It's the first newsletter of 2019! I, for one, am happy to see the calendar turn and the daylight start to creep a bit longer each day.

I have some exciting plans and projects in store for this coming year which I can't wait to get started.

One project I am eagerly anticipating is our **2019 Master Woodland Manager** training class, which will begin in early April. It's been six years since the last training in our area. This year's class will span a four-county area (Yamhill, Washington, Polk and Benton) and is jointly organized between myself and my counterpart to the south, Brad Withrow-Robinson.

What sets the Master Woodland Manager (MWM) program apart from our other Extension forestry programs? First of all, it is quite intensive in terms of time and depth. The training entails eight full days spread over a four-month period with homework in between. Classes are taught by Extension specialists and others with deep knowledge of their subject matter. We spend a lot of time in the field. We also do not start with the basics.* We expect participants to come in to the class with some prior experience managing their property.

The other unique aspect of MWM is that it is a volunteer program. After the training is over, MWMs give back to their local woodland owner community. If you have ever attended a small woodlands association meeting, ordered bareroot trees from a small woodlands seedling program, or attended an Extension program that involved a tour of a small woodlands property, then chances are you have benefitted from an MWM's knowledge and volunteer effort. The MWM program is not a great fit for those who do not have any time or capacity to give back; but if volunteering seems daunting to you, talk with me and almost certainly we can find opportunities that fit your interests and abilities.

By the end of the MWM training, our hope is that the class participants have formed a cohort that supports and learns from one another, forming relationships that may last for decades.

If you think you’re ready to take your woodland management skills to the next level, perhaps the MWM program is for you. Contact me for an application, which is due back at the end of January. More information about the class is inside on page 5.

I’m not one for New Years Resolutions, but I do like to look back at the end of each year and reflect on all that has happened, whether by my own actions or by forces outside my control. I hope that 2019 affords many opportunities for learning about and making good things happen on your woodland; and that at the end of this year you’ll be able to look back and say you’ve made a difference - for the forest, for your family, or for your community. Happy New Year.

*If you're interested in a basic-level class, consider the Basic Woodland Management Shortcourse, also to be offered soon. See page 6.
UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY

TOOLS TO EXPLORE YOUR PROPERTY HISTORY
Tuesday, January 22nd, 7:00 pm. Washington County Small Woodlands Association monthly program. Location: Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue #17, 31370 NW Commercial St., North Plains. Speaker: Amy Grotta, OSU Extension Service will discuss ways to research the history of your land from early settlers onward. All are welcome, no RSVP needed.

HUNTING
Wednesday, January 23rd, 7:00 pm. Yamhill County Small Woodlands Association monthly program. Location: 2050 Lafayette Ave, McMinnville. Speaker: Bill Dollar, Yamhill Chapter President, Oregon Hunters Association. All are welcome, no RSVP needed.

FEBRUARY

PESTICIDE COLLECTION EVENT
Saturday, February 2nd, 8:00 am - 3:30 pm. Take advantage of this free opportunity to safely dispose of old and surplus pesticides and containers. Pre-registration is required by January 18th. Sponsored by Tualatin Soil & Water Conservation District and Clean Harbors Environmental. Information and registration forms available at www.swcd.net.

GEOLGY OF THE TUALATIN BASIN
Tuesday, February 26th, 7:00 pm. Washington County Small Woodlands Association monthly program. Location: Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue #17, 31370 NW Commercial St., North Plains. Speaker: Dr. Ray Wells, retired U.S. Geological Survey. All are welcome, no RSVP needed.

FOREST INSECTS
Wednesday, February 27th, 7:00 pm. Yamhill County Small Woodlands Association monthly program. Location: 2050 Lafayette Ave, McMinnville. Speaker: Christine Buhl, Forest Entomologist with Oregon Department of Forestry will discuss insects that impact our forests. All are welcome, no RSVP needed.

MARCH

COLUMBIA COUNTY SMALL WOODLANDS BAREROOT SEEDLING SALE
Saturday, March 9th, 8:30 am. Annual first-come, first-serve seedling sale. Species include Douglas-fir, western redcedar, and a number of others including ornamentals. Limited bag quantities available. Come early for best selection! Location: Lawrence Oil (Pacific Pride), Hwy 30, St. Helens. Questions: Rod Nastrom, 503-397-5997.

BASIC WOODLAND MANAGEMENT SHORTCOURSE
Tues/Thurs, March 12th, 14th, 19th, 21st, 6:00 - 8:30 pm. A great introductory series for those who are relatively new to caring for their forested land. Location: Columbia County Extension Office. SEE MORE INFORMATION ON PAGE 6.

WASHINGTON COUNTY SMALL WOODLANDS NATIVE PLANT SALE
Saturday, March 16th, 9 am - 3 pm. Huge selection of native plants. All profits fund college scholarships. Location: Oregon Army National Guard Center, 848 NE 28th Ave, Hillsboro. Questions: (503) 647-0310.

CLACKAMAS TREE SCHOOL
Saturday, March 23rd. The largest event for small woodland owners in the Pacific Northwest! Over 70 classes to choose from, but you must sign up early. Registration opens on January 28th. Call 503-655-8631 to request a catalog.
Holly Shouldn’t Make You Feel Too Jolly

By Amy Grotta, OSU Forestry & Natural Resources Extension
Adapted from TreeTopics blog, http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/treetopics, December 14, 2018

Rid your land of English holly
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la
Tis the season to spot holly
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la
When all the other leaves are gone
Fa-la-la, la-la-la, la-la-
Holly’s deep green stands out strong
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la

Ok, there’s a good reason I didn’t become a songwriter. The point I want to make, though, is that this is a great time of year to scout your woodland for a common and nefarious invasive plant: English holly. It stays green all year long, so now that herbaceous plants have died back and other shrubs have lost their leaves, it’s easier to spot.

You will typically find holly in mixed hardwood or hardwood/conifer stands, especially those that have been disturbed or are on the fringes of populated areas. It gets spread around by birds who consume its red berries, and it thrives in the shade. It has the tendency to form many sucker sprouts around the base of an established plant, resulting in a thicket that is difficult to remove.

English holly is an invasive plant, and one that is worth your time to control if you wish to promote a healthy forest with native biodiversity. Even if you are a bird lover, I would argue that there are winter berry-producing native plants that you might rather have them spread for you: common snowberry is one example.

You can pull up small (pencil-thickness) plants by hand when the ground is soft, but once holly becomes a shrub or tree, a properly-applied, targeted herbicide to the base of the tree or cut stump is necessary for control. Cutting the plant down and not treating the stump with herbicide will only result in many resprouts – not just from the stump, but also from the roots and even at times from branches of the felled tree that come into contact with the ground and re-root.

Recommendations for treating holly with herbicides largely come from the restoration community, since holly is abundant in natural areas and public greenspaces. One common tactic is to use the hack-and-squirt (or frilling) method with imazapyr (Arsenal) or triclopyr (Garlon 4). With a small axe, make small hacks every couple of inches around the base of the tree and use a squirt bottle to apply a small amount of chemical into the cuts. Or, for larger trees that you don’t want to leave standing, cut the tree down and immediately apply triclopyr with your squirt bottle to the outer tissue of the cut stump.

Another method is to use triclopyr in a basal bark application. Here, you are using a backpack with a low-pressure nozzle to wet the bark all around the base of the stem. In this case it’s important to use an oil-based solution for bark penetration. Apply when it’s cool out to reduce the chemical volatilizing and affecting nearby desired plants; and clear away leaves and woody debris from the base so as to hit all the way to the root collar.

To read up more about all of these different basal application techniques, refer to this very useful primer from the PNW Weed Management Handbook. As always, read the product label for specifics on concentration rates and timing.

These herbicide treatments can be done at various times during the year – so in winter, you can scout and flag holly infestations to come back to later for treatment. Because holly is everywhere – from holly farms to cultivated specimens in backyards – new holly introductions will likely continue even after you have eradicated it from your woodland. So it’s important to stay vigilant. Pull up new plants when they are small and the soil is moist – now is also a great time for that.

While holly is a festive component of our holiday decorations, we don’t want it taking over our forests. So chant some Christmas carols while you go out and collect some wreath making material – and bring along some flagging tape.

Some further reading:

English Holly: Garden and Wildlife Favorite or Invasive Foe? (https://www.pacifichorticulture.org/articles/english-holly/)
Earthcorps (Seattle) English Holly Treatment Executive Summary
Invasive insect found on imported Christmas trees

Just after Christmas, the Oregon Department of Forestry announced that the Grinch had hitchhiked a ride to our state, in the form of a potentially threatening insect pest. A shipment of Fraser fir Christmas trees from North Carolina was found to be infested with the elongate hemlock scale, a tiny insect that infests and feeds on the undersides of needles of hemlocks, Douglas-fir and spruce trees. The trees were destroyed, but not before some of them had already been shipped to some unnamed big box stores across the west coast for sale.

You're probably asking, “why is Oregon importing Christmas trees from the east coast?” That's what I asked myself when I read about this in the news. The answer likely has to do with economics. Large national retail chains need large volumes of product, which they would rather procure from a few, large distributors than many smaller ones. Although Oregon is the #1 Christmas tree producing state, the recession that started about a decade ago led to some large growers getting out of the business. The trees they would have planted had they stayed in business would be ready to sell now, which has led to a tightening of the market. So those large nationwide distributors have had to start finding other suppliers. I'm guessing that is how those North Carolina trees ended up on the west coast—even though it seems that the trucking costs (not to mention greenhouse gas impacts) would outweigh any price benefit. Perhaps they simply couldn't find any single large-volume supplier of Oregon trees that hadn't already been sold.

As a small woodland owner you're maybe the least likely person to go and buy your Christmas tree from a big chain store when there are so many trees that you can cut from your own land, or a neighbors, or a local U-Cut. However this is a prime example of the unintended consequences of moving plant material long distances. This is how invasive species invade. The same goes for firewood. The Oregon Department of Forestry is asking that anyone that bought a Fraser fir from a big box store dispose of it in a garbage bag—not by tossing it out back or along the side of a road. And for next year’s tree, buy local.

Plans in the works for Elliott State Forest to transfer to OSU

Last month the Oregon State Land Board adopted a motion to work with Oregon State University on a plan to transform the Elliott State Forest into a research forest owned and managed by OSU. The University and the College of Forestry have the next year to analyze scenarios and create a recommendation for the ownership's research mission, a draft Habitat Conservation Plan, and a financial plan. The recommendation will also have to take into account hunting and public access, species conservation, and economic contributions to the region. It will be a very large undertaking and will require the input of many stakeholders, financers, tribal governments, and federal agencies that list endangered species.

The Elliott State Forest had been chartered to generate revenue for Oregon's Common School Fund. However, federal listing of endangered species such as the marbled murrelet has created a situation where the forest was losing money rather than contributing to the school fund. Over the past several years the state has weighed various proposals that would ameliorate the situation. It is far too soon to tell whether transformation to the Elliott State Research Forest will affect revenue to the Common School Fund. There will be much work to do in 2019 to determine whether there is a workable scenario for the Elliott State Research Forest that would align with OSU's Land Grant Mission and achieve Oregonians' goals for the ownership. Stay tuned.
This will be a shared training class between OSU Forestry & Natural Resources Extension Agents Brad Withrow-Robinson and Amy Grotta. It will focus on the Coast Range and Willamette Valley foothills of our two service areas. Classes and field trips will be held primarily in Polk and Yamhill Counties but will stretch into Washington and Benton Counties as well.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date (Saturday)</th>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Probable Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 6</td>
<td>Introduction; Our Forest Landscape and Your Objectives</td>
<td>Yamhill</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 20</td>
<td>Upland Forest Ecology, Wildlife and Management</td>
<td>Polk</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>Watersheds, Streams and Fish Habitat; Riparian Forest Management</td>
<td>Polk/Benton</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 18</td>
<td>Business Management, Succession Planning</td>
<td>Yamhill</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 1</td>
<td>Logging, Marketing and Roads</td>
<td>Polk</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 15</td>
<td>Reforestation and Vegetation Management</td>
<td>Washington</td>
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<td>June 29</td>
<td>Forest Health and Fire</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 6 or 13</td>
<td>Graduation, Volunteering</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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We anticipate each session being a full day (8 am – 4 pm) of combined classroom instruction (concepts) and field trips. We understand these will be long days with travel on either end. We will encourage carpooling and to the degree possible provide a van option for those traveling a distance.

The Master Woodland Manager training is offered by OSU FNR Extension, in collaboration with local partners and with support from Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI). This support allows us to offer the training at a low cost to participants ($95). In return, graduates commit to give an equivalent number of class hours (~60) in volunteer service. Volunteer activities are varied and include helping other woodland owners, hosting tours, and more.

Registration for this class is by application. Applications are available from the Extension Agents and are due by January 31, 2019. Successful applicants will be notified by February 22nd and invited to register.
Basic Woodland Management

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

- Getting started: assessing your property and site
- What’s going on in your woods? Understanding tree biology, forest ecology and habitat
- Taking care of your woods: tree planting, care for an established forest, weed control
- Getting it done: Timber sale logistics, laws and regulations
- Field trip to see first hand examples of what you’ve learned.

**Dates:** Tuesday/Thursday, March 12th, 14th, 19th, 21st. Saturday field trip TBD (probably March 23 or 30)

**Time:** 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

**Location:** Columbia County Extension office, 505 N. Columbia River Hwy, St. Helens

**Cost:** $40/individual or $50/couple sharing materials

**To register:** [https://tinyurl.com/basicwoodland2019](https://tinyurl.com/basicwoodland2019) or call Sonia at 503-397-3462. Deadline: Friday, March 1st.

**Winter Drought Outlook and Forest Management For Drought**

Even though we are in the midst of the rainy season, in northwest Oregon we begin 2019 in a state of moderate drought (see figure). We can attribute this to abnormally low rainfall last November. November is typically our rainiest month; however in 2018 we received less than half our normal November rainfall (3.2” recorded in St. Helens, compared to an average of 7.1” for the month).

We made up some ground in December, but at this point it’s possible that our forests will enter the growing season with a slight soil water deficit. We need some more good rainy weather in January and February to avoid that.

Drought conditions are expected to become more common in the future, so should you change your forest management techniques in light of the situation? It turns out that the same practices that *(continued on page 7)*
Winter Drought Conditions and Forest Management for Drought (continued)

we suggest for maintaining a healthy forest are the best strategies for drought adaptation - we might just ratchet it up a notch. Thinning a young forest reduces competition for resources among trees. So to anticipate drier times, thinning a bit earlier in a rotation and perhaps to a lower tree density helps reduce the pressure for that limited water supply.

We also need to consider how forests affect the water supply downstream, since fish, farms, and a growing population will all be competing for that scarce water resource as well. Forest cover is really critical for slowing down heavy rains and letting it percolate into the soil and groundwater instead of running off quickly. So if we want our streams (and wells) to recharge well into the summer, we want the winter rain to land on trees (young or old) rather than pasture, roads or rooftops.

Snowpack is not a big consideration in our area, but if you are at a higher elevation that gets its share of snow each year, you may be interested to learn that thinning a dense forest might help it to retain that snow longer. And that’s also a good thing for our water supply. It turns out that when snow falls on a very dense tree canopy, more of it melts off before even reaching the ground. Dense canopies are also darker, thereby absorbing more solar energy and warming the area. A forest with gaps between trees allows more snow to hit the ground, stay there shaded by trees, and then slowly melt.

So we might start saying “thin early and often” - and hope the rain keeps coming a while yet.

NEW PUBLICATIONS FOR YOU

Here are some publications that are new and relevant to small woodland owners. Check them out!

Pacific Poison-oak and Western Poison-ivy: Identification and Management

This Extension bulletin discusses how to identify and control Pacific poison-oak and western poison-ivy, and how to prevent exposure to the plants' oily substance, urushiol, which can cause an allergic contact dermatitis. View and download a copy at:

https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/pnw108

Sudden Oak Death: Prevention, Recognition, Restoration

Currently, Sudden oak death (SOD) in Oregon is limited to Curry County in the southwest corner of the state. However, it remains a serious threat to the forest and nursery industry. This guide is for homeowners, woodland owners, conservation groups and others interested in SOD and is especially relevant for the SOD infested region.

https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em9216


Another item relevant to a different region of our state, but some readers of this newsletter are also involved with land on the Eastside. This is a 200-page book published by OSU Extension and available for $40. Details at:

https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/manual12
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