



## University of California Cooperative Extension Central Sierra News

**Serving Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado & Tuolumne counties May 2013**

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### Protect the Value of Your Forest

California forests are no longer natural. Human impacts have made them more prone to diseases, insects and wildfire. Just like your home, your forested land needs to be maintained.

Greetings,

University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) wants to keep you informed about what's happening! We host many workshops throughout the year, including free Master Gardener and Master Food Preserver classes open to the public. You will also find up-to-date 4-H news. Please read on for more information!

### News & Updates

## Introducing Our New Tuolumne County 4-H Program Representative!



We are pleased to introduce Melanie Curtis as the new 4-H Program Representative for Tuolumne County.

Melanie has been involved in the 4-H Youth Development Program for three decades. Melanie joined the Corcoran 4-H Club at the age of nine and continued as a 4-H member through her first year of college. She served as a Kings County 4-H All Star and a California 4-H Diamond Star. After completing a Bachelor of Arts in Social Science at Chapman University, Melanie served two terms as an intern at the National 4-H Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland. Upon returning to California, Melanie worked for the San Joaquin Valley Health Consortium in a tobacco prevention program for two years before beginning her career with the University of California in October of 1998. After more than fourteen years serving in the Fresno County 4-H Program, Melanie will be joining the Central Sierra Multi-County Partnership as the 4-H Program Representative for Tuolumne County.

Melanie's focus will be on strengthening our traditional club programs by recruitment of new youth and

Managing your land can protect it from devastating risks and threats, and can protect the value of your land. Start preserving your legacy by setting up a forest management plan today.

Setting up a forest management plan is easy with the help of our online e-learning site. We'll walk you through three basic steps to setting up your plan, and we'll connect you with a professional forester for more personalized assistance.

Once you've started your forest management plan online, come to one of our in-person trainings for more advanced assistance. All trainings are \$25.00 per person and last from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. For more information and to register visit the [Forest Workshops webpage](#).

### Forestry Institute for Teachers (FIT)



The Northern California Society of American Foresters plans to conduct 4 sessions of the Forestry Institute for Teachers in the summer of 2013 and we need your help. Please forward this email to those educators that you think might be

volunteers, integrating Science, Engineering, and Technology into our many delivery modules, and reinvigorating our collaboration with the Senior Youth Partnership after-school programs.

Melanie starts work in Tuolumne County on April 22nd. Her phone number is 209-533-6990 and her email is [makwast@ucanr.edu](mailto:makwast@ucanr.edu). Please welcome her aboard the next time you're in the Tuolumne office!

## Forest Health and Carbon Storage

This Sierra Nevada Conservancy report gives an overview of the health of forests in the Sierra Nevada. Of the 25 million acres in the Sierra Nevada, over ten-and-a-half million are covered with productive forests, with at least 10% covered of commercial tree species including ponderosa pine, incense cedar, white and red fir, lodgepole, and sugar and Jeffrey Pine. Overview of highlights in the report:

- In a historical, natural and healthy fire regime, nearly half of Sierra forests would experience fire mostly of low severity every 12 years and three-quarters would experience fire every 20 years. However, only two-tenths of one percent of Sierra forest land has burned repeatedly at least every 20 years in modern times, and 74% of Sierra forest land has not had a single wildfire or prescribed burn in the last 103 years.
- Much of the Sierra forest land is vulnerable to high severity wildfire. More than half of forest land within the Region- 5.5 million acres - is classified as 'high priority' by CALFIRE for treatment to prevent severe wildfire threats.
- Over one million acres of Sierra forest not yet significantly impacted by pests are identified for some level of need to prevent future pest infestation.

For more information and to read the report, please visit the [Sierra Nevada Conservancy website](#).

## Events & Workshops

### 4-H Chili Cook-Off: Come join the fun!

**California 4-H celebrates 100 years!**

El Dorado County 4-H Youth Development Program will celebrate its centennial year in California by hosting an

interested in FIT. [Visit FIT online!](#)

FIT provides K-12 educators with an increased understanding and appreciation of California's forest ecosystems and the complex issues involved in managing the natural resources found in public and private forests. You will receive an introduction to forest science concepts through presentations by practicing natural resource professionals. You will also learn about environmental education concepts and curriculum materials through information and experiences presented by natural resource and educational specialists. The FIT program is intricately correlated with the California Department of Education's subject area standards and goals for Environmental Education as well as No Child Left Behind.

FIT offers four sessions in different Northern California locations. Each session is held in a forested setting ideal for on-site study of forest ecology and natural resource management issues. The presenters and staff include public and private forest resource specialists and other natural resource managers, environmental activists, and science and environmental education curriculum

amazing community event & chili cook-off!

Chili Cook-Off will be May 11, 2013 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the El Dorado County Fairgrounds. This is our one and only county-wide fundraiser for 4-H. 100% of funds raised from this event will remain in El Dorado County and are used for 4-H projects, volunteer training, outreach and scholarships. The event will be a fun and engaging community day showcasing the unique heritage. We anticipate over 1500 attendees. There will be activities for families, live music, games, rocketry and other project demonstrations, a craft fair as well as Chili Cook-Off, Tri-tip from Bridge's BBQ, silent auction and cake auction! Performing live will be El Dorado County's own Cynthia Rene as well as local folk musician Greg Costa.



Chili Cook-Off 2012  
Pigeon release

You can help propel El Dorado County 4-H into the next 100 years! We need Chili Cooks to make the event more fun and successful. We need event sponsors, volunteers, craft vendors and silent auction item donations. If you can help in any of these areas, please let us know. Chili tasting tickets are \$5.00 each and can be purchased at the UCCE office, Minuteman Press, Arnolds for Awards or The Windfall. Please go to the [El Dorado County 4-H Chili Cook-Off](#) webpage to learn more. Or, contact the El Dorado County 4-H office at (530) 621-5503.

**See you there!**

## **Eat Healthy \* Be Active CalFresh Workshop**

May 13th

Individuals and families make food choices every day that often lead to eating too much and moving too little. Foods like vegetables, fruits, whole grains, low-fat dairy, and lean protein foods contain the nutrients needed to build a better plate, meal, or snack. MyPlate provides individuals with the practical tips and tools to promote healthy lifestyles among children and families.



CalFresh of Tuolumne will be holding an Adult Class on May 13, 2013 at 8:45am at The ATCAA Family Center

specialists. [Learn more.](#)

## 4-H Events

### 4-H Dates



#### [Amador](#)

**5-25:** State 4-H Field Day

#### [Calaveras](#)

**5-16 to 19:** Calaveras County Fair  
**5-25:** State 4-H Field Day

#### [El Dorado](#)

**5-11:** Round Up /Chili Cook-Off  
**5-25:** State 4-H Field Day

#### [Tuolumne](#)

**5-4:** County Fashion Revue  
**5-11 to 5-12:** Rodeo Food Booth  
**5-25:** State 4-H Field Day

## MFP Classes

### Free Classes Offered by

#### [Master Food Preservers](#)



#### [Amador/Calaveras](#)

**4-6:** Freezing & Dehydrating in Calaveras

#### [El Dorado](#)

Our Public Ed Classes will be back in July.

## MG Classes

located at 18080 Blue Bell East in Sonora.

For more information, contact Gretchen Birtwhistle at [gbirtwhistle@ucanr.edu](mailto:gbirtwhistle@ucanr.edu) or 209-533-6991.

## 4-H at the Calaveras County Fair

May 16th to May 19th



4-H Youth will be showing off their prized animals at the fair again this year including beef, sheep, swine, rabbits, goats, poultry, horses and more! Each day has scheduled events and the Junior Livestock Auction will be held on Sunday. Be

sure to take a walk through the barns and ask the 4-H members about their projects. For lots of excitement check out the horse show which will be held in the arena. You can sit on the grass and relax too!

4-H will have lots to offer you and your family. We hope to see you there!

## Wildfire Awareness Week

Kick-off Event Saturday, May 25th

Wildfire Awareness Week sparks an important time for homeowners in the Lake Tahoe Basin to reduce the risk of wildfire on their property and around their home by reducing fuels. Join local fire protection agencies for a fun-filled Wildfire

Awareness Week Kick-off event, Saturday, May 25th to learn about fire safety and creating defensible space. With a dry summer ahead, fire districts are reminding everyone that fuel reduction is not a "bunch of hot air," and will be offering free tethered hot air balloon rides (weather permitting) to show the effects of recent wildfires as well as views of beautiful Lake Tahoe.



**When:** Saturday, May 25, 8am - 12 pm

**Where:** MontBleu Resort Casino & Spa parking lot and adjacent Pony Express Field

**Free Gardening Classes offered by [Master Gardeners](#)**



**[Amador](#)**

**5-21:** Annual Plant and Tomato Sale

**[Calaveras](#)**

**5-25:** Planting a Veggie Garden and Plant Sale

**6-1:** Art Among the Roses

**[El Dorado](#)**

**5-4:** Spring Plant Sale

**5-18:** Hanging Flower Baskets

**6-1:** Making Worms Work for You

**[Tuolumne](#)**

**5-2:** Thursdays Information Booth

**5-4:** Summer Veggie Planning and Planting, Making and Using a Compost Area

**Quick Links...**

[Our Website](#)

[Events & Workshops](#)

[Archived Newsletters](#)



**Accessibility**

Should you need assistance or require special accommodations for any of our educational programs, please contact us at 530-621-5502.

**What:** Tethered hot air balloon rides, 8 - 11am (weather permitting), Pancake breakfast, 8 - 11:30am, Family fun zone with activities, Smokey Bear and firefighter photo opportunities, information booths featuring local fire protection services, defensible space demonstrations, fire engines and exhibits.

For more information on this fun family event and how to protect your home, call (530) 542-2571 or visit [www.LivingWithFire.info/Tahoe/](http://www.LivingWithFire.info/Tahoe/).

## 18th Annual Master Gardener Garden Tour



*2012 Garden Tour*

On Sunday, June 2nd, the UCCE Master Gardeners of Tuolumne County will host their Eighteenth Annual Garden Tour from 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. There are five beautiful and very different gardens on the tour. Proceeds from the tour fund the Master

Gardener Scholarship Fund for Columbia College students, purchase gardening reference books for the Master Gardener Library, available to the public, and provide operating funds for the demonstration garden.

Garden tour tickets contain a map with directions to each of the homes. There will be directional signs on streets and roads leading to the gardens. Master Gardeners will be on hand at all the gardens to answer any questions you may have about the display gardens, your own garden or gardening in general.

Tickets are available at Columbia Nursery in Columbia; J.S. West Hardware, Antiques, Etc. and the UCCE office in Sonora; The Nest in Twain Harte; and Nature's Whole Foods Depot Nursery in Standard. Tickets are \$10.00 (children 12 and under free). Tickets will also be available on the day of the tour at the Master Gardener demonstration garden at 251 S. Barretta Street in Sonora, CA. Tickets can also be purchased [online](#).

## **Farm Day 2013 - El Dorado County**



El Dorado County Ag in the Classroom (AITC) in partnership with University of California Cooperative Extension - Central Sierra, is pleased to announce that El Dorado County Farm Day will

be held on Tuesday, May 14, 2013 in Placerville. Every May, AITC hosts hundreds of third grade students at the fairgrounds for an all-day interactive learning event. During this fun educational field trip, students learn about agriculture in context of local farms, ranches, and forests. All activities are designed to meet California state standards for third grade curriculum. Farm Day demonstrations and exhibits teach students something new about where our food, fiber, and shelter comes from.

Do you know a third grade teacher in El Dorado County that hasn't heard about Farm Day and may want to attend? Fill out the [online class registration!](#)

## **Lake Tahoe Basin: Invasive Weeds Identification Workshop**

**Where: Lake Tahoe Community College**

**When: Tuesday, June 4, 2013, 1:30 - 4:30 pm**

- Learn about the biology and reproduction of invasive weeds.
- Learn how to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive weeds.
- Regional experts will provide hands-on identification of thistles, knapweeds, toadflax species and other terrestrial weeds of concern in the Lake Tahoe Basin area.

### **Who should attend?**

Landowners and managers, on-the-ground crews, trail/park staff, volunteers and the general public.

[Get more details and register.](#)

Thank you for your continued interest in the UC

Cooperative Extension Central Sierra's news, workshops,  
and events.

**Sincerely,**

Scott Oneto  
University of California  
Cooperative Extension  
Central Sierra

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