



Sky Islands Forester

September 28, 2008

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

Message from the Chair

Mike Williams SWSAF Chair –September 2008

As I write this, it's the first day of fall, and it's shaping up to be a fine one here in Northern Arizona. I hope you're having a great field season. I'm looking forward to attending the National SAF Convention in Reno, Nevada, during November 5-9, and I hope a good number of you are too. This is the closest venue to most of us for a national convention to be held in some time, and the theme "Forestry in a Climate of Change" offers much to foresters in the Southwest. Pre-registration has closed, but if you haven't registered yet, you can still do so on site in Reno. I'll be attending the House of Society Delegates meeting there at the Convention, and look forward to reporting back to you about what took place in our December newsletter.

On September 12, about eight of us foresters from the Kaibab National Forest and McKinley-Ben Miller, state forester with the BLM State Office in Phoenix (and SWSAF Palo Verde Chapter Chair) joined a bunch of the Intermountain SAF foresters from Utah for a field trip to the Warm Fire area on the North Kaibab Ranger District near Jacob Lake. Lots of good dialogue took place about wildland fire use for resource benefits, fire salvage, and post-fire treatments.

Fall elections are coming up, and it's not just about McCain and Obama. We all have both opportunity and obligation to vote for a new national SAF Vice President for 2009 who becomes President in 2010. Darrell Kenops and Mike Lester are running for that office; check out their bio-sketches and campaign statements in the September "Forestry Source" SAF newsletter. National election ballots will be sent out October 1st. Please vote when the ballot arrives.

Closer to home, we here in the Southwestern SAF will vote for a Secretary/Treasurer, and a Chair-elect to serve with Chairman Bill Hart throughout 2009 and become Chairman for 2010. If you're interested in becoming a candidate for one of these two SWSAF

positions, please call me or Bill Hart (520-749-7717) in the next few weeks. Watch for your SWSAF election ballot in November, and cast your vote!

Congratulations to Dr. Mike Wagner (NAU School of Forestry, Northern Arizona Chapter of SWSAF) on his selection for the national Sir William Schlich Memorial Award for 2008. He'll be receiving the award at the national SAF meeting in Reno.

There are two national SAF position statements that have been revised recently – one on "Wildland Fire Management" and another on "Using Herbicides on Forest Lands." Check them out on the national SAF website www.safnet.org at the Policy and Press section.

Wondering how you can help your professional society? Go to your Chapter meetings. Invite a forester who isn't a SAF member to go to a Chapter meeting or project with you, then invite him/her to join SAF. Not difficult...doesn't take much time or effort....but what a payoff on your investment! How about giving a little time and lending a hand to one of our SWSAF committees – we particularly need help with Education, Membership and Policy Committees, though there are other opportunities to get involved as well. One unique opportunity is available now – we're assembling a steering committee to guide local planning for the 2010 National SAF Convention to be held in Albuquerque. Several SWSAF members have already volunteered to help, but we need more. If you're interested, please let me know by email at mrwilliams@fs.fed.us or call me at 928-635-8301.

District IV Council Report – June 2008

Rod Brevig, District IV Council Representative

SAF Council met June 7, 2008, in Priest River, Idaho. Kirk David, District I Council member arranged for the meeting location at the Priest River Experimental Forest for a tour of the forest. This was a unique venue for a

Council meeting and I think a welcome change for Council.

Most Affordable! Convention Invitation: Come to the SAF Convention in Reno, Nevada, November 5-9, 2008. This will be one of the MOST affordable conventions ever. Both flights and room rates are extremely reasonable and access in and out of Reno is easy. "Forestry in a Climate of Change" is the theme and the program will be exciting, interesting and educational! Registration is still open.

District IV Fellows Election: Council elected one District IV member as an SAF Fellow; Mr. Ted Giesey of the Montana State Society. Please congratulate him on achieving the highest honor in our Society!

SAF National Office: Progress continues to be made in the sale of the National office property to Nation's Academy. There have been some delays and some additional work with Montgomery County, MD, will take time. Please let me know if you have any questions about the sale.

SAF Task Forest Report on Managed Forests and Climate Change: Council endorsed this report and it will be distributed widely. This report provides an extensive review of the relationships of forests and climate change. It will provide SAF with the scientific foundation for work in the public arena on climate change/forestry issues.

SAF Testimony on the Forest Service State & Private Forestry budget: Michael Goergen explained that the individual line-item funding recommendations within the S&PF budget were based on an overall view of the program and balance between line items.

2009 Leadership Academy: Council voted to hold a 2009 Leadership Academy. National office staff will prepare options for dates, location and costs, and Council will approve at the November meeting. This should give members time to plan for participation.

SAF Insurance: There will an article in the *Forestry Source* about the process for obtaining separate insurance to cover events such as field trips, etc. In addition, the SAF website will have the information that is needed for event planners. It is VERY important to plan the event well ahead of time and with discussions with the national insurance carrier, it is possible that additional insurance may not involve additional costs.

SAF Position Statements: Council approved two new position statements: Wildland Fire Management and Use of Herbicides. All SAF positions are on the SAF website. Divisions and Chapters should look at these national position statements as they work on any related issues.

Student Activities: District Student Representatives have been working on plans for the program at Convention. Also, they have identified some issues that they will work on, including connections with students,

membership retention, and the student section of the SAF website.

As always, if you have any questions or would like me to pursue any issues, please contact me at rbrevig@tax.idaho.gov or 208-841-0033 or 208-334-7737. I appreciate your support and involvement in SAF!

**Rod Brevig CF/CFA
District IV Council Representative**

Update for District IV SAF on Council Actions – Strategic Planning Committee

I'm one of the members of the Strategic Planning Committee. Our efforts have been directed toward creating a more user-friendly document which can serve the need of strategic planning at the national and local level and train our members in this vitally important subject area.

Because SAF must be responsive to member needs and must proactively meet rapidly changing expectations in both the profession and society at large, the SAF Council's Strategic Action Committee is currently making recommendations for a revised and new approach to a strategic plan that focuses on key goals, brevity and actions. The strategic plan should ultimately align with any changes in the logo, new facilities, and branding images of SAF.

The SAF strategic plan should help the Society articulate its core values, purpose, vision, mission, and actions to achieve these with our members and our various stakeholders and publics. This should provide all internal and external stakeholders with programs, products, and services to assist them in accomplishing sustainable forestry within their individual and organization's missions and goals.

Successful strategic planning:

- Leads to action and results that can be accomplished, identified and communicated
- Builds a shared vision that is values-based
- Is an inclusive, participatory process in which Council and staff and local units take on a shared ownership
- Accepts accountability to the membership
- Is externally focused and sensitive to SAF's environment
- Is based on real-time quality data and quality assessment
- Requires an openness to questioning the status quo
- Is a key part of effective management and stewardship of SAF resources and capacity

The Society's strategic plan is meant to serve as overall guiding documents for all units and all levels of SAF. It is the 2008 SAF Council's Strategic Action Sub-Committee's recommendation that the SAF strategic action plan include the following:

1. A Strategic Plan that consists of core values, mission and key goals
2. A Strategic Actions Plan that consists of outcomes and suggested national and local chapter actions and strategies to achieve the key goals and communicate results

In order to produce the recommended Strategic Plan and Strategic Action Plan, the Strategic Action Committee took and will continue to take into consideration the following:

- The June 7, 2008, Draft Strategic Plan
- The May 15, 2007, 2008-2012 Strategic Action and Suggested Actions Plan
- The Aug 2008 Council Comments on the June 7, 2008, Draft and 4 Key Goals outline
- The 2007 Membership and Stakeholder Surveys

Forthcoming bridge documents will compare this proposed strategic plan to the 2007 Outcomes, Goals, and Suggested Actions Plan and the 2007 Membership Surveys.

As our committee continues to progress on these important topics I invite your comments concerning our Strategic Plan and how we can make it better serve the needs of our Chapters and State Societies.

Rod Brevig, CF/FCA
September 16, 2008

No Fall Section Meeting – Let’s all go to the National Convention in Reno!

Discussion during the Sept 9 conference call of the executive committee led to the decision not to have a Fall Section meeting and to focus more effort in designing an effective Spring 2009 meeting. There are many conferences and workshops scheduled this fall, including the national convention in Reno, NV. Many of us are going to be at these other venues, giving us an opportunity to meet and get a start on planning the Spring meeting. Watch for coming dates as we all look forward to the Spring meeting. Other opportunities for learning and networking include:

New Mexico Watershed Forum, September 30-October 2. **“From Mountaintop to Riverbottom, Restoring New Mexico’s Watersheds.”** The forum includes two days of plenary sessions, breakout sessions, and a field trip of the Jemez and Upper Rio Grande.



Watercolor by Suzanne Otter

Smallwood Entrepreneur’s Conference, “Better Practices, Better Forests.” Presented by Southwest Sustainable Forests Partnership. Nov. 12-14, 2008, High Country Conference Center in Flagstaff, AZ. Contact Herb Hopper, Little Colorado River RCD, 928-524-6063 ext 5, (herbert.hopper@rcdnet.net).

This year’s workshop promises to surpass the accomplishments of last year’s conference where some 150 delegates experienced restoration efforts by the Mescalero Apache Tribe, learned more about the biomass utilization industry, and spoke one-on-one with Forest Service and Forest Products Lab specialists. This year the focus will be to provide even more insights and information about the small-timber industry and on enhancing the skills of the business people of forest and wood products enterprises. The improved utilization of small-diameter logs has become a vital piece of our larger forestry picture. That’s been reflected in the past conferences where the momentum has grown as ideas are generated and members network with others to find a variety of options and solutions.

New Mexico Forestry And Climate Change Workshop. November 20, 2008 in Albuquerque, NM. The workshop will provide foresters and other natural resource professionals with information about climate change’s projected impacts on NM forests to incorporate into their management decisions. Forest managers, researchers, landowners, students, activists, and the general public are encouraged to attend. Four working groups, comprised of researchers and forest managers, will focus on one of New Mexico’s dominant forest types (bosque, piñon-juniper, ponderosa pine, and mixed conifer/aspens). Each group will present projected impacts of climate change on their forest type, including practical on-the-ground knowledge and management considerations. The presentations will be followed by 30 minutes for open discussion, so all workshop attendees can participate in all sessions. The workshop will also include a plenary overview session about climate change and NM forests as well as a luncheon with guest speaker. Contact Ken Smith, NMHU NMFWR, 505-426-2081, (kensmith@nmhu.edu).

Chapter News

New Mexico Chapter and NMHU Student Chapter

Chair – Melissa Zaksek

Chair-elect – Kent Reid

Secretary-Treasurer – Todd Haines

For more information on the NM Chapter, please contact the Chapter Chair Melissa Zaksek at mzaksek@fs.fed.us or Chair-Elect Kent Reid at rkreid@nmhu.edu.

Southern Arizona Chapter

Chapter Chair/Chair-Elect – Bill Lewis

Past-Chair – Martin Devere, CF

Secretary/Treasurer – Paul Shepard

Next meeting will be September 25 at the Hometown Buffet on N. Oracle near River Rd, starting at 11:30 am. The guest presentation is Dr. Dave Meko from the UA Laboratory for Tree Ring Research on “**Long-Term Water Supply of the Colorado River – a Tree-Ring Perspective.**” The next chapter meeting is scheduled in November 20, 2008, at the same location

Northern Arizona Chapter

Chapter Chair – James Allen

The Northern Arizona Chapter held two recent events. A summer social was hosted by Professor Emeritus and SAF Fellow Ernie Kurmes, along with his wife Pat Hall, on August 15. About 25 chapter members, spouses, and children attended and all enjoyed the wonderful home and hospitality of Ernie and Pat. The first regular meeting of the new academic year was held on the evening of September 4. Thirty-five members of the NAU Student Chapters were in attendance. The guest speaker was Anne Mottek-Lucas, who reported on a survey of Flagstaff residents conducted in both 2006 and 2007 by the NAU Social Research Laboratory. This “omnibus survey” included questions on a wide variety of topics, but Anne focused on those that dealt with residents attitudes about forest treatments such as prescribed burning and thinning. Steve Gatewood was also in attendance to discuss possible SAF participation in the upcoming Smallwood Entrepreneurial Conference, which will be held in Flagstaff on November 12-14. The meeting also gave SWSAF Chair (and NAZ chapter member) Mike Williams a chance to present two section awards to members who were at the meeting – the Forest Manager of the Year Award to Ray Wrobley and the Outstanding Contribution to Forestry Award to Pete Fulé.

Congrats Northern AZ Chapter Member - Jim Pitts! -

The Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests has a new certified silviculturist. James Pitts successfully completed all National and Regional requirements for Certified Silviculturist. The requirements include the completion of Continuing Education in Ecosystem Management (CEEMS), a written manuscript, and a field review to

demonstrate Jim's ability to apply silvicultural concepts and analyze treatment alternatives to meet resource objectives. Jim is currently serving as acting Zone Silviculturist for the Apache N.F.



New Silviculturist Jim Pitts (left) and trusty sidekick

Forest Insect & Disease News: Post-burn survival of ponderosa pine

SW Bugs and Cruds, #7

Dave Conklin

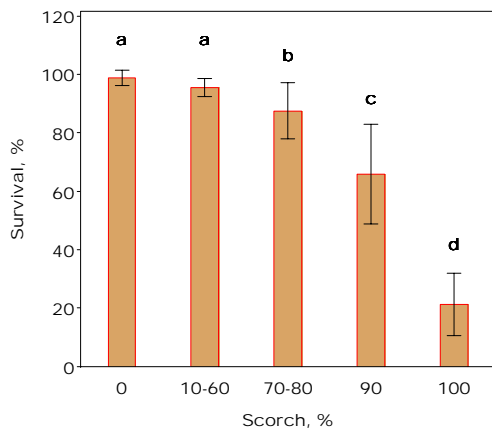
This is one of those topics that has been studied a lot, but is still often poorly understood by land managers. Is this because so few of us have time to read the research papers, or is it because of the way most of these papers are written? Research often has a way of making something fairly simple seem like rocket science. Another possibility is that the researchers themselves don't really understand what's going on, which may happen from time to time.

By now, numerous studies have been published, several of them quite recently, on post-burn survival of ponderosa pine. One of the earlier ones (Dietrich 1979), presents results from a fire on Mount Elden near Flagstaff. Perhaps the most notable thing about this study is that it is based on only 25 sample trees! Despite the puny sample size, this paper comes in handy because it has nice photos showing the good recovery potential of heavily-scorched trees. A paper published just last year, based on over 5,000 trees, presents similar results, although you may or may not be able to figure that out. However, one clear result was that trees experiencing crown fire die. Now why didn't I think to publish that?

One of the studies I'm most familiar with (as you may have guessed) is our own (Conklin and Armstrong 2001; Conklin and Geils 2008, in press), which was discussed in a previous issue of *SW Bugs and Cruds*. Its main objective was to quantify the effects of fire (under burning) on dwarf mistletoe. Necessarily, a big part of

the equation was tree survival. Except for the influence of heavy mistletoe, survival, for a given amount of fire damage, was very similar to what has been found in most other published studies. That is, survival was very high among trees with less than 90% crown scorch, with big drops at both 90% and 100% scorch.

Mean survival: Percent trees living 3 years post-burn



Conklin and Geils.
Survival and sanitation of dwarf mistletoe-infected ponderosa following prescribed under-burning.

As displayed in the graph, we observed considerable site-to-site variation at the higher levels of scorch. Most of this variation could be explained by the amount of bole char. Seasonality (spring vs. fall burn) appeared to make little or no difference in survival, given equal amounts of scorch and char. Intuitively, tree vigor should influence post-burn survival; in our study, intermediate and suppressed trees fared worse (62% survival) than dominants and co-dominants (86% survival).

Although the six fires in our study were prescribed burns, there appears to be no significant difference in survival between prescribed fires and wildfires, that is, given similar levels of fire damage. Monitoring in a portion of the May 2000 Cerro Grande wildfire, as well as a number of published studies, supports this contention. Survival following mid-summer (growing season) burns is generally thought to be lower, although this may not be well documented. I could easily go on with this hot topic, but have probably exceeded my allotted space..... Plus I need to run back out to my plots to collect more data so that I can write my next nearly incomprehensible fire effects paper!

Forester's Log: Future Forests

©Mary Stuever, August 2008

Flagging and wooden stakes mark the small seedlings recently planted in Joe and Carol Stehling's woods. That's how we find them in the luxuriant grass growing beneath the recently thinned Engelmann Spruce. In addition, three logs placed in a triangle around each seedling deter elk trampling. A thick mulch of wood chips surrounding each baby tree further attests to the care involved in tree planting.

One's first impression might be that this labor of love is a bit misconstrued. On the surface, planting trees in a recently thinned forest seems illogical. If there were too many trees for the forest to be healthy, why plant more?

The answer lies in understanding that forests are constantly changing as trees move through their life cycles. A forester sees today's forest through the lens of yesterday and tomorrow.

Today's forest shows up in the postcard image, which in Joe and Carol's yard at 10,000 feet near Angel Fire, New Mexico, includes distant peaks, stately Engelmann spruce trees, scattered aspen, and a brilliant green carpet dotted with colorful wildflowers: purple columbine, red Indian paintbrush, yellow cinquefoil, and white yarrow.

Yesterday's forest had no peaks within view. We only have to traverse a few thousand feet to a neighboring property to find these woods. Without thinning, few flowers and grasses grow. Trees are shoulder to shoulder, cramping the land, shadowing the forest floor. Like the small patches of thick trees left on the Stehling's property, it is good hiding cover for wildlife, at least along the edges.

Joe is showing us tomorrow's forests. Although we spot a few spruce seedlings Mother Nature has been planting, the Stehlings have brought other species on to the land. They are adding to the scattered bristlecone pines that already grace the property. They have also planted some white fir and Douglas-fir. If we drive down the mountain, these trees are abundant, but at this elevation they are sparse. However, most climate models for the next 50 years indicate a general warming, and if this holds true on this mountaintop, these trees will thrive.

With the short summers of high elevation landscape, the Stehling's trees will take many years to grow. As stewards, Joe and Carol will help them along, occasionally hauling water and clearing competing grasses. Chances are good neither landowner will stand in the future shade of these seedling's lofty branches gazing up at their tall boles. There are already plenty of trees on the 20-acre property that are more than a hundred years old for that. The Stehling's reward is in knowing that they are preparing for the future.

With warmer, drier overall weather trends, tree planting is becoming increasingly important and difficult. Trees are essential in tempering carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, producing oxygen, and storing carbon. However, ensuring tree survival is increasingly difficult in our current drought conditions.

One adaptation is to plant conifer trees in the fall. By putting trees in the ground just before winter, seedling roots find more moisture and get better established before the dry summer days. This is one of the reasons

the New Mexico State Forestry Division is offering a fall seedling program this year.

Landowners can purchase containerized seedlings by ordering online, and then picking the seedlings up in Santa Fe or having them shipped. The website, www.nmforestry.com, lists the dates and species that are available. Trees are available now through October 10.

Although planting seedlings will not provide instant gratification of an immediate forest, for many private landowners, tree planting provides for an optimistic future.



Roots of Forestry

The following is excerpted from an article that has been making the rounds at the office and illustrates the ecological insights of Aldo Leopold. It is no wonder that he is so respected by foresters, wildlife biologists, landscape ecologists and wilderness specialists alike. The article in its entirety can be found on the SAF Roots of Forestry website.

Grass, Brush, Timber, and Fire in Southern Arizona

Aldo Leopold, U.S. Forest Service

Partial excerpt from:

Journal of Forestry, Vol. 22 October, 1924, No. 6

One of the first things which a forester hears when he begins to travel among the cow-camps of the southern Arizona foothills is the story of how the brush has "taken the country." At first he is inclined to classify this with the legend prevalent among the old timers of some of the northern states, about the hard winters-that occurred years ago. The belief in the encroachment of brush, however, is often remarkably circumstantial. A cow-man will tell about how in the 1880's on a certain mesa he could see his cattle several miles, whereas now on the same mesa he can not even find them in a day's hunt.

The legend of brush encroachment must be taken seriously. Along with it goes an almost universal story about the great number of cattle which the southern Arizona foothills carried in the old days. The old timers say that there is not one cow now where there used to be 10, 20, 30, and soon. This again might be dismissed but for the figures cited as to the brandings of old cattle outfits, of which the location and area of range are readily determinable.

This story likewise must be taken seriously. In some quarters the forester will find a naïve belief that the two stories represent cause and effect, that by putting more cattle on the range the old days of prosperity for the range industry might somehow be restored. The country in which the forester finds these prevalent beliefs consists of rough foothills corresponding elevation to the woodland type. Above lie the forests of western yellow pine. Below lie the semidesert ranges characteristic of the southern Arizona plains. The area we are dealing with is large, comprising the greater part of the Prescott, Tonto, Coronado, and Crook National Forests as well as much range outside the Forests. The brush that has "taken the country" comprises dozens of species in which various oaks, manzanita, mountain mahogany and ceanothus are dominant. Here and there alligator junipers of very large size occur. Along the creek bottoms the brush becomes a hardwood forest.

Five facts are so conspicuous in this foothill region as to immediately arrest the attention of a forester. (1) Widespread abnormal erosion. This is universal along watercourses with sheet erosion in certain formations, especially granite. (2) Universal fire scars on all the junipers, oaks, or other trees old enough to bear them. (3) Old juniper stumps, often leveled to the ground, evidently by fire. (4) Much juniper reproduction merging to pine reproduction in the upper limits of the type. (5) Great thrift and size in the junipers or the woodland species which have survived fire.

A closer examination reveals the following additional facts: First, the reproduction is remarkably even aged. A few ring counts immediately establish the significant fact that none of it is over 40 years old. It is therefore contemporaneous with settlement; this region having been settled and completely stocked with cattle in the 1880's.

Second, the reproduction is encroaching on the parks. These parks, in spite of heavy grazing, still contain some grass. It would appear, therefore, that this reproduction has as something to do with grass.

Third, one frequently sees manzanita, young juniper or young pines growing within a foot or two of badly fire-scarred juniper trees. These growths being very susceptible to fire damage they could obviously not have survived the fires which produced the scars. Ring counts show that these growths are less than 40 years old. One is forced to the conclusion that there have been no widespread fires during the last 40 years.

Fourth, a close examination of the erosion indicates that it, too, dates back about 40 years and is therefore contemporaneous with settlement, removal of grass, and cessation of fires.

These observations coordinate themselves in the following theory of what has happened: Previous to the settlement of the country, fires started by lightning and Indians kept the brush thin, kept the juniper and other woodland species decimated, and gave the grass the upper hand with respect to possession of the soil. In spite of the periodic fires, this grass prevented erosion. Then came the settlers with their great herds of livestock. These ranges had never been grazed and they grazed them to death, thus removing the grass and automatically checking the possibility of widespread fires. The removal of the grass relieved the brush species of root competition and of fire damage and thereby caused them to spread and "take the country." The removal of grass-root competition and of fire damage brought in the reproduction.

In brief, the climax type is and always has been woodland. The thick grass and thin brush of pre-settlement days represented a temporary type. The substitution of grazing for fire brought on a transition of thin grass and thick brush. This transition type is now reverting to the climax type--woodland. There may be other theories which would coordinate these observable phenomena, but if there are such theories nobody has propounded them, and I have been unable to formulate them.

One of the most interesting checks of the foregoing theory is the behavior of species like manzanita and piñon. These species are notoriously susceptible to fire damage at all ages. Take manzanita: One finds innumerable localities where manzanita thickets are being suppressed and obliterated by pine or juniper reproduction. The particular manzanita characteristic of the region (*Arctostaphylos pungens*) is propagated by brush fires, seedling (not coppice) reproduction taking the ground whenever a fire has killed the other brush species or reduced them to coppice. It is easy to think back to the days when these manzanita thickets, now being killed, were first established by a fire in what was then grass and brush. Cattle next removed the grass. Pine and juniper then reproduced due to the absence of grass and fire, and are now overtopping the manzanita.

Take piñon: It is naturally a component of the climax woodland type but mature piñons are hardly to be found in the region; just a specimen here and there sufficient to perpetuate the species which has evidently been decimated through centuries of fires. Nevertheless today there is a large proportion of piñon in the woodland reproduction which is coming in under some of the Prescott brush fields. Another interesting check is found in the present movement of type boundaries. Yellow pine is reproducing down hill into the woodland

type. Juniper is reproducing down hill into the semidesert type.

This downhill movement of type lines is so conspicuous and so universal as to establish beyond doubt that the virgin condition-previous to settlement represented a temporary type due to some kind of damage, and completely refute the possible assumption that the virgin conditions were climax and the present tendency is away from rather than toward a climax.

A third interesting check is found in the parks. In general there are two alternative hypotheses for Southwestern parks—the one assuming chemical or physical soil conditions unfavorable to forests and the other assuming the exclusion of forests by damage. When the occasional forest tree found in any park is scrubby, it indicates in general defective soil conditions. When the occasional forest tree shows vigor and thrift, it indicates that the park was established by damage and that the soil is suitable. Nothing could be more conspicuous than the vigor and thrift of the ancient junipers scattered through the parks of the southern Arizona foothills. We may safely assume that these parks were not caused by defective soil conditions. That they were caused by grass fires is evidenced by the survival of grass species in spite of the extra heavy grazing which occurs in them and by the universal fire scars that prevail on the old junipers in them. The fact that they are now reproducing to juniper clinches the argument.

A fourth check bears on the hypothesis that the virgin grass was heavy enough to carry severe fires. The check consists in the occurrence of "islands" where topography has prevented grazing. One will find small benches high on the face of precipitous cliffs which, in spite of poor and dry soil, bear an amazing stand of grasses simply because they have never been grazed. One even finds huge blocks of stone at the base of cliffs where a little soil has gathered on the top of the block and a thrifty stand of grasses survives imply because livestock could not get at it.

The most impressive check of all is the occurrence of junipers evidently killed by a single fire from 50 years to many centuries ago, on areas where there is now neither brush nor grass and where the junipers were so scattered (as evidenced by their remains) that it is absolutely necessary to assume a connecting medium. If the connecting medium had been brush it could hardly have been totally wiped out because neither fire nor grazing exterminates a brush field. It is necessary to assume that the connecting medium consisted of grass. It is significant that the above described phenomenon occurs mostly on granitic formations where it is easy to think that a heavy stand of grass might have been exterminated by even moderate grazing due to the loose nature of the soil. Assuming that all the foregoing theory is correct, let us now consider

The Sky Islands Forester is now primarily sent via the internet. Paper copies will be continued to be mailed to those members who prefer or who do not have email. Mailing and email addresses are provided by the National SAF Office and not maintained by the editor. Corrections to addresses can be done on the safnet.org website. Next edition is scheduled for January 2009. Chapter and committee reports will be greatly appreciated. **Southwest Section website can be found at:** <http://www2.for.nau.edu/swsaf/>

WANTED: *Foresters who are interested in writing a column on Southwestern forestry for the newsletter! Many possible topics: forest history, southwestern silviculture, ecology, fire, book reviews, forest policy and editorials.*

Thanks to Mike Williams, Bill Hart, Bill Lewis, Molly Pitts, Dave Conklin, Rod Brevig, Mary Stuever, James Allen, and Diane Drobka for their contributions to this issue.

Send articles, letters, photos and announcements to:
Craig Wilcox, 225 W. 100 S., Pima, AZ 85543
or email to: sw4ester@yahoo.com

Meetings

From Mountaintop to River Bottom: Restoring New Mexico's Watersheds. Sept. 30 – Oct. 2, Albuquerque, NM. <http://www.watershedforum.org/>

SKY ISLANDS FORESTER
SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS
c/o Craig Wilcox
225 West 100 South
Pima, AZ 85543

Building with Roundwood Workshop, October 16-18, Pine, AZ, hosted by Northern Arizona Wood Products Association. Go to www.nawps.org for information

Climate Change, Fire and other Hot Topics, Forest Inventory and Analysis Symposium 2008.

October 21-23. Park City, UT
<http://www.fia.fs.fed.us/symposium>

Fall 2008 National SAF Convention, *Forestry in a Climate of Change.* November 5-9, 2008, Reno, NV
<http://www.safnet.org/>

Smallwood Entrepreneur's Conference, "Better Practices, Better Forests." Presented by Southwest Sustainable Forests Partnership. Nov. 12-14, 2008. Flagstaff, AZ Contact Herb Hopper 928-524-6063 ext 5, herbert.hopper@rcdnet.net

New Mexico Forestry and Climate Change Workshop November 20, 2008, Albuquerque, NM. Sponsored by the Forest Guild, NMHU-Forestry and Watershed Restoration Institute RMRS, and the NM SAF Chap. Contact: kensmith@nmhu.edu

Fall 2009 AMPH-SWSAF Biennial Reunion. Contact your Section, Chapter Chairs or the AMPF/SWSAF Reunion Committee with ideas or questions.

Fall 2010 National SAF Convention. Albuquerque. Volunteer Now! Contact your Section and Chapter Chairs to volunteer.