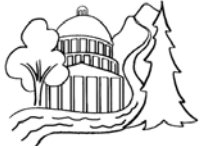


SACRAMENTO-TAHOE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS – E-NEWSLETTER

Winter 2009



Chair's Message

By Joanne Drummond

We've had an active fall and winter with the SAF National Convention coming to us in Reno this past November. Thank you to all our chapter members who volunteered to make the event a huge success!

This was my first National Convention and I was impressed with the quality and scope of the production. Seeing old friends and making new ones was likely the best part for me since I didn't get to attend many of the sessions I'd hoped to due to my volunteer duties. Reno is always a fun place but carries a certain risk - it may not be gambling at the tables, but being swept away in an auction. I was the successful bidder on "Bennie", a not-so-wild Mustang gelding that the BLM donated to benefit the Forester's Fund. He was broken and trained by the prisoners at the Carson facility. It's a wonderful program for both getting the horses ready for adoption, as well as giving the prisoners rehabilitation and a potential career path. He was a Christmas gift to my 9-year old daughter (and her mother!), which made this holiday season very special. He's already become a member of the family and we treasure the time we spend with him.

I have attended the past two NorCal meetings to represent you through the recent transition. There are many changes in our administration—from hiring a new Executive Director and a Program Manager/Bookkeeper, to the development of new policies and procedures to manage our affairs. A debt of gratitude is owed to our prior Executive Director Heather Morrison and Sherry Cooper with UC Cooperative Extension for serving us so well.

While most of the chapter officers agreed to stay on for another year, Vice-Chair Tom Blush felt he wouldn't be able to give the time necessary to fulfill his duties. We are fortunate to have Matt Brown, RPF, to fill the position. Matt and his wife Darcy are both members of SAF and live in Meadow Vista. You may know Darcy, since she is the new executive director for Forest Landowners of California.

It's shaping up to be an exciting New Year!



Ellie and Bennie on Christmas Day

Joanne Drummond

Sac-Tahoe SAF Chair

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Chapter Meeting News

By Matt Brown, Vice-Chair

In September, we hosted Diane Dealey-Neill, a contractor with The Forest Foundation, who gave us a great presentation on the California Forestry Challenge. The Forestry Challenge is an environmental competition bringing teams of high school students into the forest to learn from natural resource professionals. The four-day event, held in October 2008 at the Sly Park Environmental Education Center in Pollock Pines, exposes students and teachers to the complexities of environmental stewardship, providing an invaluable hands-on learning experience, and helps develop critical thinking skills by addressing timely issues. If you'd like more information or would like to volunteer, contact The Forest Foundation at (530) 823-2363.

October's meeting, held at the Round Table in Rocklin, featured Mark Rentz, Deputy Director of Policy Coordination for the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR). Mark described the nature of the CEQA functional equivalency of the DPR's pesticide regulation program. It involves the registration, evaluation, and classification of pesticides, and an annual review and evaluation of any new information regarding all registered pesticides. If use of any pesticide has the potential for significant adverse effect, the DPR provides mitigation either through label restrictions or the classification of the pesticide as a restricted material, requiring a site specific permit for its use. Mark explained that the DPR functional equivalency differs from that of a Timber Harvesting Plan (THP), since DPR's is not project-specific. This distinction is particularly relevant to CAL FIRE and private RPFs with respect to the issue of herbicide use associated with THP preparation and review. In accordance with recent case law, because of this difference the THP must still address the potential effects of the planned use of pesticides, and cannot rely on its use in accordance with DPR's label restrictions.

In February we hosted Tom Quinn, the Supervisor of the Tahoe National Forest, who gave us an update on the happenings on the Tahoe, and his thoughts on the "Stimulus Bill" (H.R. 1). Some \$550 million will be allocated directly to the Forest Service for facility and infrastructure fixes, and for additional defensible space projects. If divided equally, each National Forest would get \$7 million according to Tom. They would not increase USFS staffing, but plan to contract out individual projects to the private sector, CCC, etc.

On Thursday, March 19th we will be meeting at 6 p.m. at Tortilla Flats in Placerville. The speaker will be Mike Landram, US Forest Service Region 5 Silviculturist. Mike will be presenting on the topic of reforestation after fire on USFS lands. The April meeting will be on the 16th and likely at the Round Table in Rocklin. The May meeting may be a tour of the SPI sawmill in Lincoln or to a Christmas Tree Farm in the Camino area. We expect that this meeting will be held on the 16th of the month.

The NorCal summer meeting is scheduled for the Weed area on Friday, August 7th for the Executive Committee Meeting and Saturday the 8th for the general meeting.

The Chapter is considering having a picnic in the Truckee-Tahoe area sometime in June if there is enough interest. The Visitor Center near Camp Richardson, Sand Point State Park on the eastside, or a USFS recreation site along the Truckee River are possible sites. Let Brian Barrette know if you are interested in attending (Bbarrette@sbcglobal.net). Saturday, June 13th is the preferred date.

I would like to thank the Sac-Tahoe Chapter for the opportunity to help out with SAF and will take this position very seriously. If anyone has any suggestions or ideas for speakers or topics that they consider to be pertinent to the times or our chapter, feel free to contact me via email at forester496@gmail.com. I am looking forward to the year with a positive and hopeful attitude.



Nor Cal SAF's New Executive Director – Jane LaBoa

NorCal SAF has selected Jane LaBoa to serve as their new Executive Director. You may know Jane from SAF or through her career with the US Forest Service. She retired as a District Ranger on the Eldorado National Forest a couple of years ago. Most of her career was in silviculture, timber, and land management planning, all in central and northern California. In 1999 she took a detour into the 'water world' of the Bureau of Reclamation, but ultimately returned to her roots in forestry. She is a regular at the dinner meetings of the Sac-Tahoe Chapter.

Jane calls home a small ranch west of Auburn with her husband Raymond, who is also a career forester and former Chair of the Chapter. They have two children, both married. She enjoys their farm animals, vegetable garden and orchard, volunteer work, and the occasional trip to Baja.

Jane attended UC Berkeley and later Humboldt State. SAF is fortunate to have her!

Nor Cal SAF's New Education Coordinator – Stacey Dodge

Stacey grew up in a logging community and in a logging family, so she has a long relationship with the timber industry. She has co-owned Sierra Resource Management, Inc. (a timber harvesting company) since 1993. While managing the company, educating the public and school children has also been a huge portion of their business.

She is a board member of TAT (Talk About Trees) and a Resource Coordinator for TuCARE (Tuolumne County Alliance for Resources and Environment). She believes that the more educating we can do regarding our wonderful resources, the better off our next generation will be, and that we need to cultivate foresters that have a wide vision for our broad California forests issues.

Stacey and her husband Rick reside in Sonora. They have a daughter and son in college and another son in high school. They enjoy traveling, spending time at sporting events, and their cabin in the mountains.

Stacey believes consistency has successfully maintained SAF for years and is proud to be a part of such a great organization. We hope you have the opportunity to meet Stacey soon. She's a great addition to NorCal SAF!



New Arrival

Chapter Secretary John Melvin and his wife Jennifer welcomed their first child into the world on January 9, 2009 at 7:31 a.m. Her name is Moira (Moy-ra) Anne Melvin. She weighed in at 8 lbs., 6 ozs. and was 20 inches in length. January 9th is the day before John's birthday...in fact, the entire Melvin family with the exception of Jennifer has January birthdays. Best Best wishes from all of us at SAF!



Governor Schwarzenegger Appoints Del Walters as Director of CAL FIRE

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger recently announced the appointment of Del Walters as director of CAL FIRE, following current Director Ruben Grijalva's announcement to retire.

"With more than 30 years of service at CAL FIRE, Del Walters is the perfect person to head our state's firefighting efforts," said Governor Schwarzenegger. "Playing a key role in combating the 2007 and 2008 firestorms, he has the experience and leadership capabilities to implement the highest standards of fire prevention and fire fighting while ensuring all Californians are protected. Under Del's leadership, I am confident that the state will continue to be prepared to respond to the intense year-round fire seasons we now face.

"I also want to thank Ruben for his service to my administration and to the people of California. He is a dedicated public servant and gifted leader who has helped see our state through some of the worst wildfires we have ever seen in our state's history. I wish Ruben the best in his future endeavors."

Walters has served as the executive officer for CAL FIRE since 2008. He began his career as a firefighter in 1971. Prior to promoting to executive officer, he was the assistant region chief, then staff chief of operations for the Northern Region. Prior to that, Walters was the deputy chief for the Shasta-Trinity Unit. He previously worked for the Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit as the assistant chief of administration, battalion chief, vegetation management program coordinator forester I, and fire captain. He has also served as a fire captain, fire apparatus engineer, and firefighter for the San Benito-Monterey Unit. Walters has been a California State Peace Officer since 1986.

"I am honored to serve the people of California in this new role," said Del Walters. "I look forward to working with the Governor to continue our fire prevention and protection efforts while preparing Californians for the extraordinary fire seasons our state faces."

Walters, 54, of Redding, received his Bachelor of Science degree in forest resource management from Humboldt State University. This position does not require Senate confirmation and the compensation is \$174,096. Walters is a Democrat.

As CAL FIRE'S Director, Walters will oversee 5,500 full-time and seasonal employees. CAL FIRE is dedicated to the fire protection and stewardship of more than 31 million acres of California's privately-owned wildlands. In addition, the department provides various emergency services in 36 of the State's 58 counties via contracts with local governments. CAL FIRE firefighters, fire engines, and aircraft respond to an average of more than 5,700 wildland fires each year. Those fires burn nearly 170,000 acres annually.

Financial Report

2008 Review - The Chapter's financial status remained healthy during 2008, beginning on January 1st with an account balance of \$3,578 and ending the year with a balance of \$3,513. Petty cash balances fluctuate month to month, but average around \$40. Our major expenses in 2008 were a \$500 scholarship to Dexter Dong of Auburn and a \$200 stipend to Chapter President Joanne Drummond to help defray the registration fees to attend the SAF National Convention in Reno. Partially offsetting these expenses was a dues disbursement of \$281 from the NorCal SAF office in January. Revenue from Chapter meetings made up all but \$65 of the remaining shortfall incurred from these expenditures.

As of March 1, 2009, our checking account balance is \$3,554.84.

Chapter Membership Update

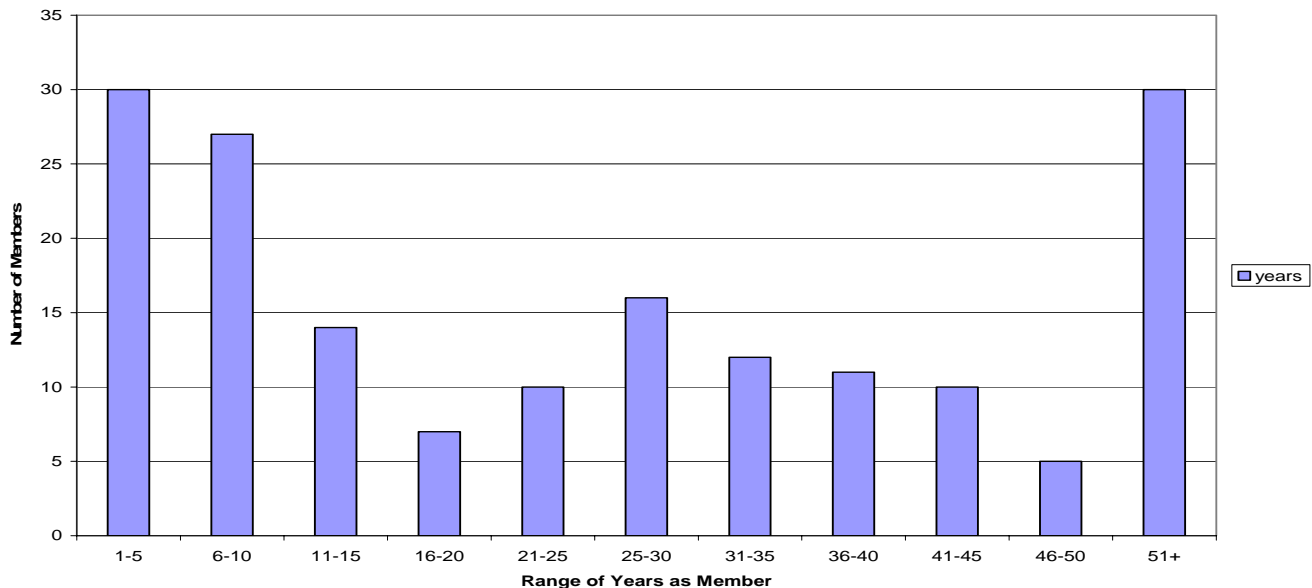
Our chapter continues to be by far the largest in NorCal and has grown slightly since last January, when the membership was 161. The total in January 2009 is 169. A large number of members, however, have not yet paid their 2009 dues. Looking back to August 2005, our membership was 155 and dropped to 142 in September 2006 after the purge of those who hadn't paid their 2006 dues.

New members since our last E-Newsletter include Peter Tittman, a student at UCD; Gina Thompson, who transferred in from Southern California and works for the Forest Service in Lake Tahoe; Matt Brown, an RPF along with his wife Darcy Brown, who is the new Executive Director of Forest Landowners of California; Stewart McMorrow, who works for the North Tahoe FPD; and Camille Jensen, a student residing in Truckee. Also transferring into the Chapter are Amy Jirka of Kings Beach, Linda Lind of South Lake Tahoe, and Kip Van de Water, a student at Cal Poly. Welcome to all of these new additions to our Chapter.

Sadly, two long time members, Andy Schmidt of Placerville (a member for 70 years) and Don Hennig of Sacramento (a member for 56 years), have passed away recently. We offer our condolences to their families.

We have a large number of 50 plus year members (28). Here's a chart showing the spread of members by years, which includes the two Golden Members who passed away recently.

Sacramento-Tahoe Members by Years-171 Total



Volunteers Needed for Forest Conservation Days

Sanborn Park, Saratoga, CA March 23 - 29, 2009

(Schools) March 23 - 27

(Scouts/Public) March 28 - 29

Forest Conservation Days (FCD) is dependant upon the dedication of its volunteers. Without them it would not be the success that it is. Because of the length of the program, there is always a need for multiple-day commitments from natural resource professionals and students of all disciplines to assist in the hike in the woods, active interpretations at the exhibits, and crowd management. If you are a student, the program is meant to coincide with Spring Break, so if you are traveling home and happen to live near Saratoga, this is a wonderful opportunity to meet natural resource professionals and become involved in public education. Lunch is provided each day. There is FREE housing available at the local American Youth Hostel located on site at Sanborn Park. This is available only for those who are willing to help out. Commitments are during the day only, leaving the nights so that one may view scenic Saratoga. A volunteer form is available for you to download. See <http://www.norcalsaf.org/fcd.html> for more information. If you have any questions about volunteering your time, please contact either FCD coordinator Thomas Catchpole at (559) 855-2194 or treecookies@netptc.net, Weekend Public and Scout Coordinator Tad Mason at tmason@tssconsultants.com, or Volunteer Coordinator Heather Morrison at 1-800-738-TREE or ncsaf@mcn.org and they will answer your questions.