



THE TWIG

Colorado State Forest Service
Volunteer Newsletter Spring 2011

CSFS volunteers have been hard at work eliminating mountain pine beetle-infested trees, assisting with seedling transport at the CSFS Nursery and training future volunteers. As usual, spring was filled with tree planting and outreach. Thank you all for the fabulous start to 2011!

Volunteers, including many CSU students, kicked off the year at Lory State Park, where they spent a Saturday cutting ponderosa pine trees hit by the mountain pine beetle and helping haul slash. Participants enjoyed a beautiful day with spectacular views, got the inside scoop on natural resource management in the park and enjoyed lunch in a yurt.

On Feb. 23, CSU forestry student Jef Hanson and Front Range Community College (FRCC) student Nancy Dadisman assisted with a mini-orientation for Warner College of Natural Resources (WCNR) students and members of Live Green. Students got an overview of the CSFS and its volunteer program and then learned outreach techniques that volunteers use to educate the public about safety, tree planting and the mountain pine beetle. We hope to see those students at a volunteer event soon!

On Feb. 25, volunteers worked in the freshly fallen snow and practiced felling trees at the CSU Foothills Campus. The volunteers worked on clearing mountain pine beetle-hit trees in a windbreak near the CSFS Fort Collins District office.



Above: Geoff and Joe bucking a downed tree.



Left: Graham hauling some slash.



Volunteers mitigating MPB at the Foothills Campus in February.



Right: Raechel readies her saw!

All volunteers were busy, whether they were cutting trees, piling slash or hauling firewood.

Beetle Busting Continues

The mountain pine beetle (MPB) epidemic has impacted more than 3 million acres in Colorado since 1996, with attacks on ponderosa pine increasing as many lodgepole pine have already been killed. More than 230,000 acres of ponderosa pine infestation were mapped in 2010. By identifying trees with MPB, landowners can slow the spread of this beetle by removing infested trees and properly handling the felled trees to kill the beetle and its larvae. The Larimer County Beetle Busters have been doing just that!

On March 5, volunteers dropped more beetle-hit trees at the Ben Delatour Scout Ranch. Monday, March 21, 40 Larimer County Beetle Busters met for the second time and assembled crews. These crews will work together to perform outreach about MPB and good forest management within their surrounding communities.

Beetle Busters met again on April 9, in Paradise Park, a community west of Fort Collins, and learned how to identify insect and disease problems affecting trees on their land. Wes Rutt, outreach and education chair with the Colorado Tree Farmers, lead this event that focused on identifying MPB infestation mainly in ponderosa and lodgepole pines in the area. CSFS assistant staff forester, Naomi Marcus was on hand to help about a dozen landowners who took advantage of this informative and hands-on event. They also learned about other insects and diseases that can weaken trees and make them more susceptible to a MPB outbreak. Dwarf mistletoe, a small, leafless, parasitic, flowering plant was widespread in the area as well. It is not as aggressive as MPB, but can compromise the health of pine trees, leaving them less likely to ward off an attack.

Tree Planting and Rehabilitation

Colorado State University and Front Range Community College volunteers joined, CSFS personnel in the Fort Collins District to plant nearly 900 seedling trees at Hughes Stadium in late March.



Naomi Marcus explains important Beetle Busters pointers .



Above: A room full of Beetle Busters ready to take action!

Left: Sawyers and swamper working at BDSR.



Above: Some of the crew at the Hughes Stadium planting.



Volunteers weigh down the fabric (and get a ride).



Left: Mike Hughes demonstrates proper planting techniques.

“CSU has been impressed at how our seedling trees in front of the stadium have thrived over the years, despite such a harsh site and little required maintenance,” said Mike Hughes assistant district forester. “This was a great chance to get another generation of trees growing.” A living snow fence of CSFS seedlings was also planted in 1992.

On April 2, several cooperators, including CSFS volunteers, joined forces to put on a hands-on land rehabilitation workshop in Fourmile Canyon. Landowners learned how to implement post-fire rehabilitation applications on their properties. They practiced erosion control methods such as seeding, straw wattle installation, contour log installation and mulching. Boulder County and CSFS foresters joined forces to demonstrate hazard tree and forest health assessment and proper seedling planting techniques. All participants got their hands dirty and left with the skills needed to start work on their own land!

Boy Scout Field Day, April 23

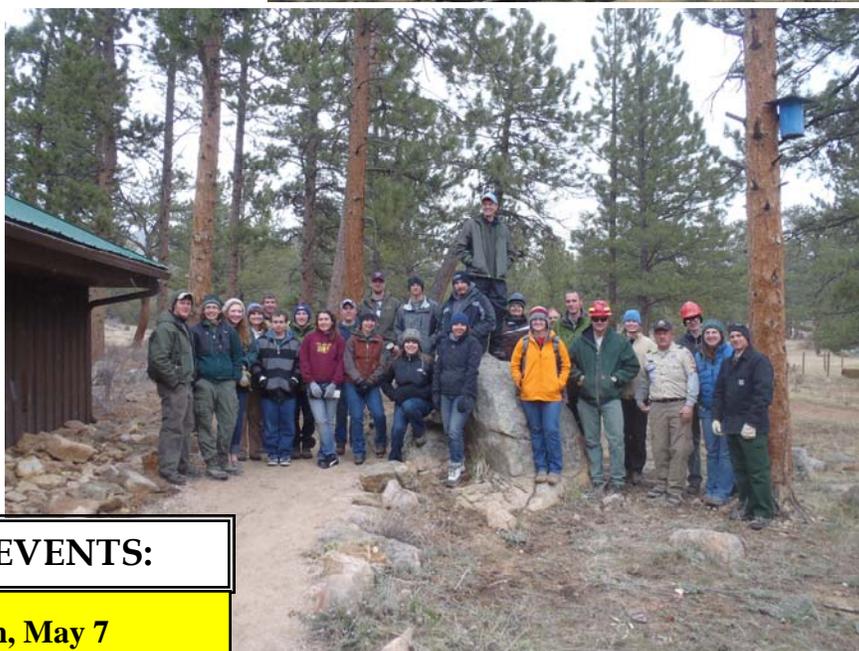
CSFS volunteers joined forces with CSFS, U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service personnel to teach 100 Boy Scouts all about forestry. The Boy Scout Field Day, an annual event that draws from both Colorado and Wyoming, was held at the Ben Delatour Scout Ranch. The Webelos (9-10 year-olds) earned their Forester Badge and the Boy Scouts (10 and over) earned their Forestry Merit Badge.

Scouts learned about good forest management, tree and plant identification, wood products, forest insects and disease, and wildfire. They were able to watch trained sawyers from CSU’s Forest Field Practices Class fell trees, skid logs with ATVs, and cut boards with a small portable sawmill. Scouts participated in a community service project and helped plant shrubs in areas where ponderosa pine trees had been harvested to mitigate the spread of the mountain pine beetle. Despite frigid temperatures, both scouts and volunteers really enjoyed the day. We hope to develop a version for the Girl Scouts in the near future, so stay tuned!



Above: Another crew of volunteers and CSFS personnel at Hughes Stadium.

Below: The CSFS volunteers at the rehabilitation workshops.



All the volunteers at the Boy Scout Forestry Field Day.

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER EVENTS:

- Ben Delatour Scout Ranch rehabilitation, May 7
- Help making tree cookies, May 10
- Children’s Water Festival, May 17
- Walk in the Woods Day, May 21
- Jim Hubbard Fire Mgmt. Bldg. Dedication, May 23
- Pingree Park workday, June 15

Visit our website to learn about upcoming events, and please share this site with others to help us recruit:

<http://csfs.colostate.edu/pages/volunteers.html>