



Sky Islands Forester

Society of American Foresters
Growing better all the time

March 11, 2005

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

Greetings from the Chair

John Harrington joharrin@nmsu.edu

First, drum roll please, the Southwest Section has newly elected officers amongst us. Congratulations to Al Hendricks, the Southwest Section's newly elected Chair-elect. Also, it looks as though a dynasty is in the making, as Bobbe Fitzgibbon swept the ballot box in her effort to become the first incumbent in modern times to win back-to-back elections in the Southwest Section.

Quite a bit of "behind the scenes" progress has been made on several issues facing the Southwest Section: recruitment and membership satisfaction, student recruitment and the upcoming joint meeting with the Intermountain Section. Frank Roth and the Section's Membership Committee have put together two tremendous questionnaires for both current SAF members and for folks who may not realize it, should be SAF members. Soon the onus of this work will befall you, my fellow Southwest SAF Members, to both fill out the questionnaire and to get other currently, non-SAF natural resource professionals to fill out and send in questionnaires. The benefit to our Chapters, the Southwest Section and to the Society as a whole is dependent on having a large number of well thought out responses to the questionnaires. Success of this effort will soon be in your hands. (No pressure here, this is also why I chose work in academia and not sales or motivational speaking.)

On a separate front, Drs. David Hacker of New Mexico Highlands University (and current Chair of the New Mexico Chapter of SAF), Denver Hospodarsky of Northern Arizona University, and I have devised a program called "Foster Foresters" which is intended to improve both student membership and student mentoring within the Section. You will see an article later in this issue which covers this pilot program.

Lastly, the committee planning the joint meeting with the Intermountain Section has put together a stellar

conference in St. George, Utah, in May. Please go to the Section website (Thank you JJ and Co.) if you haven't registered and please do so; this is sure to be a fun, fantastic and informative conference.

Pretty soon, field season will start for many of our Southwest Foresters. I want everyone to go out enjoy, be productive and, most of all, be safe so we will have plenty of great stories and pictures to share at the SAF/AMPF meeting this Fall in Tucson. John

Council Notes, March 2005

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 is now available on the web site. 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 should be closer to home for most of you, so think now to spending some time in Fort Worth, October 18-23.

Some other actions were:

- Approved Bylaw change to allow electronic voting.
- Invited state societies to host the 2007 Convention in Portland, OR, and 2008 in Reno, NV.
- Endorsed SAF policy/position statements on; 1) forestland loss, 2) state programs to credential foresters, and 3) pilot programs for evaluating innovative federal land management strategies.
- Adopted our Certification Review Board Strategic Plan and up-to-date standards for certifying SAF continuing education credits.

- Adopted an improved National Diversity Committee charter.
- Reviewed the 2005 Committee on Forest Policy agenda. Biomass, renewable energy and fuels will be major policy activities at the national level this year.

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 more than 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 dedicate a full day to it at our March 12-13 meeting, but will not likely make decisions yet to adopt any of it. I hope you will individually and as Chapters provide feedback to me or John Harrington on what you think of it.

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. Thus our contribution to society through good forest management will be even greater!

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

Southwest SAF Chapter News

Northern Arizona Chapter

In February, meeting attendees enjoyed an added measure of fellowship by the outstanding turnout of nearly 60 people. Cheryl Miller of the NAU Centennial Forest gave an entertaining and informative talk on the Junior Forester Academy, which she directs. Then, the meeting adjourned to the Cline Library for a stimulating presentation by forest historian Char Miller. The Student Chapter continues to provide a strong presence at the monthly meetings and many student members were in attendance at the February meeting. In the March meeting, Dr. David Ostergren, NAU School of Forestry, gave his perspectives on "Social Justice and Natural Resource Management." His topic was both informative and provocative. Also a panel discussion by the

members of the Student Chapter, Craig Bowman (President), Sami Conn, and Lora Vialpando on the implications to student chapters of the recently released "SAF Volunteer Organizational Structure (VOS) Task Force Report." The report is intended to help ensure an efficient, relevant professional society for the future. The next meeting is scheduled for April 7.

Contacts: Denver Hospodarsky, Chair, Denver.Hospodarsky@nau.edu, Steve Dewhurst Chair-elect, stephen.dewhurst@nau.edu, Pete Fule', past-Chair, Pete.Fule@nau.edu, Jim Rolf Secretary-Treasurer, jamesrolf@aol.com.

New Mexico Chapter

Election of officers recently concluded and Frank Roth was selected Chair-elect and Deborah Walker was elected Secretary-Treasurer. A great big THANK YOU goes to those who did the heavy lifting for the NM-SAF last year. Outgoing Chair Mark Loveall and outgoing Secretary-Treasurer Victor Wyant provided valuable services for our chapter.

The next meeting of the NM-SAF will be in Santa Fe on April 8. We will meet at the Holiday Inn on Cerrillos Road beginning around 6:00 p.m. Our program includes a presentation by Joanna Prukop, Secretary of Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources. She will be giving us her view of the Statewide Forest & Watershed Health Plan.

Contacts: David Hacker, Chairman, david_hacker@nmhu.edu, Frank Roth, Chair-elect, froth@fs.fed.us, Mark Loveall, Past-Chair, mloveall@nmsu.edu, Deborah Walker, Secretary Treasurer, deborahwalker@fs.fed.us.

Southern Arizona Chapter

In February about 30 members and guests enjoyed a presentation by Jennifer Ruyle of the Coronado National Forest on the current Forest Plan revision and the new FS planning rule. The next meeting is scheduled for April 21 and will be the last meeting until September. Planning for the upcoming AMPF/SWSAF meeting next Fall is underway.

Contacts: Duane Bennett – Chair, dabennett@fs.fed.us, Bill Hart Chair-elect, wrhart@fs.fed.us, Mike Borens, Past-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

Ecological Restoration of Southwest Ponderosa Pine and Pinyon-Juniper Ecosystems

2005 Joint Spring Section Meeting of the Southwest/Intermountain Society of American Foresters
May 11-13, 2005, St. George, UT, and Mt Trumbull, AZ

Co-Sponsors: Arizona Game and Fish, Bureau of Land Management, and NAU Ecological Research Institute

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! **A call for Poster Presentations will remain open until April 15.**

Agenda and Registration materials at either website: <http://www.usu.edu/saf/05-spring-info.html> or <http://www.for.nau.edu/swsaf/index.html> (Enclosed for those members receiving paper copies of the newsletter.)

Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, May 11, SAF Business Meetings starting at 1:00 p.m. speakers include: Bob Maynard, Chair Intermountain SAF; John Harrington, Chair Southwest SAF; John Helms, SAF President; Rod Brevig, Chair, House Society of Delegates; Marlin Johnson, Region IV Council Rep. Followed by breakout Business Meetings for SW and IM and Evening Social and Poster Presentations.

Thursday, May 12, Technical Presentations:

- *Assessment of Drought-related Mortality in Pinyon-Juniper and Ponderosa Pine Forests Using Forest Inventory and Analysis Data, **John Shaw***
- *Forest Restoration and Fuels Reduction in Ponderosa Pine and Dry Mixed Conifer in the Southwest, **Marlin Johnson***
- *Cheatgrass Encroachment on a Ponderosa Pine Ecological Restoration Project in Northern Arizona, USA, **Christopher McGlone***
- *Restoration of Ponderosa Pine Ecosystem and its Understory, **Lee Hughes***
- *Changes in Canopy Fuels and Fire Behavior After Ponderosa Pine Restoration Treatments: A Landscape Perspective, **John Paul Roccaforte***
- *The Irrationality of Continued Fire Suppression: A Partial Analysis of the Costs and Benefits of Restoration-Based Fuel Reduction Treatments vs. No Treatment, **G.B. Snider***
- *Identifying Markets for Piñon Pine in the Four Corners Region, **K.H. Mackes***
- *Sustainable Development Through Biomass Utilization, A Practical Approach, **Ravi Malhotra***
- Luncheon Speaker: **Dr. John Helms**, SAF President, *Restoration of the Profession and SAF*
- *Restoration of Southwestern Ponderosa Pine Forests: Implications and Opportunities for Wildlife, **Catherine Wightman***
- *Home Range and Habitat Selection Patterns of Mule Deer in a Restoration-Treated Ponderosa Pine Forest, **Fenner Yarborough***
- *Diablo Trust Piñon-Juniper Restoration Sites: Restoring Structure to Woodlands and Savannas, **Andrew Landis***
- *Attributes Associated with Probability of Infestation by the Piñon Ips, Ips Confusus, (Coleoptera: Scolytidae) in Piñon Pine, Pinus Edulis, **Jose Negron***
- *A Demonstration Project to Test Ecological Restoration of a Pinyon-Juniper Ecosystem, **David Huffman***
- *Variation Among Pinyon-Juniper Woodlands: A Cautionary Note, **Matthew Williamson***
- *Pinyon Juniper Restoration Techniques, **Steve Monsen***
- *Landscape Level Changes in Utah, **Joel Frandsen***

Friday, May 13, Mt. Trumbull Field Trip

All day field trip to tour Pinyon-Juniper and Ponderosa Pine Demonstration Sites. Lunch and transportation provided.

Mt. Trumbull Optional Overnighter and Toroweap Overlook Trip

Interested in spending a night at Mt. Trumbull? There will be an optional overnight stay at the BLM's Mt. Trumbull Administrative Site on Friday, May 13th (after the field trip), followed by a trip to Toroweap Overlook on Saturday, May 14. If you are interested in this optional activity, you will need to provide your own sleeping gear (e.g. bag, pad, cot, etc.), food, and beverages. Transportation details will be worked out during the first two days of the meeting. *If you are interested, you still need to register for the field trip.* For further information, contact Aaron Wilkerson at 435-688-3383 or Aaron_Wilkerson@az.blm.gov.

Foster Foresters

or how, for less than six cents a day, you can help grow the profession of forestry

Submitted by John Harrington, David Hacker and Denver Hospodarsky

Two of the greatest transitions a professional will experience is determining what career to pursue and adjusting to life outside of the university. Students and recent graduates face similar challenges regarding membership in professional societies: which professional society to join and whether to remain a member upon graduation. As we have seen over the years, the percentage of undergraduate forestry students who are members of SAF is not as high as it could be, and upon graduation many student members do not transition to regular members. The main reason expressed is finances. Presently, National SAF Student dues have been made as low as possible at \$35 per year. For those of us paying regular and associate rates, this seems to be quite a bargain. Once graduated and in an entry-level position, the recent forestry graduate typically has a multiple-year commitment paying off student loans and other debts while on an entry-level salary. It is not uncommon that upon graduating, today's forestry graduates often have student loans and other debts exceeding \$10,000. Again, the National SAF governing body has stepped up to develop a progressive dues increase structure for such transitioning members. We have all been there to one degree or another.

Now, I want you turn the dial back a few years (okay a few more years for some of us) to when you were still in school. Thirty five dollars covered quite a bit of ground. By hook and crook we either figured out how to come up with the dues or were relegated to reading our roommate's copies of the Journal. The expenses students face today can be even more ominous than the challenges we faced, with the prices of text books often exceeding \$100/book, tuition steadily increasing and more and more all-you-can eat buffets going under. Upon graduation, many of us let our memberships slip as we had other priorities for our limited resources until a time when a fellow forester reminded us the benefits of SAF membership.

Can we, as regular members, contribute to a solution as well as benefit ourselves at the same time? We think so. We have come up with program for the Southwest Section called the "Foster Foresters Program." The goals of Foster Foresters are to assist our future colleagues by letting them see how important membership in the Society of American foresters is; to help them begin building those important networks in the profession that we have and continue to evolve in our careers; and finally, to financially help them be members of the Society. While that sounds pretty benevolent, there are benefits to the foster forester. The most direct benefits include a potential for employers and

supervisors to get to know future foresters and hopefully, get a better appreciation of the education and challenges our forestry students are experiencing. Our Society of American Foresters will benefit directly as this should provide a mechanism to help alleviate the financial challenges of student membership. Hopefully, our Society will continue to benefit as the students who are involved with this program will understand the importance of membership in the Society of American Forester by transitioning into regular members as their careers evolve.

Basically, how the Foster Forester Program will work, is that a regular member who wishes to become a Foster Forester for a student at either New Mexico Highlands University or Northern Arizona University will make a donation of \$20 to the Southwest Section. If you want to foster more than one forester you can do so. The Foster Forester will need to make sure their donation is assigned to one of the two schools. For this first year, foresters who wish to be foster foresters will send their donations to the Southwest Section's Secretary-Treasurer. The Secretary-Treasurer will notify the appropriate academic advisor (Dr. Hacker (NMHU) or Dr. Hospodarsky (NAU)) that a Foster Forester opportunity is available. This first year we have decided to leave the selection of forestry students up to the respective academic advisors. The student recipient of fostering effort will be obligated to write one letter per semester to their Foster Forester updating them on their education and experiences.

Two key components of the Foster Forester Program are that the fostering effort covers a portion of the student's membership dues while requiring the student to still make some level of financial commitment to membership. Second, by having the obligation of letter writing, the large and wonderful profession of forestry becomes a little more comfortable and welcoming to both the student and the forester.

Work Begins on Southwest Restoration Institutes

Submitted by Al Hendricks

The Southwest Forest Health and Wildfire Prevention Act (Public Law 108-317; Oct. 5, 2004) authorized the creation and funding of three institutes for research on restoration of dry forest and woodland ecosystems in the Interior West. The three restoration institutes will be located at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona (The Ecological Restoration Institute: ERI), at New Mexico Highlands University in Las Vegas, New Mexico, and at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado. While the Act authorized funding up to 15 million dollars per year, it was not funded for federal fiscal year 2005.

Funding will be provided through the USDA Forest Service, which is charged with providing oversight on annual work plans. Work plan evaluation criteria are currently being developed by a multi-regional, interagency development team for FY 2006. The text of the Act can be viewed at <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/D?c108:6:./temp/~c108KjSuhl:>

For further information, contact Walter Dunn at the USDA Forest Service, Southwestern Regional Office, at 505-842-3423.

Ecology and Management of Pinyon-Juniper and Sagebrush Communities, May 16-19, Montrose, CO. www.UPproject.org

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

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

Forestry Summer Camps

Opportunities can be found in both states for budding foresters. New Mexico Forestry Camp is a five-day workshop for New Mexico's youth to learn how to use, care for, and appreciate our land. Resource professionals work with campers to learn about trees, streams, archaeology, insects, wildland fire, grazing and wildlife. Forestry Camp is held at Rancho del Chaparral in the Jemez Mountains near Cuba, New Mexico. The 1200-acre camp located along the Rio de las Vacas (river of the cows), provides an ideal setting with beautiful ponderosa pine, aspen, oak, and mixed conifer forests. It is sponsored by the Cuba Soil and Water Conservation District and has numerous cosponsors, including the New Mexico Chapter of SAF. Online information and application can be found at <http://nmforestrycamp.org/>

The NAU School of Forestry Centennial Forest announced the Arizona Junior Forester Academy. Four weeklong camps are offered for children 10-16 years old. Call Cheryl Miller at 928-523-6727 for information or visit the NAU Junior Forester Academy site, <http://www.for.nau.edu/CentennialForest/jfa/index.htm>

Meetings

Governor's Annual Forest Health Conference, March 22, Embry Riddle University, Prescott AZ. <http://www.governor.state.az.us/FHC/>

2005 Small Log Conference: Creating Capacity to Compete, March 30-April 1, the Coeur d'Alene Resort, Idaho. <http://www.forestnet.com/slc/>

The Western Counties Partnership on Restoration (CPR) Summit: A Response to the President's Forest Health Initiative and the Western Governors' Association 10-Year Plan, March 30-31, Ruidoso, NM. <http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/forestry/>



New Mexico Forestry Camp students hiking during 2004 Camp.



NM Chapter member George Duda teaching forestry principles at the 2004 New Mexico Forestry Camp.



2004 NAU
Centennial
Forest
Junior
Forester
Academy



The Sky Islands Forester is now primarily sent via email. Paper copies will be continued to be mailed to those members who prefer. Next edition is scheduled for August or September 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, Al Hendricks David Hacker and Diane Drobka for their contributions to this issue.

Send articles, letters and announcements to:
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