



## **Washington State Society of American Foresters**

### **2006 Annual Report**

#### **Strategic Outcome #1: A Strong, Forward-Thinking Organization**

- **Joint Leadership Meeting**

- Oregon and Washington jointly held a leadership conference in Kelso, WA on January 20 and 21<sup>st</sup>, 2006. The focus of the meeting was on the internal workings of SAF with presentations on the different levels of the organization and their functions. Rita Neznok spoke on the function of the national office and incoming SAF President Marvin Brown spoke on the VOS report and the future of SAF.

- **Chapter Goals**

- Established primary goals for the local chapters in 2006:
  - Strong monthly meeting topics
  - Continue regular membership communications
  - Cut chapter expenses to keep bank account healthy
  - Find and provide meaningful support for the two student chapters
  - Membership attrition and participation are areas of concern
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- The 2006 Washington State Society of American Foresters' annual meeting was hosted by the Mid-Columbia Chapter and the meeting at the beautiful Campbell's Resort on the north shore of Lake Chelan. The theme of Living with Wildfire—Lessons Learned was explored through classroom sessions and a field trip.
  - Washington State SAF Chair Don Hanley and chair elect Doug Rushton met with University of Washington, College of Forest Resources, Dean Bruce Bare and Professors Gordon Bradley and Eric Turnblom. We had expressed concern regarding minimal student participation from UW students in SAF activities and encouraged more engagement, particularly with the National Convention scheduled for Portland, Oregon in 2007. We anticipate increased activity, more involvement with adjoining local chapters and invitations to meet with students. It was a very positive meeting. Dean Bare is supportive of SAF and will encourage students to join.
  - University of Washington Student Chapter was re-invigorated by the elections of new chapter officers: Chair, Angel Ratliff; Vice Chair, Alicia Sullivan; Secretary, Lindsay Malone, and Treasure, Tobey Clarkin
  - At the State Meeting held in central Washington at Chelan, College of Forest Resources Dean Bruce Bare (University of Washington) hosted an alumni breakfast where he discussed College activities, SAF accreditation, and relationship with SAF. Probably 30 attended.



- GRCC Student recruiting: GRCC Student Chapter added 10 new student members this academic year (since 9/2005)
- GRCC Student retention: Continue to gain more student members than lose
- GRCC Membership recruiting/retention: Letter sent by Advisor Dick Hopkins to former members and graduates on 11/27/2005
- Rob Sjogren volunteered to serve as WSSAF Membership Chair in 2006
- Retention/recruitment ideas presented at WSSAF annual meeting by Rob Sjogren and student Jenny Wren
- GRCC Student Chapter participates with Chapter and State meetings and activities, often providing meeting site for South Puget Sound Chapter Meetings
- Student Chapter raised funds to send four students to National convention who also participated in the national student congress
- Student Chapter sponsors "Mentoring Night" bringing professionals to the college to interact with students and discuss careers and jobs in forestry/natural resources
- GRCC Advisor Dick Hopkins contributed article to Western Forester
- Student member Jessyka Lemieux suggested new column in the Western Forester entitled "Our Voice" for student input and contributed to the first "Our Voice" and Forestry Source
- Interaction and encouragement to the fledging student chapter at The Evergreen State College in Olympia
- Promote the SAF logo and name in all Natural Resources student events on and off campus
- Green River Community College (GRCC) Student Chapter recruited 17 new members during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, bringing our current membership to over 40 members.
- WSSAF submitted a candidate nomination to the Fellows District Nomination Committee.
- The GRCC Student Chapter hosted a WSSPS Chapter meeting May 18 that was attended by over 40 people.
- WSSAF is coordinating with Oregon SAF on the development of the 2007 Oregon/Washington Leadership conference scheduled for January 19 and 20, 2007 in Hood River, OR. We will have a session on building vitality in your chapter (including membership) and capacity building. Inland Empire SAF has been invited and information will be in the Nov/Dec issue of *Western Forester*.



- In the South Puget Chapter, the following members were elected to 2007 chapter leadership positions: Scott Swanson, Chair; Tom Hanson, Vice-Chair; Stan Humann, Treasurer; Keith Karch and Ralph Davis, Co-Secretaries; Julie Stangell, Past Chair; and Bill Horn, member-at-large.
- The North Olympic Chapter Meeting in December 2006 will be a chapter-planning meeting for 2007.

## **Strategic Outcome #2: Enhanced Service to Landowners and Employers**

- GRCC Student Chapter exhibited WSSAF “Wildfire in Washington” display at Eastern Washington Family Forest Expo
- GRCC Student Chapter assisted in co-sponsoring with WSU Extension and GRCC Natural Resources Department, the first Eastern Washington Family Forest Expo
- SW Washington Chapter, along with other sponsors is offering a reduced registration fee for family forest landowners who attend the Douglas-fir wildlife conference in October.
- GRCC Student Chapter sponsors “Mentoring Night” inviting non-member professionals to the college to interact with students and SAF members to discuss careers and jobs in forestry/natural resources
- WSSAF displayed the “Wildfire in Washington” display during the Puyallup Fair. This fair is the largest fair in the state and the display was observed by thousands of people. SAF members staffed the display during the 17-day run.
- The GRCC Student Chapter transported, set-up, and took down the WSSAF “Wildfire in Washington” display at the Western Washington Fair in Puyallup.
- SW Washington Chapter co-sponsored the successful conference: “Wildlife Habitat in Westside Production Forests.” It was attended by over 150 landowners and professionals.
- The GRCC Student chapter produced and will enter a poster for the National Convention.
- SPS chapter had a successful mentoring night with the Green River Community College and University of Washington chapters on Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at GRCC student center. Over 60 members attended the meeting. The GRCC students made a power point presentation of their trip to the national SAF convention in Pittsburgh, PA.
- The Longview Chapter had the Vice President of the Cowlitz Economic Development council speak at our October meeting. He gave us the State of Cowlitz County. Our November/December meeting is combined into an end of the year get together. It



will be held on December 8<sup>th</sup> at the Wake Robin Learning Center in Longview. Dinner and Wreath making are on the agenda.

- The GRCC Student Chapter hosted the 3rd annual Mentoring Night meeting November 16<sup>th</sup>, which was attended by 8 UW Student Chapter members, 15 professional members, and 35 GRCC Student Chapter members. After a catered dinner, professionals met with students to discuss their educational direction for future careers. Student Chapter members that attended the National Convention gave presentations of their experiences to the audience.
- Five students from the GRCC Student Chapter, and GRCC instructor, Rob Sjogren, attended the SAF National Convention in Pittsburgh. Students attending were past and present SAF Student Chapter Chairs, Kyle Meier and Jen Wren, past and present Forestry Club Chairs, Dave Schoenfeld and Jessyca Lemieux, and Diversity Scholarship winner and member, Derek Salmond. Kyle Meier accepted the first-place (tie) trophy for the SAF National Student Chapter of the Year competition. GRCC students hung out with the UW Student Chapter members at Pittsburgh.
- The GRCC Student Chapter assisted Forestry Club in providing a loggers' breakfast for visiting university advisors and GRCC administrators on Advising Day
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- The GRCC Student Chapter gave a \$100 gift certificate along with a food and gift basket to a local family in need.
- GRCC Student Chapter and Forestry Club hosted a BBQ, and then assisted GRCC organizations of Forestry Club, GIS Alliance, and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society in reconstruction/maintenance of trails at the Bob Vincent Memorial. Bob Vincent was a GIS instructor at GRCC who died following a traffic accident.
- The GRCC Student Chapter assisted Forestry Club in providing a loggers' breakfast for visiting university advisors and GRCC administrators on Advising Day.

### **Strategic Outcome #3: Enhanced Service to Society at Large**

- **Northwest Office** (Oregon and Washington "share" the Northwest Office of the SAF.)
- Established a NWO "editorial committee" for *Western Forester*. *Western Forester* will have a "student" column.
- Work on the Expert's database continues
- Approved budget with deficit of \$7,481, but will search for more revenue and cost savings. Internal audit found no issues
- Approved NWO Strategic Plan for 2006
- NWO schedule of meetings established
- Student members assisted with a survey of neighbors and users of forest trails at GRCC school forest, enabling discussion of forest management practices.
- Student members led three "walkabouts" for elementary school students



- Advisor Dick Hopkins led three “walkabouts” for faculty, staff, and neighbors discussing research and forest management
- Provide news articles to GRCC “Communicator” and local newspaper
- Constructed a display at GRCC in the student center promoting Arbor Day, Earth Day, Natural Resources program, and SAF
- One-week sales of seedlings, planted seedlings for Arbor Day activities, and promoted rigorous, scientific forest management
- Provided seedlings and technical assistance to Cub Scouts and Environmental Science class at GRCC for Arbor Day activities
- Envirothon/FFA Forestry Contest was provided for 17 teams from high schools. Assessment included water, soils, wildlife, tree measurements, tree & plant identification, tool identification, and oral judging of answers in response to panel questions.
- Permanent display in SMT Building at GRCC promoting Student Chapter.
- Over here in Wenatchee, we have decided to explore the opportunities to work with local high school FFA groups (with forestry programs) and the PNW Universities to see if there is an opportunity to have some sort of Forestry event here in the spring. This is something that seems to be attractive to a number of our members. Therefore, we may be able to accomplish two things: 1) Keep our chapter participation up and 2) engage the young forestry folks in a positive way with SAF. We will see what comes of it.
- The GRCC Student Chapter maintained a forestry display at the Search and Rescue Conference in Enumclaw.
- WSSAF has nominated 100 members to participate in the “Expert Database Project”. EDP is a joint effort with Oregon SAF, whereby members volunteer to be experts on forestry topics for the press. To date over 40 WSSAF members have accepted this invitation.
- GRCC Student Chapter news articles have been contributed to the “GRCC Communicator” providing awareness.
- GRCC Student Chapter members maintained GRCC forest trails and conducted fire patrol during the summer.
- GRCC Student chapter displayed the SAF logo in four parades.
- WSSAF project to donate trees from all the US States to the new Chambers Creek Regional Park in University Place, WA is still progressing. A work party replanted trees on Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup>



- The GRCC Student Chapter continues to house, transport, set-up, and take down the “Wildfire in Washington” display for educational outreach. The next set-up is for the City of Bellevue in the Lewis Creek Visitors Center.
- North Olympic Chapter organized Conservation Day for sixth graders from Neah Bay, Clallam Bay, and Forks schools

#### **Strategic Outcome #4: Effective Engagement in Forest Policy**

- WSSAF supported the national effort in backing HR4200 the Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act. A support letter was mailed to the entire Washington State Congressional delegation.
- Student Chapter exhibited “Wildfire in Washington” display at WSSAF annual meeting
- WSSAF Executive Committee will discuss “appropriate forest science” at the next committee meeting
- Pete Heide, Past WSSAF Chair, will represent WSSAF on the Washington State Forest Health Strategy Working Group.
- WSSAF is starting work on a policy white paper addressing “*forest science and forest scientists*”.

#### **Strategic Outcome #5: Enhanced Professional Education, Performance, and Leadership Capability**

- Leadership Conference - see above
- Chapters have provided excellent speakers to their members in the first quarter of the year:
- Bob Flynn, Director of Consulting Services, Wood Resources International (WRI) “Global Competition”
- Doug Sutherland, Washington State Commissioner of Public Lands
- Charles Michler, Director, Hardwood Tree Improvement and Regeneration Center, Purdue University “Hardwood Research and Competition in the Furniture Industry”
- Chapter Executive Committee organizational meeting for January 13, 2006
- Chapter member meeting February 15, “Market-based Conservation Incentives”
- Chapter member meeting March 16, “LIDAR: Applications in Forest Management”
- Joint meeting with Admiralty Inlet, “Future DNR timber harvest”
- Chapter Meeting, Bob Dick covering timber issues and proposed legislation
- North Olympic Chapter: May 18th Conservation Day field trip and talk at eight different stations with 6th graders from Neah Bay, Clallam Bay, and Forks schools.



- We have a variety of professionals covering forest protection, fish and wildlife, forest health, recreation, tree planting, forest management Tree identification, and forest products. The chapter North Olympic Chapter hosts a BBQ for those putting on the event, which has been running nearly 40 yrs.
- North Olympic Chapter is working with CIF to have a joint SAF/CIF activity on Vancouver Island latter this summer.
- Interim Status report filed with follow-up to Committee on Forest Technology School Recognition from GRCC
- Seven GRCC students attended the WA/OR Northwest Leadership Conference
- SAF Code of Ethics used in GRCC Natural Resources Business Principles class
- GRCC Student Chapter is sending a poster on Phellinus weirii research at GRCC campus to SAF 2006 National Convention in Pittsburg.
- GRCC Student Chapter raised funds, sent 14 student members and two advisors to WSSAF annual conference, and is raising funds to send students to the national convention in Pittsburg.
- GRCC Student Chapter raised funds and sent students to WSU Extension Farm Forestry Fall Educational Seminar and to the Oregon Logging Conference
- Central Washington Chapter Report: We currently have 2 business meetings each year in the winter and spring. We also sponsor a field tour in the fall, usually in September. There are typically about 12 people at our business meetings with 30 to 40 people at our annual field tour. Our last business meeting was held in March. At that meeting, we discussed chapter business including requests for contributions from the Arbor Day Foundation and the Natural Resources Camp. We continue to contribute to these organizations and others as we have chapter funds available. The guest speaker at our spring meeting was Bill Higgins, who is the log buyer for Yakima Resources in Yakima Washington. Bill gave us a timely synopsis of current log prices and gave us his best guess as to where prices may be going in the near future. We also reminded chapter members of the Washington State SAF annual meeting in Chelan on April 6 through April 8. Bart and I attended that meeting as representatives from our chapter. Our fall field tour is planned for a yet to be determined date in September. After discussing possible tour areas and topics of discussion, we decided to look at timber management on the Yakama Reservation. We may also set up a tour of the Yakama Forest Products mill in White Swan. I will let you know the time and date for that tour when we have a firm date set.
- Charles H. Michler, Director of the Hardwood Tree Improvement and Regeneration Center and NSF I/UCRC Center for Tree Genetics at Purdue University ([www.htirc.org](http://www.htirc.org)) spoke at the SW Washington Chapter about their research programs. The programs he discussed included the following: Breeding programs for black walnut, black cherry, white oak, northern red oak, and American chestnut. Elite tree selections for curly maple, curly walnut, and Birdseye maple. Propagation





systems for black walnut, black cherry, butternut, and maple. Genetic Transformation for black walnut and black cherry. Molecular markers for black walnut and northern red oak, and Models for maintenance of genetic diversity in fragmented stands. He also discussed the current program to use DNA evidence to connect logs to stumps in timber theft cases. The huge increase in hardwood exports to China in the past 10 years and the corresponding large increase in hardwood furniture imports from China to the US during the same time.

- At the December meeting, SW Washington Chapter SAF members were treated to an extremely entertaining and engaging presentation by local Christmas tree grower, John Tillman ([jet@trees4u.net](mailto:jet@trees4u.net)), who described his visit to the White House last Christmas. John manages about 175 acres of trees on nine different farms near Mossyrock and Satsop, Washington. John won the national Christmas tree contest last year, and as a result, he and his family delivered trees to the Oval Office, Camp David, and the Blue Room. He shared his experiences from the two days he spent at the White House helping with the decorations. The North West Christmas tree Association sponsors the annual contest that John won. John told a funny story of a shipping mix-up that caused him to drive from Split Rock, PA. to JFK Airport overnight, to retrieve his lost tree in time for the next days judging. Fortunately, he made it through the streets of New York with his large truck and tree, and arrived just in time for the contest judging. Tillman's tree won in the Douglas fir category, and the photographs showed that it was a beautiful tree. John reported that the Christmas tree business is robust, and that his sales were up to 20,000 trees in 2005. He has special customers for his carefully pruned trees in many locations around the country.
- WSSAF and the local chapters are electing new officers for the upcoming year.
- North Olympic Chapter held a joint SAF-CIF meeting at the WFP's Saanich Forestry Centre, near Victoria BC.
- The Southwest Washington Chapter is to be congratulated for setting the standard for outstanding speakers at chapter meetings.
- GRCC Student Chapter representatives contributed to and attended the July Executive Committee meeting, providing insights into student recruitment.
- The Southwest Washington Chapter co-sponsored the successful conference: "Wildlife Habitat in Westside Production Forests" – It was attended by over 150 landowners and professionals.
- Central Washington Chapter co-sponsored a field trip to the Yakama Nation
- WSSAF CFE has been awarded to over 28 events so far in 2006.
- WSSAF volunteers are actively involved in the planning for the 2007 National Convention in Portland Oregon. The important co-chair positions include Arrangements, Program, Foresters Fund, Hospitality, On-Site Volunteers, and Student Activities.





- University of Washington Student Chapter elected leaders:
  - Chair: Angel Ratliff
  - Vice-Chair: Alicia Sullivan
  - Secretary: Lindsay Malone
  - Treasurer: Tobey Clarkin
- GRCC Student Chapter elected leaders:
  - Chair: Jenny Wren
  - Vice-Chair: Jeremy Badger
  - Secretary: Sarah Sampels
  - Treasurer: Pamela Phillips
- GRCC Student chapter is raising funds to send 5 students and Advisor Rob Sjogren to the National Convention to receive a first place (tie) award for SAF Student Chapter of the Year.
- GRCC Student Chapter is in the process of gathering student testimonials for the SAF membership flyer.
- University of Washington Student Chapter developed a guest editorial for the *Western Forester*. (see below)
- North Olympic Chapter held a joint meeting with Canadian Institute of Forestry

#### **Strategic Outcome #6: Development and Sound Stewardship of SAF's Resources**

- In addition to a meeting in conjunction with the above OR/WA Leadership meeting, WS SAF held a special budget meeting. Primary topics of that meeting were:
  - Budget was approved with a projected \$1,585 deficit for 2006. There will be research on use of dedicated funds and clarification of website costs
  - Budget message – without additional dollars for 2006, we must dip into our reserves
  - ACTION – Chair Don Hanley sent a letter to membership explaining the \$1,595 projected budget deficit for 2006, to include an explanation of situation; explanation of the numerous funds and is asking membership for actions
- The Northwest Office Finance Committee audited the finances of the Northwest Office of the SAF (a joint project of Oregon and Washington) according to agreed procedures and found the books to be in good order. A few suggestions were made for cost savings and streamlining.
- GRCC Student Chapter cuts, splits, delivers, and sells firewood to pay for first-year student memberships, conferences/conventions, and trips
- Student Chapters raffles items to fund expenses to national conventions



- The WSSAF Foundation raised \$220.00 at the Chelan annual meeting.
- Survey by Membership Chair Rob Sjogren on how to gain/retain membership that related to dues
- Nancy Peckman organized the SW Washington Chapter Silent Auction that benefits Log a Load for Kids®, a national giving program sponsored by the nation's loggers and forest products employees to raise funds for local children's hospitals associated with the Children's Miracle Network. All of the \$2,300 raised during our event will stay in Washington State (Seattle and Spokane).
- WSSAF Raised Dues - to offset rising costs. The five-dollar general dues increase is the first one in decades of service. Exempt from this action are Golden Members and all students.
- GRCC Student Chapter cut, split, and delivered firewood to finance memberships and educational activities.
- WSSAF raised state society dues to \$30 starting in 2007.
- WSSAF Foundation is established and developing a solicitation and informational brochure.
- GRCC Student Chapter earned approximately \$6500 to go to Pittsburgh that came from students selling firewood, a "Turkey Shoot," donations from SAF members, donations from industry, raffles, and funding from GRCC. The "Turkey Shoot" fundraiser was shooting competitions with shotguns and skeet. Donations were given by merchants for prizes, and first prize was a dressed turkey.
- North Olympic Chapter organized an Alder saw mill tour

