



Newsletter

Summer 2011 • Volume 72 • Number 3



Sac-Tahoe Chapter field tour. Go to page 12 for chapter updates. by Doug Wickizer

2011 summer meeting highlights

by Anne Heissenbuttel, NorCal SAF vice chair

More than 60 foresters and their guests gathered in Avio Vineyards on August 5 for an evening of good wine, great food and a presentation on bioenergy development in California. The NorCal SAF summer meeting opened with dinner at the vineyard, just outside the Gold Rush towns of Sutter Creek and Jackson. Commissioner Jim Boyd, vice chair of the California Energy Commission, was the featured speaker. After a lasagna dinner and surprise birthday cake for NorCal SAF Treasurer John Bradford, Boyd shared his thoughts and goals for the ramp-up of additional bioenergy capacity to help meet California's newly enacted Renewable Energy Portfolio standard. The standard, signed into law this past April, requires public- and investor-owned utilities in California to make up 33% of their residential load in renewable energy generation by 2020.



Dinner at Avio Vineyards. by Tom Catchpole

Boyd reviewed both hurdles and opportunities that will influence the political and economic viability of using forest biomass to help meet

the energy portfolio standard, prompting many questions from the audience. He emphasized the challenges to promoting forest bioenergy development within a political environment where wind and solar energy have broad support. At the same time, he stressed that additional bioenergy capacity will produce significant societal benefits, such as reduced risk of wildland fire and cleaner air from reduced smoke emissions from open burning. One critical challenge will be to find reliable measures for the societal benefits of using forest biomass, and Boyd challenged SAF to help identify ways to monetize the benefits and cover the costs for biomass power.

The meeting continued the following morning with a drive up Highway 88 to visit two shaded fuelbreaks on Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) lands. Both sites are adjacent to subdivisions, and SPI Forester Craig Ostergaard explained the process that evolved in the aftermath of the Cleveland Fire (in El Dorado County) in 1992, which led to the formation of a Cooperative Shaded Fuelbreak group in Amador County. All the major landowners and managers, including SPI, The Eldorado and Stanislaus National Forests, Bureau of Land Management, Amador Fire Safe Council, East Bay Municipal Utility District and Pacific Gas and Electric Co., now participate in the Co-op.

Ostergaard was joined by El Dorado NF Fuels Officer Joan McNamara and Cal Fire Battalion Chief Chris Waters in explaining the evo-

Continued on page 3

In this issue

Calendar	2
Partners in forestry	4
Honoring Gary Nakamura	5
Forestry Institute for Teachers	6
2011 Redwood Symposium: Highlights	7
SAF Council report	8
Policy Corner	9
CHAIR'S CORNER: Are we in trouble?	10
Forestry review	11
Chapter updates	12

Calendar

Sept. 13–14 Oct. 11–12 Nov. 8–9 Dec. 6–7	California Board of Forestry meetings <i>Resources Building, Sacramento</i> (www.bof.fire.ca.gov/ 916.653.8007)
Sept. 15	Foresters' Fund regular grant deadline (www.eforester.org/members/forfund.cfm) Contact Julie Lydick, NorCal SAF awards chair: djlydick@comcast.net .
Sept. 28–Oct. 1 (Eldorado) Oct. 5–8 (Shasta) Oct. 26–29 (Santa Cruz)	California Forestry Challenge (www.californiaforestrychallenge.org/index.php)
October 12–14	Conference: Forest Restoration Beyond Fuels Reduction: What is the Vision? <i>Central Oregon Community College, Bend, OR</i> (www.forestry.org/oregon/chapter/3/forestrestoration 503.224.8046 rasor@safnwo.org)
October 30	NorCal SAF award nominations deadline (See page 13.)

Forest Stewardship for Non-Resident Forest Land Owners: Webinar

October 19 & 26, November 2, 9, 16 & 30, December 7
10 a.m.–12 p.m.

The objective of this webinar is to present a series of lectures based on a curriculum (which University of California in association with CALFIRE and with funding from the US Forest Service State and Private Forestry developed) on forest stewardship aimed at non-resident landowners.

More information

Contact: Dr. Richard R. Harris,
rrharris2464@sbcglobal.net, 707.678.3504.

Online at: http://ucanr.org/sites/forestry/Webinars/Forest_Stewardship_for_Forest_Landowners_Webinar_Series/

Partially funded by the Forest Stewardship program of the USDA Forest Service, State & Private Forestry.

Society of American Foresters 2011 National Convention

International Year of Forests: Linking Global, Regional and Local Solutions

November 2–6

Honolulu, Hawaii

- More than 250 sessions of research and training; More than two dozen CFEs
- A synthesis of current knowledge in the context of topical areas
- Regional insight into new global models for sustaining forests
- Integrating traditional culture and knowledge with modern science
- Bridging the gap between science and decisionmaking
- Several one-of-a-kind technical field tours
- New technologies and innovations
- Numerous workshops including geospatial technologies
- Adaptive management examples from forest practitioners
- Networking and collaborative learning opportunities in an inspiring environment

to Register: Go to the SAF Web site: <http://www.safnet.org/natcon11/index.cfm>

(Source: SAF Web site.)



**INTERNATIONAL YEAR
OF FORESTS • 2011**

The SAF National Convention is the culminating event of the 2011 International Year of Forests.

Summer meeting highlights

Continued from page 1

lution from the first fuelbreak, on Antelope Ridge (stop #1), to the most recent activity at the Shake Ridge fuelbreak (stop #2). Earlier work to establish the Shake Ridge fuelbreak, including a prescribed burn, was described in the May 19, 1999, local newspaper as a “holocaust.” With little or no controversy today, a thinning completed this spring resulted in sawlogs taken to the SPI mill and enormous slash piles to be processed and transported to a local biomass plant or burned on site. Due to litigation, now resolved, which delayed retrofitting of the new Buena Vista Biomass Power plant near Ione, it is not certain whether the plant will be running in time to utilize the slash piles before they must be burned.



*Slash pile at Shake Ridge fuelbreak.
by Jane LaBoa*

Stop #3 included lunch at the Camanche Hills Hunting Preserve (CHHP), where Owner and Co-Manager Larry Skinner spoke about management of the 1500-acre preserve. Under its concessionaire contract with East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD), CHHP has been working to convert the non-native annual grasses to perennial grasslands for improved wildlife habitat and cover. With a portion of the preserve now successfully established in perennial grasses, this work will continue into the future.

Kent Lambert, Manager of Watershed and Recreation for EBMUD, next spoke about the utility agency’s management of the Mokelumne River drainage, including Lake Camanche and other reservoirs. He linked management of the upper watershed with management of EBMUD lands, as well as delivery of water to customers in the East Bay, and power sold to Sacramento Municipal Utility District.

Before leaving for the last stop, SAF Past President John Helms recognized three members of NorCal SAF for their achieve-

ments, which resulted in their recent election to SAF Fellow. Drs. Bill McKillop and Bill Libby, both present, and Jim Ostrowski all were given a round of applause in appreciation for their outstanding work and their recognition as Fellows.

The tour ended at the Buena Vista Biomass Power plant, an 18-megawatt generation facility that is being repowered as a long-term sustainable biomass energy generation facility. Originally fueled by low-grade coal (lignite), the new plant will utilize forest biomass as well as urban wood waste and agricultural material (orchard prunings, shells) to generate clean energy, and it will create more than 20 new family wage jobs. John Romena, Fuel Manager; Doug Tomison, Plant Manager; and Doug Thompson, Operations and Maintenance Supervisor, explained the operation and led a very informative tour of the facility. Refurbishment is well underway, with the plant expected to begin receiving fuel in late October 2011.



*The full group on the tour at Buena Vista Biomass Power plant.
by Jane LaBoa*

Not only was it an informative day and a half of meetings, but participants generously supported the Foresters’ Fund by buying raffle tickets and bidding on a silent auction pheasant hunt at Camanche Hills Hunting Preserve. With drawings for local farmers’ market products including Amador Co. Olive Oil, locally-made jams and pepper jellies, as well as jewelry and books, participants raised nearly \$500 for the Foresters Fund.

The program committee heartily thanks all who helped with set-up and clean-up for the dinner, carpool drivers for the field tour and those who donated prizes, purchased tickets and bid on the silent auction. Your assistance and donations were instrumental in making the meeting a great success, both for NorCal SAF and the Foresters Fund!

Partners in forestry

The Forest Foundation

by Shaney Emerson, education director

The Forest Foundation (TFF) is a non-profit organization created in 1994 to inform California's K–12 students and their teachers about the critical relationships among societal welfare, forest stewardship and the renewable resources of wood, water, wildlife and aesthetics on which society depends.

TFF provides science-based curriculum and field trips free of charge to teachers and students throughout California. Our programs include:

- **Forestry curriculum.** Curriculum for every age group including a virtual forestry simulation computer program, activity booklets, bookmarks, carbon curriculum, posters and more. We distribute our curriculum in classrooms; it also is available to teachers at Forest Conservation Days, Arbor Day events, logging conference education days, county fairs and Forestry Institute for Teachers.
- **California Forest Center at Cal Expo.** An estimated 50,000 Californians visit this one acre educational forest exhibit annually during the state fair. Established in 1971, the exhibit showcases native species and explains how modern forestry practices ensure the sustainability of forest resources.
- **Talk About Trees.** Hands-on classroom presentation to educate 3rd–6th graders about the important role forests play in our lives. The presentation follows California state science standards and provides teachers with nine follow-up lessons. *Talk About Trees* has been around for over 30 years. In the past five years, it has served an average of 45,000 students per year across 19 counties.
- **Map It, Manage It, Sustain It!** The goal of this forestry field trip for high school students is to inspire them to learn about the science of forest management and to spark an interest in natural resource careers. Students get hands-on experience with GPS/GIS and various forestry tools. TFF partners with Humboldt State University and Shasta College on this program.
- **Career outreach.** TFF presents the variety of careers paths in forestry at career fairs for high school teachers and students. Our www.calforestjobs.org Web site gives information on forestry careers and links to scholarships and colleges.
- **Web site.** Our Web site features materials for teachers and students, forestry information, career information, etc.: www.calforestfoundation.org.

The Forest Foundation would like to thank SAF members for your volunteer time at the California Forest Center and other TFF events. We welcome the opportunity to work with SAF on future activities. For more information please contact Shaney or Pam at 530.823.2363, se@calforestfoundation.org or ps@calforestfoundation.org.



Northern California
Society of American Foresters
Newsletter

NorCal SAF
P.O. Box 4247
Auburn, CA 95604
norcalsaf.org

EDITOR & ADVERTISING • Sara Eliason

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR • Jane LaBoa
EDUCATION COORDINATOR • Heather Morrison

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
CHAIR • Ken Nolte
VICE CHAIR • Anne Heissenbittel
PAST CHAIR • Nick Dennis
TREASURER • John Bradford
SECRETARY • Rob York
COUNCIL MEMBER • Mike De Lasaux

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS
AUDIT • Brad Seaberg
AWARDS & FORESTERS FUND • Julie Lydick
COMMUNICATIONS • Mike Hupp
EDUCATION • Mike De Lasaux &
Gary Nakamura
MEMBERSHIP • Kathleen Jordan
NOMINATIONS • Mike De Lasaux
POLICY & LEGISLATION • John Kessler
TELLERS • John Melvin

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.

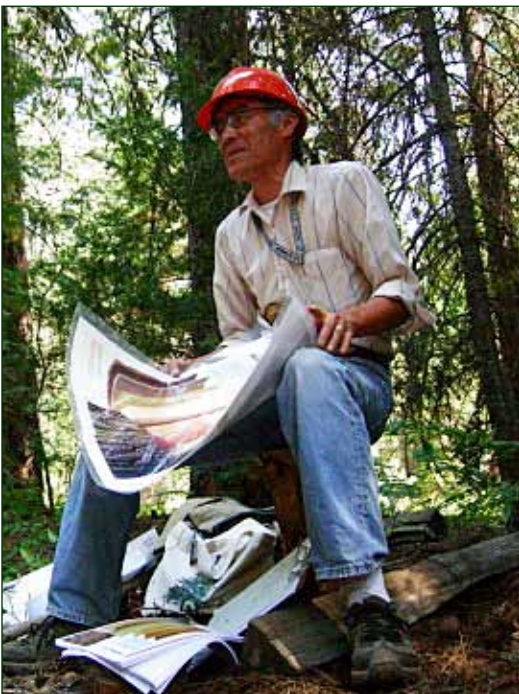
Please send letters or opinion editorials to Sara Eliason, NorCal SAF Newsletter editor, sara.eliason@gmail.com or c/o NorCal SAF, P.O. Box 4247, Auburn, CA 95604. Letters should refer to recent articles, general professional discussions or events, or SAF policies or activities. Letters deemed to be 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.

Honoring Gary Nakamura

Thank you, Gary!



Gary teaching a FIT group about bug galleries, 2007.



Gary leading a FIT group, 2007.

by Kathleen Jordan

Gary Nakamura, a respected member of Northern California Society of American Foresters, retired in June from his position as director of the University of California Cooperative Extension office in Redding. Gary worked for the University of California for 27 years, and he will continue as an emeritus forestry specialist.

During his years with Cooperative Extension, he gained a reputation for crafting compromises between competing interests. He worked with timber interests, environmental groups and local communities. Examples are his pivotal role in the creation of the Shasta-Tehama Bioregional Council and his service on the Shasta County Resource Advisory Committee.

Gary is an active SAF member who is generous with his time and expertise. He is well known for his direct participation in the Forestry Institute for Teachers, Forest Conservation Days and other educational programs for youth and community members. He served both as a committee member and an officer in NorCal SAF, and he made a difference in the Wyntoon Chapter's successful scholarship program with his time and his financial support.

Gary's expertise and reasoned approach to forest management in California made him an obvious choice as a member of the Board of Forestry. This is a significant commitment to the forestry profession, and he made this commitment willingly despite the additional hours and often frustrating political environment during his tenure on the Board.

We have all been enriched by Gary's highly principled brand of forestry. He embodies the forester of our time who seeks to do the right thing for the long-term health of forests while maintaining a candid and trustworthy demeanor. He recognizes the value of relationships in our challenging world of competing interests and viewpoints. Let us wish him well as he retires from his Cooperative Extension position. Thanks, Gary.



Gary (far left) with the 2010 Shasta County FIT session.

Forestry Institute for Teachers

by Heather Morrison, NorCal SAF education coordinator

NorCal SAF successfully completed another summer of FIT sessions. We ran four sessions, with a total of 82 teachers and other educators completing the full five-and-a-half days of class. The Shasta FIT session, which is held at Camp McCumber near Shingletown, also marked Gary Nakamura's last FIT session. Gary is one of the original founders of FIT and NorCal SAF will sorely miss his presence at FIT, although his influence and inspiration will always remain.

Focus on the Shasta FIT

The first Shasta FIT session was held in 1994 at Whiskeytown Environmental School near Lake Whiskeytown in Shasta County. From 1996 through 2006 it was held at Camp Latieze, near Manton. It has been held at Camp McCumber since 2007. It is co-directed by U.C. Cooperative Extension Area Forestry Specialist, Gary Nakamura and Nancy Jones, Education Consultant from Hawaii (formerly from Quincy). Participants reside in the camp cabins. Breakfast and dinner are served in the cafeteria/lodge, and participants create their own lunches with fixings provided by the cafeteria staff.

One of the unique things about FIT is the focus on the "needs and wants" of the participants. Teachers place post-it notes on the main door, letting the directors Gary and Nancy know what they need (like certain forestry information) or what they want (like diet coke rather than regular coke).

The session begins on Sunday, and as teachers arrive, they are taken on a guided nature walk by volunteer foresters, and given a western tree guide, which they can later use in the classroom. Teachers then take a "pre-test," composed of questions regarding such topics as forest ecosystems, natural resources and forest management. This is one way FIT evaluates what teachers learn.

That first evening, introductions are made and teachers are introduced to their first forestry activity: Forest Consequences. This is a Project Learning Tree activity where the participants visually present their understanding of forest ecosystems, forest management issues, forest uses and so on. Small groups constructs collages of forests and forest-related activities using magazines and newspapers. At the end of the session, this collage is revisited, and generally, changes according to what the teachers feel they have learned.

Education specialists Brian Brown and Dennis Mitchell help Nancy by working with teachers in focused grades, K-3rd, 4th-

6th and the upper grades. Gary Nakamura focuses on the forestry parts of FIT. Long-time volunteer and forester John Nicoles helps put together the wood products boxes and present forest products information, while Tom Catchpole, another long-time volunteer, puts together tree cookie kits to help teachers teach about tree growth. Tom also presents Project Learning Tree curriculum.

Participants stay very busy throughout the week, given only a short break one afternoon, when they can go hiking, work on their curriculum unit or just take a snooze. Teachers meet with specialists, such as silviculturists, wildlife biologists, fire ecologists, soil scientists and hydrologists, and are introduced to ways they can implement these subjects into grade appropriate activities in the classroom (for example, how to discuss erosion to kindergarteners versus how to discuss it with high school students). Participants also witness "Democracy in Action," another activity where they listen to and ask questions of guest speakers representing small forest landowners (NIPF), large forest landowners, consulting foresters, the U.S.F.S., CAL FIRE., an environmental group and local government. Field trips include visiting the Sierra Pacific Industries mill in Anderson, a woods tour to visit harvesting operations and generally a trip to witness activities like biomass operations.

Attendees receive materials, including Project Learning Tree and Project Aquatic WILD, wood product boxes (composed of cork, pencils, pulp, Pacific Yew bark and more), other curriculum related materials, posters, pencils, activity guides and a book bag to carry it all in. Some teachers have even remarked that they needed to carry an empty suitcase so they could take it all home with them on the plane. (We took this suggestion seriously; "empty suitcase" is now on the "What to Bring" checklist for all participants.)

All attendees are encouraged and given an incentive (a \$200 stipend) to create *and* implement a forestry unit or project. During their stay at camp, teachers work on this with the help of the three education specialists.

At the end of the session, teachers take their "post-test," answering the same questions they did the first day for their "pre-test." Given the information they learned during the week, you can imagine the difference between the two tests. Finally, we honor participants with a graduation ceremony, along with the traditional "Pomp and Circumstance" played on the fiddle (courtesy of Tom Catchpole).

FIT session photos by Tom Catchpole

Top to bottom: Plumas County, Tuolumne County, Humboldt County, Shasta County.



2011 Redwood Symposium: Highlights from Santa Cruz

by Jaime Adler, University of California, Berkeley

The Coast Redwood Forests in a Changing California Science Symposium was held June 21–23, 2011, at University of California Santa Cruz, with just under 300 registrants in attendance. Participants ranged in background from graduate level students to university forestry and natural resource faculty, land managers, conservation groups, public agencies and land trust members. The symposium was strategically held in Santa Cruz, near the Southern end of the redwood region. Designed to present the state of our knowl-



*North County Tour, Cal Poly's Swanton Pacific Ranch.
© Jodi Frediani*

edge about California's coast redwood forest ecosystems and sustainable management practices, this symposium was built on earlier redwood science symposia held in Arcata, CA, in June 1996 and in Santa Rosa, CA, in March 2004. The symposium was jointly organized by the forestry programs at UC Berkeley, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and Humboldt State University, and partially sponsored by Northern California Society of American Foresters.

The first day of the symposium consisted of two simultaneous field tours, one to the North County and one to the South County. Opening remarks started the second day of the symposium and began the academic concurrent sessions. Local historian Sandy Lydon spoke about the special history of the redwoods in the region; Ruskin Hartley, executive director of Save the Redwoods League, noted all should focus on a shared set of goals so that public and private land can progress simultaneously. Concluding the session, Ron Jarvis, Home Depot's vice president of sustainability, talked candidly about the role of environmental sustainability practices and policies as part of the home improvement retailer's business model.

Over 75 concurrent oral presentations on current research and management case studies were showcased over two days pertaining to the topics of: ecology, silviculture and restoration,

Continued on page 14

SAF Council report

by Mike De Lasaux, SAF District 03 council representative and NorCal SAF education committee co-chair

The SAF Council met on June 4 and 5 at SAF headquarters in Bethesda, MD. Highlights from the Council discussions:

Dues and new membership incentive. In what has been called “a bold move” and in response to SAF members’ request that the SAF implement a tiered dues structure rather than a one size fits all approach, membership rates will now range from \$95 to \$240 and will include different products and services throughout the tiers. Enrolled student members will pay only \$40 per year.

SAF leaders at the local level want to recruit members and grow the organization, but believe that doing so will require a more flexible dues structure. The Council believes a tiered approach will allow members to belong to SAF at a price and service level that suits their individual needs. The SAF Council unanimously approved this new tiered dues structure at its June 2011 meeting in response to the concerns of the membership and, especially, the House of Society Delegates—a leadership body made up of the chairs of SAF state societies.

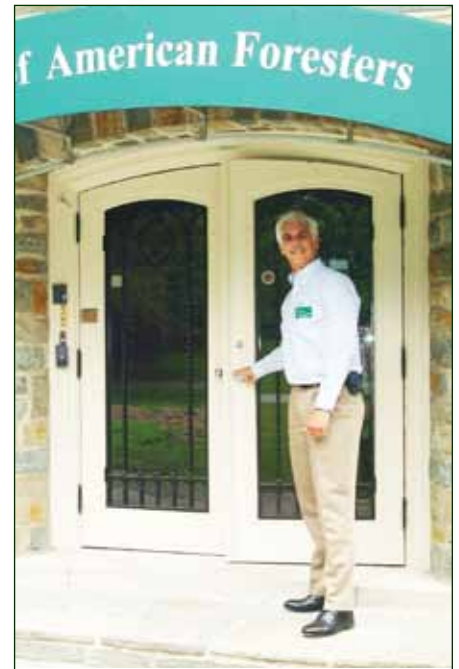
The SAF is currently developing an implementation plan for tiered dues. Since there will be questions about what is included at each tier, how members can take advantage of the program and many additional thoughts and ideas, SAF staff are developing a communications plan and information guides and working with SAF leadership to ensure a smooth transition to this new approach. These communications will take place over the next few months. The goal of SAF staff is to have the program fully articulated and understood by the time SAF sends its first set of annual invoices to its membership. Once final, the SAF website will be a source for more information, webinars and other communications about this exciting new approach to SAF membership.

Fellow nominations. Council approved the nominations of four District 03 members: Michael Buck, Hawaii SAF, and William Libby, William McKillop and Jim Ostrowski, all of whom are Northern California SAF members.

SAF property. There is active movement to sell the SAF property in Bethesda. The current scenario provides for SAF to sell approximately 10 acres while retaining about 4 acres and the Gifford Pinchot Forestry Building. The Renewable Natural Resources Foundation and SAF have agreed to terms on the distribution of whatever proceeds result from the sale.

Other business. In a series of conference calls following the June Council meeting we voted to approve the new Biomass Taskforce Report. This report will be released as a Journal of Forestry special edition in late summer or fall much like the Forestry and Climate Change Task Force report that was released in 2008.

Next Council meeting. The next Council meeting will be during the annual convention in Hawaii. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding any of the items above or if there is anything that you would like brought to Council’s attention. It is an honor and a pleasure to represent you as we strive to fulfill the SAF mission.



Mike De Lasaux at the Society of American Foresters headquarters in Bethesda, MD.

OPINION EDITORIAL: Thoughts on the past and future of Forest Conservation Days

by John Nicoles, NorCal SAF member

NorCal has now completed twenty years of Forest Conservation Days. Over the years some have said that we could get “more bang for our buck” by doing something else with our time and money. Perhaps it is an appropriate moment, then, to consider whether we wish to carry on.

“Bang for your buck” assumes that your efforts will produce measurable, tangible results, hopefully in the near term. In this regard, I’m sure that critics are correct: We have no idea whether we have achieved anything at all. On the other hand,

I am not sure what else we might have done that would have produced measurable “bang.” More importantly, that was not ever, in my mind, the intent.

In the early 1990’s member Tad Mason lived for a period of months in Santa Clara County. He noticed that many youngsters in the San Jose area had little or no exposure to forests and forest management. He conceived of a program of NorCal-led field trips for these youngsters.

Elementary-school students are works in progress. They do not know what they are going to be, nor do their parents or teachers; certainly we do not. Growing up requires hanging out at the shopping mall of options. What we are providing is a shop-window full of opportunities that, for these students, exist only in fairy tales. While I doubt that we are generating a new cadre of foresters, at least, when the time comes, these students will have the opportunity to choose a forest-related field. While the feedback that we get from the students does not reflect this (generally they “had a good time”), the feedback that we get from the teachers indicates that we are providing a valuable service.

Along the way a number of other, probably valuable, things occur:

- We have helped many scouts qualify for merit badges (I am always amazed at the number of my colleagues who have come into forestry through scouting);
- We have given youngsters an opportunity to interact with adults who are *not* part of their normal authority structure;
- We have introduced local youth not only to the field of forest management, but to the very existence of parks and forests in their region;
- We have addressed nearly as many adults as students; adults who will carry away specific messages about forestry and foresters.

I am comfortable with those results, and would be happy to continue on course. That said, we are currently confronting (as Miss Piggy described it) an “electrifying mid-course correction.” Our ability to continue may be negated by the loss of economical lodging for volunteers. A number of options are being explored, including moving the event to a different location. I do not favor the latter option because the locations considered to date would be more remote from either our current urban service population or *any* urban service population, and I believe the value of FCD lies in connecting to urban youngsters and teachers. Unless we can find suitable lodging for the present venue, or a new venue that is convenient to an urban setting, I would personally be inclined to end the program.

Policy Corner

by John Kessler, NorCal SAF policy chair

It has been a quiet summer on the legislative front in California. For better or worse, the state budget and employment issues seem to have kept the legislature from going out of their way to affect forest management.

NorCal submitted comments in June on the Forest Service’s proposed Planning Rules. By the time you receive this, our comments should be posted on the Web site.

The Board of Forestry is continuing to work on a package of revised road management rules. They have been working hard and have a regulatory proposal with some changes requested/recommended by the Department of Fish and Game, National Marine Fisheries Service, Cal Fire, and California Geological Survey. A look at the review schedule for this rule shows that there is still a great deal of work to be done before the work is complete. The existing and proposed rules should help California’s private timberland owners continue to work even as the Environmental Protection Agency develops rules to require NPDES permits for forest roads as per the Ninth Circuit Court.

The Board also has been reviewing the aspen restoration rules proposed by SAF and adopted in 2006. A new rule package is out for comment to address concerns by various stakeholders.

One critical consideration in the work that the Board is doing is the fact that the Board is down to six members as of August 1, with one of those remaining members planning to leave very soon. NorCal’s own Gary Nakamura has retired and is in the process of moving out of state. This will leave the Board with the bare minimum for a quorum and will likely slow down their deliberations until the governor makes some new appointments.

Rule packages before the Board of Forestry can be found at this Web page: http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/regulations/proposed_rule_packages/.

We want to thank Gary Nakamura for his many years of service to and support of SAF, NorCal SAF, the Wyntoon Chapter, and the forestry profession in general. It has been an honor working with Gary and we wish him all the best in the next phase of his life!

If there are any issues that pique your interest, contact your chapter leadership or the NorCal policy committee to learn how you can get involved.

CHAIR'S CORNER: Are we in trouble?

by Ken Nolte, NorCal SAF chair

It seems that just about every group I am involved with is facing the same three challenges: membership recruitment, member retention and member involvement. First, I would like to discuss what I think are the main concerns related to recruitment and retention, since I believe they are affected by the same core issues. Then, I will provide my opinion on some key issues related to member involvement and assuming leadership roles.

Why do people resist joining a professional organization? The easy answer is that they don't believe there are substantive benefits to them for joining. Of course, the cost of membership and what they are getting for their dollar is probably of equal consideration. Keep in mind that just one coffee drink from your favorite establishment each week will cost you about \$200 during a year, while eating lunch at a restaurant instead of brown bagging it will probably cost you more than \$500 over the course of a year. That is a more than a sufficient amount of money to cover dues. I don't want to dismiss the issue of money as a trivial one, because it is not. However, it is our choice on what we choose to spend our money. I know each of us could easily conserve enough money each year to cover dues with no real changes to our daily lives if it were a high enough priority.

Now to the "what's in it for me" angle, because this is the real challenge to increasing and retaining members. As the president of our faculty union at Shasta College, I frequently find myself selling current and prospective members on the "benefits" of joining the union. I've also spent much of the summer trying to formulate a statement that would justify to new members why they should join SAF. Honestly, the best reason I could come up with is: You just should!

Wow, deep and intellectual stuff coming from a professor, huh? Let me explain. I've always believed that you should be a member of at least one professional organization related to your career choice, because it's the right thing to do. I guess I just recently decided that for me that is enough of a reason. I'm not even going to say that you should become an "active" member unless that is something you are really motivated to do. Organizations need funds to advocate for their members, and your dues provide for that. I'll even go one step farther and state that you don't even need to agree with every position the organization takes. Leaders of an organization are given the responsibility by the members to make decisions, and I honestly believe they do a great job most of the time. I also believe the typical member who elects not to be actively involved in the organization should provide input when they can, vote in the

elections and otherwise trust in the decisions being made by his or her peers and leadership.

I joined CLFA recently, because I believe they play an important role in the forestry profession. I'm not an RPF, and given that I'm a full-time faculty member, I don't really have a need to become one. However, the dues I pay are certainly going to a good cause—at least that's how I feel. It's one of the ways I support the profession. I was finally able to attend our local breakfast meeting recently. I learned a few things that I can use in my classes, I met a few new people, and I'm confident they are using my dues in the best way they can.

Transitioning to member involvement: I was a little disappointed that only six other members attended the CLFA breakfast meeting. We can all relate to this, as most of our local SAF chapter meetings are attended by a fraction of the actual membership. For some time I've been lamenting the lack of member involvement in meetings, activities and elections. As of now, I've decided it just is what it is. In other words, it isn't a good thing or a bad thing, it is just the way things are. Generally speaking I prefer most things to remain unchanged. I like the idea of monthly dinner meetings more for the opportunity to get together with good people and to share information. However, maybe it's time to change our expectations?

Maybe we need to ask ourselves some questions. Are chapter dinner meetings central to the functioning of our society as a whole? Some of our chapters are spread across several counties, and given the cost of fuel it's not too surprising members may elect to not attend meetings. If the leaders meet as needed to discuss any relevant business, is that enough? With current technology, most chapter business could easily be conducted via e-mail or other electronic media. Maybe the focus should shift to attending regional and national meetings? Sorry, but I don't have answers right now, just questions.

Now to the final issue: There are relatively few members in any organization who have the desire to take on leadership roles. We all have the same amount of time to do those things we value most. I would suggest it's safe to say that a majority of people value many things in their life more than taking on responsibilities within a professional society. We've all heard the idea that if everyone just did a little piece of the work, it would be easier to get more things done and nobody would get burned out. Was there ever a time when that was the case? Maybe, but I doubt it.

Forestry review

by Robert A. York, NorCal SAF secretary
(Find this and other summaries of studies with relevance for forest management at www.foreststeward.com.)

Dear Sudden Oak Death: What have you done for me lately?

Article reviewed: Metz, M.R., K.M. Frangioso, R.K. Meentemeyer, and D.M. Rizzo. 2011. *Interacting disturbances: wildfire severity affected by stage of forest disease invasion*. *Journal of Ecological Applications*, 21(2):313-320.

Relevant quote from the article: “Our results indicate that the timing of fire relative to disease progression is an important predictor of burn severity in infested areas because differences among fuel types were more important indicators of damage than pathogen presence alone.”

The research: Novel disturbances, such as exotic invasions and extreme changes in fire regimes, can be significant stressors in forests. But perhaps even more significant is how these disturbances will interact with each other to influence forests in uncertain and profound ways. These researchers studied one such interaction by evaluating the influence of Sudden Oak Death (SOD) on wildfire severity. They were able to do so because they had measured forests that were infected to various degrees (ranging from no infection to very advanced infection) by SOD prior to the Basin Complex wildfire fire in the central coast range of California. They found that where SOD had recently infected forests and caused many standing dead trees, fire severity was greater, but SOD infection was not the primary determinant of fire severity. Burn severity was very patchy and influenced by many other factors besides whether or not the area had been infested with SOD. In areas where SOD infection was advanced (i.e., several years since first infections), there was greater burn severity at the forest floor, but, again, SOD infestation was not a major determinant of fire severity. They suggest that management efforts may be more effective if targeted in areas where SOD is still in the initial stages of infestation (i.e., where there are lots of standing dead trees with dead leaves and branches still on the trees).

Relevance to foresters: There appear to be four stages of SOD:

1. Initial infection—trees lose vigor and slowly decline over about 6 years.
2. Crown mortality—over one or two more years, leaves and

Continued on page 14

Is there a dearth of future leaders out there? I don't think so. In most instances someone has always been willing to step up to assume a vacant leadership role. Often it's the same pool of people who rotate from one responsibility to another and back again, but that's okay, as long as the job is getting done. Some turn out to be outstanding leaders who are able to motivate others and accomplish many great things. Some, and I would place myself in this category, simply fulfill the role to the best of their ability given the amount of time they can set aside. They may move certain things forward or maintain the status quo depending on their motivation and commitment.

I've been accused of being too cynical on more than one occasion, and I acknowledge that is who I am. Cynicism isn't a bad attribute for a scientist, right? However, I don't believe my message is really a negative one. I think my bottom line is this: Our society at the local and national level is different than it was 20 years ago, and that's okay. Our members are different than they were 20 years ago, but it's not as though we could change that even if we wanted to. Yes, our membership is down, but maybe we are just in the process of setting a new norm.

Do I think that we should just maintain status quo? No. We must continue looking for new ways to reach current and potential members. We also must keep looking for new ways to forward our profession and better methods to educate the public about forestry. To accomplish this, I suggest we take a fundamentally different approach to recruitment and retention. Finally, do we have enough new leaders to fill the voids? Since someone has always “stepped up,” I imagine that will always be the case. See, the glass is half full sometimes. There will always be a pool of people who tend to be leaders and will rise to an occasion. Some will excel, and some will be “place holders,” but the society will continue to function.

So to answer my question “Are we in trouble?”: I don't believe we are. Yes, we will continue to face challenges. We absolutely need to reestablish a sense of ownership and commitment among our members. Perhaps we need to establish a new paradigm (you should join just because it's the right thing to do) for encouraging potential members to join SAF. Now for the big disappointment, I don't know how to accomplish this. It's not going to be a simple task, but I'm confident one of those future leaders will find a way to make it happen. We need to go to bed thinking about it so someone will wake up in the middle of the night with one of those “Aha” moments.

Chapter updates

NorCal SAF Chapters

49er

Chair: Tom Francis

Bay Area

Chair: vacant

Bidwell

Chair: Scott Worden

Del Norte

Chair: vacant

High Sierra

Chair: Ryan Stewart

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: Larry Duysen

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

High Sierra Chapter members supported SCE Edison's Forestry Science Days on Friday, May 13 and 20, and June 3, with 690 students from five local elementary schools attending over the three days. The overall theme this year was "Water," and the event was held in and around the John S. Eastwood Power Plant above Shaver Lake. The students, divided into class groups, and their group leaders went to six learning stations, most staffed by High Sierra Chapter members. Specialists at each station taught the students a different water related topic. In the Powerhouse Class the students were in for a real treat as their bus drove about a mile down into the mountain and a thousand feet below the surface to see the underground powerhouse. This is a secured area that can only be seen by special arrangement.

May 2011 meeting, Fresno, CA. At the May meeting, the after dinner speaker was Mosè Jones-Yellin, a Presidential Management Fellow on the Sierra National Forest and Project Coordinator for the Dinkey Landscape Restoration Project. He explained the collaborative process used in conducting this project.

June 2011 field trip meeting. In June, the Chapter visited Grand Bluffs Demonstration Forest near Shaver Lake on the Dinkey Creek road. There Chapter members saw the progress Bonnie Bladen and Ray Laclercque, owners of the Intermountain Nursery in Prather, CA, have made restoring their privately owned forest land. The land had been burned in the Bretz Fire of 1947 and came back mainly to brush. It has high site forest ground on it, and Ray and Bonnie have been using several methods to remove and control the brush and reforest the area.



High Sierra Chapter Members in John S. Eastwood Power Plant at Shaver Lake during SCE Science Days.

July 2011. There was not a formal July Chapter meeting due to field work. Thomas Catchpole was busy during June and July for four weeks, plus weeks of preparation time, working on the Forestry Institute for Teachers (FIT) staff at each FIT session, held at Quincy, Sonora, Humboldt State University campus and Camp McCumber.

August 2011. Four individuals from the High Sierra Chapter attended the NorCal SAF Summer Meeting on August 5 and 6 at Ione, CA. It was an outstanding meeting with great food and a top notch field tour.

For our August field trip meeting we ventured to Yosemite National Park. This overnight field tour was conducted by Park Forester, Brian Mattos. Chapter members stayed at the Wawona Field Station's cabins, where they got a moonlight hiking tour of the park. The tour included Brian's vegetation management projects to protect and enhance the park as well as make it safe for park visitors.

Regular monthly meetings will resume in September. It has been a very busy and productive summer for the Chapter members.

Chapter updates

Sac-Tahoe Chapter

by Brian Barrette, chapter chair

June 2011. Sac-Tahoe Chapter members enjoyed a day at Lake Tahoe learning about the history of the area, visiting the historic estates courtesy of our USFS members, and looking at the rehabilitation of the Angora Fire.

July 2011. Chapter members volunteered a day at the State Fair Forestry Center and plan to staff a booth at the Nevada County Fair in August.

Plans for the fall and winter include a joint meeting with members of the Amador-El Dorado Forest Forum, a presentation by the supervisor of the Tahoe National Forest on his assignment to Russia, and possibly a joint meeting with others featuring Ken Pimlott, the newly appointed director of Cal Fire in November. Vice Chair Todd Gildersleeve is working on meeting locations and speakers for the remainder of the fall, winter and spring. Chair Brian Barrette is looking into a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the official recognition of the Chapter sometime in December.



*Sac-Tahoe Chapter members on tour of SPI mill complex in Lincoln, CA, in May 2011.
by Joanne Drummond*

NorCal SAF award nominations due

by Julie Lydick, NorCal SAF awards chair

Nominations for the Forestry Achievement Award and the Chapter Program Award are due October 30, 2011. Turn in your candidates to Ken Nolte, NorCal SAF Chair, at knolte@shastacollege.edu, or Julie Lydick, NorCal SAF Awards Committee Chair, at lydick3@sbcglobal.net.

The Forestry Achievement Award goes to an individual member. In summary, the nomination should include: 1) education and employment background; 2) service to the Society that includes elected offices, committee, other activities; 3) contribution to forestry practice; and 4) community service.

The Chapter Program Award recognizes the NorCal SAF chapter with the best total program during the preceding calendar year. Nominations for the Chapter Program Award should include: 1) names and contact information for chapter leadership; 2) public affairs activities, supported by the chapter or originated at the chapter level; 3) membership participation in continuing education; 4) chapter attendance at state society meetings and the national convention; and 5) other activities that support national or state level activities.

Brian Wing, NorCal SAF Web master, is updating the NorCal SAF Web site to include a list of past winners and nomination criteria.

Attention chapter chairs (student chapters, too)!

Have news or photos from your NorCal SAF chapter to share?

Send them by November 1, 2011, to Sara Eliason, sara.eliason@gmail.com

Forestry Review

Continued from page 11

small branches die and slowly shed off of the dead trees

3. Snag decomposition—snags either gradually crumble apart or fall over
4. Log buildup—Logs are on the ground and gradually decompose

The authors seem to be recommending that managers focus on stage 2 above for reducing fire risk. This could mean prioritizing fuel-reduction for areas with high densities of standing dead trees with dead biomass in the crowns.

Fire severity may be just as high or higher in stage 3, but this study did not measure fine surface fuels so it is unknown. It makes intuitive sense that a buildup of litter and debris from SOD may increase fire severity. As the authors mention, this needs further study.

Of course, the most effective management would be to stop SOD in the first place, but this is obviously difficult if not impossible.

At a recent SAF conference, the authors of this article suggested two management options for addressing SOD impacts on fire behavior:

- Thinning + burning may help by increasing individual tree vigor and reducing future fire severity.
- A no-host buffer around critical areas may be feasible to protect especially high-value resources.

2011 Redwood Symposium

Continued from page 7

watershed and physical processes, wildlife, fisheries, aquatic ecology, forest health, economics and policy, and monitoring. In addition, almost 40 posters were displayed during the evening reception, ranging in topic from post-fire response, to long-term watershed research to community forestry models.

The symposium concluded with remarks about the future of research in the redwood region. The overall discussion led to the conclusion that academic research and applied research should be made available to the field as a whole as findings progress. In addition, more opportunities for networking and interactions should be arranged for the entire forestry community.

Overall, the symposium fulfilled its purpose to identify key knowledge gaps, bring together multi-disciplinary teams and help identify future opportunities for collaboration. Of the approximately one half of participants who completed the follow-up survey, 100% hoped to see more events like the 2011 Redwood Symposium. Proceedings of the symposium are anticipated to be available in early fall 2011 to document the various studies in the literature. Check the Web site, ucanr.org/sites/redwood/, for updates.

Thank you to this month's advertisers.

Forest Landowners: DISCOVER Our Interactive Website *Connecting YOU with Products, Services & Contractors*

www.forestseedlingnetwork.com



Buy/Sell Seedlings

Use Our Map Search

Product Groups:

- Forest Seedlings
- Christmas Tree Seedlings
- Conifer Liner Stock Seedlings
- Forest Tree Seed
- Native Woody Plant Seedlings



Find Vendor Services & Contractors



Valuable Resources

News, Updates & Events
Tips, Notes, Links & Advice
Seed Zone Maps

OREGON • WASHINGTON • IDAHO • MONTANA • CALIFORNIA



Forest Seedling Network
bob@forestseedlingnetwork.com
503-769-9806
1740 Shaff Rd. #306 • Stayton, OR 97383

Thank you to this month's advertisers.

Attention NorCal SAF members!

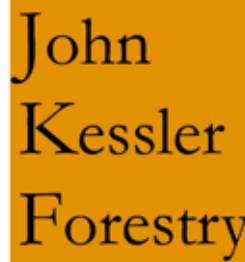
> Do you want to get the NorCal SAF newsletter in your e-mail inbox instead of your snail mail postbox?

> Do you have a new e-mail?

If so:

Please send your current e-mail address to Jane LaBoa at ncsaf@mcn.org.

Please also adjust your SPAM filter to accept messages from ncsaf.



John
Kessler
Forestry

John S. Kessler
CF, RPF #2494

602 Glen Mar Drive
Mt. Shasta, CA 96067

Phone: 530-859-0883
Home: 530-926-3549
jkforestry@snowcrest.net

NorCal SAF Newsletter advertising

Contact:

Sara Eliason, NorCal SAF newsletter editor
sara.eliason@gmail.com

2011 rates*

Ad size	Approximate dimensions	Rate per issue
full page	7 3/8" x 10"	\$275
1/2 page	7 3/8" x 4 3/4"	\$150
1/3 page	4 7/8" x 4 3/4" or 2 3/8" x 9 3/4"	\$125
1/4 page	4 3/4" x 3"	\$100
1/6 page	2 3/8" x 4 3/4"	\$75
business card	3 5/8" x 2 3/8"	\$50
classified ad		\$0.25/word

* 10% discount for three or more insertions

Ad submission deadlines

Issue	Deadline	Publication date
Winter	Feb. 1	March 1
Spring	May 1	June 1
Summer	August 1	Sept. 1
Autumn	Nov. 1	Dec. 1



Celebrating 25 years of service in the bioenergy sector throughout North America



TSS offers a suite of services to facilitate bioenergy project development and opportunities for a diverse range of clients across the breadth of the energy industry.

- Fuel/Feedstock Availability Assessment
- Technology Assessment
- Preliminary Design and Engineering
- Project Feasibility Analysis
- Project Development and Management
- Site Selection Assessment and Permitting
- Environmental Permitting and Compliance
- Communication and Outreach Plans
- Strategic Planning and Policy Analysis
- Fuel/Feedstock Supply Chain Development
- Fuel/Feedstock Procurement Plans
- Life Cycle Assessment
- Greenhouse Gas Tracking

TSS Consultants
2724 Kilgore Road
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
(916) 266-0546

Please visit us at our website: www.tssconsultants.com



Northern California Society of American Foresters • norcalsaf.org

NorCal SAF membership: Join, renew, invite

It is the time of year to invite new foresters in your area to a chapter project or fall meeting. How about the foresters who are recent forestry school graduates or those foresters who have changed jobs into a position in your organization or one you have met in your day-to-day work?

A great experience in the local Society of American Forester's chapter is a critical factor in recruitment and retention of members. Is your chapter one that welcomes everyone? Recognizes differing points-of-view? Is actively engaged with community organizations such as schools and non-profits?

Join with the more than 600 forestry professionals in Northern California who are SAF members and make a difference for your colleagues who have not yet joined us.

Students: Join your chapter this semester! Student members have the same benefits as professional members, plus are eligible to apply for scholarships and attend the job fair at the national convention. Student chapters are active at Bakersfield College, Cal Poly State University at San Luis Obispo, Humboldt State University, Reedley College and University of California at Berkeley.

Contact Kathleen Jordan, NorCal SAF membership chair, at 530.226.2523 or kajordan251@aol.com for membership information. Also, a great resource to check out for printable brochures and member resource information is the SAF Web site at www.safnet.org.