

Emerald Forester Gazette



The Emerald Chapter of
OREGON SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS

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Visit The New Emerald Chapter Website Here: <http://www.forestry.org/oregon/chapter/5/>

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

June Picnic

- Date:** TUESDAY, JUNE 14th
- Place:** Eugene Eagles, 1375 Irving Road,
Eugene, Out of Doors Venue
- Info:** Picnic will be provided by the Eugene
Eagles. Outside food and drink are
prohibited. Hamburgers, Polish dogs,
baked beans, condiments, coffee, tea,
iced tea will be provided. This meal is
free to all members and guests. Beer
and wine will be available for purchase.
- Time:** 6:00 PM SOCIAL, 7:00 PM TOUR
- Tour:** Seneca Sustainable Energy Biomass
Electricity Cogeneration Facility –
Please limit participants to 10 years and
older, closed toe shoes and eye
protection required.

Executive Committee News

Information from the May meeting of the Executive Committee.

- 1) The Committee discussed the 2011 fall schedule for monthly meetings and executive committee plans.
- 2) Member recognition efforts were discussed and outlined.
- 3) A review of the 2011 chapter goals took place. Several successes were noted including; good communication for and attendance at monthly membership meetings, progress made towards member recognition, donation made to ONREF, OSU student chapter member support and participation, etc.
- 4) Next Exec Meeting: August 23rd, 3-5 pm at the offices of Weyerhaeuser Goshen. All are welcome to attend.

Forests Today and Forever Thank You

We at Forests Today & Forever extend our deepest appreciation to the following members of the Emerald Chapter of the Society of American Foresters for their support of our 2011 spring Forest Field Days.

A big thank you to: Mike Atkinson, Sue Bowers, Steve Cafferata, Dale Claassen, Steve Cole, Jordon Ryder, Jared Simmons, Jack Spindler, Denis Van Winkle, Norm Vogt, Warren Weathers and Mike McDowell.

In all, close to 1,575 middle school students—along with their teachers and parent chaperones—learned about our forests, their management and the laws that protect them during events on three area tree farms.

Students came from 17 area schools, including the Bethel, 4-J, Springfield, Junction City, CAL, Sweet Home, Lebanon, Mapleton and Siuslaw districts. This year, we had our first home-schooled students from Bethel Home School, along with new student volunteers from the OSU School of Forestry and the Rachel Carson Natural Resource Program at Churchill High School.

As you know, there is very little natural resource education available today, and our programs simply do not exist without our fine and dedicated volunteers. ***Again, we thank you!***

The FT&F Board of Directors & LaRae Ash,
Program Coordinator

Professionals advancing the science, technology, practice, and teaching of forestry to benefit society

SAF Code of Ethics: Principle of the Month

“Foresters have a responsibility to manage land for both current and future generations.”

From the Chair

Fred Sperry

We had an excellent program last Tuesday. Ken Snell, Director of Fire, Fuels and Aviation Management for the Alaska and Pacific NW Regions (USFS), had a very open dialogue with SAF members at Mookies NW Grill. A lot of concerns were expressed with USFS fire policy and Ken fielded all questions and answered them honestly and thoroughly. The dialogue was contentious at times, but always civil. We were very fortunate that Ken was willing to give of his time to come down from Portland and present to our group. He represented the Forest Service well.

Civility is a characteristic of our organization in which I take considerable pride. As a whole, SAF foresters are a very civil group. We often have guest speakers present views that may not be in line with those of many of our members. Yet we never have to worry about whether our guests will be treated with respect.

Attendance at our meetings this winter and spring has been very good. As indicated in the survey you responded to, the program topic is far and away the most important factor in your decision to attend chapter meetings. We had an excellent line up this winter and spring and will work to continue to bring you quality programs when we resume our monthly meetings in October. In the meantime, we have an excellent tour scheduled for the 14th of this month at Seneca's new biomass plant in Eugene. See the article in this issue of the Gazette for more details regarding the tour and the picnic that precedes it.

Thanks to Tash Shaheed, Kurt Steele, Mike Tucker and Ted Reiss for their contributions in lining up this winter/springs guest speakers and the Seneca tour. Thanks to Bob Sanders, Tash and Mike for setting up the meeting venues.

Al Sorseth: SAF Member for 60 Years

Ted Reiss and Dave Cramsey

Al Sorseth began his forestry career in the US Forest Service, Blue River District, in 1948 after graduating from Oregon State University. He spent the years immediately before college serving our great country by flying support aircraft for convoy's, troops and supply movements in the Atlantic theater during World War II. Forty-two graduating foresters, with an average age of 29, would head out into the woods initiating one of the first classes from OSU following the war. It wouldn't be long before he would be a member of SAF.

“I figured if you're going to be a forester, you'd better be a member of the society.” States Al about the peer pressure of the day. “It was expected that professional foresters would be members of SAF.” The topics of the day were similar to what we face here and now: logging and forest use, safety issues surrounding public access and road building in timber extraction areas, etc. Al provided backbone to the US Forest Service by planting trees, scaling timber and logs during his early years in which he moved around on the Willamette National Forest from Blue River, to Detroit, to Oakridge. He also spent several years on the Malheur National Forest working from Hines, Oregon where he relished the years spent in Ponderosa Pine country.

SAF hasn't changed much since Al's been a member. “It seems we are dealing with the same issues.” But at the time he joined gender equality was not in existence. The faces of SAF have changed but the society is

strong says Al. He's maintained his membership, and regularly attends monthly membership meetings, because "I still have a 35 acre tree farm that I personally manage. SAF meetings help me stay current."

Al believes the most important internal issue at SAF is that "We need good leadership." "Choose your leaders carefully to maintain the high quality of SAF mission" says Al. Political involvement at national and local levels is extremely important. "I have seen many issues be determined without basic scientific analysis in the political arena. Environmental laws have become too onerous. We need more local flexibility to keep multiple use management practices in place." Good advice for SAF members at all levels no matter their duration of service. Thank you for your continued dedication to SAF Al.

Al Sorseth will be presented with a certificate of gratitude for his continued involvement and 60 years of service at the June Emerald Chapter picnic. We hope to see you there.

Emerald SAF Membership Update

Dave Cramsey – Membership Chair

Our June meeting will be a picnic and tour of the Seneca Sustainable Energy project. In addition to the usual fellowship at this event, we will celebrate the milestones several of our members have achieved this year.

Service pins are given to members who reach a new decade of membership within the organization. Continued membership and service to SAF take commitment at both a personal and professional level. Please take a moment to congratulate and thank these members for their contribution to our profession and organization!

<u>Member</u>	<u>Membership Years</u>
Bonnie Covell	10
David Crowell	10
Eric Kranzush	10
Bryan Rohl	10
David Cramsey	20
Dallas Hemphill	30
Pete Sikora	30
Robert Magathan	40
Alvin Sorseth	60

When inviting these members to join us at the picnic I thought it would be fun to ask them 3 simple questions. By no means is this a formal survey but responses and discussion were interesting. Here are those questions and answers they provided:

1. Why did you initially join SAF?

- Family history of membership
- Professional interaction and growth
- College profs strongly encouraged participation
- It was the right thing to do – a professional responsibility to stay current by interacting with peers.

2. Why have you continued to be as SAF member?

- Networking
- Presentations at local meetings
- Great organization and the only one for professional foresters
- To have input into society affairs

3. What would like to see changed with SAF?

- Need more joint meetings with adjacent chapters
- Lighten up on the Journal – it is too technical and a difficult read. Allow articles that anyone can read so we can pass it on to non foresters
- Publications could use improvement – often the Journal is tossed because there is nothing applicable. Research articles are very specific and therefore not useful in many areas.
- More involvement with local and State issues.
- More commitment in our position statements. They seem to be an attempt to reflect everyone's opinion and not representative of many members' views.

May Membership Meeting Recap

Ken Snell, Director of Fire, Fuels, and Aviation Management for the US Forest Service Alaska and Pacific Northwest Region, provided background and current information regarding Federal wildland fire policy. He began by outlining policy history, starting in the 1970's, when the Federal agencies started moving away from what was called "the 10:00 am policy" which mandated that all fires detected would be controlled by 10:00 am the following day.

During the 1994 and 1995 fire suppression seasons several wildland firefighters were killed in action. This precipitated new policy towards increasing safety and the opportunity to use wildfire as a management tool on the landscape. This was particularly attractive in remote difficult terrain where suppression personnel would be subjected to very strenuous and unsafe conditions. At this time federal policy recognized three types of fires: 1) prescribed fire; 2) wildfire; 3) wildfire for management use. This enabled federal agencies to let some fires provide management objectives, as previously outlined in district management plans, by letting them burn under special circumstances in which valuable resources including structures, designated natural areas, adjacent private property, etc. were not being threatened. This policy, and actions under it, was termed "the let burn policy" by opponents. There had not been a specific policy to "let fires burn" as was rumored.

In 2009 guidelines changed once again. The agency now recognizes two types of fire: 1) prescribed fire; and 2) wildfire. Terminology in the guidelines changed to reflect a more concise view of fire and it's place on the landscape. All fires are now viewed from the perspective of how they influence the local district resource management plan. The US Forest Service maintains the use of prescribed and wildfire for resource benefit so long as valuable resources are not being threatened. This is a difficult task to undertake considering changing fuel and weather conditions as fire season drags on. Ken stated rather plainly that these policies do provide increased risk for landowners who are adjacent to US Forest Service. This begs the obvious question: why let some fires burn when they have the opportunity to destroy thousands of acres and get out of control potentially harming adjacent property owners?

The answer lies in decades of fire policy that controlled almost all fires whereby biomass has increased on the landscape. The agency no longer has the monetary resources to treat enough acreage each year to keep large, uncontrolled fires at bay. They must look to alternative methods for decreasing the biomass accumulation on the landscape.

Each fire, or complex of fires, is put through a Strategic Risk Assessment for providing local district management goals through fire management. The basic elements of the assessment are: 1) values at risk, including adjacent property, etc; 2) communications in decision making, including community, adjacent neighbors, etc; 3) analysis of fire effects short and long term; 4) risk sharing assessment, discuss with local and regional managers about what control actions will be taken. Unfortunately the USFS does not have policy to reimburse for timber resource loss at this time. If a fire leaves USFS and burns an adjacent neighbor there is a

process for determining how much neighbor effort in suppression costs may be recouped. But resource loss is not part of that equation without a specific lawsuit for timber damage based on negligence. The Strategic Risk Assessment should provide an outline for who is responsible, through agreements made by federal, state, private entities, when fires cross ownership boundaries. This is the starting point for determining to whom the bill should be sent when private or state land is burned.

Ken relayed that the current situation is not ideal. He understands federal fire policy provides risks to adjacent landowners and cooperators. The current situation in biomass and fuel buildup on USFS property took many decades to form. It will take many years to reverse that trend.

2011 OSAF/WSSAF Joint Annual Meeting Recap

Steve Cafferata – OSAF Treasurer

Keeping Forestlands in Forest was the compelling theme of the 2011 OSAF Annual meeting in Portland. The May 11th afternoon general session explored this topic, starting off with an overview by Dave Cox. Dave pointed out that 70% (7.5 million acres) of corporate timberlands are owned by TIMOs and REITS; NGOs own 3% (600,000 acres.) There has been a downward trend in real log prices, and using a 2007 base, timber dollar losses have amounted to \$4.677 billion. Log exports in 1990 were three billion board feet. In 2006 they were down to 0.5 billion. In 2010 1.1 billion board feet were exported. Private timber supplies are sustainable over the next 50 years. The loss of forestland over the last 100 years amounted to 17% in Washington and 4.9% in Oregon. The difference in land-use laws is responsible.

With this overview, Matt Donegan of Forest Capital Partners made the case for keeping forestlands in forest. He made the point that this is the mission of foresters. Breaking up forestlands can be very profitable, with retail margins of 40% and land conversions returning 400%. Land acquisition must include real estate value or no land would ever be purchased. Donegan pointed out the managers' duty of fiduciary responsibility: how managers are driven to land sales given the real estate values. Alternatives include selling conservation easements to monetize the development values so that forests can be managed. Donegan suggested three steps foresters can take to keep forestlands in forest.

- Raising Awareness that working forests are worth preserving as green infrastructure, along with farms and ranches. They should not be taken for granted and should receive preferential treatment in land use policy.
- Shaping Policy, including improving timber economics, evaluating regulations for global competitiveness; promoting non-timber values including eco-services, LEED etc; supporting innovative easements that address the gap between full value and timber values; promoting land use laws.
- Advocacy through groups such as OFIC, One Voice for Working Forests and others.

Donegan concluded by stressing the opportunity for common ground with environmental groups on issues such as point source pollution designation for forest roads that threaten economic models for owning forestland. He fears that foresters will fail to present a united front, will overuse arguments, or underestimate the threats to keeping forestlands in forest. He said that ultimately success comes down to leadership-we are past the start-up phase and it is time to get tangible results.

The next day, May 12th, featured three concurrent sessions: Improving Timber Resource Values through Forest Production; Improving Non-timber Resource Values; Wildlife in Managed Forests Symposium (held in conjunction with The Wildlife Society). The sessions ran on the same time schedule so that participants could move between them during the day. The Wildlife in Managed Forests Symposium covered a broad array of

topics such as wildlife planning, habitat needs, animal damage by species, and snag management. The other sessions included improving timber resource values, improving non-timber resource values, marketing to improve values, and public policies affecting forest conversion. The presentations were excellent but would require too much space to summarize, and of course I could attend only a selection from each session. All the presentations will be posted on the OSAF website.

Friday, May 13th, was spent on tours with five from which to choose. I attended the one on Wildlife in Working Forests led by Nicole strong. We visited two sites: a 1000+ acre tract recently purchased by Portland Metro, and the award winning Little Beaver Creek Tree Farm. Other choices included Red Alder Plantations and Conifer Restoration and Management; Willamette Valley Ecosystem Services Tour; From Forest to Finished Product; and A Hands-on Workshop for Forest Inventory and Data Analysis.

The May 2011 Joint Conference provided valuable opportunities to network with foresters from both Oregon and Washington as well as with members of The Wildlife Society.

Emerald SAF Members Contribute to OSU Extension BMP Publication

Ron Heninger, Weyerhaeuser Company – Retired, and Steve Cafferata, Weyerhaeuser Company – Retired, both had a hand in the publishing of “Best Management Practices for Maintaining Soil Productivity in the Douglas fir Region”. Ron was the lead author of Chapter 5 – Managing Soil Disturbance, one of six chapters dedicated to providing modern best management practices for field operations in Coastal Douglas fir forests. Steve Cafferata provided critical review prior to publication. You can see the only version currently available online at <http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/1957/20678/em9023.pdf>

These two fine local foresters have remained a vital resource for current forest science in our local community. Congratulations well deserved to Ron and Steve for continuing a long history of service to the profession.

Oregon SAF Website Tips

The newly updated Oregon SAF website has a number of new features that help users gain information. The calendar feature is interactive and provides links to specific contact information for forestry related events such as workshops, seminars, opportunities for continuing education credits, etc. Push on the arrows on each side of the month showing to move to another month. This tool is an excellent addition to the SAF web site as it is always present on the page and provides specific information for your use. See the calendar below and head to the Oregon SAF web site to try it.

Upcoming events for Jun 2011:

- [Jun 2](#) Oregon Urban and Community Forestry Conference
- [Jun 7](#) TimberValue Seminar
- [Jun 7-9](#) USFS/IDL Forest Insect and Disease Identification and Management Training
- [Jun 19-21](#) Western Mensuarationists Annual Meeting
- [Jun 24-25](#) OSWA Annual Meeting
- [Jun 27-30](#) Advanced Insect and Disease Field Session

Upcoming events for July 2011:

- [Jul 25-28](#) WFGA Annual Meeting

Upcoming events for August 2011:

[Aug 16](#) TimberValue Seminar

Upcoming events for September 2011:

[Sep 13-14](#) Using ArcPad in Forestry

[Sep 15-16](#) Professional Timber Cruising with SuperACE

[Sep 19-21](#) Who Will Own the Forest 7

[Sep 22](#) Forest Products Forum

[Sep 23-24](#) Inland Empire SAF Annual Meeting

Quotable Quotes

“There are two spiritual dangers in not owning a farm. One is the danger of supposing that breakfast comes from the grocery, and the other that heat comes from the furnace.” Aldo Leopold (A Sand County Almanac)



Do you know this famous Oregon canyon? One hint: One of Santa's reindeer has the same name.

Editor – Ted Reiss

Chair – Fred Sperry