

Forestry Extension Update

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Tree School and Beyond—The OSU Extension office is very busy with Tree School preparations and registration. We had over 400 registered in the first two weeks this year. The 14,000 Tree School catalogs sent to woodland owners serve to advertise both OSU Extension and CCFFA programs at Tree School and across the seasons. We are putting extra effort into making connections with each woodland owner who inquires about Tree School, regardless of whether or not they sign up or get the classes they want. Given the high demand for many classes and a fair number of woodland owners who find their preferred classes to be full, we are trying to keep track of everyone and their topics of interest to offer additional programs to help them. If you or someone you know would like additional opportunities to learn about specific topics, please let us know at the Extension office.

Hopkins Demonstration Forest—OSU Extension and Forests Forever, Inc. (FFI—the non-profit owner of Hopkins Demonstration Forest) have always had a close partnership, working in collaboration with CCFFA and many others to provide forestry education programs and opportunities at Hopkins Forest.

This will continue, but some changes are underway. After eleven years, Tim DeLano is no longer serving as the Forestry Educator at Hopkins. Tim is now serving the broader Extension Forestry program out of the Clackamas County Extension office in Oregon City and you will see him working on Tree School and other programs around the county.

“The change in leadership for forestry education and community outreach at Hopkins will include a re-assessment of our program direction and a re-focus to our strengths and priorities,” said Mike Bondi, Chair of the Board of Directors of FFI. In 2013, FFI completed their first comprehensive education plan to guide them in their mission to “promote science-based education to enhance understanding of and appreciation for the complexities and benefits of woodland management.”

FFI has contracted with Peter Matzka to serve as the Hopkins Forest Educator. Peter has extensive experience in forestry and forest engineering as both a practitioner and a teacher (BS, MS, and PhD in Forestry and Forest Engineering). He taught forestry at Humboldt State University and is now teaching a course at OSU College of Forestry. Although Peter has a strong background in practical forestry and engineering—where the

“rubber meets the road” for him now is in serving the need for providing education in forestry. Peter has been working for the last six years on forestry education programs for the Oregon Forest Resources Institute, including K-12 programs at the Oregon Garden and the Careers in Forestry program in high schools across Oregon. The opportunity to work at Hopkins is a great fit for Peter and for FFI.

If you have the chance, please visit Hopkins Forest and meet Peter. And please join us in our effort to realize the vision for Hopkins Forest in which youth, woodland owners, and the broader community can learn through visits, events, and participation in forestry.

Citizen Science—Get involved in monitoring weather, climate, and the seasonal developments in your woodland. A group in the OSU Forestry and Natural Resources Extension program is pursuing a new two year project to involve people across Oregon in tracking their local climate and the related stage of development of various plants and animals—across the seasons and over the years. With all the ups and downs of the climate (and debates about climate), what better way to keep your finger on the pulse of what’s really happening in your local woodland? Our goal is to engage participants from various Extension program areas to make observations on rainfall and plant phenology (seasonal development stages of plants and animals such as bud-break, egg-hatch, bud-set, leaf fall, etc.). Data will be collected and reported through existing well-supported citizen science programs. These include the Community Collaborative Rain Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS) and the National Phenology Network (NPN). If you are interested in this, look for the opportunity to sign up for local projects in the coming months. ■