



Newsletter

Winter 2011 • Volume 72 • Number 1



NORCAL SAF winter meeting a success

The 2011 NorCal SAF annual winter meeting took place January 14 and 15 in Redding, CA, with about 50 people in attendance.

Forestry education was the event's primary focus, with the theme being "Forestry 101: Growing California's Forestry Education." Meeting participants heard from and interacted with panels of university students and educators from universities, community colleges and nonprofit groups. Through these discussions, participants grappled with several questions, such as: What is the current state and future of forestry education in California? Are we providing new foresters and technicians the knowledge and skills needed for the 21st century? Have we made progress in communicating basic principles of modern forest management to teachers and the public? What do current students and recent graduates think about the quality of their forestry education? And what can NorCal SAF do to maintain and improve forestry education in California?

In this newsletter issue, this theme is continued by addressing the last question. Ken Nolte, the new chair of NorCal SAF, and Whitney Schimke, forestry student at Humboldt State University, write about the state of forestry education in California and challenge NorCal SAF members to become actively involved in the organization and with students. (See below and page 5.)

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Forestry education: a student's perspective

by Whitney Schimke, Humboldt State University forestry student

Between tuition increases, the price of books, and the stress of classes, sometimes it is hard to see the light at the end of the tunnel as a student. While I am sure everyone reading this has lost a night or two of sleep studying for Mensuration tests and Silviculture finals, being a student in California these days is not easy. Hearing stories from recently graduated friends who are still unemployed puts an extra burden on us. My parents are both Humboldt State alumni and have worked in natural resources professions. Naturally, I swore I would never attend HSU nor major in natural re-

sources...especially not forestry. Now, here I am, a year away from graduating from HSU with a degree in forestry and vice-president of the HSU Society of American Foresters Chapter; that's karma at its finest.

Because one of the missions of SAF is the advancement of education, the 2011 winter NorCal SAF meeting was themed very appropriately. This was my first NorCal SAF meeting, and I found it encouraging that so many attendees could be so passionate about forestry education in California.

Continued on page 6

Calendar

20th annual

Forest Conservation Days

When

March 26–27, 2011: Boy Scouts and public
March 28–April 1, 2001: San Jose area 5th graders

What

- Tours and education about renewable natural resource management
- Portable sawmill demonstrations (courtesy of Reedley College)
- Guided trail walks (led by Reedley College students & other volunteers)

Where

Sanborn Skyline Park, 16055 Sanborn Rd.,
Saratoga, CA 95070, 408.867.9959

VOLUNTEER!

We urgently need your help (foresters and natural resource specialists alike):

- » Lead tours or teach about renewable natural resource management.
- » Assist with set up on Friday, March 25.

Accommodations:

Lodging at Via West camp (<http://www.viaservices.org/>). Camping (tent & RV) at Sanborn Park

Sign up:

By mail—Use the volunteer form on the NorCal SAF Web site (www.norcal saf.org).

or

Online—<https://ucce.ucdavis.edu/survey/survey.cfm?surveynumber=2518>

Contact

Coordinator: Tom Catchpole, treecookies@netptc.net or 559.855.2194
School scheduling: Diane Savin-Dukleth

Coast Redwood Forests in a Changing California: A Symposium for Scientists and Managers

June 21–23, 2011
University of California,
Santa Cruz

For specifics and registration see:
<http://ucanr.org/sites/redwood/>.

(NorCal SAF is a sponsor of this symposium.)

CALLING ALL HISTORY BUFFS

The NorCal SAF historian-archivist position is vacant and in need of a dedicated volunteer or two. The primary duties are to assemble and maintain NorCal SAF's historical records. Records can be maintained as paper copy or electronically. Records are organized and archived in an approved location. We are looking for people with these skills and experience:

- Interest and experience with SAF affairs;
- Commitment to maintaining the NorCal SAF records;
- Communication skills;
- Organization skills.

Records are a link to our past. They provide the organization's "memory" over time, as well as continuity over the years. Records document the achievements of the organization and constitute the organization's history in perpetuity.

If you think you can contribute in this way, please e-mail NorCal SAF Chair Ken Nolte (KNolte@ShastaCollege.edu) or Executive Director Jane LaBoa (ncsaf@mcn.org).

Calendar

March 1–2 April 5–6 May 3–4	California Board of Forestry meetings <i>Resources Building, Sacramento</i> (http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/ 916.653.8007)
March 15, 22, 29 & April 5	Webinar series: Guidelines for Managing Oak Rangelands <i>Presented by UC Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources</i> (http://ucanr.org/oakwebinar)
March 17–19	Redwood Region Logging Conference <i>Redwood Acres Fairgrounds, Eureka, CA</i> (http://www.rrlc.net/index.html)
May 13	NorCal SAF Executive Committee meeting <i>Davis, CA</i>
June 15	Deadline for Foresters Fund special and regular grants (http://www.eforester.org/members/forfund.cfm)

Forestry Institute for Teachers 2011 dates

June 12–18 •
Plumas County,
University of California
Forestry Camp, Quincy

June 25–July 1 •
Tuolumne County,
Sierra Outdoor
School, Sonora

July 10–6 •
Humboldt County,
Humboldt State
University, Arcata

July 17–23 •
Shasta County,
Camp McCumber,
Shingletown

For full details
visit [http://www.
forestryinstitute.org/](http://www.forestryinstitute.org/).

*See page 11 for an
update on FIT.*

Save the date! **NorCal SAF summer meeting** **August 5-6, 2011**

The 2011 NorCal SAF summer meeting will be Friday and Saturday, August 5–6. We will gather in beautiful Amador County, in the heart of the Mother Lode. The meeting's focus will be *Biomass: From Forests to Energy*. The planning committee is currently developing an informative and enjoyable program to pique everyone's interest and increase knowledge about the opportunities and challenges for foresters, landowners and agencies.

The meeting will include: a winery dinner and evening speaker to set the stage for the Saturday field tour, fuel site visits within the Mokelumne River watershed, lunch at a hunting preserve on the shores of Lake Camanche, and a tour of the Buena Vista Biomass Power plant in Ione.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn, network and visit with foresters and others interested in this important developing issue!

If you have any suggestions for the committee to consider, please e-mail committee Chair Anne Heissenbuttel (aeheissenbuttel@volcano.net).

Partners in forestry

Editor's note: This issue we introduce a new column that I hope will be a regular feature. The goal is to spotlight other Northern California forestry organizations working toward similar aims as NorCal SAF, in particular forestry education and sustainable forest management. Thank you to Lisa Perry, North Coast Chapter of California Women in Timber chair, for this first contribution.

North Coast Chapter of California Women in Timber

By Lisa Perry, chapter chair, North Coast Women in Timber, and recruiter for Humboldt State University College of Natural Resources and Science

The mission of California Women in Timber is to support the forest products industry through communication, education and legislation. The North Coast Chapter works hard to support that mission and partners with NorCal SAF frequently. On the communication and legislative fronts we have distributed op-ed pieces to Northern California papers, made presentations to our local county officials, met with elected officials and participated in letter writing and e-mail campaigns.

The education portion of our mission is where much of our work is centered, and it is where we work more directly with NorCal SAF. We make an annual contribution to the Forestry Institute for Teachers and attend one of the evening events, mixing with the teachers to offer insight on our local community. We provide nine to ten scholarships per year for students. Many of these scholarships go to students pursuing forestry or other natural resource degrees at SAF accredited institutions (yes, Humboldt State University, but Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, too!). For the last few years, we have sponsored a hole at the Humboldt State SAF student chapter golf tournament. We also work with other partners in sponsoring forestry education programs: Education Day at the Redwood Region Logging Conference, *Talk About Trees* presentations in local elementary schools and FFA Forestry teams. In 2010 we distributed books with positive forest management messages to local elementary schools and arranged for natural resource professionals (many I'm sure SAF members!) to read the books in the classrooms.

With our mutual goal of educating the public about the proud tradition and exciting future of forestry, please look to CWIT for support in any of your SAF activities. You can contact the North Coast chapter directly at northcoastcwit@gmail.com or visit the Web site at www.cwit.us.



Northern California
Society of American Foresters
Newsletter

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NorCal SAF Newsletter is published quarterly by the Northern California Society of American Foresters. It provides SAF members and other natural resource professionals with news of NorCal SAF activities and policies plus other developments in the forestry profession. It contains statements from spokespersons and, as space permits, letters to the editor. Opinions expressed in articles, letters and opinion-editorials do not necessarily reflect the policies or views of SAF.

Please send letters or opinion editorials to Sara Eliason, NorCal SAF Newsletter editor, sara.eliason@gmail.com or c/o NorCal SAF, P.O. Box 4247, Auburn, CA 95604. Letters should refer to recent articles, general professional discussions or events, or SAF policies or activities. Letters deemed to be personal attacks will not be published. Cited individuals will be offered the opportunity to review letters pertaining to their work and submit a response, limited to 200 words. Opinion-editorials should focus on specific issues or concerns relevant to the forestry profession or SAF. Please limit all submissions to 300 words. Submissions will be published as space permits and may be edited for length, clarity, style, grammar, and to avoid duplication.

CHAIR'S CORNER: Introductions and vision

by Ken Nolte, NorCal SAF chair

To start off my year as NorCal SAF Chair, I want to remind you who I am and touch on my thoughts and goals for 2011.

My background is different from most other chairs. The majority of my education is in wildlife management. However, I completed a minor in biology and an emphasis in forestry during my undergraduate studies and a statistics minor to accompany my graduate degree.

I have always believed my education was balanced and based on science. As a student, I was involved with the Wildlife Society. As a graduate student, I presented my research at a National Wildlife Society meeting and had more than 10 publications in refereed journals and proceedings. My goal was to pursue a job at a university, where I would split time between students and research.

Then, when I was team-teaching a course in Wildlife Habitat Management at Texas A&M University, something changed. About halfway through the semester, we realized that the students in this senior-level course did not have a good foundation in wildlife. For the remainder of the semester, we "filled in the blanks" as best we could. We wanted to feel better about the qualifications with which our students were leaving A&M. This led me to realize I needed to focus on teaching students practical information that would help them become well-rounded natural resources professionals. Hang in there; this story does have a purpose.

I applied for teaching positions across the country. Fortunately, my first interview was at Reedley College. Most of you are familiar with their Forestry Technology program. They were looking for someone with wildlife background to replace a retired faculty member. After I was offered the position, it was brought to my attention that I should "consider" joining SAF. I joined in 1998, participating in chapter meetings and taking over as advisor for the Reedley student chapter.

As I became more active in the High Sierra and Wyntoon chapters, I had an epiphany: Despite my wildlife background, I felt at home with the foresters in SAF. During my time with the Wildlife Society, it was all about research. I am not discounting the value of basic research. However, if the research is not applied to management, it has less intrinsic value. It seemed to me that foresters were doing a better job of getting the applied research to the field. As a member of SAF, I am proud to be involved with a group of dedicated professionals who are well

grounded and whose work is based on a realistic view of conservation. (Keep in mind this is only my perspective.)

Now, my goals for 2011. First, we must continue to focus on small rural communities, as Nick did during 2010. No other area in the country knows more about the impact of forestry on the economy than Northern California. We need to remain focused on this issue into the foreseeable future. It concerns me when I hear people state that the current economic downturn has forever changed forestry and related industries. While part of me acknowledges this is likely true, another part hopes that it is not. Change is inevitable. Yet, the key is to change in a way that meets current and future needs and trends, while maintaining the integrity and history of our profession. As members of SAF, we must keep this in mind in the coming years.

I also would like to look at the importance of forestry education to the future of our economy, our rural communities, our profession, and our forest communities themselves. Forestry programs in California (both two- and four-year institutions) have had highs and lows in recent years. While programs at the three universities appear to have remained relatively stable, all but one of the accredited technician programs has disappeared. There are several two-year programs across California with comprehensive transfer or terminal degrees in forestry (e.g., Reedley College, Shasta College and College of the Redwoods). Other colleges, such as Modesto JC, Santa Rosa JC, Bakersfield College, and Feather River, offer forestry and/or natural resources curriculum. However, in the 13 years I have taught in California, a number of programs have gone away or have changed significantly (in my opinion for the worse).

While much has changed in the past 30 years, the fundamental roles of the community college have not. One is to provide an environment where students get hands-on experience. Second, and equally important, is to mentor students into the career pathway that best fits their skills and interests. Finally, community colleges should provide basic curriculum that is transferable to universities. While there are jobs for students graduating with Associates Degrees in forestry, most jobs will require a Bachelor of Science degree or beyond, especially if a student wants to advance up the ranks.

So what challenges does forestry education face? We need to address a diversity of issues, including SAF accreditation, course articulation between community colleges and universi-

Chair's corner

Continued from page 5

ties, relevance of course content, placing students in seasonal employment to gain experience, developing internships with industry, and developing programs that meet the needs of a diverse student population.

Education as a whole is evolving as society changes. Today we are offering more of our lecture and lab courses as hybrid (some required online content), web enhanced (courses that provide supplemental online materials such as notes that students may access if they wish), and fully online lecture only courses (all lectures, discussions, and usually exams are taken online). More of our students are married, are single parents or have other constraints that affect their ability to pursue an education. In particular, California's predominantly urban population has resulted in a generation of potential students who lack even basic understanding of the environment and where things come from. Some of our students are lacking study habits and often must start at the very basic levels of math and English. It is a huge challenge to teach content when a student cannot read or write well or do the basic math necessary to complete a lab activity. The one thing I have heard more than anything else is the lack of a work ethic in kids today. There are more issues than I can outline here, or that I can address in the coming year, but you get the idea.

Finally, in my opinion, there are few things more important to a profession than fostering individuals to replace the current generation when we retire. I truly believe we have the ability to make a difference as individuals and as members of a larger organization. However, this only works if we do more than pay dues and read the newsletter. We must become ACTIVE members and ACTIVE participants in our profession beyond our jobs. We who are on forestry faculties must engage students in active roles in their future professions. Our forest agencies and industries must be actively involved in professional societies, and they must encourage and provide means for their employees to participate. As a state society, we must become relevant to these agencies and industries, as well as to our students.

We need to be looking ahead and grooming our future leaders. As such, I am asking our membership to start thinking about next year already. I challenge each of you to strongly consider running for vice chair or any other open office in the next round of elections. I would appreciate the challenge of making a tough choice between four or five well-qualified candidates. Thanks for your time. I look forward to working with you during 2011.

A student's perspective

Continued from page 1

Part of the meeting consisted of a panel to discuss some of the issues facing students and future professionals in the educational system. On the panel with me were four very competent future foresters, one each from CalPoly, Berkeley, Reedley College, and Shasta College. I found it very humbling to sit with fellow students from such different backgrounds yet to be united by one common thing: a passion for a future in forestry. We all shared similar fears about succeeding in school and jobs post-graduation, as well as similar feelings on our respective school's forestry programs.

I may be a bit biased, but bragging about Humboldt State's forestry program was easy. My years here have been the best of my life, and I absolutely love every single one of my forestry classes. The relationships I am able to build with my peers and professors are invaluable. And it's pretty hard to beat being able to spend labs every afternoon among 80-inch redwoods right out our back door. My education at Humboldt State has fully prepared me for summer work and will prove me to be a competent forester when I walk across the graduation stage.

While education provides the foundation for all forestry-related activity, support from SAF professionals makes the student chapters successful and bridges the gap between forestry school and the forestry profession. I was very encouraged at the meeting to see all the members rooting for the students and willing to do anything they could to help student chapters. Let this then be a call to you, foresters: The support we students get from you is what shapes our experiences in school and our values in the forestry profession and of SAF. Many students at the university and community college level are struggling to see the benefit of becoming a forester and losing steam very quickly. Make an effort to attend the nearest student chapter meeting and make your presence known. Offer to have students spend a day in the woods with you. Mentor student chapters and share your forestry and SAF connections with us, because these relationships are crucial to forestry now and in the future.

After meeting other students with such passion, as well as meeting so many professionals who feel assured about the state of forestry education, I am very confident in the future of forestry.

NorCal SAF awards & recognition

NorCal SAF celebrated the achievements of several members with an awards presentation at the 2011 winter meeting.
by Julie Lydick, NorCal SAF awards chair



Forestry Achievement Award

Joanne Drummond (left), of the Sacramento-Tahoe Chapter, received the 2010 Forestry Achievement Award. She has served as vice-chair and chair of the chapter for seven years, duties which she carried out with dedication, enthusiasm and efficiency. Joanne is the proud owner of Benny, the horse auctioned off during the Forester's Fund raffle at the 2008 SAF national convention in Reno, NV. She is executive director of both the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County and Forest Landowners of California. While Joanne recently stepped down from her duties with the Sac-Tahoe Chapter, she has many supporters there who wanted to officially recognize her volunteer efforts.

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Chapter of the Year

The High Sierra Chapter and Ryan Stewart (center) as chapter chair were recognized with the Outstanding Chapter award. While the High Sierra Chapter has won this award several years in a row, they really do carry out an excellent program. The chapter 1) provides the leadership for Forest Conservation Days; 2) puts on several conservation education activities for children

each year; 3) supports Reedley College students and provides the Cecil B. Metcalf Memorial Scholarship for students enrolled in forestry and natural resources, carrying out fundraising activities to make this possible; and 4) provides professional development for members by regularly hosting dinner meeting speakers.

Not pictured: The teaching cadre from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo (Norm Pillsbury, Wally Mark and Doug Piirto) was acknowledged as fellows also. John Mount, who received the Francis H. Raymond Award from the California Board of Forestry, was also recognized in the award program.

SAF Fellows

Julie Lydick (above right) and Bill Branham (below left), as newly recognized fellows from NorCal SAF, received framed certificates.



Past chair

Nick Dennis (left) was recognized with a plaque for his service as chair to NorCal SAF during 2010.



Chapter updates

NorCal SAF Chapters

49er

Chair: Tom Francis

Bay Area

Chair: vacant

Bidwell

Chair: Scott Worden

Del Norte

Chair: vacant

High Sierra

Chair: Guy Anderson

Jedidiah Smith

Chair: vacant

Monterey Bay

Chair: vacant

Peter Lassen

contact: Mike De Lasaux

Redwood Coast

Chair: vacant

Sacramento-Tahoe

Chair: Brian R. Barrette

Southern San Joaquin

Chair: Jeff Gletne

Wyntoon

Chair: Ben De Blois

Student Chapters

Bakersfield College
Cal Poly State Univ.
Humboldt State Univ.
Reedley College
Sierra College
UC Berkeley

High Sierra Chapter

by Thomas W. Catchpole, chapter education committee chair

Since the last report the High Sierra Chapter has been busy with meetings and scholarship fundraisers.

November 2010 meeting, Fresno, CA. We conducted a business meeting, with committee reports and elections of chapter officers before dinner. After dinner Dr. David Cehrs gave a presentation about unsustainable water demand in the East Central San Joaquin Valley watershed, an issue with which he is actively involved. Dr. Cehrs teaches geology at Reedley College and consults on water supplies, water quality and recharge. He also volunteers with organizations that focus on regional water resource management and serves on the board of the Kings River Conservation District. David has worked with the Water Management Lab of the USDA and as a researcher on agricultural and municipal water problems. He is a registered geologist and certified hydro-geologist.

Scholarship committee chair, Diane Savin-Duklet announced the winner of the Cecil B. Metcalf Scholarship: Samuel Ramirez from Sultana, CA. This scholarship is dedicated to a Reedley Community College student in forestry and natural resources.

One of the main fundraisers for this scholar-

ship is sale of the chapter's 2011 calendar, featuring local landscape photos taken by chapter members.

December 2010 meeting, Fresno, CA. Following a business meeting and dinner, Brian Mattos, a Registered Professional Forester who works as a forester at Yosemite National Park, spoke about his interesting and dynamic role in managing the park, as well as some of the current fuel management and insect and disease issues impacting the forests in Yosemite. This was a great opportunity to learn more about one of our most treasured national parks.

January 2011. There was no chapter meeting. Several chapter members attended a series of events in Redding: the NorCal SAF winter meeting, the Forest Vegetation Management Conference, and the Project Learning Tree, "Global Connections: Forests of the World" training.

At the NorCal SAF winter meeting awards luncheon chapter member Max Younkin received the SAF Golden 50 Year membership award, and the High Sierra Chapter received the Outstanding Chapter Award of the year for 2010. NorCal SAF also recognized chapter member John Mount for receiving the Francis Raymond Award in 2010.

Humboldt State Student Chapter

by Whitney Schimke, chapter vice-president

Please join us April 9, 2011, for our annual golf tournament. This is an annual fundraiser to assist our chapter's students with travel to the SAF National Convention.

To participate in or sponsor the tournament, please e-mail me at wks5@humboldt.edu or call the Humboldt State Department of Forestry and Wildland Resources at 707.826.3935.

Chapter updates

Sacramento-Tahoe Chapter

by Brian R. Barrette, chapter chair

The Sacramento-Tahoe Chapter had two meetings in fall 2010. We took off December and January for the holidays and NorCal SAF winter meeting where former Chair Joanne Drummond was honored as Forester of the Year for NorCal SAF. Joanne is a single mother of a teenager and has to give that and her job with the Nevada County Firesafe Council her undivided attention.

February 2011 meeting, Auburn, CA. The meeting featured Jim Branham, executive officer of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. He presented their recent initiatives and budget overview.

Looking ahead

March 2011 meeting. The chapter's March 17 meeting will feature recently retired SCE Forest Manager John Mount. John has recently published his first book telling about his management concepts. He was also the 2010 recipient of the prestigious Francis H. Raymond Award. This meeting will probably be at Hings Restaurant in Carmichael.

April 2011 meeting. For our April 21 meeting, we are trying to get someone from CalFire to discuss the forest insect and disease issues facing California. Our tentative location is Placerville.

May 2011. We are arranging for a tour of the SPI Lincoln Processing Plant on Thursday, May 19, starting about 4:30 p.m. and concluding with dinner at a Lincoln-area restaurant. Interested members from other chapters and some Project Learning Tree facilitators are expected to attend.

Normally we take the summer off, but may try to schedule a picnic meeting in the Tahoe area and include the Reno area SAF Chapter members.

Project Learning Tree Coordinator Kay Antunez hopes to motivate chapter members to assist her facilitators in local school programs, especially since the United Nations designated 2011 as the International Year of Forests.

Chapter membership held steady in 2010, and we look forward to an active 2011.

Cal Poly Student Chapter

by Alicia C. Jones, chapter president

The Cal Poly SAF Student Chapter meets the second and fourth Thursday of each month. At each meeting, we strive to have a guest speaker who will share their background, experience, current career, opportunities in their field, and any advice pertaining to classes, internships and careers. Our speakers come from a variety of disciplines, locations and backgrounds. Many students have received summer employment, internships and senior projects by connecting with our guest speakers.

Our chapter is always seeking opportunities to volunteer in the community. We are a small chapter, but our members are dedicated. We currently have a partnership with Camp Ocean Pines, an outdoor environmental education camp in the area. SAF students plant and grow container stock *Pinus radiata* seedlings and donate them to Camp Ocean Pines. The camp then plants the trees with our assistance or gives them to students who in turn sell the seedlings as a way to raise funds to attend the camp.

Ten students attended the SAF National Convention in 2010, where several interviewed with the U.S. Forest Service and had the opportunity to network with industry professionals. We plan to attend the 2011 SAF National Convention and will begin fundraising this spring.

Two of our members attended the annual winter meeting for NorCal SAF this January. We are always eager to learn more about the industry, even if the drive is long! We would love to build on our connections to the broader NorCal SAF membership.

If you would like information on our convention fundraising, or if you would like to be a guest speaker at a Cal Poly SAF meeting: please contact our chapter at saf.calpoly.slo@gmail.com or chapter President Alicia Jones at 2aliciajones@gmail.com.

Thank you for your interest in and support of our chapter.

SAF Council report

by Mike De Lasaux, SAF council member and NorCal SAF education committee co-chair

The Society of American Foresters Council met December 3–5 at SAF National Headquarters in Bethesda, MD. Agenda items included: 1) 2011 budget, 2) proposed dues increase and 3) membership growth proposal. We also covered a review of the 2010 National Convention in Albuquerque, a new national SAF database, a review of SAF bylaws related to standards and procedures for accrediting Forest Technology Programs, and strategic planning.

SAF budget: The SAF Council adopted an unbalanced (deficit) budget. The forecasted 2011 budget is in the red by about \$250,000. Council approved the 2010 budget with a deficit, also. While we expected the 2010 deficit to be approximately \$350,000, efforts of SAF staff to reduce expenses and increase revenues resulted in an actual 2010 deficit of about \$250,000. The deficits in operating expenses are being covered from revenues of past years, for which until last year there was a five-year surplus. Council is greatly concerned about the deficit budgets and recognizes that they cannot continue. SAF Council and national office staff are working hard to address the problem.

Proposed dues increase: You may recall that in June 2010 SAF Council proposed a dues increase to take effect in 2012. Council elected to postpone a decision on the dues question until March, at the earliest. This course of action was based on what we heard from the House of Society Delegates at the national convention in October. Member dues represent about 40 percent of SAF revenues, and they declined about 6 percent in 2010. Of course, there is a concern that a dues increase will result in more members choosing to discontinue their membership, which would continue the membership decline of the past several years. By the time you read this, you will have received a survey from me asking your opinion on the dues question. I hope that you have taken a couple of minutes to share your perspective on this important issue.

Membership growth: SAF membership has been declining at a rate of 3 to 5 percent for several years. In 2009 the decline was 8 percent, no doubt attributable to the recession. Many reasons for the continued membership decline are possible, including: fewer forestry graduates, general lack of interest in volunteering and a perceived lack of relevance to one's life.

The Council discussed two proposals to address membership decline. First, SAF staff proposed a membership growth campaign with a goal to increase the membership from about 13,000 to 16,500 by the end of 2012. The growth campaign will focus on foresters who are not members, recent and new forestry graduates, and state licensing lists (RPFs). Council

voted to fund the campaign at \$162,000. This was not an easy decision given the budget situation described above. Second, Council approved a member for member incentive to encourage existing members to recruit new members. Existing members would get \$10 off annual dues per member recruited, up to the cost of the renewal fee.

National convention: The 2010 Albuquerque Convention was a success in terms of both attendance (1,500) and revenues. Convention revenue exceeded the budget forecast by \$77,000 and the expenses were \$30,000 less than budgeted. In light of the approved 2010 budget deficit, this is good news and attributable to SAF staff efforts to control costs and improve revenues. The Convention represents about 17 percent of the total SAF budget revenue.

SAF database: A new SAF database scheduled for deployment in early January offers the following features:

- 1) a unified log-in
- 2) a custom developed Continuing Education section to assist members and staff
- 3) seamless e-commerce and enhanced security features
- 4) integration with publications
- 5) accessible 24 hours, 7 days a week

New initiatives: You may recall that in 2010 SAF Council approved three new initiatives: SAF rings, driveway pavers and the mobile app.

- SAF rings—Thus far, SAF has sold 219 rings. I bought one and noticed that several other NorCal SAF members were wearing theirs at the 2011 winter meeting. This spring, forestry graduates will receive rings as part of commencement.
- Driveway pavers—The sale of commemorative pavers is intended to raise funds to support maintenance of the Gifford Pinchot Forestry Building that is SAF's home. As of December 2010, 159 pavers had been sold.
- Forestry mobile application—The SAF mobile app provides instant access to common forestry formulas including interest calculations, basal area, growth percentage, relative spacing, log scales acres/hectare conversions and more. There was no report on the number of mobile applications sold.

The next Council meeting is March 5–6, 2011. Please share your ideas, issues or concerns with me by e-mailing mjdelasaux@ucdavis.edu or calling 530.927.9993.

FIT update

by Heather Morrison, NorCal SAF education coordinator

Forestry Institute for Teachers is gearing up for another successful year of sessions. Applications are arriving daily, and we have publicized FIT throughout the state via teacher conferences, teacher and agriculture newsletters, the internet and school districts. To those of you who have contributed time and energy to promoting FIT: THANK YOU!!

To date, FIT has successfully graduated 1,812 teachers. These teachers have come from the following areas of California:

Southern California	572
Bay Area	430
Central	391
Sierra/Cascade	286
North Coast	79
Central Coast	30
Other	24
TOTAL	1,812

Help promote FIT!

Do you volunteer in your child's classroom? Are you involved in the PTA, a parents' club or site council? Now is the time to recruit your favorite teacher and encourage him or her to attend this fabulous event. There aren't many continuing education opportunities for teachers that are nearly free and, most of all, as fantastic as FIT. If you would like some color pamphlets to pass around, please call the FIT office at 888-FIT-PROJ (348-7765).

Policy Corner

by John Kessler, NorCal SAF policy committee chair

Here we are in a new year with an improving lumber market (hopefully), along with new and continuing challenges.

So far the California Legislature is concerning itself with non-forestry related issues, although there is time for that to change. However, our friends at California Licensed Foresters Association, along with the Forest Landowners of California, are working to promote legislation to increase the size limit for Non-Industrial Timberland Management Plans from its current 2,500 acres. Some groups are supporting this idea with special conditions, such as requiring a conservation easement, public access or increased stocking. Although their support is appreciated, these ideas are not necessarily incentives for affected landowners. We will look into lending support for this effort to make sustainable forest management reasonable and affordable for forest families.

The USDA Forest Service's new planning rule is still under development. The latest available information is that USDA offices and the Office of Management and Budget are reviewing the rule package. There is currently not a published release date for the draft environmental impact statement.

A collection of environmental preservation organizations (Center for Biological Diversity, Environmental Protection Information Center, Oregon Wild, and the Larch Company) have petitioned the US Fish and Wildlife Service to list the spring run of Chinook salmon in the Klamath River as threatened or endangered. They've given the FWS three listing options: listing the run as a distinct population segment, listing as its own Evolutionarily Significant Unit, or listing the upper Klamath and Trinity Rivers ESU as threatened or endangered. They are also asking for designation of critical habitat. Their reasons for the listing petition are dams; water withdrawals; logging; mining; chemicals; grazing; commercial, recreational, and tribal fishing; disease and predation; inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; genetic diversity; climate change; and ocean condition. While this is a broad and bold listing request, especially going after tribal fishing, it appears that they are throwing everything at the wall to see what will stick.

The new survey protocols for Northern spotted owl surveys either have been released (on the coast) or are coming out later in February (interior). Early thought is that the new protocols will require more surveying (at least double the past requirement) including more daylight stand surveys. At the same time FWS is reducing its participation in review and assistance to landowners and the state. We'll see how everything shakes out this season.

I hope to see you at the summer meeting. Have a good field season.

(The NorCal SAF summer 2011 meeting is August 5–6 in Amador County; see page 3.)

NorCal SAF membership update

NorCal SAF welcomes the following new and reinstated members:

Melissa Chun
Monterey Bay Chapter

Brendan Foster
Humboldt State Student Chapter

Roger Franklan
Reedley College Student Chapter

James Golden
49er Chapter

Phillip Johnson
Sierra College Student Chapter

Haley Kitchens
UC Berkeley Student Chapter

Jamie Richards
Bay Area Chapter

Carlin Starrs
UC Berkeley Student Chapter

Forestry review

Seeds beget giants

by Robert A. York, NorCal SAF secretary (This and other summaries of recent studies with relevance for forest management are reviewed semi-weekly at www.foreststeward.com.)

Article reviewed: by York, R.A. York, J.J. Battles, A.K. Eschtruth, and F.G. Schurr. 2011. *Giant Sequoia (Sequoiadendron giganteum) Regeneration in Experimental Canopy Gaps in Restoration Ecology Vol. 19, 1. pp. 14-23. Open-access download at <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1526-100X.2009.00537.x/full>*

Relevant quote from article: “For giant sequoia and other long-lived species around the world, locally-severe disturbances are an important factor of their persistence and hence restoration.”

The research: The researchers wanted to see how giant sequoia survived and then grew in different sized canopy gaps (ranging from 1/8 to 1 acre). They harvested trees to create gaps within a native giant sequoia grove and then planted seedlings of giant sequoia within the gaps. They also measured how seedlings grew in different positions within the gaps, some positions being shady (near gap edges) and other positions being sunny (near gap centers). They found that, while seedlings usually died if they were not beneath any canopy gap at all, they only needed the smallest size gap to survive at the same rate as larger sized gaps. Seedling growth, however, was very much related to gap size. Seedlings grew a lot more when gap size was increased to about 1/2 acre in size, but did not increase when gaps were greater than 1/2 acre. When planted in an ash substrate following burning, seedlings grew twice as much compared to seedlings planted in unburned soil. They conclude that discrete canopy gaps are necessary for regenerating giant sequoia, and that increasing canopy gap size up to 1/2 acre can benefit growth (but not necessarily survival) at least through the first few years after seedling establishment.

Relevance to foresters: Over the past century or so, there have been far fewer giant sequoias reproducing than what would be expected from a self-sustaining population. Fortunately, the primary reason is obvious and in theory should be addressable with forest restoration treatments. The culprit is fire suppression. This has led to fewer canopy gaps and less seed dispersal from serotinous cones.

Using prescribed fires to promote giant sequoia regeneration can be challenging. This study suggests that canopy gaps need to be large enough (1/8 to 1/2 acre) to have “sweet-spots” of both elevated light and soil moisture in order for giant sequoia to regenerate and then grow well. Creating gaps this big takes a pretty hot fire—one that might be “out of prescription” if burning near populated or otherwise sensitive areas. Of course, one could create gaps with mechanical treatments that remove trees, as was done in this study.

The relationship between gap size and growth found in this study is asymptotic. As gap size increases, so does giant sequoia seedling growth. But the benefit of larger gap size diminishes and then levels off (i.e., it reaches an asymptote). It therefore did not benefit giant sequoia seedling growth to have gaps larger than about 1/2 acre. Depending on objectives, however, survival may be more important than growth as long as the seedlings will eventually recruit into the canopy. In this study there was no relationship between survival and gap size. Seedlings survived as well in the big gaps as they did in small gaps. But gap presence was clearly necessary for survival.

Forestry research

Do California Spotted Owls prefer to nest near forest edges? SNAMP scientists say no.

by Kim Ingram, Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Project

During a 2008 Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Project (SNAMP) public meeting, a member of the public stated that they believed that California Spotted Owls preferred to nest near forest edges to be closer to their prey. Though conducting spotted owl research in the Sierra for decades and a co-author of the 1992 Technical Assessment (PSW-GTR-133), Dr. Rocky Gutierrez, Principal Investigator for the SNAMP Owl Team, found that this specific idea had not been examined. In response, research fellow Casey Phillips and SNAMP Owl Team project leader Doug Tempel, began research to see if owls actually do select nest sites more closely to forest edges than expected based on chance.

The owl researchers used field data from their established study sites in the Tahoe and Eldorado National Forests. The data consisted of current vegetation maps derived from aerial photos and owl nest site location data gathered during their annual surveys using standard protocols. One nest tree site within a forest stand was randomly selected from each owl territory and one comparison location within those stands was randomly selected by a computer program. The distances between these two locations, relative to the nearest edge of the forest stand, were then compared statistically. A forest edge could be either a hard edge, such as an adjacent clear-cut; or a soft edge, such as a young, mixed-conifer forest. Elevation at each nest site was also considered because owls living at higher elevations prey on flying squirrels that typically inhabit forests with greater canopy cover. So, one might expect owl nest sites to be further from forest edges at higher elevations.

Researchers found no evidence that owls chose nest sites closer to forest edges than one would expect by chance, even though an edge location might bring them closer to a prey source. Results also showed that owls nested further from hard edges than expected. These results were consistent regardless of the elevation at a nest site.

It is possible that some timber harvest may have occurred after owls used a particular nest site, and before the vegetation maps were made. This scenario would have only lessened the distance



Northern spotted owl family.
by Sheila Whitmore

to the nearest edge at these sites. This would also apply to the randomly selected points. Therefore, habitat alteration should not have affected the findings. The researchers speculate that limited availability of suitable nest trees within the stand may be as important of a determinant in the location of a nest site as any physical characteristics associated with its location.

Where owls choose to nest has implications for forest managers and their management plans. This research suggests that creating forest edges would not enhance owl nest site choices and that other factors would likely influence owl nest site selection, such as the availability of large trees appropriate for nesting (i.e., those with cavities, broken tops, and mistletoe broom).

For more information about the Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Project owl research please see the SNAMP website: <http://snamp.cnr.berkeley.edu> or contact Kim Ingram at kcin-gram@ucdavis.edu.

Information for this article comes from the following: Phillips, C.E., D.J. Tempel, and R.J. Gutierrez. 2010. Do California spotted owls select nest trees close to forest edges? *Journal of Raptor Research* 44:311-314.

Job opening

Research Forester

Sierra Pacific Industries

Job Description: The Research Forester will help maintain the company's research and monitoring projects throughout Sierra Pacific's timberlands. These projects include fire weather stations, stream water quality, and forest microclimate research. Projects are located on multiple areas of the SPI ownership, so Research Forester must be willing to travel. Fieldwork is arduous by nature and the applicant must be willing to cross-country hike and negotiate steep, brushy terrain to maintain equipment.

For full list of duties and qualifications, please see

Base Location: Anderson, California. This position will require overnight travel and work outside of the home-base area.

Sierra Pacific Industries will provide meals and lodging when assigned to work from a location other than the base.

Salary: Dependent on experience and qualifications.

Please send cover letter, resume, and current DMV printout (dated within 30 days of the application date) to:

Vicky Lowery, Forestry Department
Personnel Coordinator
Sierra Pacific Industries
P.O. Box 496014
Redding, CA 96049-6014
Or email: vlowery@spi-ind.com

Questions: Contact Dr. Cajun James,
Research and Monitoring Manager
(530) 378-8000

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2011: International Year of Forests

The International Year of Forests launched on February 2, 2011, at the United Nations General Assembly Hall in New York City.

Check the International Year of Forests Web site for updates:
<http://www.un.org/en/events/iyof2011/index.shtml>

International Forest Film Festival

One event of IYOF is the International Forest Film Festival. The United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat (UNFFS) worked in collaboration with the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival to organize an International Forest Film Festival (IFFF). The IFFF showcased a selection of forest films as part of the global launch of Forests 2011 that took place at UN Headquarters in New York, and will subsequently screen at other festivals and events around the world. The film festival is a key part of our outreach efforts of Forests 2011, enabling us to raise awareness on the importance of forests, their relationship with people and the planet we share, and consequently, to inspire a sense of personal responsibility/stewardship for a greener, more equitable, sustainable future. Check the winners of this competition at www.forestfilmfestival.org.

