impact on his young forest stand?

He already knows how to recognize SNC when he sees it: from a distance it makes a tree look pale and sparse. This is because the fungus is developing in the needles, gradually clogging the stomates, which is where the leaf exchanges water vapor, carbon dioxide and oxygen. Up close with a hand lens you can look on the underside of a diseased needle and see tiny black dots in neat rows where healthy white dots (the stomates) should be visible. In some places or during seasons when the disease is severe, this causes many needles to turn yellow, and eventually to drop (to cast), giving the recognizable symptoms. If enough stomates get plugged, and or enough needles are cast the disease begins to affect photosynthesis, and possibly growth, the crux of the caller's question.

"The key to understanding the impacts from Swiss needle cast," says Dave Shaw, OSU Extension Forest Health Specialist and Director of the SNC Cooperative, "is whether the needle retention on the tree is good or not. If the tree is retaining around 3 years of needles, then growth should be close to normal. The impacts occur when needle retention is below three years, and especially when it drops to 2 years or less."

So, the question for the caller is: "What is your average needle retention in these stands?" If near 3 years, he can tell folks that yeah, the disease is around but the stand is doing ok.



Photo credit: Dave Shaw

To count needle retention, use binoculars and cruise the stand, taking the needle retention from the mid crown, south side of tree, and not the apical stem, but the 4-yr and older side branches. There is a good illustration of branching and needle cohorts on page 3 of [Swiss needle cast of Douglas-fir in Oregon](#) (OSU Extension Publication #EC 1615-E). This time of year is good. Even if the stand is discolored a little, needle retention is the key factor.

More information about SNC can be found on the [SNC Cooperative website](#), which has aerial survey data, research

findings and even a Stand Assessment Tool that provides a more quantitative approach to assessing impacts on growth.



Photo credit: R. Mulvey

Birds of a Feather - the Barred Owl

By Sarah Karr, Polk County Master Woodland Manager



If you find yourself in the woods at dusk or near dawn, at night, or even during the day, and you hear what others have charmingly described as "raucous hooting, barks, whistles, screams, chuckling notes, tremulous calls," and "caterwauling," you have probably come across the new owl in town: the Barred Owl.

I readily admit that I am usually the last person to see an owl without having someone else go through a very thorough explanation of where to look. Fortunately for me, the Barred Owl is one of the noisiest owls in our region, so I'm more likely to know that one is close by. It is one of several owls you might find in our woodlands, including the Great Horned, the Northern Saw-whet, the Long-eared and the Short-eared, and, yes, the Spotted. Like most other owls, it is a cavity nester, which means that it will seek out holes in large snags, in hollow live trees, or in spaces created by large broken limbs. Occasionally, it will take over old squirrel-type stick nests, but it really prefers cavities. The Barred Owl will consistently choose larger diameter, taller trees for nest sites and hunting perches, so if you want to encourage their presence, you will want to consider a few things. First, when thinning, leave some damaged trees and snags. You might also girdle some of your larger, quirky trees to create future high-quality snags. Next, widely-spaced, deep-crowned, large-limbed trees are favored by owls and are less likely to be downed in windfall events. Keep a few. Finally, consider lengthening your rotations to open the understory; this improves hunting conditions for owls.

The Barred Owl is one of our larger owls, slightly smaller than the Great-Horned and slightly larger than the Spotted. Like the Spotted Owl, it has brown-black eyes and no ear tufts. Where the



Photo credit: Greg Lavaty, birdweb.org

Spotted Owls has spots, the Barred Owl has bars (streaks) -- horizontal at the neck and vertical on the abdomen. It is a very territorial bird and competes with the Spotted Owl for nesting sites in old-growth stands; unlike the Spotted Owl, however, it will also nest in second-growth stands, mixed deciduous-conifer forests, and in nest boxes. It even will alternate nest sites with Red-shouldered and Cooper's hawks. As further evidence of its adaptability, the Barred Owl has hybridized with Spotted Owls, leading to viable offspring now referred to by such names as "sparred owls" and "botted owls." Clearly, there are issues ahead for Spotted Owl management.

Interesting bits:

The Barred Owl was first seen in Oregon in 1974.

The Barred Owl is also known as the "eight-hooter," the "rain owl," the "wood owl," and the "hoot owl."

The call of the Barred Owl is typically given as, "Who Cooks for You? Who Cooks for You Now?"

Barred Owls prey on small mammals such as squirrels and voles, rabbits, frogs, crayfish, and birds as large as grouse. One was even seen carrying off a porcupine.

To capture prey, Barred Owls may swoop from a tree branch, wade out into shallow water, or run along the ground.

Resources:

Rainforest Birds: A Land Manager's Guide to Breeding Bird Habitat in Young Conifer Forests in the Pacific Northwest. A USGS publication. Bob Altman and Joan Hagar.

The Singing Life of Birds: The Art and Science of Listening to Birdsong. Donald Kroodsma, author.

[www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Barred Owl/id](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Barred_Owl/id)

Columbia County is getting *Firewise* – one hard-won acre at a time

By Teresa Zena Alcock, Oregon Department of Forestry Firewise Forester

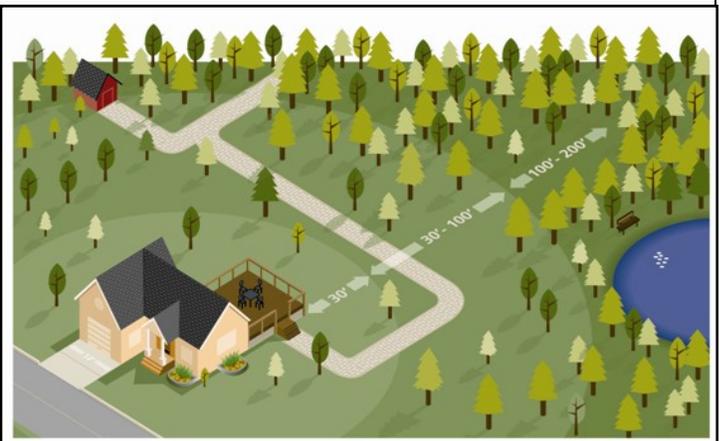
The Oregon Department of Forestry has been helping rural landowners in Columbia County get *Firewise*. Working with the Rural Fire Districts and other partners in the Columbia County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), ODF has been supporting landowners with small grants so that they can create defensible space and reduce wildfire risk around their homes – *before* wildfire strikes.

Since 2009, 238 acres of land have been treated. On those acres landowners pruned, thinned, brush-hogged, lopped-and-scattered, weed-eated, mowed, piled, chipped, composted, and burned aggressive weeds, unsightly thickets of nuisance ‘ladder’ vegetation, and other hazardous wildfire vegetation around and on their homes.

After all that, some went back over each acre again and replanted with fire-resistant plants and native trees and shrubs that would overtop and take back the growing areas that invasive Scotch broom, English ivy, and Himalayan blackberries had stolen – it’s a viable long term invasive weed management strategy for small family forests that also increases the probability that their property will sustain minimal damage from wildfire.

Let’s add another 200 acres or so at Fishhawk Lake, a *Firewise* Community USA in its 3rd year. Kevin Nelson (ODF Forest Grove) helped them get set up in 2010 and they renew their commitment annually. This year, we’re going to Hollywood! Folks on Hollywood Road near Deer Island have several *Firewise* projects underway now and could be our County’s next *Firewise* Community USA. All it takes is a cluster of neighbors who want to work together to get a game plan going and keep the bushes beat back away from their homes every year.

When you have flammable plants encroaching and they are not well spaced such that vegetation from ground cover to shrubs to trees connect like ladder steps, fire is invited right up from ground level to the home. At the Columbia County Fair, ODF demonstrated a burning Wildland-Urban Interface House in a live fire demonstration (right). This demo house was made with ½ *Firewise* construction materials including a sheet-metal roof and fire-resistant cement-board siding, and ½ non-*Firewise* materials – a cedar shake roof and cedar siding. The demonstration fire quickly spread all the way up to the leaf and needle debris on the cedar shake roof through dry, unhealthy spruce cedar saplings and a dead arborvitae leaning right on the house. *Firewise* construction and landscaping techniques – like the *Firewise* side of the house - would have kept the



Firewise graphic showing a tiered approach to creating a Home Ignition Zone. Go for 3 Feet clean, 30 Feet Green, and 100 Feet Lean!

fire at a low flame-length and lower intensity. The house could have been saved.

With these small grants, landowners make a commitment to win the war on wildfire using a simple tactic: make their home and *Home Ignition Zone* safer and Get *Firewise* and increase the chances that their home will survive any potential wildfire. Grants are still available, but now extremely limited to projects that protect homes within specific target areas of Columbia County. Look for a postcard invitation in your April 2013 mail for a free *Firewise* Assessment to see if your home would survive a wildfire and let’s up the chances that it will.

Learn more about *Firewise* and the Home Ignition Zone at firewise.org. Stop by ODF Columbia City Headquarters at the stop light on Highway 30 and take a look at our CWPP *Firewise* display map to find your home. To request a free *Firewise* Assessment, please contact **Teresa Zena Alcock, Oregon Department of Forestry, Columbia City (503) 397-2636**.



Nature's Notebook

Revised from "There's An App for That", *TreeTopics*, March 7th, <http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/treetopics>

I've just started dipping a toe in a new project – tracking phenology of a couple of our forest plant species through the [National Phenology Network's Nature's Notebook](#).

Phenology? It is the timing of seasonal events in the life of a plant or animal. For plants, important phenological events include bud break, flowering, fruiting, or leaf drop. For animals, they are things like migration or egg hatch. These events have a predictable annual sequence that is tied to weather and climate patterns and ensures the survival of the species. Plants have adapted to their local environments such that they do not leaf out if they are likely to be damaged by frost; nectar-feeding insects' life cycles are tied to the plants that they feed on.

Why phenology? Other than appreciating those first signs of spring, there are many practical ways that phenology ties into forest function and forest management. Here are a few examples that come to mind for me. Do you use herbicides around newly planted trees to control brush? Then you may monitor when your seedlings break and set buds so as not to chemically damage them. Do you rely on non-chemical methods of weed control such as mowing? Then you pay attention to when your target plants flower and set seed so that you can time your actions accordingly for best results. And, the timing of these events varies across the range of a particular plant species. That is why we have seed zones to ensure that when it comes to reforestation we "plant local".

In the face of climate change, scientists are paying particular attention to phenology and interactions among species. For example, if due to an earlier spring, a nectar-feeding bird species begins to migrate earlier, but the phenology of a plant species in its summer range does not change, then the bird may not have a food source and the plant may not get pollinated.

Like tracking precipitation through CoCoRaHS,



Indian plum flowering in early March

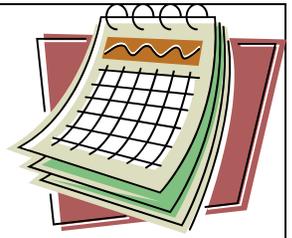
which I wrote about [a few months back](#), tracking phenology is easy to do in your own woodland or even your own backyard. You choose a species from the many that are in the Nature's Notebook database. You create an online account. Then you start observing your chosen species. This is another example of citizen science, where collectively the power of thousands of individuals gathering data can inform scientists and contribute to their research.

Nature's Notebook has an App for [Android](#) and [iPhone](#) so that you can submit your observations right on your smartphone. How convenient! No need to remember to log into your computer when you get home. Just bring your phone out with you to the woods. I am using the app on my iPhone. It's pretty basic, but it gets the job done.

Extension programs across the country are starting to adopt Nature's Notebook with their volunteers. I've given some thought to this; hence my toe-dipping experiment. If you are a phenology tracker or become inspired to be one through this article, I'd love to hear from you.

Upcoming Events

The events below are sponsored by local organizations and are listed because they are deemed to be of interest to small woodland owners. Please contact the sponsoring organization for details.



Build Local Alliance Spring Showcase Event: Ash and Cottonwood

Thursday, April 17th, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, Lucky Lab, 1945 NW Quimby, Portland

Learn how building professionals make use of local bottomland hardwood species. Speaker lineup includes Glenn Ahrens, OSU Extension Forester. More information: <http://www.buildlocalalliance.org/>

Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve Native Plant Sale

Saturday, April 20th, 9 am - 4 pm, Jackson Bottom Wetlands, 2600 SW Hillsboro Hwy, Hillsboro

Common and hard-to-find native plants in a variety of sizes; plants arranged by habitat with experts available to help with selection; helpers to take your purchases to your car. Info: 503-642-7273 or 503-806-6799.

Oregon Woodland Cooperative Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 20th, 9 am (social); 10 am (meeting); Magness Memorial Tree Farm, Wilsonville

Learn about the Coop's recent activities and plans for the future. Potluck lunch follows. Open to all.

Information about the OWC: <http://www.oregonwoodlandcooperative.com>.

For directions: <http://www.worldforestry.org/Tree-Farms/magness-memorial-tree-farm.html>

Columbia County Small Woodlands Association General Meeting - Wildlife Damage Control

Saturday, April 20th, 5:30 pm, Natal Grange, 68175 Nehalem Hwy North, Vernonia

Speaker: Don VandeBergh, Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife. Learn how to identify and resolve wildlife damage problems on small woodland properties. Dinner included for \$11/person. RSVP required: (503) 644-0106 or globe_trotters@frontier.com.

Washington County Small Woodlands Association Meeting

Tuesday, April 23rd, 7 pm, Washington County Fire District #2 Station, 31370 NW Commercial, North Plains

Speaker is Mike Cafferata, Oregon Department of Forestry District Forester. Topic: "Your Stewardship Forester and ODF, and Update on Forest Roads Litigation"

Oregon Dept. of Forestry Open House and BBQ for Wildfire Awareness Week

Saturday, May 11th, 10 am - 2 pm, ODF Columbia City, Highway 30 at milepost 31

Stop by and learn how to reduce the fuel and risk to your Columbia County home and property. Landscape tool and machinery demos; live fire demo; BBQ; fire engines; Smokey Bear; more. Info: (503) 397-2636

Washington County Small Woodlands Association Meeting and Potluck

Tuesday, May 21st, 7 pm, Magness Memorial Tree Farm

Topic: Current research in Forest Health at OSU. Speakers: OSU College of Forestry graduate students. For

directions: <http://www.worldforestry.org/Tree-Farms/magness-memorial-tree-farm.html>

Washington County Small Woodlands Association Tree Farmer of the Year Tour

Saturday, July 13th - Banks

Stay tuned for details or check <http://www.wcswa.org>.

Columbia County Small Woodlands/OSU Extension Summer Woodland Tour

Saturday, July 27th - Camp Emerald Forest

More details to come.

Trees and Forests in the News

[Children's book set in familiar National Forest](#) (*Eugene Register-Guard*, March 31)

"Ellie's Log: Exploring the Forest Where the Great Tree Fell" takes place in the H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest near Blue River - in the heart of the Willamette National Forest. Written by a retired OSU stream ecologist and illustrated by an OSU Extension professor, the children's book tells the story of two children exploring the changes they experience in the course of a year after a storm brings down a big old tree.



[High court rules logging road runoff not subject to Clean Water Act](#) (*Capital Press*, March 20)

The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that runoff from logging roads isn't subject to Clean Water Act permits, reversing a previous federal appeals court ruling. The justices found that the Environmental Protection Agency was correct in not considering logging roads to be point sources of pollution. The case, *NEDC vs. Decker*, originated in Oregon.

[Where few trees have gone before](#) (*Scientific American Online*, February 12)

In perhaps the slowest invasion in history, mountain meadows in the Pacific Northwest are gradually giving way to hemlocks, Pacific silver firs, and other conifers. With a warming climate, snow has begun melting earlier and growing seasons have lengthened; that extra time with little or now snow cover has given trees a boost.

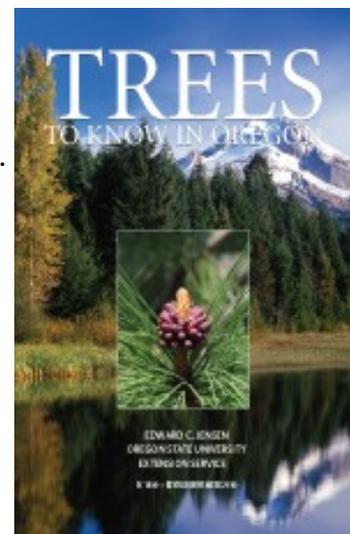
Trees to Know in Oregon on sale

To celebrate Arbor Day 2013, the OSU Extension publication ***Trees to Know in Oregon*** is on sale through April 26th! The book is 33% off: only \$12!

Trees to Know is a 152 page full-color field guide to tree identification in Oregon. It contains keys to identifying common conifer and broadleaf trees and discusses ornamental, shade, and fruit trees. For each species, the guide provides identifying characteristics, range, and distinctive features. It includes hundreds of photos and drawings and a list of Oregon's champion trees. Indexed by common and scientific tree name. This 60th anniversary edition includes over 70 new color photos!

The book may be ordered at:

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/abstract.php?seriesno=EC+1450>



Reading this on paper?

You can receive this newsletter (in full color and with working links) and other news by subscribing to our email list. Just send an email to vicki.krenz@oregonstate.edu and request to be on the forestry email list. Please indicate which county you are in. Include a physical address and phone number (so we can remove you from our paper mailing list and keep our email list current).



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