

WSU Extension Puget Sound Forest Stewardship E-Newsletter

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In this issue:

- [Forester's Notes](#)
- [Forest Stewardship Coached Planning](#)
- [Ties to the Land](#)
- [Thinning, Pruning, and Wood Energy Workshop](#)
- [New Online Course: Weeds in the Woods](#)
- [Project Learning Tree Training](#)
- [Family Forest Expo](#)
- [Social and Cultural Benefits of Trees Workshop](#)
- [Partner Events](#)
- [Market Update](#)
- [Forestry in the News](#)
- [Tidbits](#)
- [Subscription and Contact Info](#)

Forester's Notes

I am going to keep my notes really brief, as there are so many programs for you to read about in this month's newsletter. We have a lot of events coming up, starting with Ties to the Land in just a couple weeks. I consider Ties to the Land to be our second most important class after Coached Planning. This upcoming offering is almost half the price of what it has been in the past, and includes dinner and a session with an attorney and financial planner. It's really quite a good deal and an important step for your family (no matter what your age is) and your forest.

We also have some new workshops coming up that we haven't done before, as well as the big expo (think indoor field day) at the end of the month. These programs are a great opportunity for you to learn some new things, brush up on existing skills, and get guidance for issues affecting your forest. I hope you will join us at some of these events.

I also want to mention some really exciting news from DNR. The wildlife biologist position (vacated when Jim Bottorff retired last fall) has been filled. Ken Bevis from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife will be starting in this role on April 1st. If you liked Jim, you'll like Ken. We're excited to have him participating in our classes. Also, DNR is now supporting two stewardship foresters for Western Washington, which doubles their ability to serve you and support field days and Coached Planning. Mike Nystrom will cover from Pierce County southward, and we welcome Boyd Norton as the new northwest Washington stewardship forester starting April 1st. Boyd has been with DNR and worked with small landowners for decades, and many of you have already worked with him, so it is a natural fit. Once they're in place in April, I'll have contact info to share with you.

Kevin W. Zobrist
Regional Extension Specialist, Forest Stewardship
Serving the North Puget Sound Area

Ties to the Land

Your forest will outlive you. Who will care for it when you're gone? Will it be a family legacy or a family squabble? Will it be kept intact and protected, or will it be divided up and sold off in pieces? Succession planning is the critical step of ensuring the long-term future that you want for your property. WSU Extension, Cascade Harvest Coalition, and the Snohomish Conservation District are hosting a succession planning workshop featuring the award-winning Ties to the Land curriculum. Guest speakers will include an attorney, a financial planner, and a family who has gone through the process, and there will be plenty of opportunity for Q&A.

This two-part workshop will be March 21st and 28th from 5:00 - 9:00 PM at the Qualco Energy Center outside Monroe. Cost is \$40 per family and includes a workbook and dinner for two people each night. Additional workbooks and dinners can also be purchased. To register visit <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/337717> or contact Sarah Wilcox at (253) 381-7651.

Thinning, Pruning, and Wood Energy Workshop

Pre-commercial thinning (PCT) is a key practice in young forest stands that is critical for maintaining forest health, habitat, and vigor. Pruning is another key practice that improves aesthetics and wood quality and makes it easier to see and walk through your forest. Pruning is best done in conjunction with pre-commercial thinning.

One of the challenges of pre-commercial thinning is that the cut trees are not large enough to be marketable for lumber and often have to be left to decompose in place. A unique solution to this is to use the wood to power a wood gasification unit. This compact unit has a footprint the size of a pallet and uses wood chips to generate energy through pyrolysis.

These units can produce 10-20 kW of electricity (more than enough to power most homes) with minimal emissions. A further byproduct, biochar, is a valuable and potentially marketable soil amendment that improves soil productivity while also sequestering carbon.

In this field workshop, we will talk about when, why, and how to PCT and prune a stand. Instruction will be coupled with group exercises to practice proper pruning techniques and marking the right trees for thinning. We will look at stands before and after thinning. We will also demonstrate a 10-kW wood gasification unit and the process for using PCT material to produce green energy and biochar.

This field workshop will be on Saturday May 4th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at a tree farm near Langley on Whidbey Island (15 minutes from the Clinton ferry dock). For additional details and registration information, visit <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/thinprune.htm> or call Mary Ann Rozance at 425-357-6023.

New Online Course: Weeds in the Woods

We have a new online course available at Forest Stewardship University: Western Washington Weeds in the Woods. This three-part course is designed for small forest owners and others in Western Washington seeking to control problem plants in wooded areas. Part one covers how invasive and noxious weeds are defined and regulated in Washington, impacts they have on forests, general and control strategies, and where to go for additional information and assistance. Part two covers specific control techniques for the most common woody invasives. Part three covers specific control techniques for the most common non-woody invasives. <http://extension.wsu.edu/forestry/FSU/Pages/oc8.aspx>

Project Learning Tree

Washington State University Extension is offering a Project Learning Tree Training for teachers and informal educators on Saturday March 30 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Snohomish County Extension office in south Everett. The workshop will use the acclaimed Project Learning Tree curriculum to give participants access to hundreds of simple activities for integrating environmental education in a classroom, club, or after school program. These activities address the four Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALRs) for science, with an emphasis on experiential learning and getting kids outside to learn about science and nature.

The training costs \$30 before March 15, \$45 March 15 or later, and includes the Project Learning Tree Environmental Education Activity Guide, lunch, and 6 clock hours. For additional details and registration information, visit http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/PLT_Training.htm or call Mary Ann Rozance at 425-357-6023.

Family Forest Expo

The Fourth Family Forest Expo will be March 23, 2013 at Green River Community College in Auburn. This is a hands-on, interactive educational event for families who own forestland in Washington. It is basically an indoor/winter version of our summer field day. Whether you live on your land in the Puget Sound area, or are an absentee owner with land in Eastern Washington, this is a great opportunity to learn how to gain more benefits from your family forest no matter where it is located in the state.

Come to the Expo and:

- Get practical, “how-to” advice on simple stewardship practices
- Talk with agency and natural resource professionals from Eastern and Western Washington who are available to assist you in meeting your family’s goals
- Meet other landowners (maybe a neighbor!)
- See equipment displays and speak to vendors
- Get your forestry questions answered at the resource center

Each hour, you will attend a different class, demonstration, or tour. Throughout the day, over two dozen topics will be presented for you to choose from! By the end of the day, you will have attended six sessions. In addition, there will be a resource area featuring equipment vendors and public, private, and nonprofit organizations that provide landowner assistance. Whether you are a “novice” to family forestry, or your family has owned land for many generations, there is something new for everyone to learn at the Fourth Family Forest Expo.

Details and registration information are available at <http://extension.wsu.edu/forestry/Documents/4th%20Forest%20Expo%20Lo.pdf> or by calling WSU Chelan County Extension at 509-667-6540.

Social and Cultural Benefits of Trees Workshop

Trees are an important part of our watershed, providing lots of benefits to water quality, fish, and air quality. Did you know that trees can also make us feel more relaxed and happy? Come learn about this and other things trees do for us psychologically, physiologically and culturally. Participants will get to make their own tree oil to take home, using a blend of native trees and a recipe that has been used for thousands of years.

This free workshop will be held on Wednesday April 10th, from 6-8 pm at the Arlington Utilities Office Building (154 W Cox Ave, Arlington, WA 98223). The workshop is being presented in partnership by the Stillaguamish Tribe and Sound Salmon Solutions. Pre-registration is not required (just show up!), but for more information, please contact Mary Ann Rozance at 425-357-6023 or m.rozance@wsu.edu

Partner Events

Note: partner events are not WSU events. Partner events are listed for informational purposes only and do not imply any endorsement by WSU.

Whatcom Farm Forestry Tree Sale – The Whatcom County Farm Forestry Association is holding its Annual Tree Seedling Sale fundraiser on March 16, 2013 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Lynden Fairgrounds Henry Jansen Agricultural Center. Seedlings are \$0.90 each, with a variety of native and ornamental species available. For more information call 360-671-6988.

WFFA Conference and 2013 Annual Meeting: "Tree Farming: What You Need to Know Now" - April 25-27, 2013 in Tacoma. Enjoy a first-class venue, a solid informative program, and speakers coming from the other Washington. There is a special group rate at the downtown Marriott, and attendees can arrive a day or so early or stay a day or so late to take in one or more of the world-class museums in Tacoma: Chihuly, LeMay, History, Children's, and Art. For a registration form and further information, see: <http://www.wafarmforestry.com/2013AnnualMeeting.html>.

Forest Practices Unstable Slopes Training – May 15-16, 2013 in Sedro Woolley. The DNR is hosting this training for Forest Practices foresters, Forest Practices Application reviewers, forest landowners, and forestry consultants. Understand the Forest Practices Rules for potentially unstable slopes, identify concepts and technical criteria for identifying each rule-identified unstable landform, and practice using tools to recognize slope stability issues related to Forest Practices. Contact: Sue Casey, Forest Practices Training Manager at sue.casey@dnr.wa.gov or (360) 902-1406.

Forest Practices Wetland Training – May 22-23, 2013 in Sedro Woolley. The DNR is hosting this training for Forest Practices foresters, Forest Practices Application reviewers, forest landowners, and forestry consultants. Identify and delineate regulatory Forest Practice wetlands and apply appropriate Wetland Management Zones (WMZ), list the technical criteria that determine wetland hydrology, hydric soils, and hydrophytic plant communities, and demonstrate field techniques used to delineate wetland boundaries. Contact: Sue Casey, Forest Practices Training Manager at sue.casey@dnr.wa.gov or (360) 902-1406.

Market Update

Here is the latest news on log prices in Western Washington based on data provided by our friends at DNR in their monthly Timber Sale Query reports.

Domestic log prices are up across the board, with softwood prices reaching their highest overall levels in over three years.

For an updated price graph, please visit <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/documents/LogPrices.pdf>

Forestry in the News:

- *The Seattle Times* reports on opposition to logging operations near Issaquah: http://seattletimes.com/html/localnews/2020467959_squakforestxml.html
- The *Seattle Times* reports on the problem of timber theft: http://seattletimes.com/html/localnews/2020427922_timbertheftxml.html.
- The *Associated Press* reports on the recent USDA report on forests and climate change: http://seattletimes.com/html/business/2020293904_apusforestsclimatechange.html
- The *Associated Press* reports on a Forest Service firefighting policy shift toward letting more fires burn: http://seattletimes.com/html/nationworld/2020511030_apuswildfiresletitburn.html
- *The Bellingham Herald* reports on the latest activity with the Lake Whatcom reconveyance: <http://www.bellinghamherald.com/2013/03/11/2911763/long-awaited-vote-on-8844-acre.html>
- *King 5 News* reports on an Asian gypsy moth infestation on a ship in Tacoma: <http://www.king5.com/news/environment/Major-Asian-Gypsy-Moth-infestation-discovered-on-ship-in-Port-of-Tacoma-189032731.html>

Tidbits:

- The 2012 Washington Forest Health Highlights Report is now available at: http://www.dnr.wa.gov/Publications/rp_fh_2012_forest_health_highlights.pdf.
- The Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP) helps private forest landowners replace culverts and other stream-crossing structures that keep trout, salmon, and other fish from reaching upstream habitat. The program has received a new round of funding to complete about 100 projects during the next two years. For information and application, visit <http://www.dnr.wa.gov/fffpp> or call Rick Kuykendall 360-902-1404.
- The New Zealand Mud Snail is a new aquatic invasive species to be aware of, as it is beginning to spread in Western Washington lakes and streams: <http://www.invasivespecies.wa.gov/documents/priorities/NewZealandMudsnailFactsheet.pdf>.

- Save the date – the 2013 Forest Owner Field Days will be June 22nd in Tonasket, and August 24th (note new date) in Forks. There will also be a North Puget Sound Forest Owner field day in Whatcom County (tentative date is July 27th).
- Sources for Forest Stewardship Supplies and Materials: Ever wonder where to buy things like seedlings, seedling protector tubes, increment borers, wildlife seed forage mixes, Seadust, pruning saws, rare natives like Pacific Yes, etc., etc.? Check out our new "where to buy" info sheet:
http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/documents/Forestry_Supplies.pdf.

Subscription and Contact Info:

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The WSU Extension Puget Sound Forest Stewardship Program is made possible in part by Snohomish County Surface Water Management, the Snohomish Conservation District, King County, Skagit County, Island County, and Whatcom County.

Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office. Persons with a disability requiring special accommodations while participating in the WSU Extension programs described above should request accommodation at least 21 days in advance.