



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

Summer 2011

Log markets are up this spring – a welcome change for woodland owners who have been waiting out the downturn of the past two years. It's hard not to notice the uptick in harvest activity – more log trucks on the road, busier contractors, and of course, more phone calls into the Extension Office!

In light of this I'd like to touch on some basic, but essential things to consider in a timber harvest. For some of you this will be old hat, but for those who have not sold timber before, please read carefully. With log prices up, there is often an increase in the number of "door-knockers": loggers who approach the landowner with an unsolicited offer to buy his or her timber. To protect yourself, you should always consider these situations very carefully. Before agreeing to any logging proposal, make sure you consider the following:

- Ask for references, and contact them. Or, ask around to other landowners to learn what reputation this logger has. You can always get another bid from another logger as well.
- Create a written contract. Specify in it the terms of payment, how you want slash to be treated, how you want your roads to be left, who will be responsible for site preparation and reforestation, which trees are to be harvested or left, and anything else that you feel is important. Remember, if it's not written in the contract, there's no obligation. OSU Extension Service has a bulletin with some sample contracts: EC 1192, Contracts for Woodland Owners and Christmas Tree Growers. You can download it at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog>. Or stop by our office for a printed copy.
- Logging is messy. Seeing your property for the first time after the trees have been cut may come as somewhat of a shock. Mentally prepare yourself for this, and also be sure to discuss your plans with your neighbors. Remind your neighbors that the land will be replanted. Keep in mind that things grow fast in Oregon. In a matter of months you will start to see ferns and shrubs popping back up.
- You, the landowner, are ultimately responsible for reforestation and complying with the Forest Practices Act in this regard. So after the logger carries out any contractual obligation for replanting, it's your job to make sure the seedlings make it.

Amy Grotta, OSU Extension Forestry Faculty

Columbia County

505 N. Columbia River Hwy
St. Helens, OR 97051
Phone: 503-397-3462
Fax: 503-397-3467

E-mail: amy.grotta@oregonstate.edu

Web: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/columbia/forestry>
<http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/treetopics>

Washington County

18640 NW Walker Rd. #1400
Beaverton, OR 97006-8927
Phone: 503-821-1124
Fax: 503-690-3142

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Upcoming Events

Women Owning Woodlands Network Tour and Potluck

Thursday July 7th, 6:00 pm

See page 3 for details



Columbia County Small Woodlands Association/OSU Extension Service

Summer Woodland Tour

Saturday, July 23rd

See page 4 for details

Washington County Small Woodlands Association/Tualatin Soil & Water Conservation District

Tree Farm Tour and BBQ

Saturday, July 23rd – 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Howell Tree Farm, 51075 NW Cox Rd., Forest Grove

Many demonstrations and presentations including firewood processing, portable sawmill, stream restoration, home fire defense, and much more. Complimentary BBQ lunch. For information, contact Jim Brown, WCSWA, (503) 284-6455.

Washington County Small Woodlands Association Tour of Chehalem Ridge

Saturday, August 27th

Get a guided tour of the latest Metro-purchased property and learn about their strategies for managing this 1,200 acre forest. For information, contact Jim Brown, WCSWA, (503) 284-6455.

Oregon State Fair – Forest Mural Painting

Saturday, Sept. 4th

Going to the State Fair? In celebration of the International Year of Forests, a permanent mural will be painted on one of the fair buildings that will highlight Oregon's forests. This will be a participatory event – you can come and help the artist design the mural! Bring the family and make your mark on the fairgrounds for future generations to enjoy.

Small-Scale Log Yarding Course

Wednesday, Sept. 28th

Morgan Family Tree Farm, Vancouver WA

Covers the use of small equipment such as ATV's, winches, arches, etc. that can be used to extract logs safely and with low impact to residual trees and vegetation. Sponsored by Northwest Certified Forestry. Cost is \$75. For details, contact Kirk Hanson, (360) 316-9317 or kirk@nrg.org

Rural Living Field Day

Saturday, October 1st, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Malinowski Farm, 13450 NW Springville Road, Portland

This event will feature educational classes on a variety of topics that rural landowners face every day such as small scale agriculture, wildlife and pollinator habitat, woodland management, livestock, pastures, renewable energy, and much more. Sponsored by West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, OSU Extension Service and a number of other local organizations. For more information: www.wmswcd.org or (503) 238-4775.



WOMEN OWNING WOODLANDS NETWORK

PROMOTING CONFIDENT OREGON WOMEN WOODLAND MANAGERS

“Keeping Your Little Trees Growing” Tour and Potluck

Thursday, July 7th, 2011

6:00 – 9:00 pm

5499 NW Thatcher Rd., Forest Grove ([map](#))

RSVP to Amy Grotta at (503) 397-3462 or

amy.grotta@oregonstate.edu

This gathering will be an opportunity to talk about reforestation challenges and strategies to keep your planted seedlings growing strong. What’s worked (and not worked) for you? Come ready to share your experiences with weed control, animal damage, insects and diseases, and other concerns. We will look at some young trees of several species planted by host Robin Lindsley on her small property, and talk about her efforts to get them “free to grow”.



We’ll also have a potluck supper. Bring a dish to share and a lawn chair for sitting outdoors. Plates, cups and beverages provided. Please RSVP for planning purposes.

Whether you are new to managing your land or a seasoned pro, all are welcome and encouraged to come. WOWnet events are designed for participants to learn from one another.

If you would like to carpool, send an email to the WOWnet listserv, wownet@lists.oregonstate.edu

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

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Women Owning Woodlands Network was formed by Oregon State University Extension Service and local groups of women woodland owners who wanted to:

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



*Columbia County Small Woodlands Association/OSU Extension Service
Jointly Sponsored Summer Tree Farm Tour ~ Saturday, July 23rd, 2011
8:30 am - 2:00 pm
Keasey Tree Farm - Vernonia*

Columbia County Small Woodlands Association and Oregon State University Extension Service are co-sponsoring a Summer Tree Farm Tour & Lunch on Saturday, July 23rd, 2011. Our hosts are the Keasey family, who have owned their 400-acre farm along Rock Creek and the namesake Keasey Rd. outside Vernonia for seven generations, and Dennis Nelson, tree farm manager and OSU Master Woodland Manager. This year's tour promises to be informative, entertaining, and a good time for all. Arrive at 8:30 am for coffee and donuts. The walking tour will begin at 9:00 am. Below are some of the day's highlights:

- Walking tour featuring a discussion of Rock Creek stream dynamics and restoration; riparian zone management opportunities and constraints; 30-year old timber stand management and comparison of machine thinned vs. untreated area; species selection and performance in wetland areas; 100-year management history; and more.
- Exhibit of historic logging equipment and artifacts collected by the Keasey family
- BBQ lunch and music
- Presentation on Farm Services Agency programs available to woodland owners
- Tractor-mounted skidder demonstration by Small Wood Lot Tools, LLC

Lunch is provided to all attendees courtesy of CCSWA. Non-CCSWA members, please consider a cash donation to cover your lunch cost. Please plan to attend and **RSVP to Bill & Lydia Stennick at 503-556-2014 or bill45lydia54@q.com by July 15th. RSVP is needed for an accurate food order, please!**

The morning tour will entail a ½ mile roundtrip walk along a flat grade. Please wear comfortable shoes. A vehicle will be available for individuals needing assistance.

Directions: From downtown Vernonia, turn from Bridge St. (Hwy 47) on to State Ave. (marked by the NAPA auto parts store). Continue for approximately 5.3 miles (State Ave. will become Keasey Road). Look for a white "Century Farm" sign on the left in front of a white farm house. Turn in and park as directed. Look for yellow "Tree Tour" signs en route.

Agriculture, Family and Community Development, 4-H Youth, Forestry, and Extension Sea Grant Programs. Oregon State University, United States Department of Agriculture, and Columbia County cooperating. The Extension Service offers its programs and materials equally to all people. OSU Extension will provide reasonable accommodation to persons with physical or mental disabilities. Contact Columbia County Extension Office at 503-397-3462 to request reasonable accommodation.

Green Alder Sawfly – A New Invasive

By Paul Oester and Dave Shaw, OSU Extension Service

History

A native of Europe, North Africa and the Near East, the green alder sawfly (*Monsoma pulveratum*) (Hymenoptera: Tenthredinidae) was first found in North America in eastern Canada in the early 1990's, then in Alaska in 2004. More recently, the green alder sawfly was identified in trap samples in nine Washington counties and one Oregon County (Multnomah). Examination of insect collections at Western Washington University indicates that this insect has probably been present since 1995. It was first detected in the contiguous United States on understory shrubs in Vancouver, Washington in April 2010. We don't know a lot about this insect but we are beginning to tease out how it operates.

How do you identify this critter?

Adults emerge from overwintering sites in the soil or dead wood in the spring and lay eggs on expanding alder leaves. New larvae are very pale green and 2-3 millimeters long. Over time, as the larvae mature, they become a vibrant green (Figure 1). When fully grown larvae are about 15-18 millimeters long, a little more than ½ inch. The adults look like a small wasp, and the females (males have not been recorded in North America or the UK) have a black head and antennae. The middle (thorax) of the adult insect is black, sometimes with some yellow or brownish coloration; their legs reddish brown to black and abdomen black with the margins of the segments white to yellow (Figure 2).

Life history

A pre-pupal stage overwinters and pupation occurs in the spring. After the eggs hatch in the spring, larvae feed on alder leaves through the spring and early summer, then typically drop to the ground to pupate in the soil. In Europe and recently observed in Alaska, these insects have been reported to also burrow into rotten wood



Figure 1. Green alder sawfly larva (photo by Jim Kruse)

to pupate (Figure 3). Just another reason not to move firewood interstate.

What about potential impacts?

Not much is known about how this insect will fare on red alder in western Oregon and Washington, as well as other species throughout these two states. In Alaska, this species has been feeding primarily on thinleaf alder (*Alnus tenuifolia*). There is some concern that the feeding of the green alder sawfly, woolly alder sawfly and the striped alder sawfly combined with stem cankers may lead to reduced nitrogen inputs by alders and perhaps alder mortality.



Figure 2. Green alder sawfly adult (photo by Andrei Karankou)

In the Pacific Northwest, several insects feed on alder species so these may compete for host foliage and the additional feeding by the introduced sawfly may have a minor effect.

However, the green alder sawfly begins feeding earlier in the spring than other species and could effectively outcompete native species if foliage becomes limited. Another concern is the native parasite/predator complex: will these make the switch to the new invader?



Figure 3. Pupal niches on alder (photo by Jim Kruse)

What to do?

Efforts by federal and state agencies will include trying to delimit the extent of the sawfly's distribution and encouraging more monitoring as well as research and education. The US Forest Service point person for this invasive insect is Kathy Sheehan, based in Portland. She is coordinating the effort to determine the distribution of the green alder sawfly in Oregon and Washington. They have already set up trapping sites throughout

western Oregon in particular. Eradication is not a feasible option because of the widespread distribution of detections in Washington and Oregon. The fact this invader can potentially pupate in dead wood is another reason to manage the distribution of firewood and keep it local.

The bright green larvae are distinct. If you are out and about in your forest, look for these critters on alder leaves and if you find any likely suspects contact your local OSU Extension Forester or OSU Extension Forest Health Specialist Dave Shaw at 541-737-2845 or dave.shaw@oregonstate.edu.

For more information, go to <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/nr/fid/invasives/green-alder-sawfly.shtml>.

References

Green Alder Sawfly. 2010. Forest Health Protection, Pacific Northwest Region, USDA Forest Service. 4 pages.

New Pest in Alaska and Washington: The Green Alder Sawfly-*Monsoma pulveratum* (Retizius). 2010. Pest Alert. USDA Forest Service State and Private Forestry Alaska Region. R10-PR-002. 2 pages.

A new way to get help from the OSU Extension Service



Extension recently launched the "Ask an Expert" feature on our web pages. Now, if you have a question and you would like advice from the Extension Service, you can pick up the phone, stop by the office, send an email, or [submit your question online!](#) When you click on the Ask an Expert graphic on our webpage (pictured at left), you can type in the question you have. You can even upload a photo. Your question will be routed to someone within the Extension system with expertise on the matter. You'll get their response by email.

Weed Tips

Focus on Himalayan Blackberry

A few weeks ago, your replanted area looked to be clear of weeds. In the blink of an eye, the Himalayan blackberry has started to appear. Blink again, and you may not be able to find your trees! Now is the time to tackle the blackberries before this happens.

Late June is an ideal time to mow or cut down thickets of blackberries. The plants have begun to flower, but do not have ripe fruit. This is the point of time in their life cycle when they are most vulnerable to cutting, because most of their

energy reserves have been used to produce its new stems, flowers, and fruit, so if they are cut now, you remove this energy from the plants. The canes will resprout, but not as vigorously. Later in the summer, the plants begin to transfer energy reserves back down to the roots – meaning that if you wait to cut them, more energy will be available to produce vigorous resprouts later on.

Herbicides are a useful tool to control blackberries, but if you have a very large thicket, mowing or cutting it now and then spraying the regrowth in the fall reduces the amount of herbicide that you will use, and

makes the job of spraying that much easier. Also, herbicides applied early in the growing season tend to be less effective.

Thicket-nesting birds sometimes will inhabit blackberry thickets. This complicates matters because we are still in the primary nesting season for many bird species and mowing now could disturb them (this topic was covered in a recent newsletter). Before you treat an area, you may want to scout for nest sites, and avoid them or mark them to come back to treat later.



Photo: OSU Dept. of Horticulture, Landscape Plants Website

OSU Extension has several factsheet with more guidance on blackberry control methods:

EC 1594-E, Invasive Weeds in Forestlands: Managing Himalayan Blackberry/Evergreen Blackberry

EM 8894, Managing Himalayan Blackberry in Western Oregon Riparian Areas

The second title is more thorough and is applicable to both riparian and upland areas. Download them both for free at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog>.

New Weed Publication

EM 9031, *Biology and Management of Knotweeds in Oregon: A Guide for Gardeners and Small-Acreage Landowners*

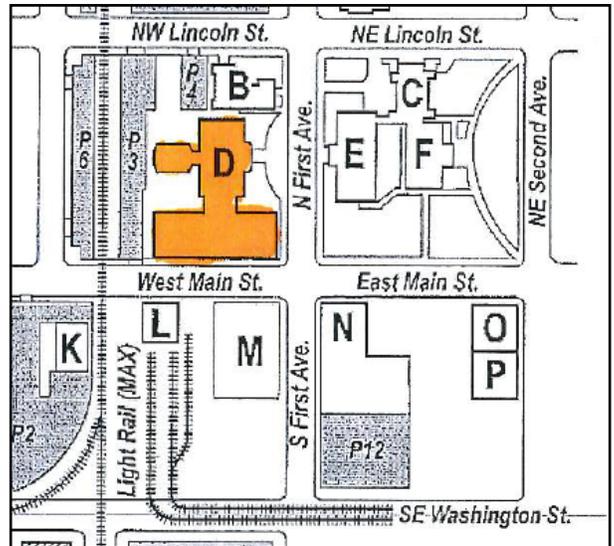
Authors: Robert Emanuel, Andrew Hulting, and Rebecca Koepke-Hill

June 2011, no charge

<http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/1957/21809/em9031.pdf>

The Washington County Extension Office is moving

Goodbye to the CAPITAL Center! Effective Sept. 30th, 2011, the Extension Office in Washington County will have a new home. **We will be located in downtown Hillsboro in the county's Charles D. Cameron Public Services Building (PSB) at 155 N. First Ave.** (Building marked "D" on the map at the right). We will be on the second floor (Suite 200). The main office phone number will remain the same (503-821-1150). There is free, 2-hour parking available around the PSB. Once we are moved in, please stop by to say hello!



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