



The Montana Forester

Newsletter of the Montana Society of American Foresters

2006 SAF Annual Meeting

Given the controversy over how National Forests should be used and managed, many disagreements end up being decided by the courts. Therefore, the theme of the 2006 Montana SAF annual meeting is “*Forestry and the Law*”.

Planning for the meeting is well under way. The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Parkside in Missoula, Montana. The event will kick-off on the evening of March 30th with an executive committee meeting followed by a tour of the Big Sky Brewery.

On March 31st, former Montana Governor, Marc Racicot is the (invited) keynote speaker. He will be followed by representa-

tives from the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the Federal government. The speakers include—US Senator Max Baucus, US Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton (invited) and US District Judge Thomas Hogan. The luncheon speaker will include a representative from the media. In the afternoon, two speakers will address the economic impact of national forests on rural communities.

The April 1st line-up features presentations from environmental, industry, and government trial lawyers. Finally, SAF Executive Director, Michael Goergen will wrap-up the conference with a luncheon presentation.

Fall 2005

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Dave Atkins, Montana SAF member receives award

Dave Atkins, a Montana SAF member, recently received the USDA Forest Service—Chief’s Award for Excellence in Technology Transfer. Atkins, along with Angela Farr of Montana DNRC, were recognized for their exceptional effort and commitment in spearheading the installation of biomass boilers

that use waste wood from fuel-reduction projects to create heat for rural schools throughout the West.

Thompson Falls, Darby, Victor and Philipsburg all heat their school buildings using biomass boilers. Five other Montana towns are expected to install biomass heat in the near future.

Receiving the Chief’s Award is a high honor because not only did the Chief of the Forest Service deem the efforts of Atkins and Farr significant, but in addition those efforts were judged against other award nominees from throughout the United States.

Congratulations Dave!

Montana SAF Member Spotlight—Jim Petersen

Editor's Note: Member Spotlight is a new addition to the newsletter. This month the spotlight is on Jim Petersen, Montana SAF member, Executive Director of the Evergreen Foundation, and Publisher of Evergreen Magazine. Jim was also awarded SAF's 2003 National "Outstanding Forestry Journalism Award," for a special issue of Evergreen Magazine titled, "The New Pioneers".

TMF: *Your background is in journalism and public relations. How did you become interested in forestry?*

JP: My interest in forestry is rooted in family history. My paternal grandfather was a logger and sawmiller. One great aunt cooked in logging camps in northern Idaho for nearly 50 years. A great uncle worked on steam donkeys. Several cousins were loggers. As for me, I simply love the forestry story. Always have. Always will. The wonder is that I didn't earn a forestry degree.

TMF: *What brought you to Montana?*

JP: I came to Montana the first time in 1967, having hired on as a county government reporter for the Daily Inter Lake. The Forest Service was on my beat. John Ulrich, who was Montana Tree Farmer of the Year a few years ago, was then timber manager for the Flathead National Forest. He was a tireless teacher. I learned a great deal from him.

Although I left Montana in 1970 to pursue other interests, I could never get Big Sky Country out of my heart. My wife and I returned in 1997. We live in Bigfork now.

TMF: *You're the Executive Director of the Evergreen Foundation. What does the Evergreen Foundation do?*

JP: The Evergreen Foundation, which I helped start, exists for only one reason: to help advance public understanding and support for science based forestry. To this end, we publish Evergreen, a period journal designed to keep foundation members - and others - abreast of issues and events impacting forestry, forest policy and forest communities.

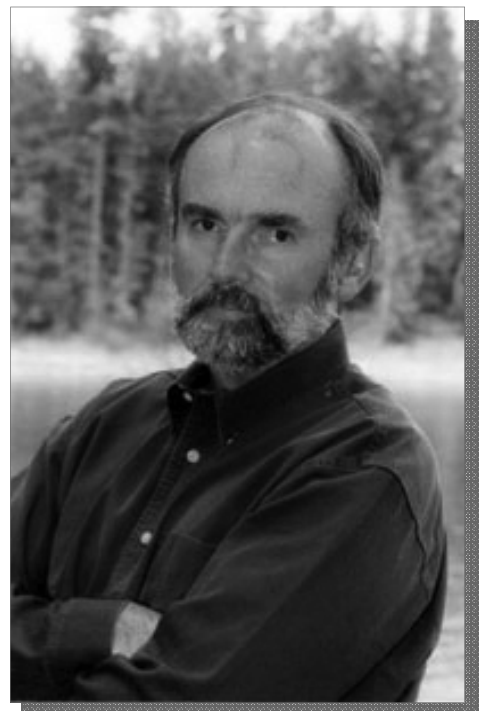
TMF: *What goals do you have for the Evergreen Foundation and Evergreen Magazine?*

JP: Our goals have changed over time. When we started the magazine in 1985, our goal was to encourage timber community participation in the congressionally mandated forest planning process. Although we were successful, the planning process was wrecked by litigation.

For a time we considered sunseting the magazine, but the increasing frequency and ferocity of stand-replacing wildfires sweeping the West got us interested in the forest health debate. So far as I know, we were the first national magazine of any type to try to explain the underlying causes of these dreadful fires. We did it in a special issue published in 1988 titled, "Gray ghosts in the Blue Mountains." The focal point of the issue was the bark beetle epidemic then sweeping through eastern Oregon's Blue Mountains.

Since 1988, we've published six or seven special issues exploring the ecological benefits of thinning in at-risk forests.

I expect we'll continue to focus on these benefits from time to time, but our primary focus is now shifting to the loss of milling infrastructure across the West. If many more family-owned sawmills suffer permanent closure, as a result of the federal government's seeming inability to ramp up economically and ecologically meaningful salvage and restoration programs, there remains little or no hope for pulling the West's great national forests back from the brink of collapse.



Jim Petersen, Montana SAF member, Executive Director of the Evergreen Foundation, and Publisher of Evergreen Magazine. Drop Jim a line at jim@evergreenmagazine.com Or visit his website www.evergreenmagazine.com



Dale Kerkvliet recognized as 2005 Montana Tree Farm Environmental Educator of the Year

On October 5, 2005, Dale Kerkvliet was awarded the Environmental Educator of the Year Award by the Montana Tree Farm Association. Dale is a Senior Resource Forester for Plum Creek Timber Co. at the Clearwater Unit in Missoula, Montana, where he has worked for the last 12 years. Before joining Plum Creek, Dale was employed by Champion. Dale was recognized for his passion about forestry and education about responsible forest management. The Tree Farmers and Dale's peers recognize his knowledge, enthusiasm, desire to care for the forest, and perseverance in education.

The award cites Dale's ability to develop and support educational events for others. Dale is an integral part of the Missoula Chamber of Commerce Forest Resource Committee's Forest Discovery Days, an on-the-ground educational event for approximately 500 5th-7th grade students. In addition, Dale donates his time to participate in the Society of American Foresters student-mentoring program. Dale is also responsible for bringing the Project Learning Tree Program to the state of North Dakota back in 1983.

Dale is an active member of the Society of American Foresters. At the National, State and local levels, Dale received the Field Forester of the Year, 2001 to 2002. For the past two years, Dale has led an effort to write, edit and deliver commentaries on National Public Radio regarding natural resource issues.

Dale received three Continuing Forestry Education (CFE) Accomplishment Certificates, a precursor to the Society of American Foresters Certified Forester program in 1987, 1991, and 1993. In addition, Dale served as coordinator of the Montana State Society of American Foresters Continuing Education (CE) program. As soon as the Society of American Foresters Certified Forester (CF) program became offered nationally, Dale immediately sought out the opportunity to become one of the first foresters certified, and became #127 in 1995. Dale also participated in one of the early Forest Stewardship Workshops back in 1993.

For the last 5 years, Dale has chaired the Natural Resource Youth Camp program at Lubrecht Experimental Forest. This program involves teaching forestry, range management, wildlife, hydrology, and geology in a hands-on setting to 35-40 sophomores, juniors, and seniors for a 1-week camp during the summer.

Most recently, Dale served a 3-year appointment on the National Society of American Foresters Certification Review Board. He is one of only nine members across the nation given this honor. The review board oversees the development and integrity of the Certified Forester program. Dale is an instrumental person in rewriting the rules and CF handbook for how to evaluate courses and assign appropriate credit.

Dale also recently completed the updated Tree Farm Inspector Training and has made it a point to volunteer and complete inspections.

Congratulations Dale!

Missoula Chapter Report

by Todd Morgan, Chair

The Missoula chapter is looking forward to the November 15th chapter meeting which will tentatively feature Region One Forester, Gail Kimball as a guest speaker.

Also on the horizon is the annual Christmas meeting where spouses join SAF members in

attending the meeting. The program planning for that meeting is in progress, but it will likely include a silent auction to help raise money for the chapter. Any contributions of auction items is appreciated.

“the November 15th chapter meeting which will tentatively feature Region One Forester, Gail Kimball. as a guest speaker. “

2006 Montana SAF Leadership Conference

This year’s leadership conference is a joint effort between the Montana SAF and Inland Empire Societies. SAF members from both societies are encouraged to attend. Like last year, the meeting will be held at the Lubrecht Forest near Greenough, Montana at the end of February.

Look for more details in the next issue of the Montana Forester.

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Flathead Chapter Report

By Bill Pursell, Chair

"The gathering was a good opportunity for foresters to network and communicate with local business folks and politicians about the significance of the wood products industry"

The Flathead SAF Chapter's first fall meeting was a field trip that was jointly hosted with the Kalispell Area Chamber of Commerce on September 29th. SAF members, local business owners and leaders, and political officials attended. The theme of the meeting was *"Changing Land Uses, Changing Management on Fringe Lands in the Valley"*.

The attendee's visited the Elkhorn Subdivision and Lone Pine State Park. The gathering was a good opportunity for foresters to network and communicate with local business folks and poli-

ticians about the significance of the wood products industry to the local economy and the uncertainties in forest management due to rapidly changing land use patterns.

The group was fascinated and impressed by the fire protection system that Dan Richardson designed and built for his home. Also impressive was the amount of fuel reduction work that has occurred in the Elkhorn subdivision.

Adjacent to Elkhorn near an active DNRC logging job various agency and private foresters discussed challenges and opportunities in

managing their forests around expanding urban areas.

At Lone Pine State Park, Park Manager Dave Landstrom discussed the park's new and evolving forest management plan. The park is proposing a harvest operation in response to deteriorating forest health and expanding urban development adjacent to the park.

The following link will take you to a recent *Missoulian* article about this field trip:

<http://www.missoulian.com/articles/2005/10/03/news/mtregional/znews06.txt>



Pictures from the September 29th Flathead Chapter meeting at the Elkhorn Subdivision.

East Side Chapter Report

By Sharon Scott, Chair

Carolyn Sime, the state wolf coordinator, will give a presentation at the December 15th chapter meeting in Helena.

Mark your Calendars! MAY 18 & 19 - Helena

The Eastside Chapter continues to support to the Mt. Helena resource inventory project. This is a continuous vegetation inventory project completed in conjunction with the Helena school system. This is a great educational project as well as an opportunity to spend a day on Mt. Helena teaching

6th graders about our natural resources. Eastside Chapter volunteers are needed to help with this effort. If you could volunteer for any or part of the time it would be appreciated. For more information contact Sam Gilbert at (406) 449-8674. Hope to see you there!!

The Eastside Chapter will host a chapter meeting the evening of December

15th Helena. A presentation from Carolyn Sime, the state wolf coordinator, will follow. More details to follow in our Eastside Newsletter.

The chair - elect position for the Eastside Chapter is still vacant. Anyone with interest in filling this exciting and challenging role please contact Sharon Scott at (406) 495-3943.

Libby Chapter Report

By Ed Levert, Chair

"The chapter is now conducting breakfast business meetings on a monthly basis in addition to our regular meetings."

The Libby Chapter kicked off their regular meeting season on October 20. Our program was a presentation by Wayne Kasworm, the Cabinet and Yaak grizzly bear coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Wayne discussed the current populations and efforts to supplement the population in the Cabinet Mountains.

The chapter is now conducting breakfast business meetings on a monthly basis in addition to our regular meetings. At this point we have identified a list of presentations that we believe will be of interest to our membership this year. Additional topics being pursued include renewed efforts to increase membership and elections.



How Does Your Montana SAF Membership Compare?

By John Casselli, Membership Chair

You may have asked yourself, ‘How do my Montana SAF dues compare to those of other professional societies?’ Or maybe you’ve wondered how SAF membership numbers compare to those of other organizations. The following table should help you answer those questions. It compares current Montana SAF membership numbers and dues with current numbers of several other professional societies.

<i>Society</i>	<i>Current State Membership (number of members)</i>	<i>National Dues (\$)</i>
SAF-Montana Chapter	357	79
The Wildlife Society_MT Chapter	140	62
American Fisheries Society (AFS)- MT Chapter	150	76*
American Water Resources Association (AWRA)-MT Section	100	150
Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS)- MT Chapter	200	80
Society for Range Management (SRM)- Northern Great Plains Section (includes MT, ND and portions of Canada)	315	85*
American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers (ASFMRA)- MT Chapter	60	375

* Life membership available (SAF currently has no life-member option)

The conclusions are: 1) Montana SAF is one of the larger organizations, 2) It is open to disciplines within the “broad field of forestry”, and 3) The national dues structure for a new member is very comparable with the other societies. For more information or member benefits visit www.safnet.org or contact the state membership chair.

A Reminder from the State Treasurer

By Mark Teply, Montana SAF State Treasurer

The end of the year is coming on us now and that means it is time to start getting our financial reports ready for submittal to national. These financial reports are important for maintaining our non-profit status. They are the sole source of information the IRS receives demonstrating our financial activity over the calendar year.

Accurate reporting is expected, not only by our national office such that we withstand an audit, but also by our executive committee such that there is an accurate appraisal of our financial position. We report on an accrual basis,

which means that as payables and receivables are realized they may be posted to our accounts. Accounting in this manner relies on the timely transmittal of payments (i.e., send the check out when it is written) and timely deposit of money in (i.e., deposit checks as they are received). In other words, if you write checks and receive checks in December 2005, don't wait until January 2006 to send them out or put them in the bank. If this happened and transactions were reported as 2005 transactions on our financial statements, it would be – to use the words of an ENRON

executive – not exactly an accurate portrayal of our financial situation.

Now I know we are a volunteer organization and we're not going to get subpoenaed by the SEC and won't face jail time in Leavenworth, but it will save a whole lot of confusion – and concern - over the long haul if we handle our cash flow as if we would our business. Please, take care of money in and money out in a timely fashion.

Thanks for your time!

Mark Teply



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Chuck Seeley
531-1694

Jim Simpson
531-1696

Mike Atwood
961-4073



Executive Committee Meeting Minutes, August 15, 2005

As presented by Mark Teply to the Executive Committee

Seeley Lake Ranger Station

- Attending** Peter Kolb, Time Love, Roy Anderson, Gordy Sanders, Bill Chandler, Larry Westcott, Mark Teply
- Minutes** Minutes for June 27, 2005 approved as distributed to the Executive Committee
- Treasurer's Report** Mark Teply - Balance in Checking Account: \$10,758.39 About \$6,000 of this represents Habitat for Humanity funds.
- Chapter Reports**
- Eastside* - Sharon Scott, Not Present.. Still in need of officers for this year and next year, Gordy volunteered to follow-up with several recruits.
 - Flathead* - Bill Pursell, Not Present.
 - Libby* - Ed Levert, Not Present.
 - Missoula* - Todd Morgan, Not Present Starting meetings up again in the fall. Chapter newsletter will follow shortly.
- Committee Reports**
- Past Chair/Awards* - John Ottman, Not Present.
 - Policy Chair* - Gordy Sanders. Reviewed letter of support for FIA program. Working on a biomass position statement for 10/1/05. Other position statements in progress: FIA; People and Forests; Invasive Species; Forest Biotechnology; Old Growth; Herbicides in Forest Management; Conservation Easements; Timber Harvest on Federal Lands; Riparian Management; Ecosystem Services; Citizen Science. Conference on Community and Wildfire upcoming in Helena. Bob Harrington working on forming a Gov. Advisory Comm.
 - Communications* - Bev Yelczyn, Not Present but emailed report. Acknowledged newsletter as key communication tool. Op/Ed pieces in Missoulian have been worthwhile. KUFM commentary is coming to a close, do we continue. Bev wants to expand committee role to get more done.
 - Newsletter* - Roy Anderson, Proposed to distribute via email to save costs. About 270 of 382 have email capabilities. Current costs about \$250 per issue. Approved.
 - Membership* - John Casselli, Not Present but phoned in report. 356 currently enrolled statewide. 28 were purged from the list. Reminded us to respond to VOS report.
 - Mentor Program* - Bruce Schlaebitz, Not Present
 - Forester's Fund* - Gordy Sanders—nothing to report
 - Historian/Archivist* - Scott Kuehn, Not Present. Continuing to work on teepee burner at fairgrounds. Logging Conference Board Meeting is 9/7/05.
 - Science/Technology* - Peter Kolb. Reported on HFRA review—current analysis found to have deviations future analysis will be peer reviewed
 - CFE* - Dale Kerkvliet, Not Present
 - Webmaster* - Sherri McWilliams, Not Present
- Old Business**
- Inland Empire/Montana Joint SAF Leadership Academy. Coordinating with Inland Empire January 27th and 28th at Lubrecht. Need a talk theme and promote in the newsletter.
 - Tim Love presented 2006 State Meeting planning Scheduled for March 30th through April 1st. Confident facility contract will be honored. Planning Committee: Larry W., Todd M., Roy A., Bev Y. Theme: Forestry and the Law. Many speakers already lined up.
 - USFS 100th Anniversary Bill C. needs to promote SAF support Gordy suggested Op/Ed piece or KUFM commentary
 - Landowner Education Survey Roy Anderson handed out for review. Currently, data in raw form; not interpreted
- New Business** Peter Kolb thanked SAF for NRYC donations

Meeting Adjourned



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American Foresters

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