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Snohomish/Skagit Extension Forestry E-Newsletter

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The Snohomish/Skagit Extension Forestry E-Newsletter is sent out periodically as news and announcements become available. Please feel free to forward and share this information with others who may be interested.

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Kev's Notes

It is hard to believe that fall is almost upon us. Though the weather is still sunny and warm, the vine maples are turning color and other subtle changes in the forest signal the pending shift in seasons. For the WSU Extension Forest Stewardship Program, fall is a busy time with a new round of classes and workshops for forest landowners.

We are trying several new things this fall (one of which being this column!). Starting in just a couple weeks is the first ever Advanced Coached Planning class. This class quickly sold out last month, as did a second class that was scheduled for spring 2009 to handle the overflow. The message that this is an important and desired program has been

received loud and clear, and we will be working to continue offering this class and making it a regular part of our programming.

Also new this year is the Fall Education Series. The topics of this fall's series are forest safety and security, and wildfire protection and prevention. This series was developed in response to feedback from you via our forest landowner survey last fall, in which these two topics were identified as ones for which more educational opportunities were desired. Despite the apparent demand for security and fire workshops, there has not been much interest in our fall series so far. As we are striving to provide quality programming that is relevant and useful to you, we welcome your feedback on whether workshop series such as this are indeed of interest to you and whether we should continue to develop these topical series. Our hope was to have quarterly workshop series with rotating topics and locations throughout Snohomish and Skagit counties. Note that we have extended the early registration discount for this series until September 25th.

We are excited to announce that the popular Ties to the Land succession planning seminar is coming to Everett this fall. This program, which was developed at Oregon State University, is being piloted in Washington as an effort to expand the program nationwide. Everett was selected as one of four initial locations statewide that this seminar will be offered.

There are many other forestry and natural resource events coming up that may be of interest to you. And as always, there have been plenty of forestry-related items of interest in the news over the last month. There are also some important news updates regarding the Snohomish Conservation District and the American Tree Farm System that you can read about below. These are important partner organizations for the Forest Stewardship Program and many of you have been involved with these organizations and their stewardship efforts.

I hope that you all have an enjoyable September and continue to enjoy our pleasant early fall weather. This is a great time to get stuff done in the woods or just enjoy the changing of the seasons. And as the kids head back to school, this is also a great time to think about forest stewardship education, so check out what we have to offer in the coming months.

Kevin Zobrist
WSU Extension forester

Fall Education Series

Registration is now open for the fall education series. In this series we are featuring two different workshops that will give you practical steps to protect your forested property from two major threats: crime and wildfire. Both workshops will be held 6 – 9 PM at the Snohomish County Extension facility in South Everett. Registration information is available at <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/FallEd08.htm> or by calling 425-357-6017. **The early registration discount has been extended until September 25th.**

- **Safety and Security for Forest Landowners: Monday October 6th.**

Do you have issues with trespass, theft, or vandalism on your forested property? Do you understand your liabilities and responsibilities as a landowner if an illegal activity occurs on your property? Do you want to learn practical steps you can take to prevent these crimes and what you can do in advance to help law enforcement investigate if such a crime occurs? Then our Forest Safety and Security Workshop is for you!

Forest security experts from the Washington Department of Agriculture and the Snohomish County Sheriffs Office will cover topics such as:

- Trespassing
- Timber theft
- Other property theft
- Illegal dumping
- Illicit drug operations
- Vandalism

- **Western Washington Fire Ecology and Prevention: Monday October 20th.**

Wildfire is a natural part of the ecology of our forests in western Washington. Events in California and elsewhere are a continual reminder of the natural hazard of living in a forested environment. Are you prepared in case of a wildfire? Will your forest survive? Will your home be protected? Will firefighters be able to defend your property? Attend our fire workshop to learn practical steps you can take to minimize fire risks to your property.

Fire experts from the US Forest Service, University of Washington, and Washington Department of Natural Resources will cover topics such as:

- Fire ecology
- Minimizing risks to your forest
- Creating defensible space around your home
- Ensuring firefighter access
- Steps you can take in and around your home

Ties to the Land

The “Ties to the Land” program is coming to Everett. Learn how to keep your family forest *in* the family with this award-winning succession planning seminar. This two-part program explores succession planning – the human side of estate planning – which focuses on ways to maintain family ties to the land from generation to generation, building awareness of key challenges facing family forest owners, and motivating families to address those challenges. The curriculum, developed by leading estate planning experts at Oregon State University Extension and the Austin Family Business Program, features DVD-based presentations coupled with classroom exercises facilitated by local WSU Extension faculty. The sessions will be held on **November 20th and December 11th from 6 – 9 PM at the WSU Extension building at McCollum Park in Everett.** Cost is \$75 per family, and registration is limited to 20 families. For those of you with family in other parts of the state, this is also being offered in south King

County, Spokane, and Colville. For details and registration information, call me at 425-357-6017 or visit <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/Ties08Fall.htm>.

Next Regular Forest Stewardship Class

Registration is now open for the next regular Forest Stewardship Coached Planning class in the Northwest Washington area. The class will be Tuesday evenings February 24 – April 21st, 2009 at the Snohomish County Extension building in South Everett. This 10-session practical, hands-on course will enable forest landowners to prepare their own forest stewardship plan with guidance and "coaching" from natural resource professionals. Open to all, this program is designed to help forest landowners develop customized management solutions to meet their own unique ownership objectives. Whether you own 5, 50, or 500 acres of forest, if you want to expand your knowledge, tools, and confidence for managing your forestland, this course is for you. The cost per household/ownership is \$150 before February 1st, and \$175 after February 1st. **Enrollment is limited to the first 30 ownerships—register early as this class is already starting to fill.** For details and registration information, visit <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/CP09Everett.htm> or call 425-357-6017.

Other Upcoming Events

- **Port Susan Bay Preserve Tour** - Come on a tour of The Nature Conservancy's Port Susan Bay Preserve near Stanwood. This free, family-friendly event will be held **Saturday September 20th** at 9 AM and 1 PM. Advanced registration is required – contact Jeff Compton at The Nature Conservancy at 206-436-6272.
- **Puget Sound Kids Day at Padilla Bay Reserve** – Here is another free, family-friendly opportunity. This one will be in Skagit County at the Padilla Bay Reserve on **Saturday September 27th** from 1 PM to 3 PM. No advanced registration is required for this event—you can just show up. For more information contact Glen Alexander at 360-428-1070.
- The Adopt – A- Stream Foundation has several upcoming events at the Northwest Stream Center at McCollum Park (right behind the WSU Extension building). These events include:
 - **Junior Streamkeeper Training** – An opportunity for hands-on learning about stream and wetland ecology on **Friday September 26th from 10 AM – Noon**.
 - **Going Wild** – Get up close with northwest critters with Barbara Ogaard from the Sarvey Wildlife Rehabilitation Center on **Friday September 26th from 7 – 9 PM**.
 - **All About Beavers** – Learn about the role of beavers in the environment on **Thursday, October 9th from 7 – 9 PM**.
 - **Bat Night** (no, not the same one they do at Mariners games...) - Join bat expert Barbara Ogaard of the Sarvey Wildlife Center for a voyage into the mysterious world of bats – get to see live bats up close! **Friday October 17th 7 – 9 PM**.

Advanced registration is required for all of these events. For information and ticket prices, contact the Stream Center at 425-316-8592.

- **Model Forest Field Tour of Belton Forest September 27th in Sandy, OR.** The interested public is invited to join John and Carol Belton on a tour of their 400 acre forest in Sandy, OR. The tour will focus on forest management for multiple tree species of variable age, high quality timber, and stream health. The Belton Forest (<http://www.forestguild.org/BeltonForest.html>) has a remarkable management approach that manages for high quality Douglas-fir along with high quality Coho salmon stream habitat. Visit http://www.forestguild.org/model_forest/BeltonForest/Belton_09_2008.pdf for more detailed information about the tour. RSVP by September 14th.
- **The Game of Logging: Precision Tree Falling Course** - Northwest Certified Forestry invites you to attend The Game of Logging, Soren Eriksson's world famous course on safe, efficient, and precise tree removal. Based around the concept of 'open face felling', this course will change your approach to working in the woods. This two-day program will focus on falling alder. As a hardwood, alder has a much different wood quality than Douglas-fir or other softwoods. Alder's growth habitat also can lead to unique challenges for falling trees. The course will be held **September 18th and 19th in Oakville, WA.** For details visit <http://www.nnrg.org/news-events/events/game-of-logging/> or call Shelley French at 360-379-9421
- **The Game of Logging: Small-scale Yarding Course** - This training program is for woodland owners and workers who want to extract trees from their property safely and without the use of expensive professional logging equipment. With the use of an ATV, small tractor, arch, or something that can pull a tree behind, the wood can be pulled out in a low impact manner, with little or no residual damage to the property. The course will be held **September 20th in Oakville, WA.** For details visit <http://www.nnrg.org/news-events/events/9-20-game-of-logging-small-scale-yarding/> or call Shelley French at 360-379-9421
- **Live Green and Save Green Fall Workshop Series** - Skagit Valley College Community Education and Washington State University are co-sponsoring a series of workshops this fall on "Living Green, Saving Green" The workshops offer tips in energy savings at home, transportation alternatives, alternative energy sources, water-wise gardening, and more. The workshops start **September 25th in Mount Vernon.** For more information download the workshop flyer at http://www.slowfoodskagit.org/Slow_Food_Skagit/Announcements_files/Live%20Green%20flyer.pdf
- **Climate Change: Global Connections and Sustainable Solutions** - This 5 clock-hour workshop is designed for 6-10th grade educators (but others are welcome) who are interested in building science, social studies, math, and governance lessons about climate change into their classrooms. The workshop will be held **February 7, 2009 in Everett.** For more information visit <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/4h/NR/FTFclimate0209.htm>.

Forestry in the News

- The Seattle Times reports on the continued decline of the spotted owl in Washington's forests:
http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2008109742_spottedowl13m.html
- The Seattle PI ran a recent article and editorial about urban forests in Seattle:
http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/opinion/375338_firstperson18.html and
http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/375510_tree19.html
- The Seattle PI also reports on the cost of wildfires:
http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/national/374906_wildfires14.html
- Another interesting article in the PI talks about efforts to protect our forests for invasive foreign pests:
http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/377379_invasivespecies02.html
- The Seattle Times reports on a judicial ruling invalidating a Clinton administration rule banning road building in undeveloped areas of national forests:
http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/nationworld/2008109769_roads13.html
- For local hikers, the Everett Herald reports on the reopening of the historic Pilchuck Lookout:
<http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20080824/NEWS01/46000277>
- Snohomish County will be hosting forums about the future of rural land management in the county:
<http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20080902/NEWS01/709029938>
- The Herald also reports on work by the Stillaguamish Tribe to restore a wetland near Pilchuck Creek:
<http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20080824/NEWS01/46000273>
- The Journal of Forestry published an article about forest management and climate change: http://www.safnet.org/jof_cctf.pdf
- Speaking of forests and climate change, Dovetail Partners offers an article about the role of wood as a green building material:
<http://www.dovetailinc.org/DovetailNews082508.html>
- On a slightly different thread, the Herald reports on old-growth forests as a carbon sink: <http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20080911/NEWS03/709119847>. This highlights some important nuances when it comes to forestry and climate change. Managing second-growth forests for timber productions has different implications for carbon change climate change than the harvest of old growth or deforestation in the tropics. This often leads to conflicting and confusing messages about forestry and climate change. If you have questions about this, please feel free to contact me.

- The Seattle PI reports on a lawsuit regarding the Canadian softwood lumber agreement: http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/local/378290_lumber09.html. One of the organizations caught in the middle of this lawsuit is the American Forest Foundation (AFF), which you may recognize as they sponsor forestry education programs such as Project Learning Tree, and also the American Tree Farm System (ATFS) of which many of you are members. As AFF's relationship to this lawsuit may be of concern to family forest owners, they have issued a response to this article that we have made available online at http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/documents/AFF_Response.pdf.
- While tensions are heating up over the softwood lumber agreement, the Everett Herald reports on a loosening of tensions in the long-standing conflict over redwood forests in California: <http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20080824/NEWS02/46000241>.
- As long as we're on the topic of redwoods, I'll end with a fun little article from the San Francisco Chronicle about some of the history behind the establishment of Redwood National and State Parks: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/08/17/TRFO121F6O.DTL>. (As an aside, I had a chance to visit the redwoods for the first time this summer. If you are interested, I have some of my photos posted online at <http://home.comcast.net/~k-w-zobrist/photos/natpark/index.html#REDW>.)

ATFS Update

There are several exciting bits of news regarding the American Tree Farm System (ATFS):

- **The National Tree Farm Convention** is coming to the Pacific Northwest this year. It will be held **October 16th-18th in Portland, OR**. If you are an ATFS member or are interested in the program, this is a great time to meet other family forest owners and natural resource professionals and learn about sustainable forestry. For more information visit <http://www.treefarmssystem.org> or give me a call at 425-357-6017 and I can send you more information.
- **ATFS Receives PEFC Endorsement** – The ATFS received international approval by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes (PEFC). PEFC is an international, independent, non-profit, non-governmental organization which promotes sustainably managed forests through independent third party certification. ATFS is the oldest and largest forest conservation, certification, and advocacy program in the United States. The endorsement is good news for certified family forest landowners as a step that will open the door to new green markets for wood that is sustainably produced on their land.

If you own 10 or more acres of forestland and are interested in getting certified by the ATFS, please contact me at 425-357-6017 for more information.

Snohomish Conservation District News

As many of you know, the Snohomish Conservation District (SCD) is working towards an assessment to fund their stewardship programs. The assessment is now in the hands of the county council, and they would like to hear from constituents about the matter. There will be a public meeting to determine whether or not to have County staff proceed with drafting the ordinance for the SCD assessment. To provide your input, consider attending this meeting, which will be Tuesday, September 23rd, at 9:00 AM in the Henry M. Jackson Board Room, 8th Floor, Robert J. Drewel Building, 3000 Rockefeller, Everett. You can also send written letters to your council representative. For more information about the SCD assessment and this public meeting, visit <http://www.snohomishcd.org/about-the-district/news/assessment-news> or contact Bobbi Lindemulder at 425-335-5634, ext 109.

USDA-NRCS Forest Landowner Survey

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has asked us to help spread the word regarding their current effort to conduct an opinion survey of family forest owners in Washington. The survey is intended to help them better communicate with landowners and to deliver services regarding programs like the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The survey is very brief and will only take a couple of minutes to complete. Go to:

www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=pyiC6o4of1GG7TNU530hNg_3d_3d

DNR Seedling Availability for 2009

DNR's Webster Forest Nursery now has its list of seedlings available for 2009 planting. You can browse the list online at

http://www.dnr.wa.gov/BusinessPermits/HowTo/LandownersIndustryContractors/Pages/lm_seedling_order.aspx or you can call nursery customer service at 1-877-890-2626. The nursery began taking orders on September 2nd. Orders will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis

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