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WSU Extension Puget Sound Forest Stewardship E-Newsletter

**January 2010
Volume 3, No. 1**

The WSU Extension Puget Sound Forest Stewardship 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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Forester's Notes

Happy New Year, everyone! It is indeed turning out to be a pretty happy new year for the WSU Extension Puget Sound Forest Stewardship program. We had a last-minute save of the forestry program in King County. The Snoqualmie Watershed Forum stepped up to provide funding to continue the program in King County, with a focus on the Snoqualmie Watershed. We are very grateful to the Forum for recognizing the importance of forestry education when it comes to watershed and water quality issues and stepping in to save the day. Funding is also stable in Snohomish and Skagit Counties for 2010.

We kicked off the year right with a big party on January 15th, and many of you were there. For those who weren't able to make it – we'll be doing it again next month and adding an educational program – read below for details.

We've also got several other big events coming up, including a Forestry Expo in Auburn, the Country Living Expo in Stanwood, and Ties to the Land in Arlington. I'm also starting to plan ahead for our summer field day, summer tree farm tours, and the return of Coached Planning in the fall.

It is going to be a great year that is both educational and fun. I look forward to seeing you all in class – and in the woods!

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

Forest Stewardship Socials

What started out as a wild idea ended up being a huge success. We had a great turnout for our first ever Forest Stewardship Potluck Social here at the Everett office on January 15th. It was clear from the feedback that you all would like to do this regularly. So be it! Building a community of forest landowners is important, and sharing a meal is a great way to build community. It was also clear from the feedback that, in addition to good food and fellowship, some sort of light program would be appreciated.

So here's what I've got cooking:

- Three more of these socials are scheduled for this year (February, May, and October).
 - In order to keep this a free event and centrally located to a broad area, they will continue to be here at the Everett office.
 - They will be on various nights of the week, as I am working around an existing facility schedule.
- I will arrange for a short program at each social.
- To add to the program, I also want to try out some “virtual tree farm tours” in which I'll take one or two volunteers to put together a short (15 – 20 min) slide show about your tree farm to share some of the things you're doing, problems you've solved, programs you've been involved with, challenges you're having, etc. Please contact me if you are interested in volunteering to give a virtual tour of your tree farm.
- During the summer we'll take a break from the socials to do actual tree farm tours (like the twilight tours that used to be done in King County). I'd like to do one

each in King, Snohomish, and Skagit counties (dates to be determined). Got cool stuff to show off? Do you have space to park a couple dozen cars? Space for a potluck or refreshments? Please contact me to volunteer to host a tour!

The next social will be 6:30 – 9:00 PM on **Tuesday February 23rd**. This event is open to all. Landowners and interest folks from all counties are welcome and encouraged to attend. We will have a short program on introduction to estate planning for forest landowners. RVSP is appreciated so I can get a head count. RSVP online at <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/social2010Feb.htm>.

Save the date – future socials will be:

- Wednesday May 5th
- Friday October 22nd

Upcoming WSU Extension Forestry Workshops

- **2010 Country Living Expo – Saturday January 30, 2010**. The Expo will be held at Stanwood High School from 7:30 AM – 5:00 PM. Over 100 different classes are offered on a variety of different topics from livestock to gardening to cheese making, with a whole lot in between. We even have some forestry sessions (taught by yours truly). For more information or to register, visit <http://skagit.wsu.edu/countrylivingexpo/> or call WSU Skagit County Extension at 360-428-4270, ext 0.
- **2nd Family Forest Expo – Saturday February 13, 2010** at Green River Community College in Auburn. Think of this as a “mini-field day” with a variety of indoor and outdoor classes and demonstrations. Attend up to seven different expert presentations, choosing from more than two-dozen topics, including tree and shrub ID, wildlife ID and management, forest insects and diseases, forest management, tree-pruning, and fire-wise practices. Demonstrations will include small-scale equipment, tool use, and tree falling. There also will be a resource area featuring equipment vendors, and public, private, and nonprofit organizations that provide assistance to landowners.

Advance registration received by Feb. 8 is \$40 per family. Registration at the door is \$60 per family. Box lunches will be available for an additional \$10 each. Because there are no restaurants or stores in the immediate area, attendees are encouraged to either sign up for the box lunch or to plan to bring their own.

For information and registration visit

<http://ext.wsu.edu/forestry/documents/2ndForestExpoLo.pdf>, or call Jim Freed at 360-902-1314 (and you can also call me at 425-357-6017).

- **Ties to the Land – March 11 and April 1, 2010** - Family forest and farm owners and invited to attend the award-winning Ties to the Land estate planning

workshop. This two-part class will be held Thursday March 11 and April 1 from 6 – 9:30 PM at Hadley Hall (Arlington Boys and Girls Club) in Arlington. It is never too early to develop an estate plan (but often too late!) Planning the long-term future of your land is perhaps the single most important thing you can do as a land steward, whether of forestland, farmland, or ranchland. Your land will outlast you, but you can take steps now to ensure that it has a positive future. “Failing to plan is planning to fail.” This class will give you practical tools for communicating with family members, identifying goals and options, and putting together a team of professionals to help you. New this year: we will include a panel of local estate planning professionals for a Q&A discussion.

Cost is \$75 per family. For more information and registration visit <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/TTL2010.htm> or call 425-357-6017. Registration deadline is March 3, 2010.

Other WSU Extension Events (non-forestry)

WSU Extension offers a wide variety of programs beyond just forestry. Since you also likely have a wide variety of interests, you may be interested in one or more of the following upcoming Extension programs:

- **2010 WSU Snohomish County Extension Beach Watcher Training – March 23 – May 6, 2010 in Everett.** If you love Snohomish County’s beaches and are interested in protecting the waters & wildlife of Puget Sound, now’s the time to apply to join WSU Snohomish County Extension Beach Watchers. Beach Watchers are university-trained volunteers dedicated to protecting Puget Sound’s fragile coastal environment through education, research and restoration. All Beach Watchers receive a university caliber, 100 hour training. It includes expert presentations, field trips and hands-on practice. In return for the 100 hours of training, WSU Beach Watchers continue learning while volunteering at least 100 hours over two years on a number of self crafted Puget Sound projects. For information or to request an application, visit <http://www.beachwatchers.wsu.edu/Snohomish/training/index.htm> or call Chrys Bertolotto at 425-357-6020.
- **2010 Starlight Beach Walks** - Familiar shorelines turn surprisingly magical as amazing creatures are uncovered during the nighttime low tides of winter. You are invited to immerse yourself in the chilly ambiance of a starlight beach while exploring new wonders as the water recedes. You can warm-up afterwards with a hot cup of cocoa and have a chance to share your discoveries. For dates, times, and more information, visit <http://www.beachwatchers.wsu.edu/snohomish/events/index.htm> or call Chrys Bertolotto at 425-357-6020.
- **Master Beekeeper Apprentice Level Course** – March 1 – 29, 2010 in Everett. This five-week course serves as a thorough introduction to beekeeping for novice

beekeepers as well as a comprehensive refresher course for experienced apiculturists. For information and registration, visit <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/Ag/workshops/beekeeping10.pdf> or call Dave Pehling at 425-357-6019.

- **2010 Bugs & Blights Monthly Series** - Early detection and diagnosis are key to successful management. Learn to identify insect, disease, and plant problems as they develop throughout the year. Join WSU Entomologists Sharon Collman & Dave Pehling as they explore the pest and pestilences of the month along with the clues given signaling their presence. Build your dictionary of clues for accurate diagnosis. Lecture and hands-on. Focus on pests & pathogens found in nursery, greenhouse, landscape, and agricultural settings. For dates and information visit <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/garden/workshops/BugsandBlights.htm> or call Sharon Collman at 425-357-6025.
- **Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs)** – January 26 and March 8 in Everett. Food safety begins on the farm. However, farmers encounter differing and sometimes contradictory information on how best to assure the safety of the produce they raise. This two-part series provides growers with science-based information for addressing on-farm food safety issues. The series offers an introduction to food safety and risk management, and the opportunity to develop a farm-specific GAPs (Good Agricultural Practices) program farming system. For information and registration visit <http://foodsafety.wsu.edu/ag/> or call Karen Killinger 509.335.2970.

Other Forestry Events of Interest (non-WSU)

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

- **Upcoming volunteer opportunities with the Stilly-Snohomish Task Force.** The Task Force has several volunteer tree-planting opportunities coming up. For dates and details visit http://www.stillysnofish.org/get_involved/upcoming_activities.html or call the Task Force at 425-252-6686.
- **“How to grow your own old growth”** – February 20th in Eatonville. Northwest Certified Forestry is offering this afternoon seminar to introduce forest owners to the theories, principles and applications of managing 2nd growth forests for late successional characteristics and functions. For information visit <http://www.nnrg.org> or contact Kirk Hanson at 360-316-9317.

Conservation District Plant Sales

It's that time of year – time to start thinking about planting. A great place to get the native trees and shrubs you are looking for is the native annual plant sale hosted by your local conservation district. This is also a great opportunity to get to know some of the folks at your local conservation district and see what conservation districts are all about. Here are some upcoming plant sale dates in this area:

- **King County** – March 5th – 6th in Renton. Pre-orders taken until February 16th. For information contact Jacobus Saperstein at 425-282-1912 or visit http://www.kingcd.org/pro_native.htm.
- **Pierce County** – February 20th in Puyallup. Pre-orders taken until January 31st. For information contact René at (253) 845-9770, ext. 106 or visit <http://www.piercecountycd.org/treesale.html>.
- **Skagit County** – March 19th – 20th and April 10th in Bow. Pre-orders taken until February 26th. For information call 360-428-4313 or visit <http://www.skagitcd.org/>.
- **Snohomish County** (also serving Camano Island) – March 5th – 6th in Monroe. Pre-orders taken until February 4th. For information call Tammy at 425-335-5634, ext. 114 or visit <http://www.snohomishcd.org/plant-sale>.
- **Whatcom County** – March 20th in Bellingham. Pre-orders taken until March 5th. For information call 360-354-2035 ext. 3 or visit <http://www.whatcomcd.org/PlantSale/PlantSale.html>.
- **Whidbey Island** – February 24th in Greenbank. Pre-orders taken until January 31st. For information call 360-678-4708 or visit <http://whidbeyislandconservationdistrict.farming.officelive.com/plantsale.aspx>.

Forestry in the News

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- *The Olympian* reports on a legislative request by the Lands Commissioner to fund riparian easements: <http://www.theolympian.com/123/story/1073849.html>

- An article in *Science Daily* discusses the relationship between biodiversity loss and human diseases:
<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/12/091203132157.htm>
- *The Seattle Times* reports on conservation groups buying working forests:
http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2010619295_aporcommunityforests.html
- *The Washington Times* reports on concerns over conversion of agriculture lands to forests: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2009/dec/29/forests-vs-food-study-worries-agriculture-chief/>
- *The Seattle Times* reports on a carbon credit sale on the Olympic Peninsula:
http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2010582146_carbontimber24.html
- *The Oregonian* Reports on a shift in industrial forest ownership from traditional forest products companies to investment companies:
http://www.oregonlive.com/business/index.ssf/2009/12/when_the_lands_worth_more_than.html
- The *Vashon-Maury Island Beachcomber* reports on the therapeutic effect of the forest on autistic children:
<http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/vashon/vib/lifestyle/80273602.html>
- *The Daily Herald* in Everett reports on the problems of invasive holly and ivy:
<http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20091221/NEWS03/712219906>

Coached Planning in 2010

Many of you are interested in Forest Stewardship Coached Planning, our flagship course on forest stewardship and management plans. We will not be having our typical winter and spring classes this year, as this time will be used to develop a new online version of the course that will be able to be offered more often and to many more participants. Our regular Coached Planning class will return in the fall somewhere in northeast King County.

DNR/SFLO Update

A couple of updates from the Small Forest Landowner Office at the Department of Natural Resources:

- The SFLO has updated the SFLO legislative webpage to include a weekly calendar of hearings that may be of interest to small forest landowners:

http://www.dnr.wa.gov/BusinessPermits/Topics/SmallForestLandownerOffice/Pages/fp_sflo_legislation.aspx.

- The SFLO is seeking feedback about the priorities for the SFLO and what versions of media they should be focusing on. The online feedback form is available at http://www1.dnr.wa.gov/forestpractices/feedback/fp_fs_inforequest.html.

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