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**Send us your updates  
and photos for the  
next issue!**

## Harry Merlo wins Tree Farmer of the Year Award

The Oregon Tree Farm System holds its annual Tree Farmer of the Year awards ceremony at the World Forestry Center each fall. Every year winners are picked from each county and then a State Tree Farmer of the Year is chosen.

For 2010, Harry Merlo won the state award for his tree farm MC Ranch. He also won in the county category for Un-

ion County. Congratulations Harry! Harry acknowledged the award and recognition should be directed to his ranch staff, particularly ranch manager Rex Christensen, for the care, upkeep and planning on the ranch.

A video was shown highlighting each county winner. Video clips included shots of the properties and personal

interviews with the land owners talking about their goals and vision for the land. The video was made in cooperation with the Oregon Tree Farm System and USFS Pacific Northwest Region and is available for viewing on the WFI website under the 'About US' tab. Check it out! <http://wfi.worldforestry.org/index/about-us/founder-harry-merlo.html>.



Harry Merlo accepts the Tree Farmer of the Year Award and recognizes the hard work of his ranch staff for making his tree farm what it is today.



From left: Sara Wu, Sue Baker, Vijay Kolinjivadi, Harry Merlo, Jagdish Poudel, and Ghazala Yasmeen all come together to celebrate Harry's success at the awards ceremony.

## WFI Welcomes New Fellow from China

WFI welcomes the newest Fellow from China, Meijuan Luo. Meijuan arrived early December from Fuzhou City in the Fujian Province of Southeast China.

Meijuan is from the Fujian Academy of Forestry where she works in coastal wetland ecology research. She is also concurrently enrolled in a PhD program at the Chinese Academy of Forestry focusing on wetland ecology. She

works with WFI alumnus Fanglin Tan.

Meijuan comes to WFI to learn about mechanisms of payment for ecosystem services, especially those that relate to forests and wetlands. She hopes to understand how these systems and motivations work in the U.S. in order to provide a reference for Fujian Province to develop similar mechanisms.



Meijuan Luo participated in her first field trip to eastern Oregon just a week after arriving!



## Updates from WFI Alumni



Chinese alumna Ke Dong attended a forest certification conference in Chile this fall. She traveled through central and southern parts of the country visiting plantations, a sawmill, and other forestry sites.

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Taiwanese alumna I-Chun Lu sends an update on baby boy Nolan. He's doing well and already studying art!

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IEI alumna Penny Arentsen sends good news of the arrival of her baby girl, Linden Janet Arentsen.

## Fellows Present Research at OSU and WFI

The WFI International Fellowship Program has a tradition of encouraging all the Fellows to present their research in public forums. Fellows are provided opportunities to speak at the WFI Speakers Series public lectures held at The World Forestry Center, and also present as part of the College of Forestry's International Program at Oregon State University.

OSU hosts Fellows for talks every semester in addition to connecting them with faculty and staff engaged in research relevant to Fellows' projects.

This semester Vijay Kolinjivadi and Sue Baker gave presentations at OSU. Both were very well attended and engaged student and faculty in important conversation. Vijay's presentation *Investigating Business Demands for Watershed Service Markets: Case Studies from Oregon* summarized his research into ecosystem service mar-



From left: Badege Bishaw (OSU), Jagdish Poudel (Nepal), Vera Serrão (Portugal), Ghazala Yasmeen (Pakistan), Vijay Kolinjivadi (US/India), Susan Morrè (OSU) outside the lecture room of Vijay's talk at OSU.



Sue Baker (Australia) presented her research about variable retention silviculture at OSU in December.

kets in the region. Sue's presentation *Variable Retention Silviculture in Tasmania, Aus-*

*tralia and Western North America* gave a thorough review of variable retention silviculture, including its history and uses, practical implementation, and pros and cons of the system. Summarizing what she learned from interviews with local industry and landowners, Sue presented perspectives of how and why variable retention is implemented, or not, across the landscape in the Western US and Canada.

The Speaker Series seminars held at WFI featured both Vijay and Sue as well as Vera Serrão of Portugal. Vera's talk entitled *Forest Fires in Portugal: Post-fire Management Lessons from the Pacific Northwest* summarized her research into the techniques and practices used to best manage forests immediately post-fire. She shared her knowledge of the fire issues occurring in Portugal and similarities and differences of management between the Pacific Northwest and Portugal.

All presentations can be viewed on our website <http://wfi.worldforestry.org/index/publications-resources/presentations-and-posters.html>.

Don't miss out on the next WFI Speaker Series talk by Nepalese Fellow Jagdish Poudel. His talk will focus on the perceptions and attitudes of small woodland owners regarding the carbon market in the US. He will present at The World Forestry Center on February 9, 2011 at 4 pm.



Top: Sue Baker (left) and Vera Serrão (right) field questions from the audience at their WFI presentations. Bottom: Fellows and attendees mingle with the speakers before and after their presentations.

## Recent Events

Fellows took the annual trip to Bonneville Dam and Fish Hatchery. The November trip was a little too late in the season to see the full runs this year, but there were still a few salmon trying to make their way back upstream.



Fellows investigated the fish ladders at the Bonneville Dam in November.



Fellows hiked up Eagle Creek to see the punchbowl waterfall. At the Eagle Creek trailhead salmon could still be seen.

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Fellows were excited to attend the final dress rehearsal of the Oregon Ballet's production of *The Nutcracker* at the Keller Auditorium in downtown Portland.

## Fellows Visit Central Oregon Restoration Project

Fellows spent a day hiking in the snow just outside of Sisters, Oregon in late December. The Oregon – based conservation group Oregon Wild (formerly Oregon Natural Resource Council) hosted the Fellows for a day at the Glaze Forest Restoration Project site in the Deschutes National Forest.

Tim Lillebo, OW's eastside field representative, provided a thorough background of the cooperative restoration project. As a stewardship contract project between OW, the USFS, and other community cooperators including Warm Springs Forest Products, the Glaze project seeks to restore 1,200 acres of eastside forest. The project was initiated in 2005 with the goal of restoring the ponderosa pine forest, aspen stands, and riparian areas. Additionally, collaborators on this project seek to establish trust within the community by showing how people and groups who have traditionally had opposing views on the environment can work together and accomplish something good.

The tour started out in a stand of 250-350 year old Ponderosa pine. This area was designated for protection and OW and USFS are using emerging science to develop restoration and management plans for the area. The Fellows were led through the tall old-growth into a streamside restoration area where grazing had been removed and shade was being restored. Patches of thick aspen were dispersed along the stream and the active restoration was apparent in the good health of the trees. The hike continued to the edge of a large, open

meadow. The meadow gave a great view of the North Sister and is near a dense stand that is set for some variable density thinning regimes. Tim described the different density treatments prescribed throughout the area and talked about the great amount of public input that occurred to develop the prescriptions.

Fellows were heartened to hear about how a traditionally conservation-focused group is working with foresters to develop thinning regimes and management strategies that will create a better functioning ecosystem as a whole. Tim estimated that about 80% of the work they do now is collaborative and hopes more projects like this spring up across Oregon.



Fellows hike across the snow-covered forest looking at the different managements zones slated for treatment or conservation in Deschutes NF.



The North Sister from the edge of a meadow where invasive cheatgrass is being battled along with forest encroachment.



From left: Jagdish Poudel (Nepal), Tim Lillebo (Oregon Wild), Sue Baker (Australia), Meijuan Luo (China), Rick Zenn (WFI), and Ghazala Yasmeen (Pakistan) stop in an aspen grove to learn about the restoration elements of the project.



## WFI Says Goodbye to Two Fellows

This winter season we said goodbye to two of our Fellows, Vijay Kolinjivadi from the US/India and Vera Serão from Portugal.

Vijay completed his 6-month program in November. He investigated the motivations of buyers into watershed service markets, specifically looking at wetland banking in Oregon. Through his study, Vijay opened up the door for understanding the 'how' and the 'why' local businesses engage in both the regulated and voluntary watershed service markets that currently exist in Oregon. Vijay, a dual citizen of the US and India, returned to India for a short visit and plans to pursue opportunities in this field abroad.

Vera finished her 6-month program just in time to re-



Vijay (US/India) and Vera (Portugal) enjoy the view from Timberline Lodge in the early fall.

turn home for Christmas. Vera spent her Fellowship researching techniques used in post-fire forest management. She learned how we engage in forest restoration after a fire on federal, state, and private lands. With the incidence and severity of forest fires ever on the rise in Portugal, Vera saw the

importance of understanding best management practices to deal with these issues.

We wish Vera and Vijay the best of luck in all their future endeavors and know that they will be successful wherever they are.

## Recent Events

IEI alumnus Milan Velojic from Serbia returned to Portland for a short visit. While here he gave a presentation to WFI Fellows about forestry and his work in Serbia.



Rick Zenn (left) reunited with Serbian IEI Alumnus Milan Velojic (right) for a day at WFC.

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Senior Fellow Rick Zenn also reunited with a former IEI alumnus from Rhode Island, Paul Dolan, at the National Partners in Community Forestry Conference in Philadelphia.



Rick Zenn (right) reunited with IEI Alumnus Paul Dolan (left) at the famous "Rocky" steps in Philadelphia.

## 2011 International Educators Institute Applications now being accepted!

The World Forestry Center International Educators Institute (IEI) is the premier professional development program for experienced leaders in environmental education and forest research who are committed to advancing effective teaching and learning about the world's forests.

IEI is an innovative 7-day professional development program and forest study tour for the most active environmental educators and forest researchers working in the field today.

Combining content-rich, hands-on experiences in the field with a multicultural exchange of best practices in education and research, the



2010 IEI participants enjoy the view of Mt. Hood from Trillium Lake.

World Forestry Center International Educators Institute seeks to significantly advance effective teaching and learning about the interrelated social, economic and environmental challenges facing the earth's forests.

Applications are due Feb. 25, 2011. Please visit our website to learn more about

the program and for instructions on how to apply. <http://wfi.worldforestry.org/index/international-fellowship/international-educators-institute.html>.

If you have questions about the program, contact Rick Zenn, Senior Fellow, at: 503-488-2103 or [rzenn@worldforestry.org](mailto:rzenn@worldforestry.org).

Read what past participants have said about IEI: "One of the most profound educational experiences that I have ever had."

"Great leadership and organization, great modeling of teaching practices, great group of participants, well thought out field trips..."