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Family Forest Owners: Opportunities and Challenges

BY MIKE BARNES

The status of the family forest owner has experienced considerable interest in recent years.
These privately owned forests represent some 60 percent

July/August 2008



of the forestland in the United States and nearly 40 percent of the private forests in Oregon. A recent conference was held at Oregon State University titled "Forestry at the Crossroads." I made a presentation at the conference focusing on family forest owners. I stated that if you stop at most crossroads of rural Oregon and look in any direction for forestlands, they will most likely be owned by family forest owners. We are the owners found in the low lying rural crossroads of the state and indeed all across the U.S. For the past four years I have served as the president of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association and have gained a greater appreciation for those who fall under the label of "family forest owners."

As I begin this article let me caution you that it will not contain a wealth of scientific and statistical information that would stand the test of a peer reviewed document. Rather, this will be an account of my personal involvement as a family forest owner and what I see as the opportunities and challenges for the future. If you desire a scientific dissertation, seek elsewhere; if you can endure the

remarks of one who is in the trenches, read on.

The year was 1979. We had sold a home and made a sizable profit. As my wife and I discussed how we might invest the extra dollars to secure a better financial future, we looked at traditional options such as the stock market. Perhaps investment in the emerging computer technology world might be a wise choice. How about stock in a new company such as Microsoft? No, I said, I am a forester and I want to live the dream of all foresters, to own a forest. So I looked around and found what looked like a good buy at the time. I found a forest with 80 acres of second-growth timber. An offer was made and accepted.

Twenty-eight years have now gone by. Perhaps some of you can calculate what a \$20,000 investment in Microsoft in the early years of that company would be worth today. But we own a forest! To some that decision would seem foolish; to others it may seem logical based on my desires to own a forest. I recently looked at some harvest information from years past to the present. One specific year (1989) we harvested a stand containing some 50-year-old timber that we determined would be best marketed in short logs due to the rapid taper of the trees. We sold the volume for an average of \$450/thousand board feet. This year, nearly 20 years later, a stand of similar age and quality would sell for considerably less. So now what do you think of my investment deci-



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Third-generation tree farmer Drew McCausland (and SAF member John Poppino's grandson), helps with the chores on Poppino's Lazy RB Tree Farm.

sion 28 years ago?

Well if the story ended there, it would certainly be a tragedy. But it does not, and now for the rest of the story.

I am not unlike many family forest owners who come from every walk of life and from every part of the nation. My reasons for ownership do not stop at the bank account. A recent national survey of family forest owners found that many do not even identify themselves as "forest" owner, but rather the owners of a large back yard. The opportunity to make money falls considerably down the scale in terms of reasons for ownership. Someone once asked me why I was raising a crop of timber on my land. I replied "Are you nuts, I am not raising trees, I am raising a family."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

Family Forest Owners

(CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

All of my five children and particularly my three sons have spent countless hours on the tree farm working and playing. They know where a dollar comes from, the sweat of their labors. As I look around at the status of the American family, I wonder if we as a nation have really "progressed" as we move further from a land-based society to a text-messaging society.

I have never met a stock certificate that inspired me beyond its monetary increase (or discouraged me in times of decrease). The forest, however, is inspiring, tangible and real. I can touch it, smell it, work in it and play in it. When all else fails, a simple walk in the woods can renew the spirit and make all problems seem a little more bearable. These intangibles are what really make the connection to the land real. For me, that is the reason the decision of 28 years ago would be repeated even today.

We as a society stand at a time that



HOTO COURTESY OF MARSHALL KIRBY

Ali Kirby (right) and friend Belinda emerge from the north slope unit of the Kirby Family's M & M Tree Farm in Douglas County, Ore., after completing an upland inventory for their family's resource management plan.

places many burdens on family forest owners and specific policy decisions can lead to a further reduction in the opportunity for continued success of family forests. Those who read these words are among those that understand those challenges. The real challenge is how we move our level of understanding to the greater public audience. If we fail in making policy decisions that favor the continued existence of the family forest, we as a society will lose a great asset. The one-policy-fits-all mentality may not favor the small family forest owner. Creative policy that encourages family forest ownership may make it possible for generations to come to take a walk in the woods. \spadesuit

Mike Barnes is an SAF member and family forest owner in Newberg, Ore. He can be reached at 503-860-6723 or mbarnes@viclink.com.

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Who Are America's Family Forest Owners?

ome 10 million family forest owners care for almost 252 million acres (35 percent) across the United States. Some manage for timber production, some for wildlife habitat. some for privacy and scenic beauty, and many others manage for a combination of values. Some family forest owners earn their living by selling timber from their land; others have nonforestry careers that provide their primary livelihood. This diversity results in many different objectives for the land and means that family forestland significantly contributes to the quality of life of many.

These forests provide many things that Americans value, such as varied wildlife habitat, clean water from forest streams, carbon storage, wood products and land kept forested rather than lost to development. With its mix of ownerships, management styles and wildlife, family forestlands add to the diversity of the forest landscape and economy. But in many ways, family forest landowners and their forests are threatened, both economically and socially. The challenges are significant and increased public awareness will be important to encourage policy changes that can help keep this type of ownership economically viable.

To better understand the factors that affect the use and management of private forestland, private forest owners have been surveyed periodically. In 2002, the USDA Forest Service initiated a new system of annual surveys of the nation's private forest owners. The table presents selected findings from the National Woodland Owners Survey (NWOS) conducted between 2002 and 2006. The NWOS is carried out as part

of the U.S. Forest Service's mandate to conduct "a comprehensive inventory and analysis and the present and prospective conditions" of the nation's forests. Currently, the NWOS is being implemented annually. Survey cycles for states range from 5-10 years. The annual design means that each year a randomly selected portion (10-20%) of the full sample of private owners in a state is contacted.

For purposes of this survey, family forests are defined as lands that are at least one acre in size, 10 percent stocked, and owned by individuals, married couples, family estates and trusts, or other groups of individuals who are not incorporated or otherwise associated as a legal entity.

Here are some highlights of the survey from a national perspective¹:

• An estimated 11 million private

Selected findings from the National Woodland Owners Survey conducted between 2002 and 2006

	Oregon			Washington			Idaho			National		
Number of	141,000			213,000			34,000			10.2 million		
family forest owners												
Area of family	4.25 million			2.7 million			1.2 million			252 million		
forestland												
Size and	Size	Acres	Owners	Size	Acres	Owners	Size	Acres	Owners	Size	Acres	Owners
distribution of	(acre)	(thous)	(thous)	(acre)	(thous)	(thous)	(acre)	(thous)	(thous)	(acre)	(thous)	(thous)
family forest	1-9	369	81	1-9	498	159	1-9	119	27	1-9	19,158	6,221
holdings	10-19	341	28	10-19	222	20	10-19	-	-	10-19	17,691	1,430
	20-49	683	22	20-49	702	24	20-49	59	1	20-49	40,894	1,402
	50-99	247	4	50-99	304	6	50-99	178	2	50-99	41,562	644
	100-199	376	3	100-199	289	2	100-199	237	2	100-199	38,946	318
	200-499	533	2	200-499	267	1	200-499	297	1	200-499	39,926	158
	500-999	417	1	500-999	207	<1	500-999	178	<1	500-999	18,795	32
	1,000-	865	1	1,000-	206	<1	1,000-	59	<1	1,000-	25,127	18
	4,999			4,999	1		4,999	1		4,999	·	
	5,000-	213	<1	5.000-	23	<1	5.000-	-	-	5.000-	4,217	1
	9,999			9,999			9,999	1		9,999	'	
	10,000+	213	<1	10,000+	_	-	10.000+	59	<1	10,000+	5,659	<1
	Total	4,257	<u><1</u> 141	Total	2,717	213	Total	1,186	<1 34	Total	251,974	10,223
Average	63 years			63 years			64 years		<u> </u>	63 years		
landowner age												
Education	26% of the family forest			31% of the family forest			9% of the family forest owners			31% of the family forest owners		
(Bachelor's	owners who own 39% of the			owners who own 44% of the			who own 30% of the family			who own 41% of the family		
degree or	family forestland			family forestland			forestland			forestland		
higher)				' ' '								
Absentee	28% of the family forest			20% of the family forest			12% of the family forest			27% of the family forest owners		
owners	owners who own 46% of the			owners who own 37% of the			owners who own 40% of the			who own 41% of the family		
	family forestland			family forestland			family forestland			forestland		
Most common	To pass land to heirs			To enjoy beauty and			To enjoy beauty and			1. To enjoy beauty and scenery		
reasons for	2. Privacy			scenery			scenery			2. To pass land to heirs		
owning	3. To enjoy beauty and			2. Privacy			2. Part of farm/ranch			3. Privacy		
•	scenery			3. For land investment			3. Privacy			' '		
Harvesting	32% of the family forest			33% of the family forest			21% of the family forest			27% of the family forest owners		
experience	owners who own 64% of the			owners who own 65% of the			owners who own 78% of the			who own 58% of the family		
(past 5 years)	family forestland			family forestland			family forestland			forestland		
Written	8% of the family forest owners			13% of the family forest			1% of the family forest owners			4% of the family forest owners		
management	who own 20% of the family			owners who own 24% of the			who own 20% of the family			who own 17% of the family		
plans	forestland			family forestland			forestland			forestland		
Have sought	39% of the family forest			28% of the family forest			42% of the family forest			14% of the family forest owners		
management	owners who own 51% of the			owners who own 44% of the			owners who own 52% of the			who own 37% of the family		
advice	family forestland			family forestland			family forestland			forestland		
Course: Butler I						~~~ ~			·			

Source: Butler, Brett J. 2008. Family forest owners of the United States, 2006. Gen. Tech. Rep. NRS-27. Newtown Square, PA: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northern Research Station 73 p. (Scheduled to be published this summer)

forest owners collectively control 56 percent of the forestland (423 million acres) in the United States.

- Sixty-one percent of family forest owners in the United States own less than 10 acres of forestland, but 53 percent of the family forestland is owned by people with 100 or more acres.
- The average land tenure for family forest owners is 26 years. In Oregon, two of every three have owned their land for more than 25 years and three of every four live on it.
- Two out of every five acres of family forestland are owned by absentee owners.
- Fifty-eight percent of family forestland is owned by people who

have commercially harvested trees.

- One in five acres of family forestland is owned by someone who has a written forest management plan. Two in five acres is owned by someone who has received forest management advice.
- Issues most commonly rated as major concerns by family forest owners are insects and plant diseases, keeping land intact for heirs, fire, trespassing and property taxes.
- Compared to the general population, there are a greater proportion of family forest owners who are older, white, male, more educated and wealthier. One in five acres of forestland is owned by someone who is at least 75 years of age.

For additional information about the NWOS, contact Brett Butler, U.S. Forest Service, Forest Inventory & Analysis, Family Forest Research Center, 413-545-1387, bbutler01@fs.fed.us, www.fia.fs.fed.us/nwos.

¹Footnote

Source: Butler, Brett J. 2008. Family forest owners of the United States, 2006. Gen. Tech. Rep. NRS-27. Newtown Square, PA: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northern Research Station 73 p. (Scheduled to be published this summer)



Landowners & Christmas Tree Growers

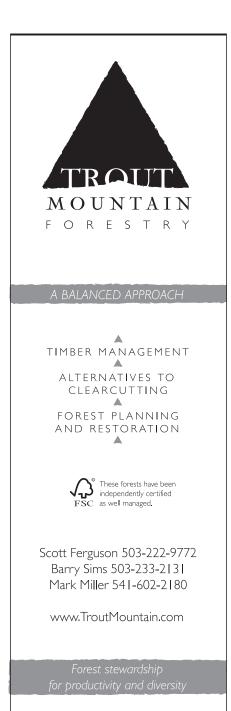
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Mixed Species: One Option for the Family-Owned Forest Property

BY JOHN BELTON

y wife Carol and I own and manage a 200-acre tree farm on the west side of Mount Hood in Oregon. It has been our objective to be a working representative of a mixed-species, mixed-aged forest.

All of the management practices listed in this article have been tested on our property and found to yield some economic benefit. With the last statement I must add that I have been asked by more than one of my Master Woodland Manager clients: "How much land does it take to support a family of four in the present economy?" Based on my property's soil type and my objectives, I have always

answered this question by saying that my retirement income from teaching in a university for 24 years must subsidize my costly forest management.

I offer the following information and observations based on my 40 years as a family forest owner (FFO).

Our property has well-drained soil that is site II for Douglas-fir. We have been improving habitat for a diverse list of animal species and for maximizing income from the highest quality lumber products possible. The development of good habitat will cost an FFO much more than the industrial model (one species grown in an area, very fast growth and for a short rotation). The FFO must generate more from their products so they are compensated for the extra effort. One

of the basic rules of ecology is that plant diversity provides a better habitat for a greater variety of wildlife species. Thus a stand of trees can be made into more suitable wildlife habitat by using a diversity of plant species grown in different age (size) categories. Landowners may find that the amount of professional help will be less than the industrial model, but the rewards (both financial and psychological) should compensate them for their extra effort.

I currently manage five species in a mixed-species and mixed-aged forest. The current mix of species includes: Douglas-fir (the most numerous species in the mix); western redcedar; western hemlock; red alder (the most intolerant of any shade); and western white pine (a new pathogen is of some concern).

This model has one advantage that will appeal to family forest owners—the diversity of species should spread the risk and make them less vulnerable to market whims. The forest stand will be less vulnerable to invasion by any one pathogen or insect adversary, but FFOs may find that as they add to the mix, management costs add up too.

It is important to have some species able to grow and make money for you while growing under a canopy of larger Douglas-fir trees. At the present time it has been very difficult to find a good market for western hemlock, but I have been working to bring the log market for quality hemlock to near \$600 per thousand (decking, stair treads) at some time in the future. Presently I am depending on western redcedar to hold up the cash flow from my shade-tolerant species. Growing redcedar with a large population of deer and elk has been a challenge, but this factor may just be enough to keep the big timber companies from competing with FFOs in the market, and is one reason why I have hopes that the log market for export quality redcedar will remain high for many years to come.

I am not able to outline all of the concerns and challenges I have found managing for each of the above species due to space constraints, but I have written other articles on these subjects in the past and would be willing to share my knowledge with



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAROL BELTON

John Belton shows off his young seedlings.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAROL BELTOI

Family forest owner John Belton limbs cedar on his property in Sandy, Ore.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN BELTON

All of the Douglas-fir in the background are over 110 years of age. The largest trees have a dbh of two feet or more. The regenerating forest in the foreground has been created by hand planting Douglas-fir trees of high quality and natural regeneration from the trees in the background.

readers if they request suggestions about specific species.

One lesson I have learned needs to be emphasized for all products mar-

keted from a family forestland property: Go after the most valuable markets and don't attempt to undersell the cheapest products. Always give

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the highest quality possible and the customers (your friends and neighbors who live near your forest) will develop a loyalty. ◆

John Belton is a family forest owner in Sandy, Ore. He can be reached at jcbtrees@aol.com or 503-701-3750.

What is a Master Woodland Manager (MWM)?

MWMs are qualified small family forestland owners (small woodland owners) who receive specialized training by OSU Forestry Extension to be effective volunteers and community leaders. In return for approximately 85 hours of free instruction in subject areas that range from management planning, ecology, and forest inventory methods, MWMs provide an in-kind service through various volunteer activities.

One of the most important functions of a MWM is to assist neighbors with basic forestry planning and decision-making processes by offering guidance and pointing them to local sources of assistance. Besides working with neighboring landowners, MWMs have optimized their own strengths and skills to complete their service in a variety of ways, such as:

- Assisting OSU Forestry Extension with tours and demonstrations;
- Taking leadership roles in local organizations and community government;
- Providing education to youth groups; and
- Speaking to non-forestry audiences regarding the importance of forestry.

Since 1983, over 280 Master Woodland Managers have been trained throughout the state of Oregon. In a survey completed in 1998, MWMs often donated many more than the required 85 hours of volunteer time. The average MWM donated over 200 hours of service, which amounted to nearly 21,000 hours of volunteer service in the first 15 years with an estimate of about 56,000 hours donated to date. The 1998 survey also showed that MWMs had over 68,000 contacts with clients since the programs inception.

For more information about the program, visit http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mwm/.

Woods and Wildlife

BY JANEAN CREIGHTON

ost everyone who owns forestland and/or works in the forest is intimately familiar with the wildland-urban interface, or WUI. The WUI is for-



mally defined as the place where structures intermix with natural areas, but it is much more complicated. The interface can be viewed as an intermixing of ownerships and jurisdictions as well; complete with all of the social, economic and political implications therein. Although landscape-level changes may not be obvious on a local scale, the continued intermixing of natural areas and built structures results in an ever-increasing fragmentation of these contiguous natural areas. The depletion of wildlife habitat may be the most con-

spicuous unintended consequence of this fragmentation.

The west is one of the fastest growing regions in the United States, due in part to the natural amenities this region boasts. This is not only putting pressure on wildlife populations, but also on private forest landowners that provide important habitats for the region's wildlife.

Recently, I had the pleasure of speaking with a couple in Washington state about their forested property and the wildlife that reside there. I am a wildlife biologist by training, and I never turn down an opportunity to chat about unusual bird sightings, why bears like to strip tree bark and why rodents are actually pretty cool. The couple I spoke with manages successfully for wildlife in the most urban county west of the Cascade Range.

Bill and Erin Woods live on 15 acres in King County within the city limits of Seattle and are active mem-



PHOTO COURTESY OF WOODS FAMILY

Bill and Erin Woods

bers of the Washington Farm Forestry Association. They are avid birdwatchers, so making their property attractive to birds is an important management objective. They built ponds to attract ducks and other wetland associated birds; they put walking trails through portions of their forest that are used by deer, bobcat and covote. as well as themselves for bird watching; and they actively feed songbirds year-round. Every decision they make is informed to a degree by their love of all things wild, from planting berryproducing native shrubs to their refusal to have a dog for fear that it will keep the wildlife away.

But, Bill and Erin are serious tree farmers as well and manage their property for timber. They have seen first hand the benefits for wildlife of active forest management. They have observed that thinning their stands not only promotes tree health and vigor, it opens the canopy and encourages understory growth—an important habitat component for songbirds that is often missing from some managed stands. They plant species that provide berries and browse, place nest boxes around their ponds to entice wood ducks, and appear to have provided suitable brooding habitat for mallards that reproduce on their property every year.

But like other tree farmers, the



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Woods face many management challenges: adelgids in their Sitka spruce. blister rust on their white pines, Douglas-fir root rot pockets and the occasional ice-storm. Yet they always keep their objectives for wildlife in mind. After a devastating wind storm in 1993, the Woods, like many family forest owners, salvaged what timber they could and replanted. But they didn't salvage everything. Bill and Erin saw the wildlife potential amidst the damage and decadence. They looked at the dead and dying trees and saw snags for pileated woodpeckers; they walked over big trees blown down by strong winds and saw coarse, woody debris that provides habitat for the rodents that feed bobcats and covotes.

The decisions made by Bill and Erin to retain these structural components may prove critical for the area's wildlife community, especially given the proximity of the Woods' forest to urban growth. Although the immediate surrounding area is forested, it is fragmented by smaller acreages and housing developments.

The Woods have been living on

their property since 1951 and over the vears they have seen many changes occur outside of their forested homestead. At first they were living in a rural community with an economy based upon agriculture, but that has all changed. They are self-described "Independents" who are living in an island of forest amidst a growing sea of development. They enjoy a rural lifestyle, but in a decidedly urban setting; and because of the nature of the surrounding area, their daily experiences are a mix of the rural and the urban—an experience they share with the wildlife they support. Erin can observe bobcat hunting along the perimeter of the pond in the morning, and then find herself trying to merge into the notoriously bad Seattle traffic just yards from her front door.

Eventually the conversation shifted to the future of the forest the Woods have been managing for 56 years. They have two daughters who have no interest in continuing the management of the property, and Bill and Erin are beginning to explore their options. They would very much like to see their forest remain as a refuge

for wildlife. They've wondered about putting their land in a conservation easement or donating it to the city or county as a nature preserve, but they are not sure.

This is a challenge faced by many family forest owners in the Northwest and throughout the United States, and the implications for wildlife habitats and other important environmental services that private forests provide is daunting. Populations will continue to grow and development will inevitably follow. Wildlife habitats will change and so will the wildlife communities that use them. But for the time being, Bill and Erin Woods are making a difference for the wildlife in King County and the positive impacts of what they do on their forestland flow beyond their property lines into the surrounding communities. •

Janean Creighton is the natural resources educator for NE Washington and Washington State University. She can be reached at 509-477-2199 or jcreighton@spokanecounty.org.



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Our Path to a Conservation Easement

BY BOB AND JANE TAKAI

n 1982, we, like so many others, were looking for five rural acres near Spokane. Instead of a big building lot, we stumbled across a 250-acre forest for sale—a sheriff's sale for back taxes and liens. Since log prices were not what they are today, there were fewer land speculators to bid against. For us this was a HUGE decision and drained all our cash reserves—lawyers, cash up front, no conventional financing. In retrospect, what a bargain—more for the pleasure and enjoyment we have gained from forest ownership than as a financial bargain.

After 2,000 feet of driveway, a house and an outbuilding, we were living on our woodlot. Now what do we do with all these trees?

With no past forestry experience, during the first five years of ownership we were frankly quite ignorant of forestry and the principles of forest management. We had no management plan, no timber inventory basis, no road system and no understanding of how the forest components interact.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB TAKAI

Jane Takai at rest on a western larch stump.

Green was satisfactory, and the "natural" thing to do was to leave the forest alone. But we learned.

By 1988 we were actively educating ourselves and discovered a cogent body of forestry knowledge available. We joined the WFFA, certified our forest as a Tree Farm, and found an experienced and enthusiastic mentor. We were hooked. Since then we have been on a mission, which at times feels almost like an obsession.

So then it was time to really go to work. Our first major project was 3/4 mile of road to better access the upper reaches of our forest. We drew up our management plan and set forth our lifetime goal to reestablish a healthy forest with a larger component of ponderosa pine, white pine and western larch more in line with the historic forests of this region. We wanted to make profitable commercial harvests. We wanted to keep our soil in place and contribute to a healthy watershed by following best management practices. We wanted to provide a diverse forest habitat and allow what fauna (except porcupine!) that desire to reside and take measures to encourage birds.

We learned about seed-zone compatible seedlings for our western larch. established a personal seed bank with ponderosa pine cone collected from our high-quality ponderosa pines, and purchased rust-resistant white pine seedlings. After our first initial planting was a complete failure, we learned about adequate site prep and control of seedling competition with herbicides. As a concession to father time. we planted eight acres of our timothy pasture into white pine and larch. It's comforting to know that when age limits our scrambling ability on our steep ground, we can still wheel our-



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selves out into this flat plantation to enjoy our trees. We restored the creek bank that had been cleared of native trees and shrubs with plantings of hardwoods, conifers and native berry bushes.

For us the joy is in the doing. When we'd get home after another cold and rainy, snowy and windy, or blistering hot day with chainsaws, brush-cutters or backsprayers, we'd say to each other: "We'll never sell this place." Yes, but with those grey hairs starting to sprout we were realizing that someday our ownership was bound to end and it was time to think about the future of the land. Our forest seemed the spot where trees should always grow, nestled in the foothills of Mt. Spokane near state lands and very large private tracts—and that it's important to keep productive lands intact and undeveloped. For us, it was not critical who would own the land after us, but how the land would be used. The way we found to ensure our property would remain forested after we've left the scene was by establishing a working

forest conservation easement with a local nonprofit land trust.

We basically placed three simple concepts in our easement that we as well as all future owners must follow: 1) the property cannot be subdivided; 2) commercial timber harvesting is conducted in accordance with a stewardship management plan and under supervision of a professional forester; and 3) all forest practices, if permitted by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, are allowed. These are things we already do, so we put the WFFA slogan of "stewards of the land for generations to come" in place for perpetuity. A representative of the land trust visits us annually to ensure that the conservation values of the property according to the terms of the easement are still intact and it is very reassuring to know these visits will continue with any future owner. Yes, we decreased the value of our land considerably by donating the development rights, but that decreased value is a legally accepted charitable contribution that helped lighten up April 15 just a bit!

We did not enter lightly into our easement as "in perpetuity" is a long, long time. We talked to our attorney and accountant and knew the land trust we were working with had a healthy stewardship fund in case it needed to take formal action in the future to enforce the easement. We forego vacations and health club memberships (after all, it's just out the backdoor) for continuing to work toward our primary management goal: a healthy productive forest. Neighbors or friends may think we sacrifice, but we think it's what the land needs so it doesn't seem like a sacrifice at all. We have benefited so much from our land. It is comforting to know that with the easement in place we will still see in 200 years that the white pine and larch are here, not asphalt or concrete. •

Bob and Jane Takai are members of the Spokane Country Chapter of WFFA; Bob served as president in 2007. They can be reached at 509-226-0294 or bitk@icehouse.net.



SAF Council Comes to District 1

BY G. KIRK DAVID

n Thursday, June 5, the SAF Council came to the Priest River Experimental Forest (PREF) in northern Idaho to conduct governance of the Society. As



always, Council gatherings are open to all SAF members, and several members from the Montana, Inland Empire and Washington State Societies took advantage of the opportunity to enjoy a presentation by research foresters Russ Graham and Terrie Jain relating the history of the seminal research conducted at PREF by some of forestry's most notable icons; a tour of some of the research plots that date as far back as 1911: a quick tour of some of the current and past experimental and operational forest management treatments within PREF's 6,000-plus acres; and an informal social gathering and steak dinner. Other highlights included the black bear sighted enjoying the sunlight in one of the treatment openings and the moose wandering through the compound during the day.

When President Tom Thompson convened the meeting, Council ratified:

- Endorsement of the Task Force report, "Forest Management Solutions for Mitigating Climate Change in the United States." Executive Vice President (EVP) Michael Goergen assured Council that the report will be released to SAF membership before it is published for public consumption;
- Testimony before the Senate Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies Fiscal Year 2009 Budget;
- Letter to Representative Etheridge regarding the definitions of renewable biomass in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007; and
- Comment letter regarding the U.S. Department of Interior's proposed

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NEPA rulemaking.

EVP Goergen reported that in lieu of paying an additional \$85,000 of member's money for Society-wide insurance coverage of unit field events, steps can be taken to keep these events covered under the existing policy. At least 60 days in advance of the event, organizers should: 1) provide SAF's insurance broker (JZA, Inc., 301-664-9467) with a copy of the program; 2) detail any travel plans for members, participants or spouses; and 3) if contracting transportation, provide the contractor's certificate of insurance listing SAF as an insured party.

Council elected 33 deserving members to the honor of SAF Fellow, including three from District 1 and two from District 2. The new Fellows will be recognized at a special event during the National Convention in Reno as well as in their home units.

Council reviewed input from the Strategic Action Plan Committee regarding potential changes to the plan in response to the latest Membership Survey results.

Bill Rockwell, Forest Science and Technology Board (FS&TB) chair, sent in a report. Council approved requested changes to the FS&TB charter and the Science Fund Committee charter, and approved FS&TB recommendations for the 2008 Barrington Memorial Award and 2008 Technology Transfer Award.

Kenneth Jolly, House of Society Delegates (HSD) chair, provided an update on HSD activity, including a decision on the award criteria for the HSD National Recognition Award. Presentation of the 2008 award is planned for the Reno Convention.

Nadine Block, Committee on Forest Policy (CFP) Chair, sent in a report. Council approved revised "Wildland Fire Management" and "Using Herbicides on Forest Lands" position statements, and reviewed CFP recommendations regarding the SAF/NASF Task Force on Forest Sustainability.

Council received the Finance and Investment Committee report. SAF's budget is properly within parameters so far this year. The success of the national convention always has a large influence on the annual financial statement. The 2008 Reno/Tahoe Convention will have value for each SAF member. A few highlights include: Climate as a Variable; Ecosystem Services; Economic and Business Trends; Changing Land Base; Judging Forestry; Implementing Forest Restoration; Management of Pinyon-Juniper Ecosystems; Tribal Forestry; Meeting Forestry Fuels and Biodiversity Objectives; FIA in the Southwest; Range Management; Climate Change Litigation and Regulation; and the 1st Annual Symposium on American Forest Policy.

With the assistance of Monica Spicker, Inland Empire SAF and Task Force on Forest Technology School Accreditation member, Council reviewed the Task Force report and moved to accept the report and the draft information on Forest Technology School Accreditation fees.

In response to President Thompson's initiative regarding urban disconnect, Council authorized the Communications Committee to create a realistic budget to pursue their proposal entitled *Branching Out to Today's America* to "initiate a coordinated framework for different organizations, businesses and government agencies to jointly work together to improve our urban and suburban population's understanding of natural resource management and use."

Council received the Leadership Development Committee report summarizing unit responses to the committee questionnaire and the exit survey from the 2008 Leadership Academy. Council moved to secure the date/location/registration cost for a 2009 SAF Leadership Academy in time to announce and advertise it at the 2008 National Convention in Reno.

Student Representative to Council Steven Purvis updated the Council on Student Executive Committee activities, including membership recruitment and retention efforts, and student activities at convention.

District 1 Council Representative Kirk David can be reached at 208-683-3168 or kirkdavid@earthlink.net. District 2 Council Representative Clark Seely can be reached at 503-945-7203 or cseely@odf.state.or.us.



OSAF Foundation Forum

Fellows Honor Scholarship Recipients

he annual OSAF Fellow's Luncheon was held on June 5 in the Forestry Club Cabin at Peavy Arboretum in Corvallis. This event is hosted by the OSAF Foundation and provides an opportunity to honor the OSAF Fellows and new Foundation scholarship recipients. Our appreciation goes to Starker Forests for hosting the lunches. OSU College of Forestry Dean Hal Salwasser and Oregon Department of Forestry Associate State Forester and SAF District 2 Council Representative Clark Seely served as honored speakers at the luncheon.

Alec Amacher, one of the two new Foundation scholarship recipients, was present at the luncheon. Alec will be entering his senior year majoring in Forest Management. He was recently elected Ranger for Xi Sigma Pi, the College of Forestry honor society. He also volunteers with the Forestry Club and the OSU Organic Farm. Alec is working as an apprentice arborist with I.B. Good Inc. in Corvallis this summer. He is interested in both arboriculture and forestry, and following graduation hopes to do some volunteer forestry work abroad before pursuing a master's degree.

Larae Guillory, the Foundation's other

THEMES WANTED

Western Forester Theme Ideas Wanted

Themes for 2009 will be set in early fall, and we need your ideas on what you would like to read about in the Western Forester next year. Would you like to see technical themes, social and economic topics, or something different? Help shape the content of the Western Forester by sending your theme suggestions to the editor, Lori Rasor, at rasor@safnwo.org.

new scholarship recipient, is currently working as a Forest Service hotshot and helicopter rappeller in Redmond, which precluded her presence at the luncheon. She is transferring to OSU this year and plans to work toward a career as a fuels specialist for the Forest Service or a

stewardship forester for ODE Larae is active in the Boys and Girls Club in Salem and the Wildland Firefighter Foundation. She is excited about attending OSU and plans to become involved in SAF and the logging sports team.

The Board of Trustees met prior to the luncheon to discuss Foundation business. Primary topics on the agenda were the strategic plan, the impact of poor markets on the endowment and refined selection criteria for scholarships. A more extensive description of Foundation activities will appear in a future edition of the *Western Forester*.

—Eric Geyer, OSAF Foundation Chair



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Loggers, Foresters Aid NW Oregon Storm Victims

BY ROD NICHOLS

n the aftermath of the storms that raked coastal Oregon and Washington last December, retired forester Bob Alverts was touched by the plight of local residents struggling to recover from the heavy flooding. He knew that area forest landowners also faced a challenge: cleaning up thousands of wind-toppled trees. Understanding the connection, he launched a project through the Oregon Society of American Foresters (SAF) that would benefit both groups.

Since then, the Woodcut Project has marshaled dozens of volunteers, along with loaned trucks and equipment, to convert downed timber and donated logs into nearly 83 cords of firewood for the homeowners of Vernonia, Ore.. and other storm-afflicted communities. Additional donated wood from timber companies will push the total well into triple digits.

"We have at least another 30 cords equivalent promised from Plum Creek, Roseburg Forest Products and Starker Forests," Alverts said. "So when it all comes in we will have well over our 100-cord goal."

Earlier, Longview Timber Company (formerly Longview Fibre) donated the equivalent of 40 cords that was cut up

by local residents.

The back-to-back storms late last year hit the Oregon and Washington coasts with hurricaneforce winds, mowing down thousands of acres of trees. Farther inland where wind damage was less, torrential rains erased forest roads, swept bridges off their pilings and left thousands without power. The SAF and other volunteers focused their

A group of volunteers at Vernonia cut and split wood and produce a stack of firewood.

early efforts on providing relief to those hardest hit, among them the residents of Vernonia, Ore. In the town of only 2,500 people, more than 800 homes were flooded.

Using loaned chainsaws and other gear from Stihl Northwest, the workers cut and split the downed and donated logs into firewood, then hauled it to the beleaguered community. The timing was right, Alverts said, as the unusually cool spring had extended the heating season, depleting many homeowners' wood supplies.



While it is customary to hold the credit roll to the end, in the case of the Woodcut Project the corporations. individuals, small businesses and organizations that stepped up to help the storm victims is a story in itself. Saw shops loaned the volunteers new chainsaws, log splitters and other equipment to process the downed wood, while others offered trucks to transport logs to work areas and pickups to haul the firewood to distribution sites. Cash donations from SAF members and a \$1,200 SAF Foresters' Fund grant helped reimburse some of the volunteers and supporters for expenses.

Local news media helped solicit helpers for the weekend "woodcut" days, while others furnished food and refreshments for the woodcutters themselves, who put in several long days turning logs into fireplace fuel.

The Society of American Foresters' plea for help reached others far beyond the storm area. DR Johnson Lumber of Prairie City donated an entire truckload of dry pine logs. Iron Triangle Logging of John Day hauled the logs to Pendleton, and local mill



Blue Mountain Lumber completed the relay by delivering them to Vernonia.

Landowners donating wind-thrown timber to the Woodcut Project ranged from industrial forest products companies to federal resource agencies.

Alverts offered special thanks to a list of contributors including: Oregon Society of American Foresters; Weverhaeuser Company; Longview Timber Company: Bureau of Land Management Tillamook Field Office; Oregon Department of Forestry; DR Johnson Lumber Company; Iron Triangle Logging; Blue Mountain Lumber Company; Mike Pihl Logging; Stihl Northwest; Precision Outdoor Power Equipment; Mason, Bruce and Girard Consulting Foresters; Jennie Cornell; Jim Rombach; Beaverton Krispy Kreme; Boy Scouts of America Explorer Post 459; Boring Fire District; Green Diamond Resource Company; Smallwood News; Columbia County Commissioner Tony Hyde; Columbia County Disaster Relief Coordinators Susan Wagner and Robb Wilson; The Independent Newspaper; Bob Williams; Oregon State University Extension; Associated Oregon Loggers; local Vernonia resident volunteers;

church group volunteers; AmeriCorps volunteers; Multnomah County work crews; and Plum Creek, Roseburg Forest Products and Starker Forests.

In a recent email to this host of volunteers and donors, the SAF member thanked them for their efforts to date and left the door open for follow-up.

"This fall we may do some additional woodcutting for these folks, so stay tuned!" Alverts said.

Local residents in the storm-afflicted areas will have opportunity to cut their own firewood this summer. The Oregon Department of Forestry's Astoria office is making wood available in recently logged areas under permit on a first-come, first-served basis. Details can be obtained by calling the office's information line, 503-325-7215.

Anyone who has logs or wood that they would like to donate to the SAF Woodcut Project for the storm victims is encouraged to contact Bob Alverts, 503-639-0405, balverts@teleport.com. ◆

Rod Nichols is a public information representative for the Oregon Department of Forestry in Salem. He can be reached at 503-945-7425 or rod.l.nichols@state.or.us.

Oregon State is Reorganizing

o better meet the future challenges of natural resource education and research, and to cope with tighter budgets, the Oregon State University College of Forestry is reorganizing. Starting July 1, portions of the Forest Resources department combined with the Forest Engineering department and elements of Forest Science to become the Department of Forest Engineering, Resources and Management (FERM). The mission of this new department is centered on active management of forests to achieve a broad range of objectives from timber production to watershed restoration and forest health. The remainder of Forest Resources and Forest Science was merged to form the Department of Forest Ecosystems and Society (FES). This department will bring together biological and social scientists to seek integrative approaches to the sustainability of

forests and the services they provide. Both new departments will include resident and extension faculties.

In this restructuring, the undergraduate and graduate programs of the Forest Resources department will not be changed. The Forest Manage-ment degree will be housed in FERM (together will all the Forest Engineering programs), while the Recreation Resources Management and Natural Resources programs will be housed in FES. Graduate programs in Forest Resources will be managed by the graduate faculty, now split across two departments.

Darius Adams will serve as interim department head for FERM, pending the completion of an external search for a permanent head. Thomas Adams will serve as interim department head for FES, also pending completion of a search.

Questions can be directed to Darius Adams at 541-737-4952. ◆



We Remember

Richard "Dick" Dingle 1918-2008

Richard William ("Dick") Dingle, 90, passed away peacefully on June 1, 2008 at Avalon Care Center in Pullman.

Mr. Dingle was born in 1918 in Bismarck, North Dakota. He spent most of his childhood in St. Paul, Minn., and graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1941 with a degree in Forestry. He served as a Navy lieutenant on a landing craft during World War II in the South Pacific from 1944-1946. In 1948, Dick earned his Master's degree in Forestry from Yale University. From 1948-1953 he taught in the Forestry Department at University of Missouri, Columbia, while conducting his Ph.D. research. In 1953, he earned his Ph.D. in Forestry from Yale University, with a specialty in silviculture.

Dick taught in the Forestry Department at Washington State University from 1953 until he retired in 1983. He was dedicated to his students, the preservation and sustainable use of forests and the development of the perfect Christmas treeone that naturally grew to the perfect form and needed no pruning. This quest took him on sabbatical to Europe in 1969 where he pursued a pure source of seeds of the rare Spanish fir. He later planted them at the Forest Experiment Station in Vancouver, Wash. In 1981, he joined a WSU-AID project in Indonesia.

Dick and his wife Barbara enjoyed many adventures traveling around the world, including a trip to New Zealand and many Elderhostels from Alaska to Bermuda, Newfoundland to England and Austria.

Dick was an active and devoted member of the Pullman Presbyterian Church for many years and an active member of the Society of American Foresters. Donations may be made to The Nature Conservancy, Nature-Serve, WSU Common Ministry or the Pullman Presbyterian Church. •

OSAF Annual Meeting a Rousing Success

ith the help of over 30 chapter members, the Emerald Chapter hosted a very successful OSAF annual meeting at the Valley River Inn in Eugene May 7-9. The theme of the meeting, "Building the Future with Oregon's Forests: Policies and Tools for Emerging Issues," included two days of indoor sessions with 16 formal presentations, plus three different field trips on the third day.

Overall participation, including speakers, spouses, vendors and students, topped 200. Thirty-five sponsor donations totaled more than \$14,000. An awards banquet and western story teller, presentations by vendors, pepup breakfast, annual business meeting, posters, and Foresters' Fund raffle and silent auction rounded out the event.

In case you missed the meeting and want to learn more about presentation content, talks are posted on the joint OSAF/WSSAF website at www.forestry.org. ◆



PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE CAFFERATA

Left to right: Bob McNitt, Bill Hagenstein, Bob Alverts and Ed Baird chat during the meeting.



PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE CAFFERATA

The action was fast and furious during the Foresters' Fund and Silent Auction, which generated \$4,486.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF STEVE CAFFERATA

Mark Wall of Roseburg Forest Products explains his management of the Weatherly Creek tract during the field trip.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NORM MICHAELS

General Chair Steve Cafferata opens the OSAF annual meeting.





DUOTOS COUDTESV OF STEVE CAFFEDATA

Eleven vendors exhibited at the OSAF annual meeting. On left, Bruce Alber of Wilbur-Ellis Co. discusses vegetation management with meeting participants; on right, Atterbury Consultants' Jon Aschenbach talks technology with recently elected Fellow John Herbst.



PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE CAFFERATA

Humboldt alumni enjoy the morning pep-up breakfast.



DAVID WELLS

Jim Brown, retired Oregon state forester, addressed emerging issues of forestland management and the Forestry Plan for Oregon during his keynote address.



PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE CAFFERATA

Registration Chair Tash Shaheed gets ready for the rush.



PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE CAFFERATA

Left to right, Fran Coe of Mason, Bruce & Girard, Mike Cloughesy of Oregon Foreest Resources Institute, and Bob McNitt of Forest Seedling Network, chat during a break.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NORM MICHAELS

Giustina's Cary Hart speaks to the history field trip group.

OSAF Honors Members

everal awards were presented at the OSAF annual meeting's awards banquet. OSAF Awards Chair Jim Rombach was the master of ceremonies for the annual event.

Forester of the Year

Eric Kranzush of the Emerald Chapter received the Forester of the Year award for his outstanding service to both the Society and his community. Eric's SAF involvement began when he was a student at Oregon State University serving as chair of the student chapter. After graduation, Eric began his professional career working



PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE CAFFERATA

Eric Kranzush (left) is recognized as OSAF's Forester of the Year by OSAF Chair Marc Vomocil (right) and Awards Chair Jim Rombach.

for Giustina Land and Timber Company as a forester. He is a busy forester not only managing their timberlands, but also staying informed on important issues affecting forestry, as exemplified by the letters he has written to political entities promoting science-based policies.

Eric has been very active in the Emerald Chapter and has served as chair-elect, chair for two years, and currently is the treasurer. He has actively promoted, supported and helped organize workshops on topics such as tree improvement and drugs in the woods. He is also the treasurer of this year's OSAF annual meeting.

At the state level, Eric served on the OSAF Foundation's Board of Trustees and just completed two years as chair.

He was co-chair of the OSAF Foundation golf tournament in 2006 and 2007 where more than \$25,000 was raised to support foundation scholarships. Eric currently serves an appointment as co-advisor of the Oregon Natural Resources Education Fund OSAF sub-fund.

At the national level, Eric has attended the Leadership Academy and was a member of the National SAF Communications Committee that produced the Communications Handbook for Foresters.

Locally, Eric is a volunteer tour leader for elementary school children at the logging conference, and has volunteered many times for Forest Today and Forever's Forest Field Days. In his free time, he serves as an officer on the Linn Forest Protection Association's Board of Directors.

Research Award

Greg Filip, Portland Chapter member and USFS regional pathologist, received recognition on two fronts.



PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE CAFFERATA

Greg Filip (left) received the OSAF Research award from OSAF Chair Marc Vomocil.

First, he received the Research award for sustained efforts in technology transfer and applied research for forest practitioners, field foresters and forestry researchers. Greg has exemplified leadership in forest research through his continued efforts in forest science and technology, and scholarly contributions as an editor and author of numerous research publications.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 23)

About the Author



Matt Sprau is majoring in Natural Resources Management with an emphasis in Forestry at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. His career goals are to get experience in all areas of forestry, but he hopes to steer more into the wood products and wood science areas of study. Matt can be reached at matt.sprau@gmail.com.

About the University of Alaska Fairbanks

The forestry program focuses on the multiple-resource management of forest ecosystems, acknowledging the diversity of clientele our students may serve and the diversity of problems they may be employed to work on. We foster the intellectual virtues of critical reflection, empirical inquiry and intellectual honesty in the context of becoming a technically competent and ethically responsible professional. Through our various outdoor teaching labs, our internship and summer employment opportunities, our accessible faculty and our senior-thesis experience, we offer forestry education at its best. From wilderness to wood, from wildlife to wildfire, students will find their niche in UAF's forestry program. The Forestry option to UAF's B.S. degree in Natural Resources Management has been accredited by SAF since 1996.



Our Voice

Our Voice is a column written by students that will appear occasionally in the Western Forester. The intent is to provide students with a venue to present their thoughts and views on a variety of topics related to forestry and SAF, and to provide a communications link where professional members can learn what is on the minds of students and our future leaders.

Interior Alaska—Unique in Its Own

BY MATT SPRAU

nterior Alaska is unique in many ways, forestry included. All too often in my everyday life, I am asked the question: what is forestry? Well, for the purposes of keeping this article short, I won't go into detail. However, what I can say is that the interpretation of the word forestry means something different to most people.

Personally, I am a firm believer in forestry and all of its aspects. One aspect I really enjoy learning about is the concept of "family forestry"— which happens to be the theme of this issue. Other than baking bread, there is nothing more appealing than taking a piece of land and growing trees for which to utilize and/or preserve for future generations. The great thing about family forestry is that it is not just limited to the above description. There are plenty of reasons for putting care and time into a piece of land, whether it is big or small.

Lack of an economy in forestry for interior Alaska is usually attributed to very few roads and very few people. Opportunities are seized when they arise, which provide for quick gains, but don't do much in the long-term department. Other than maybe one or two landowners providing for a small niche, family forestry is almost non-existent in the interior of Alaska. It's not that landowners don't consid-

er it, or that people aren't being educated, there's just no economy to benefit from after all the time and work is put into it.

We have a unique forest here in the interior, and it requires years of painstakingly cold growth and dramatic successional changes. It can be beautiful and also ugly and for someone from the East Coast, not even resemble a forest at times. However, here in the interior it is our forest and one that we would rather not part with.

Alternative energy is a big topic in the interior now. What it's coming down to is that our forests are not going to be in high demand any time soon, so sustainability is the approach to take. The white spruce and paper birch stands are few and far between, and there's always that underlying question: what do we do with the black spruce? Some ideas have already been kicked around for utilizing low-value woody biomass like black spruce, but nothing is in major production.

I would like to see more of a family forestry approach when considering management in the interior of Alaska. I get frustrated when I hear the answer, "there's just no economy." Family forestry for me is not about money. It's more about providing for a sustainable forest that meets the needs of the people who live within and around them. This is one idea I plan on bringing with me when I enter the real world. ◆

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SAVE THE DATE:

2009 Joint OSAF/WSSAF Leadership Conference January 16-17 Silver Falls State Park, Silverton, OR Watch for details in the Nov/Dec issue

Calendar of Events

Who Will Own the Forest?4, Sept. 8-10, Portland, OR. Contact: Sara Wu, http://wfi.worldforestrycenter.org/wwotf4/, 503-488-2130.

Western International Forest Disease Work Conference, Sept. 15-19, Missoula, MT. Contact: Blakey Lockman, blockman@fs.fed.us, 406-329-3189.

Timberland and Neighbors: Sooner or Later There Will Be Issues, Sept. 23, Cottage Grove, OR. Contact: WFCA.

Silvicultural Treatments for Major Insects and Diseases on Indian Lands, Sept. 30-Oct. 1, Spokane, WA. Contact: WFCA.

Carbon Management in Forests: Principles, Policies and Practices, Sept. 30-Oct. 2, Blue River, OR. Contact: OSU Conference Services, 800-678-6311.

Professional Timber Cruising Seminar, Oct. 15-16, Beaverton, OR. Contact: Atterbury.

National Tree Farmer Convention, Oct. 17-19, Portland, OR. Contact: American Tree Farm System, info@tree-farmsystem.org, 202-463-2462.

Practical Application of New Technology Seminar, Oct. 22-23, Beaverton, OR. Contact: Atterbury.

Timber Measurement Society, Oct. 28-29, Reno, NV. Contact: Matt Fonseca, matthew.fonseca@unece.org.

Pacific Logging Conference, Nov. 3-5, Las Vegas, NV. Contact: rikki@pacificloggingcongress.com.

Contact Information

Atterbury: Atterbury Consultants, Inc.: 503-646-5393, jaschenbach@ atterbury.com, www.atterbury.com.

WFCA: Western Forestry and Conservation Association, 4033 SW Canyon Rd., Portland, OR 97221, 503-226-4562, richard@westernforestry.org, www.westernforestry.org.

Send calendar items to the editor, Western Forester, 4033 SW Canyon Rd., Portland, OR 97221; fax 503-226-2515; rasor@safnwo.org. The deadline for the Sept/Oct 2008 issue is August 11. **SAF National Convention,** Nov. 5-9, Reno, NV. Contact: Carlton Gleed, 866-897-8720 x111, gleedc@safnet.org, www.safnet.org.

Statewide Safety Conference, Nov. 8, Hood River, OR. Contact: Associated Oregon Loggers, 503-364-1330.

PNW Integrated Vegetation Management Assoc., Nov. 18-19, Portland, OR. Contact: WFCA.

Advanced Variable Probability Sampling, Nov. 12-14, Corvallis, OR. Contact: Donna Williams, conferences@oregonstate.edu, 800-737-9300.

18th Annual Conference of the Environmental Education Association of Washington, Nov. 13-15, Wenatchee, WA. Contact: Washington State University, email@wsu.edu, 509-335-3557.

Forest Sector Modeling, Nov. 17, Seattle, WA. Contact: John Perez-Garcia, perjohm@u.washington.edu, 206-685-2315.

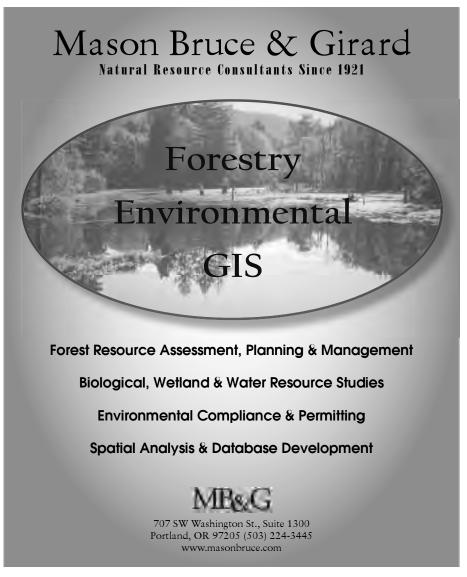
2009 OSAF/WSSAF Joint Leadership Conference, Jan. 16-17, Silverton, OR. Contact: Mark Buckbee, Mark_Buckbee@blm.gov.

Oregon Logging Conference, Feb. 19-21, Eugene, OR. Contact: www.oregonloggingconference.com, 541-686-9191.

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WSSAF Annual Meeting a Winner

BY PETER HEIDE

he Washington State SAF annual meeting was a grand success with over 160 registrants who enjoyed a variety of speakers, a fascinating field tour, good food and great conversation.

With elections at hand, SAF hosted the two candidates for Commissioner of Public Lands, incumbent Doug Sutherland and challenger Peter Goldmark. Both candidates answered prepared questions on their management style and had a chance to mingle with members separately at evening events.

In a first for WSSAF, Washington's version of C-SPAN, TVW, interviewed WSSAF Chair Zoanne Thomas, State Forester Vicki Christiansen, SAF National Policy Director Michael Mortimer, and Olympic National Forest Supervisor Dale Hom for a one-

hour broadcast of "Inside Olympia." Much of the meeting was also covered live on TVW. In other coverage, the Tacoma NPR affiliate, KPLU, interviewed members for a news feature broadcast in western Washington.

Director of Ecology Jay Manning led off the conference portion of the meeting with a summary of state efforts to simultaneously clean up Puget Sound waters and combat global climate change. He praised our profession for maintaining the forests that contribute to both efforts and cautioned that we need to continue to be proactive in our efforts.

Other speakers highlighted ongoing transitions in forestry driven by the new commodity value of carbon, accelerating population pressures, private investment decisions and the trials of forest ownership for growing and maturing families.

Managing trees in a changing environment was the focus of talks on thinning to speed the ecological conditions of old forests, successful timber management around marbled murrelet nest sites and achieving collaboration in the management of the Colville National Forest.

The meeting was wrapped up with an eclectic field trip that included visits to a pre-European settlement archaeological dig along a saltwater shoreline, the site of a hydroelectric dam removal and salmon habitat restoration, and a discussion on the increasing public recreation use of private forestlands.

Feedback from the meeting has been positive and we look forward to the 2009 annual meeting to be hosted by the Central Washington Chapter.

Peter Heide was general chair of the 2008 WSSAF Annual Meeting. He can be reached at 360-705-92887 or pheide@wfpa.org.

John Keller Named Tree Farm Inspector of the Year

ohn Keller, DNR Stewardship forester in Sedro Woolley, was named Washington State Tree Farm Inspector of the Year at the annual meeting of the Washington Farm Forestry Association held in Mt. Vernon on April 25.

American Tree Farm System (ATFS) certifies Tree Farmers who manage their forestland in an environmentally sound manner in accordance with the American Forest Foundation's standards and guidelines. Volunteer inspecting foresters are an essential part of this program and John is an outstanding inspector who has done over 500 inspections in the last 20 years. In addition, he helps teach classes to interested landowners, mentors new inspectors and serves on the state Tree Farm Committee.

Founded in 1941 in Washington state, ATFS has 94,000 family forest owners who are committed to excellence in forest stewardship on their 26 million acres.

The two oldest forestry organizations in Washington, the Washington Farm Forestry Association and the Washington Forest Protection Association, co-sponsor the Washington Tree Farm Program. They represent the private forest landowners in the state. For more information, visit www.wafarmforestry.com or www.wfpa.org or contact the Washington Tree Farm Program office at 360-736-5750 or treefarm@wafarmforestry.com. ◆



PHOTO COURTESY OF NORMA GREEN

John Keller (with jacket in middle) receives congratulations on receiving Inspector of the Year from Ben Cleveland (John's supervisor) and Commissioner of Public Lands Doug Sutherland, as Bob Faulkner looks on from the back.

Hopkins Named Forester of the Year

everal awards were presented at the WSSAF awards banquet that took place at the WSSAF annual meeting in Shelton May 28-30. Michelle Metcalf of the Longview Chapter received the Volunteer of the Year award for her behind-the-scenes work at several SAF events. The Mid-Columbia Chapter took home the honor of Chapter of the Year for their efforts in forestry education. Chuck Lorenz was awarded his certificate for being named a Fellow in 2007, and August Storkman received his Golden Member certificate.

Dick Hopkins was recognized as Forester of the Year. Dick started on the faculty of the Green River CC Natural Resources Program in 1993 and quickly instilled new life into the forestry program. He completed the acquisition of 80 acres in Enumclaw, begun by the forestry program's founder Pat Cummins. This forest is utilized as an outdoor classroom for GRCC students as well as those from grammar and high schools.

When the college wanted to carve out several acres from the 200-acre Auburn GRCC Campus Forest for dormitories and parking, Dick found a better way to accomplish this on other college property.

Dick is the forester for both the Auburn and Enumclaw forests. He creates funding for the Natural Resources Program primarily through sustainable timber harvests. The contracts, appraisals, road building, and harvests are developed by his students while they learn hands-on forestry as part of their class work.

Recently he led GRCC in a joint agreement with the Lincoln Tree Farm, a Tacoma School District Forestry school that has been closed for the last several years. The goal is to reinvigorate forest management there, and teach both college and high school forestry on its 340 acres.

Dick founded a Natural Resources Scholarship through the GRCC Foundation to financially assist students in the program. He also provides work study jobs for students that need to earn an income while they are attending the college.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIC WISCH

Dick Hopkins receives the Washington State Society's Forester of the Year award from last year's recipient Gretchen Nicholas.

An SAF member since 1972, Dick realized the importance of bringing SAF to students. He worked to establish SAF accreditation for the Natural Resources Program, and in 2002, he successfully obtained a charter for an SAF Student Chapter. With his guidance, in 2005, the student chapter tied for third place for the national Outstanding SAF Student Chapter Award. In 2006, it tied for first place. In 2007, the student chapter won first place outright. These awards were won in competition with university programs.

Dick has a remarkable capacity for hard work. He works at least six twelve-hour days weekly, often more, getting the things done to make the program work, and also works daily throughout the summer. He organizes available students to participate in summer activities such as getting the SAF display to and from various events, entering parades, maintaining the forests, volunteering for events, and getting research work done on two formal research projects.

Many comments from his peers, administrators and students attest to Dick's service, dedication and commitment to forestry, SAF, forestry education and his students.

Dick has been awarded several honors the past few years, including SAF's Carl Alwin Schenck Memorial Award, 2006 University of Washington, College of Forestry Alumni Association's

Distinguished Achievement award, and the GRCC's Distinguished Faculty award. He also serves on the Forest Fire Advisory Board, GRCC Faculty Development Committee, UW College of Forest Resources Alumni Advisory Committee, and GRCC Natural Resources Advisory Committee.

It has been said that if Dick Hopkins cut himself shaving, sap would probably ooze out. No one could love trees and forestry more than he. Forestry, and teaching it is not just a profession to Dick, it is his life. The Society of American Foresters is very fortunate to have Dick Hopkins in their fold because what he is accomplishing today will be played forward for many, many years to come. •



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIC WISCH

August "Storky" Storkman proudly displays his Golden Member certificate with daughter D Becker and wife Bev.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIC WISCH

Michelle Metcalf (left) receives the WSSAF Volunteer of the Year award from WSSAF Chair Zoanne Thomas.



Policy Scoreboard

Editor's Note: To keep SAF members informed of state society policy activities, Policy Scoreboard is a regular feature in the Western Forester. The intent is to provide a brief explanation of the policy activity—you are encouraged to follow up with the listed contact person for detailed information.

OSAF Adopts Revised Position Statements, Other Updates

Underway. The 2008 expiration of several OSAF position statements prompted some recent reviews and revisions by the Policy Committee. At its meeting in May the **OSAF** Executive Committee approved updated positions on "Salvage Harvesting" and "Using Pesticides on Forest Lands." By this printing a revision of the position on "Clearcutting" also may be adopted. The

position on "Active Management to Achieve and Maintain Healthy Forests" is expected to be revised and approved by September. OSAF members are encouraged to review the latter position and any proposed revisions, and send comments to local chapter officers or the Policy Committee. Although the older position statements remain of generally good quality, the review and revision process allows for some fine tuning as well as greater integration of growing issues such as invasive species and biomass energy.

A one-year extension of the position statement on "Landslides on Forest Lands" was approved earlier this year, partly in response to some well-publicized landslides that raised questions about possible links to forestry activities. The Policy Committee plans to draft a new position later this year that will address both landslide and other steepland or wildlandurban interface issues, but the landslide position will remain useful until this new position is adopted. All OSAF position statements are online at www.forestry.org and draft revisions are posted in the "members only" section. Contact: Paul Adams, OSAF Policy chair, 541-737-2946; paul.adams@oregonstate.edu.

OSAF Input on Federal Forest Management Legislation. Oregon legislators remain concerned about forest health and wildfire hazards, as well as oldgrowth forests on federal lands. Early this year Rep. Peter DeFazio's (D-OR) office released a draft bill (see www.defazio. house.gov) on the management of both USFS and BLM forestlands in the region. Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) also co-sponsored the Forest Landscape Restoration Act (S. 2593) introduced in Congress. The scope of these issues and legislative proposals are substantial, and OSAF and national SAF leaders are tracking their development. OSAF members Marvin Brown and John Tappeiner both testified on Capitol Hill at an initial committee hearing on S. 2593. With some input from the OSAF Policy Committee, the national SAF office sent a letter to Rep. DeFazio raising some pointed concerns about his proposal. Contact: Paul Adams, OSAF

Forestry Education in Washington

Policy chair, 541-737-2946; paul.adams@oregonstate.edu.

State. At this writing both the University of Washington and Washington State University are in the process of eliminating SAF-accredited forestry education at the undergraduate level; UW will retain a masters-level accredited program, and the WSU proposal is not yet final. Together the Washington State and the Inland Empire Societies developed a joint position statement on professional forestry education in the state of Washington, and chapter officers have sent it with a cover letter to appropriate university officials. See www.iesaf.org/Content/Assets/Wash-State-forestry-educ_SAF-position-final_5-20-08.pdf. Contact: Doug St. John, WSSAF policy chair, 425-452-5702; dougstjohn@ greencrow.com.

Wildland Fire Management. SAF Council met in early June at the Priest River Experimental Forest in northern Idaho and approved a new position statement on Wildland Fire Management. Your correspondent was privileged to help develop this statement, working closely with Sue Rodman, Alaska SAF and chair, SAF D4-Fire Working Group, and Nadine Block, National Capital SAF and chair, SAF Committee on Forest Policy. More than 55 SAF members from across the nation contributed to this statement. See www.safnet.org/policyandpress/positionstatements.cfm#Fire. Contact: Jay O'Laughlin, IESAF policy chair, 208-885-5776, jayo@uidaho.edu. ◆

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OSAF Awards

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His service as chair of the Oregon SAF Science/Technology Committee as regional representative on the national SAF Forest Science & Technology Board are examples of his dedication to the forestry profession. He also served from 1998-2003 as editor of the *Western Journal of Applied Forestry*.

Second, as an example of the importance of his scholarly contributions, his recent article *Understanding and Defining Mortality in Western Conifer Forests* was chosen as "2007 Best Paper of the Year" by the *Western Journal of Applied Forestry*. Greg is an outstanding example of a researcher who can integrate science and applied research and translate that research into useful knowledge for field foresters.

Chapter of the Year

This year's Chapter of the Year award went to the Emerald Chapter. The chapter was nominated by the Marys Peak Chapter executive committee in recognition of their outstanding achievements in many areas.

Examples of these achievements include hosting the OSAF Foundation golf tournament at Trysting Tree Golf Course in Corvallis for 2006 and 2007. Eric Kranzush, Mike Tucker, Ted Reiss, Dick Rohl and others organized the event, which had over 100 participants, 62 sponsors and generated over \$12,000 in 2006 and almost 100 golfers, 50 sponsors and \$13,000 in 2007 for the Foundation.

This year, the Emerald Chapter hosted the very successful OSAF Annual Meeting. They had an exciting agenda that included two days of meetings and one day of field tours. There is no doubt that the committee



PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE CAFFERATA

Mike Tucker (left) of the Emerald Chapter accepts the Chapter of the Year award on behalf the chapter's members. Mike served as chapter chair in 2007.

organizing this meeting worked very hard and that the meeting was a great success.

It is not uncommon to see a Letter to the Editor in one of the local papers that has been written by an Emerald Chapter member. The members are clearly supportive of advancing the mission of SAF. The Emerald Chapter is very deserving of the Chapter Achievement Award.

Other Awards

Also receiving recognition was OSAF Policy and Legislative Committee Chair Paul Adams and his committee for his tireless work and dedication in updating of natural resource issues and several OSAF position statements. Pastchair John Prendergast received a Ken Brauner print for his outstanding service to OSAF as chair in 2007. Clark Seelv was recognized for his successful leadership as co-chair of the 2007 SAF National Convention and received a Ken Brauner print. The OSU Student Chapter was recognized and given a contribution for their excellent help at the national convention. •



PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE CAFFERATA

Marc Vomocil (right) recognized Paul Adams for his excellent work in the policy arena for OSAF.



PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE CAFFERATA

John Prendergast (left) receives a Ken Brauner print for outstanding service to OSAF as chair in 2007.



PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE CAFFERATA

Clark Seely (right) shows the Ken Brauner print he received in recognition of outstanding service for his role in the 2007 national convention.



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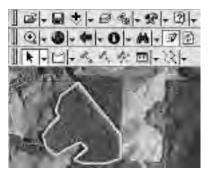
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