



Sky Islands Forester

Society of American Foresters
Growing better all the time

December 22, 2004

NAU Student**New Mexico** Northern Arizona** Palo Verde**Southern Arizona** Chapters

Greetings from the Chair

John Harrington

First, I want to thank all the SAF members who helped make the Fall 2004 Southwestern Section Meeting in Springerville/Eager a wonderful success. Al, Bobbie, Craig and the folks from the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests did an outstanding job. Just to let everyone know, a group led by Pete Fulé and Doug Page, is the process of planning the Spring meeting. It will be a joint meeting with the Inter Mountain Section at Mount Trumbull and St George, UT, May 11-13, 2005, entitled: *Ecological Restoration of Southwestern Ponderosa Pine and Pine-Juniper Ecosystems*.

I have received several correspondences from the National Office regarding overall membership numbers. Their concern is membership numbers are down a little, so they have asked all of us to partake in some active recruiting. The challenge National set forth is quite simple, in the next few months approach at least ten foresters (or forestry students) who are not currently members and let them know the benefits of being a member and encourage them to become members. To assist you in this effort the National SAF website has a great list of benefits associated with being a member. Part of why I am encouraging you to visit this site is there are probably some benefits which you may not realize exist or are not interested in, but possibly another forester might find them important. If you feel it would be helpful, give the person you are trying to recruit my e-mail address (joharrin@nmsu.edu) and have them get in touch with me.

At the Fall meeting in Eager/Springerville, I asked all the chapter chairs to solicit candidates for the chair-elect and secretary/treasurer positions for the section. In the near future you will be receiving the ballot with the candidates for these positions. If you are interested, there is still time to contact your chapter chair or myself to get your name on the ballot. Everyone, have a safe and enjoyable holiday season. John

Council Notes, December 2004

Marlin Johnson, District IV Council Representative

Council closed out the 2004 meeting schedule with a meeting in Portland, Oregon in early December. We reviewed and made final adjustments to a new Strategic Plan for 2005, which will be available on the web site in early January. It has some new, more specific ideas for State Societies and Chapters to work with, so I encourage you to look at it soon to see how you may be able to fit in with broader SAF goals and activities. We also did a quick wrap-up of the very successful Edmonton Convention and heard a little about the 2005 Fort Worth Convention. That will be closer to home for us, so give some thought now to spending some time in Fort Worth October 18 – 23.

With our declining membership, approving the 2005 operating budget was no easy task. The many, many services provided by SAF in support of our members and of good forest management are difficult to maintain in the light of declining membership and income.

We also talked about the Certified Forester program. Are you certified? If not, please consider it now; this program is a way to show that we are serious about being the very best, and it helps raise the profile of SAF Foresters. Some states are even requiring that all their employees become certified.

For over a year now several members have volunteered a lot of time to a committee called Volunteer Organization Structure (VOS). This committee looked at our structure, from the number of Council Districts to different Convention configurations and many other things about how SAF functions. It is now available on the web site at <http://www.safnet.org/who/structure.cfm> and <http://www.safnet.org/who/VOS1204.pdf> Council will likely dedicate a full day to it at our March meeting.

I hope you will re-double your efforts at recruitment of new members in 2005. The more of us there are the stronger we will be and thus our contribution to society through good forest management will be even greater!

Drop me an e-mail anytime at majohnson02@fs.fed.us.

SWSAF/IMSAF Spring Meeting set for May 11-13 at Mt Trumbull, AZ and St George, UT.
(More info will follow.)

2004 SAF Elections Results

Milo Larson, 2004 SWSAF Elected Fellow

Southwest SAF Chapter News

Northern Arizona Chapter (*Pete Fulé, Chair*)

Steve Dewhurst was elected Chair-elect, and Jim Rolf is the new Secretary-Treasurer. They will be working with Denver Hospodarsky, Chapter Chair, in 2005.

Contacts: You can reach us at Pete.Fule@nau.edu (928/523-1463), Denver.Hospodarsky@nau.edu, or Patty Ringle Pringle@fs.fed.us (928/527-8285).

New Mexico Chapter (*Mark W. Loveall, Chair*)

Contact: Mark Loveall at mloveall@nmsu.edu or by phone at 505/387-2319 ext. 13

Southern Arizona Chapter

Contacts: Mike Borens, Chair mblands@aribo.com or Jim Klemmedson, Treasurer (520)297-2849

Palo Verde Chapter

Contacts: Larry Hettinger, Chair, lhettinger@fs.fed.us

NAU Student Chapter

Contact: Denver Hospodarsky, Faculty Representative denver.hospodarsky@nau.edu

Hazard Tree Alert

True firs that survived wildfires are failing in as little as three years. Submitted by Marlin Johnson

Black trees....Be on the lookout for hazardous trees in burned forests. This kind of warning is common when conducting work in areas that have experienced wild or prescribed fires. Fire-killed trees are usually abundant and begin to fall about 3-5 years post-fire, creating very hazardous working conditions. Performing your job in these areas requires you to be extra cautious at a minimum, and under certain weather conditions such as

wind, to stay out of areas entirely. Walking a wide path around existing snags is one way to reduce the odds of being struck should one fail.

Green trees....But what about the surviving trees? Recent monitoring of fire-injured trees has revealed the failure of 8" to 24" dbh red and white fir, with green crowns, in as little as three years. The rate of failure increases dramatically after the fourth year post-fire, especially in conjunction with high winds or heavy snows. During the 1999 Bucks Fire on the Plumas National Forest the crowns of many true firs were light to moderately scorched. However, these same trees suffered moderate to severe cambium injury and near complete girdling in some cases. Following the fire, frass and/or boring dust from wood-boring and ambrosia beetles were evident on many of the tree boles, often indicative of internal injury. Bark sloughing over the last couple of years from the damaged areas of the bole and root collar has revealed extensive decay of the sapwood; however, most of these trees have maintained green crowns. During the fourth year post-fire, a few trees within the burn that had green crowns and extensive bole decay failed. In the fall of 2004, after an early storm brought heavy snow and wind, many more trees failed with these same characteristics.

This has also been observed recently in a few fir trees in the 2001 Star Fire (Tahoe National Forest) and the 2000 Storrie Fire (Lassen National Forest). Based on the number of failed green trees observed this year in the Bucks Fire, true firs in these other fire areas are likely to start coming down at a higher rate within the next couple of years. People working in these areas or any other recently burned areas that contain red or white fir with similar fire injury, i.e. moderate to severe bole scorch with light to moderate crown scorch, should consider these trees hazardous until a closer inspection of the bole is completed. Forest Health Protection is currently working on fire-injured tree evaluation criteria to facilitate the early identification of trees that may succumb to the type of decay and failure presented here. For more information, contact Sheri Smith or Danny Cluck of the Forest Health Protection staff at 530-257-2151.

Tragic End for Smokey Balloon

Submitted by Diane Drobka

What had become a special fixture at many public lands celebrations and wildfire prevention events – the Smokey Bear balloon – met an unexpectedly tragic end at the 33rd annual Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta on October 10. Luckily for pilot Bill Chapel and his two young passengers, the potentially deadly incident had a safe ending.

The dramatic demise of the Smokey Bear balloon came after Sunday morning's mass ascension during the last day of the festival. Chapel, 69, of Albuquerque, a former Forest Service employee, veteran balloon pilot, and

familiar face in Smokey's gondola, was taking two passengers, Aaron Whitacre, 10, of Tucson, Arizona, and Troy Wells, 14, of Rio Rancho, New Mexico, for a flight in Albuquerque's azure-blue skies filled with hundreds of balloons.

Though the accident is under investigation, it is suspected that a wind shear may have caused the balloon to abruptly veer off course, becoming ensnared in KKOB radio's 670-foot, 50,000-watt tower. Chapel said that he held onto the boys to prepare for the impact, and then calmed them down after the crash as he held onto the tower with all his might. The brave boys instinctively grabbed onto the tower and slowly worked their way down its interior ladder, as Chapel followed.

Emergency crews immediately gathered at the base of the tower and cut all power to the unit. Chris Perez, a Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM) lineman, climbed almost halfway up the tower – a height equivalent to 30 stories – to meet the three as they climbed down, then assisted them onto a specially grounded bucket truck to prevent their electrocution. Chapel's ex-wife Sally, also a balloonist, was waiting on the ground when Chapel came down and gave him a huge hug. "Everything's fine, but my knees; that's one long ladder!" commented Chapel before leaving the scene. Despite the high drama, the boys were smiling as they posed for media photos and accepted Smokey Bear shirts from Chapel. They told reporters that they knew they would be okay because Chapel had remained calm.

Winds continued to shred the balloon, which looked like a massive sail atop the tower. It took a specialized crew from Advanced Tower Services more than six hours to remove the balloon from its lofty perch. Perez, the PNM lineman who climbed the tower, was later honored at a special ceremony by Mayor Martin Chavez, who presented him with a large gold "Challenge Coin" for his exceptional bravery. Chapel was presented a plaque recognizing his courage during the crisis.

The Smokey balloon had debuted at the Albuquerque balloon fiesta in 1993. Its long-time Smokey pilot now plans to turn his attention to fundraising with the Friends of Smokey Bear organization. Chapel hopes to construct a new balloon so that he can continue spreading fire prevention messages wherever he goes. KKOB radio has already indicated that they would like to play a role in that effort.

(Diane Drobka, a public affairs specialist for the BLM Safford Field Office, was attending the balloon fiesta when the accident happened. Having worked with Chapel on a BLM event in the past, she was very concerned and rushed over to the crash site.)

Ecological Restoration of Southwestern Ponderosa Pine Forests Edited by Peter Friederici and Published by Island Press, 2003 (ISBN 1-55963-653-X).

Book Review Submitted by Pete Fulé

"Ecological restoration" has become a modern buzzword in forest management for two reasons: one, it sounds good to restore things; and two, at least in the Southwest, many people associate restoration with recreating open forests of the past, to alleviate the hazardous fuels that stoke our immense modern crown fires. But although "restoration" is a popular term, there is often a lack of information on the science of restoration ecology and the practical restoration methods that are being tested in southwestern forests. The book "Ecological Restoration of Southwestern Ponderosa Pine Forests" provides a detailed but accessible introduction to this evolving field. Editor Peter Friederici brought together researchers and practitioners, ecological and social scientists, and community organizers to cover a broad spectrum of forest restoration issues.

The central theme of the book is the practical application of science, exemplified by four case studies. Three are probably familiar to most southwestern foresters: treatments of tree thinning and burning, carried out in the Flagstaff (AZ) urban-wildland interface, the more remote "sky island" of Mt. Trumbull in northwestern AZ, and the Ponderosa Partnership in the Four Corners region of southwestern CO. The fourth case study explores the social connection in New Mexico's community-based restoration projects in Hispanic, Native American, and rural settlements. Detailed chapters on topics such as restoration of tree structure, understory vegetation, treatment effects on wildlife and rare species, and invertebrates support the ecological side of restoration, but social factors such as economics, the role of Native Americans, and policy are also covered. Finally, management issues receive strong attention, including the fire-related implications of restoration in the context of fire regime condition classes. Other management topics are smoke, cultural resources, the urban-wildland interface, and using restoration to carry adaptive management experiments.

I come to this review with a bias because I wrote one of the chapters (on monitoring), but I've used this book as a textbook for an applied restoration course for two years and have read my dog-eared copy thoroughly. As I review the chapters I'm consistently impressed with the clarity of the writing and the depth of the sources cited: well over 1,000 publications. The chapter authors include well-regarded scholars such as Wally Covington, Hannah Cortner, Bill Romme, Max Oelschlaeger, and Carolyn Hull Sieg, experienced practitioners such as Tom Zimmerman and Helen Fairley, and people from whom you'll be hearing a lot in the future, such as Julie Korb. The book's weakness may be its relatively heavy reliance on the Ecological Restoration Institute, at Northern Arizona University, and other Arizona-related research by Forest Service scientists, perhaps imparting

a Flagstaff-centric view of the world. But as forest managers and others interested in forest health struggle to come to terms with the promise of ecological restoration, Friederici's book will have lasting value as the first major effort to consolidate the status of knowledge and pull together the far-flung threads of forest issues around the central theme of restoring diverse and sustainable ecosystems.

Island Press has a series on ecological restoration (www.islandpress.org) with new titles arriving every few months. Of special note to foresters is the forthcoming "Mimicking Nature's Fire: Restoring the West's Fire-Prone Forests" in which Steve Arno and Carl Fiedler describe restoration silviculture for a wider range of western forest types.

That Time of Year

Submitted by: Molly Pitts, Executive Director of NAWPA

Well, the leaves have fallen, and thankfully in many places, we have already seen snow. You know what that means – yep – the holiday season is here.

When I was asked to write an article explaining what NAWPA is – I figured I might as well get as much bang for my buck (or in this case – my words) and also take this time to encourage others to step outside the box this year while searching for Christmas gifts.

NAWPA stands for the Northern Arizona Wood Products Association. We are a non-profit, member-directed organization that promotes the value-added utilization of small diameter timber. Our objectives include advocating for businesses and individuals that derive income from small diameter wood products, creating and retaining jobs in the wood products industry, promoting partnering and collaboration among users and consumers of small diameter wood, and to encourage a regional, cooperative perspective and approach to addressing small diameter wood issues. Basically, we are here to help those who are helping our forests by utilizing woody material. As a group, we understand that in order for congressional actions such as the National Fire Plan and the Healthy Forest Initiative to work, businesses and infrastructure must be in place to utilize the wood coming off of the thinning and restoration projects. With the addition of the Stewardship Contract on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests, this has become absolutely critical. To achieve the goals and objectives the organization set forth, NAWPA regularly holds meetings and training to encourage networking. We also hold various showcases throughout the year so that members have the opportunity to demonstrate and show off their products and services. Items we will be working on throughout the next year include updating our webpage and possibly putting together a catalog. Although NAWPA is a fairly young organization, we currently have twenty-seven (27) members and are growing monthly.

Now, on to my "more bang for the buck." NAWPA members include artists, craftspeople, manufacturers, mill operators, producers, sawyers, suppliers, distributors, and anyone else who adds value to small diameter wood. As you start thinking about the perfect gift to get that special someone, I encourage all of you to visit our website (www.nawpa.org) and look at the various items the NAWPA members produce. The members name and contact information is listed, as well as the different products each of them produce. For instance, if you are looking for a very original wood lamp, you might want to contact Bill Greenwood with Wild West Woodworks. Or, if a wood bowl or vase is more to your liking, contact Ken Baker with Expressions in Wood. His specialty includes bowls made from Rodeo-Chediski salvage. I guarantee you that you will find very unique, one-of-a-kind presents that your family and friends will adore. Although it may not be as convenient as your local big-box store, your family will know that it was a gift thoughtfully picked with them in mind. Also, just think, not only will you be giving a perfect gift, but you will be helping to protect and restore our local forests.

As I conclude, I wish everyone a very Happy Holiday Season. May we all continue to work hard to restore and protect our forests throughout our various jobs. Think SNOW!! If anyone has any questions regarding NAWPA, please feel free to call me at 928-521-9476.

Roundtable on Sustainable Forests

General Accounting Office (GAO) Releases Two Reports on Indicators

In November the GAO (Government Accountability Office, formerly known as the General Accounting Office) issued two important reports dealing with indicators. The first focuses on environmental indicators. It reviews a number of local, state, and national indicator efforts and identifies both challenges to the success of these efforts and actions that GAO believes the executive branch could and should take to improve the likelihood of successful implementation. The second addresses "comprehensive key indicator systems," which include environmental, economic, social, quality of life, and other concerns. It arose out of work on the Key National Indicators Initiative, which is housed at the National Academy of Science.

Environmental report link:

[HTTP://WWW.GAO.GOV/NEW.ITEMS/D0552.PDF](http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d0552.pdf)

Comprehensive report link:

[WWW.GAO.GOV/CGI-BIN/GETRPT?GAO-05-1](http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-05-1)



Arizona Pursues Forest Legacy Program

In 2003, Arizona expressed interest in participating in the U.S. Forest Service Forest Legacy Program. Arizona is now in the process of preparing an application. The Forest Legacy Program (FLP), a federal program in partnership with states, supports state efforts to protect environmentally sensitive forest lands. Designed to encourage the protection of privately owned forest lands, FLP is an entirely voluntary program. To maximize the public benefits it achieves, the program focuses on the acquisition of partial interests in privately owned forest lands. FLP helps the states develop and carry out their forest conservation plans. It encourages and supports acquisition of conservation easements, legally binding agreements transferring a negotiated set of property rights from one party to another, without removing the property from private ownership. Most FLP conservation easements restrict development, require sustainable forestry practices, and protect other values.

The State proposal called an Analysis of Need (AON) can be accessed at: <http://www.azstatefire.org/>

Meetings

Innovative Technology for Range Management is the topic of the 2005 Arizona Section Winter SRM Meeting. Prescott, Arizona, January 5-6, 2005. If you have any questions about this meeting, contact Dean Fish, phone: 928-281-2994 or email dfish@ag.arizona.edu

New Mexico Section Society for Range Management, Albuquerque, NM, January 10-12, 2005. Information on the NM SRM website <http://agecon.nmsu.edu/nmsrm/> or contact John Harrington.

38th Joint Annual Meeting of the AZ/NM Chapter of American Fisheries Society and the AZ and NM Chapters of The Wildlife Society, Gallup, NM, February 3-5, 2005.
<http://www.fisheries.org/aznm/meetingpage.htm>

2005 Small Log Conference: Creating Capacity to Compete, has been set for March 30 - Apr. 1, 2005, at the Coeur d'Alene Resort in Idaho.
<http://www.forestnet.com/slc/>

2005 SAF National Convention Fort Worth, Texas, October 19-23, 2005.

2005 XX SWSAF/AMPF Biennial Reunion, TBA October or November. Volunteers needed; contact Craig Wilcox: sw4ester@yahoo.com

2005 Spring Sections Meeting Ecological Restoration of Southwest Ponderosa Pine and Pinyon-Juniper Ecosystems

A joint meeting of the Southwest and Intermountain Sections of the Society of American Foresters

This joint meeting of the Southwest and Intermountain Sections of SAF will take place on the Utah/Arizona border. We will include a field trip to the Mt. Trumbull forest restoration site, featuring a 10-year collaborative effort between the Bureau of Land Management (Arizona Strip District), Arizona Game & Fish Department, and Northern Arizona University (Ecological Restoration Institute). Research and operational experience in ponderosa pine and pinyon-juniper restoration will be featured.

This meeting is a chance to see remote landscapes in the BLM's Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument and to enjoy the "color country" of southern Utah and the Grand Canyon. Join us in May!

Location: St. George, UT and Mt. Trumbull, AZ

Dates: May 11-13, 2005

Sponsors: Southwest and Intermountain Sections of SAF, Bureau of Land Management, Arizona Game & Fish Department, Ecological Restoration Institute, Northern Arizona University School of Forestry

CALL FOR PAPERS: Oral and poster presentations are welcome. Abstract deadline is **January 31, 2005**. Submit abstracts electronically to [David Borland@nm.blm.gov](mailto:David_Borland@nm.blm.gov) or [Doug Page \(picea@comcast.net\)](mailto:picea@comcast.net).

Conference Topics:

- Hazardous fuel reduction
- Operations (harvesting methods, slash treatment, burning prescriptions)
- Utilization and economics
- Ecological impacts (plant and animal communities, weeds, endangered species)

For further information: contact **Doug Page** (picea@comcast.net)

The Sky Islands Forester is now primarily sent via the internet. Paper copies will be continued to be mailed to those members who prefer. Next edition is scheduled for March 2005. Chapter and committee reports will be greatly appreciated.

Southwest Section website can be found at:

<http://www.for.nau.edu/swsaf/>

WANTED: Foresters who are interested in writing a regular column on Southwestern forestry for the newsletter. Many possible topics include; forest history, southwestern silviculture, ecology, fire, book reviews, forest policy and editorials. Once or twice a year.

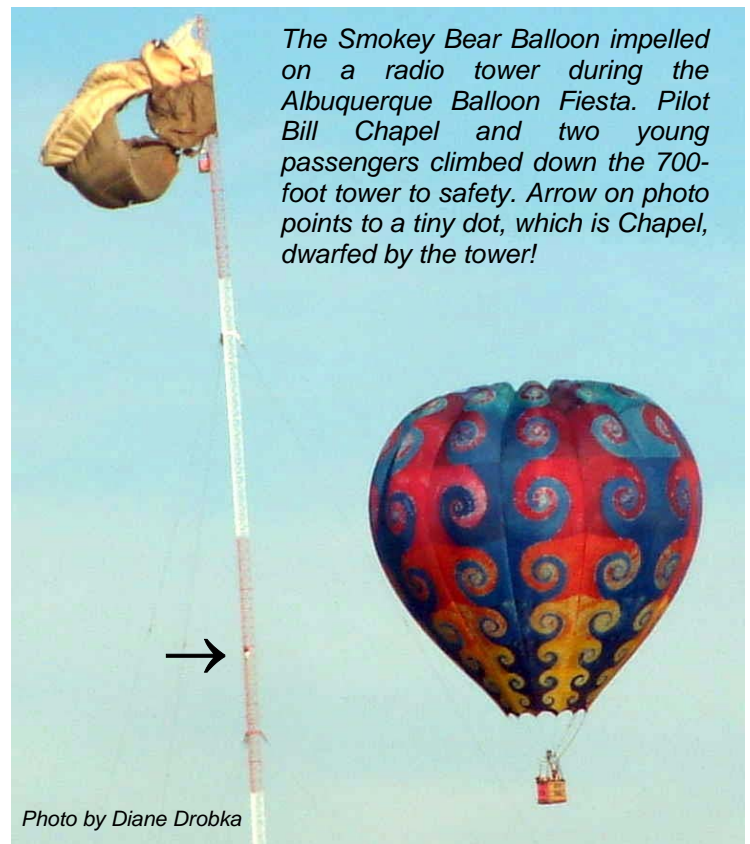
Thanks to John Harrington, Marlin Johnson, Pete Fulé, Diane Drobka, Molly Pitts and Larry Hettinger for their contributions to this issue.

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