

**EDITOR JACK STEWART** 

# Boots Restless 24' by Bill Keye Past CalSAF Communications Chair

What a cool thing it is to be a forester! I've felt blessed to be out there tromping around in wildland settings for a mite few years now. Just being out there, sometimes in places so remote that I am amazed at the memories. I've enjoyed serving as your Communications Chair these past few years. Consistent with my underdog status on the losing end of the Timber Wars ("Get over it, Bill!" NOT!), I have failed to garner the level of media attention to our issues that they deserve. Press Releases were unsuccessful in sparking the Great Forest Re-Awakening. But they were attempted. There is something to be said for trying, even if thick-head banging can appear to be a bit touched. Touched by forestry! Consider how much we love the ground, finding corners, appreciating contours that bear no relationship to straight lines and brass caps.

The ground. The land. I sign off gratified that indeed there were some recent, and solid, CAL-SAF outreach achievements. Two to cite would be far-reaching new policy statements and the bang-up success of our 2023 SAF National Convention. These efforts involved a ton of collegial dedication and support. Their fulfillment helps point us, and our profession, in new directions.

On to the Great Forest Re-Awakening! I'm not getting over it, and neither should you.

Truth be known – it's already happening. Student interest is surging. Xylem and phloem.



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this newsletter ou can expect:	_
Chapter Updates	_
UC ANR News	
Forestry Challenge	_
Logging Sports	_
Forest Institure for Teachers	_
Board of Director's Report	-



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## CalSAF Membership

The state chapter gained a substantial number of new members in 2023 as a result of the convention. The convention was informative and an excellent opportunity to engage foresters in person. Moving forward, the chapter is experiencing new interest from new members and legacy members who have not volunteered with the chapter in the past. Connecting with all members via email is sometimes a challenge. Foresters change emails because of a new job or a move. Forestry Professors please remind your current students to renew their membership for \$25.00. Membership is opportunity to stay connected, learn about current natural resource activities and events in California. Please visit www.eforesters.org and review your membership profile. Check that all contact information is current. Visit the national website at www.eforester.org for more information.

## Phising Emails

There are many opportunities to connect with CalSAF members. Seeing foresters during field tours, reading the state newsletter, or attending a meeting. Often non-profits are susceptible to hacking and internet scams. CalSAF does not solicit individual members for donations through emails or social media. Several CalSAF members have received multiple fishing emails requesting donations. The emails contain a name from the Board of Directors. sent from a false email address. A Fishing email is a fraudulent email with intentions to deceive the recipient into sharing personal credit card information. The goal is to exploit the trust of the recipient and acquire sensitive information.

Tips on spotting a phishing email: generic greeting, urgent language, and suspicious email address. Common language in these deceptive emails is," Woodsy Owl forester is on vacation, and we need these funds now!" Do not open emails from a fraudulent email address claiming to representative of the CalSAF BOD. There are many new avenues on internet for phishing and sharing a virus. If you suspect a phishing email check with original sources for verification.





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# Newsletter Update

There have been several modifications and changes to the state newsletter over the last several months. Student intern, Jack Stewart, first year forestry student at Reedley College. has taken on the role as Newsletter Editor for 2024-2025. We are working towards a more mobile device friendly and print friendly publication. Frequently contact information changes or members are unavailable through email outreach. For these reasons, we are directing communications in this publication to CalSAF Executive Director, Kathleen Burr. Kathleen can be reached at executive.director@californiasaf.org.



#### SAVE THE DATE

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 2024 CALIFORNIA SAF SUMMER FIELD TOUR ON AUGUST 16TH, 2024 IN TUOLUMNE COUNTY! JOIN US FOR A ONE-DAY FIELD MEETING EXPLORING CURRENT RESEARCH AND UNIQUE PARTNERSHIPS WORKING TO IMPROVE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN THE REGION. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 15TH FROM 4-6PM. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS ARE OPEN MEETINGS AND ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO JOIN. MORE UPCOMING INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.CALIFORNIASAF.ORG





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# 2024 National SAF Nominations Open

- Everything you need to know about SAF nominations is available at the eforester.org website under the Community tab.
- 2024 SAF Award nominations are currently open and are due by March 1, 2024.
- Outstanding SAF Student Chapter Award nominations are due by May 15, 2024.

California SAF has many dedicated volunteers and members who are making significant contributions to forestry. Please look at the categories available and see if you recognize someone who would fit the criteria for an award. Fellow nominations may be made by any SAF member in good standing. Once nominations are uploaded in the National Awards portal, they are turned over to the State Society Fellow Committee for further consideration.

When several good candidates are received more than one may be selected, or held over for the next year.

District 3 Presidential Field Forester - our District Representative John Todd will make the selection for this award. Many of the National awards require the endorsement of the State Society or Chapter. Contact

Executive.Director@californiasaf.org for more information.

# CalSAF Upcoming Events

- MAY 4, 2024 AMADOR ELDORADO FOREST FORUM ANNUAL FIELD TOUR & PICNIC FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.FORESTFORUM.ORG CANCELED DUE TO WEATHER
- MAY 15, CALSAF BOD VIRTUAL MEETING
- MAY 20-22, 2024 CALIFORNIA FIRE SCIENCE CONSORTIUM, JFSP FIRE SCIENCE EXCHANGE NETWORK, ESTABLISHING DIRECTIONS IN POSTFIRE DEBRIS FLOW SCIENCE CONFERENCE, SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, VISIT WWW.CAFIRESCIENCE.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION
- JUNE 12, CALSAF BOD VIRTUAL MEETING
- JUNE 16-22, FOREST INSTITUTE FOR TEACHERS, EL DORADO, VISIT HTTPS://WWW.FORESTRYINSTITUTE.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION WAITLIST
- JUNE 23-29 FOREST INSTITUTE FOR TEACHERS, TUOLUMNE WAITLIST
- JUNE 30-JULY 6 FOREST INSTITUTE FOR TEACHERS, SHASTA WAITLIST
- JULY 14-20, FOREST INSTITUTE FOR TEACHERS, HUMBOLDT WAITLIST
- AUGUST 15-16, SAVE THE DATE, CALSAF SUMMER FIELD TOUR & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IN TOULUMNE COUNTY, MORE INFORMATION IN THE FUTURE VISIT WWW.CALIFORNIASAF.ORG
- SEPTEMBER 17-20, NATIONAL SAF CONVENTION, LOVELAND, COLORADO, VISIT WWW.EFORESTER.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION
- OCTOBER 1. DEADLINE FOR ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS FALL CALSAF NEWSLETTER
- OCTOBER 23-25, CALIFORNIA INVASIVE PLANT COUNCIL SYMPOSIUM, VIRTUAL CONFERENCE, VISIT CAL-IPC.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION



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What Does It Mean to You to Be in a CalSAF Chapter? by David Bakke, Bay Area Chapter Chair

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Fellow nominations may be made by any SAF member in good standing. Once nominations are uploaded in the National Awards portal, they are turned over to the State Society Fellow Committee for further consideration.

So why should you be active in your Chapter?

- Chapter meetings provide opportunities to meet other members, to socialize, and to learn about local issues.
   Connections are made. In my experience, life-long friendships are made.
- Chapters are best positioned to influence local forestry issues. Letters to the local paper, to local agencies, to local communities all can be impactful, but need active Chapter members.
- Chapters bring the influence of SAF to local issues.
- Being active in a Chapter is fun!

In order to gain these benefits for yourself, you need to attend your local Chapter meetings. Make the effort to put the dates on your calendar. Make this a personal and professional goal for yourself. Bring your associates and others you know with an interest in forestry (they don't need to be a member!).

But beyond just attending Chapter meetings, volunteer at the Chapter to undertake small tasks to promote the profession and to contribute your experiences. This helps in developing leadership skills that will enhance your career development. Being active in a Chapter also lets you give back to the profession that is giving you a livelihood. Share your experiences and expertise, ensuring the forestry profession continues to prosper. You'll be amazed at how gratifying volunteering can be!

Several Chapters in CalSAF are currently inactive. If you are in one of those Chapters, reach out to other members in your area and commit to get it going again. Questions on how to active a Chapter, contact executive.director@californiasaf.org for more information.





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Bay Area Chapter - 2023 in Review by David Bakke, Bay Area Chapter Chair

Membership - We started the year with 73 members and we ended the year with 87. Perhaps a reflection of the programs, activities, and advocacy that the Chapter has been involved with over the last few years. Remember that the chapter level is where most of us get to interact so your involvement at this level is key.



Advocacy - In March, we submitted comments in support of the National Park Service's proposal to conduct reforestation activities in giant sequoia groves affected by wildfires in Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Parks. In April, we submitted comments in support of the Tomales Bay State Park plan to reduce fuel loading and encourage the regeneration of Bishop pine (Pinus muricata) within the park. Over the course of the year, the chapter was involved in reviewing and commenting on the draft Solano County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (finally approved by the County this past Fall).

Meetings – Our first meeting in 2023 - we met the Carbonator! This was a great meeting, attended by members and friends alike and hosted by the East Bay Regional Park District. In April, we had a work meeting at UC's Russell Research Station where we completed some needed fuel reduction work (creating/burning handpiles and completing chipping). In May we had a joint meeting with the UC Forestry Club and enjoyed a bean feed. In June, we had a field meeting that looked at the effectiveness of using goats to reduce fuels through grazing.

In October, we had a remote meeting where we invited representatives from three different prescribed burn associations in the state to talk about what these associations are. Our last chapter meeting of 2023 was in November where we again met with the UC Forestry Club. They hosted us at their last bean feed of the year.







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# Sacramento-Tahoe Chapter Update by Gary Brittner

The Sac-Tahoe Chapter has been quiet the last year. Our last dinner meeting in May '23 featured George "YG" Gentry. He provided his insights into the history and future of CA. forest regulations. In typical fashion he gave a superb presentation drawing from his vast grasp of the topic from his youth to forest consultant, to Board of Forestry, and now at CA Forestry Association. He also shared his evening "tutoring" sessions that are available to those aspiring to take the RPF exam.

August 2023 - Chapter treasurer Jon Jue planned and organized the Sacramento Tahoe chapter summer field trip. The focus was restoring the historic prescribed burning cycle. The field trip was on private land and the speakers were the promoters and practitioners of the prescribed burning art. There was lively discussion at each of the stops.

During the National Convention a host of Sac-Tahoe SAF'ers helped in a variety of key volunteer positions to keep the event running smoothly.

Here are a couple photos of our field trip to a shaded fuel break that utilized prescribed burning by private landowners.







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# UC ANR Personalizes Forestry Education for Landowners with CA Tree School by Susie Kocher

This spring, UC ANR Forest Stewardship has a new opportunity for forestry professionals to communicate their work to a wide audience of forest landowners and community members passionate about trees. The Forest Stewardship and UC ANR Fire Network teams are holding the first California Tree School, where individuals attend multiple in-person classes on the forestry topics they are most curious about. "It's our time to discuss the whole ecosystem," noted UC ANR Post-Fire Academic Coordinator Katie Reidy. "Tree School is bringing in the trustworthy, reliable group of experts who can provide more information on the questions pertaining to landowners' specific goals."

The event was inspired when ANR Forest Stewardship Academic Coordinator Kim Ingram, ANR Forest and Natural Resources Advisor Susie Kocher, and Reidy attended Oregon State University (OSU) Extension's Tree School event in Clackamas County, Oregon. Kocher described the experience as a "a great one day, one stop shop to keep up to date on what we [forest landowners and professionals] should know." Excited by the breadth of opportunities offered at OSU's Tree School, Ingram, Kocher, and Reidy were inspired to bring the format to California.

California Tree School will be offered in two locations this spring, with CA Tree School Hopland taking place on May 4, and CA Tree School- El Dorado held on June 1.

Attendees have the chance to take four different classes, maximizing their ability to learn and connect with instructors and other Tree School students. Class topics range from forest soils to regional oak woodland wildlife.

Tree School instructors were encouraged to focus their classes on the topics they are most excited to communicate to the public, something that Ingram noted "will help create a positive learning environment." Instructors include a mix of RPFs and other professionals from UC ANR. CALFIRE, USFS, and CA RCD. The FSE team is excited to see all the connections that will be made during this pilot year, and "if we can bring it back next year," commented Kocher, "we are definitely interested in partnering with more people and expanding our outreach."

Foresters and landowner clientele can register now for CA Tree School at www.ucanr.edu.





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Forestry Challenge Championship Brings Students from Throughout California to Tuolumne County by Diane Dealey Neill, Forestry Challenge Coordinator

The fifth Forestry Challenge Championship was held on April 17 to 19 at Camp Sylvester in Pinecrest, Tuolumne County. This year was the largest Championship since it began in 2018, with 132 students and 33 chaperones from 23 schools from all over California participating. Only the top 25% of teams from the fall events earn the invitation, so this was a group of extremely focused and competitive students. Sonora.

The focus topic was Fuel Break Maintenance. Students explored the options for fuel break maintenance, created a mini-manual with the pros and cons of each method, and created a flow chart that will help land managers determine which method is best for the existing condition of a fuel break in need of maintenance. During the Challenge, teams also completed a rigorous field test to assess their technical forestry knowledge and datacollecting skills.

Prior to the start of the event, several school groups toured the Sierra Pacific Industries mill in Sonora.

Here are the results out of a possible 250 points:

#### 1st Place

ERCLC - 213.8

#### 2nd Place

Golden Sierra - 211.7

#### **3rd Place**

Woodside - 207.8

#### 4th Place

Mira Loma - 207.3

#### 5th Place

Palisades - 207

#### 6th Place

Maripose - 203.8

7th Place

Foresthill - 202

#### 8th Place

Palisades - 201.5

#### 9th Place

Mira Loma - 200.8

#### 10th Place

Granada Hills - 198.8







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# Cal Poly Humboldt Logging Sports Hosts 2024 AWFC Championships

The Cal Poly Humboldt (CPH) Logging Sports Team, a campus club organization, recently hosted the Association of Western Forestry Clubs (AWFC) Conclave championship in Eureka, CA from March 13-15th, 2024. The annual championships rotate to different host schools each year and the last time Humboldt hosted was in 2014. This year the team went above and beyond to put on an event that will be memorable for years to come, that not only included three days of competition, but also had an educational focus with tours and excursions for the visiting teams to learn about forestry in the redwood region. The week kicked-off with 10 teams arriving with approximately 180 competitors including the two other CA forestry schools of UC Berkeley and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo along with other universities traveling from as far as Idaho, Montana, Colorado and Arizona.

On Monday there was a full-day field trips to learn more about the local forest industry where visiting teams were shown different timber harvesting operations and toured a local sawmill to see what products were produced from these harvests. Nick Barrett, a student at the University of Idaho said, "The mill and logging operation tours were awesome! Having the opportunity to have an indepth experience with how these industries operate in Northern California was something that made my conclave experience great all around!" On Tuesday, teams were led on a half day excursion to Redwood National and State Parks to hike amongst the old-growth redwoods. Tuesday afternoon teams gathered at the competition field to size their individual blocks for chopping events and help with any remaining setup.





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Cal Poly Humboldt Logging Sports Hosts 2024 AWFC Championships (Continued)

The competitive events kicked off on Wednesday at Redwood Acres Fairgrounds in Eureka, CA. There were over 20 events that took place from Wednesday to Friday including: chopping, bucking, climbing, and timber cruise.

Uniquely, this year the AWFC was run in conjunction with the Redwood Region Logging Conference (RRLC), providing an opportunity for student competitors to attend the professional conference and also providing the public with opportunities to witness logging sports in action. On Friday evening an awards dinner wrapped up the AWFC, with the CPH Team placing first in the overall team competition, after placing second and first in 2023 and 2022, respectively.

Thank you CalSAF for donation \$500 to support our event!





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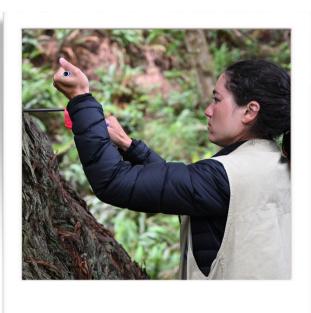
Forestry Institute for Teachers: Program Overview and 2023 in Review by Austin Roughton, UC Cooperative Extension

2023 marked the 30th year of fulfilling the Society of American Foresters mission of the Forestry Institute for Teachers (FIT) advancing sustainable management of forest resources through science, education, and technology. With support from forestry professionals across the state, California SAF (Cal SAF) provided educators with critical training to improve forestry education in the classroom.

FIT is a field-based professional learning program for California's Pre-K-12 educators. The program equips participants with the knowledge, skills and tools to teach about the intricate relationships between forest ecology and resource management. Participants examine, from multiple perspectives, how forest ecosystems and their management impact the needs and health of all California communities.

Led by teams of natural resource and education professionals, each session guides participants to think critically about the intersection of humans and natural systems. Sessions present science-based perspectives on current forestry issues and link learning to state standards, career pathways and environmental education. By the end of each session, participants are certified in Project Learning Tree (PLT) and Water Education Today (WET

curriculum, and are equipped with the resources and knowhow to design a personal curriculum project; This unit or lesson conveys an educator's FIT learning to the students they teach back home with creative, relevant and personalized instruction. Successful project implementation earns graduates a stipend to support the continued impact of forestry education across the state for years to come.





**EDITOR JACK STEWART** 

Forestry Institute for Teachers: Program Overview and 2023 in Review(Continued) by Austin Roughton, UC Cooperative Extension

2023 saw the return of four FIT sessions with a new session held in El Dorado County. Mike De Lasaux, former SAF Education Chair and FIT Cofounder, graciously stepped forward to serve as Natural Resource Director for the session, facilitating an impactful experience at Blodgett Forest Research Station in Georgetown, CA. Ariel Roughton, Forest Manager for Berkeley Forests' broad network of research properties will be serving as El Dorado Natural Resource director in 2024.

In the fall, FIT introduced a new FIT-Focus session in Mendocino County. Exclusively for FIT graduates, this 3-Day program arose, in part, from unwavering participant calls for "more FIT"! FIT-Focus supports past graduates in deepening their understanding of special forestry topics.

Mendocino FIT-Focus led participants through an exploration of forest

disturbances, bringing participants from as far back as 2004 together to learn about the factors driving forest health. UC Cooperative Extension Advisors Tori Norville and Mike Jones served as session Co-Directors, with education support from Hannah Bird of the Hopland Research and Extension Center.





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Forestry Institute for Teachers: Program Overview and 2023 in Review(Continued) by Austin Roughton, UC Cooperative Extension

Overall, FIT's core team of Directors, Education and Program Specialists delivered five successful trainings in 2023 that served 111 educators from across 33 counties. Prospects for 2024's session look just as bright, with rosters currently full, a robust waitlist, and plans to grow and diversify FIT's program offerings throughout the state.

We cannot thank all those involved and invested in the program's success enough, especially volunteers John Helms, Jim Ostrowski, Stacey Dodge, and Len Lindstrand. FIT also extends a special thank you to SAF members, John Todd, and Tad Mason.

John has been a critical supporter of FIT for many years and helped to secure key grant funding for the program. Since FIT's inception, Tad has been a stalwart program advocate and fundraiser, and is now helping Rachelle Hedges, former Cal SAF State Chair, to transition into the Program Fundraiser role.

FIT's longevity and lasting impact on forestry education stems from the passion that its staff and volunteers share with the program and its participants. This is only made possible through the generous donations of time, money, and resources from supporters like you over the years. Thank you for making FIT possible for the past three decades!





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# National Board of Director's Report by John Todd

Hello everyone – I hope everyone's Spring is off to a good start. On the National level, this looks to be a momentous year for the Society of American Foresters. There are many new developments and ways to engage with the SAF no matter where you are on your career path.

Some of the exciting developments for SAF in 2024 include being the new nonprofit organization, in collaboration with the USDA Forest Service, for the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree initiative. This year's tree is coming from the Forests of Alaska. https://www.uscapitolchristmas tree.com/The Certified Urban and Community Forester Credential (CUCF) is closer to becoming a reality as applications are now being accepted for the initial exam. **New Certifications** (eforester.org)

Applications can be submitted until May 15 for both the 2024 Thomas Hill Student Scholarships and the 2024 Thomas Hill Young Professional Grants program. Thomas Hill Scholarships and Grants Now Available! (eforester.org)

SAF continues to be involved in efforts to support forests and those who work in them. Recent actions have included ioining the Wildfire Resilience Coalition and twenty-one other signatories in a letter to Congress highlighting the importance of the wildland fire workforce.SAF also addressed the Mature and Old Growth Initiative by commenting on the USDA Forest Service's notice of intent addressing a proposed amendment that will impact all land management plans for units of the National Forest System.. Lastly, in conjunction with the Sustainable Urban Forestry Coalition's Annual Meeting in DC, SAF helped organize a congressional briefing at the US Capitol Visitor's Center.

The briefing highlighted the outstanding work that is happening on the ground and the diverse benefits that urban and community forests provide.

Here in California, we are off to a good start in 2024. Congratulations to Cal SAF Chair Helena Murray and her planning team for putting together an excellent Winter Meeting in San Luis Obispo. The speakers, the field tour, and the weather were all top-notch. I hope you will consider traveling to the 2024 SAF National Convention in Loveland. Colorado in September. It will be nice to relax and enjoy the convention while our Rocky Mountain hosts roll out the hospitality.

I look forward to again serving as your Board Member for 2024. If you have questions about SAF, visit www.eforester.org.