

We have a new addition outside our Extension office: a rain gauge. Not just any rain gauge, but one specially sized for use with the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network, or "CoCoRaHS". CoCoRaHS is a national network of citizens who collect and report precipitation data from their homes, schools and farms. In Oregon, the CoCoRaHS project is supported by the Oregon Climate Service which is housed at OSU. According to Kathie Dello of the Oregon Climate Service, more volunteers are needed in the Coast Range foothills and areas outside cities where there is an elevation change. Having data collection points dispersed all across a region helps scientists understand localized weather patterns and can lead to more accurate forecasting.

We set up our rain gauge in a clearing outside our office in December. We put the data recording form on the fridge in the kitchen. The first willing person goes out and checks the gauge in the morning. Every few weeks I log into the CoCoRaHS website and enter our readings. Then our data shows up on the CoCoRaHS map!

Participating in CoCoRaHS has been fun, easy, and educational. Currently there are only a handful of CoCoRaHS stations reporting in each of the counties I serve, and even fewer in the rural areas. We are planning to do some workshops for woodland owners and Master Gardeners this spring who would like to set up their own rain gauge and participate in CoCoRaHS. Or, you can get started on your own. The website www.cocorahs.org has all the information you need.



My holiday gift to the office

Handwritten signature of Amy Grotta.

Amy Grotta

OSU Extension Forestry & Natural Resources Faculty - Columbia, Washington & Yamhill Counties

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

Upcoming Events



Pole Yard and Mill Tour - Friday, Jan. 11th, 9:00 - noon

Pacific Wood Preserving, 22125 SW Rock Creek Rd., Sheridan

Sponsored by the Oregon Women Owning Woodlands Network. Wondering if the trees on your property are pole-worthy? During this event you will learn what constitutes pole timber and the current market pricing. RSVP to Anne, 503-589-1412 or anne_zenafarms@yahoo.com.

Washington County Small Woodlands Association Meeting, Tuesday Jan. 22nd, 7 pm

Washington County Fire District #2 Station, 31370 NW Commercial, North Plains

Topic is Farm Bill Programs. Speakers: Dean Moberg (NRCS) and Gail Stinnett (FSA).

Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District Native Plant Sale - February 7th - 9th

Pre-orders accepted through Feb. 1. For availability and order forms go to <http://www.yamhillswcd.org>.

Plant Your Trees Right - Friday, Feb. 8th, 9:00 - 11:00 am, Scappoose Bay Marina

Get ready for the upcoming planting season. We will discuss proper bareroot seedling handling and planting techniques, and get some hands-on practice. Bring your favorite planting tools (a few extras available). See more details on page 5. Please RSVP to Vicki at the Columbia County Extension Office, 503-397-3462.

Goods from the Woods Fair - Saturday, Feb. 16th, 8 am - noon, Linn County Expo Center, Albany

If you are a landowner, craftsperson or business owner, this is an opportunity to publicly display your locally-produced goods, products and services to a local audience. Hosted by Linn County Small Woodlands Association and OSU Extension. For a vendor application contact Jody, 541-766-6311.

How to Care for Your Woods - Wednesday, Feb. 20th, 7 - 9 pm, Skyline Grange, 11275 NW Skyline, Portland

Learn about options for keeping woodlands healthy in the West Hills and beyond. Speakers are Amy Grotta, OSU Extension Service, and Michael Ahr, West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District.

Washington County Small Woodlands Association Meeting, Tuesday Feb. 26th, 7 pm

Washington County Fire District #2 Station, 31370 NW Commercial, North Plains

Topic is Forest Bees. Speaker is Paul Anderson of the Oregon Beekeepers Association.

Woodland Management - A Basic Forestry Shortcourse - Amity

Tuesdays, March 5, 12, 19, April 2, 6:30 - 8:30 pm; Saturday April 6 field session

A great introduction to caring for your woodland property. Topics covered include forest biology and ecology, wildlife, timber management, and more. See page 7 for details and registration.

Columbia County Small Woodlands Association Seedling Sale - Saturday, March 9th, St. Helens

Arrive early for the best selection. For species availability, contact Paul at 503-556-8800

Washington County Small Woodlands Association Native Plant Sale, Saturday, March 9th, 9 am - 3 pm

Tentative date. At the Bales Thriftway in Aloha. To confirm check <http://www.wcswa.org>.

Tree School - Saturday, March 23rd, Clackamas Community College, Oregon City

Don't miss this event, and sign up early. Over 70 classes to choose from. Catalogs will be available in mid-January; call the Clackamas County Extension office for more information 503-655-8631.

NEW PUBLICATIONS, WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

KnowYourForest.org launches

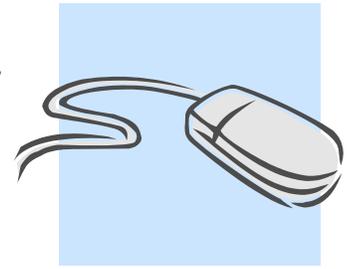
A new educational website has launched specifically for Oregon's family forest landowners. KnowYourForest.org is a new, centralized place to go online to get started learning about woodland care and who can help.

KnowYourForest.org includes several features:

- A learning library where you can find practical information about caring for your woodland, with links to publications and videos;
- An assistance map where you can find local contact information for agencies, organizations, and other sources of support;
- A calendar of upcoming events including workshops, courses and field tours.

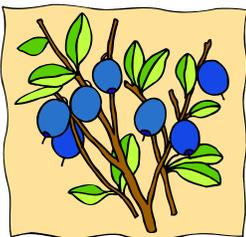
KnowYourForest.org was developed by the Partnership for Forestry Education. Partners include the OSU Extension Service, Oregon Forest Resources Institute, Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Small Woodlands Association, Oregon Tree Farm System, Natural Resources Conservation Service, among other organizations.

Bookmark KnowYourForest.org on your computer...it is a great place to start learning about your woodland and a handy reference for the future.



Landowner Assistance Guide Published

A new guide to technical, financial and educational resources for Oregon's family forest landowners is now available. The **Family Forest Landowners Resource Guide** is organized geographically so that you can locate the agencies and resources available to you in your local area. The guide will be updated annually. Find the 2013 edition online at <http://knowyourforest.org> or pick up a free printed copy at your county's Extension office.



Non-timber Forest Products Website

Interested in non-timber forest products such as wild edibles, medicinal or floral products? A website has been launched to house information, tools, and research on the wide array of commercially important products and species across the United States.

The website is <http://www.ntfpinfo.us/>.

Brown Marmorated Stink Bug Factsheet and Website

The brown marmorated stink bug is an invasive pest that is a serious threat to Oregon agriculture. It has been found in all counties in the Willamette Valley and is established in the Portland area. The stink bug overwinters in natural areas in ground litter or bark crevices, or inside buildings. A [fact sheet](#) with identification images and information on reporting sightings can be downloaded at:

<http://BMSB.hort.oregonstate.edu>



Photo by Christopher Hedstrom

Forest Management Planning in the Forest Grove Watershed

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

Last November, there was an [article in the Oregonian](#) about forest management planning. The article described the management plan that is in place for the city of Forest Grove’s 4,200 acre forested watershed, and the positive impacts that having the plan has had on the land. Though this forest is much bigger than those that most small woodland owners manage, the article demonstrated many of the same principles of forest management planning that we use in our work with landowners.

Management planning starts with **identifying goals** for your site. The number one goal in the case of Forest Grove’s watershed is, not surprisingly, protecting drinking water quality. Biodiversity and sustainable timber management are secondary goals. These goals drive all of the actions called for in the plan – such as road rehabilitation, erosion control, and carefully planned timber harvests.

Forest management planning has evolved over time. In the 1970’s and ’80’s, most forest management plans were concise *timber* management plans – laying out succinct timelines for planting, weed control, thinning and clearcut harvest to optimize wood production. Nowadays we take a much more holistic approach. Today’s plans consider **all the different resources** on a given piece of land – timber, of course; but also recreational resources, streams, fish and wildlife, roads, aesthetics, soils, and much more. We recognize that most landowners value many other aspects of their property as least as much as the timber resource. Well-constructed plans reflect the suite of values of the landowner and place emphasis on them appropriately.

The other important management planning principle that I took note of in the article was the fact that the plan is being **updated**, ten years after it was originally written. It is a good idea to revisit one’s plan after a time, both to check that the goals are still relevant and to recognize the progress that has been made towards achieving them.

If you are interested in working on a management plan for your property, a good place to start is the Oregon Forest Management Planning website. It contains an overview of the process, resources for finding out information to put into your plan, and a downloadable template to get you started. The web address is:

<http://outreach.oregonstate.edu/programs/forestry> (Click on Oregon Forest Management Planning)



Plant Your Trees Right

Friday, February 8th, 9:00 - 11:00 am
Scappoose Bay Marina (57420 Old Portland Rd, Warren)

Is planting trees in the works for you this season? Come to this free, hands-on session to learn about proper bare-root seedling handling and care, planting technique, and follow-up care. Pick up some tips to make your planting project successful. We will be planting trees in the natural area by the marina. Come dressed for cold, rain, and/or mud, and bring your favorite planting tools. We will provide the seedlings, some extra shovels, and the hot coffee. You’ll also take home some reading material and other resources.

Please RSVP to Vicki at the Extension Office: 503-397-3462

Birds of a Feather - the Winter Wren

By Sarah Karr, Polk County Master Woodland Manager



In the middle of winter, when the band-tailed pigeons, the vireos, and the Swainson's thrushes have disappeared from our woods, we are hardly alone, bird-wise. Among the birds we are most likely to encounter is one that is almost always heard before she is seen: the winter wren.

Tiny but full of personality, the winter wren typically scolds us harshly from a thigh-high brush pile, a seemingly messy heap of trimmings left over from earlier prunings of Douglas-fir and madrone. It takes awhile to actually see her at least in part because she is tiny, only 0.3 ounces, 4 inches from the tip of her beak to the tip of her tail feathers. She is also perfectly camouflaged. If you can get close, or if you have binoculars in hand, you will see a soft reddish-brown bird, breast and underbelly speckled or barred with black, a barred tail, a thin bill, a light eyebrow, and, perhaps most distinctively, a very short, very upright tail. But she is mighty, with a voice that belies her size. He or she may let you get quite close, all the while defending territory before flitting low, into yet another pile of branches matted together with decaying leaves.

It's hard to believe that this very bird, this tiny indignant bundle of feather and grit, will be singing an amazingly beautiful song come spring; for now, though, it's all about territory and the fact that we have stumbled into hers, or his. Both sexes look alike, so we will never know who has been yelling at us.

Would you like to see more of these spirited, resilient birds in your gray, wet, chilly forests? A pile of branches or a low bush is the perfect place for a tiny bird whose coloring makes it almost invisible in the mix of brown sticks, stems and leaves. Remember, too, that these brush-loving birds primarily forage for insects on the ground, and what better place could there be than areas of last summer's blackberries, cherries, elderberries, and madrone berries that are now

rotting on the forest floor, attracting bugs? So, keep your landscape a bit "messy." The winter wrens will be there to thank you.

Eventually, spring will come, and, with it, the winter wrens will be looking for nesting cavities in "wildlife" trees, those dead or live trees that might never make it to a lumberyard but which can provide ideal habitat for all kinds of critters in your forest. We recently found a hive of honeybees in one of our old gnarly, cavity-rich oaks, but that's another story. Winter wrens are also known to nest in brush and on the ground, so, again, keep things a bit messy if you want to see (and hear) more of them.

Want to learn more?

The Singing Life of Birds, the Art and Science of Listening to Birdsong by Donald Kroodsma.

The Sibley Guide to Bird Life and Behavior, a National Audubon Society book.

iBird Pro, Mitch Waite Group's Interactive Field Guide to Birds of North America for Android Phones and Tablets.

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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 yicki.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 keep our email list current).

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Trees and Forests in the News

[Ancient redwoods, giant sequoias to be 'archived' on the Oregon coast](#) (*The Oregonian*, November 26)

A non-profit organization is cloning cuttings from some of the world's oldest, biggest trees and planting them in southern Oregon on a site that is predicted to have a climate favorable for redwoods in the future. This article raises the concept of 'assisted migration' which means deliberately moving plant populations to new locations in an effort to help them adapt to climate change.



[U.S. Supreme Court may punt on Oregon logging road pollution case](#) (*The Oregonian*, December 3)

The Supreme Court was to take up the question of whether logging roads can be considered "point sources" of pollution under the Clean Water Act, thus requiring stormwater permits. However, the day before court arguments began, the Environmental Protection Agency issued a clarification of its rules, stating that logging roads should not be considered point sources. The future of this case is currently unclear. The Supreme Court may revisit it in the spring, defer to lower courts, or dismiss it altogether.

[Construction work that started Taylor Bridge fire was prohibited at the time](#) (*Seattle Times*, December 17)

The Taylor Bridge fire destroyed 61 homes and burned more than 23,000 acres in central Washington last August. Investigators determined that the fire was started by construction workers that were using power saws and welding equipment in violation of the 1 pm power saw shutdown ("Level 3") due to fire danger. A very important reminder to be aware of and heed Oregon Department of Forestry's fire restrictions in the summer time!

[Growing forests for health care](#) (*OPB*, January 2)

This article discusses the Pinchot Institute's proposed Forest Health-Human Health Initiative, in which family forest owners would receive health care benefits in exchange for carbon sequestration on their lands. It features Columbia County's own Scott Russell.

Research Brief: Western Redcedar

Scientists at the U.S. Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station have conducted decades-long studies on the management of western redcedar. They examined responses to thinning, fertilization, and release from shade, among other things.

They found that as a shade tolerant tree, western redcedar continues to grow in diameter under competition from larger trees (unlike Douglas-fir or other shade-intolerant species). It also responded well from being released from shade, even after many years of slow growth. They concluded that retaining small western redcedars after an overstory harvest can lead to a multi-storied, more diverse forest.

On nutrient-poor sites, fertilizer increased height growth on open-grown trees, which may help them grow out of reach of browsing animals more quickly.

For a more thorough description of this research, read this "[Science Findings](http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/sciencef/scifi147.pdf)" report from the U.S. Forest Service: <http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/sciencef/scifi147.pdf>.

Woodland Management

...a basic forestry shortcourse



This five-session course is ideal for anyone who is just starting out taking care of a woodland property. Topics covered include:

- Getting Started: Assessing your property and your site
- What’s Going on in Your Woods? Understanding tree biology and forest ecology
- Taking Care of Your Woods: tree planting, care for an established forest, weed control
- Getting it Done: Safety, timber sale logistics, and laws and regulations.



Course Location: Amity High School - Multipurpose Room
503 Oak St., Amity, OR 97101

Course Dates/Times: March 5th, 12th, 19th, & April 2nd
Tuesday evenings, 6:30 – 8:30 pm
Sat. field session, April 6th, 9 am – 3 pm

- **Cost** for the course is \$40 for one participant/\$50 for two or more participants from the same family.
- **Instructors** are Amy Grotta and Brad Withrow-Robinson, OSU Forestry & Natural Resources Extension Agents.
- To attend you must **pre-register** no later than **February 25th**. Use the form below or register online at: <https://secure.oregonstate.edu/osuext/register/516>.
- Questions? **Contact** Amy Grotta, (503) 397-3462 or amy.grotta@oregonstate.edu

Woodland Management Shortcourse Registration

or, register online at <https://secure.oregonstate.edu/osuext/register/516>

Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Acres of forestland owned: _____ County: _____

Make checks (\$40/one individual; \$50/two or more individuals) payable to OSU Extension. Mail this form to: OSU Extension Service, 505 N. Columbia River Hwy, St. Helens, 97051.



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