

# Forest Ecosystems & Society Newsletter

June 2009

## **Get to know your Research Support Faculty?**



Heather May has been a Faculty Research Assistant here since 2006. Heather received 2 bachelors degrees from the University of Oregon in Environmental Science and Computer and Information Science. She currently works with the

LEMMA group as a database administrator, programmer and GIS analyst on projects using direct gradient analysis and nearest neighbor imputation to produce detailed forest vegetation maps. Her research interests include modeling ecosystem processes at various scales and developing flexible and robust software packages through the use of design patterns and object-oriented programming techniques. In her free time, Heather enjoys practicing yoga, gardening, and exploring the outdoors on foot, ski, and bicycle. *Sponsored by the Research Support Faculty Committee.*

## **Mentoring Opportunity for Research Support Faculty**

The FES Research Support Faculty Committee (RSF) sponsors a peer mentoring program open to all CoF RSF members (FRA, Sr. FRA, RA, and professional faculty). Peer mentoring is a great tool for new employees, established employees experiencing changes in their position description, or employees who would like to develop new skills or better manage their work-life balance. It also is an opportunity for those RSF members who would like to serve as a mentor to share their experiences and strengths as an integral member of the college. For more information on the mentoring program and how to sign up as a mentee or join the mentor pool please see the RSF Committee's web site at [here](#).



## **July 3, 6:00pm Hidden Valley Ranch First Friday Potluck**

Brenda is starting a once-a-month get together for FESers and allies, with the first potluck scheduled for July 3. Brenda will provide the place (6 acres in Wren) and something to barbecue (burgers and hotdogs) and something veggie, and everyone

brings something to share (salad, side, dessert, etc.), and a plate, a fork and a cup. And a smile. Friends and families are of course welcome. Her house is at 24793 Hidden Valley Rd. northeast of Wren: Take rte 20 west of Philomath to the Kings Valley hwy (rte 223) and go north across the Marys River a little over a mile. Turn right onto Cardwell Hill Rd, go 1 mile and turn left onto Blakesley Creek Rd, go one half mile and turn right onto Hidden Valley rd. Go one half mile to the red barn and park by the barn and walk up the road to the next house (directly across from Pleasant View Drive).

## **Dynamic Forest Ecosystems Summit Policy Workshop**

**September 8, 1:00- 5:00**

### **Oregon Garden Resort**

The Dynamic Forest Ecosystems Summit Policy Workshop will be held on Tuesday, September 8, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Oregon Garden Resort in Silverton. The workshop will be facilitated by the Oregon Institute for Natural Resources (INR) and will provide an opportunity for participants to consider the results of four seminars conducted by INR earlier in 2009 for the Board of Forestry on important aspects of dynamic forest ecosystems science.

## Publications

Betts, M.G., and Villard, M.-A. 2009. Landscape thresholds in species occurrence as quantitative targets for forest management: generality in space and time? In *Setting Conservation Targets for Managed Forest Landscapes*. Villard, M.-A. (Ed.) Cambridge University Press, 185-206.

Coops, N.C., R.H. Waring, and T.A. Schroeder. 2009. Combining a generic process-based productivity model and a statistical classification method to predict presence and absence of tree species in the Pacific Northwest, U.S.A. *Ecological Modelling* 220:1787-1796.

Coops, N.C., R.H. Waring, M.A. Wulder, and J.C. White. 2009. Prediction and assessment of bark beetle-induced mortality of lodgepole pine using estimates of stand vigor derived from remotely

sensed data. *Remote Sensing of Environment* 12: 1058-1066.

Coops, N.C., R.H.Waring, M.A.Wulder, A.M. Pidgeon, and V.C. Radeloff. 2009. Bird diversity: A predictable function of satellite-derived estimates of seasonal variation in canopy light absorbance across the United States. *Journal of Biogeography* 36:905-918.

Coops, N.C., C. J. Ferster, R.H. Waring, and J. Nightingale. 2009. Three model comparison of predicted gross primary production across and within forested ecoregions in the contiguous United States. *Remote Sensing of Environment* 113:680-690.

Hadley, A.S. and Betts, M.G. 2009. Tropical deforestation affects hummingbird movement. *Biology Letters* 5:207-210.

Hebel C.L., Smith J.E., Cromack K., Jr. 2009. Invasive plant species and soil microbial response to wildfire burn severity in the Cascade Range, Oregon. *Journal of Applied Soil Ecology*, 42: 150-159.

Hibbs, D., C. van Oosten and A. Bluhm. 2009. Hardwood Growth and Yield. *Western Forester* 54(2):8-11.

Ritchie, L., Betts, M.G., Forbes, G.J., and Vernes, K. 2009. Independent effects of landscape composition and configuration on northern flying squirrels in a forest mosaic. *Forest Ecology and Management* 257: 1920-1929.

Shirley, S. 2009. Ecological Value of Natural Red Alder and Cottonwood Stands. *Western Forester* 54(2):16-17.

Trappe, James M.; Molina, Randy; Luoma, Daniel L.; Cázares, Efren; Pilz, David; Smith, Jane E.; Castellano, Michael A.; Miller, Steven L.; Trappe, Matthew J. 2009. Diversity, ecology, and conservation of truffle fungi in forests of the Pacific Northwest. Gen. Tech. Rep. PNW-GTR-772. Portland, OR: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station. 194 p.

Waring, R.H., N.C. Coops, and J.J. Landsberg. 2009. Improving predictions of forest growth using the 3-PGS model with observations made by remote sensing. *Forest Ecology & Management* (in press).

Wilson, D., Stoddard, M.A., Betts, M.G., and Puettmann, K.J. 2009. Bayesian small-area models for assessing wildlife conservation risk in patchy

populations. *Conservation Biology*. Online early: DOI: 10.1111/j.1523-1739.2008.01160.x



Welcome to **Brenda McComb**, the new head of the Department of Forest Ecosystems and Society. Brenda was a professor of natural resources conservation and associate dean for research and outreach in the College of Natural Resources and the Environment at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

**Jim Rivers** recently completed his PhD at UC Santa Barbara. His dissertation was on behavioral and genetic adaptations of brown-headed cowbirds for nest parasitism. He will be working with Dr. Betts on an ongoing study that examines bird demography in relation to intensive forest management.

**Scott Kolpak** received a MS from the University of Oregon in 2002 focusing on quantitative genetics and evolutionary genetics under Michael Lynch. After graduate school, Scott worked as assistant geneticist and operations coordinator for the Port-Orford-Cedar breeding program at the USFS Dorena Genetic Resource Center in Cottage Grove, OR. The Port-Orford-Cedar breeding program develops trees that are resistant to the non-native invasive root pathogen, *Phytophthora lateralis*. Scott began working with Glenn Howe in May, 2009. He will work with Glenn on genomics and quantitative genetics of Douglas-fir for the Pacific Northwest Tree Improvement Research Cooperative and the Conifer Translational Genomics Network. He will also work on a DOE funded project to understand how phytochrome genes influence tree crown architecture and responses to tree density and light quality.

Goodbye to **W. Thomas Adams**, interim department head and former head of the Forest Science Department, who is retiring after 30 years of service to the university.



**Communities and Natural Resources**  
FS 599/699 Section 2, CRN 73846 (Summer Term)

Sept 8-19, 2009, 5 graduate credits, 15 student limit.

A 10 day intensive, graduate-level experiential learning opportunity exploring rural communities across Oregon, led by John Bliss and Kate MacTavish. For more information, visit the [class website](#).

### **Ecosystem Services from Family Forestlands**

An interdisciplinary graduate seminar

FS 599/699 Fall 2009

Private forestlands are increasingly recognized for the ecosystem services they provide to society, including clean air and water, wildlife habitat, biodiversity and carbon storage. This special graduate seminar will focus on the ecological, social, and policy dimensions associated with providing ecosystem services from family forestlands. For more information, contact [John Bliss](#) or [Sally Duncan](#).



**Tara Hudiburg**, a PhD student on ORCA regional project of the North American Carbon Program, was awarded a Graduate Research Environmental Fellowship (GREF) from the US Department of Energy Global Change Education Program (GCEP), which funds collaborative global change research at universities and national laboratories. Tara will conduct research using a state-of-the-art coupled model and observations to determine the interactive effects of increased atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>, nitrogen deposition, and warming on carbon sequestration and net ecosystem production in temperate forest ecosystems. The model is being used in the next IPCC assessment.

On September 24th, **Bill Ripple** will be receiving the 2009 Spirit of Defenders Award for Science from the Defenders of Wildlife at the Defenders annual awards meeting in Washington DC. This is a VERY prestigious award. Others who will receive awards at the event are Ted Turner for the Defenders of Wildlife Legacy Award, and Barbara Boxer for the Spirit of Defenders Award for public service, among others. This award is in recognition of the impact of the work that Bill and his colleague **Bob Beschta** has had on how policy makers and managers approach ecosystem restoration. Way to go Bill and Bob!

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*For questions, comments or to submit articles, events, publications, stories, pictures or other information for the Forest Ecosystems and Society Newsletter please email [irene.schoppy@oregonstate.edu](mailto:irene.schoppy@oregonstate.edu).*