

Emerald Forester Gazette



The Emerald Chapter of OREGON SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS

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

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

October Meeting

Date: Tuesday October 22nd, 2013
Location: GATEWAY BUFFET REST.,
3198 Gateway Street, Springfield
Time: 4:30 PM Exec. Meeting
6:00 PM SOCIAL, 7:00 PM Program
Speaker: Dennis Sifford – Douglas Forest
Protective Association
Topic: Douglas Complex Fire 2013, Fire
Season 2013

November Meeting

Date: Tuesday November 19th, 2012
Location: GATEWAY BUFFET REST.,
3198 Gateway Street, Springfield
Time: 4:30 PM Exec. Meeting
6:00 PM SOCIAL, 7:00 PM Program
Speaker: Doug Decker – Oregon State
Forester
Topic: State of Oregon's Forests

December Meeting

Date: Tuesday December 18th, 2012
Location: GATEWAY BUFFET REST.,
3198 Gateway Street, Springfield
Time: 4:30 PM Exec. Meeting
6:00 PM SOCIAL, 7:00 PM Program
Speaker: Dominique Bachelet – Senior
Climate Change Scientist Dept. of
Biological and Ecological
Engineering, OSU
Topic: Climate Change in the PNW

Dale Claassen Presented with National SAF Presidential Field Forester Award



Dale Claassen was recently announced as the recipient of the SAF Presidential Field Forester Award for District 2 (Oregon). The award recipients were identified by district council members, Bob Alverts for district 2, who were asked to identify outstanding field foresters from their district.

Dale has served SAF since being the chapter chair at OSU in 1982. He is currently chair of the Emerald Chapter. His broad experience over 25 years in the professional field ranks makes him an excellent choice to represent the quality and ethic that exemplifies Oregon's professional foresters.

Dale will be presented with this honor during the 2013 SAF National Convention in Charleston, South Carolina taking place from October 23-27, 2013.

Evite Reminders

Please respond to Evite invitations and reminders from The Emerald Chapter of SAF when you receive them. Your responses help us give good information to the restaurant host where we gather.

HULL-OAKES LUMBER TOUR AND JUNE PICNIC RECAP

Tour Guides: Don Wagner, Bill Oakes (retired Hull-Oakes Lumber employees)

Notes from the tour

- Ralph Hull started the company in 1936 when the mill was built on the site of a previous mill that burned down. The third generation is currently running the company with the help of fourth-generation members.
- Hull-Oakes currently employs 60 people...the same number as when the mill opened 75 years ago. There has been no automation—there are no computers in the mill—so production requires the same number of operators to make log processing decisions.
- All equipment is pre-owned...nothing has been purchased new, and the company has never taken out a loan to purchase equipment. One example: as lumber carriers wore out, parts were unavailable and they had cannibalized their fleet as much as they could. They found four carriers from the 1960's that were in reasonably good condition; they will run three and keep one for parts.
- Much of the mill equipment runs on steam generated by two steam engines purchased used when the mill was built.

“What sets the Hull-Oaks mill apart is that the entire cutting process is powered by two steam engines. The primary engine is a 1906 Ames twin-cylinder (16-inch apiece) with an 18-inch stroke; it powers the band saw and edger. The other engine is used to power the carriage.” (from Andrew Tarantola on <http://gizmodo.com/5827148/americas-last-steam+powered-saw-mill>)

Don indicated that they have not been able to find either the make or age of the second steam engine. He explained that this system is like that used in steam locomotives—fire is routed through tubes that snake through a large water tank, which is different from steam ship systems that have water circulating in tubes running through a fire box.

This day was the last day for full-time steam operation, as the engines are worn out and very difficult to fabricate parts for. Electric motors will be installed to run the machines that were previously run by steam. The steam engines will be “moth-balled”, but will be run periodically and will be used for special tours.

- Don mentioned one example of an instance where natural materials are superior to synthetics: the belt that transfers power from the steam engine to the mill machinery is made from eight cow hides and has been in use for ten years.
- Logs are pushed out of the log pond up to the debarker, then onto a moving carriage that guides each log past the nine foot headrig. The headrig saw blade cuts enough wood in two hours that it needs to be changed out—a process that takes seven minutes—and sharpened.
- Hull-Oakes buys only large second-growth logs—old growth logs contain too much defect—and plans to grow their 15,000 acres of timberland to 65 to 125 years to create a supply of the very large trees they need for large-beam special orders. They buy a high percentage of logs from private and tribal lands.
- Products are cut to order...they do not cut on speculation and then try to find a buyer. They do not export overseas, although they do have a few customers in Canada. Many of their orders are for railroad trestle replacement timbers and beams for historic building repair.

- The mill cuts consistently around 18 MMBF per year
- In 1986, they cut six picnic table tops that measured 4” thick by 34” wide by 85’ long. We ate on one of them in Bellfountain Park after the tour; others are in McBee Park (near Alsea Falls west of Monroe) and Avery Park in Corvallis. A placard on the table top says:

“THIS 85 FOOT TABLE WAS CUT FROM A 422 YEAR OLD DOUG FIR
MILLED AND DONATED BY HULL-OAKES LUMBER 1986”

They recently cut two more table tops the same size; one will be installed at the OSU College of Forestry.

- A stream runs through the mill site. In the 1950’s Hull-Oakes decided that the way to keep the mill from affecting stream quality was to encase it under the mill. They built a 40-foot-long half-dome concrete form to cap the stream channel. Pouring every few days, they encased almost ½ mile of the stream 40 feet at a time. Fish seem to like the tunnel, as surveys have found more fish inside than outside—likely due to the lack of predators inside.

Picnic following tour at Bellfountain Park

Most of the tour attendees joined us at the park for a picnic. Those that were unable to stay missed some good food, including Becky Ice’s strawberry pie with whipped cream and Dick Bowers’ oatmeal chocolate chip cookies! Thanks, everyone, for contributing to the feast. Special thanks to Bonny for obtaining all the items provided by the Emerald chapter.



A few members of the tour pose in front of large fir sawn into cants.

Emerald SAF Executive Committee News

Information from the March meeting of the Executive Committee.

- 1) The Emerald Chapter will host the 2015 SAF State meeting. Formal leadership committee for this event is being planned. An event such as a state meeting takes many volunteers. Your help will surely be needed. Program considerations currently: a joint meeting with the Wildlife Society (TWS) in the first or second quarter of 2015, potential registration of 400 + attendees from SAF and TWS.
- 2) Program planning for membership meetings for the spring of 2014 is underway. If you have a suggestion for an interesting topic or tour please speak up.
- 3) Emerald SAF is looking for a Chair-Elect for 2014. Dale will be contacting current members.
- 4) SAF Council reports Michael Goergen, Executive Vice President of SAF, is leaving SAF. An international search is underway for the next executive leader of the organization. See a letter from him in the September edition of The Forestry Source.

Next Exec Meeting: October 2013 to be announced.

OSAF Chapter Achievement Award Presented to the Emerald Chapter



The Chapter Achievement Award is presented to an Oregon Society Chapter which has made extraordinary achievements in membership, service to members, community service, chapter management and participated in forest policy and legislation in the preceding year. The Emerald Chapter undertook and accomplished much as a group and individual members during 2012. Tash Shaheed, 2012 Emerald Chapter Chair, is pictured above with Ron Boldenow, 2013 OSAF Chair, and Dale Claassen, 2013 Emerald Chapter Chair, receiving the award in Pendleton during the 2013 Oregon SAF State Meeting in April.

ForestEd - SAF's Online Forestry Information Repository...now in Beta

<http://forested.org/>

SAF is pleased to announce that its forestry information and learning portal is now online and ready for beta testing. The website, called ForestEd, will aggregate online forestry content in a single repository to provide the most streamlined possible learning and social experience. Content is broken down into topics, where relevant content from a range of media types and sources including news articles, SAF publications, policy, and SAF's national convention are all in one easy to navigate location. Eventual goals for the site include incorporation of a continuing education calendar and quizzes, encouraging user-driven content by teaching SAF members how to create and manage their own topics, adding content from other educational groups/organizations such as

webinars, other publications, course materials, and more. The site is currently open to members, and we are eager for your feedback. If you have questions or comments, please e-mail starrsc@safnet.org (the above item is from a recent Oregon SAF Facebook posting--just one more effort to connect with all of our members!)

2014 OSAF ANNUAL MEETING

The 2014 annual meeting will be hosted by the Umpqua Chapter from April 30th through May 2nd at the Seven Feathers Resort and Casino in Canyonville, Oregon.

Quotable Quotes

“Do you want to know who you are? Don’t ask. Act! Action will delineate and define you.” Thomas Jefferson



Photo Courtesy of Dale Claassen

Editor – Ted Reiss

Chair – Dale Claassen