

Newsletter March 18, 2016

# PNWTIRC

PACIFIC NORTHWEST  
TREE IMPROVEMENT RESEARCH COOPERATIVE



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## Personnel

Glenn Howe

Scott Kolpak

Lauren Magalska

Anna Magnuson

Oguz Urhan

Erda Celer



## Spring break is finally here!

This is finals week at OSU, so I'll be transitioning from a focus on teaching to more research over the next few months. I'm looking forward to that!

## The CAFS annual meeting is just around the corner

The ninth annual meeting of the Center for Advanced Forestry Systems will be held April 26-28, 2016 in Pensacola Beach, Florida. For meeting details, registration, and hotel reservation information, [click here](#).

## Genomic selection

Our evaluation of genomic selection in Douglas-fir will be moving into high-gear with the addition of Jennifer Kling to the project. Jennifer is a quantitative geneticist in Crop and Soil Science who'll be working for the PNWTIRC on the genomic selection project. Jennifer will begin working part-time beginning in April. Soon, Terrance Ye will also begin focusing on this project as part of the NARA (Northwest Advanced Renewables Alliance) project that Keith Jayawickrama directs.

## Anna Magnuson took over for Kori Ault

Anna began working as the new PNWTIRC Program Manager at the beginning of the year after Kori left OSU to take her dream job. Kori is now the Operations Manager of the College Outdoors program at Lewis and Clark College.

## Douglas-fir drought hardiness study

Erda Celer is immersed in analyses of the data that were collected last fall, including first-year survival, total height, height growth, second flushing, foliage damage, and sun scald. We're also watching the weather so we can measure the timing of bud flush this spring. The study consists of 380 families from western Oregon and about 20 from Washington that were planted on three hot/dry sites in southern Oregon. The study is a joint effort between the Northwest Tree Improvement Cooperative (Keith Jayawickrama), Bureau of Land Management (Mike Crawford, Jeannette Griese, George McFadden), Plum Creek Timber Company (Jim Smith), and Silver Butte Timber Company (Darin McMichael).

## CAFS project: Development of genetic markers for western white pine and Douglas-fir

The Douglas-fir portion of this project is now largely complete--we developed an Affymetrix genotyping array capable of genotyping more than 20K SNPs.

To read the full report on this work, [click here](#). The western white pine component is a joint CAFS project with the Inland Empire Tree Improvement (Marc Rust, Director). Scott Kolpak and Oguz Urhan have been preparing RNA samples from western white pine for sequencing. These sequences will allow us to develop a comparable genotyping array for western white pine. To be broadly applicable for western white pine tree improvement, we included samples from breeding programs in the interior west (IETIC/USFS program), Canada (BC Ministry of Forests), and the Pacific Northwest (USFS Pacific Northwest Region breeding program).

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Glenn Howe, Director  
PNW Tree Improvement Research Cooperative  
Department of Forest Ecosystems and Society  
321 Richardson Hall, Oregon State University  
Corvallis, OR 97330