



Forestry

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EXTENSION

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Forester's Notes

I have been confronted with a lot of unexpected circumstances this past year, and especially the past couple months. There have been some serious medical issues in my family that suddenly put me in a caregiver role and have taken me away from work. I mention this because it has affected the program (e.g. if you have had trouble getting in touch with me lately, this is why—I am working on catching up, but it is a long process), and also because it drives my reflections for this month's "notes."

One of the things that has been difficult for me to accept during this time is that I cannot do as much. I am a doer by nature, and I like to always be working on something. I am always working off of a to-do list, and lately the list just grows with very few items getting crossed off. This current season of life has forced me to shift from a doing mode to a being mode, as much of what is needed is for me to simply be—be present, be in relationship, be empathetic, be close, be ready.

I have had to actively resist viewing this as wasted time. I may not be “doing” much, but I am in the place that I am needed to be. Projects can wait (as much as I hate to admit it), but care and relationship cannot. I am also recognizing the value of taking time to just be when it comes to my own internal balance. Sabbath is good for the soul. Before too long, I imagine the more normal rhythms of life will return. I hope that my understanding of the value of being stays with me.

I also hope that you all find time to be, especially when it comes to your forest. If you are like me, you probably have to-do lists, and one of those is probably a forest to-do list: remove weeds, plant trees and shrubs, prune, thin, maintain the road, re-establish boundaries, post signs, create an inventory, create or update a forest plan, build trail, chop firewood, knock back the brush, etc. If you own forestland, there is always something to do!

Your forest is also a great place to just be, especially in the fall when the rhythm changes and it prepares for its winter rest. The beauty of colors and dew-soaked spider webs, the sound of raindrops and crunching leaves, the feel of crisp air and moist fog, and that lovely fall woodsy smell invite the observer to stop, take notice, and be fully present in the moment. So I encourage you to make time this fall to step away from lists and tasks and take time to just be in your forest, relate with it, and let it bring some renewal.

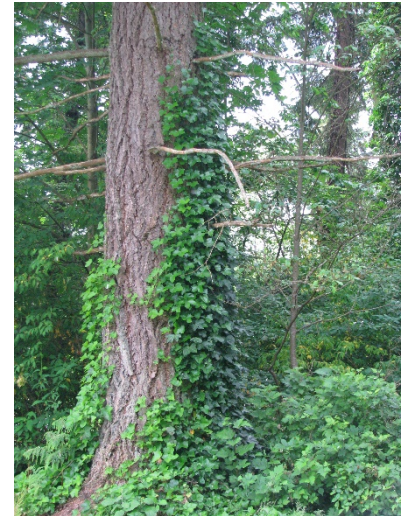
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Serving the North Puget Sound Area

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Invasive Weed Control Expo

Sunday November 20th – Everett, WA

Is ivy pulling down your trees? Are blackberries taking over everything? Do you have stubborn holly in your understory? Are dreaded species like knotweed and Scotch broom popping up on your property? Invasive weeds not only kill and inhibit the growth of your trees, they cause significant ecological harm by taking over ecosystems, crowding out native species, degrading wildlife habitat, and increasing erosion. Controlling these noxious invaders is a challenging but essential task for landowners.



This is a re-packaging of our invasive weed field practicum that was cancelled earlier this fall due to inclement weather. At this expo, you will learn to identify and control some of the most common invasive weeds that plague forest landowners, including: holly, ivy, blackberries, knotweed, reed canary grass, Scotch broom, etc.

See demos and do hands-on practicing of multiple control techniques, including hand-pulling, root digging, using a weed wrench, sheet mulching, foliar herbicides, cut stump treatments, and stem injection. You will learn about how to use herbicides safely and effectively, including what products to use for specific weeds and where to get those products, how to read a label, proper safety equipment, avoiding environmental damage, pesticide laws, tank mixing, calibrating a sprayer for the proper application rate, and clean-up. Visit with vendors and learn about the types of products available in the area for forest landowners.

When: 11:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Sunday November 20th. Doors open at 11 a.m.

Where: WSU Extension Snohomish County, Cougar Auditorium (at the back of McCollum Park).
600 128th St SE Everett WA 98208

Registration fee:

- Pre-registration before 11/12: \$20/person or \$30/couple (same household/ownership)
- Pre-registration 11/12-11/17: \$30/person or \$40/couple (same household/ownership)
- On-site registration on 11/20: \$40/person or \$50/couple (same household/ownership)
- Youth under 18 may attend free
- Student and Master Gardener discount available – call 425-357-6023 for details

This event will take place both indoors and outdoors. Please dress for the weather for the outdoor sessions (it's November!). For safety during activities, please wear long pants, long-sleeve shirts, and sturdy footwear. The field sessions will be located in different areas all in relatively close proximity to the auditorium. Please be prepared to do some walking along

sidewalks and trails, including some uneven (and possibly muddy) areas. Restrooms, coffee, water, and very light refreshments will be available. Please bring your own sack lunch or eat before you arrive.

Details and registration are available at <http://forestry.wsu.edu/nps/events/weeds/>. **Register before November 12th and get a \$20 discount.**

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2017 Coached Planning

Is your forest a recognized Stewardship Forest? Do you have the sign and the matching hats? Do you want to know why people say this is the best class they've ever taken? Would you like to walk through your woods with a service forester and learn about everything that is going on in your forest? Now is your chance—fall Coached Planning classes are coming up in September.



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?
- What types of trees do you have? Does your forest look like a "mess"?
- Are characteristics of your property attracting or repelling the wildlife you enjoy? What can you do if wildlife cause damage?
- When should you worry about trees being hazards?
- How do you know if your trees need to be thinned, and how do you go about it?
- 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?
- What is the risk of wildfire on your property?

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.

Online – Winter 2017: Tuesday evenings starting January 24th. For details and registration, visit <http://forestry.wsu.edu/nps/events/cponline/>. *Registration is now open.*

Friday Harbor – Spring 2017: Saturdays starting March 11th. For details and registration, visit <http://forestry.wsu.edu/nps/events/cpsanjuan/>. *Registration is now open.*

Sedro Woolley – Fall 2017: Thursdays starting September 28th. For details and registration, visit <http://forestry.wsu.edu/nps/events/cpskagit/>. *Registration is coming soon.*

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Researching Your Property History

We have two new publications available detailing step by step how to research the history of your property, including ownership history, land use history, and old maps and photos.

- For properties in King County: <https://pubs.wsu.edu/ItemDetail.aspx?ProductID=15903>
- For properties in Snohomish, Island, Skagit, San Juan, or Whatcom County: <https://pubs.wsu.edu/ItemDetail.aspx?ProductID=15902>

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Tidbits

- The 2016 Tax Tips for Forest Landowners is now available at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/cooperativeforestry/library/taxtips2016.pdf>
- The deadline for 2017 EQIP cost share funding is November 18th. Contact your local NRCS office for details. The appendix at the end of our Forestry Assistance Fact Sheet lists contact information by county for NRCS offices around the state: <http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/FS043E/FS043E.pdf>
- For those of you in the San Juans, check out the San Juan Islands Forestry Products and Business Directory that was recently updated by the Northwest Natural Resources Group: <http://nnerg.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/SJC-Wood-Products-Directory-2016.pdf>
- In the last newsletter it was mentioned that WA DNR was looking for samples of bigleaf maples that appear to have disease symptoms for research investigating why some

maples in our area seem to be in decline. DNR is no longer needing or accepting additional samples.

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