



Forestry

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

WSU North Puget Sound Extension Forestry E-Newsletter

August/September 2014
Volume 7, No. 4

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Forester's Notes

Hello and happy late summer to you all. My name is Audrey, and Kevin has handed over the privilege of writing this month's Forester's Notes to me. To be completely honest, I do not have nearly the same qualifications that he does in writing as a forester due to the fact that my forestry knowledge consists of a two month internship at the WSU Extension office working and learning alongside the forestry team. Though my time with WSU is coming to a close, I leave with an enlightened perspective on forests. Before dipping my toes into the realm of forestry, I could not tell you more than a couple species of native trees, nor could I tell you what exactly a healthy forest looked like. Any tree with needles was a pine tree in my eyes. Now, after being immersed in an environment rich in knowledge of the wooded landscape, I can not only walk through a forest, but I can understand it as well.

It's hard to describe what I mean by that, but you could say that it is something close to being in high school. In the flood of students that you come across each day while walking

the campus, you can look at people from the outside, but this does not mean that you know them in the slightest. You can look them in the eyes, notice what they're wearing, or how they carry themselves, but until you talk to them and learn about them from what they tell you, you won't ever truly know them. Preceding my time with WSU Forestry, I walked forest trails, I noticed the trees overhead and the understory below, but that was it. What I had was a superficial understanding of the way a forest worked, and as it turned out, I gained more knowledge on my first day with WSU, identifying native species while on a hike guided by Kevin Zobrist and Lauren Grand, than I had a crewed over my twelve years of formal education. That's why this place is so amazing. WSU Forestry has cordially introduced me to the forest, and now I can feel the forest opening up to me.

With a basic understanding of the fundamentals of forests under my belt, my mind was expanded further when I learned of the entire community entwined within forestry. I had no idea that there were so many local forest landowners who are avidly trying to improve their stewardship abilities. There is such a thirst for knowledge in this community, and WSU seems to be the place to quench it. Frankly, I don't own any forest land, and neither does anyone that I know personally, but it has been awe-inspiring to observe the interactions within the forestry community.

I was able to visit a private landowner's property to learn about all the different ways that forest land can be managed depending on different tax programs, and I now have great respect for forest landowners who go through so much so that they can appropriately care for their land and preserve it for future generations. But, without a doubt, the most impactful experience I have had at WSU was attending a Woman Owning Woodlands meeting. I was able to listen in as each woman answered the question "What do you love about your forest land?" The responses were varied, yet the common thread was that these women are passionate about their forests and will do their best to maintain them for years to come. Through each experience I have had at WSU, my affinity for forestland has strengthened. From my first day, learning about native tree species, to one of my last, hearing the personal stories of forest landowners, and to all of the days in between, I have learned that forests are not to be taken for granted. In an ever developing world, where outdoor time is often replaced by screen time, engaging with forests is more important than ever before. Thank you to WSU Forestry for showing me this.

Audrey Taber
Forestry Intern

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Native Trees of Western Washington Book Update

My upcoming book, Native Trees of Western Washington, will be released and shipped next month. The book is now available for pre-order from Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

<http://www.amazon.com/Native-Trees-Western-Washington-Photographic/dp/0874223245/>

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/native-trees-of-western-washington-kevin-w-zobrist/1120208822?ean=9780874223248>

The book will also be available directly from WSU Press in late October at the list price of \$18.95, so the pre-order options above might be a little cheaper.

All proceeds from the book go to support the WSU Extension Forestry program. There will be a book signing on December 4th in Everett, along with pizza and a slide show:

<http://forestry.wsu.edu/nps/events/pizzaseminar/#trees>.

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Fall Pizza Seminars

Our “pizza seminars” are a chance to enjoy some pizza while listening to an educational presentation. We have four different seminars scheduled for Fall 2014. Each seminar costs \$8/person and includes pizza and soft drinks. Pre-registration is required. For additional details and registration information, visit <http://forestry.wsu.edu/nps/events/pizzaseminar/> or call 425-357-6023.

1. Northwest Hardwoods Alder Seminar

For this seminar we will hear a presentation from Joe Monks, log buyer for Northwest Hardwoods. Joe will be talking about Northwest Hardwoods, their manufacturing process and finished products, what types of logs they buy, and the log-buying process. Joe will also be talking a little bit about how to market alder and other hardwoods from your property.

When: Thursday September 25th 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Where: Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Ave SE, Bellevue, WA 98005

[Registration Information](#)

2. Specialty Wood Markets Seminar

For this seminar we will be focusing on specialty wood markets and how small-scale landowners can sell to them. Specialty wood markets are niche markets that use trees to make materials other than lumber. These markets pay a premium if you have what they are looking for. We have several speakers lined up for this seminar. Steve Tanaka from Evergreen Hardwoods will be talking about alder veneer; and Larry Putnam from McFarland Cascade will be talking about Douglas-fir and western redcedar utility

poles. Each speaker will be talking about what they buy, what they use it for, and how small-scale woodland owners can take advantage of these specialty markets.

When: Thursday October 2nd 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Where: Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE, Bellevue, WA 98006

[Registration Information](#)

3. Wetlands, Ponds, and Amphibians Seminar

This seminar will feature several speakers talking about the importance of wetlands, regulatory issues around wetlands and ponds, controlling reed canary grass and other invasive plants around ponds and wetlands, and amphibian species found in western Washington woodlands.

When: Thursday November 13th 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Where: WSU Snohomish County Extension, 600 128th St SE, Everett, WA 98204

[Registration Information](#)

4. Native Trees Seminar and Book Signing

In this seminar, WSU Extension Forestry Specialist Kevin Zobrist will present a slide show of native trees in western Washington and discuss their silvical characteristics. Afterward he will be on hand to sign copies of his new book, Native Trees of Western Washington (available in bookstores in late October). Books are sold separately; you can purchase a copy in advance and bring it with you, or purchase a copy at the event. Copies at the event will be sold for the list price of \$18.95 (plus tax). All book proceeds go to support the WSU Extension Forestry program.

When: Thursday December 4th 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Where: WSU Snohomish County Extension, 600 128th St SE, Everett, WA 98204

[Registration Information](#)

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Vashon Field Tour

This field tour is an opportunity for woodland owners, architects and builders to see how woodland stewardship can keep your woods healthy and help to build healthy homes. We will start out with a tour of Chautauqua and Island Center forests, led by Drs. Jerry Franklin and Derek Churchill, to look at how different harvesting techniques are completed to promote woodland health. We will then take a tour of the locally milled wood that was used in the new Vashon Island High School, led by David Wilke. Then, we will end with a demonstration by David Warren at the Joel Kuperberg Memorial Mill Yard.

The tour will be Saturday October 25th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., meeting at Vashon Island High School. This event is free, but space is limited and pre-registration is required. For additional details and registration information, call 425-357-6023 or visit <http://forestry.wsu.edu/nps/events/vashon/>.

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Forest Stewardship Coached Planning

Coached Planning is our flagship program. This comprehensive, university-based forestry class will help you get the most out of the land you love. Whether you have just a few acres of woods or a large forest tract, if you have trees on your property, this class is for you.

Topics covered include:

- How do you know if your trees are healthy? What should you do if they aren't?
- Are characteristics of your property attracting or repelling the wildlife you enjoy? What can you do if wildlife cause damage?
- Are there certain trees you should always keep or remove? How do you remove trees without damaging your land?
- When selling logs, are you getting a fair deal or getting ripped off?
- How do you find or grow edible berries or mushrooms? How do you cut holiday greens without hurting the tree?
- Are invasive and noxious weeds taking over your underbrush? What are the risks and what can you do about it?
- What kind of soil do you have and how does that affect what grows?

Save money, too!

As part of this class we will "coach" you in the writing of your own simple forestry plan that may qualify you for property tax reductions or conservation cost-share grants.

What's included:

- Seven classroom sessions taught by forestry experts
- A Saturday field trip
- A large notebook full of reference materials and how-to guides
- A one-on-one consultation at your property with a professional forester.

The fall class in Preston is now full. Contact Lauren Grand at 425-357-6023 or lauren.grand@wsu.edu if you are interested in being on a waiting list.

Our next class will be online on Thursday nights starting February 12, 2015. Registration is open. For details and registration information, call 425-357-6023 or visit <http://forestry.wsu.edu/nps/events/cponline/>.

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WSU Extension Forestry Awards

This spring, we created two awards to honor outstanding contributions and achievements. The awards are named after their first recipients.

The WSU Extension Forestry Ron Munro Education Service Award was presented to Ron Munro in recognition of his many hours of volunteer service to this program. Ron has served many times as a host for Extension class field trips, helping to educate numerous small woodland owners from around the region about forestry and best management practices. Ron has also served numerous times as a guest speaker and advisor for the Extension Forestry program. Ron even authored an electronic Extension publication on managing a successful timber sale, drawing from his years of experience as a professional forestry consultant.

The WSU Extension Forestry Owens Educational Achievement Award was presented to Jim Owens in recognition of his high achievement in continuing education. Jim has attended at least 15 Extension Forestry classes or programs over the past 7 years, and continues to regularly attend our programs to learn all he can.

These awards will continue to be awarded periodically in the future for those who follow in Ron's and Jim's footsteps. In the meantime, congratulations Ron and Jim and thank you for supporting this program!

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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.

(http://www.dnr.wa.gov/BusinessPermits/Topics/TimberSaleAuction/Pages/psl_ts_query.aspx)

Log prices rose a little in July, but declined again in August. Cedar is pretty strong, but alder is particularly weak compared to the past two years. Summer is typically the low point of the year for log prices because everyone is logging and it saturates the market.

For an updated price graph, please visit <http://forestry.wsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/LogPrices.pdf>

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Forestry in the News

The *Kitsap Sun* reports on the wildfire risk in western Washington:

http://www.kitsapsun.com/news/local-news/washingtons-wet-side-not-immune-from-wildfire-risk_59117271

The New York Times reports on work by a WSU researcher to understand how the sugar flow works in the phloem tissue of trees:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/02/science/trees-plants-nutrient-flow.html>

The Arlington Times reports on our summer field day:

<http://www.arlingtontimes.com/lifestyle/270542151.html>

The *Skagit Valley Herald* reports on Coached Planning instructor and small forest landowner Dave Peterson's experience as a forestry professional and landowner:

http://www.goskagit.com/all_access/the-keeper-of-the-forests/article_b37a67ab-cf64-5ffc-9b74-f99be68e5675.html

The New York Times reports on the role of salamanders in the forest:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/04/08/science/salamanders-hefty-role-in-the-forest.html>

The Daily Herald (Everett) reports on efforts to clear invasive species from wooded parks:

<http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20140902/NEWS01/140909894>

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Non-WSU Education Events:

Disclaimer – these non-WSU events and are listed for informational purposes only and do not imply any vetting or endorsement by WSU.

- Citizen Action Training School – This free 12-week education program, hosted by Sound Salmon Solutions, will cover the ecology and current legal regulations about Puget Sound and local watersheds, as well as focus on human impacts on the environment. The training begins October 2nd in Everett. For details and registration information, visit <http://pugetsoundcats.org/> or call 425-252-6686.
- The American Tree Farm System is offering free webinars throughout this fall on non-timber forest products. For specific dates, topics, and more information, visit <https://www.treefarmssystem.org/national-calendar>.

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The WSU North Puget Sound Extension Forestry program is made possible in part by funding from 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. Reasonable accommodations for the events described above will be made for persons with disabilities and special needs who contact us at the address above at least two weeks prior to the event.