

Weather stress hits Douglas fir trees hard

By Mary Stewart
OSU Extension Service

Many Oregonians have noticed widespread damage in landscape and forest trees this spring — and weather may be the culprit. “Browning or dieback is often caused by weather-related stress, sometimes in combination with pests and diseases,” said Glenn Ahrens, a forester with Oregon State University’s Extension Service. Douglas-fir trees are the most common victims, he said, but stress due to weather is affecting many tree species and a variety of problems are showing up.

On some Douglas firs, branches and tops are turning red or brown. Sometimes the entire tree dies. Older trees typically have milder symptoms.

“This sudden mortality or ‘flaring out’ of branches and tops is a classic symptom of drought in conifers,” Ahrens explained.

Possible stressors include last year’s long, dry summer ending with a hot period, followed by an early freeze in November and then a relatively warm winter, he said.

Drought-related injuries to the stems and leader are not always apparent when they occur, but often show up the following spring as the weather warms up and

Tips for keeping trees healthy

- **Prevent soil compaction** caused by vehicle or animal traffic near trees. Compaction can damage roots, especially in clay soils.
- **Avoid direct damage to trees and roots** by animals or machinery.
- **Reduce competing vegetation.**
- **Irrigate landscape trees during dry spells.** Apply water slowly over many hours; avoid frequent shallow watering. Apply mulch to maintain soil moisture.
- **Do not alter drainage near established trees** (ditches, ponds, fill or removal of soil).
- **Plant trees that are well suited for the site.** Where Douglas fir mortality is occurring, consider planting Willamette Valley Ponderosa pine or hardwoods.
- **If insects or branch/stem cankers are evident,** prune and destroy affected branches to reduce spread.
- **Do not fertilize during drought conditions;** fertilization can increase a tree’s water requirements.

trees begin to grow. That seems to have begun with the warm weather of February and March, with symptoms becoming obvious in April.

Similar drought damage has occurred periodically over the last 15 years, most recently in 2013, according to Ahrens.

Heat and drought can kill trees outright or put the trees under severe moisture stress. Subsequent problems can happen when insects or diseases take advantage of a tree’s weakened condition.

Douglas fir trees are most commonly affected, but similar problems occur with other conifers, including grand fir, noble fir, western

cedar and western hemlock. Grand firs around the Willamette Valley are notorious for health problems due to drought followed by secondary problems such as bark beetles and fungi.

Ahrens said drought-stressed Douglas fir trees are often troubled by stem canker, normally caused by weak pathogens that become active in trees under stress. The cankers can coalesce to girdle branches or stems, and also can become sites of attack by bark beetles.

Insect pests that take advantage of drought-stressed trees include the Douglas fir engraver and the pole beetle. Grand fir and noble fir

are vulnerable to engraver beetles that attack true firs of all sizes.

Douglas fir trees in some foothills around the Willamette Valley are afflicted with Swiss needle cast. The disease produces a pale overall appearance and sparse crown as individual needles turn yellow and drop.

“Swiss needle cast disease has been a problem in coastal Douglas fir since the 1990s,” says Ahrens. “But last year we had increased reports of the disease in the Willamette Valley and we are seeing it again this year.”

Weather is also a contributing factor and the disease is most severe in years with a combination of a warm winter and abundant spring moisture, Ahrens said. Indicators of Swiss needle cast are progressive yellowing and shedding (casting) of needles, beginning with the older needles. A healthy tree may carry four to five years’ worth of needles, while heavily infested trees may carry only one or two years’ worth. Although the disease is not generally fatal to the tree, it often has a significant impact on growth.

The Extension publication Forest Health Fact Sheet: Swiss Needle Cast in Douglas-fir in Oregon gives more information.

ENGAGEMENTS

Vanderfeen -Woolsey



Serena Vanderfeen of Dallas and Jeff Woolsey are planning a July wedding.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of the late Ken Hauf. Her fiancé is the son of Ken Woolsey of Florence and the late Karel Woolsey.

Serena is a 2007 graduate of Lane Community College in Eugene. She is currently employed at Dallas Forty as a mixologist.

Jeff is a 1980 graduate of Alsea High School. He is currently employed with Polk County Public Works as the lead heavy equipment operator.

The wedding is set for July 18, in the country at a family residence outside of Dallas.

BIRTHS

Henry

Malachi Alan Henry was born to Noel and Katie Henry of Salem at 11:55 pm. on May 27 at Silverton Hospital Family Birth Center.

He weighed 8 pounds, 1 ounce, and was 20 inches long. Malachi joins Josiah 7, and Manoah 4.

Grandparents are Ron and Donna Bishop of Salem, and Alan and Barbara Harms of Dallas

Rooke

Sofia Jaycee-Lynn Rooke was born to James and Cassandra Rooke of Monmouth at 10:37 p.m. on May 28 at Salem Hospital Family Birth Center.

She weighed 7 pounds, 2 ounces, and was 20 1/3 inches long.

Sofia joins Stephanie 22, Jeffrey 18, Jordan 14, Cheyanne 13, Cassie 11, Dakota 10, Asia 6, and Madison 3.

Grandparents are Lynn and Verna Cook of Monmouth, Greg Wright of Monmouth, and Mac and Lisa Rooke of Seaside.

White

Maverick John White was born to Cody and Margaret White of West Salem at 7:33 p.m. at Salem Hospital Family Birth Center.

He weighed 7 pounds, 8 ounces, and was 19½ inches long.

Maverick joins Charlie 20 months. Grandparents are Patricia Kincaid of Salem, Nicki Prather of Dallas, and Claude and Kathy White of Independence.

Great-grandparents are Rosemary Allenby of Salem, Judith Focht of Independence, and Donita White of Independence.

EAA Young Eagles offers youth flights on Saturday

INDEPENDENCE — The Experimental Aircraft Association’s Young Eagles program will be from 8:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday at the Independence State Airport, EAA Hanger, 4803 Airport Road, Independence.

Young Eagles, launched in 1992, gives interested youths aged 8 to 17 an opportunity to learn about aviation and take a flight in a general aviation airplane.

All Young Eagles receive ground school training, a 15-minute flight, a picture and an official EAA Young Eagles certificate.

Sporty’s Pilot Shop will provide all participants with a Young Eagles logbook. Middle- and high-school students will receive an access code to Sporty’s Complete Flight Training Course.

Ground school is about 45 minutes long, with flights taking about 15 minutes. Flights are on a first-come, first-served basis, and are free of charge, courtesy of EAA Chapter 292 pilots.

Each Young Eagle must have a registration form signed by a parent or guardian.

For more information: www.eaa292.org, or www.young eagles.com.

Watershed council hosts fundraiser for June 17

INDEPENDENCE — The Luckiamute Watershed Council will host a fundraiser June 17 for one of several of the group’s improvement projects in Polk and Benton counties.

Rockin’ the River, a concert and auction, will take place from 5 to 8 p.m. at Rogue Farms, located at 3590 Wigrich Road in Independence. The event will raise money to support restoration along Ash Creek.

The group hopes to raise \$8,000, which can provide 9,000 plants to be bought and planted.

The concert and auction is free and family friendly and will feature live music by the Morgans.

Items may be donated for the auction through Monday, June 15.

Contact Gail Oberst, 503-871-1242 for more details.

Partners on the restoration project include the cities of Monmouth and Independence, Ash Creek Water Control District, Central School District 13J and Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.

For more information: www.luckiamutelwc.org/rockin-the-river.html.

MI TOWN



PATTY TAYLOR DUTCHER
Columnist

MI Town was alive with the sounds of cheers and laughter and the happy voices of the members of the Class of 2015 from Panther Stadium last Friday evening, as the newly-minted graduates were presented with their high school diplomas. Family members, friends and neighbors were there to bestow good wishes for success, happiness and bright futures to everyone. Whatever the paths our graduates take — college, service to our country or work — we have faith that they will contribute to making our communities and our world a better place. Congratulations!

Our Western Oregon University graduates will bid farewell to MI Town after upcoming graduation ceremonies this Saturday.

Graduations are always a combination of nostalgia,

optimism and abundant good wishes, and this year will be no exception. We’d like to add our congratulations and high hopes as our best and brightest begin another exciting chapter in their lives. Come September, we’ll welcome new freshman students eager to start on a new journey of their own as well as our returning sophomore, junior, senior and graduate students. WOU indeed a jewel in MI Town’s crown and we look forward to so many good programs, classes and activities our hometown university has to offer.

Back in the day, parenthood seemed to be focused more on the mother — with shopping for maternity clothes and celebrating with baby showers. Now new dads and dads-to-be have their opportunity to share some of the spotlight and it can’t happen soon enough. This Saturday at 9 a.m., Boot Camp for New Dads will happen at Salem Hospital’s Community Health Center, Bldg. B, 99 Oak Street, SE. This program will be taught in English by Dr. Bruce Shepard. Boot Camp for Spanish-speaking new dads will be held at 535 G Street in Independence at 9 a.m. and will be taught by Odi Campos, my friend and Head Start educator. The cost for the class is \$10, but scholarships are available. Please call 503 814-2432 for more information.

We enjoyed our dinner last Thursday evening at San Antonio in Independence even more as a percentage of our bill was donated to CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) in Polk County. Many restaurants in Polk County participated in this fundraising event. CASA volunteers are trained to spend time with children who have been abused or neglected, and are truly angels who walk among us. For more information about this program, please call 503-623-9268, ext. 1301.

Concerts in the parks are just around the corner and so close that we’re making plans for packing picnic baskets as we gather with friends and neighbors to enjoy socializing and good music. It just doesn’t get any better than this!

PEDEE NEWS



ARLENE KOVASH
Columnist

Several local students graduated from high school this year and are excited about moving on. Brandon Simons, son of Rich and Tess Simons, who graduated from Philomath High School last Thursday, is one of Pedee’s outstanding students. He is an avid baseball player and consequently received the Coach’s Award for his all-around performance as an outstanding player, excellent student, and good sport. He also received the athlete scholar award with his 3.67 grade-point average and was named the all-conference second team first baseman for the Oregon West Conference. He will be going to WOU, possibly in criminal justice.

and Linda North, also graduated from Dallas High and will be going to Chemeketa. Arlin Schwanke, son of Eric Schwanke of Pedee and Jennifer Schwanke of Monmouth, graduated from Falls City High School and will be interning with John Deere as a diesel mechanic. After completing the two-year program, he will be a certified diesel mechanic with John Deere. He will be farming this summer on the family farm on Maple Grove Road.

Saturday, May 30, nine girls from Kings Valley Charter School participated in the Girls on the Run Celebration 5K at Reser Stadium in Corvallis. This was the cul-

mination of practices begun in March where girls in grades third through sixth grade go through a curriculum addressed for that age group, including time spent jogging together. The team was coached by Laura Hauck and Heidi Russell. Participating girls included Jenica Baker, McKenzie Hauck, Cameyna Gilson, Natalie Stauffer, Allana Russell, Gracie Lehmann, Paige Belyeu, Rebecca Lorain, and Eva Alvarez. Running buddies included parents, relatives and friends of these girls: Sherri Kramer, Jon Hovet, Tera Lehmann, Ryan Belyeu, Jill Stauffer, Jannet White, Erica Tarvin, and Amy Gilson. Congratulations to all the finishers for a job well done!

Philip North, son of Chip

LIBRARY CALENDAR

DALLAS
950 Main St. • 503-623-2633
www.ci.dallas.or.us/library

- Thursday, June 11, 11:15 a.m. — “Super heroes” story time.
- Friday, June 12, 5:30 p.m. — Dr. Who teen party (grades seven-12).
- Saturday, June 13, noon — Lego your Saturday.
- Tuesday, June 16, 11:15 a.m. — Story time.
- Tuesday, June 16, 3:30 p.m. — Story time.
- Wednesday, June 17, 11:30 a.m. — Juggler Rhys Thomas (Dallas City Park).
- Wednesday, June 17, 3:45 p.m. — Teen Advisory Board meets.
- Wednesday, June 17, 4:30 p.m. — Teen book club: Hush, Hush, by Becca Fitzpatrick.

INDEPENDENCE
175 Monmouth St. • 503-838-1811
www.ci.independence.or.us/library

- Wednesday, June 10, 10:30 a.m. — Family story time.
- Wednesday, June 10, 3 p.m. — Super Hero Training Camp Part 1.
- Wednesday, June 10, 5:30 p.m. — Cuentos en Español.
- Thursday, June 11, 3 p.m. — Super Hero Training Camp Part 2.
- Friday, June 12, 3 p.m. — Super Hero Academy (for teens).
- Tuesday, June 16, 4:30 p.m. — Chess Club for Kids (grades 1

and older).

- Wednesday, June 17, 10:30 a.m. — Family story time.
- Wednesday, June 17, 3 p.m. — Reptile Man at Riverview Park.
- Wednesday, June 17, 5:30 p.m. — Cuentos en Español.

MONMOUTH
168 S. Ecols St. • 503-751-0182
www.ci.monmouth.or.us/library

- Wednesday, June 10, 10:15 a.m. — Super stories and super hero mask craft.
- Thursday, June 11, 2 p.m. — Do-it-yourself magnets (sixth-12th grade).
- Thursday, June 11, 7 p.m. — Book club: Memoir night.
- Friday, June 12, 10:15 a.m. — Little Builders (babies through pre-k).
- Friday, June 12, 2 p.m. — Movie.
- Tuesday, June 16, 2 p.m. — Reptile Man (Main Street Park gazebo).
- Wednesday, June 17, 10:15 a.m. — Stories with Monmouth Police officers and sticker scene craft.

WAGNER COMMUNITY LIBRARY
111 N. Main St., Falls City • 503-787-3521, ext. 319
www.wagner.plinkit.org

• Contact library for upcoming special events and programs.

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