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SAF June 2022 Newsletter

Message from the Chair Rachelle Hedges

Thanks to all who were able to join the 2022 Ca SAF Virtual Winter Meeting earlier this year. This year’s winter meeting focused on what Cal SAF, as a community of interest, can do to advocate for forest for forest management in our communities to prevent the continued an unsustainable loss of our forests. We heard from an array of subject matter experts about the damage current wildfires are doing to wild-life, soils and watersheds, and about how active forest management can play a role in preventing such destruction of our resources. In the afternoon, Cal SAF members broke out into small group breakout sessions (moderated by subject matter experts) to identify the resources our members need to help them advocate for proactive and actional forest management at local, regional and state levels.

Cal SAF members actively participated and provided great information in these breakout sessions, which h were captured by our excellent student volunteer note-takers. Cal SAF Leadership is excited to take what our membe3rs have told us and turn it around into useful products our members can use that will benefit California forests and foresters. Although feedback varied by breakout sessions,, some of the common themes hear during the sessions included:

- The strength and value of *in-person* meetings with leaders at the local, regional and state levels, and the desire for information about strategies for making in-person meetings happen.
- In-forest demonstrations are one of the most impactful tools in convincing anyone that forest management works. How can we make demonstrations available to a wider audience, across more geographic areas?
- Urban forestry may be a way to tap into urban-area audiences and leadership and to then increase their interest and understanding of forestry as a whole. What opportunities exist to better engage urban foresters and the organization that represents them?
- Leadership/stakeholders that change many times within the window of a forestry effort (whatever it may be) is a significant challenge to making headway. Are there solutions to this problem?
- There is still much work to be done in terms of educating the public about forest management, its appropriateness, and its benefits throughout our state.

A full report about feedback received during the breakout sessions, and about Cal SAF Leadership’s plan for creating materials and support tools for our members based on the feedback we r3eceived, will be available prior to our summer meeting on August 19, 2022. On the topic of our summer meeting, we look forward to seeing many of our members on August 19th for the ?Summer Meeting Program, but I would also like to extend an invitation for those who can make the time to join us for our Executive Committee Meeting on August 18th as well. Executive Committee Meetings are a great opportunity for Cal SAF members interested in working more closely with state leadership to provide feedback and have discussions about items that are important to them, their local chapters, and their larger communities. Details will be forthcoming about the exact time and location of this meeting, but I will hope you will consider joining us.

Thank you again to all our members who attended the winter meeting—we are excited to provide you with a variety of new resources based on what we heard on March 18th.

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Message from the Vice Chair

Karin Linnen

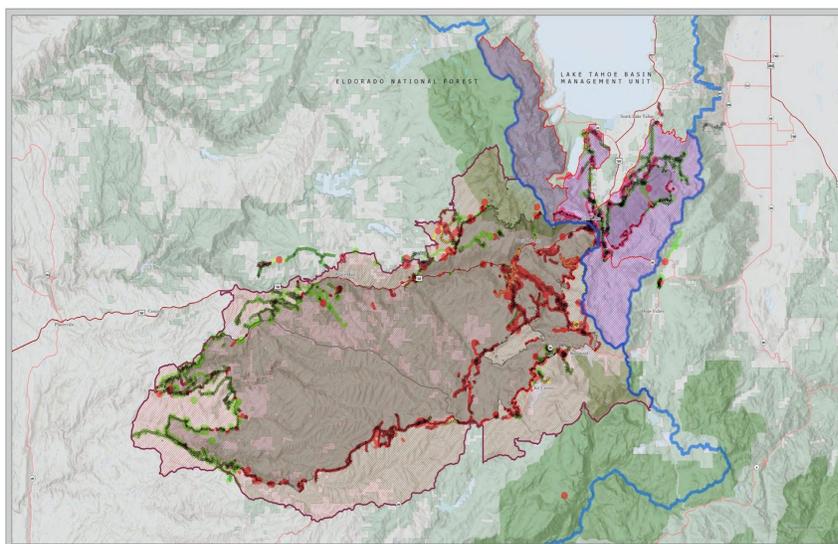
California SAF 2022 Summer Meeting

The California SAF 2022 Summer meeting will take place in South Lake Tahoe, August 18—20, 2022. The meeting will highlight fire recovery and restoration efforts after the Caldor Fire, which consumed over 220,000 across three counties.

We will tour several fire affected locations with guides from multipole agencies and local organizations. Guides will showcase fire recovery and restoration efforts on-site and discuss local agency collaborations to address fire prevention and mitigation efforts.

We look forward to seeing you on August 18-20 in South Lake Tahoe!

Karin Linnen



Tentative Schedule:

- Thursday, August 18, 2022—full day
 - Executive Committee Meeting
 - Evening dinner for all members w/Keynote speaker
- Friday, August 19, 2022—full day
 - Breakfast
 - Bus Tour to sites
 - Evening - Casual on your own
- Saturday, August 20, 2022—half day
 - Breakfast
 - Morning Presentations



Past Chair Musings

Tim Robards

A quick web search tells me that “musings” is defined as “a period of reflection or thought.” That is exactly what a past chair can do because the Chair and Vice-Chair are doing the heavy lifting. Thank you to Rachelle Hedges and Karin Linnen, respectively, for taking on the leadership of California SAF.

SAF has many ways to keep you busy promoting the profession. Workgroup activities and volunteering with the accreditation program are a couple of ways. In addition to being a California Registered Professional Forester (RPF), I am also a SAF Certified Forester (CF). I have found this a useful credential to have working in other states. Many states use the CF credential as part of their licensing. In working on about a million acres of carbon projects around the country, it was particularly useful to fulfill the requirements of those protocols. I am currently assisting a nationwide group of SAF members in updating the CF exam. California is not usually represented in that effort, so I hope this is beneficial to those from California that pursue the CF credential.

My colleagues at CAL FIRE in the Climate and Energy Program have had a busy spring. The Forest Health team awarded \$98.4 million to 22 projects on about 55,000 acres. The Wood Products and Bioenergy team awarded \$33 million for 30 Business Development and Workforce Development projects. These projects will help to address the shortage of trained workers and infrastructure. I am very excited to see new sawmills and biomass facilities opening.

I plan to retire from CAL FIRE in September and return to consulting. What better way to kick that off than in September at the SAF National Convention in Baltimore? I’ve registered and made my travel reservations. I’m looking forward to the informative presentations, policy talks and of course the networking. I’ve signed up for the tour of the Goddard Space Center and UAS presentation at a state park. For you quant jocks out there, the 2nd North American Forest Mensurationists Conference is December 11-14 in Portland, Oregon. This is a combination event for the Western, Southern and Northern Mensurationists groups.

Finally, let’s talk about field vehicles. In anticipation of more field work (and leisure time), and because I replace my pickup every 20 years or so whether I need to or not, I replaced my 2003 Ford F-150 with a Jeep Gladiator Mohave. Picture below is from Nevada outback camping trip. Perhaps we could start a discussion of the pros and cons of field rigs on the California SAF Facebook page!

Tim Robards



District 3 Representative

John Todd

As the calendar turns to June and the U.S. Drought Monitor again shows substantial portions of the west in extreme drought, we are holding our breath, hoping that California's forests will not endure another punishing fire season. As usual, SAF members are on the forefront of this fight; educating, restoring forests, and using science to make a quiet difference acre after acre. The amount of money both state and federal government have dedicated to improving forest conditions is encouraging. But now we must deal with workforce and infrastructure bottlenecks, and other economic realities. Here is the latest from SAF's Board of Directors.

Effective June 6, 2022, SAF is please to announce that the communications platform #forestproud is now a program of SAF. This merger will SAF to engage broader audiences and will expand its ability to bring awareness to the significant role foresters and natural resources professionals play in shaping the future of our forests. Members can learn more about the benefits of this merger in emails from SAF, in the latest edition of the E-Forester, and on SAF's Social Media pages.

I hope you are making plans to attend this year's SAF National Convention in Baltimore, Maryland. The convention dates are September 20-24, 2022. Early-bird registration are available until July 15. Don't forget to sign up for a field trip or tour to learn about local resource issues, see the scenery, and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow SAFers. This year's Silent Auction and Raffle will also be completely in-person, so you are going to have to be present to bid on all the creative items other members provide.

On Earth Day, President Biden signed the "Executive Order on Strengthening the Nation's Forests, Communities, and Local Economies." SAF release a brief statement echoing the importance of investing in America's forests and supporting the EO's promotion of science-based for4est management on the landscape.

Along the same lines, SAF joined a letter urging increased support in FY 2023 for the Forest Service's Wood Innovations Grant program, which provides competitive grants to projects that expand wood products and wood energy markets to support forest management and deliver economic and environmental benefits to communities.

Lastly, after successfully engaging with the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree in 2021, SAF has signed an agreement with Choose Outdoors to support the tree in its journey from the forests of North Carolina to the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Last year, Cal SAF had a fund time supporting, 'Sugar Bear,' our celebrity tree from the Six Rivers National Forest, as it made its long trip across the country.

As always, you can reach me at frstrydude@verizon.net or (626) 808-7305.

John Todd
Board Member, District 3



Smoke and the Fourth Estate **By Bill Keye, Cal SAF Communications Chair**

I note the passing, in April, of the 26th anniversary of the Sierra Club's "zero cut" position advocating a ban on all commercial logging on federal lands. It's posted at <https://www.sierraclub.org/policy/forest-wilderness-management>. The environmental effects of this and similar efforts should, in my opinion, be the subject of serious journalistic inquiry.

Unfortunately, the media seems to be comfortable with the explanation that our wildfire epidemic in the West is exclusively, or almost exclusively, due to global warming. I am not sure that the science supports such a conclusion. Foresters have been warning for decades about the accumulation of flammable fuels in our seasonally dry ecosystems. The problem has been aggravated by the success of what I call *Nothingism*, a non-management management approach (yes, you read that correctly) promoted by some of our most passionate – and influential – fellow citizens.

The role of journalism is to hold the powerful to account. I ask you, who holds the power over our public forests? Why, after unnaturally hot and destructive wildfires, is the good timber left to rot for years while our Forest Service grinds through its Byzantine, expensive, and ultimately ineffective environmental planning processes? Why is deforestation metastasizing? Is there a sustainable level of forest industry infrastructure that could support better outcomes? Is there not a sort of *Forestry 2.0* out there that rigorous journalistic inquiry could help the public to discover?

After winning the Timber Wars three decades ago, the most dedicated activists set to work bayonetting the wounded on the battlefield. Vast rural areas were pauperized, a necessary cleansing as reflected in the Sierra Club's 1996 referendum.

Well, has "zero cut" worked? How is the California spotted owl doing? What about the *New York Times*, *Washington Post* or CNN?

Where is the Lorax, and who is speaking for the trees?



Bay Area SAF Chapter

David Bakke

June Bay Area Chapter Meeting (virtual)

Tuesday, June 14th, noon – 1 pm

Greater Ross Valley Shaded Fuelbreak Project

Guest Speaker – Todd Lando, Hazard Mitigation Specialist with the Central Marin Fire Department.

A large fuelbreak is currently in the later planning stages in central Marin County with implementation set to begin this summer. This fuelbreak, when complete, will be 38 miles in length and about 1,400 acres in total. The intent is to protect neighborhoods that abut undeveloped watershed lands near Corte Madera, Larkspur, Kentfield, San Rafael, and Fairfax. This project is being tiered to the Cal-VTP EIR and is developed under the Marin Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Information can be found on the web at <https://www.marinwildfire.org/project/shaded-fuel-break-planning-project>.

This meeting will be held virtually via Zoom. *A reminder that in order to join a UC Berkeley-hosted Zoom meeting you must be logged into a Zoom account.* If you don't already have a Zoom account, you can either create a free, consumer Zoom account at <https://zoom.us/join>, or can dial in via the phone.

If interested in attending, contact David Bakke, Chair (dbakke@bayareasaf.org), for Zoom meeting ID.

Report from the Bay Area Chapter's May Field Meeting to the North Orinda Shaded Fuelbreak

The Chapter has been involved with fuel treatments and vegetation management in the East Bay Hills for several years now, beginning with our March 2019 meeting. We have been following the implementation of the North Orinda Shaded Fuelbreak project during this time as well. Our May meeting looked at several sites where the fuelbreak has been implemented, to discuss effectiveness, environmental impacts, public perceptions, and next steps. We also visited a spot where ongoing Monterey pine mortality has been mitigated.

We started the meeting with our traditional coffee, pastries, and introductions at the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) watershed headquarters by San Pablo Reservoir. Here we met up with Dennis Rein, the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD), Mark Silva, the Ranger Supervisor at EBMUD, and Scott Hill the Watershed Manager at EBMUD who would be our guides for the morning.



Morning Intros and coffee. Photo by David Bakke

Our first stop was at the Wagner Ranch School prescribed burn project. This burn was completed in December 2020 and was a low intensity burn intended to remove ground fuels and low vegetation (mainly brush and grass). Prior to the burn, a hand crew had worked through the unit, thinning the trees, raising tree crowns, and treating ground fuels. The plan for the entire fuelbreak is to maintain the treatments over a period of five years. In this particular unit, maintenance is scheduled for later this year. Public acceptance of this burn, so close to a school and nearby homes, was an amazing thing, and points to the great communication efforts.



Bay Area Chapter SAF cont.



Photos taken during the Wagner Ranch School prescribed burn in December 2020 and at our meeting on May 21, 2022. Photos by David Bakke.

Our next stop was a Monterey pine forest located west of the Briones Reservoir Dam. This 300-acre area had been planted in the 1930's with no real management to speak of until the early 2000's. It was then that tree mortality was beginning to be obvious and the removal of dead trees began in earnest with about 300 trees/year being cut. Horse logging was used to yard the logs to a central location, but there has never really been anyplace to utilize these logs. Beginning in 2019, around 1,500 trees per year are being removed, but this is barely keeping up with the mortality. As with many other areas around the San Francisco Bay, the lack of adequate wood utilization facilities is a serious roadblock to management.



Group discussing Monterey pine management; note the log deck to the right. Photo by Allmon Matarrese.

Our last stop before lunch was the Mistletoe Trail area, an area that had an initial entry with handcrews as part of the initial work in the North Orinda fuelbreak. Since that time, EBMUD crews have been maintaining the area with a variety of other treatments, including hand treatments and goat grazing. This area is adjacent to private homes. Here we had a great discussion about the initial public reluctance about the fuelbreak which over time and with the results seen has become a level of public acceptance that allows the work to continue. Maintenance of the entire fuelbreak will be a never-ending job. This presents challenges in finding annual funding but also in having to continuously outreach to the public so that support for the work continues.



Bay Area Chapter SAF cont.



Mistletoe Trail Area, showing regrowth and a house on top of the hill (left photo). Group discussion of the current and future issues surrounding the maintenance of the North Orinda Shaded Fuelbreak (right photo). Photos by Allmon Matarrese.

Report From the Bay Area Chapter's April Field Meeting to the Sausal Creek Watershed

Our first field meeting since before COVID shutdowns occurred on a gorgeous day last month. We met with volunteers and staff from the Friends of Sausal Creek (FOSC) who have been working to restore the Sausal Creek watershed. Did you know that Sausal Creek is a perennial, cold-water creek that supports a local rainbow trout population that is monitored by FOSC? Or that the FOSC has been conducting understory restoration work in the redwood forests in the watershed, and rather successfully too!



Morning coffee and intros. Photo by David Bakke

The meeting started with some historic background on the watershed presented by Amelia Sue Marshall, a local history writer and parks volunteer and our own John Nicoles who worked for many years for the East Bay Regional Park District. Amelia told us about the pre-European history of the area and how the Indigenous people lived in these hills, how they were impacted by first the Spanish, then the Americans. John provided us with an understanding of the native coast redwood stands in the area.



Bay Area Chapter SAF cont.



John Nicoles describes current stand structure in comparison to the primordial redwood forest.
Photo by Allmon Matarrese. Matarese.

We walked into a forest clearing where FOSC has been instrumental in stabilizing a local population of the endangered pallid manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pallida*), a locally endemic species.



Pallid manzanita. Photo by David Bakke.

Through the enlargement of a forest clearing where several large, old plants were growing followed by soil scarification, the number of pallid manzanita plants has increased through natural seeding from a low of 4 up to about 150 individuals! Mark Rauzon, one of the founders of FOSC and a geography professor at Laney College, who has been involved with this project for years, also mentioned the continued threats to pallid manzanita, including *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, competition from other plants, and damage from uncontrolled recreation.



Mark Rauzon describes the methods used to restore the pallid manzanita. Photo by Allmon Matarrese.



Bay Area Chapter SAF cont.

A redwood grove was our next stop. A place where Rob Leidy, a FOSC board member and an ecologist in the Wetlands Office at the EPA's San Francisco office has led restoration efforts for a decade including restoring the understory vegetation and reducing soil erosion. The loss of the understory and soil cover was largely caused by uncontrolled recreation, mainly mountain bikers, who were not staying on trails, but riding throughout the stand. The placement of split rail fencing along the trails, as well as closing some of the area to bikes, combined with planting of native understory plants, like sword fern, has allowed for other native plants to establish, natural litter fall to build up, and soil cover to increase. More work remains, but it is good work that has been done.



Rob Leidy (left, with blue cap) discusses redwood forest understory restoration and erosion control efforts along the Fern Ravine Trail. Photo by Allmon Matarrese



Fencing built to protect restoration areas. Photo by David Bakke.

Our lunch stop was at the FOSC native plant nursery. Quite an extensive collection of native plants growing there. We had a good discussion of how our Chapter could assist FOSC in their future plans, and also the types of things that would be outside of what we could do.



The FOSC native plant nursery. Photo by David Bakke.

After lunch we moved down the watershed where Sausal Creek again supports a cold-water trout fishery. Kathleen Harris, a long-time resident in the watershed who retired after a 45-year career as a research scientist in molecular and cell biology to become the FOSC stream expert, described how the stream had been impacted in the past and the (relatively) recent projects that have led to improvements in water quality and quantity (like replacing a long leaking sewage line laid in the creek years ago). We were shown pictures of the creek after non-native trees and other vegetation were removed, basically bare earth on both sides of the creek. Compared to what we see there now, it's impressive! Good work to FOSC! And thanks to Martin for organizing this meeting!



Bay Area Chapter SAF cont.



The group assembles at the entrance to the Dimond Canyon Trail along Sausal Creek. Photo by Allmon



Along Sausal Creek, there was this very large specimen black acacia (*Acacia melanoxylon*). I estimated the diameter somewhere between 4 and 5 feet! One of the largest I have seen! Photo by David Bakke.



SAF AND #FORESTPROUD ANNOUNCE MERGER

We're excited to announce that the communications platform #forestproud is now a program of SAF!

In 2021, SAF conducted a membership portfolio analysis to determine how we can better serve you—our members. **According to SAF Members, the most pressing challenge facing the industry is fostering public confidence in our profession.** This was closely followed by recruitment and retention of forestry professionals and climate change. **We listened.**

The #forestproud platform is positioned to help SAF expand and adapt to all three of these challenges and opportunities.

As a communications platform, #forestproud promotes and supports forest-climate solutions. They have significant traction with 18-34 year olds, beyond the sector, active in climate conversations. With #forestproud, SAF will add significant capacity to expand the important work of advancing the sustainable management of forest resources.

For more information about this merger, read our press release and FAQs.

SAF National Convention Raffle Donations Needed

The 2022 National SAF Convention Committee is seeking donations for the silent auction and raffle. Proceeds will support the *Kurt Gottschalk Science Fund* and the *SAF Foresters' Fund*. The convention will be held in Baltimore, MD, September 20-24.

The deadline for donations is September 12, 2022.

This is a great opportunity to support science and promote your organization with a tax-deductible donation. Companies, non-profits, SAF members, and SAF chapters are encouraged to donate clothing, artwork, gift baskets, gift cards, specialty foods, and more. Donations can be shipped to the SAF National Office ahead of time or brought to the event.

Please include an itemized description of gifts, the estimated value, and donor contact information. Prepackaged food items are accepted. No alcohol. SAF will send a donation receipt. For more information contact Rachel Reyna at rr Reyna@pa.gov.

Donations to FIT

Thank you to the following organizations for donations to our 2022 FIT program:

- ◆ Sierra Pacific Foundation — \$20,000.00
- ◆ Timber Products - \$1,000.00
- ◆ Mendocino Redwood Company - \$5,000.00
- ◆ Shasta Cascade Timberlands, LLC - \$1,000.00
- ◆ Acer Klamath Forest LLC - \$1,000.00
- ◆ Sierra-Cascade Environmental & Resource Fund, Inc. - \$15,000.00



2022 SAF Meeting & Event Schedule

July 2022

7/26/22 – Board of Directors Meeting: 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

August 2022

8/18/22 – Executive Committee Meeting: 9:00am-4:00pm

8/19/22 – Summer Meeting, South Lake Tahoe

8/23/22 – Board of Directors Meeting: 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

September 2022

9/20-9/24/22 – SAF National

9/27/22 – Board of Directors Meeting: 11:00am-12:00pm

October 2022

10/25/22 – Board of Directors Meeting: 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

November 2022

11/15/22 – Board of Directors Meeting: 11:00 am – 12:00 pm**

December 2022

12/8/22 – Executive Committee Meeting: 11:00 – 3:00 pm

**Moved up one week for Holiday