

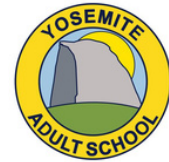


# CALIFORNIA TREE SCHOOL 2025

## Oakhurst Session

April 12, 2025

Yosemite Adult School, Oakhurst CA



Presented By:

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**  
Agriculture and Natural Resources



Forest Stewardship



CALIFORNIA  
*Fire Science*  
CONSORTIUM  
Advancing Our Future With Fire™

# Welcome Letter

The UC ANR Forest Stewardship Team is excited to welcome you to California Tree School 2025! This one day forestry and natural resources event will cover a wide variety of topics of interest to forest landowner, managers, and anyone who loves trees.

Our Oakhurst session offers an exciting location for learning about prescribed burn planning, small hand tools, regional fungi, and more.

We hope you enjoy the day.

Cheers,

*Kim Ingram*

UC ANR Forest Stewardship  
Academic Coordinator

*Katie Reidy*

UC ANR Post-Fire Academic  
Coordinator

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Event Schedule .....	2
Class Descriptions .....	6
Registration Information .....	13
Facility Information.....	14

**Thank you to our  
collaborators:**



CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF  
**RESOURCE**  
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS



# EVENT SCHEDULE

Oakhurst

## WELCOME and REGISTRATION ● 8:00-9:00 AM

Welcome to California Tree School 2025- Santa Cruz Session! Sign in at the front table, grab your personal Tree School packet, and join fellow students for coffee and breakfast.

## CLASS BLOCK A ● 9:00-10:30 AM

### CALFIRE's Grant Programs

Instructor: Brian Mattos

[Class Description: p.6](#)

### ~~Small Hand Tools for Forestland Stewards~~ CLASS

~~UNAVAILABLE~~  
Instructor: Rob York

[Class Description: p.10](#)

### Insects of the Foothills and Forests

Instructor: Beverly Bulaon; Martin Mackenzie

[Class Description: p.9](#)

### Wetland and Water Resource Protection in Your Backyard

Instructor: Anna Puchkoff

[Class Description: p.13](#)

### Introduction to Botany

Instructor: David Benterou

[Class Description: p.9](#)

## BREAK ● 10:30-11:00 AM



# EVENT SCHEDULE

Oakhurst

## CLASS BLOCK B ● 11:00 AM-12:30 PM

### An Introduction to Biomass and Innovative Forest Products of California

Instructor: Cindy Chen

[Class Description: p.6](#)

### ~~An Introduction to Residential Pile Burning~~ CLASS

~~Instructors: Alison Deak~~

~~[Class Description: p.6](#)~~

### ~~Forest Observation~~ CLASS

~~UNAVAILABLE~~

~~Instructor: Austin Roughton~~

~~[Class Description: p.8](#)~~

### Forest Pathology: An Awareness

Instructor: Beverly Bulaon; Martin Mackenzie

[Class Description: p.8](#)

### ~~Tax Tips for Forest Landowners~~

~~CLASS UNAVAILABLE~~

~~Instructor: Larry Camp~~

~~[Class Description: p.11](#)~~

### ~~Using Avenza for Forest Mapping (For Beginners)~~ CLASS

~~UNAVAILABLE~~

~~Instructor: Brian Mattos~~

~~[Class Description: p.12](#)~~

## LUNCH ● 12:30-1:30 PM

Enjoy lunch and don't forget to visit our tabling event. Afternoon sessions will begin promptly at 1:30 PM.



# EVENT SCHEDULE

Oakhurst

## CLASS BLOCK C ● 1:30-3:00 PM

### Finding Your Way in the Woods

Instructors: Katie Reidy; Susie Kocher

[Class Description: p.7](#)

### Targeted Grazing for Managing Vegetation and Fuels

Instructor: Fadzayi Mashiri

[Class Description: p.11](#)

### Planting Conifers and Hardwoods after a Wildfire

Instructor: Ron Allen

[Class Description: p.10](#)

### Tree Hazard Awareness for Forest Workers

Instructor: Brian Mattos

[Class Description: p.12](#)

### ~~Prescribed Burn Planning and Permitting~~ **CLASS UNAVAILABLE**

~~Instructor: Alison Deak; Laura Wisdom~~

~~[Class Description: p.10](#)~~

### ~~Soil Health: The Basics~~ **CLASS**

~~**UNAVAILABLE**~~

~~Instructor: Sarah Rosenberg~~

~~[Class Description: p.11](#)~~

## BREAK ● 3:00-3:30 PM



# EVENT SCHEDULE

Oakhurst

## CLASS BLOCK D ● 3:30-5:00 PM

### Chainsaw Maintenance and Troubleshooting

Instructor: Burl Wade

[Class Description: p.7](#)

### ~~Introduction to Forest Inventory~~

**CLASS UNAVAILABLE**

Instructor: Katie Reidy; Susie Koehler

[Class Description: p.9](#)

### Fire Ecology 101

Instructor: Kristen Shive

[Class Description: p.7](#)

### Landscaping with California Native Plants

Instructor: Ron Allen

[Class Description: p.10](#)

### ~~Fire Safe Solutions for Home Design, Building, and Upkeep~~

**CLASS UNAVAILABLE**

Instructor: Yana Valachovic

[Class Description: p.8](#)

### Truffle Fungi of the Sierra Nevadas

Instructor: Chris Bivins

[Class Description: p.12](#)



# CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

## Oakhurst

Classes are listed in alphabetical order, with applicable forest stewardship themes noted on the right.

### AN INTRODUCTION TO BIOMASS AND FOREST PRODUCTS IN CALIFORNIA

FOREST ART, CULTURE, & PRODUCTS

California's continuous efforts in reaching its emission reduction goals presents great opportunities for the development of a state-wide bioeconomy. This topic will go over the basics of woody biomass and focus on the current development of biomass-based products and innovative wood products. This class will also demonstrate the benefits, challenges, and opportunities related to these products and opportunities for community engagement.

**Time: Class Block B (11:00 AM-12:30 PM)**

*Instructor: Cindy Chen, Biomass and Wood Products Advisor, UC ANR.*

### AN INTRODUCTION TO RESIDENTIAL PILE BURNING

FIRE AS A TOOL

~~FIELD CLASS: DRESS FOR THE WEATHER. Spring can be a great time to pile burn brush and woody fuels around your home to prepare for the incoming wildfire season. Learning how to construct and prepare hand piles takes skill and an understanding of safety and weather considerations to minimize the risk of escape. This class will cover fundamental topics to hand pile burning such as safety and liability considerations, weather conditions and interpretation, navigating the permitting process, and tips for pile construction and burning.~~

~~**Time: Class Block B (11:00 AM-12:30 PM)**~~

~~*Instructor: Alison Deak, Fire and Natural Resources Advisor, UC ANR*~~

### CALFIRE'S GRANT PROGRAMS

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR FOREST

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE) offers one dozen grant programs for forestland stewards. This lecture will introduce CALFIRE's grant programs, and includes an overview of application periods, award amounts, eligibility, and complementary federal grant programs (e.g. EQIP).

**Time: Class Block A (9:00-10:30 AM)**

*Instructor: Brian Mattos, Unit Forester, CALFIRE.*

# CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

## Oakhurst

Classes are listed in alphabetical order, with applicable forest stewardship themes noted on the right.

### **CHAINSAW MAINTENANCE AND TROUBLESHOOTING**

MANAGING VEGETATION

FIELD CLASS: DRESS FOR THE WEATHER. Are you new to using chainsaws for your forest management projects? Join this class to learn the ins and outs of maintaining and optimizing your outdoor power equipment. This course will focus on fuel storage, battery technology, sharpening techniques, bar maintenance, and long-term storage.

**Time: Class Block D (3:30-5:00 PM)**

*Instructors: Burl Wade, Captain 50, Stanislaus National Forest.*

### **FINDING YOUR WAY IN THE WOODS**

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR FOREST

#### **(INTRODUCTION TO FOREST ORIENTEERING)**

FIELD CLASS: DRESS FOR THE WEATHER. Learn how to use a map and compass to orient yourself in a forest, as well as a variety of helpful tips and tricks to survey a forested landscape. Understand the history of forest inventory and why surveying the forest is important for preservation and conservation. This class will be interactive and engaging, as students will navigate and put their newly-learned skills to the test in a mini orienteering course.

**Time: Class Block C (1:30-3:00 PM)**

*Instructors: Katie Reidy, Post-Fire Education Coordinator, UC ANR; Susie Kocher, Forestry and Natural Resources Advisor, UC ANR.*

### **FIRE ECOLOGY 101**

FIRE AS A TOOL

This session will explore foundational fire ecology concepts, including fire regimes, fire history and how fire behavior is influenced by a complex interaction of fuel, weather and terrain. We will then explore how these concepts fit together to design best practices for forest management. The session will include a presentation that gives an overview of these concepts, interactive discussions and a hands-on exploration of fire-scarred tree rings.

**Time: Class Block D (3:30-5:00 PM)**

*Instructor: Kristen Shive, Cooperative Extension Specialist, UC Berkeley.*



# CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

## Oakhurst

Classes are listed in alphabetical order, with applicable forest stewardship themes noted on the right.

### ~~FIRE SAFE SOLUTIONS FOR HOME DESIGN, BUILDING, AND UPKEEP~~

YOUR HOME IN THE WOODS

~~INCLUDES OUTDOOR ACTIVITY: DRESS FOR THE WEATHER. Feeling overwhelmed about wildfire in California? You are not alone, but the good news is that there is a lot that homeowners can do to reduce risk and help your family and community withstand wildfire exposure. This class, "Fire Safe Solutions for Design, Building, and Upkeep," will help dispel myths about products and materials; offer science-based solutions for construction, design, and maintenance; provide the latest information in managing fuels on the property; discuss what is happening in the insurance market; and provide an opportunity for shared, experiential learning. Equip yourself with the tools to empower your community, fostering a safer and more resilient environment in the face of fire risks.~~

~~Time: Class Block D (3:30-5:00 PM)~~

~~Instructor: Yana Valachovic, Forestry and Natural Resources Advisor, UC ANR.~~

### FOREST OBSERVATION CLASS FULL

FOREST LIFE

~~FIELD CLASS: DRESS FOR THE WEATHER. Practice basic observation, questioning, and data recording skills to help all ages understand the forest through a foresters' lens. Participants will hone their nature journaling skills and learn key field observation techniques outdoors.~~

~~Time: Class Block B (11:00 AM-12:30 PM)~~

~~Instructor: Austin Roughton, Forestry Youth Education Coordinator, UC ANR.~~

### FOREST PATHOLOGY: AN AWARENESS

FOREST LIFE

This class will cover fungal, fire, and drought impact on trees, and what landowners and recreationists should know about the actions of decaying fungi in our forests.

Time: Class Block B (11:00 AM-12:30 PM)

Instructors: Beverly Bualon, Forest Entomologist, US Forest Service; Martin Mackenzie, Forest Pathologist, UC Forest Service.



# CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

## Oakhurst

Classes are listed in alphabetical order, with applicable forest stewardship themes noted on the right.

### INSECTS OF THE FOOTHILLS AND FORESTS

FOREST LIFE

Have a pest problem on your forestland? This course will cover beneficial and problem insects of the region, including how to identify and mitigate tree damage.

**Time: Class Block A (9:00-10:30 AM)**

*Instructors: Beverly Bualon, Forest Entomologist, US Forest Service; Martin Mackenzie, Forest Pathologist, UC Forest Service.*

### INTRODUCTION TO BOTANY

FOREST LIFE

FIELD CLASS: DRESS FOR THE WEATHER. Plant literacy reveals much about the natural history of our world. Learn to identify some of the plants of the Sierra Nevada foothills in a hands-on course with a UCCE Research Associate. We will introduce some common species, and distinguish plant features. We will also learn various methods of recording and identifying our findings and will apply our skills outside with local plants surrounding our classroom. Bring a journal/ sketchpad and a pen/pencil! (Instructor will have some paper also).

**Time: Class Block A (9:00-10:30 AM)**

*Instructors: David Benterou, Staff Research Associate, UC ANR.*

### INTRODUCTION TO FOREST INVENTORY (BEGINNER)

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR FOREST

~~FIELD CLASS: DRESS FOR THE WEATHER. Gain an understanding of essential tools that foresters and other natural resource professionals use in order to survey, map, and understand the composition of a forested landscape. These tools and skills can help you in your natural resources career or in understanding your private forested lands and better ways to manage it.~~

~~**Time: Class Block D (3:30-5:00 PM)**~~

~~*Instructors: Katie Reidy, Post-Fire Education Coordinator, UC ANR; Susie Kocher, Forestry and Natural Resources Advisor, UC ANR.*~~



# CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

## Oakhurst

Classes are listed in alphabetical order, with applicable forest stewardship themes noted on the right.

### LANDSCAPING WITH CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANTS

FOREST LIFE

This class introduces the native plants of the California Floristic Province, their ecological relationships, and explains why they make ideal choices for landscaping in our area. Specific topics include: motivation for selecting California native plants; cultivation and landscaping basics; special applications, such as lawn replacement, pollinator gardens, bank stabilization, ground covers, hedgerows, and fire protection; and restoration after wildfire.

**Time: Class Block D (3:30-5:00 PM)**

*Instructors: Ron Allen, Propagation Manager, Mariposa Native Plants Nursery.*

### PLANTING HARDWOODS AND CONIFERS AFTER A WILDFIRE

FOREST LIFE

This class covers tree selection, planting, required tools, and care requirements for conifers and hardwoods with particular attention to landscape restoration after wildfire.

**Time: Class Block C (1:30-3:00 PM)**

*Instructors: Ron Allen, Propagation Manager, Mariposa Native Plants Nursery.*

### PRESCRIBED BURN PLANNING AND PERMITTING

FIRE AS A TOOL

Planning is the most critical step to ensure a safe and effective prescribed burn! This class will dive into the basics of planning and permitting, from writing burn plans to navigating burn and air quality permits.

**Time: Class Block C (1:30-3:00 PM)**

*Instructor: Alison Deak, Fire and Natural Resources Advisor, UC ANR; Laura Wisdom, Mariposa and Madera PBA Program Coordinator, UC ANR.*

### SMALL HAND TOOLS FOR FORESTLAND STEWARDS

MANAGING VEGETATION

~~INCLUDES OUTDOOR ACTIVITY: DRESS FOR THE WEATHER.~~ This class will review the cost, use, and effectiveness of different tools that landowners can use to meet their forest stewardship goals. If you are new to owning forestland, this class will be a great start to building your landowner toolkit.

**Time: Class Block A (9:00-10:30 AM)**

*Instructor: Rob York, Cooperative Extension Specialist, UC Berkeley.*



# CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

## Oakhurst

Classes are listed in alphabetical order, with applicable forest stewardship themes noted on the right.

### SOIL HEALTH: OVERVIEW AND CONSIDERATIONS **CLASS FULL**

FOREST LIFE

~~INCLUDES OUTDOOR ACTIVITY: DRESS FOR THE WEATHER. Learn tools and tricks for understanding soils! This class will review soil compositions, soil types, introduce definitions of soil health, and discuss principles of soil health and management. Participants will also see demonstrations of soil aggregate stability and topsoil erosion.~~

~~Time: Class Block C (1:30-3:00 PM)~~

~~Instructors: Sara Rosenberg, Regenerative Agriculture Farm Advisor, UC ANR.~~

### TARGETED GRAZING FOR VEGETATION AND FUEL MANAGEMENT

MANAGING VEGETATION

Explore using multi species grazing for targeted grazing to manage vegetation structure and diversity, and reduce wildfire fuel. If used strategically livestock grazing in specific areas, can effectively control invasive plant species, promote desirable vegetation, and reduce the accumulation of combustible materials in fire-prone landscapes. Attendees will learn about the benefits of targeted grazing, its role in fire risk reduction, and how it can be integrated into broader land management strategies for ecological health and community safety.

Time: Class Block C (1:30-3:00 PM)

Instructor: Fadzayi Mashiri, Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor, UC ANR.

### TAX TIPS FOR FOREST LANDOWNERS

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR FOREST

~~This class will introduce key considerations for filing taxes as a forest landowner. Topics to be covered include: basis, organization of records, discussion of applicable sections of Federal and State income tax, including cost share payments, casualty losses, and periodic timber sales, and the California Timber Yield Tax.~~

~~Time: Class Block B (11:00 AM-12:30 PM)~~

~~Instructor: Larry Camp, RPF and Board Member, Forest Landowners of California.~~



# CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

## Oakhurst

Classes are listed in alphabetical order, with applicable forest stewardship themes noted on the right.

### TREE HAZARD AWARENESS FOR FOREST WORKERS

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR FOREST

Join this illustrated lecture which will cover most common structural defects on forest trees in the central Sierra. The class will also include a discussion of a rating system with potential target values, and alternatives for hazard abatement and mitigation. References for further study are provided.

**Time: Class Block C (1:30-3:00 PM)**

*Instructor: Brian Mattos, Unit Forester, CALFIRE.*

### TRUFFLE FUNGI OF THE SIERRA NEVADA MOUNTAINS

FOREST LIFE

INCLUDES OUTDOOR ACTIVITY: DRESS FOR THE WEATHER. Truffles are mushrooms that have evolved to grow completely underground. Due to the difficulty involved in finding these fungi, they remain one of the most understudied groups in the fungal kingdom. This course will cover some introductory concepts regarding the biology of truffle fungi, their symbiotic relationships with trees like oaks and conifers, and the considerations regarding sustainable collection of these fascinating fungi.

**Time: Class Block D (3:30-5:00 PM)**

*Instructor: Christopher Bivins, Natural Sciences Teaching Associate, UC Merced.*

### USING AVENZA FOR FOREST MAPPING

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR FOREST

~~INCLUDES OUTDOOR ACTIVITY: DRESS FOR THE WEATHER. Get introduced to mapping your forest! Students will use the Avenza app. to navigate, set points, and record track logs with their own smart phone or tablet device. Directions will be given to load the app. and the Ahwahnee, CA 7.5' quadrangle before class day.~~

~~**Time: Class Block B (11:00 AM-12:30 PM)**~~

~~*Instructor: Brian Mattos, Unit Forester, CALFIRE.*~~



# CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

Oakhurst

Classes are listed in alphabetical order, with applicable forest stewardship themes noted on the right.

## **WETLAND AND WATER RESOURCE PROTECTION IN YOUR BACKYARD**

FOREST LIFE

This class provides homeowners with essential knowledge and practical techniques for effective riparian forest management. Participants will learn about the ecological significance of riparian zones, the benefits of maintaining healthy riparian forests, and the best practices for enhancing these vital ecosystems on their properties.

**Time: Class Block A (9:00-10:30 AM)**

*Instructor: Anna Puchkoff, Environmental Protection and Wetland Specialist, Yosemite National Park.*



# REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Oakhurst

## How to Register

1. Visit [the registration page](#) or scan the QR code to the right.
2. Select which classes you would like to attend.
3. Registration is \$70. Card payments only. Need-based scholarships available by request.



### What does my registration fee include?

Registration fee covers class materials (unless otherwise noted in class description), parking, lunch, and coffee breaks.

### When does the registration form close?

The registration form will close on March 10th at 5 PM. Remember to register early! Classes may fill up before the registration deadline.

### Should I register for both Tree School locations?

We recommend attending the location that best suits your management goals and learning objectives.

### How do I obtain a need-based scholarship?

Email Kim Ingram, Forest Stewardship Academic Coordinator at [kcingram@ucanr.edu](mailto:kcingram@ucanr.edu).



# FACILITY INFORMATION

Oakhurst



**Address: 49948 Road 427, Oakhurst, CA 93644**

## Directions

From Fresno Yosemite Airport:

1. Take Highway 180 West
2. Take Highway 41 North
3. Exit at Crane Valley Road
4. Turn left on School Road. The Yosemite Adult School will be on your right.

From Modesto:

1. Take Highway 99 South
2. Take Highway 140 East
3. Take Highway 49 South
4. Take Highway 41 North
5. Exit at Crane Valley Road
6. Turn left on School Road. The Yosemite Adult School will be on your right.

