



Yukon River Chapter

2012 Annual Report

Submitted by: Josh Buzby,
2012 Yukon River Chapter Chair

It was a quiet year for the Yukon River Chapter; winter became spring, summer went missing for a while, and fall quickly became winter again. Dog mushers, snowmobilers and skiers would have all rejoiced if not for cold temps and lack of snow. In all of that, the chapter hosted the State annual meeting, held a second wood heat workshop, participated in Arbor Day activities, sponsored technical presentations for SAF continuing education credits, volunteered at the fair, judged science fair entries, and continued to have firewood fundraisers and conduct monthly meetings. Individually our members also promoted forestry at state and federal levels and as private citizens of interior Alaska.

2012 Chapter Activities

Alaska State Society Meeting, April 25-28.

Fairbanks hosted the Alaska state SAF meeting this year held at Pike's Landing on the bank of the Chena River. The meeting featured two full days of presentations, 2 workshops, and two field trips over a course of four days with the overall theme of "Managing Alaska's forests supporting Alaskan Markets". An awards ceremony followed the presentations for contributions to forestry along with a raffle to support national and local forestry activities. Pete Simpson was posthumously awarded Forester of the Year and his family accepted the award on his behalf. Special thanks goes out to Jeremy Douse for organizing the event and to everyone who presented, helped with planning and logistics, or in other ways helped to make the event a success. I personally was impressed with the antics of the raffle "officials" as I think others were too.



Family and friends of Pete Simpson accepting the Award for Forester of the Year.



Workshop attendees make a stop at a round log mill North of Fairbanks

Firewood Sales Fundraiser

Since 2010, chapter members have cut and sold firewood as a fundraiser for local chapter events and to promote forestry through scholarships, science fair awards, etc. The wood was donated to the chapter by the Fort Wainwright Natural Resources office. In 2012, we sold two cords of spruce and birch firewood to members of the public for \$200.00/cord. Ideas are being developed to expand this program in 2013, possibly purchasing a wood splitter and establishing a designated storage area and palletization system.

Wood Heating Workshop

The second annual Wood Heating workshop was held at the Army Corps of Engineers Chena Flood Control Project facility for the community of North Pole. The building was newly renovated in July 2011 and was a beautiful venue for the workshop. Representatives from UAF, local agencies and local businesses presented on such topics as properly drying firewood, air quality in the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) and basic maintenance of chainsaws and wood burning devices. Members of the community came out to attend the presentations on a typically cold January day. The chapter also used the opportunity to raise funds through selling chili, cornbread and coffee to the attendees. Perhaps due to cold or location, attendance was down but we are confident that the workshop is worth-while and are plans are underway to hold the event again in Fairbanks in 2013.



Adam Davis and Dan Rees at the Wood Heating Workshop in January at the Chena Flood Control Project Visitors Center.

Science Fair and Statewide Science Symposium Monetary Award

Every year the Alaska State High School Science Symposium (ASHSSS) and the Interior Alaska Science Fair (IASF) are held in Fairbanks. The Yukon River Chapter provides a \$100.00 and \$50.00 award respectively to the students with the presentation that best addresses a forestry related issue. Students who present topics related to forestry are evaluated based on their topic, sampling design and relevance to current forestry issues. This year the ASHSSS award went to Sarah Swanson for her project titled "Bird Species and Abundance in Burned and Unburned Spruce Forest". Davida Drvenkar received the IASF award for her project titled "To Leave or not to Leave". Congratulations ladies!

Outdoor Days

Members of the chapter participated in the 2012 Outdoor Days at UAF. This program is intended to introduce sixth grade students to natural resources professions including forestry. Students were shown how to measure the DBH and height of trees, tree identifications techniques, soils, and determining the age of a tree.

Arbor Day

Many members of the chapter were involved in Arbor Day plantings this year, continuing a long standing tradition in the Fairbanks area. Twenty tree planting events were coordinated by the Arbor Day Committee in 2012.



Most of the Arbor Day Committee plus several UAF staff helped with this tree planting at UAF on May 17th. 5 spruce and 5 birch trees were planted.

SAF/UAF Resource Management Society Meeting

The chapter typically holds a joint meeting with the UAF Resource Management Society in the fall. Due to scheduling conflicts the meeting was postponed until January 2013. The purpose of this meeting is to drum up interest in forestry and SAF among UAF resource management and forestry students. Chapter members representing the Division of Forestry, BLM, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District, US Army Garrison Alaska, and UAF forestry are slated to present to students on what they do in their day to day duties and advertise for job opportunities in the field of forestry.

Northern Alaska Forestry Topics Presentation Series

Starting in September 2011, the chapter began organizing monthly presentations to focus on various technical topics related to forestry in Northern Alaska which continued in 2012. These meetings were held at the Food Factory which provided us with a room free of charge. The presentations provided for the exchange of information as well as a social setting for chapter members to meet up. These types of meetings strengthen the camaraderie of the chapter which leads to more participation. This series proved to be successful and the current chapter chair is continuing this program. The SAF national office approved the following presentations for a 1 hour CFE credit per meeting.

Date	Presenter Name, Title, Employer	Presentation Title	Presentation Description	Length of Time
02/16/2012	Greg Mazer US Army Corps of Engineers	Wetlands and Forest Management	Permitting and regulations involving forest management activities in wetlands	1hour
03/08/2012	Marc Lee Department of Natural Resources Forestry Retired	Fire management in the Fairbanks Area	Fire history, management efforts and the urban interface, and fire planning in the Fairbanks area	1hour
10/11/2012	Brian Young IGERT Fellow Resilience and Adaptation Program, University of Alaska Fairbanks	Diversity in the Boreal Forest of Alaska: Distribution and Impacts on Ecosystem Services	State of boreal forest diversity in Alaska and the effects of distribution and diversity where discussed	1hour
11/15/2012	Janice Dawe/John Manthei Project One Tree Coordinator/ Week in the Woods Coordinator	Education and Traditional Uses in the Boreal Forest	Project One Tree philosophy and efforts to bring hands on learning focusing on the Boreal forest into classrooms. Week in the Woods philosophy to bring community members into the boreal forest	1 hour
12/13/2012	Randy Peterson Masters Student, University of Alaska Fairbanks	Growth and Yield Modeling using FIA plot data in Alaska	Development of a growth and yield model for interior and south central Alaska forests utilizing Forest Inventory and Analysis data. Comparison between FIA model and analysis of model strengths and limitations.	1 hour