

Green Team Report for annual meeting 8/2017

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FAMILY FORESTRY FIELD DAY 2016

I attended a class called Introduction to Forest Ownership. By far, the people in the class were interested, as we are, in the health and sustainability of our forests. My takeaway was that a forest owner should first decide what they want to do with their forest – THEN research how to manage it to that end: join organizations, get information, and make use of government programs. Overall, that was my takeaway for ALL of the classes I attended; the 45 minute classes were designed to be a glimpse of what information and help is available to us, and how to pursue that AFTER we decide what we want to do with our forests.

I DID get immediately helpful information from the class on Protecting Your Home and Forest from Wildfire: It is best to avoid mulch and junipers in the first 5 feet away from your house – in general, choose fire resistant plants.

Also, if we have a level 1 fire notification – which means NO EVACUATION YET – we should connect and lay out our hoses – leave the water turned on, with spray nozzles attached - and make sure our gates are open – we have the Main gate at the top, and the meadow gate can be used in emergencies.

In the Thinning and Pruning class I learned that we should NEVER prune more than 1/3 of the branches – but we should prune, to prevent a “fuel ladder” – the branches low to the ground can allow the fire to quickly travel up the tree to the crown, increasing tree death. Pruning increases the amount of light reaching the forest floor, which allows for more diverse plant and wildlife populations.

Finally, I attended a Forestry Taxes class. I honestly have no idea what this man talked about, from start to finish – but I do have a printout of his Powerpoint presentation and his handouts, in case anyone else wants to give it a go.