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. . . climate change . . . over development . . . habitat loss . . . forest sustainability

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Starting September 5th hear Sally Collins, Associate Chief of the U.S. Forest Service, talk about the threat to U.S. Forests from development through the following Earth & Sky radio shows and podcasts.

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U.S. forests face threat from development

Forest managers grapple with rapid change

Extended Podcast: Sally Collins on The State of American Forests

The American Forest Foundation proudly continues our partnership with Earth & Sky through the production of the "2008 Forest Series" radio shows and podcasts.

Tune in every month from September through December 2008 to hear more about climate change, habitat loss, clean water, and forest sustainability.

Next month, hear the challenges a private forest landowner faces keeping his family's forest as a forest.

The shows will air on more than 1,800 radio stations in the U.S. You can find a radio station broadcasting Earth & Sky Radio Shows in your area at www.earthsky.org/about/radio-affiliated. You can also listen online at www.earthsky.org and through iTunes.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



California Tree Farm News

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Tree Farm Mission

To promote the growing of renewable forest resources on private lands while protecting environmental benefits and increasing public understanding of all benefits of productive forestry.



California Tree Farm News

Dedicated to providing useful information to Tree Farmers and family forest owners.

BEGINNING IN 2009 NEW SECRETARY/ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE CALIFORNIA TREE FARM COMMITTEE

By George Belden

January 1, 2009, will usher in the new year and Lois Kaufman as the new Secretary/Administrator for the California Tree Farm Committee. I asked Lois to write a brief summary of her working experience and she authored the following:

"I received my Bachelor of Science in Forestry from Michigan State University in 1976, starting my forestry career in the summer of 1975 as a seasonal fire-fighter for the USFS on the Modoc National Forest. After graduation I returned to California and worked for several state and private entities until finally settling down with a career with The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF). My CDF career focus was in Forest Practice with most of my time spent on the coast in the Humboldt/Del Norte unit.

My duties included rotating through the first review process for Timber Harvesting Plans and the difficulties smaller landowners had in navigating through the complicated review process. My negotiating skills were sharpened with the beginning of the controversial Habitat Conservation Plan for The Pacific Lumber Company and the beginnings of the Headwaters acquisition, as this was my inspection area. This experience made me an advocate of the Non Industrial Timber Management Plans for small landowners as a means of protecting their property rights against the continued onerousness of public perception versus reality.

In 1988, I did my first Tree Farm inspection with Joe Fassler on Gene Whitney's Tree Farm (California Tree Farmer of the Year 1991) in Humboldt

County and instantly became hooked on the program. The number of outstanding, well managed Tree Farms was inspiring and participating in the educational tours for schools and other enforcement agencies all helped in getting the word out that we are not a cut and run society. I retired from CDF as the Deputy Chief of Resource Management for the Shasta Trinity Unit in Redding in January 2007 and remained a volunteer Tree Farm inspector because I believed so strongly in the program."

2008 CALIFORNIA TREE FARMER OF THE YEAR

This year's Tree Farmer of the Year is Webb Harpe. His Tree Farm is located in Philo, Mendocino County. Mr. Harpe's tree farm contains 1,760 acres and is being managed under a selection harvesting prescription. His tree farm utilizes the "multiple use concept" allowing for recreation, hunting and wildlife improvement. Mr. Harpe has been responsible for investing all log sale proceeds into improving the tree farm. His primary goal has been to manage his property to the highest environmental standards without any grants.

Consulting Forester, Michael Howell, submitted the nomination for Mr. Webb and will make the presentation at the annual meeting of Forest Landowners of California which will be held in the Ukiah area in 2009. More information will be forthcoming in the next issue of the CA Tree Farm Newsletter.



ATFS RECEIVES PEFC ENDORSEMENT

Washington, D.C. - Family forest owners in the U.S., who own nearly two-thirds of the country's forestlands, today cheered the international approval of the American Tree Farm System® (ATFS) by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes (PEFC). PEFC is an international, independent, non-profit, non-governmental organization, founded in 1999 which promotes sustainably managed forests through independent third party certification. ATFS is the oldest and largest forest conservation, certification, and advocacy program in the United States. The 67 year-old program is sponsored by the American Forest Foundation.

Family forest landowners welcomed the endorsement by PEFC for certifying sustainably produced wood, a step that will open the door to new green markets for wood that is sustainably produced on their land. The Geneva-based Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes (PEFC) made the announcement after a 14-month rigorous review designed to provide assurance to purchasers that certified wood and paper products are in fact produced from sustainably managed forests.

“This is fantastic news for conservation-minded family forest owners who are struggling to survive in tough economic times,” said Laurence Wiseman, President and Chief Executive Officer of the American Forest Foundation, the parent group of ATFS. “PEFC approval is the key to connecting more of the good operators to the rapidly growing marketplace of green manufacturers, distributors, retailers and consumers.”

Forest landowners who voluntarily commit the extra time and expense to produce wood sustainably under the ATFS system will now qualify for access to the international markets that they never had before. Traditional markets for U.S. wood have been shrinking as more foreign wood gains control into those markets, and Wiseman believes this endorsement step will help U.S. growers.

Many communities depend on private forests to provide benefits including water purification, clean air, recreation, wildlife habitat and education. Eighty percent of all rain that falls east of the Mississippi River falls on family-owned forests where it is purified, stored, and released into aquifers.

“By joining the largest forest certification system in the world, the American Tree Farm System is creating new markets for American growers,” said Ben Gunneberg, Secretary General of PEFC International. “The demand for sustainably-procured wood is rapidly increasing because more businesses and more consumers are stepping up to the plate on issues like climate change. PEFC endorsement means that more American growers can now serve this rapidly growing market. “

Only about 10 percent of the global wood market currently comes through forest certification systems. Now with ATFS, PEFC has 500 million certified acres. At this size and growing rapidly, PEFC is by far the largest global program for certifying sustainable forests. Canada, Norway, Finland, Spain, Brazil, the Malaysian Republic, and many other European countries are among those with PEFC-approved forest certification systems. This is the second such approval for the U.S., with the first being the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

The American Tree Farm System was first launched in 1941 as a private initiative to address concerns that America's forests were being cut at unsustainable rates without reforestation. It now represents more than 90,000 family forest owners in 45 states, most of whom manage woodlots of less than 100 acres. ATFS is the largest private forest conservation and forest restoration initiative in the history of the U.S. “The number of certified family forests landowners in the system has doubled over the past four years, and this shows the tremendous growth potential in this area,” said Bob Simpson, Senior Vice President for the American Forest Foundation.



20 Largest California Wildland Fires (By Structures Destroyed)

FIRE NAME/CAUSE	DATE	COUNTY	ACRES	STRUCTURES	DEATHS
1 CEDAR (HUMAN)	October 2003	SAN DIEGO	273,246	4,847	15
2 TUNNEL (REKINDLE)	October 1991	ALAMEDA	1,600	2,900	25
3 WITCH (UNDER INVESTIGATION)	October 2007	SAN DIEGO	197,990	1,650	2
4 OLD (HUMAN)	October 2003	SAN BERNARDINO	91,281	1,003	6
5 JONES (UNDETERMINED)	October 1999	SHASTA	26,200	954	1
6 PAINT (ARSON)	June 1990	SANTA BARBARA	4,900	641	1
7 FOUNTAIN (ARSON)	August 1992	SHASTA	63,960	636	0
8 CITY OF BERKELEY (POWERLINES)	September 1923	ALAMEDA	130	584	0
9 BEL AIR (UNDETERMINED)	November 1961	LOS ANGELES	6,090	484	0
10 HARRIS (UNDER INVESTIGATION)	October 2007	SAN DIEGO	90,440	548	6
11 LAGUNA FIRE (ARSON)	October 1993	ORANGE	14,437	441	0
12 LAGUNA (POWERLINES)	September 1970	SAN DIEGO	175,425	382	5
13 PANORAMA (ARSON)	November 1980	SAN BERNARDINO	23,600	325	4
14 TOPANGA (ARSON)	November 1993	LOS ANGELES	18,000	323	3
15 49ER (BURNING DEBRIS)	September 1988	NEVADA	33,700	312	0
16 ANGORA (HUMAN)	June 2007	EL DORADO	3,100	309	0
17 SIMI (UNDER INVESTIGATION)	October 2003	VENTURA	108,204	300	0
18 SLIDE (UNDER INVESTIGATION)	October 2007	SAN BERNARDINO	12,759	272	0
19 RICE (UNDER INVESTIGATION)	October 2007	SAN DIEGO	9,472	248	0
20 CANYON (VEHICLE)	September 1999	SHASTA	2,580	230	0

Note that this list does not include fire jurisdiction. These are the Top 20 within California, regardless of whether they were state, federal, or local responsibility. Also note that "structures" is meant to include all loss - homes and outbuildings, etc.



11/9/2007

IN MEMORIAL

Tree Farmer, Robert Schaezlein, passed away this summer. Robert maintained an active tree farm in Tuolumne County, harvesting timber and at the same time maintaining a healthy component of Old Growth pine and fir. Harvests were designed to remove only high risk old growth trees and thin the understory. Bob was very concerned in maintaining wildlife components of the stand. His occupation was a silversmith. His children and sister's children plan to continue following the current management plan.

Over the past 25 years, he had three different tree farm inspectors: Bill Snyder, Will Dorell and Leon Manich. Friends of Tree Farmer Robert Schaezlein were so impressed with his land management ethic that they wanted to support the tree farm program and they did so with monetary contributions to the California Tree Farm Committee, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

Thank you all.



TREE FARMER QUIZ

- In a standard township, what section is northwest of section 9?

- What is the base area (in square feet) of a rectangle that is 100 feet wide and 200 feet long?

- The establishment of a stand in an area where the vegetation or land use was not forest is called?

- Briefly describe serotinous cones?

- In view of the fact that in 2008, California experienced water repellency (hydrophobicity) problems with the fall rains. Describe the physics involved in creating hydrophobicity, and what generalized soil texture is most prone to this problem?

- ANSWERS:
- Section 9
 - 24 square x .005454 = 3.14
 - Afforestation
 - As an example, Knobcone Pine has serotinous cones that usually need the heat of a fire to melt the resin that seals the cone scales.
 - Organic gasses created by the burning forest fuels move along the temperature gradient (by law of physics) to a lower depth. At some depth, the condensation point of the gasses are reached and the gasses condense and coat the soil particles and repelling water. The amount of gases that can move thru the soil per unit of temperature gradient is a function of soil porosity and gas conductivity. Clay soils have large amounts of total porosity, but most are in very small pores making the conductivity low. They also are insulating soils where the change in temperature is restricted to a few inches. Hence hydrophobic layers, if they form, are shallow and not very severe due to lack of depth and condensate richness. Coarse grained soils have large pores, relatively high total porosity and high gas conductivity. Hence, gas condensates occur at depth, in rich amounts and often in thicker layers. Thus coarse grained soils tend to be most susceptible to hydrophobicity.

