

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

January 2014 Meeting

Date: Tuesday January 21st, 2014
Location: GATEWAY BUFFET REST.,
3198 Gateway Street, Springfield
Time: 4:30 PM Exec. Meeting
6:00 PM SOCIAL, 7:00 PM Program
Speaker: Emmor Nile – ODF Salem
Topic: Lidar – tools and analysis
opportunities

February 2014 Meeting

Date: Tuesday February 18th, 2014
Location: GATEWAY BUFFET REST.,
3198 Gateway Street, Springfield
Time: 4:30 PM Exec. Meeting
6:00 PM SOCIAL, 7:00 PM Program
Speaker: Matt Peterson –Willamette NF
Topic: USFS Willamette National Forest
Road Planning Efforts

March 2014 Meeting

Date: Tuesday March 18th, 2014
Location: GATEWAY BUFFET REST.,
3198 Gateway Street, Springfield
Time: 4:30 PM Exec. Meeting
6:00 PM SOCIAL, 7:00 PM Program
Speaker: Aili Gusey – Geologist USFS
Topic: Ancient Missoula Flood and South
Willamette Valley Geology

Emerald Chapter to Co-Host 2015 Oregon SAF State Meeting in Eugene

The Emerald Chapter will co-host the Oregon State SAF meeting with the Wildlife Society of Oregon in the spring of 2015. This event should gather close to 400 attendees.

Planning is currently underway towards creating an excellent atmosphere for a shared discussion on forestry and wildlife issues in our future. Many of the challenges we face today in modern silviculture have roots based in the need to protect ecological functions that provide good opportunity for thrifty forest stands and native wildlife populations of all varieties.

The opportunities for fascinating topics and discussions abound. Please plan to be a member on the team by contacting Emerald Chapter leadership. Your suggestions and contributions are very important.

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.

FROM THE CHAIR – TIFFANY RODDY

Happy (belated) New Year! It's time for new beginnings, rain, and tree planting. Speaking of new beginnings, have you made any resolutions? Mine is to make the Emerald Chapter a better chapter. (Notice I didn't say the best – I'm a bit biased.) So how could we make it better? Well, this chapter exists to serve you, the foresters. What would you like it to be? What programs do you want to see? How could we better serve you? This is where you get involved.

We all have work, family, hobbies, other volunteer commitments; but becoming involved with the Emerald Chapter doesn't mean you have to put in a lot of time, be an officer, or even serve on the Executive Committee. Let me, another officer, or someone on the committee know what you want from our chapter. If you have ideas to make anything better, share them. Come to the meetings; bring a friend, a coworker, and new forester; and help out when you can. (But if you do have the time, we are still looking for a Chair-Elect!)

So who is this person asking you to do all of these things? I've been a Forester with Weyerhaeuser Co. out of the South Valley office for just over three years; before that, I interned at Weyerhaeuser in northern Louisiana. I earned both my Bachelors and Associates degrees in Forestry at Penn State/Penn State Mont Alto: at both, I was President of the student SAF chapters. And I can talk for hours about hiking, border collies, or mountain biking.

So I'm looking forward to the year ahead, and I want to thank past chair Dale Claassen and the rest of the Executive Committee for their hard work and dedication to our chapter – without your efforts, we wouldn't be the best chapter in Oregon (okay, definitely biased).

See you at the meetings!

December Meeting Recap

Dominique Bachelet – OSU Climate Center – Department of Biologic and Ecological Engineering Sciences – dominique@consbio.org

Dominique talked about potential ecological changes brought on by climatic changes. She did so by addressing three main categories for discussion: current conditions, climate projections and human interactions.

Current Situation

There is much variability in climatic conditions throughout time. So much so that it's difficult to pinpoint single points in time that don't fit in with long term trends as being significant. There appears to be more variability in our local climate since 1985. Generally in the Eugene area winters are warmer than the previous 30 year trend prior to 1985. Measurements show a dramatic shift upward in the average highs and average lows for the local area compared to the previous normal trend. This may cause changes in ecological function. This is what Dominique is most interested in researching.

One example of serious changes in ecological function happened in 2005 in British Columbia. Mountain Pine Beetles had been stable in populations for many years prior to 2005. Then something changed producing an explosion in beetle population producing 39 billion dollars in damage. Presumably a tipping point was reached in the ecological system. Other examples include the large increase in western US wildfire activity in recent years.

Climate Projections

Most climate measurements and future predictions agree there has been and will be an increase in average temperature both in summer and winter. There may be consequences to the ecological functioning and can be

modeled using the Dynamic Global Vegetation Model. This model simulates vegetation cover across broad landscapes using major species such as pine, fir, etc. Potential vegetation shifts occur based on climate changes shown in normal ranges for evergreen vs deciduous forest species being dominant for example. Most model runs recently show an increase in wildfire intensity and acres burned during centered around 2050.

Human Interactions

Dominique posed the question: “what are we going to do about any of this?” Humans are modifying the environment through normal activities such as road building, city development, agriculture practices, etc. She is interested in how the ecological environment may change based on how climate changes over time. Humans may need to dramatically change agricultural practices in the future to be more efficient in different parts of the country for example. Dominique expects a shift in population north as temperatures rise to take advantage of more temperate climates further north in Oregon and Washington states. Most dominant species on our landscapes are highly adaptable due to past swings in climate and the natural variability in weather and climate. That is the silver lining in the story. She does not expect a disaster.

Emerald SAF Executive Committee News

Information from the December meeting of the Executive Committee.

- 1) The Emerald Chapter will co-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 fall of 2014 is underway. If you have a suggestion for an interesting topic or tour please speak up.

Next Exec Meeting: Immediately preceding membership meeting. See notes in above.

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. Find informational flyer here:

http://www.forestry.org/media/docs/or/annualmeeting/annual_meeting_flyer_14.pdf

A Nickel's Worth of Forestry Education

Douglas County landowners Rick and Audrey Barnes were recently honored as Oregon's 2013 "Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year" at Oregon Tree Farm System's annual awards luncheon held at the World Forestry Center in Portland.

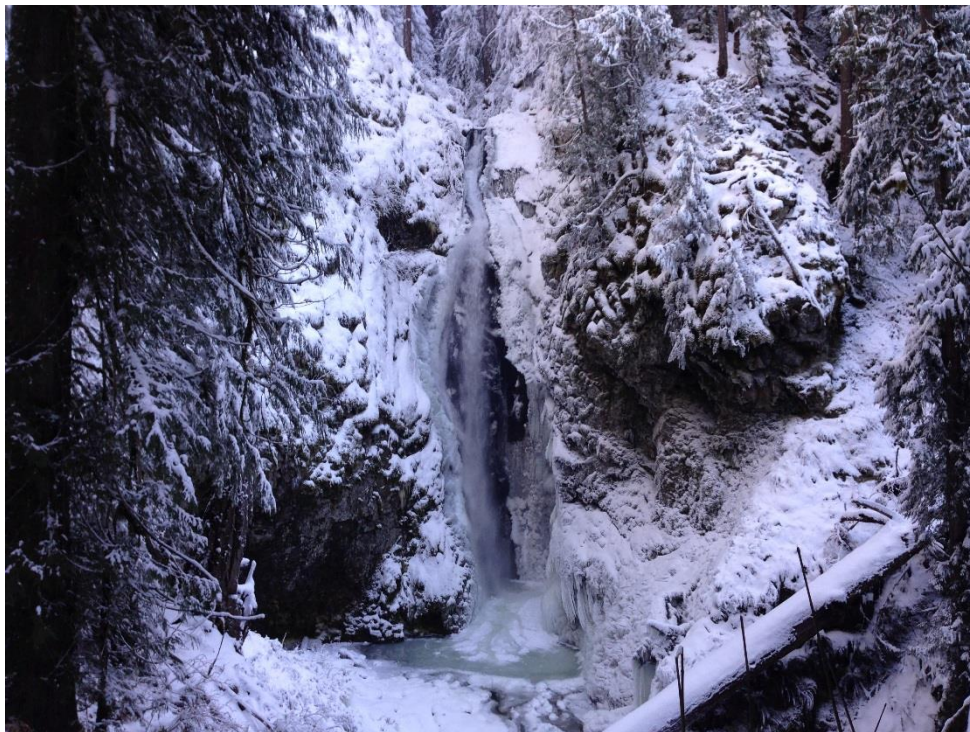


When Rick and Audrey Barnes purchased 1,262 acres on Nickel Mountain in southwest Oregon, they had no idea of the educational opportunities it would provide. Rick and Audrey purchased the property for the timber asset; however, the property is home of the largest nickel mine in North America.

Read more here: <http://www.forestry.org/oregon/article/38/>

Quotable Quotes

"Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant." Robert Louis Stevenson



Frozen waterfall in December 2013. Photo Courtesy of Tiffany Roddy

Editor – Ted Reiss

Chair – Tiffany Roddy