

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/>

June 2015 Picnic

Date: Friday June 26, 2015
Location: Thompson's Mill State Heritage Site
32655 Boston Mill Dr.
Shedd, Oregon 97377
Time: 3:00 PM Grist Mill Tour
4:00PM Picnic BBQ
Potluck: SAF will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, condiments. We ask that members bring a side dish, like a salad, casserole, chips, or dessert.

More Info: "Thompson's Mills is a unique survivor of times past, chronicling 150 years of Oregon rural life and honoring the owners who adapted the mill to the changing world around it. It is the oldest water-powered mill in the state and its turbines can be seen in action on guided tours. A water right that predates statehood produces the water flow that still runs the milling machines for demonstrations today." –Oregon State Parks
http://www.oregonstateparks.org/index.cfm?do=parkPage.dsp_parkPage&parkId=186

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

October 2015 Meeting

Date: Tuesday October 20th, 2015
Location: The Steelhead
199 E. 5th Ave, Eugene, OR
Time: 5:00 PM Exec. Meeting
6:00 PM SOCIAL, 7:00 PM Program
Speaker: TBA
Topic: TBA

9th Annual OSAF Golf Tournament August 14, 2015



The Oregon Society of American Foresters will host the 9th Annual Golf Tournament at Trysting Tree Golf Course in Corvallis, Oregon to benefit the [OSAF Foundation](#). The Foundation's primary goal is to attract the brightest students to the profession of forestry. The Foundation supports this goal by providing scholarships to excellent students in Oregon to further their forestry education at an SAF accredited university.



Dallas Hemphill: New Zealand Logging and Forestry

Notes from May's Meeting, courtesy of Steve & Wylda Cafferata

Dallas Hemphill spoke to the Emerald Chapter on May 19, 2015 on current issues in logging and forestry in New Zealand. The forest landscape and forest activities have undergone rapid change, and this latest update was amazing.

Historical Background: Historically New Zealand was 80% forested. The Maoris landed in 1300 AD and rapidly reduced the forest area to 50%. White settlers arrived in 1840 and took the native forest area down to 20% over the next 120 years. Little attempt has been made to manage the native species. Exotic species plantations started around 1900. The government privatized their plantations during the 1980s and 90s, and also during this time the native forests were protected. Dallas pointed out that this was not controversial since the remaining native forests were of low value on steep, inaccessible land. Today there are 4.25 million acres of plantation, 6% of the land area, and 90% of this is Radiata pine and 6% Douglas fir.

There was extensive commercial thinning and pruning in the 1960s. Today there is very little commercial thinning and 50% of the stands are pruned. Target crop stocking for pruned pine is typically 90-100 tpa. Genetic improvement has improved tree form a great deal. There is increased interest in growing more durable species such as Eucalyptus, in response to environmental concern with the amount of treated pine lumber being used. Dallas showed us pictures of 32 year old stands with 60 MBF/acre. Pruned stands are at 90-100 trees/acre to maximize the size of pruned trees.

Current Operations: Logging has doubled since 1990 to 27 million cubic meters/year, similar to Oregon. Cable logging on steep slopes is being used but costs are high and much of it is not well-implemented as the work force with cable-logging know-how is limited. The business environment in New Zealand is less competitive than in the U.S., as is the culture.

Safety: Logging safety has been a problem. Tower buckling and other mishaps have been common, and fatalities have occurred. The government has become very involved in safety regulation enforcement with five-figure fines, and the safety culture is changing. The forest owners are held to legal responsibility for the contractors' safety, and there has been movement towards holding company directors criminally responsible for accidents in a contractor's workforce. This has resulted in lots of paperwork including extensive checklists to afford protection to the landowners, with limited efficacy.

Mechanization: Logging equipment is similar to the Pacific Northwest but used differently. Tethered machine technology is being implemented on steep slopes. A tether line is used to stabilize a feller-buncher or shovel logger on slopes up to 100%. There are two approaches: one in which the tether line is spooled on a winch on a machine at the ridgetop; and one in which the tether line winch is mounted on the buncher itself, and tethered to a deadman or stumps at the top of the hill. All logging is tree-length with huge landings. Excavators are completely rebuilt and customized to lower their center of gravity by three feet at a cost that more than doubles the machines' new price. They are mounted with a 40" felling head and custom-fabricated boom. In order to keep the center of gravity low, cabs are not self-leveling.

Carbon: New Zealand signed the Kyoto Protocol but has since withdrawn. However they have a voluntary emission trading scheme. They are free to sell credits for growing trees, but carbon emitters include forest owners, so when trees are harvested they have to surrender the credits. This is true if there is a forest fire also. The carbon market is an artificial construct subject to political meddling. Dallas described a scheme where Ukrainian carbon credits (Ukrainian hot air) were being purchased for \$.15/ ton and substituted for New Zealand carbon at \$4/ton. This has since been stopped. When carbon credits were \$15/ton afforestation was occurring. Below \$8/ton carbon forestry is not feasible. When carbon prices are low and dairy prices are high,

forests are converted to pasture. Afforestation has been negligible in the last ten years. During the 1990s there was a surge in afforestation which will lead to harvesting in the 2020s. Plantations will go from being carbon sinks to carbon sources.

Environmental Concerns: The pine forests provide little habitat for T&E wildlife, and the public has no particular attraction to pine forests. It was once commonly said that one blade of grass is better than two trees. Over large areas, New Zealand soils are unstable, and trees were planted to control erosion. They are now being logged, and the slides that the trees were controlling are likely to reappear until the roots of the regenerated stands stabilize them. Much of the soil is heavy clay. District Councils (like our counties) issue permits for harvest. There is a great deal of variation among Districts, and there is a movement to standardize the rules, but the districts can still embellish them.

District Councils divide the land into permitted forestry and conditional forestry zones. The conditional zones require “Resource consent studies” and are subject to public objections. All road construction requires resource consent studies. Cultural values and promotion of self-interest get interwoven with the permitting process in addition to environmental objections. For example, the Taniwha, a mythical Maori denizen of swamps and creeks, may object to large infrastructure projects and it can be expensive to appease it.

Invasive Species: Introduced conifers are New Zealand’s invasive problem species. They have changed the landscape, and caused a loss of grazing as they invade pasture and other open ground. Native forest species (nothofagus) are slow to regenerate and grow at lower elevations than the exotic species of Radiata pine and Douglas fir. Three million acres are impacted by this.

Log Markets: Fifty percent of the harvest is exported as raw logs. China buys 64% of these logs. New Zealand is China’s largest supplier. Russia and the U.S. are the main competition for this market. As China’s economy has retracted they have reduced what they are paying for logs. This wipes out the return to stumpage for landowners, particularly on high-cost logging areas, and reduces the incentive to harvest.

Fire: In response to a question, Dallas told us fire is not much of an issue in New Zealand since the summer drought season is short and the environment humid.

Membership Milestones

Congratulations to the following Emerald Chapter Members who have reached these milestones. Thank you for your membership and your service to SAF!

60 Years: Robert Thompson

45 Years: Ronald Heninger, Warren Weathers, Hal Westover

40 Years: Michael Atkinson

35 Years: David Wellman

30 Years: Peter Daugherty

20 Years: Foster Robinson, Edward Reiss, Carl Harrison, Cary Hart, Jeffery Grogan, Douglas Campbell

15 Years: Tash Shaheed, Angelia Kegley, Avel Salgado

10 Years: Daniel Shults, Debbi Dalrymple

5 Years: Ryan Beyer

FORESTS TODAY & FOREVER'S Second Annual Soiree & Silent Auction

September 24, 2015, 6-9pm

Sweet Cheeks Winery

27007 Briggs Hill Rd.
Eugene, OR 97405

Music by Rusty Strings

a combination of Old Time Traditional
and Celtic

Register on-line or by Phone

<http://conta.cc/1NdHn3e> -or- 541-554-1342

\$15 Registration includes glass of wine and a raffle ticket

live music • delicious hors d'oeuvres • tasty wine and beer •
exciting raffle prizes • silent auction full of tempting items

Funds raised support forestry education programming in our region!

Please join us and bring your friends and family, too!

Contact: Beth, 541-554-1342
coordinator@foreststodayandforever.org
www.foreststodayandforever.org



Did You Know?

SAF members can save up to 55% off prescriptions with the SAF Prescription Discount Card? Learn more here:

<http://myfreerxcard.com/foresters/>

SAF members can save money on travel services like: Travelocity, Orbitz, Southwest, JetBlue, Hotwire, and more.

Members can also receive rewards and discounts at online home and garden stores like: ACE, Home Depot, Lowes, Sears, TSC and more. Start planning and shopping at: www.saf.achivelinks.com

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