

Restorations Sweep in Profits for Foresters

OAK TREE IMPORTANT TO FAMILY FORESTS

BY MARY STEWART

BROWNSVILLE — When Jim and Ed Merzenich bought Oak Basin Tree Farm, a 961-acre woodland perched on the north Coburg Hills in Linn County, their intent was to create a great place to hunt while growing timber. As the brothers worked to improve wildlife habitat, they involved numerous partners, including US Fish and Wildlife, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, Oregon State University Extension Service, Oregon Fish and Wildlife, The Nature Conservancy, and the Small Woodland Association, and discovered that their efforts to enhance grasslands and forests would pay out additional benefits to both the environment and to their bottom line.

Determining Best Use for the Land

“Ed and Jim are managing their land for multiple objectives,” said Brad Withrow-Robinson, Oregon State University Forestry Extension Agent for Linn County. In the process of restoring the woodland to a condition that more closely resembles what is believed to be the historical landscape of Oregon white oak savannas, upland prairies, and areas of mixed native conifers and hardwoods, the Merzenich’s have discovered they can produce and sell a new value-added product - specialty broom handles.

Introducing New Value-Added Wood Products

Last year the Merzenich’s and other local tree-farmers sold 5,000 broom sticks to a rustic broom manufacturer. The handles are crafted from 7-foot long hardwood sticks that are 0.5 to 1.5 inches in diameter. “While most sticks were



PHOTO BY BRAD WITHROW-ROBINSON

Jim Merzenich holds two rustic brooms, handmade with hardwood branches from trees on his family woodland. Sales of broomhandles and essential oils distilled from conifer needles are improving profitability.

fairly straight, many had little crooks in them to provide some character,” he adds. “By introducing this new value-added product, we have increased our profitability,” says Jim.

The company purchasing the handles, Broom Magic, is based in Eugene, and hand crafts full size, kid’s size, kitchen, “turkey-wing,” and specialty brooms, such as wedding and hand-fasting brooms. According to Jim, Broom Magic-Scheumack Broom Company has been in business since 1981 and moved their manufacturing business from Arkansas to the Willamette Valley about five years ago. The brooms are sold primarily locally and online.

“OSU Extension’s Amy Grotta and Brad Withrow-Robinson have been doing a lot to help us figure out new markets for the products we raise,” Jim points out. Extension faculty members have been serving as a resource to The Oregon Woodland Cooperative, which involves more than 70 sustainable woodland owners. According to Jim, the organization builds and markets a variety of natural products, including firewood bundles sold at New Season’s Markets.

Essential Oils from Pine Needles

A new project on the front burner is the development of essential oils-concentrated liquids containing volatile

“OSU Extension has helped us figure out new markets for our products.”

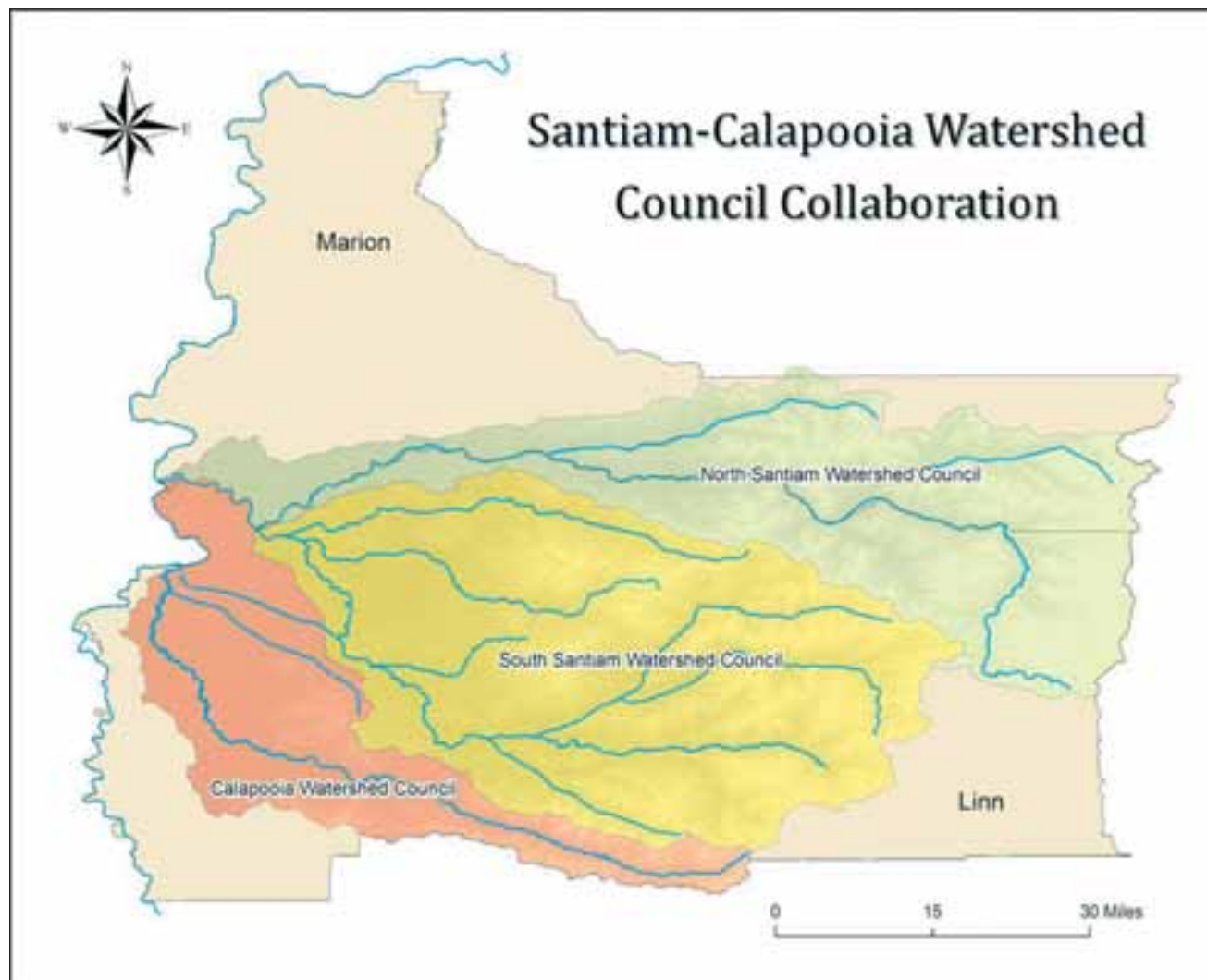
JIM MERZENICH,
FAMILY WOODLAND OWNER

aroma compounds- from tree needles. In order to create the essential oils, needles are distilled from six different species of conifers. “We are using needles from incense-cedar, western red-cedar, grand fir, noble fir, Douglas-fir, and Valley ponderosa pine,” Jim explains. The essential oils are in demand for aromatherapy, for medicinal purposes, and used in candle warmers to freshen air in a home or other enclosed area. According to Jim, the essential oils may be purchased online at <http://oregonwoodlandcooperative.com/>.

Conservation is a Goal

Jim and Ed balance their efforts to earn a living from the land with conservation projects that improve water quality, wildlife habitat, and healthy soils now and in the future. They work closely with USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service and Oregon State University graduate students to improve habitat for birds, such as the western bluebird, and to increase the resident population of Fender’s Blue Butterfly, an endangered species that feeds on the lupine and nectar-producing plants growing on Oak Basin Tree Farm’s upland prairie. According to Brad, “Jim and Ed are creating a mosaic of various little niche ecosystems that serve a lot of different species of plants and animals.”

Collaboration aims to improve watershed health



MAP BY KELLY FOLEY

The North Santiam, South Santiam, and Calapooia Watershed Councils collaborate with Linn and Marion county landowners to improve overall watershed health.

BY KELLY FOLEY and LANCE WYSS

Watershed councils are locally supported, voluntary organizations that were developed in a grassroots effort to improve ecosystem and community health. By managing water resources at the watershed level, stewardship and restoration activities can transcend political and geographic boundaries through consensus-based decision making. In Linn County, three Watershed Councils are working collaboratively with landowners to improve overall watershed health: the North Santiam, South Santiam, and Calapooia Watershed Councils. The headwaters of Linn County waterways begin in steep, forested upland areas of the Cascades and flow out onto the Willamette Valley floor. As water travels down from the mountains, it is used and reused many times by municipalities for drinking water, Native American Tribes, timber operators, agricultural producers, recreationists, as well as fish and wildlife. Maintaining the quantity and quality of this water is important for all of these users. The Watershed Councils seek to collaborate with private

and public landowners to improve overall watershed health while maintaining land use for the benefit of the community, the local economy, and fish and wildlife habitat.

Collectively, the Watershed Councils have worked with more than 60 Linn and Marion County landowners to enhance more than 300 acres of streamside and wetland vegetation. Root systems of native trees and shrubs on streambanks help to keep soil in place during rain and flood events and provide shade to help keep water cool for fish and aquatic life during the summer. Wetland areas are important for fish and wildlife habitat, as well as flood control, water purification, and groundwater recharge. Promoting healthy riparian and wetland vegetation is a simple and effective means to improve overall water quality by restoring natural processes and functions of a stream system. The Watershed Councils seek to partner, or provide technical assistance, with any landowners who might be interested in enhancing the vegetation on streambanks.



PHOTO BY SARAH DYRDAHL

One landowner on McDowell Creek, tributary to the South Santiam River, partnered with the council to put in a vegetative buffer and livestock exclusion fencing on streamside property to improve water quality.

Promoting healthy riparian and wetland vegetation is a simple and effective means to improve overall water quality.

The Watershed Councils also work with landowners to create in-stream habitat for fish and other aquatic life using large wood structures. Collections of downed logs within a stream channel can recruit important spawning gravels, create varying flow velocities, contribute to nutrient cycling for ecosystem health, and provide shelter and protection for fish. Leaving trees and branches that have fallen into nearby streams is one way to improve fish habitat. The Watershed Councils are also available to assist landowners who might be interested in placing wood structures in streams on their property to create and enhance habitat.

Other Watershed Councils activities include: controlling noxious weeds, identifying and removing fish passage barriers, and increasing overall watershed health awareness through education. If you are interested in partnering with or learning more about the North Santiam, South Santiam, or Calapooia Watershed Councils, please feel free to call Kelly Foley, Regional Landowner Partnership Coordinator, at 541-760-9344 or visit our webpages at www.sswc.org, www.calapooia.org, or www.northsantiam.org.

Kelley Foley is the Regional Landowner Partnership Coordinator for the North Santiam, South Santiam, Calapooia Watershed Council.

Lance Wyss is the Regional Projects Coordinator for the North Santiam, South Santiam, Calapooia Watershed Council.



Linn County Farm Bureau

Don Cersovski, 541-995-8310



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UPDATE — people helping people grow

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OFB Hall of Fame, Memorial award goes to the Barnses

BY MARY G. GRIMES

With a backdrop of weather in the teens and ankle deep snow, the Oregon Farm Bureau Federation's 2013 Hall of Fame and Memorial Award was presented to Lynn Barnes of the Halsey/Harrisburg area on December 12, at the closing banquet of the 81st OFB Annual Meeting held at the Riverhouse Convention Center in Bend. OFB president, Barry Bushue, along with executive vice president, Dave Dillon, presented the OFB Hall of Fame award to 95-year-old widower Lynn Barnes. His wife, Ethelma Barnes died last year and was posthumously recognized by the OFB Memorial Award that was presented to Lynn Barnes.

Married for more than 75 years, the Barnses were the parents of two sons...Gerald, AKA Jerry of Cheshire, was at the banquet along with niece and nephew Darlene and Frank Ellis. For 40 years Lynn served in every capacity, including president of the Linn-Lane Soil Conservation and was a founding member. Lynn also was president of the Romney Sheep Association and held all of its offices representing the association internationally. The Barnes' Romney sheep herd is the world's oldest owned Romney herd by a continuous owner. What an



PROVIDED PHOTO

Don Cersovski with award-winner Lynn Barnes, 95.

accomplishment, congratulations to Lynn Barnes and the late Ethelma Barnes and family.

Other news of interest from the convention was the OFB Women's Advisory Council business meeting and elections. New WAC chair and OFB 4th vice president is Mickey Killingsworth of Jefferson County Farm Bureau and vice chair Tess

Cersovski of Linn County Farm Bureau. The Region 10 (Benton, Lincoln, and Linn County) representative continues to be Anne Rigor of Benton County Farm Bureau.

A big thank you goes out to AMPAC Seed Company and George Pugh for the ryegrass seed for LCFB to make small packs that were table favors at the WAC banquet. We appreciate your kindness and participation.

New Linn County Farm Bureau director, Hans Coon, attended his first convention and participated in the Young Farmer and Rancher Discussion Meet. It was a good experience for him and he represented himself very well.

North Albany resident, Paulette Pyle, grassroots coordinator of Oregonians for Food and Shelter was awarded a small plaque acquired from the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in California by OFB Executive Vice President, Dave Dillon and the velum of a Governor Kitzharber-signed agricultural bill that she and other ag lobbyist including Oregon Farm Bureau (Katie Fast, Shawn Cleve and Ian Tollotson) worked on in a collective effort. She was a lot of the glue in seeing the bill through. Congratulations Paulette!

Highlights of the Linn Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

The 62nd Linn County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting was held Nov. 21, at the Halsey Pioneer Villa Restaurant. After a sumptuous dinner, the featured speaker was Hans Coon, new Linn County Farm Bureau director from Oak Park farms, a sesquicentennial farm on Peoria Road. During his PowerPoint presentation, Hans spoke about working around the world, especially in Australia. There was a lot of interaction with a large number of LCFB members present to ask questions.

Tami Kerr gave an overview of what she does each year as she grows her Ag in the Classroom program. Kerr has been the executive director since 1999. She has documented more than 120,00 students just this year, 2012-2013, conducted workshops to implement her program statewide; developed numerous educational resources, established fundraisers for the program and served as the president of the National AITC Organization 2011 to 2012. Tami Kerr ed-

ited and assisted with the third edition printing of *Get Oregonized*, a fourth grade textbook, with 4,000 copies for students and 100 teacher guides. She and her family raise Registered Holstein dairy cattle.

Tami was ambushed after her presentation with the 2013 LCFB Teacher of the Year award. We got her! She never saw it coming and was so surprised, but gracious. Congratulations, Tami Kerr!

However, the LCFB was ambushed by the 2013 LCFB Farm

Family, Gerald Detering award recipient who failed to receive a written invitation, our error that is now fixed, and did not attend. We will keep you in suspense until the February *UPDATE*, when we have the family at our January board meeting and make the presentation.

Our new officer from the elections is Hans Coon. Welcome aboard.

A big thank you goes out to Linn County Commission chair, Roger Nyquist, whom gave away a special

door prize of a pair of Oregon State University football tickets to their last home game. Kristie Glaser won the tickets. Tess Cersovski rounded up all the other door prizes and did a great job of selecting and procurement. Thank you, Tess.

The LCFB Annual Meeting was well attended and almost overflowed our banquet room, which was very pleasing to the board. Thanks to everyone that attended.

The Farm Bureau board of directors wishes you a safe new year.



From the Ground Up

From the Ground Up Farming Program OSU Extension Service, the Small Business Development Center and Lane Community College are teaming up to offer a 9-part class series designed for beginning farmers and others interested in expanding their knowledge about agriculture opportunities on a small-scale.

The classes will be held at the LCC campus at 4000 East 30th Avenue, Building 17, Room 310 in Eugene each month from 6-9 p.m., beginning in November. Participants may register for the entire series which costs \$150, or individual classes for \$25 each. To register for the entire series for the discounted price of \$150, call LCC's SBCD at 541-463-6200. To register for individual classes visit <http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/south-valley/events/> or call 541-766-3556.

Jan. 8 – Small-Scale Sheep, Goat Production

Inventory the resources needed to successfully raise sheep and goats, in-



cluding state and local ordinances, acreage, fencing, infrastructure and equipment. Learn how to select and receive animals and general ruminant nutrition, health and reproduction.

Feb. 12 – Small-Scale Poultry Production

Learn the ins and outs of raising chickens, turkeys and other poultry. This class is designed for those interested in raising poultry for eggs or for meat. Dr. Jim Hermes will cover topics including hatching eggs, brooding and raising chicks, poultry nutrition, flock & bird health, breeds of poultry, and housing for poultry.

March 12 – Growing Berries & Grapes

Learn about the best berries to grow in the lower Willamette Valley. This class will cover vari-

eties, how to grow the berries, irrigation, soil needs, insects and diseases that you will need to look out for while growing blueberries, strawberries, blackberries. Gooseberries or currants and grapes, which can be a tad more difficult to grow will also be covered.

April 9 – Growing Vegetables

A gardening class that goes deeper. From variety selection to planting and from fertilizing to harvesting, discover all that goes into growing vegetables. The information from this class can be easily transferred to those interested in diversified fresh vegetable production as a small business venture.

May 14 – Marketing, Processing Products

Come away with an un-

derstanding of wholesale and direct marketing channel options for the crops and livestock you produce. Case studies will show how some local farmers use multiple marketing opportunities. Learn about some of the food safety, licensing, and processing requirements for selling agricultural products. Develop some next steps for your farming venture.

June 4 – Diagnosing Plant Problems

As people grow different crops, these crops magically have a lot of different problems appear. This class will help you diagnosis plant problems. We will be looking at the myriad of insects, weeds, diseases, viruses that can affect the tree fruits, berries, vegetables and ornamental plants.

Classes fill up quickly

Register for individual classes at: <http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/south-valley/events/>, for the discounted class series price please call 541-463-6200.

Mark Your Calendar!

2014 Oregon Small Farm Conference

Saturday, February 22nd, On the Oregon State University Campus

Workshop sessions will include:

- Small Scale Grains - 3 full sessions - Grain production, pest management and marketing. Includes quinoa.
- Navigating Regulations for Agritourism
- Hand Tools: Ergonomics, maintenance and care
- Degree day models to support small scale crop production
- Health Insurance for farmers
- Veterans Entering Farming
- Update on Food Safety Modernization Act
- Many more!

Plus an extraordinary keynote session!

Lunch from local farms – the best conference lunch around

Registration will be open by January 1, 2014 at <http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu>

For updates on the Small Farms Conference and other up-to-the-minute news, like us on Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Oregon>.

Interested in Raising Pigs?

If you are new to raising pigs or planning to get started soon, this is the class for you.

Gene Pirelli, Swine Specialist and Dr. Charles Estill, VMD both with OSU Extension Service will be teaching about basic health topics including vaccinations, diseases to be aware of, feeding and nutrition. There will be plenty of time built in specifically for addressing your questions, so don't miss this

opportunity to get the answers you've been looking for.

The class will be held Tuesday, January 28, at the OSU Extension Benton County Office in Corvallis from 6:30-9 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Online registration is available at: <http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/south-valley/events/>, or by contacting Melissa Fery at Melissa.Fery@oregonstate.edu or 541-766-3553.



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Getting Creative with Livestock Rations

BY SHELBY FILLEY

Winter can be a challenging time for feeding livestock. Not only are resources limited, but also delivering feed to the animals can be hard. Other seasons of the year can present difficulties, such as lack of fresh pasture or the high price of supplements. Because feeding represents between 50 to 70 percent of the cost of production for livestock, sometimes producers need to get creative with the rations they feed.

If you have been reading my articles over the last few years, you know that I frequently urge producers to test hay and balance rations by adding protein and/or energy supplements such as alfalfa hay, corn, or other such traditional feeds. Well, last month I received a request for help on feeding garden surplus to sheep and it got me thinking about all the different feeds we used when I was growing up on my family's dairy farms in California.

My grandfather did an excellent job of blending the feed ingredients and then watching how the cows milked out and monitoring the bulk tank for changes in milk production. We got help from professional dairy nutritionists to ensure we weren't overlooking anything important; but a lot of the figuring was done around our dinner table. This is where I get my love of animal nutrition.

The main feeds we fed included alfalfa hay, corn silage, and green-chopped forages, but we also added in a variety of other com-

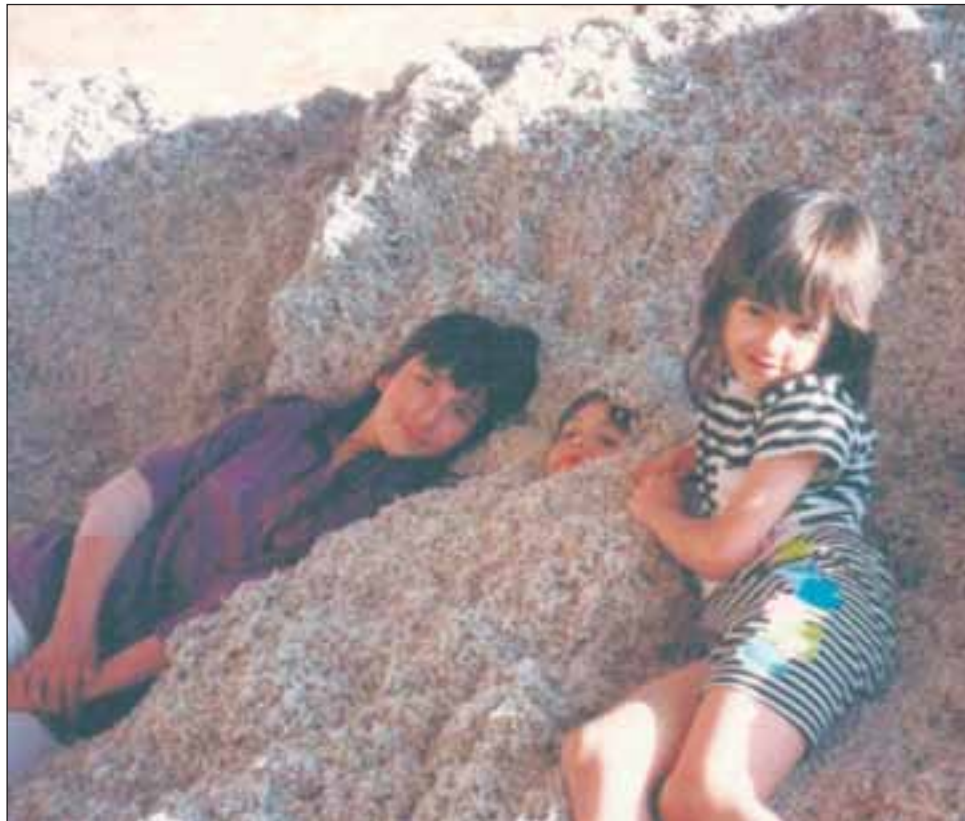


PHOTO BY SHELBY FILLEY

Not recommended: Playing in the livestock feed might contaminate the feed and be dangerous.

modities for the cows. It was always fun to visit the commodity bins and see what the trucks had delivered that day; sometimes it was citrus peels, bakery waste, almond hulls, beet pulp, melons, and other by-products; sometimes it was soybean meal, ground corn, and other equally interesting items. Whatever it was, we carefully blended the rations to balance for the nutrient requirements of the cows at the lowest cost we could figure.

The most fun I can remember from all these feeds was playing in the commodity bins, especially the whole cotton seeds!

These days we know that it's not sanitary to play or walk around in the livestock feed, as doing so can contaminate the feeds and lead to problems, so I discourage today's kids from doing that. Another fun thing we did was watch fireworks from the large pole barns filled with stacks of hay. We could see several shows from the many cities that surrounded our dairy.

Eventually our farms were moved out of California to places like New Mexico and Idaho, and I became more interested in beef cattle. I moved to Oregon to further study animal nutrition at OSU. I still

miss the milk cows, but am very happy to be here in Oregon working with Beef Cattle, Sheep, and Goats.

Oh, that's right; I was explaining the question I received from the sheep producer last month about feeding garden surplus. The question came to me through the "Ask-An-Expert" web-based service that offers one-to-one expert answers from Cooperative Extension/University staff and volunteers from across the United States. You can find and click on the icon on all OSU Extension Service Websites or go directly to <https://ask.extension.org/>



groups/1278/ask to access the service and ask a question on a myriad of topics. The system hooks you up with an Extension expert in your area.

So, the question was from a small farm that wanted advice on feeding garden produce and decorated pumpkins, along with Orchardgrass hay, to pregnant sheep. They had also been feeding tomatoes and green peppers and had questions because of some previous problems when feeding those to their sheep.

So (finally) here is the answer I provided them:

Your sheep need a certain amount of protein and energy to keep them productive and healthy. Most of the time Orchardgrass hay will meet their needs. Just before lambing and during the first 6 weeks of lactation their needs for protein and energy will increase.

Many times 1/4 lb of alfalfa hay and 1/4 lb of corn along with good grass hay will be all they need. You can tell they need more or less if they look too fat or too skinny (Body Condition Score). They also need a mineral mix with salt (NaCl) available at all times. Make sure it is specifically for sheep, as sheep are very sensitive to copper toxicity and Cu containing mineral mixes made for goats, horses, and cattle.

You can add small amounts (less than 10 per-

cent) of by-products (feeds) that are not known to be toxic to their diet. As you see they can tolerate the new feed without rumen upset or diarrhea, you can slowly add a bit more as they adapt to the new feeds. The problem is that you might be over or under feeding protein and/or energy. That is, you would feed a nutritionally imbalanced diet to your animals. It is best to find out the safety and nutrient content of the by-products you want to feed and make sure you balance the ration for the animal. You can use the Internet to research the feed and balance the ration. I have a fact sheet called "Nutrition for Lambing" that can give you more information on proper feeding (<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/sites/default/files/documents/1f/lfc0004.pdf>).

It is important to not feed animals anything that contains decorations and such. They are not cleared for feeding and so we are not sure they are safe. You might be able to cut off the outer rind if you think the materials have not penetrated the vegetable or fruit. If you are feeding a bagged or complete feed, follow the directions on that feed tag. If you add by-products or other supplements to these feeds, you may be offering an imbalanced ration.

I hope I have stimulated your interest in checking out new feeds for your livestock, but please be cautious. Give me a call if you want to discuss any creative feeding you come up with. I'll help!



SOUTH VALLEY CROP NOTES

JANUARY

• If you're planning to plant spring wheat in 2014 try and attend the January OSU Extension-sponsored wheat and seed production meetings. Variety selection will be discussed.

• Scout established grass seed fields for tough-to-control bluegrass species, especially roughstalk bluegrass. Winter herbicide applications in established grass seed fields can help manage these weed populations.

• OSU research has shown that spreading slug bait on fields during the cold winter months has limited efficacy. If you're planning to bait fields try to bait at dusk when temperatures are in the low 40's during the night, with no rain, and winds less than 5 mph. These conditions are often rare in January and February, which limits the efficacy of many of the available bait options.

WINTER AG MEETINGS

JANUARY

7 & 8 Winter OSU Extension Wheat and Seed Production Meetings in Albany, West Salem, and Forest Grove. Current management practices will be presented and discussed. Two pesticide recertification credit hours will be available for these meetings. On Tuesday, January 7, the meeting will be held from 8:30 a.m.-noon, at the Linn County Fair and Expo Center in Albany. On Wednesday, January 8, the meeting will be repeated twice in the north valley. From 8:30 a.m.-noon, the first meeting will be held at Forest Grove Elk's Lodge, and from 1:30-5 p.m., the second meeting will be held at Roths IGA Hospitality Center in West Salem.

15 Oregon Ryegrass Growers Association Annual meeting at the Linn County Fair and Expo Center in Albany. You should have received your registration letters in the mail. If you didn't and would like to attend, please contact the OSU Linn County Extension office.

Oregon Ryegrass Growers Annual Meeting — Jan. 15

The 53rd Annual Meeting of the Oregon Ryegrass Growers Association will be held on Wednesday, January 15, at the Linn County Fair and Expo Center in Albany.

If you would like to register for the meeting and need a form you can stop by or call the OSU Linn County Extension office in Albany. Pre-registration is \$15, and registration at the door is \$20.

The agenda this year will cover a variety of topics ranging from a technology in ryegrass production to alternative and rotational crops.

The meeting will also include a presentation on Current Fuel Spill, Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures (SPCC) requirements.

Bruce McAllister, of McAllister and Daughters, will discuss SPCC requirements as mandated by relatively new federal regulations.

Tom Chastain, OSU Plant Physiologist, will discuss achieving ryegrass yield potentials and management practices to reach these yields.

This presentation will include current practices that are being utilized internationally that may benefit grass seed production in the Willamette Valley.

The ORGA board will also have a poster presentation period during the morning break.

SCHEDULE

7:45 a.m.	Registration
8:30 a.m.	Welcome and Introduction Jesse Farver, ORGA Chairman
	Treasurer's Report Andrew Pohlschneider, ORGA Vice Chairman
8:45 a.m.	Oregon Ryegrass Growers Seed Commission Guy Lewis, Commission member
9:00 a.m.	Market Report Sam Cable, Barenbrug USA
9:20 a.m.	Poster Session and Break
10:10 a.m.	Pesticide Label Update Rose Kachadoorian, Oregon Department of Agriculture
10:30 a.m.	Current Technologies in Ryegrass Production Eric Wavra, Sitech; Jammie Wutzke, Crop Production Services
11:25 a.m.	Spill, Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures Bruce McAllister, McAllister & Daughters
11:55 a.m.	ORGA Service Award Presented by Andrew Pohlschneider, ORGA Vice Chairman
noon	Prime Rib Lunch by Affair Catering
1:00 p.m.	Quality Control in Exporting Agricultural Products Jim Cramer, Oregon Department of Agriculture
1:45 p.m.	Alternative Crops: Daikon Radish Production Terry Ross, Integrated Seed Growers
2:30 p.m.	Achieving Ryegrass Yield Potentials through Current Management Practices Tom Chastain, Oregon State
3:00 p.m.	Raffle and Adjourn
	We hope to see you there!

Posters will cover a variety of topics ranging from seed certification to weed and pest management.

The program will also include a current market

report, a pesticide label update, and a presentation on quality control issues in exporting agricultural products (e.g. soil and pest contamination).

Learn to Prune: Get more Berries and Tree Fruits

A good time to prune berries or tree fruits is when you have the appropriate amount of time to finish the job, between November and March. Several pruning classes will be offered this winter from the OSU Extension offices of Linn, Benton and Lane Counties. Besides the two pruning classes in the Albany area this winter, there are a variety of pruning workshops listed here <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/lane/sites/default/files/documents/publicpruneclass2014.pdf>, or call 541-344-0265 for more information.

PNW Pesticide Short Course

A pesticide short course is scheduled for PNW Ag Chemistry and Toxicology on Tuesday and Wednesday, February 4-5, at the Lane Community College, Center for Meeting and Learning, Eugene. The conference is for those people needing public, commercial, and consultant pesticide training credit hours. There will be an anticipated 12 hours of credit. Watch this publication for more information in coming months.

Time to lime the orchard, lawn

Winter is perfect for liming the orchard, garden, or lawn. Typically, orchards, gardens, and lawns need liming every 5 years to keep the soil as close to 6.5 pH as possible. Apply 80 lbs. of lime per 1,000 square feet and let the rain wash it into the soil. For acid loving plants, add 3 lbs. of elemental sulfur per 100 sq. feet.



Watch out for blueberry bacterial canker and mummyberry.

Bacterial Canker, Mummerberry Control

Pseudomonas or bacterial canker and mummyberry were very hard on blueberry plants again this past spring. Bacteria and fungus over-winters on the diseased twigs, branches of blueberries, and old plant material and berries. Control is achieved by

pruning out all diseased wood as soon as it is noticed.

The use of copper sprays in the fall and spring help control fungal and bacterial problems.

For more information, go online to <http://plant-disease.ippc.orst.edu/>.

A blueberry pruning video for you

As blueberry pruning time fast approaches, there is a great video to learn or review how to prune blueberries. Proper pruning makes a difference in yield and the quality of blueberries.

"A Guide To Pruning Highbush Blueberries" video will help growers realize the reward of proper pruning and consistent production of quality fruit. Learn pruning techniques from Dave Brazelton, who guides the grower

through a simple 4-step procedure for pruning blueberry bushes of different ages.

The video is designed for the homeowner and commercial grower. It illustrates the basics of plant growth, basic equipment, how to prune plants of differ ages, ways to increase speed, and pruning for machine harvest. Check for this video at any of the local the OSU Extension offices. It is very popular so call ahead.

Check for Eastern Filbert Blight (EFB)

Now is the time to check hazelnut and contorted filbert trees for Eastern Filbert Blight (EFB). It is easier to see since the leaves have fallen. Look for weak branches that have raised black bumps on the branches. If you find any such symptoms, come into the local Extension office and pick up the publication Detecting and Controlling EFB, EC 1287, which has good pictures of EFB or drop a sample by and we will look at it. If you find anything that looks like EFB, please call the local Extension office. Or go online to: http://plant-disease.ippc.orst.edu/plant_index.aspx?title=image.



COMMERCIAL HORTICULTURAL HINTS

- Start small fruit dormant sprays.
- Control cankers.
- Control lecanium scale.
- Continue pruning small fruits and trees fruits.

Shrubs to Know in Pacific Northwest Forests

This brand new companion to the ever-popular *Trees to Know in Oregon* is a full-color, simple-to-use field guide that makes shrub identification easy and fun. It features 100 of the most common shrubs that grow in and around Pacific Northwest forests. Includes an overview of shrub communities in the Pacific Northwest; more than 500 color photos; individual range maps and complete descriptions for each species; notes on range and habitat, response to disturbance, traditional and current uses, and origin of names; glossary of identification terms; and an easy-to-use, well-tested identification key. A deal at \$12.00!

Willamette Valley Tree Fruit Growers Association Meeting

The Willamette Valley Tree Fruit Growers Association has their annual winter meeting set for February 15, at the Roth's IGA conference rooms in West Salem, starting at 9 a.m. More information will be arriving soon. For more information contact Nik G. Wiman at Nik.Wiman@oregonstate.edu, or Tony Shepherd at Tony.Shepherd@Brandt.co.

Spray Now for Peach Leaf Curl

Orchardists who have had problems with peach leaf curl in peach trees should have given those trees two fungicide spray treatments by December 15 (a clean-up spray in October and a PLC spray December 15).

A third spray is due January 15, to ensure effective control of the disease.

It's very important to not wait too long to apply the third spray. It must be done before buds on the peach tree begin to swell in early spring. If the weather reaches 50-60 degrees F., the buds will swell.

There are commercial sprays for growers (bordeaux, Bravo, Champ, C-O-C-S, Daconil, Kocide, lime sulfur, Syllit, and Ziram). Lime sulfur, bordeaux, Daconil are recommended for use by home gardeners. Where lime sulfur isn't available, fixed copper sprays work well. Use a spreader-sticker. Don't mix lime sulfur and fixed coppers.

Peach leaf curl fungus over winters on the bark and twigs, and on the old infected leaves. The spores enter through the bud scales in late winter just as the buds begin to swell. This makes timing of the sprays critical. Don't miss any sprays!

Oregon Horticulture Society Meetings

The Oregon Horticulture Society meetings are planned for January 28-29, at the Portland Expo Center. These meetings cover most of the crops grown in the Willamette Valley, e.g. blueberries, small fruits, hazelnuts, apples, cherries, and nursery crops. Visit <http://www.oregonhorticulturalsociety.org/> for more information.

Barbara Fick
541-967-3871 x2393
barb.fick@oregonstate.edu



Community Horticulture

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/linn>



Pami Opfer
541-967-3871 x2836
pamela.opfer@oregonstate.edu



8 JANUARY 2014

Horticulture HINTS

Planning

- Plan to replace varieties of ornamental plants that are susceptible to disease with resistant cultivars in February.
- Take hardwood cuttings of deciduous ornamental shrubs and trees for propagation.
- Have soil test performed on garden plot to determine nutrient needs. Contact your local Extension office for a list of laboratories or view EM 8677 online.
- Begin planning this year's vegetable garden. Check with local retail garden or nursery stores for seeds and seed catalogs.
- Keep a garden journal. Consult your journal in the winter, so you can better plan for the growing season.

Maintenance and Clean Up

- Place windbreaks to protect sensitive landscape evergreens against cold, drying winds.
- Reapply or redistribute mulch that has blown or washed away during winter.
- Clean pruners and other small garden tools with rubbing alcohol.
- Western Oregon: Water landscape plants underneath wide eaves and in other sites shielded from rain.
- Western Oregon: Do not walk on lawns until frost has melted.

Pest Monitoring and Management

- Scout cherry trees for signs and symptoms of bacterial canker. Remove infected branches with a clean pruner or saw. Sterilize tools before each new cut. Burn or send to landfill before bloom. See *Managing Diseases and Insects in Home Orchards* (PDF - EC 631).
- Watch for field mice damage on lower trunks of trees and shrubs. Eliminate hiding places by removing weeds. Use traps and approved baits as necessary.
- Use dormant sprays of lime sulfur or copper fungicide on roses for general disease control, or plan to replace susceptible varieties with resistant cultivars in February.
- Western Oregon: Moss in lawn may mean too much shade or poor drainage. Modify site conditions if moss is bothersome.
- Mid-January: Spray peach trees with approved fungicides to combat peach leaf curl and shothole. Or plant curl-resistant cultivars such as Frost, Q1-8 or Creswell.
- Monitor landscape plants for problems. Don't treat unless a problem is identified.

OSU LINN COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

Spreading Seeds of Knowledge

BY BARB FICK

9: Communities with trained OSU MGs include Sweet Home, Lebanon, Albany, Scio, Jefferson, Lyons, Tangent, Brownsville, Shedd.

20: New Master Gardeners trained.

39: Classes involved in Planting Seeds of Change in the Lebanon school district.

80: Veteran Master Gardeners.

300: Community members attended Gardening in the Pacific Northwest brown bag lunch series.

800: Pounds of produce donated through Plant a Row for the Hungry, community gardens, and schools.

2000: Questions answered at Plant Clinics, Farmers Markets, Spring Garden Festival, and in the OSU Linn County Extension office.

6,161: Hours donated by OSU Linn County Master Gardener volunteers in 2013.

Partners include Linn Benton Community College, Albany Public Library, City of Albany, Lebanon School District.



PHOTO BY BARB FICK

School gardens grow produce and smiles for all involved.



PHOTO BY PAMI OPFER

OSU Master Gardeners dress for graduation.

Gardening in PNW Brownbag Series: Winter 2014

Gardening in the Pacific Northwest Brownbags are a series of short lunchtime sessions on popular gardening topics for Linn County gardeners! Bring a sack lunch and meet other gardeners with similar interests. It's informal, informative, and fun — no reservations needed, and no charge! This event is co-sponsored by LBCC. Classes are held on Wednes-

days at Albany Public Library, 2450 14th Ave SE, Albany, and on Thursdays at East Linn LBCC, 44 Industrial Way in Lebanon. Time: noon to 1 p.m., both locations.

Jan. 8 & 9 "Growing Carnivorous Plants" Matt Blakeley-Smith (Greenbelt Land Trust)

Jan. 15 & 16 "Groundwater-Friendly Gardening" Chrissy Lucas (OSU Extension)

Jan. 22 & 23 "Firescaping: Making Communities Safe in Wildfires" Owen Dell (Landscape Architect)

Jan. 29 & 30 "Thinking Sustainably: Unique Ideas for Recycling" Cathy Summers (National Energy Technology Center)

Feb. 5 & 6 "Get Excited About the Possibility of a Home Orchard" KJ Lee (Master Gardener and Home Or-

chard Society)

Feb. 12 & 13 "No Space? Try Community or Container Gardens" Pami Opfer (Master Gardener Program Coordinator)

Feb. 19 & 20 "Mysterious Mushrooms of Western Oregon" Steve Carpenter (Mycologist)

Feb. 26 & 27 "Creative Garden Art: How to Create a 'Living Rug'" Cynthia Breneman (Master Gardener)

How Plants Respond to Cold Weather



PHOTOS BY BARB FICK

Winter has arrived in the Willamette Valley.



Our rain chain turned into a beautiful ice sculpture during the freezing weather.

Below, normal winter response of rhododendrons to cold temperatures.



Rhododendron leaves may droop in response to cold temperatures! This will vary with the species and/or variety. Don't panic. It is a normal reaction of the plant which serves to minimize damage. The leaves will recover with warmer weather.

The snow will actually help insulate plant roots. Many perennial flowers and flowering shrubs look black and dead right now. Have they been damaged? It is difficult and too early to tell. Remove the dead foliage if it bothers you but do not get rid of the plant as the root mass may be fine. Once the weather warms up, cut back the plant and wait until spring. Some plants will sprout again and for those that don't, remember your local nursery will have a fresh batch of new and exciting plants ready for you to plant.

Lawns do not go dormant in the Willamette Valley. If you decide to walk across the grass on a frosty morning, you could kill the grass or damage the lawn. Wait until the frost

disappears before spending time on the grass.

In the vegetable garden the "mini-greenhouse" with inexpensive PVC pipe covered with Remay cloth to protect the lettuce was not enough to keep the lettuce from freezing. In a normal year (do we have any normal weather anymore?) the plants should have done quite well, but the length of the cold snap resulted in a heap of green mush. Some of the brussel sprout plants were left in the garden but some were cut and brought into the garage for safe-keeping. The broccoli exposed to the cold looked unusable. We are leaving the broccoli plants to see if they recover in the spring.

My new rain chain became a gorgeous ice sculpture. The hummingbird feeder needed to be defrosted during the day as the overwintering Anna's hummingbird was trying to break through the slush to get nourishment. The great freeze of 2013 will be talked about for a long time.

2014 Linn County Master Gardeners Membership Meeting Schedule

The Linn County Master Gardeners have their general membership meetings on the second Monday of every month @ 6:30 p.m., at the Albany Public Library (2450 14th Ave SE)

Jan. 13 Italian Renaissance Gardens: Susan Morton and

Susan Glaser

Feb. 10 The Care and Growing of Roses: Katherine Johnson (she was the MG in charge of the PDX Rose Festival Garden.)

March 10 Stonescaping: Steve Dix, Pacific Stonescape

Winter fruit tree pruning workshops to be held

OSU Linn and Benton County Extension is presenting two fruit tree pruning workshops this winter. The first will be held on Thursday, January 30, from 1-3 p.m., at Lewis Brown Farm, 33447 Peoria Rd, Corvallis. The second will be held on Tuesday, February 18, from 1-3:30 p.m., at Grandpa's Farm Stand, 36483

HWY 226, Albany.

Both workshops will be taught by OSU Extension agent, Ross Penhallegon. Ross has more than 20 years of orchard management experience. Classes will be held rain or shine. There will be an opportunity for hands-on pruning of pear trees after the Lewis Brown workshop, and possibly

fruit trees after the Grandpas workshop – so bring your pruners!

Pre-registration is required. The cost is \$20 per class. Please make check payable to OSU Linn County Extension. To register, please visit <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/linn/master-gardener-events-calendar/>, or call 541-967-3871.



PICK OF THE MONTH

Carrots

One of the most popular vegetables eaten raw is carrots. When asked for their favorite way of eating carrots, most people I have talked to say raw, just one after another!

Carrots are an excellent source of Vitamin A, which is necessary for healthy eyesight, skin, growth, and it also aids our bodies in resisting infection.

Carrots have higher natural sugar content than all other vegetables with the exception of beets. This is why they make a wonderful snack when eaten raw and make a tasty addition to a variety of cooked dishes. It is an essential ingredient in many soups and in flavorings of sauces.

Varieties

There are many varieties of carrots, but the variety typically found in supermarkets is from 7-9 inches in length and 3/4-1-1/2 inches in diameter. Carrots are usually sold packaged in plastic bags from one



PROVIDED PHOTO BY USDA

pound to 25 pounds. Baby carrots were once longer carrots that have been peeled, trimmed to 1-1/2-2 inches in length and packaged. True baby carrots are removed from the ground early and actually look like

miniature carrots. The large bags of carrots are usually sold for juicing, but are still great for eating.

Selection

Carrots are available and in season all year long. Look

for well-shaped carrots. Pick carrots that are deep orange in color. More beta carotene is present in carrots that have a darker orange color. Avoid carrots that are crackled, shriveled, soft, or wilted.

Storage

Carrots are best stored between 32-50 degrees in the crisper section of the refrigerator. If you buy carrots with the green tops still on, break off the tops and rinse, place in a plastic bag and store. Storing them in the refrigerator will preserve their flavor, texture, and the beta carotene content. Do not store them with fruits. Fruits produce ethylene gas as they ripen. This gas will decrease the storage life of the carrots as well as other vegetables. This is why it is best to store fruits and vegetables separately.

Preparation

Although carrots lose some of their vitamins when peeled, dishes prepared with peeled carrots taste fresher and better. Cook carrots in a small amount of water until they are tender, or save time and cook them in the microwave.

Carrot Cake Cookies

Makes 48 cookies

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup packed light-brown sugar
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup oil
- 1/2 cup applesauce or fruit puree
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup flour
- 1 cup whole wheat flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- 2 cups old-fashioned rolled oats (raw)
- 1 1/2 cups finely grated carrots (about 3 large carrots)
- 1 cup raisins or golden raisins

Directions:

1. Heat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Mix sugars, oil, applesauce, eggs, and vanilla thoroughly.
3. Stir dry ingredients together.
4. Blend dry ingredients into wet mixture. Stir in raisins and carrots.
5. Drop by teaspoon-fulls on greased cookie sheet.
6. Bake 12-15 minutes until golden brown.
7. Store in airtight container.

It's a Great Time to Get a Head Start on Your Taxes!

Earlier is better when it comes to working on your taxes. The IRS encourages everyone to get a head start on tax preparation. Not only do you avoid the last-minute rush, but early filers also get a faster refund.

There are seven easy ways to get a good jump on your taxes long before the April 15 deadline rolls around:

1. Gather your records in advance. Make sure you have all the records you need, including W-2s and 1099s. Don't forget to save a copy for your files.

2. Get the right forms. They are always available on the IRS website at <http://www.irs.gov/>, under Forms and Publications.

3. Take your time. Don't forget to leave room for a coffee break when filling out your tax return. Rushing can mean making a mistake and that can be expensive!

4. Double-check your math and Social Security number. These are among the most common errors on tax returns. Taking care on these reduces your chances of hearing from the IRS.

5. Get the fastest refund. When you file early, you get your refund faster. Using e-filing with direct deposit might get you a refund in as little as 10 to 15 days.

6. E-filing is easy. E-filing catches math problems, provides confirmation your return has been received and gives you a faster refund.

7. Don't panic. If you have a problem or a question, remember the IRS is there to help. Try the IRS website at <http://www.irs.gov/> or call the toll-free customer service number at 1-800-829-1040.

HEALTH HABITS

Getting and staying motivated to change

If asked, most people would agree that they'd like to have better health. The challenge comes in determining how to go about eating better and being more active. Too often, people take the all or nothing approach. They start the year off trying to improve every aspect of their eating habits and trying to exercise every day. They soon find they can't keep up with all this change at one time.

You can lose enthusiasm fast if you expect too much of yourself. It's important to realize that no one can expect to follow all the health guidelines 100 percent of the time.

Give yourself some slack; one slip up doesn't constitute failure. Add small changes over time rather than a complete makeover all at once.

Whether you are trying to control your blood sugar, lose a few pounds or lower your cholesterol, here are some tips that can help you stay motivated toward your goal.

1. Cherish yourself and your health. Taking care of yourself is not being selfish. Care enough to treat your body well, you will be in better shape to take care of those around you. No one can take care of your health except you! Don't neglect your body, and then wonder what happened to your health.

2. Commit to change. Be willing to move in a new direction. Accept that change is all about making choices, like choosing to take a walk rather than watching TV. Does this mean no more TV time? Certainly not! Rather, balance TV viewing with being more active. Does this mean no more desserts? No, just not lots of dessert every day!

3. Have confidence. Believe in your-

self and your ability to change. Have a "can do" attitude. Make a list of successful changes or transitions that you have made in the past. It is easier to achieve a goal when you are optimistic. Use humor and laugh off occasional lapses. Don't think that a couple of days with no exercise and eating junk food will ruin your efforts. Have confidence that you can get back on track with your healthy routine.

4. Chart your course. Begin by keeping track of your activity and what you eat for a week. Look over the choices you made and then focus on a couple areas to improve. Don't try to change everything at once. Perhaps it is drinking one less soda per day or taking a piece of fruit to work instead of

buying chips. Ease into physical activity by taking a 10 minute walk first thing in the morning or over your lunch break. Create a list of small changes you want to make. Be specific. For example, don't say, "eat healthier," say "limit fast food to only one lunch a week." Then purchase the food you need to take healthier lunches to work.

5. Be creative. Exercise regimens and diet plans to lower cholesterol, improve blood sugar or lose weight abound. It is important to create a plan that works for you for the long haul. Getting healthier and staying that way cannot be achieved in 6 weeks. This must be a lifetime commitment to change. Adopt eating and physical activity habits that can become part of your lifestyle. Have a back-up plan for those days when your plans to eat

well and be active are challenged. If you can't walk due to the weather, have an exercise video to use. If you don't have time to pack a healthy lunch and you have to pick up something fast, choose a small fast food sandwich and side salad rather than the super-size version.

6. Find a cheerleader. Making change is easier when you have someone to cheer you on. Seek out a friend, co-worker or family member who will encourage you to keep on track and maintain your motivation. Regular phone calls, emails or visits over coffee could provide a motivational boost to keep you on target. Perhaps your cheerleader could become your exercise buddy. This can make physical activity more enjoyable.

7. Celebrate your progress. Reward yourself as you make simple changes that in the end will result in achieving your overall goal. Celebration is part of successful change. Create a list of incentives that will help keep you motivated — a book, massage, new walking shoes. Reward yourself along the way to reaching your final goal. For example, record the time spent exercising or your steps on a calendar. After two weeks of regular activity, celebrate your progress with a reward. Or perhaps dietary modifications and exercise have improved your A1C test, indicating better blood sugar control. Take time to celebrate!

Small, incremental changes over time can result in big rewards in improved health. Too often people think they simply lack the willpower to change, but this really isn't the issue. People try to tackle too many things at once. Start by making one or two small changes, achieve these, and move on to tackle another small change. Consider these seven tips to help all of us to move from where we are now to where we want to be.

Get your finances in order this year

A GREAT RESOLUTION TO AIM FOR

After spending big during the holidays, many people make getting their financial house in order a top New Year's resolution.

Any day is a good day to make financial resolutions. There are, however, several key areas in financial planning, like keeping financial records, starting a savings plan, and getting a will done, that people need to remember all year.

One of the best things a person can do is set up a home filing system for financial records. This will make it easier to find your financial information when it is needed. If you already have a system, spend time cleaning out items no longer needed.

The New Year is also a good time to review beneficiaries named in insurance policies and wills to make sure those named are still the people you want to include.

If you do not already have a will or some other form of estate plan, now would be a good time to get one in place. If you do have a will or plan, review it to make sure it still reflects your wishes.

Starting or adding to a savings program is another financial resolution a person should try to keep. Instead of waiting until the end of the month, pay yourself first. It doesn't have to be large amounts. You'll be surprised how quickly even small amounts can add up. The key is doing it on a regular basis.

Credit card debt is a critical area for many, especially after the holidays. Develop a plan for getting bills paid and concentrating on paying off credit cards with the highest rates of interest first.

As you're paying off the current bills, think about how you use credit cards and decide if changes are needed. If your answer is yes, then cut up the plastic.

Caring for Aging Skin

When: Thursday, January 30, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Where: Lebanon Senior Center

Title: "Caring for Aging Skin"

Information: Most of us have probably observed signs of skin aging — wrinkles, skin spots, red patches, softness in areas that used to be firm—these are natural. However, we can slow down or minimize some of these changes and identify

potentially dangerous skin problems with simple, consistent practices. This lesson will look at what causes changes in the skin as we age, techniques to preserve skin quality, and treatments to prevent or address skin damage or pre-cancerous cells.

Contact: Please call 541-967-3871 to register for this class. The lesson can be re-taught; call to request leader and participant materials.

The mission of the Linn Soil & Water Conservation District is to promote and facilitate the wise use of all natural resources.



Linn Soil & Water Conservation District

33935 Highway 99E, Suite C, Tangent 97389

67 years of Conservation

KEYNOTE SPEAKER CATHERINE MATER, FOREST HEALTH FAMILY HEALTH INITIATIVE

Catherine came to speak regarding the Forest Health Family Health Initiative, sponsored by the Pinchot Institute for Conservation.

According to forest engineer Catherine Mater of Corvallis, more than 6,000 acres per day—4 acres per minute—of forest lands is converted to other uses. In many cases, landowners are more than 75 years old and are selling land or cutting trees to pay for their health care or insurance premiums.

But Mater, a senior fellow at the Pinchot Institute for Conservation, said the Forest Health Human Health initiative would link land owners with carbon offset buyers, generating annual income that would be deposited in a health care account over 20 years.

Mater said the initiative can work for woodlots as small as 20 acres.

“Fir trees are excellent oxygen producers,” Mater said. “Trees are carbon eating machines.”

She believes the initiative will conserve forests, reduce the threat of climate change, and provide rural landowners with access to health care.

Mater said the project started in 2005 after a nationwide study of family woodland owners.

The study was the first time medical expenses were identified as potential key factors in the decision to sell family woodlands.

A second study was conducted in 2007, and included 1,500 interviews across the United States in cooperation with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry.

Among the questions, “What would force you to sell your forest land?”

The results linking health care costs and concerns to the sale of woodlands paralleled the first study.

The studies also showed that 50 percent



of landowners and their offspring had high-deductible insurance coverage; that 30 percent of landowners, and more than 35 percent of offspring are likely underinsured; and 45 percent of offspring believe it is likely they will have to accelerate the sale of timber from the family forests to pay for health care in the future.

The Family Health Forest Health program would allow family tree farmers to sell carbon credits based on the amount of carbon estimated to be digested by their trees each year.

Mater said contracts would be for 20 years. Some 90 percent of the payment would go into a health care account and the landowner would receive an “ATreeM Card.” The other 10 percent would be dedicated to community health programs, for example, a scholarship fund at COMP—Northwest in Lebanon, to help educate doctors who will practice medicine in rural areas.

Enrolling property in the program would not negate timber harvesting, in fact, Mater said, carbon buyers want landowners to develop long-term timber management plans that include sustainable forest management processes, such as tree thinning, or underbrush removal. Those activities increase carbon scrubbing and the generation of oxygen.

A program is already in effect in Columbia County and Mater hopes that there will be enough interest to add Linn and Benton counties soon.

More information about the initiative can be found online at www.pinchot.org.

Cooperator of the Year

T.J. HAFNER, FARMER

T.J. grew up on a family-owned grass seed farm north of Sublimity. During college he interned with Wilbur-Ellis where he spent much of his time collecting data for variable rate fertilizer and chemical applications. In the spring of 2006 he graduated from OSU with a degree in crop and soil science. After college he worked as an agronomist for Wilbur-Ellis for 6 years and helped several growers who were new to variable rate technology begin using it. As the Willamette Valley cropping system has been shifting toward higher value permanent crops such as berries and hazelnuts, his focus also changed to these cropping systems. In early 2012, T.J., his brother, and parents purchased a small piece of irrigated farm ground in Lyons along the North Santiam River to start a hazelnut farm. Since purchasing the property they have upgraded the overhead irrigation to a more efficient drip system and have also upgraded to a more contemporary fish screen. The drip irrigation system has greatly reduced the amount of water used and has also made weed management easier while providing them with a way to more precisely deliver fertilizer to their trees. T.J. also helped with the grant application process for an irriga-



tion upgrade on his uncle's hazelnut farm.

In late 2012, T.J. had the opportunity to work for a farm management company specializing in organic blueberry production. He began working as their Oregon agronomist in February of this year. He plans to eventually convert his hazelnut farm over to organic with assistance from the NRCS.

Origins of the Linn Soil and Water Conservation District

The first district to form in Linn County was the Linn-Lane Soil and Water Conservation District, which was organized December 23, 1946, and had as its first Board of Supervisors: Randall Grimes, Chair; Reese Janigan; Wilbur Evans; A.B. Herman; and Ben Christensen. The original secretary was O.E. Mikesell, County Extension Agent.

Randall Grimes, from that original Board, served on the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission for 13 years and was chairman of the Commission during that time, from 1953-1966. Ben Christensen, of the Linn-Lane Board, was one of the original Board members of the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts, and served as treasurer of the Association from 1954 to 1991.

A second district then formed in July 1954. It was the East Linn Soil Conservation District, and had as its first Board of Supervisors; O.R. Griffen, Chair; Leo Metcalf; Elmer Donicht; Joe Schlies; and Stan Lenox. The original secretary was O.E. Mikesell, County Extension Agent.

The districts in Linn County were very active, particularly in drainage improvement and flood control programs. They sponsored numerous projects through the Upper Willamette RC&D program and through the Public Law 566 programs.

District Educator of the Year

GREG THOMPSON, OSU AGRICULTURAL PROFESSOR

Dr. Greg Thompson is Professor and Department Head in Agriculture Education and General Agriculture at Oregon State University.

He graduated from high school at Beulah, North Dakota; earned his masters from North Dakota University; and his Doctorate in 1996 from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Greg directs the student teaching licensure program in agriculture education and provides continuing education for agricultural



teachers. He also serves as FFA's collegiate advisor.

During the past 30 years Greg has served as an offi-

cer, and often as a presenter, to the National Association for Agriculture Education; and, also to the

Western States Conference of Agriculture Educators, as well as at the state level.

Greg Thompson is on the board and is the campus coordinator of the annual OSU SUMMER AG INSTITUTE for K-12 teachers in disciplines other than agriculture. For three hours of graduate credit, teachers spend one intense week learning about agriculture and how they can use things about agriculture in the lessons they teach.

It gives us as Linn Soil & Water Conservation District Board members pleasure to honor Greg as our "Educator of the Year."

DISTRICT DIRECTORS

Directors are property owners or managers from our county who serve to educate and lead in the conservation of natural resources. There are seven Linn SWCD Director Positions. All board members are elected officials who serve voluntarily for four years. Prospective members should have a genuine interest in and understanding of natural resource management, and soil and water conservation issues, and must be willing to volunteer time to attend monthly board meetings, assist with projects, and occasionally, lead committees or activities.

District Zone	Member	Office
Zone 1	Hubert Christensen	
Zone 2	Liz VanLeeuwen	Chair
Zone 3	David Neal	Vice-Chair
Zone 4	Lucyann Volbeda	
Zone 5	Aaron Schumacher	
At-Large	Peter Jensen	
At-Large	Janice Horner	Secretary/Treasurer

Linn SWCD Emeritus Directors

Ben Christensen, Chris Rebmann, James Howells

Linn SWCD Staff

Debra Paul, Conservation Technician/District Administrator
Kevin Seifert, Watershed Technical Specialist

Linn SWCD Financial Report

Statement of Cash Receipts & Disbursements
July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013

Beginning balance general fund	\$60,726
Receipts	
State Grants	\$68,108
Other Grants	\$91,545
CREP partnership	\$35,958
Interest/Misc	\$217
Total Income	\$195,828
Disbursements	
Salary and Related Expenses	\$116,034
Office supplies and postage	\$2,358
Annual Report	\$150
Annual Meeting	\$266
Dues and Membership	\$1,067
Travel	\$3,047
Telephone	\$2,886
Scholarships and awards	\$213
Legal / auditing / payroll	\$2,750
Insurance and fidelity bond	\$1,683
Printing and advertising	\$1,872
Educational materials	\$272
Rent	\$6,300
Conference / Training fees	\$300
Supplies, materials, grants	\$61,904
Total Disbursements	\$201,120
Ending Fund Balance	\$55,434

Some highlights of 2013

- Sponsored the FFA Upper Willamette Valley Soil Judging Contest in October of 2013. The district provided awards to the top three individuals in the novice and advanced levels. The district worked with Linn County Parks Department to provide a site for the contest and have the soils judged. This is the 57th year that the district has sponsored or co-sponsored the contest.

- Collaborated with USDA-ARS scientists from Corvallis to study erosion as related to amphibious habitat in grass waterway projects in Linn County.

- Assisted NRCS in implementing \$426,588 +/- in conservation practices through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program in Linn County.

- Acted as Team Leader for the Mid-Willamette East OWEB Small Grant Team. The team leader coordinates meetings, helps grantees and project managers stay up-to-date with their grant reporting requirements, and helps answer questions about the program

- Continued working as the Fiscal Agent for the Mid-Willamette East OWEB Small Grant Area.

- CREP plans and Riparian restoration projects on 107 acres with 16 landowners

- Forest Today and Forever outdoor school with 350 students from Linn County schools at Udell Tree days.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OSU EXTENSION!

The Linn Soil and Water Conservation District would like to give a special thanks to the OSU Linn County Extension Service. For the past 67 years OSU Linn County Extension has been a strong supporter of the district, even providing their Extension Agent to act as District Secretary in the early years when the district was operating as East Linn Soil Conservation District, and as Linn-Lane Soil Conservation District. The input, cooperation, and support that we continue to receive from OSU Linn County Extension is greatly appreciated.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 2012-13

Assistance Provided:	No.	Amount
Technical Assistance to Individuals and Groups	150	
Irrigation system upgrades	360 acres	
Site Visits with Landowners	115	
Conservation Articles Published	14	
OWEB Small Grants Awarded in Linn Co.	4	\$40,000

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WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Linn Soil & Water Conservation District: <http://linnswcd.oacd.org>

Oregon Association of Conservation Districts: <http://www.oacd.org>
OSU Extension – Linn County:

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/linn/>
OSU – Southern Willamette Groundwater Project: <http://gwma.oregonstate.edu/>

Robin Galloway
541-967-3871 x2399
robin.galloway@oregonstate.edu



4-H Youth Development

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/linn>



Karissa Dishon
541-967-3871 x2395
karissa.dishon@oregonstate.edu



14 JANUARY 2014

UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY

- **Beef Weigh-in**, Jan. 4, 8:00-12:00 a.m.
- **Static Project Advisory Meeting**, Jan. 8, 7:00-9:00 p.m., OSU Extension Office
- **Horse Bowl Contest**, Jan. 9, Practice at 6:30 p.m., and contest at 7:00 p.m., River Center, Lebanon.
- **Youth Leadership Team Meeting**, Jan. 10, 7:00-9:00 p.m., OSU Extension Office
- **New Leader Training**, Jan. 14, 7:00-9:00 p.m., OSU Extension Office
- **Linn County Executive Council Meeting**, Jan. 16, 7:00-9:00 p.m., OSU Extension Office
- **Livestock Project Advisory Meeting**, Jan. 20, 7:00-9:00 p.m., OSU Extension Office
- **Horse Project Advisory Meeting**, Jan. 23, 7:00-9:00 p.m., OSU Extension Office

Weigh-In Information

All weigh-ins will be held at the Linn County Fair and Expo Center.

- Beef weigh-in #1: January 4, 8 a.m. to noon. Beef must weigh 950 pounds or less at this weigh-in.
- Beef weigh-in #2: April 5, 9-11 a.m.
- Sheep, Swine, and Goat weigh-in: May 13 and May 14, 5-8 p.m.



The middle school students are part of 4-H Wildlife Stewards. The program partners with the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife to teach students about the environment.

Calapooia Students Raise, Release Salmon

Students from Calapooia Middle School in Albany braved the cold on Dec. 5 to benefit the environment. Teacher Mara Burke is committed to giving her students hands-on activities, which benefit children's learning about science, and helps connect them to real fish and wildlife management problems and possible solutions.

In partnership with Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, the Salmon-Trout Enhancement Program (STEP) provides equipment and fish eggs to local schools. Calapooia is a 4-H Wildlife Stewards school which utilizes the STEP program to give students experience with raising the fish, then releasing them into approved local streams or rivers.

This year Mrs. Burke's sixth grade students rode the Albany holiday trolley from the school to Grand Prairie Park where they broke the ice in Periwinkle Creek, briefly acclimated the tiny salmon fry to the frigid waters, and released the fish. In the classroom the children studied about salmon life cycles, and the effect they have on the eco-system.



Leadership Retreat

High Desert Leadership Retreat, at Eagle Crest resort, is a chance for Linn County youth to join forces with 200 of their peers from around the state and sharpen their leadership and project skills. Youth arrive on Friday, January 17, and will stay in condos at the resort until Monday January 20. Classes range from teaching teambuilding and resume'

workshops, to outdoor survival skills, and quality meat assurance. There is definitely something for everyone! Youth in 7th-12th grade are eligible to attend, and scholarships are available. Check out the registration information on the website, or contact Karissa Dishon karissa.dishon@oregonstate.edu for more information.

New 4-H leaders needed now!

Have you ever considered becoming a 4-H leader? We are currently looking for new leaders in all project areas, and would love to help you get involved. The new leader process is quick and simple: 1) Fill out a new leader application, and background check. 2) We send reference request letters to the people you listed on your application. 3) Attend a new leader training, and 4) Enroll as a leader, and enroll your new club.

The next new leader training date is January 14, 7-9 p.m., at the Linn County OSU Extension Office in the Evelyn Downing Room.

Call the Extension office today to get a new leader packet mailed to you.

Join the Linn County Youth Leadership Team

Do you have a youth in 7th-12th grade that would like to be more involved with Linn County 4-H or would like to take on a leadership role at the county or state level? The Youth leadership team is looking for more youth who are dedicated to "Making the Best Better," and who want to help make our county and state 4-H programs the best they can be. The team meets once per month to improve leadership skills and work on projects of the youth's choosing. This is an exciting addition to our 4-H offering, and we already have some really terrific youth involved. An example of a project led by the leadership team is the county wide community service project held in November. The opportunities for leadership and growth are almost limitless. If you are interested in joining in on the fun contact Karissa Dishon karissa.dishon@oregonstate.edu.



HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING

JANUARY

- 4** Beef Weigh-in, 8 to noon, Linn County Fair and Expo Center, Albany.
- 7-8** Winter OSU Extension Wheat and Seed Production Meetings in Albany, West Salem, and Forest Grove. See Crops page for more details.
- 8** Static Project Advisory Meeting, 7-9 p.m., Evelyn Downing Room, Old Armory Building, Albany.
- 9** Horse Bowl Contest, Practice at 6:30 p.m., and contest at 7 p.m., River Center, Lebanon.
- 8-9** PNW Brownbags, Growing Carnivorous Plants, noon-1 p.m., Wednesdays at Albany Public Library, 2450 14th Ave SE, Albany, and on Thursdays at East Linn LBCC, 44 Industrial Way in Lebanon.
- 10** Youth Leadership Team Meeting, 7-9 p.m., Evelyn Downing Room, Old Armory Building, downtown Albany.
- 14** New Leader Training, 7-9 p.m., Evelyn Downing Room, Old Armory Building, downtown Albany.
- 15** 53rd Annual Oregon Ryegrass Growers Association meeting, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Linn County Fair and Expo Center, Albany.
- 16** Linn County Executive Council Meeting, 7-9 p.m., Evelyn Downing Room, Old Armory Building, downtown Albany.
- 15-6** PNW Brownbags, Groundwater Friendly Gardening, noon-1 p.m., Wednesdays at Albany Public Library, 2450 14th Ave SE, Albany, and on Thursdays at East Linn LBCC, 44 Industrial Way in Lebanon.
- 20** Livestock Project Advisory Meeting, 7-9 p.m., Evelyn Downing Room, Old Armory Building, downtown Albany.
- 22-23** PNW Brownbags, Firescaping: Making Communities Safe in Wildfires, noon-1 p.m., Wednesdays at Albany Public Library, 2450 14th Ave SE, Albany, and on Thursdays at East Linn LBCC, 44 Industrial Way in Lebanon.
- 23** Horse Project Advisory Meeting, 7-9 p.m., Evelyn Downing Room, Old Armory Building, Albany.
- 29-30** PNW Brownbags, Thinking Sustainably: Unique Ideas for Recycling, noon-1 p.m., Wednesdays at Albany Public Library, 2450 14th Ave SE, Albany, and on Thursdays at East Linn LBCC, 44 Industrial Way in Lebanon.
- 30** FCE Lesson, Caring for Aging Skin, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Lebanon Senior Center.
- 30** Pruning workshop, 1-3 p.m., Lewis Brown Farm, 33447 Peoria Rd, Corvallis.

FEBRUARY

- 5-6** PNW Brownbags, Get Excited About the Possibility of a Home Orchard, noon-1 p.m., Wednesdays at Albany Public Library, 2450 14th Ave SE, and on Thursdays at East Linn LBCC, 44 Industrial Way in Lebanon.

JOIN LCEA!



YES, I want to support the Linn County Extension Association. Here is my annual membership donation.

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Forestry & Natural Resources



16 JANUARY 2014

Brad Withrow-Robinson, 541-967-3871, brad.w-r@oregonstate.edu, <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/linn>

UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY

Additional details of these and other events can be found on the website for Benton, Linn and Polk Counties at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/benton/forestry/events>, and will be sent out electronically through the Needle. To subscribe, please email jody.einerson@oregonstate.edu.

Saturday, Jan. 11, 1-4 p.m., "I'm Done; This is the End of Ownership"

The Marion/Polk chapter of OSWA is hosting the class, which will cover the basics of resource land transactions including: professional, legal, and ethical guidelines and tax issues of owning, buying, and selling forest resource land.

Location: Marion County Extension Service meeting room, 3180 Center St. Salem.

Saturday, Jan. 18, 5:30 p.m., Linn County Small Woodlands Association Annual Meeting

Please bring a main dish and either a dessert or salad. Plates, flatware, cups, napkins, coffee, tea & punch provided. Business meeting will include election of officers Program: honor the 2013 Linn County Tree Farmer of the Year winner and runner up for the Oregon Tree Farmer of the year, Rod and Ann Bardell, OSWA presentation, and interesting speakers. Door prizes

Location: Scio Odd Fellows Hall

Time: Potluck start time 5:30 p.m., business meeting and program starting at 6:30 p.m.

Directions: The (IOOF) Odd Fellow Hall is located in Scio on the east side of Highway 226 just south of the bridge at 38952 Highway 226.

Wednesday, Jan. 29, 7-8:30 p.m., Woodland Owners and Private Property Rights Presentation

Speakers will include Linn County Deputy Fountain, and a local attorney. Refreshments provided.

Location: LBCC Lebanon Center, pre-registration is not required

Saturday, Feb. 15, 8 a.m. to noon, Seedling Sale 2014

The Linn County Chapter of Oregon Small Woodlands Association is sponsoring a Seedling Sale on Saturday, February 15, with many native species offered. The Sale will be held in conjunction with the Goods from the Woods Fair, featuring local woods and wood products on display and for sale. The location is the Santiam Building at the Linn County Fair and Expo Center at 3700 Knox Butte Road in Albany. This is near I-5 Exit 234. The time is from 8:00 a.m. to noon or while supplies last.

The Seedling Sale will offer nearly two dozen species of trees and shrubs. Conifers on sale are: Douglas-fir, Willamette Valley ponderosa pine, western redcedar, noble fir, grand fir, coast redwood, giant sequoia & incense-cedar. The hardwood trees and shrubs are Oregon grape, Oregon ash, Pacific madrone, quaking aspen, red alder, vine maple, mock orange, eastern redbud, koussa dogwood, red flowering currant, purple smoketree, three roses (cluster, pink and white), & Japanese snowbell. Prices are from \$1.00 to \$3.00, depending on species. Most seedlings will be two-year old bare root, directly from the nursery. Sword fern plants (bagged) will be \$5.00. Some of the trees are excellent for smaller places around a home, flower in the spring and/or have nice fall colored leaves.

For a complete list and prices, see the order form on the Linn/Benton/Polk Forestry Extension website <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/benton/forestry>. Go to Upcoming events and follow the link. Preorders are encouraged.

An information table will be available to view samples, see pictures and read information about the seedlings. An OSU Extension trained Master Woodland Manager will be there to answer questions and provide information on which trees are best suited for a particular planting site.

Portions of the money earned will be used to help fund the Linn County Chapter's educational programs for youth in Linn County. These include forestry camp and college scholarships.

If you have any questions, please contact Fay or Sherm Sallee at (541) 451-5322 or skssallee@yahoo.com.

Name: _____		Phone # () _____		Email address _____	
Last, First					
Order form for: Linn County Small Woodlands Seedling Sale –					
February 15, 2014 Linn County Fairgrounds Santiam Bld. 3700 Knox Butte Road in Albany.					
8am-noon unless sold out earlier *Notes Oregon native deciduous seedlings					
Seedlings for \$1		Seedlings for \$2.00		Seedlings for \$5.00	
Name of Seedling & Size	Quantity	Name of Seedling & Size	Quantity	Name of Seedling & Size	Quantity
Valley Ponderosa pine plugs		Pink Rugosa Rose 1-2'		Sword fern	
Douglas-fir (2-1)		White Rugosa Rose 1-2'		Sub Total	
Noble fir (2-1)		*Cluster Rose 1-2'		Seedling Summary for \$	
Grand fir (2-1)		*Vine Maple 24 - 36"		# _____ @ \$1.00 =	
Sub Total		Sub Total		# _____ @ \$1.50 =	
				# _____ @ \$2.00 =	
				# _____ @ \$2.50 =	
				# _____ @ \$3.00 =	
				# _____ @ \$5.00 =	
				Total Sales \$	
Seedlings for \$1.50		Seedlings for \$2.50		Make checks payable to : LCSWA Mail to: Sherm Sallee, 30560 Santiam River Road, Lebanon, OR 97355 For Help Call: Fay or Sherm Sallee 541- 451-5322 or email skssallee@yahoo.com	
Name of Seedling & Size	Quantity	Eastern Redbud 3/16" dia			
Giant sequoia plug 8"+		Japanese Snowbell 3/16"			
Western redcedar plugs		Koussa Dogwood 3/16" dia			
Incense-cedar (1-1)		*Quaking Aspen mp			
Coast redwood plug		*Mock Orange 1-2'			
*Oregon Grape 8"-12"		Sub Total			
*Oregon Ash 24"-36"		Seedlings for \$3.00			
*Pacific Madrone plugs		*Red Flowering Currant 1-2'			
*Red Alder 24"+		Purple Smoke Tree 1-2'			
Sub Total		Sub Total			

It's back! Master Woodland Manager Training returns

Master Woodland Manager (MWM) volunteers are a key part of the Forestry and Natural Resources Extension Program. They are sparkplugs of activity, and have a great impact on natural resource management through their work as volunteers mentoring neighboring landowners, helping with Extension programming, and serving on Boards for diverse groups including local chapters of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association, watershed coun-

cils, and much, much more. The 28 MWM volunteers in Benton, Linn, and Polk Counties collectively contribute thousands of hours of service and landowner contacts each year.

The MWM training is a big undertaking, calling on resource experts from around the state for teaching the 80 hour series. The training rotates around Oregon, returning to an area only every 5-7 years. We will be training a new cohort of MWMs for Benton, Linn, and Polk

counties beginning April 2014, and continuing through the Fall. Local interest in the upcoming training is high, which is not surprising given the program's thirty-year history.

The training covers a wide range of forestry topics to enhance management of family forestlands, leadership training, and an opportunity for networking and collaboration among participants, all of which facilitate development of effective groups of volunteers.

Shrubs to Know in Northwest Forests

This brand new companion to the ever-popular Trees to Know in Oregon is a full-color, simple-to-use field guide that makes shrub identification easy and fun. It features 100 of the most common shrubs that grow in and around Pacific Northwest forests. Includes an overview of shrub communities in the Pacific Northwest;

more than 500 color photos; individual range maps and complete descriptions for each species; notes on range and habitat, response to disturbance, traditional and current uses, and origin of names; glossary of identification terms; and an easy-to-use, well-tested identification key. A deal at \$12.00!