



# FOREST-TREE LEADER

Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association, Inc.

AN OREGON SMALL WOODLANDS ASSOCIATION CHAPTER

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Quarterly Newsletter

SPRING 2024

## President's Corner

**ROB GUTTRIDGE**

Spring is coming, but winter isn't over yet. As I write this, on Oregon's 165th birthday, there is a chance of snow tonight. We have already had a hard freeze/warm thaw sequence that loosened up the soil enough that three beach-ball-sized boulders have come rolling downslope, stopping when they reached level spots in two of our canyon roadways, and a wind event that broke off the upper half of a hemlock and laid it lengthwise in another roadway. I'm keeping my fingers crossed that we won't get a major slump or slide this year: there are a couple of steep hillsides where the soil likes to move.

I've got most of the pruning done that needed doing, for this year anyway. There is a spot on the road going down the hill where I need to thin out the thickets of little cedars that are crowding each other, and reaching

toward the roadway to get more sunlight. That doesn't need to be a winter job, though, because it's thinning, not pruning, and anyway cedars are not sensitive about seasons the way firs are. They are more sensitive to summer drought, so I plan to thin them this year, before they get too big. ■

### Upcoming events:

**March 23: Tree School** at Clackamas Community College (I hope to see you there!)

**April 25: CCFFA Annual Member Meeting** at Hopkins Demonstration Forest (<http://tinyurl.com/ccffa-meeting-24>)

**May 11: Wildlife Field Day** at Hopkins Demonstration Forest (contact [sarah.cameron@oregonstate.edu](mailto:sarah.cameron@oregonstate.edu))

**June 13-15: Oregon Family Forest Convention** (Boulder Inn, Lebanon, Oregon) and many more Oregon forestry events of interest at <https://oswa.org/events>

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First lift for fire resistance.

PHOTO BY ROB GUTTRIDGE

## OSU Extension Forestry Update

**GLENN AHRENS, OSU Extension Forester, Clackamas, Marion, Hood River Co.**

Clackamas Tree School registration opened February 6 and we had over 500 people registered in the first week! At this rate, it is likely that Tree School will be full by the time this is published. I am so glad to get back to our in-person Tree School again this year after the long hiatus due to Covid. While we have had to adjust for increased costs and changes in administrative requirements, everything is coming together for a great event in 2024. Many thanks to CCFFA, Forests Forever, Inc. (Hopkins Demonstration Forest

owner) and the many volunteers who have been essential partners in Tree School year after year. They provide a lot of help with class development, instruction, exhibits, setup, takedown, and more. You will see quite a few familiar faces helping run the show if you are able to go to Tree School 2024.

Whether or not you are attending Tree School this year, here is a reminder that there are 54 recorded webinars and related resources in our Tree School Online Library at <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/tree-school/tree-school-online-library>. Or just do an internet search on “Tree School Online”.

**Events beyond Tree School**—We are planning a series of Saturday field days at Hopkins Demonstration Forest following Tree School this spring.

### April 13, Weed Management

**Field Day**, covering techniques for managing the usual weed suspects and new invaders in a forestry context.

### May 11, Wildlife Field Day.

featuring a walk in the woods to discuss applications of the Forestry for the Birds guide.

**May 18, Bigleaf Maple Forest Products Field Day**, focused on bigleaf maple syrup and other products, organized by the Oregon

Maple Project in collaboration with Forests Forever, Inc, Marion Soil and Water Conservation District, and OSU Extension.

The best way to keep up with our OSU Extension programs is to register for the *Woodland Notes* e-newsletter at <https://beav.es/woodlandnotes>. Or you can call or email Jean Bremer at 503-655-8631 [jean.bremer@oregonstate.edu](mailto:jean.bremer@oregonstate.edu) at the Extension office.

**Fire, Fuels and Density Management**—For those who appreciate the convenience of forestry education online, our eastside OSU Forestry and Natural Resources group (Jacob Putney, Baker & Grant Co.; John Panches, Northeast Oregon; Katie Wollstein, Rangeland Fire Specialist) is putting on a great webinar series this winter and spring. They are digging deeper into aspects of fire, fuels and stand density management (spacing and thinning). While the series is focused on eastside forest types, the principles are often quite applicable to westside forests, especially in our warmer/drier Willamette Valley margin environment.

The webinars share techniques that will help you know how much thinning is enough to achieve your forest health and fire risk reduction objectives. They will go into more detail on the varied impacts of fuels reduction techniques, with emphasis on what happens to soil and plant biomes. They also expand upon

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**The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the opinion of the CCFFA members or of the editors.**

## CCFFA Facebook Group

Did you know that Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association has a new interactive Facebook Group? Join this new “Group” page to enjoy posts about current forestry issues, local webinars and conferences, CCFFA events, PNW fish, wildlife, and plants, and other new forestry-related content. You can find our page at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/260770679668264> or simply go to OSWA.org click “local chapters” from the top menu bar, select Clackamas, then click the “Connect with our Facebook Group” button!

—Bonny Glendenning

recommendations for rangeland management, and share an interesting story on high elevation whitebark pine. Each session includes approximately 60 minutes of web-based presentation, with additional time for group interaction. Recordings of each presentation will be posted to the Class Resources page approximately two days after that presentation's conclusion.

The schedule is every first and third Thursday evenings this winter and spring: 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Jan. 18, Feb. 1 and 15, Mar. 7 and 21, Apr. 4 and 18, May 2.

For more information on topics and to register go to <https://blogs.oregonstate.edu/ffdm/>. Or do an internet search on "Fire, Fuels and Density Management".

**Survey for landowners impacted by wildfire**—Oregon State University Extension Service is investigating how we can best support woodland owners going through the process of wildfire recovery. If you or someone you know has land that was affected by wildfire, we are looking for people to participate in the *Landowners Experience After Fire Study* (LEAF Study). Your thoughts and opinions will go into helping us develop the next generation of post-wildfire educational programming and Extension publications.

The LEAF Study survey asks

landowners who have experienced wildfire about (1) what landowners are doing to restore woodlands, (2) challenges and opportunities they have experienced in the process, and (3) which agencies and organizations landowners are working with when recovering from a wildfire. Interested participants will be entered into a drawing for one of four \$50 Amazon gift cards and may be offered a free

follow up site assessment on their woodlands by an OSU Extension professional or partner.

If you were affected by wildfire, please consider taking the LEAF Survey. If you know someone who was affected by wildfire, please refer them to the Survey.

Take the LEAF Survey: <https://beav.es/cJw>. ■



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## Enhancing Forest Habitat for Birds and Humans with Forestry for the Birds

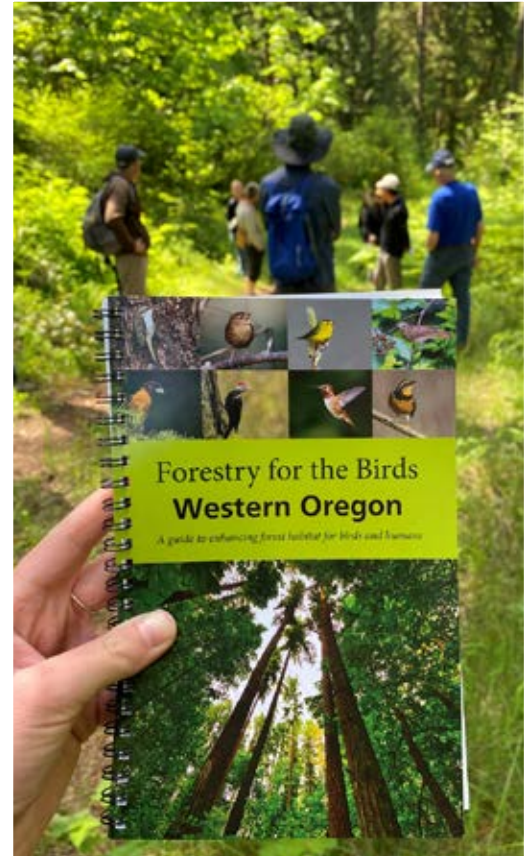
**SARAH CAMERON, OSU Extension Forestry Program Assistant**

For those who spend time in the woods, it’s hard to think about spring without the association of birds. Spring is a time of song, migration, and nesting for many species here in Oregon. While spring can be an extra special time to appreciate birds, supporting bird habitat can be a year-round venture. To help support foresters, landowners, and loggers enhance management plans with birds in mind, the Forest Stewards Guild published *Forestry for the Birds: Western Oregon*. You can view the full publication online at <http://tinyurl.com/fftbwo>, or follow along for a “birds-eye view” of the content.

Globally, bird populations are in sharp decline—largely due to habitat loss. The flip side is that intentional forest management can help support bird habitat while meeting the unique objectives of forestland owners and

caretakers. Oregon is home to over 275 species of nesting birds with nearly 100 more that regularly migrate through. While there are countless species to appreciate and support, the *Forestry for the Birds* guide highlights twelve focal species based on association with forest types and features, birds that are common—charismatic—and easy to identify, and birds that help carry out essential forest functions like pollination or seed dispersal.

Supporting birds is not a one-size-fits-all approach, each property comes with its unique goals and forest composition, and bird species also have their own unique needs. For example, one of the focal species is the Pacific wren, who whether you know it or not you have likely heard in your woodland. For such a small bird they produce a riotous river of fluty



burbles bursting forth in a five to ten-second stream of notes oscillating between high and low. Considering their needs – Pacific wrens require mature conifer forests and can benefit from maintaining woody debris and root wads during harvesting and variable-spaced thinning to enhance understory vegetation. Another species you may be familiar with is the rufous hummingbird – the “cousin” to our year-round Anna’s hummingbird. In contrast to Pacific wren, these hummingbirds require early-stage forests where they have access to deciduous shrubs and flower-producing plants.

While universal management for some important habitat features (such as snag and cavities) may be possible on all managed stands, others may only be incorporated into certain silvicultural options. Managing forests with birds in mind can be viewed as a 6-step process:

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1. Identify landowner goals and objectives, including wildlife habitat goals.
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3. Determine the desired future conditions of the forest.
4. Create or modify a plan that includes bird-friendly practices.
5. Integrate bird habitat elements into stewardship actions.
6. Assess outcomes and adjust plans as necessary.

The OSU Extension team will be joined by Forest Stewards Guild staff to host a Wildlife Field Day at Hopkins Demonstration Forest on May 11, featuring a walk in the woods to discuss applications of the *Forestry for the Birds* guide. Participants will each receive a take-home copy of the *Forestry for the Birds* guide (which can also be found online at <http://tinyurl.com/fftbwo>). The best way to keep up with OSU Extension programs is to register for

the *Woodland Notes* e-newsletter at <https://beav.es/woodlandnotes>. If you have any questions about this article

or the spring field day, please contact Sarah at [sarah.cameron@oregonstate.edu](mailto:sarah.cameron@oregonstate.edu). ■



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## 2024 CCFFA Scholarship Announcement

This year, our Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association will offer two \$1000 scholarships to local high school and college students. The scholarship is open to students who plan to attend college, university, or trade school, full time, under any field of study. To further the benefits of our membership, students who are friends or family members of a CCFFA member are encouraged to go to our website to download the application now. Visit: <https://oswa.org/clackamas>.

**Clackamas County Parks and Forest** is pleased to support the Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association. As a forest land steward, we are proud that our sustainable forest management program helps to ensure that our timberlands are grown and harvested in a manner that is environmentally sensitive, provides community benefit and is economically viable. The revenue generated from the sale of timber on County-owned forest lands directly supports the County Parks program.



The County Forest Program is currently looking for timberland of any age to enhance its portfolio and long term management strategy. Please contact the Clackamas County Forester if you have or know someone interested in selling or donating their timberlands to Clackamas County Parks and Forest program.



For more info contact **Andrew Dobmeier**, County Forester, [adobmeier@clackamas.us](mailto:adobmeier@clackamas.us) phone 503-488-9416

## Post-fire Restoration Opportunity—2020 Labor Day Wildfires

**LISA KILDERS, Clackamas SWCD**

Anyone who has replanted after a wildfire can tell you it is not an easy process. And for many, the clean-up and restoration after the 2020 Labor Day Wildfires is an ongoing problem. Three years of invasive weed encroachment that must be controlled before planting can begin may make the project seem overwhelming.

However, there is hope for those still struggling. This hope comes from a Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) administered by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. A local non-profit, Sustainable Northwest, has signed an agreement with the agency to fund the restoration of many non-industrial private forest properties affected by the 2020 Labor Day Wildfires. Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District (Clackamas SWCD) is partnering with Sustainable Northwest to provide technical assistance and



PHOTO COURTESY OF LISA KILDERS

*Spring replanting after a fire.*

landowner engagement to Clackamas County residents who qualify for this program.

Immediately after the Labor Day wildfires in 2020, state and federal agencies offered help to landowners. While some were able to receive assistance, there remains a great need for restoration. The good news is that more people will be eligible for the RCPP program because the areas affected by the smaller wildfires are

included. This is also welcome news for small non-industrial forest landowners who may lack resources to accomplish site prep, obtain seedling supplies for replanting upland areas, and address hazardous fuels. If eligible, this program pays for the restoration, and the landowner will owe nothing.

For Clackamas County, this opportunity is offered to areas burned in the Riverside and Beachie Creek fires and the Dowty Road, Unger, and

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### *Update From Our Federal Partners*

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service accepts applications for cost-share programs year-round. Plan ahead for projects you would like to have considered for 2025. Contact us now for the next funding cycle deadline in November.

Wilhoit Springs fires. To assist land-owners in the process, the Clackamas SWCD Forest Conservationist, Mike Hensley, is available to answer questions and help participants through the process.

The first application period is closed, but the second round will be opened later this year. In any case, you may request an initial site visit from Mike Hensley and find out about the eligibility requirements at any time. To find out about the program, go online to <https://www.sustainablenorthwest.org/post-fireassistance>.

Contact information for Mike Hensley, Clackamas SWCD Forest Conservationist,



503-998-7026 or [mhensley@conservationdistrict.org](mailto:mhensley@conservationdistrict.org). ■

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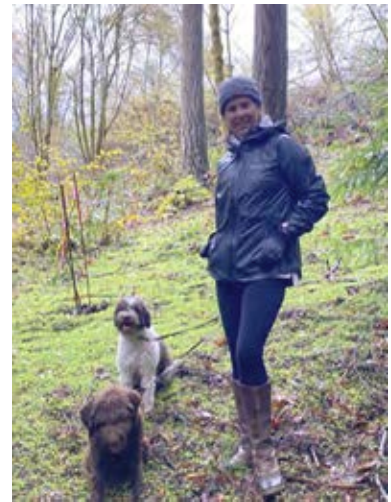
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## Freezing and Thawing PERFECT for Sugaring!

**MIKE BONDI, Forests Forever, Inc. Board Member**

The weeklong cold weather blast in mid to late January was a real mess for many. Roads were ugly. There was plenty of tree damage and power outages. But, at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest near Oregon City, it couldn't have been BETTER!

The native bigleaf maple trees in the forest's "sugar bush" started pumping sap—big time!

Volunteers came out on the Monday when the thaw was underway to set up this year's sugaring operation. "We had to move quickly," said Peter Matzka, Oregon State University's Extension Forestry Program Outreach Coordinator at the

Hopkins Forest and coordinator for the maple sugaring project. "The very cold weather—followed by the quick thawing we had—is what starts the tree sap to flow. It usually only takes 24 to 48 hours after temperatures head north of freezing, so we needed to get ready."

During the days following January's thaw, approximately 200 gallons of sap was collected within 3 days. "We couldn't keep up with the flow. We didn't have enough refrigeration room to store all of the sap and probably lost 40 gallons. Our collection tank just wasn't big enough!"

In 2023 Matzka worked with OSU College of Forestry faculty in Corvallis to set up his sugar bush at Hopkins. Thirty-two trees are



PHOTO BY MIKE BONDI

*Mike Piazza, Forests Forever board member, taking the first collections from this winter's sap flow.*



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	<b>Jeremy M.</b>	<b>360-520-5565</b>
<b>Everett, WA:</b>	<b>Eric F.</b>	<b>360-708-9265</b>

"tapped", each flowing into a food grade tubing network that carries the sap to a 60 gallon collection tank. A high tension steel wire supports the main sap line that connects to the individual tree taps. Equipment can be reused year-to-year (after being sanitized) and is readily available at local outlets or online at an affordable price.

"This isn't a sugaring operation like the old days with wooden tree taps and buckets at each tree to collect the sap. Today, everything is a closed system and sterile. A pump speeds the flow of sap to the collection tank. We transfer the sap to our processing area where we reduce the sap to a concentrate before boiling down to syrup," Matzka said.

In years gone-by the sap was boiled down for days to make the syrup. Today, a reverse osmosis system is used to remove the water from the sap to create a concentrate for boiling. "We take 100 gallons of





PHOTO BY MIKE BONDI

*Peter Matzka checking the flavor on the first tap of the year.*

sap and create about 12 gallons of concentrate in a five hour period using reverse osmosis and filters. Then, we boil down the concentrate (with either a wood or gas-fired evaporative pan) and can have syrup in another three to four hours. It's all a very fast process that allows us to get the sap from the forest and converted into a shelf-stable syrup with minimal power consumption."

Matzka says it takes about 80 gallons of sap to make one gallon of bigleaf maple syrup.

"It's really been a fun project and this is something our forest landowners can definitely do themselves. It's not that difficult if interested. And, I've learned a lot by working with the Oregon Maple Project and the OSU folks. By the way, our bigleaf maple syrup is really excellent, has a deep rich color, and is full of minerals!"

Since January, the bigleaf maple



PHOTO BY MIKE BONDI

*Bottled bigleaf maple syrup.*

sap flow has been minimal—only about 2-3 gallons total has been collected in the past three weeks. More cold freezing and thawing conditions are needed. Matzka is hoping for one more good blast in by mid-March.

Matzka incorporates the sugar bush project into his youth education programs at Hopkins where

he hosts about 5,000 students each year for science-in-the-forest learning. "Making maple syrup is a great lesson in science and technology. There's a lot of math, biology and chemistry involved with this project. All good and practical lessons for our youth."

.....continued on next page



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Learn more about the Hopkins Demonstration Forest in Beavercreek at their website, [www.demonstrationforest.org](http://www.demonstrationforest.org). The forest is owned and operated by Forests Forever, Inc. (FFI), a local nonprofit organization. FFI publishes an Annual Report each year detailing accomplishments from

the past year and plans for the coming year. The Annual Report is posted on the website. FFI maintains a mailing list for those interested in receiving their newsletters and/or supporting the nonprofit, too. Contact FFI for more information. ■



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For more information, contact Sarah Cameron at [sarah.cameron@oregonstate.edu](mailto:sarah.cameron@oregonstate.edu)

**Celebrating all things bigleaf maple**

- Tour the Hopkins sugar bush
- See equipment and technology available for today's maple syrup production
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Registration includes buffet-style "breakfast for lunch" along with Hopkins maple syrup!

At-home tapping kits, bigleaf maple syrup and other merchandise from the Oregon Maple Project will be available for purchase

The best way to receive up-to-date information on the Bigleaf Maple Workshop is by signing up for the OSU Extension Woodland Notes e-newsletter at <https://beav.es/woodlandnotes> or keeping an eye on the Oregon Maple Project calendar of events at <https://www.oregonmapleproject.org/>.



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**DAVE BUGNI, CCFFA Secretary/Treasurer**

**D**id you know that leaving about 6 to 10 percent of a stand of timber with hardwoods will greatly increase the number and variety of bird species present on your property? Or, that snags are important for cavity-excavating birds such as pileated woodpeckers, chickadees and nuthatches, and for other wildlife that take advantage of these cavities? There are more than 600 species of bees native to Oregon (the honeybee is not one of them) and many can be found in our managed forests. Learn which forage species deer and elk prefer to maintain healthy populations. These simple facts, and many more, can be found in the large variety of free publications produced by the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI).

OFRI supports the forest sector and the stewardship of natural resources by advancing Oregonians' understanding of the social, environmental and economic benefits of our forests. A portion of our forest products harvest tax funds the institute and we should take advantage of the many educational services they offer. (Our family has augmented our library with a couple dozen of their publications.) OFRI's publications span a variety of subjects we small forestland owners deal with daily, such as illustrated guides to forest practices rules, wildfire, working forests, carbon, salmon, wildlife, and many more. These reference materials are written in terms we can all understand by forest resource professionals ranging from biologists to foresters, just to name a few. There is a wealth of current information that can be found in hard-copy publications (mailed free to your door) or downloaded from their website. OFRI is a wonderful resource to expand your library to assist you in being the best stewards of your forestland. If you would like to learn more, please visit the OFRI website and then consider exploring their publications webpage under educational programs at: <https://oregonforests.org/>. ■




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# NW TIMBER DEVELOPMENT



BRUSH CLEARING BEFORE



BRUSH CLEARING AFTER



VEGETATION BUFFER

## Services Offered:

- Brush Clearing
- Fuel Reduction
- Road Vegetation Buffer
- Machinery & Hand Crews
- Hazard Tree Removal



## DEREK CRAVEN

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