

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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Upcoming Events

- **Washington Farm Forestry Association Annual meeting April 24th-26th in Mount Vernon.** The program includes a mill tour, a tree farm tour, addresses from the gubernatorial candidates and a luncheon to recognize the state Tree Farmer of the Year. For registration information visit: <http://www.westernforestry.org/wffa/wffa.htm> or call Erica Norquist at WFFA at (360) 736-5750.
- **Creating Your Own Backyard Haven: Saturday April 26th 9 AM – 1 PM at the Brier City Hall.** This free workshop, sponsored by the Snohomish Conservation District and the Washington State Department of Ecology will include topics such as Organic gardening, Building soil, Recapturing water, Making a rain barrel, and others. To register or for more information, contact the [Snohomish Conservation District](http://workshops@snohomishcd.org) at workshops@snohomishcd.org or 425-335-5634, ext 123
- Those of you in the King County area may be interested in an **April 30th event in Carnation: Three New Forestry Markets** - This evening presentation will highlight three compelling new markets for King County

forest landowners: Forest Stewardship Council certified wood products, transfer of development rights, and carbon credits. For details visit <http://www.nnrg.org/news-events/events> or contact Kirk Hanson at 360-316-9317.

- Governor Gregoire has proclaimed **April 27th through May 3rd, 2008 as Native Plant Appreciation Week in Washington**. This week is a celebration of the amazing diversity of Washington's over 3000 native plant species. For more information on events in your area, visit <http://www.wnps.org/npaw/index.html> or call the Washington Native Plant Society at 206-527-3210.
- Speaking of native plants, the **Washington Native Plant Society (WNPS) will be having several spring native plant sales:**
 - The Salal chapter of the WNPS in Skagit County will be having their sale on **Saturday April 26th** from 10 AM to noon at the Skagit Display Gardens located at WSU-NW Research Extension Center, 16650 State Highway 536, **Mount Vernon, WA**. For more information contact Pam Pritzl at 360-387-7024 or ppritzl@verizon.net.
 - The Central Puget Sound Chapter of the WNPS will be having their sale on **Saturday May 10th** from 10 AM to 4 PM at the **Bellevue Botanical Gardens**. For more information contact the WNPS at 206-527-3210 or visit http://www.wnps.org/chapter_info/chapter_sales.html.
- And speaking of plant sales, the **Snohomish County Master Gardener Spring Plant Sale will be Saturday May 3rd in South Everett**. The sale will be from 9 AM to 2 PM at WSU Snohomish County Extension at McCollum Park. This plant sale also includes a free gardening clinic to answer your questions. For more details visit <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/mg/plantsale08.pdf> or call the Snohomish County Master Gardeners at 425-357-6010.
- **Plastics Recycling Event coming to Stanwood and Monroe**. This popular event is being offered again the last weekend in May. You can recycle your dry, relatively clean baling twine, nursery pots and trays, and hay bale covers to these free collection events:
 - **Saturday, May 31, 2008, 10 AM - 3 PM**, at the Skagit Farmers Supply, 8815 272nd St in **Stanwood**
 - **Sunday, June 1, 2008, 10 AM - 3 PM** at the Evergreen State Fairgrounds, 14405 179th Ave SE in **Monroe**.

For more information visit

http://www1.co.snohomish.wa.us/County_Services/Focus_on_Farming/

- **Upcoming conference: Timberland and Neighbors: Sooner or Later There Will be Issues.** This conference has two sessions, the first on **June 6th** in Grand Mound, WA and the second on **September 23rd** in Cottage Grove, OR. The conference will cover issues such as easements, rights-of-way, access, trespass, and others. To register or for more information, visit <http://www.westernforestry.org/timberlandandneighbors/timberlandandneighbors.htm> or call 888-722-9416.
- **Dates have been set for the 2008 Forest Owner Field Days:**
 - The Blue Mountain Forest and Range Owners Field Day will be held **Saturday, June 14th in Dayton, WA.**
 - The Western WA Forest Owners Field Day will be held Saturday, **August 23rd in Naselle, WA.**

More details will follow as they become available.

Forestry in the News

- WSU plans to eliminate forestry as an undergraduate major: <http://www.dailyevergreen.com/story/25391>
- A recent article in the Victoria Times Colonist about joint efforts by loggers and environmentalists to address forest management issues on Vancouver Island: http://www.canada.com/victoriatimescolonist/news/capital_van_isl/story.html?id=68f4ce31-df4e-49ae-9012-3b8dad2e6eb&p=2
- An article in the Seattle PI addresses the continued problem in the Seattle area of illegal cutting of public trees by landowners seeking to improve their view: http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/local/358935_trees14.html
- Our very own forest stewardship program was featured on Sunday, March 23rd in the Everett Herald (<http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20080323/BIZ/722656528/>) and on Wednesday, March 5th in the Sedro Woolley Courier Times (http://www.goskagit.com/index.php/community/article/local_forest_landowners_can_learn_about_land_management/). The reporters and editors at each newspaper did a fantastic job covering the Snohomish and Skagit County Forest Stewardship Classes.

Signs of Spring

For those of you who have noticed spring caterpillar activity in Douglas-firs, here are some information tidbits from WA DNR Forest Entomologist Karen Ripley (courtesy of Amy Grotta, King County Extension):

“Washington has a native caterpillar that has colonial nests in the branches of Douglas-fir and other conifers. Although the caterpillars were laid as eggs last August, they hatched soon after that and have been busily defoliating all winter long. It's just now that spring is coming, they are getting bigger, they've defoliated a larger area (although it's still just a tiny fraction of the tree's foliage, and all older less-important-to-the-tree needles), and the partially eaten needles hung up in the webbing are drying out red that we start to notice them. It's a sign of spring.

*The caterpillars are the larvae of Silver Spotted Tiger Moths – *Halisidota argentata*. They don't cause serious damage to the tree. Many of these caterpillars are parasitized (essentially their bodies are an excellent overwintering site for native parasitic wasps and flies).”*

EQIP Deadline

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced a July 15 cutoff for EQIP applications. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary, cost-share assistance program that helps fund conservation practices for both farmers and forest landowners. On forest land, funding has helped landowners to maintain roads, provide wildlife habitat, improve fish passage, and several other management practices. In most instances, producers who participate in the program pay for roughly half of the costs of the conservation measures or practices. In 2006 and 2007, Washington agricultural producers qualified for more than \$30 million in financial assistance through the program, according to the NRCS.

The new application ranking cut-off date represents an on-going agency effort to provide landowners and conservation planners additional time to develop more comprehensive conservation plans for implementing the various practices and activities funded through the program. Landowners can apply for EQIP at any time, but to be considered for fiscal year 2009 funding, they need to have their applications complete by July 15. A list of local NRCS offices can be found at: <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?service=page/CountyMap&state=WA&stateName=Washington&stateCode=53>.

You can also call me at 425-357-6017 and I can provide you with additional literature on EQIP and connect you with your local NRCS office.

Large Print Newsletters Now Available

For those who would prefer receiving a large print version of this newsletter, please let me know. You can contact me directly at kzobrist@wsu.edu or 425-357-6017.

You can also change your subscription preferences online at

<http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/change.htm>.

Future Forest Stewardship Classes

- **2009 Coached Planning:** For those of you who are interested in taking the next Forest Stewardship Coached Planning class, we won't be doing another class until early 2009, but that will be here before you know it! Tentative locations for 2009 are the Arlington/Silvana area and the Monroe area. As more details become available, they will be published in this newsletter.
- **Advanced Coached Planning:** For those of you who are already graduates of the coached planning class and have been wondering what's next, an advanced class has been planned for this fall (starting in late September) on Tuesday nights in South Everett. The tentative list of topics for this 6-week advanced course are advanced forest health (with emphasis on fire, wind, and other abiotic disturbances), advanced wildlife habitat (with emphasis on advanced silviculture for biodiversity), forest finance and taxes, forest safety and security, invasive species, succession planning, and managing a timber sale. More details will be posted in this newsletter in the coming months. This class is exclusively for those who have already completed the Coached Planning class.

Contact Info:

Kevin W. Zobrist
Forest Stewardship Educator
WSU Snohomish and Skagit County Extension
600 128th St SE
Everett, WA 98208-6353
425-357-6017
kzobrist@wsu.edu
<http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/>

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