

# ***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**

### **Will Resume in Early October**

Watch for updates and  
Have a great summer

## **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 for the June Picnic event.
- 3) Membership Meeting Committee will be discussing subjects for fall meeting schedule.
- 4) **Next Exec Meeting: August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 3-5 pm at the offices of Weyerhaeuser Goshen. All are welcome to attend.**



Al Sorseth being presented with a certificate of appreciation for 60 years of SAF membership by Emerald Chair Fred Sperry.

### **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.

## **June Picnic Recap**

On June 14<sup>th</sup> Emerald Chapter members gathered for the annual June Picnic to recognize several members for many years of membership in SAF. The evening started with hamburgers, hot dogs, salad, fixings and fellowship at the Eugene Eagles. Robert Magathan and Al Sorseth were honored for their contributions and membership in SAF for 40 and 60 years respectively. They both said SAF was the best membership organization for keeping up with professional forestry and foresters. The crowd then headed to the site of Seneca Sustainable Energy (SSE) for a tour of the new biomass burning electricity producing power plant in north Eugene. The tour started with welcome comments by Todd Payne, SSE Senior Project Manager, and moved through the system in logical fashion from fuel handling to the water-cooling tower and ash handling and exhaust handling system. The SSE power plant was not in operation on June 14<sup>th</sup> due to high levels of spring runoff. This gave a quiet atmosphere for all to hear and ask questions.

Sitting on the grounds of the venerable Seneca Sawmill, the SSE power plant has a host of options for fuel and electrical sales in the immediate area. The Eugene Water and Electric Board signed an exclusive agreement for power generation with SSE for several years to come. The need for green power from local sources was incentive for EWEB to provide increased capacity for local electricity supply. Operating at full power SSE produces 19 to 20 megawatts of electricity, enough to deliver power to 13,000 homes. Fuel is primarily sourced from sawmill generated bark and logging debris including limbs, treetops, and chunks that are left behind. Current sawmill byproduct generation levels could provide 75% of the fuel requirement. Market prices for clean green conifer chips and shavings determine how much logging debris is gathered from local lands. Logging debris is ground in the field and transported via semi trailer to the fuel dump specifically designed for chip trailer access. Each section of the fuel handling process once at the plant provides for environmental control including a positive suction dust capture system that returns any small debris to the fuel handling system where it eventually ends up in fuel building as seen below.





Todd Payne, Seneca Sustainable Energy (SSE), explaining the fuel handling system for the SSE biomass plant

Once fuel is gathered in the fuel building an automated system takes over sending the correct amount of fuel with precise fuel moisture calculations for optimum burning conditions in the boilers. Cool water is boiled creating steam to push a General Electric steam turbine for electricity generation. The boilers can be seen below.



Todd Payne showing the SAF tour attendees the boiler system where intense fire creates steam power

A precise system is required for generating large amounts of energy from logging debris and green bark. The control room handles all electronic automated systems within the SSE plant. Generating optimal heat from various fuel sources with varying moisture content must be regulated and controlled very carefully. A state of the art exhaust system is also required for operating in the Willamette Valley. Nearly all particulates generated by the biomass burning process are removed with an electrostatic precipitator with four separate plates. This ensures the best air quality emissions possible.

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Attendees visit the SSE biomass plant control room

Steam generated during the regular process will also be utilized for new lumber kilns that are under construction currently. Seneca Sawmill burns natural gas to provide heat for kiln operation. Steam as a byproduct from SSE will be used to displace natural gas burning and will provide the sawmill much larger capacity to dry lumber.

For many more photographs taken during the construction of SSE please visit this website:

<http://www.senecacorp.com/senecacorp/> and click on NEWS.

## Emerald SAF Membership Update

Dave Cramsey – Membership Chair

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

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- 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.

## 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)*



Miller Timber Services using a Ponsse forwarder to load thinning logs on Seneca Jones Timber Company property with Diamond Peak in the background.

**Editor – Ted Reiss**

**Chair – Fred Sperry**

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