



Summer 2003

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CHAIR GREETINGS

The summer is well on the way and so is fire season. I've been on several fires already and one in particular was the Aspen fire near Tucson that burned 300+ homes in Summerhaven. After seeing that area it certainly reminds me of our problems and potential in the San Bernardino Mountains. It wouldn't take much for us to have the same devastation. Our Fall meeting September 26 and 27 certainly is timely "Managing Changing Forests in Southern California."

Doug Piirto has put together a good agenda. Please come join us for a very important topic. The registration form is inside this newsletter. Although you can join us at the last minute, please contact Mick Sears before September 17th.

Best wishes in the upcoming year.

Craig Cowie
2003, So Cal SAF State Chair

FOREST FACTS

There are a total of 247 billion trees above 1" diameter in the US on all lands, according to the last forest inventory.

The science of forestry was established in the United States at the turn of the century, at a time when vast areas of forests had been cut down with little thought of the future. Foresters have done a magnificent job in restoring America's forests. Our forests now grow nearly four times more wood each year than in 1920.

There are 747 million acres of forestland in the United States, about 71% as much as there was in 1630.

America's forests are owned by private individuals (54%), public agencies (37%), and private industries (9%).

Each year about 1.4 billion tree seedlings are planted – roughly four million a day – more than making up for those that are harvested. If you include naturally regenerated trees the net growth exceeds the harvesting by 33% due to good forest management.

The average American uses about 749 pounds of paper every year and 95% of the houses built are done so using wood. That means that the average person uses the equivalent of a 100 foot high, 16 inches in diameter tree each year for their wood and paper needs.

Parks, wildlife refuges, and other preserves span 166 million acres of the nation's total land mass; and the National Wilderness Preservation System covers an additional 104 million acres – a total of 270 million acres are set aside for parks, refuges, or wilderness areas. The first set aside wilderness area was the Gila in New Mexico, with Aldo Leopold, a forester, as its primary advocate.

The forest industry ranks among the top 10 employers in 40 of the 50 states.

About 45 percent of the paper consumed in the United States is recovered for recycling. Recycled paper, however, is not "pure" so it must contain some new wood fiber for strength.

Three well-placed mature trees around a house can cut air-conditioning costs by 10-50 percent, while trees and other landscaping can increase property value by 5-10 percent.

One mature tree absorbs approximately 13 pounds of carbon dioxide a year. For every ton of wood a forest grows, it removes 1.47 tons of carbon dioxide and replaces it with 1.07 tons of oxygen.

Today, the United States has about the same amount of land covered by trees (or slightly less) as it did in 1907.

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COUNCIL NOTES, JOHN A. HELMS, COUNCIL MEMBER, DISTRICT III -- HELMS @NATURE.BERKELEY.EDU

At the June Meeting, Council enthusiastically welcomed Michael Georgen as SAF's new Executive Vice President. Michael was appointed after a thorough search led by Past President David Smith with the recommendation unanimously supported by Council.

Ratification of Interim Actions These included testimony on Fiscal Year 2004 Interior and Related Agencies Budget, Fiscal Year 2004 National Fire Plan Budget Allocation Letter, Comments on Forest Service Proposal for Categorical Exclusions for Small Timber Sales, Comments on 2002 Forest Service Planning Regulations, Fiscal Year 2003 Forest Land Enhancement Program Funding, Comments on Proposed EQIP Rules, Fiscal Year 2002 Fire Funding Reimbursement Letter, and Forest Health Testimony.

Unit Reports were given by chairs of House of Society Delegates, Forest Science and Technology Board, and the Committee on Forest Policy. Substantial discussion followed regarding activities, priorities, and policy development. Recommendations for national awards were approved. Membership is continuing to decline with 225 fewer members than this time last year. The new draft Accreditation Handbook was reviewed. New initiatives include enhancing dialogue on the topics of Old Growth and Forest Practice Regulation.

Ethics There was substantial discussion of SAF's Code of Ethics including the process and current status of the Code that was approved by a 73% majority by referendum in 2000. Two cases have been processed since that time. Members wishing to raise issues regarding the Code should contact their Council Representatives.

Leadership Academy The next Academy will be held probably in May 2004. Council regards this program as critically important. However, plans must be developed to make it as close to financially self-sufficient as possible. Greater effort must be made to attract a larger number of participants to meet SAF's goals of providing leadership training to as many as possible and to lower unit costs.

RNRF There was substantial discussion on the current relationship between SAF and the Renewable Natural Resources Foundation (RNRF) that have joint interests in the Wild Acres property where SAF's national office is headquartered in Bethesda, MD. This complex issue is reaching a new stage of negotiations in the 2004-mandated 10-year review. There are positive signs for a positive process leading to property development.

Finances SAF's Auditor had an "unqualified 'clean' opinion on SAF's financial statements". He also reported that SAF spent an "unusually high" 83% percent of its finances on member programs.

Convention This year's National Convention will be held in Buffalo, NY, on Oct. 24-31 and I hope you are planning to attend. For details see www.safnet.org/convention/index.cfm.

The June meeting was very productive. It is impressive to see the dedication with which Council and the National Office are working to maximize the effectiveness with which SAF meets its Mission and Strategic Objectives. Please contact me if you wish further details.



SAN GABRIEL CHAPTER, Michael Fleisher, 2003 San Gabriel Chapter Chair

Summer has flown by and autumn is fast approaching. I don't know about everybody else, but there is still plenty of time and warm temperatures ahead of us to still go to the beach and enjoy the ocean. That is if we're not all on Wildland fires. And if you do go to the beach, be sure to watch out for those Great White Sharks sitting off the coast.

The Chapter's last dinner meeting was in Glendale at Tony Roma's Restaurant on August 5th. For those of you who could not attend, you missed out on a very interesting discussion/presentation on Oak Tree Ordinances in LA City, LA County and other local Oak Ordinances. Two of Southern California best Arborists, Bob Hansen and Bob Wallace, spoke and gave us their opinion on the Oak Tree Ordinances and also spoke in some detail about hazardous Oak tree evaluations. Both Bobs presented a slide show with many graphic pictures of hazardous oak tree cases, some of which involved flattened vehicles. The turnout was average, but for those of you who did attend, I am sure the knowledge that was shared by both Arborists was found to be interesting and funny. I would like to thank Mr. Hansen and Mr. Wallace for taking time out of their busy schedule to share their experiences with Oak Tree Ordinances in the Los Angeles area.

Next up on the meeting agenda, is to have a dinner meeting in the San Gabriel area. YEAH! I am sure many of you would enjoy going back to Margarita's Restaurant in Arcadia. The topic for discussion has not been set yet, but as soon as I figure it out, I will send out an announcement. Hope you all can make it to the Fall San Gabriel Chapter meeting, and enjoy some cold cerveza.

Lastly, I would like to find out if there are any interested parties in becoming the next Chair of the SAF San Gabriel Chapter, as I currently do not have a Chair-Elect. The LA County Fire Department pool of personal for this position is running dry. If there are any people outside of my department, please feel free to call me with any questions about becoming more involved in SoCal SAF.

Hope to see you all at the Fall SoCal SAF meeting in Lake Arrowhead.

NATIONAL FORESTRY ORGANIZATION TO HONOR CALIFORNIA FORESTER



The Society of American Foresters has recognized Doug Nickles of the Glendale Fire Department with its Presidential Field Forester Award.

Initiated by SAF past-president Fred Ebel in 2000, the award recognizes foresters who have displayed uncommon talent and innovative methods to achieve a record of excellence in the application of forest management.

"Forester practitioners are the true foundation of our profession," says Ebel. "They often operate in complete anonymity, yet their actions are the single most important contribution to the viability and understanding

of our profession. This is where forestry truly happens and it is important that we recognize those who perform the art and science of forestry each and every day."

Nickles is the urban fire forester for the Glendale Fire Department. In that capacity his responsibilities include supervision of the department's vegetative management program, land use planning, and indigenous tree protection. In addition to his work with the department, Nickles runs his own consulting forestry business in which he provides services to forest landowners throughout southern California. He is also credited with conducting programs that highlight forestry, such as his field tour of the Julian area that showcased a harvesting operation in progress—the first in the area within the past 20 years. An SAF member since 1979, he has served as chair-elect (1998–99) and chair (2000–02) of the Southern California SAF (SoCal) and is credited with organizing the SoCal SAF's first state society leadership workshop.

Nickles will receive his award at the 2003 SAF National Convention, which will be held October 25–29 in Buffalo, New York.

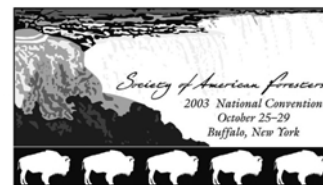
UPCOMING EVENTS

Dates to remember...

1. The **SoCal SAF Fall Meeting** will be September 26-27 in San Bernardino, at the CDF San Bernardino Unit Training Center. We will have presentations regarding the status of the San Bernardino Mtns. forests. Saturday will include a tour of the Lake Forest area.

2. The **SAF National Convention**, "Forest Science in Practice," is October 25-29 in Buffalo, NY. See details on the SAF website: www.safnet.org/convention/index.cfm. The Executive Committee would like to know which members are planning to attend. Please send an email to socalsaf@yahoo.com if you will be attending.

Society of American Foresters
2003 National Convention
October 25–29



FALL SAF MEETING—SEPTEMBER 26-27, 2003
“MANAGING CHANGING FORESTS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA”
WHERE: CDF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY RANGER UNIT

Note: (√) means speaker has been confirmed; TBD means To Be Determined

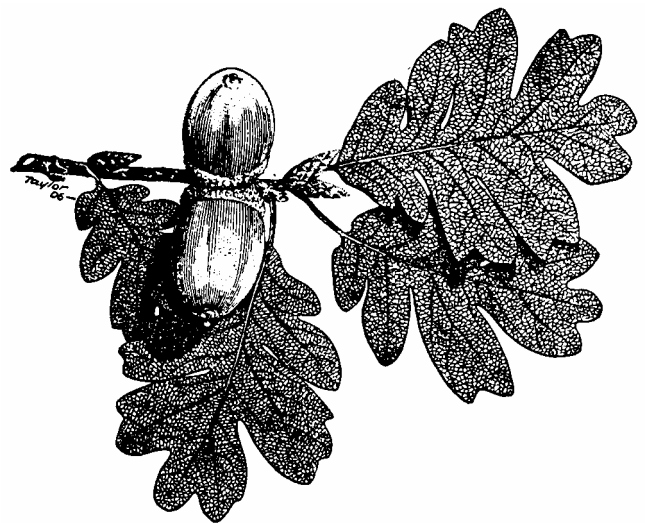
- 9:00 TO 9:15 AM Welcome and Introductions—Craig Cowie
- 9:15 TO 10:15 AM SoCal SAF Business Meeting—Craig Cowie
- 10:15 to 10:30 AM Break—Coffee. Donuts, Juices will be provided
- 10:30 to 10:35 AM Our Purpose Here Today and Tomorrow—Doug Piirto
- 10:35 to 12:00 Noon How Did We Get In this Situation?—Panel Discussion; Moderator: TBD
- What are the problems/issues associated with current management?
 - Current situation
 - How did we get in this situation?
 - What’s being done/Update on what’s going on.
 - How do we move forward?
 - How do we practically manage the forests of Southern California?
- Featured Speakers/Panelists:
- Mr. Gene Zimmerman, Forest Supervisor of the San Bernardino NF (√)
 Mr. Doug Forest or local representative, CDF
 Mr. John Hatcher, County and Public Perspective (√)
 Mr. David Caine, FireSafe Council and Landowner Perspectives (√)
- Noon Lunch
- 1:00 to 3:00 PM Practical Forest Management Solutions-Panel Discussion; Moderator TBD
- Fire Management Recommendations for the Future Mike Dietrich (√)
 - A Silviculturist’s Perspective—Dr. Doug Piirto/Dr. Chris Dicus (√)
 - An Economist’s Perspective—Dr. Rich Thompson (√)
 - A Forest Health Perspective— Mr. Gary Nakamura/Doug Nickles (√)
- 3:00 to 3:15 PM Break—Coffee. Donuts, Juices will be provided
- 3:15 to 5:00 PM Facilitating Action—Panel Discussion; Moderator TBD
- Regulation/Policy
 - Randy Scott, Planning Division for San Bernardino County (√)
 - Logging, Harvesting, and Product Utilization
 - Mr. Mark Shaffer (√)
 - Getting Things Done. Where Do We go From Here?
 - Donn Zea (√) and Peter Brierty (√)
- 5:15 PM Barbecue

TENTATIVE SATURDAY FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE—SEPTEMBER 27, 2003

- 8:00 • Meet at CDF Fire Station Parking Lot, Welcome by Craig Cowie and Doug Piirto (√)
- Arrive at Lake Arrowhead Village
 - Overview by Dave Caine and others to be determined
 - Blueridge Project—Jim Bridges
 - Blue Jay site— Mark Shaffer
 - Precommercial Thinning Site on Kuffel Canyon road— Mark Shaffer
 - Rob Roy Project—Jim Bridges
 - Forty Acre Planned Subdivision—Bob Hertel
 - Log Deck and Incineration Unit—Peter Brierty
- 12:00 Box Lunches at Picnic Site (provided)
- Developed Recreation Site Management—Gina Thompson
 - Active Logging Operation—Mark Shaffer
 - Treated Stands—Craig Cowie/Mike Dietrich
- 16:00 Adjourn

All I Need To Know About Life I Learned From Trees

It's important to have roots.
 In today's complex world, it pays to branch out.
 Don't pine away over old flames.
 If you really believe in something, don't be afraid to go out on a limb.
 Be flexible so you don't break when a harsh wind blows.
 Sometimes you have to shed your old bark in order to grow.
 If you want to maintain accurate records, keep a log.
 To be politically correct, don't wear firs.
 Grow where you're planted.
 It's perfectly okay to be a late bloomer.
 Avoid people who would like to cut you down.
 Get all spruced up when you have a hot date.
 If the party gets boring or dangerous, just leaf.
 You can't hide your true colors as you approach the autumn of your life.
 It's more important to be honest than poplar.
 (Author unknown)



A MIGHTY WIND GREETS FORESTERS IN JULIAN

BY JOHN TODD, SoCAL SAF EDUCATION CHAIR

For the second time in two years southern California foresters visited the forests of eastern San Diego County to review forest health and to look at the aftermath of the July 2002 Pines Fire. Southern California SAF held its Spring Field Tour in the forest surrounding Julian, California on March 29, 2003. Our visit was prompted not only by Pines Fire, but by the on-going salvage logging operation that is recovering much of the merchantable timber that was burned during the conflagration.

Southern California foresters started arriving in the quiet, historic town of Julian on the evening of March 28th. While pleasant spring weather was expected, the conditions that greeted us the following morning were anything but pleasant. The sun was out but a bone chilling wind that had howled throughout the night persisted into the day.

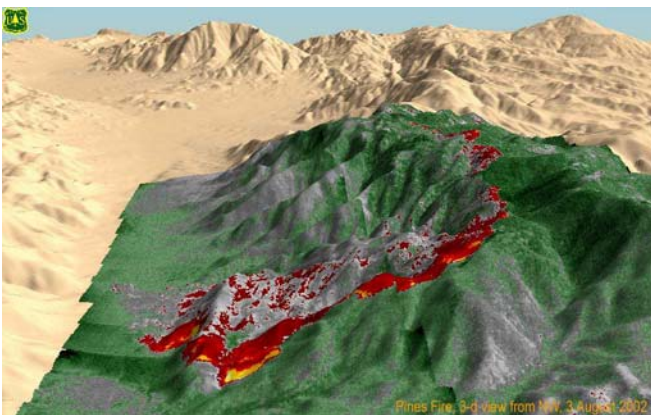


As our day was scheduled to include several stops in the field to listen to different guest speakers, and the weather not cooperating, we retreated to our assembly point, a concrete bunker atop Volcan Mountain. At that time, we decided we would listen to several of the speakers while we were in the bunker hoping we could continue our field tour later in the day. Department of Forestry Forester Thom Porter explained how the Pines fire had burned 60,000 acres of land, 5,000 of which was timber covered, privately owned land on Volcan Mountain. Local landowners, looking at miles of standing dead timber, contacted a Registered Professional Forester (RPF), SoCal SAF's Doug Nickles, who completed the necessary administrative details and contacted a Licensed Timber Operator (LTO) from northern California. Many factors, including a down timber economy in northern California, a need for sawlogs at northern California mills, an existing road system on Volcan Mountain, and the ability to use a Timber Harvest Plan (THP) exemption made the salvage operation economically feasible. Lumber trucks that already were headed to southern California added bunks, which allowed them to haul sawlogs on their return trip to the north. As more and more timber dies in the drought stricken forests of southern California the lack of a local mill or biomass plant continues to be a problem for forests that suddenly are producing an abundance of wood products.

After spending the morning in our concrete bunker, we decided to brave the conditions and head into the field. As most resource professionals know, many of our local forests have become overcrowded tinderboxes, ready to explode. Volcan Mountain fits this description perfectly and the torched remnants of a scenic mixed-conifer stand were sad to see. Dr. Richard Minnich, of University California Riverside, explained how these forests, under natural conditions would support 40-50 stems per acre. Yet prior to the Pines fire many areas contained in excess of 400 stems per acre. Dr. Minnich also explained that much of the Big-Cone Doug Fir (BCDF), that is prevalent in southern California, is able to withstand fire and will sprout the next growing season. BCDF's that are completely burned are likely dead but trees that may have only been partially burned, or have green needles intact, will likely survive.

Obviously, local landowners were devastated by the loss of their peaceful forested landscape. Their efforts to recover the merchantable timber and to assist nature in its recovery are admirable. As these landowners reside in an area where timber has not been harvested in decades, the learning curve was steep and the hurdles were many. However, they have persevered and although they may not see the forest restored to its pre-fire condition, their efforts will ensure that their heirs and future generations of southern Californians will be able to enjoy a healthy, maturing forest in the future.

As foresters our job of educating a more and more knowledgeable public continues to expand. People need to understand that a few prescribed burns and some thinning adjacent to interface zones are not going to be sufficient. Our western forests took a long time to get in their current condition. There is no Magic Wand that will make it all better. However, the efforts of landowners like the ones in Julian, the government employees who manage our western landscapes, the consultants who provide sound management advice, the forest workers who employ best management practices, and the interested public who wants to learn and at the same time, oversee the efforts of all the aforementioned parties, all carry part of the burden of restoring a healthy forest.



In closing, I need to paraphrase my former professor and friend, Cal Poly's Dr. Doug Piirto, who so appropriately said that "while it was devastating to see the loss of such a beautiful pine/mixed conifer forest I am heartened by the efforts of the landowners and the professional foresters who are endeavoring to restore a healthy forest environment. As foresters we need to continue to encourage pre-fire management of forestland areas. If we can afford the many million of dollars that it took to suppress the Pines Fire, surely some money can be made available to pretreat forestlands to reduce the risk of future catastrophic fire events."

Senate Advances Healthy Forests Legislation Another Step Legislation Headed to Senate Floor for Debate in September

Despite the recent reports of new large fires in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, and Washington and National Interagency Fire Center predictions that the West will experience hotter- and drier-than-normal weather into September, Senate lawmakers decided to postpone debate on a handful of contentious, fire-related issues until Congress returns from its August recess.

However, the Senate Agriculture Committee did unanimously pass an amended version of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HR 1904) by a voice vote at a hearing on July 24. Lawmakers also pledged to try to resolve some of the legislation's more controversial issues before the bill is debated by the full Senate.

Sponsored by Rep. Scott McInnis (R-CO) and Rep. Greg Walden (R-OR), HR 1904 is an attempt by federal legislators to implement the President's Healthy Forests Initiative, a proposal to Congress to address the nation's forest health crisis by expediting fuels reduction treatments, creating a new appeals process for these projects, and accelerating judicial review. The full Senate is expected to debate HR 1904, along with the provisions offered by a handful of other fire-related bills, in September.

Among those controversial issues, which committee members pledged to try to resolve during the Senate floor debates on HR 1904 are the federal lands to which the bill's expedited environmental analysis provisions apply, the changes to the appeals process, and the provisions that would change how the courts review hazardous fuels reduction projects.

Supporters of the administration's efforts say the reforms offered by HR 1904 are needed to expedite the fuels treatment process, thereby safeguarding western communities at risk of being damaged by catastrophic wildfire.

Speaking at a July 22 Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing devoted to Forest Health Problems in Our Nation's Forests, Montana Governor Judy Martz, who testified on behalf of the Western Governor's Association, said the bills before the Senate, particularly HR 1904, would incorporate the public into the decision making process.

"The bills under consideration today would...facilitate collaboration among government agencies and concerned persons as early as possible and before projects are selected and initiated," said Martz. "At a minimum, [this early input] will reduce uncertainty about what land management proposals are contentious and why... [and] will help to develop the trust necessary to enable professional managers to deliver on the Forest Service's commitment to improved forest health."

As for judicial review, Mark Rey, USDA under secretary of natural resources and the environment, testified that, rather than limit reviews, HR 1904 provides accelerated schedules for complaints and exhorts judges to address them in a timely manner. It also compels judges to weigh the implications of both action and inaction.

However, forest activists disagree.

"The Bush administration is trying to cut the public out of the decision making on public lands," says David Bayles, director of the Pacific Rivers Council, an environmental group based in Eugene, Oregon. "For many years the Forest Service ignored the public and ran our national forests as they saw fit. This helped us get into the mess we're in today."

Forest activists also have criticized HR 1904 for not allocating enough money for thinning effort in the Wildland urban interface, the areas in which fire poses the greatest threat to rural communities. Such criticism, it seems, has spurred divisions between Senate legislators along party lines—a reality seen most clearly in the competing fire bills offered by Senate Democrats.

Among those competing bills are Tom Daschle (D-SD) and Jeff Bingaman's (D-NM) Collaborative Forest Health Act (S 1314), which would restrict the vast majority of fire fuels reduction projects to the Wildland urban interface, and Ron Wyden's (D-OR) Community and Forest Protection Act (S 1352), which would allocate 70 percent of available federal fire funds for treatment projects in the Wildland urban interface but give western governors the option to treat more remote areas.

In response to these recent developments, SAF has issued a statement supporting the need for fuels treatments both in and outside the Wildland urban interface, as well as for Congress to take decisive action to minimize the number of devastating wildfires on the nation's forests that are at risk.

"Although it is critical we address these areas, we also need to be able to protect forests that are far from communities because they consist of the watersheds that supply water for millions of people and often provide endangered species habitat," said Michael T. Goergen Jr., SAF's executive vice president. "Congress needs to help protect all forest ecosystems, not just the areas in the immediate vicinity of homes or buildings."

To read SAF's position statement concerning the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003, visit the SAF website at www.safnet.org/policyandpress/positionstatements.cfm#FFM.

ABOUT THE SOCIETY

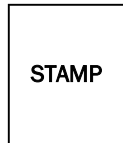
The Society of American Foresters, with about 17,000 members, is the national organization that represents all segments of the forestry profession in the United States. It includes public and private practitioners, researchers, administrators, educators, and forestry students. The Society was established in 1900 by Gifford Pinchot and six other pioneer foresters.

The mission of the Society of American Foresters is to advance the science, education, technology, and practice of forestry; to enhance the competency of its members; to establish professional excellence; and to use the knowledge, skills, and conservation ethic of the profession to ensure the continued health and use of forest ecosystems and the present and future availability of forest resources to benefit society.

The Society is the accreditation authority for professional forestry education in the United States. The Society publishes the *Journal of Forestry*; the quarterlies, *Forest Science*, *Southern Journal of Applied Forestry*, *Northern Journal of Applied Forestry*, and *Western Journal of Applied Forestry*; *The Forestry Source*, and the annual *Proceedings* of the Society of American Foresters national convention.



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**2003 Fall Meeting Information Inside
September 26 & 27, 2003 Please Register Soon**