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WSU Extension Puget Sound Forest Stewardship E-Newsletter

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Forester's Notes

Summer is just around the corner, and we've got a lot of great outdoor events coming up for fun and education for the whole family. On July 6th we have our annual youth natural resources field day here at McCollum Park in Everett – bring the young folks in your family out to connect with and learn about the natural environment, from trees to critters. Plus they'll get to run around in the woods with me for a bit – what more could a kid want?? On July 9th and 14th we'll have "Twilight Tree Farm Tours" – come and share ideas and see what others are doing. Then on July 31st is the premier forest stewardship event of the year – the Western Washington Forest Owners Field Day. The field day is in the Puget Sound area for the second year in a row – this year a little further south in the Maple Valley area, but still a reasonable drive from much of the area. Registration for the field day is now open!

Read below for more details about these events and how you can sign up. Also look for news about the return of one of our DNR Stewardship Foresters, and other information of interest, including a new feature that I am going to start including in the newsletter called “Focus On” – based on frequently asked questions on timely topics. This month’s focus will be on sapsuckers, which can be quite active around here and believe it or not account for quite a few of the tree damage calls I get!

In the midst of putting on these summer outdoor events, I am continuing to work with the statewide WSU/DNR Forest Stewardship Team on our new initiative to put our flagship Coached Planning program online. This will not replace our traditional in-person classes, but rather will be an alternative for people who are unable to drive the distance to where these courses are located or need some flexibility in the schedule. Online was one of the most popular workshop “locations” identified on last month’s program survey, but interestingly it was not ranked as high as our big mail survey three years ago. I think it will be a good alternative for people who need it, though, and that it will help more people to be able to participate.

I also think that interest will increase when people see the quality of the online content. To that end, I want to invite all of you to take a “sneak preview” at two of the content modules:

- Western WA Native Plants: <http://breeze.wsu.edu/onlinecp-plantswest/>
- Western WA Forest Diseases: <http://breeze.wsu.edu/onlinecp-diseasewest/>

A tip when viewing these: stretch out your browser window horizontally after it loads to see more content, including a running transcript of the audio for the hearing impaired, and an outline of the program. Also, since this is a brand new effort, please share with me any feedback you have.

Have a great summer – I hope to see you at one of our field days!

Kevin W. Zobrist
WSU Area Extension Educator
Serving King, Snohomish, and Skagit Counties

Town Hall Meeting with WSU President

This is very short notice but you are all invited to attend a Town Hall Meeting and reception with WSU President Elson S. Floyd titled “Growing Partnerships. Building a Stronger Washington State. The meeting is **tomorrow** (Wednesday June 9th) from 5:30 – 7:30 PM at Benaroya Hall in Downtown Seattle. President Floyd is hosting these community meetings to better understand the needs of Washington’s citizens and how WSU can better address key issues as your land grant university. I think you will be very impressed with President Floyd, and this is a great opportunity for him to hear your thoughts about the WSU Extension’s Forest Stewardship Program, its importance to you, and what sort of support you would like to see for this program in the future.

For more information or to register, please visit <http://engagement.wsu.edu/registration/> or call 877-978-3868.

Youth Natural Resources Field Day

Kids of all ages (and their families) are invited to join us for the third annual Youth Natural Resources Field Day. This free event will feature a variety of fun, hands-on activities to learn more about the fascinating natural world. Participants will explore a local forest, learn about the Puget Sound, make arts and crafts, and much more. Each diverse station helps youth and adults learn about natural resources in a fun and hands-on way! Come ready to explore different natural environments, examine critters, get dirty, and have fun!

Activities will include:

- Tree discovery
- Edible plants
- Bug netting
- Storytelling
- Arts and crafts

The field day will be held at the Snohomish County Extension facility at McCollum Park in South Everett (600 128th St SE Everett WA 98208) from 10 AM to 2 PM on Tuesday July 6th. To RSVP, please call Tamara at 425-357-6028 or visit <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/naturalresources/NRFieldDay2010.htm>.

Summer Twilight Tours

This summer we are reviving a tradition of this program to do Twilight Tree Farm Tours, where we take advantage of our long summer evenings to tour local tree farms. Come and share ideas and see what other folks are doing. We've got two great tours lined up for you, featuring projects and issues that most everyone can relate to. Everyone from around the region is warmly invited and encouraged to attend one or both tours.

Tour 1: Friday July 9th in Carnation

Our Carnation Tour will be hosted by Erich and Betty Studer. This beautiful 31-acre property is a prime example of excellent management and stewardship (in the finest Swiss tradition!). Come see all of the exciting things that they have accomplished, including thinning and hardwood conversion. See their innovative approach to a mixed-use landscape, including maintaining pasture area with "islands" of native vegetation. We'll also talk about the diversity of wildlife that this property is home to, and the Studers will share their vision for keeping their forest in the family for generations to come. Details and RSVP at http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/twilighttour_king.htm

Tour 2: Wednesday July 14th in Stanwood

Our Stanwood Tour will be hosted by Carol and Dave Schram. Come and see all of the exciting things that they have accomplished and are working on, including a pond restoration, a cost-share project, and a blackberry eradication project currently underway. We'll also have a chance to look at some of the signs of some very interesting and diverse wildlife that they have on their property. The Conservation District/NRCS will also be on hand to talk about cost share opportunities that you might be able to take advantage of on your own property. Details and RSVP at http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/twilighttour_snohomish.htm

Both tours will be from 7 – 9:30 PM and will end with a potluck dessert, so please bring something sweet to share, as well as a good insect repellent, as we will be outside near dusk. Also, please RSVP so we can get a head count and contact you in case of any schedule changes or last minute information. RSVP online using the links above or by calling me at 425-357-6017.

2010 Forest Owners Field Day

The annual Western Washington Forest Owners Field Day is back in the Puget Sound area for the second year in a row. The 2010 Field Day will be held **Saturday July 31st** in the Ravensdale area just east of Maple Valley in King County. This will be the first year the field day has been held in King County. The field day site is an hour or less from Seattle, Bellevue, Everett, Tacoma, or Olympia, and under two hours from Mount Vernon.

The Forest Stewardship Program's biggest annual event will feature hands-on sessions on a variety of forestry topics, including wildlife, forest health, silviculture, trail building, special forest products, and much more. Learn how to properly thin and prune trees, how to plant and care for young trees, how to attract more wildlife to your property, and how to enhance your personal enjoyment of your property. There is something for all ages and all skill levels at the field day. Whether you own a couple wooded acres or a couple hundred, there is something for you at the summer field day!

Registration is now open. Registration information and the program schedule are available at <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/2010FieldDay.htm>.

The Return of DNR Forest Stewardship

I have some great news to share – one of our Westside DNR Stewardship Foresters has been reinstated. Last July, DNR eliminated all three of the Westside Stewardship Forester Positions (held by John Keller, Mike Nystrom, and Tony Sachet) as part of their budget reduction implementation. Mike Nystrom has now been reinstated. Many of you have

worked with Mike, and you know that he is of the highest caliber (all three of those guys were). It is wonderful to have Mike back and to have some stewardship support from DNR again. Mike will be covering all of Western Washington (what was covered previously by three people), so please keep in mind that he will be stretched very thin. He will appreciate your patience as he works to service people as quickly and efficiently as possible given his broad responsibilities and limited resources. Mike's contact info is mike.nystrom@dnr.wa.gov and 360-742-8506. Welcome back, Mike!

Forest Stewardship Program Survey Follow-Up

Last month we did a program survey, giving you the opportunity to provide feedback on your preferences for future workshops. A very big **Thank You** to all who took the time to participate – your feedback is very much appreciated.

I, along with the advisory committee for this program, will be going over the survey results and using that info to plan for the next 1 – 2 years. Once we've had a chance to digest all the data, I will also share the results (and how we will be responding to those results) in an upcoming newsletter.

In the meantime, I want to invite those who participated in the survey, if you wish, to answer a bonus question: **“What question did I not ask, but should have, and what would your response be?”**

You can respond to this at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/forestbonus> through June 18th. I am very interested in what you have to say. Please only participate in this bonus question if you participated in the original survey last month.

Forestry in the News

Some WSU Extension newsletters provide links to external sites for the convenience of users. These external sites are not managed by the WSU Extension. Furthermore, WSU Extension does not review, control or take responsibility for the content of these sites, nor do these sites implicitly or explicitly represent official positions and policies of WSU Extension.

- The Vancouver Sun featured a very interesting article about China's emergence as a forest policy leader:
<http://www.vancouversun.com/technology/business/3046322/story.html>
- *The Washington Post* featured an article on the contentious field of environmental certification: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/05/02/AR2010050203005.html>

- *The Seattle Times* featured an article about estate planning – an important issue for many forest owners.
http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/businessstechnology/2011963280_pfestateplans23.html
- The Kitsap Sun reports on rising timber markets:
<http://www.kitsapsun.com/news/2010/may/30/stimulus-projects-demand-from-china-making-for/>
- *The Seattle Times* included an article on forest biomass:
http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2011880162_apwabiomassconu ndrums.html

Correction: Some versions of last month's newsletter incorrectly included an article about Blanchard Mountain that was 3 years old.

Focus On: Sapsuckers

Our first "Focus On" section is all about sapsuckers. Sapsuckers are a type of woodpecker. Many people encounter sapsucker damage in the forest or in their yard. Sapsucker damage is very easy to identify. The holes are 1/8 – 1/4 inch in diameter and are drilled in a pattern – lines or clusters. There are usually many holes close together. It may look like someone took a machine gun to the tree.

Sapsucker damage is often mistaken for insect damage (e.g. bark beetles or other boring insects). Insect damage will typically have fewer, smaller holes, and the holes will be randomly distributed, not in patterns like sapsucker holes. Also, the presence of sapsucker damage does not mean the tree has insects. Unlike other woodpeckers, the sapsuckers are actually drilling for the tree sap, not for insects living in the tree.

So what should you do about sapsuckers? In most cases, the shallow damage will not be severe enough to cause serious problems with the affected tree(s). There are cases where a persistent sapsucker may indeed cause serious injury to the tree, or make the tree vulnerable to other problems. One control method that is often recommended is to wrap something like hardware cloth around the affected area. This may or may not be effective, though, and it may just shift the bird's focus to a neighboring tree.

Sapsuckers, like all woodpeckers, are protected by the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act, so a permit would be required for lethal control (i.e. for extreme cases). For the most part, though, sapsucker damage is just part of living with nature, something to be endured as an occasional inconvenience. Just hope that they limit their activity and stick to your trees and not your house siding!

Tidbits

Here are some other items of interest:

- The 2010 Outstanding Tree Farm of the Year is the Valhalla Tree Farm near Arlington. Congratulations to the Ingebright family!
- DNR has had a great brochure on planting tree seedlings. This brochure has been updated and made available online at <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/documents/Planting-Seedlings-Brochure.pdf>
- The King County Noxious Weed Control Program is hosting classes around King County in June and July about how to recognize and control knotweed – one of the worst invasive weeds spreading across the landscape. For more information, including dates and locations, call Sasha Shaw at 206-296-0290 or visit <http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/animalsAndPlants/noxious-weeds/outreach/classes.aspx>
- WDFW is reminding everyone this time of year to not attempt to “rescue” a baby bird or wild animal that appears to be abandoned. It most likely has not actually been abandoned and needs to be left alone.
- The Department of Revenue has updated their fact sheets on Designated Forest Land and Guidelines for Timber Management Plans. These revised publications are available from the DOR website: http://dor.wa.gov/Docs/Pubs/Prop_Tax/DesignatedForestLand.pdf and <http://dor.wa.gov/Docs/Pubs/ForestTax/ForestSum.pdf>.
- A new publication is available from the Forest Service about planting our native oak: http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/pubs/pnw_gtr804.pdf

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