

Focus

on College of Forestry • Winter 2003

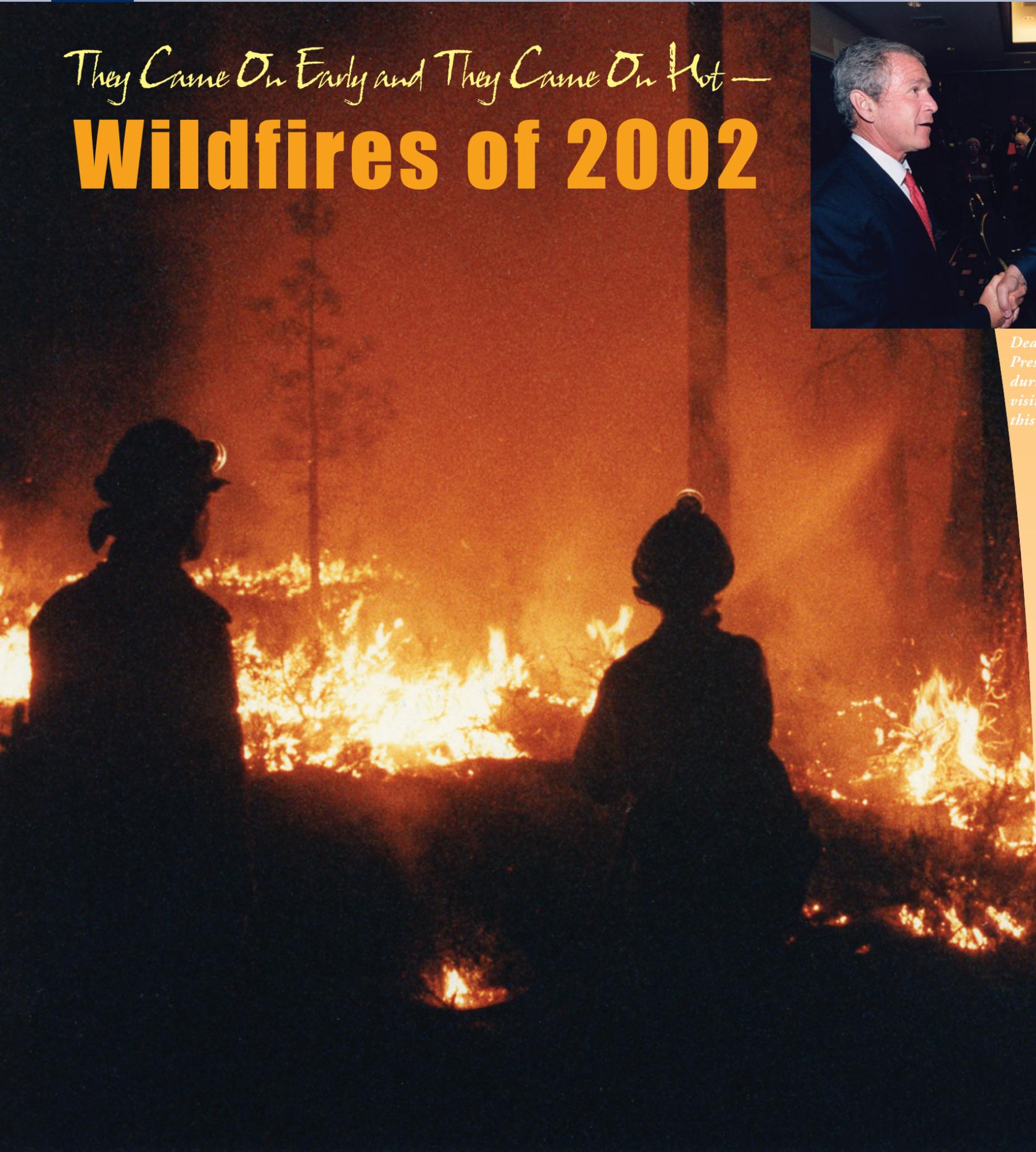
FORESTRY

A newsletter for alumni, friends, faculty, staff, and students of the OSU College of Forestry

They Came On Early and They Came On Hot —
Wildfires of 2002



Dean Salwasser met with President George W. Bush during the President's visit to southern Oregon this summer.



The controversy sparked by last season's unseasonable fires seems as hot as the flames themselves. The main issue, predictably, is management. Should we log fire-prone forests to remove tinder-dry fuels, and risk logging damage to the ecosystem? Or should we leave the forests alone to recover on their own, and risk more catastrophic wildfires?

The College

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The Fires of '02

This past summer, Oregon's worst fire season in 50 years grabbed national headlines and left land managers groping for science-based solutions. A new book coauthored by College scientists, *Fire in Oregon's Forests: Risks, Effects, and Treatment Options*, offers a valuable one-stop source of recent research and expert policy advice.

Wildfires, says the book's lead author Stephen Fitzgerald, have been a part of Oregon's forests for several millennia. But in recent years the fires have been more extensive, more expensive, and complicated by the proximity of rural and suburban homes.

Fitzgerald, OSU Extension Forester in Deschutes County, has seen these changes firsthand. "These more-severe fires do more damage to soil and wildlife and fish habitat," he says, "and they increase the risk to threatened and endangered species." And largely because of the presence of homes in and near the forest, the cost of fighting these larger, more-intense wildfires has soared in recent years.

The wildfires of 2002 came on early, and they came on hot. A July 9 lightning

strike on the Warm Springs Indian Reservation touched off the Eyerly Fire, which burned 23,000 acres and 18 homes before it was subdued more than three weeks later. While the fire still blazed, more lightning in the following days sparked another fire six miles away, and the Eyerly Fire became a complex, burning through National Forest and tribal lands in central Oregon.

The scenario was repeated through July and August in the hot, dry forests across southern and eastern Oregon. Fire crews battled 19 major fires burning on nearly 450,000 acres. The granddaddy of them all was the Biscuit Fire, on the Siskiyou National Forest, which gobbled nearly 500,000 acres of forest before it was contained on September 5—more acres than the Tillamook Burn of the 1930s, '40s, and '50s; more acres than any fire since the Coos Bay Fire of 1868.

Other fires wreaked damage over smaller areas: the Squire Peak Fire, near Medford; the Sheldon Ridge Fire, near The Dalles; the Winter Fire, north of Paisley; and the Timbered Rock Fire in northern Jackson County. Together these burned over 66,840 acres, or 104 square miles. In total, close to 100 million acres

of federal, state, and private lands in Oregon were burned.

Fighting all these fires was expensive. The state forestry department had spent \$59 million by mid-September—about half of which was expected to be reimbursed from federal dollars as well as some \$16 million from insurance. The Forest Service and BLM together spent over \$350 million.

The controversy sparked by this season's unseasonable fires seems as hot as the flames themselves. The main issue, predictably, is management. Should we log fire-prone forests to remove tinder-dry fuels, and risk logging damage to the ecosystem? Or should we leave the forests alone to recover on their own, and risk more catastrophic wildfires?

President George Bush, on an August visit to the southern Oregon field headquarters of the Squires Peak firefighting effort, announced his plan to make it easier for timber companies to cut wood from fire-prone forests. Environmental groups were quick to decry what saw as an illegitimate easing of environmental regulations.

Newspaper op-eds and letters were full of opinions. Clearcutting caused the fires; no, clearcutting prevents fires. Fires kill wildlife; no, fires rejuvenate the ecosystem and benefit wildlife. Fires sterilize the soil and bake it hard; no, fires kill back the brush and let young conifers take root.

Fitzgerald and his coauthors hope the information contained *Fire in Oregon's Forests* will take some of the heat off these controversies by shedding more light on them.

The 16 chapters of *Fire in Oregon's Forests* cover these dynamics, the ecological effects of wildfire on forests and wildlife habitat, the risk factors in fire-prone forests, and options for reducing wildfire's risk and the severity of its effects. The book makes a case for active management of forests—thinning, pruning, mowing, and prescribed burning—in a way that safeguards the forests' environmental values.

Besides Fitzgerald, the authors are Greg Filip and Bruce Shindler of the College of Forestry; James K. Agee of the University of Washington; Jack Ward

Focus on Forestry is published quarterly by the Oregon State University College of Forestry. Our goal is to keep Forestry alumni and friends informed about the College of Forestry and its many activities and programs.

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Thomas of the University of Montana; and Brian Ballou, Larry L. Irwin, Stephen Mealey, and James Rochelle.

The scientists writing in *Fire in Oregon's Forests* don't all speak with one voice, but they approach the issue of fire-prone forests from distinct disciplinary perspectives. The result is a prime example of how science can inform public policy debates, helping decision-makers think their way through complicated issues involving the relationship of humans and nature.

Fire in Oregon's Forests: Risks, Effects, and Treatment Options is published by the Oregon Forest Resources Institute and may be ordered through their website, www.oregonforests.org.



The Dunn Forest Fire

The College Forests weren't left unscathed by fire this summer. On Wednesday, June 12, Boise Cascade was conducting a controlled burn just west of the 1010 road in the Dunn Forest. With temperatures in the mid-90s and gusty winds, the fire quickly moved from Boise Cascade land onto College forestlands.

Dubbed the Fuller Creek Fire, the blaze burned 35 acres of scrub brush, young trees and older forest. Luckily the ground was not completely dry and ladder fuels were not abundant, so the fire was fairly well contained between Boise land and the 1010 road of the Dunn Forest. It burned about two acres.

Oregon Department of Forestry personnel and engines helped the Boise Cascade crew and College Forest staff suppress the fire. A helicopter and bulldozer were also used to stop the spread of the fire. The College Forest staff remained on the fire late into the evening and returned the next day to mop up the burned area.

Hot, wet future bodes ill for forest fire danger

Global climate change will probably cause most of the American West to become significantly warmer and wetter in the coming century. Increases in precipitation, higher temperatures and rising carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere will combine to spur vegetation growth and add even further to the existing fuel loads caused by decades of fire suppression, say OSU scientists.

Unless there are significant changes in land management practices, the amount of trees, shrubs, and other vegetation could increase beyond current levels. Droughts or heat waves could then lead to levels of wildfire larger than most observed since European settlement.

These findings are based on a growing body of published research and increasingly improved computer models that predict future climate scenarios and their impacts on forests and other terrestrial ecosystems, said Ronald Neilson, a courtesy professor at OSU and bioclimatologist with the USDA Forest Service.

Various "general circulation" computer models show global warming of 5-12 degrees Fahrenheit by about 75 years from now. Two of the more commonly cited models show precipitation increases in the United States of about 20-30 percent.

"On the drier forests of the western interior, adding more precipitation to the system is just like pouring on gasoline," Neilson said. "You increase the fuel load, inevitably have dry years with hot summers, and you get catastrophic fires."

However, a key variable that the models do not consider is changes in human land management practices that could serve to either address the problem or change the issues involved, said Dominique Bachelet, an associate professor in the OSU Department of Bioengineering.

One of the existing problems, Bachelet said, is the movement of people into forested and dryland rural areas, complicating forest and fire management issues.

—David Stauth

New model should improve forest fire prediction

New computer models are now being perfected that may make upcoming forest fire seasons a little more predictable.

Researchers at Oregon State University and the USDA Forest Service have developed a system that combines the power of long-term climate models, fire models, and the latest weather data to predict the general location and intensity of forest or rangeland fire in the near future.

The system, created with a \$500,000 grant as part of the National Fire Plan, should give state and federal planners a much better chance in future years of estimating how bad the upcoming summer fire season may be and where the greatest risks lie.

The model does not now, and may never be able to, predict actual fires to a certain location and month, the researchers say. Still, it should be quite valuable for advance planning and general resource allocation.

Among other accomplishments, the model accurately predicted that in 1988 the Yellowstone Park region would suffer enormous wildfires, which is exactly what happened. Some of the first runs of the model were just made for short-term predictions, and they suggest—not that it's a huge surprise at this point—that 2002 will be one of the worst fire seasons on record in the American West.

—David Stauth

Not quiet on the fire lines: *Diary of an information officer*

After four seasons of working on an engine crew as a wildland firefighter, I had to give in and get a job that would really help me with my career. I got an internship in the Oregon Department of Forestry's public affairs office for the summer. My supervisor said my firefighting experience would help me write press releases. But I probably wouldn't get anywhere near an actual fire.



Leah Rosin is a senior in Natural Resources Communications at the College of Forestry. When she's not in the midst of wildfires, she's the editorial assistant in the Forestry Communications Group.

- July 12** Thousands of lightning strikes started fires across the southern and eastern portions of the state. Hundreds of firefighters were deployed, and one of the worst fire seasons in Oregon's history began. Safe in Salem, I tracked the progress of the fires, taking note when a firefighting comrade was dispatched to fires such as the Winter Fire in the Fremont National Forest.
- August 1** Word came that the team managing the Florence Fire, gobbling up 300,000 acres near Cave Junction, needed information officers. I was dispatched to the fire. I arrived at Lake Selmac in the afternoon and checked in at fire camp. I found out that the information center was set up at the Illinois Valley City Hall in Cave Junction. Walking into the center, I saw a swarm of people answering phones and a few information officers hovering over laptops on the city council podium. I went back to camp, set up my tent, and returned to Cave Junction for the evening staff meeting. There were over 20 information officers, and more had been ordered. The long hours were taking their toll and many people looked drained. With the fire only a mile away from the valley, tensions were high and the citizens were worried.
- August 2** Back at fire camp, I set up the information tent. My supervisor told me to be resourceful. I scrounged four tables and 10 folding chairs, and I helped the web manager set up her connection to the satellite internet provider. Bulletin boards, media tours, and constant questions from firefighters and camp staff consumed almost every minute of my 16-hour days. I worked with the planning and situation staff and got updated maps of the current fire situation. I also worked with the media, helping reporters develop different stories about the fire and setting up interviews with fire experts. I dug up odd details, such as how many bottles of water had been purchased for the fire (over 150,000 by the time I left).
- August 7** I was going outside of camp. Yes! Eight days in the Incident Command Post (ICP) are enough to make anyone jump at the chance to meet the local people and explore the country a little. And I was itching to see some of the actual fire.
- August 8** I left camp with an information officer and filmmaker, Kent Romney. We posted fire information handouts at the local supermarkets in Cave Junction and O'Brien. We went to the fruit checkpoint at the California border to hand out more information for concerned motorists. The information flow from the different parts of the fire wasn't ideal due to geographic distance and technology lapses, so Kent and I seized the opportunity to gather more information. We obtained maps of the fire south of the border and got a briefing from the personnel at the Six Rivers Ranger Station in Zone 2 of the fire. Then we headed north on 199 back into Zone 1. We drove up the Illinois River Road and inspected the fire. Much of the burn we saw had actually been a burnout. Some pockets looked like a moonscape, almost completely devoid of anything alive, but in others the fire had run through the brush and spared the trees.
- August 9** Again, I was assigned to the "trapline". This term refers to stopping rumors before they get huge, and spreading correct information in their place. On this day I heard strange rumors circulating locally about how the fire got started. The story was that the government, in an attempt to rid the Kalmiopsis of its productive marijuana plantations, had fired lasers from space to burn them. This would make it appear that the fire had started as lightning, but it really had been a secret government mission. Yeah, right.
- August 14** The end of my 14-day stint on the fire. I was demobilized to Salem. Because of safety concerns over lack of sleep, most fire staff are sent home after 14 days. I missed the adrenaline surge of being near the flames, but it was still exhilarating to work in the information unit. Every day people would call with questions about the column of smoke or the ash falling in town. Although the fire was burning inside the containment lines, people were very uneasy. The atmosphere became more relaxed as the pre-evacuation notice lifted from 30 minutes to two hours and then to four. I left the fire before the evacuation notice was completely lifted, but I can only imagine the relief that the people whose homes were threatened felt when they heard the news.

—Leah Rosin

Economic slump challenges critical College programs

The slump in Oregon's economy has brought difficult fiscal choices to the College of Forestry. Owing mostly to appropriation reductions by the Oregon legislature and reduced revenues from timber harvests on the College forests, the College faced a budget shortfall of more than \$1 million.

Adding to these financial woes is the ongoing stock-market downturn, which has reduced earnings from endowment funds. Some newer endowments actually had to suspend payments when their valuations dropped below the initial investment value. Most College

scholarships are funded from endowments, so students who received awards last spring were at risk.

This year the College was able to meet its scholarship obligations and cover the operating shortfalls through use of reserve funds and budget cuts. These reserves consist mostly of endowment earnings and timber harvest revenues that were being accumulated to add new instructional and research programs. "The use of our rainy-day funds keeps our critical programs alive, but that's not sustainable over the long haul," says Dean Hal Salwasser.

With the prospects for short-term financial relief still low, the College has also initiated operating reductions to stay within projected budgets. Discretionary spending has been reduced in all areas, and six service positions in

communications, physical plant services, and computing have been eliminated. Additionally, four vacant core faculty positions are being left unfilled. Further economic downturn, or continued reductions in Salem could force the College to take additional cuts in faculty in staff next year.

Declining public support for higher education is forcing universities to seek a greater proportion of funding from donors, foundations, and private industry, says Dean Salwasser. "We're having to become more entrepreneurial, reaching out to a wider range of stakeholders. That opens certain opportunities for us, but in many ways it makes our mission more difficult, especially in times of economic hardship."

City kids in the woods

Most who come to see the old growth stands at the H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest look up, site director John Cissel said.

But there's no predicting what will capture the attention of middle-schoolers. One minute, it's trees so tall they defy description, the next it's bugs in the dirt.

"Ooh, what is that?"

"It's a caterpillar!"... "It's a millipede!"... "It's the colors of an OSU Beaver!"

"It's actually a centipede," Cissel said, shifting gears as quickly as the middle-school students he was guiding through the forest. "Anybody know what a keystone species is?"

In the experimental forest, researchers track the role of the biggest trees to the tiniest mites. Each summer, their work draws students from Portland's Inner City Youth Institute, who descend on the Andrews for two days to learn about forests and the people who make their living studying them.

The program is sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management and Oregon State University with the twofold goal of exposing Portland kids to the outdoors

and getting minority youths interested in science. It's also a long-term strategy toward diversifying the work force in the nation's natural resource agencies.

"We want to expose kids to a beautiful forest, and we want to expose them to research projects so that if they have an interest in science they can see how they can get here from where they are," program director David Stemper said.

Set aside by the federal government in 1948 as a special place to study the forest and logging, the Andrews is jointly run by the Forest Service's Pacific Northwest Research Station, Oregon State University, and the Willamette National Forest.

Part of Andrews' mandate is to educate and help seed the next batch of scientists and researchers, Cissel said.

And that's how 22 middle-schoolers found themselves linked up with researchers this summer. From shadowing northern spotted owl researchers hooting and listening for a hooted reply to capturing aquatic insects as part of the ongoing biodiversity studies in the forest, the students got a close-up look at forest research.

Of the 22 students who went out on the first Inner City Youth-sponsored outing three years ago, eight are leaning toward natural resources careers, said Forest Service district planner Glen Westlund.

Program organizers work with science teachers in several Portland middle and high schools, identifying students likely to benefit from the exposure.

Before students came to the Andrews, they spent two days at OSU learning about the school's various natural resources programs and staying in the dorms.

This story appeared in a different form in the Eugene Register-Guard, July 27, 2002. Story by Susan Palmer, photos by Brian Davies, Eugene Register-Guard. Reprinted by permission.





Dean Hal Salwasser

We must act now

Once again, forest fires command our attention in the West. Fire is inevitable in Western forests, but it doesn't have to be this catastrophic.

Our past actions created this situation, and only our timely and active management will reverse the trends. We must act boldly to protect our vital forest resources and restore them to healthy conditions.

Oregon has about 28 million acres of forest, 90% of the forest that existed through the mid-1800s. More than half of that forestland—57%—is managed in trust for all Americans by agencies of the federal government.

According to the new book, "Fire in Oregon's Forests," just out from the Oregon Forest Resources Institute, 39% of Oregon's forests are at high risk from catastrophic wildfire, and another 45% are at moderate risk. That means 84%, or nearly 24 million acres of Oregon forest, could burn at intensities that destroy trees, soils, watersheds, wildlife, properties, lives, and sources of livelihood.

Most of these high-risk forests are on federal lands, where active management is constrained by plans, policies, and processes poorly designed to address the single largest threat to their integrity. As a result of past fire-suppression policies and forest management strategies—all well-intentioned and based on the best science available at the time—our federal forests are now vulnerable to fires such as they have never experienced.

We can argue later about how the forest got this way. Right now, we've got a major problem on our hands. To let nature take its course, turning our federal forests into infernos and draining our financial resources in the process, would be terribly irresponsible. To let cumbersome process, timidity, or fear of not knowing all the consequences continue to tie our hands would be cowardly. We must act; we must act soon, and we must learn as we go.

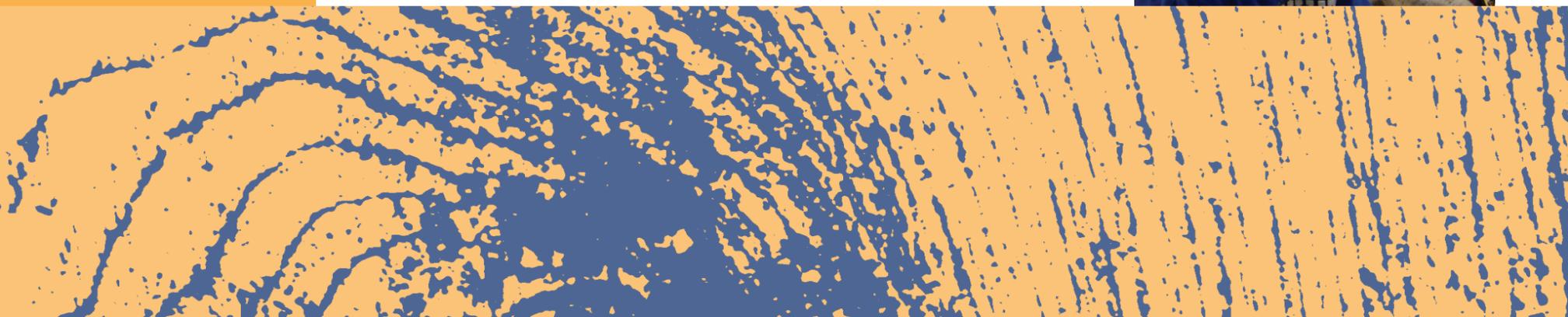
See how we're creating our future

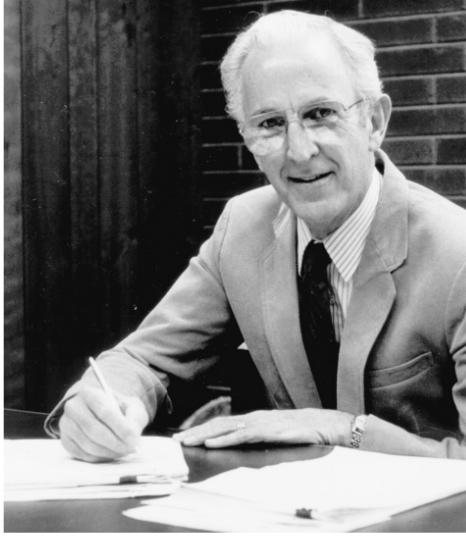
The College's Strategic Plan is now on the web. Built in a year-long, participatory process headed by the College's "Dream Team" of leadership faculty, the Strategic Plan sets forth the vision, mission, and core values of the College of Forestry, identifies the challenges ahead, and spells out a host of Action Initiatives that will propel the College toward a more effective future. To see the Strategic Plan document "Creating our Future," visit the College's website at www.cof.orst.edu/cofladmin/, then scroll down and click on College of Forestry Strategic Plan.



The magic of wood appeals to youngsters

Camille Freitag (Wood Science & Engineering) and two young students experience Incredible Bendable Wood. The students came to the College in October for Oregon Wood Magic™, a three-hour interactive experience designed to educate elementary school students about the wonders of wood as a material. Students and their teachers moved through a series of nine stations covering the science and technology of wood and wood products. Oregon Wood Magic™ is held every year at Richardson Hall. This year, 1,275 students from 23 schools attended the three-day event.





Forestry Leaders Honored by World Forestry Center

Carl Stoltenberg and Edward (Ed) Schroeder were honored by the World Forestry Center's Memorial Honors program in August for their collaboration and leadership on the Oregon Board of Forestry. The two men were integral in shaping Oregon's forests and forest policy in a personal and enduring way.

Carl Stoltenberg served as Dean of the College of Forestry at Oregon State University from 1967 to 1990 and on the Oregon Board of Forestry from 1967 to 1987, including nine years as chairman. During his 23 years as Dean, Stoltenberg doubled the size of the teaching program, built the largest Forestry Extension program in the nation, and brought meaningful numbers of women and minorities into the College for the first time. Ed Schroeder worked for the Oregon Department of Forestry from 1941 to 1979, including 14 years as State Forester.

Ultimately, both men played major roles in bringing competing interests together to forge the strongest forest protection legislation in the nation, the Oregon Forest Practices Act of 1971. Thanks to their pioneering work, Oregon continues to be viewed worldwide as a leader in forest protection and innovative management to protect forest values.

Letters

To the Editor

I was saddened to learn of Dean Stoltenberg's passing in a recent issue of the *Focus*. I did not know him personally, but he made me feel as if I did. I had attended two very large universities prior to being accepted at OSU's School of Forestry. It was difficult for me to navigate through the seas of students at the Universities of Miami and Pittsburgh. But from the first day of classes and Dean Stoltenberg's welcome lecture to the day he shook my hand at graduation, I knew I had found a home in Peavy Hall.

Next year will be 20 since graduation, and I have spent each one working in campground management. It was not the career that I had intended with a major in Forest Management, but I am amazed, looking back, at how forest practices learned at Oregon State shaped my life. I have helped countless children overcome the fear I once had of holding an insect in my hand. We've diagnosed illness and stress in our oaks, cleaned an old watershed, planted native species in our landscape. Lately I was able to assist a friend in Michoacan, Mexico, realize the potential and tremendous value of his pines, then point out a variety of management plans.

And this year my husband and I take the step into land ownership—three wooded acres of Florida fern. It is far away from the tall trees of Oregon, but just as lovely as a forest can be. I only hope to be able to tend it as well as my dean and professors showed me how.

He his missed by many, I am sure.
Kimberly Wyma Emert '83
Orange City, FL

To the Editor:

Thanks for letting me know about Carl [Stoltenberg]. He was a good guy and always easy to work with. He did a lot for the College of Forestry. He led the College from one that turned out mainly undergraduates to one that had a good balance with graduate students.

Russell G. Dix '62
Assoc. Registrar (emeritus)
Oregon State University

To the Editor:

I just finished reading the new *Focus on Forestry*. The articles and pictures are great, and I like the idea of four issues a year. There are a couple of things that I noticed that you may want to address in the future. I am definitely not an editor, publisher, writer, or anything along those line, these are just my observations as a reader.

1. The publication sat on my desk for several days before I opened it...nowhere on the outside did it indicate that it was the *Focus on Forestry*. I have always opened the *Focus* up right away and read it.

2. The paper is very shiny. I found myself having to reposition several times as I read it to avoid glare.

3. The size of the paper is very cumbersome also. I have kept a notebook several publications of this type over my years here at the university. This size poses a problem by not fitting into any conventional size storage.

Thanks for listening!
Janey Parson
Forestry Extension
Oregon State University

To the Editor

I thought I'd update you. Unfortunately I got very little return on my effort to get a moon tree [*Focus on Forestry* Winter 2001]. I was not successful with either the cutting or the seeds. In addition, my daughter, rather than getting interested, thought I was goofy over this.

At any rate, I am not the only person noticing moon trees. Here is a current NASA story on them www.science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2002/13aug_moontrees.htm?list541337

Personally I plan to try again. I'd still like to have a moon tree here at home.

Michael Simon
Phoenix, AZ

Hello Gail!

I received the "new look" *Focus on Forestry* yesterday and, had I not looked closer, would have tossed it, unopened, 'cause it looks so much like the junk mail we get! I'm not sure how I like it yet. You know how most of us are with change...you have to drag us kicking and screaming.

I'll wait a couple of issues before I weigh in on the look. (I do like the new OSU Alumni magazine...it's getting closer to

matching the UO one. Slick, better stories, more information...very useful and interesting to read.)

But I will weigh in on the following: Under the article "Focus reFocuses," the second paragraph begins with, "The change follows strategizing by the College's leadership..." Strategizing? I can understand (barely) the use of it when reading some article in the Wall Street Journal but from the CoF??

Leslie Powell Batten
Portland, Oregon

Hal:

Very fine first issue of your new publication for the OSU College of Forestry. A couple of thoughts:

1. I looked for, but did not see, a comment directly from you. Perhaps it would be possible to include something along the lines of an essay section for your use and that of the department heads. Maybe an idea too to have comments from department heads elsewhere on campus that interact directly with your Forestry staff and students.

2. You wish to solicit short paragraphs on special efforts. CFER [Cooperative Forest Ecosystem Research] comes to mind—we could give you a paragraph, maybe some statistics on numbers of staff and students involved. Perhaps would be good to have a statement from the people running the Regional Ecosystem Office in Portland since they are trying to get things done for the Northwest Forest Plan? Etc.

Anyway, some thoughts.

Ronald E. Kirby
Director, Forest & Rangeland
Ecosystem Science Center
U.S. Geological Survey
Corvallis, Oregon

To the Editor:

Really like the new look of *FOF*. The new version is so much easier to read.

Clay Torset
Student Services Advisor
College of Forestry
Oregon State University

In Memoriam

Terry Selby '90 (MS), award-winning forestry teacher at Philomath High School, died in June in an accident at a logging competition.

He was 46. Selby joined the faculty at Philomath High in 1984. He taught tree planting, tree harvesting, forest management, leadership skills, and protecting the environment. Selby was involved with the Oregon Association of Forestry Clubs (O AFC) for many years. Under his guidance, the Philomath High School forestry team won the state title in Corvallis this past spring. "I try to help kids make educated choices," Selby told the Alaskan Southeaster magazine for a June 2001 article. "All of us—if we care about the forests at all—are environmentalists, but we are not extreme environmentalists that want to save everything. The other end of (the) spectrum is people who want to cut everything. We have to find a balance." Selby grew up in a northern California logging town just east of Mount Shasta. At the time he started his teaching career, he logged during the summers setting chokers, falling and bucking timber, and learning stream enhancement. He also started competing in timber shows. He is survived by his wife, Janet, a substitute teacher and a logging contest competitor, and their two children, Jennifer and Mark, both students at Philomath High.

Sam F. Konnie '51 of Veneta died in June of cancer. He was 78. Konnie was born in Klamath Falls in 1924 to Sam and Cora Abbott Konnie. He married Roberta Naeck in 1946. After serving in the Navy during World War II, Konnie received his bachelor's degree in Forest Engineering from Oregon State. He worked as a forest engineer and owned Swanson Brothers Lumber Co. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and traveling. He was a member of the Fern Ridge Kiwanis Club, Northwest Steelheaders, and past president of the Oregon Logging Congress. He was active in Habitat for Humanity and was honored for his service. A profile of him appeared in the spring 2002 issue of *Focus on Forestry*. Konnie is survived by his wife, his mother, Cora McHard of Eugene; son Larry of Veneta, daughter Pattie Konnie of Veneta, a sister, and five grandchildren. A son, Daniel, died in 1987.

George Jemison, a professor in the College of Forestry from 1969 to 1975, died in Medford in December. Before coming to OSU, Jemison had a distinguished career in Forest Service research, retiring as Deputy Chief for Research in 1969. He was the first American president of the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations. He was a Fellow of the Society of American Foresters and received the SAF's Barrington Moore award for leadership in research. Jemison organized and led the research program in the Forest Engineering department when it began in the 1960s and developed the concept and structure for the College's Extension program. "He was an outstanding research administrator. He was also my dear friend and mentor," says Dean Emeritus George Brown.

Faculty & Staff

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The Oregon State Board of Higher Education named **Tim White** interim president of Oregon State University. White has been provost and executive vice president at OSU for nearly three years. He succeeds **Paul Risser**, who announced his resignation earlier this month to accept a position as chancellor of the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education. Risser is scheduled to begin his job as Oklahoma's chancellor on Jan. 6. **Sabah Randhawa** was appointed interim provost and executive vice president, filling White's former position. He had been vice provost for Academic Affairs since January of 2001. **Leslie Davis Burns** will take over as vice provost for Academic Affairs. "Sabah and Leslie are exceptional and experienced leaders who will provide a smooth transition while the chancellor and the state board conduct a search for the president," White said.

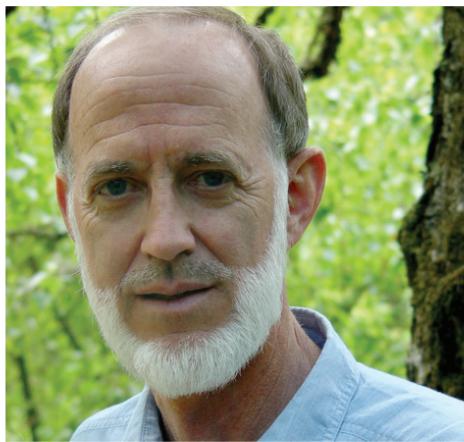
Becky Johnson, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs in the College of Forestry, received the "Beaver Champion Award" at University Day from OSU President Paul Risser. The OSU President's award is for outstanding effort and achievement of excellence, extra effort beyond that requested, and performance of the highest quality.



Tim White



Becky Johnson



Jim Boyle

One of the greatest honors a professor from the College of Forestry can achieve is student confidence and respect of their teaching and relationships with the students. The Aufderheide "Excellence in Teaching" award and the Julie Kliewer Mentoring award are given to the professors who have gained the students' respect and vote of confidence.

Jim Boyle (Forest Resources), was presented with the Aufderheide

"Excellence in Teaching" award. Boyle said he felt honored because the Aufderheide award recipient is selected by the students. Boyle enjoys working with students, encouraging them to think in new ways and be open to new ideas. He allows the students to participate, think, and express their opinions.



Royal Jackson

Royal Jackson won this year's Julie Kliewer Mentoring award. Jackson has previously won the Aufderheide award, the Dan Reese Excellence in Advising award, and the Elizabeth P. Ritchie Distinguished Professor Award. He said that he was both gratified and surprised, realizing the great honor of being "nominated and awarded something from students." Jackson believes in personalized advising and instruction and experiential education. "I try to find out what students need and help them accomplish what they need to accomplish."



Jim Trappe

The Department of Forest Science was well represented in awards at the recent Mycological Society of America meeting held in Corvallis in June. **Jim Trappe**, Courtesy Professor, was honored with the Distinguished Mycologist award. Trappe's career spans more than 40 years of

research on the role of mycorrhizal fungi in sustaining health and growth of forests. In his world-wide studies on the classification and ecology of truffles and truffle-like fungi, he has discovered a new order, two new families, 24 new genera, and 119 new species. Another award winner was **Ari Jumpponen**, assistant professor of biology at Kansas State University, who received the Martin Baker Endowment Research award. Jumpponen received his doctorate from the OSU Forest Science department in 1998. **Admir Giachini**, current Ph.D. student in the department, received a graduate student scholarship.



Susan Sahnaw

The College of Forestry welcomes **Susan Sahnaw** as the new assistant director of the Oregon Forestry Education Project. Sahnaw comes to the position after 12 years with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife as Regional Volunteer Coordinator. She earned a bachelor's in Forest Recreation Resources from the College of Forestry and is currently working on a master's in adult education at OSU. She will take over day-to-day management of OFEP and will also be involved with other College of Forestry programs that involve youth and teacher education.



Darius Adams

Darius Adams was recently appointed to the Scientific Advisory Board of the Finnish Forest Research Institute. The Board serves as a generator for new research ideas and guides research to new important fields germane to the Institute. In addition, the Board promotes cooperation and networking with other leading forest research organizations around the world.



Susan Stafford

Susan Stafford, former professor in the Forest Science department, has been named Dean of the College of Natural Resources at University of Minnesota. Stafford was a member of the Forest Science faculty from 1979-1998. Prior to

accepting the position, Stafford was head of the Forest Science Department at Colorado State University.



Bart Thielges

Bart Thielges is now Interim Dean of International Programs. His appointment is split with the College of Forestry, and he will dedicate 40 to 50 percent of his effort to the leadership of international programs.

“Bart brings a superb set of leadership skills, energy, and enthusiasm for a bright future for International Programs at OSU,” says Timothy White, Interim President of OSU.

Obituary

Joseph Means, Assistant Professor, Senior Research, in the Department of Forest Science, died of cancer in June. Means received his doctorate in botany and plant pathology at OSU in 1981. After working as a research scientist for the Forest Service PNW Research Station for 15 years, he held several grant-funded positions in the Forest Science department. He led work to develop BIOPAK, an extensive biomass equation library for tree and shrub species in the Pacific Northwest, and also did pioneering work on the use of LIDAR technology to study forest structure and productivity. “Joe always had a positive outlook on life and a winning smile,” says his colleague and friend Kermit Cromack. “We will miss him and all his contributions to the Department and the College.”

Students

Students and graduates gain education through employment

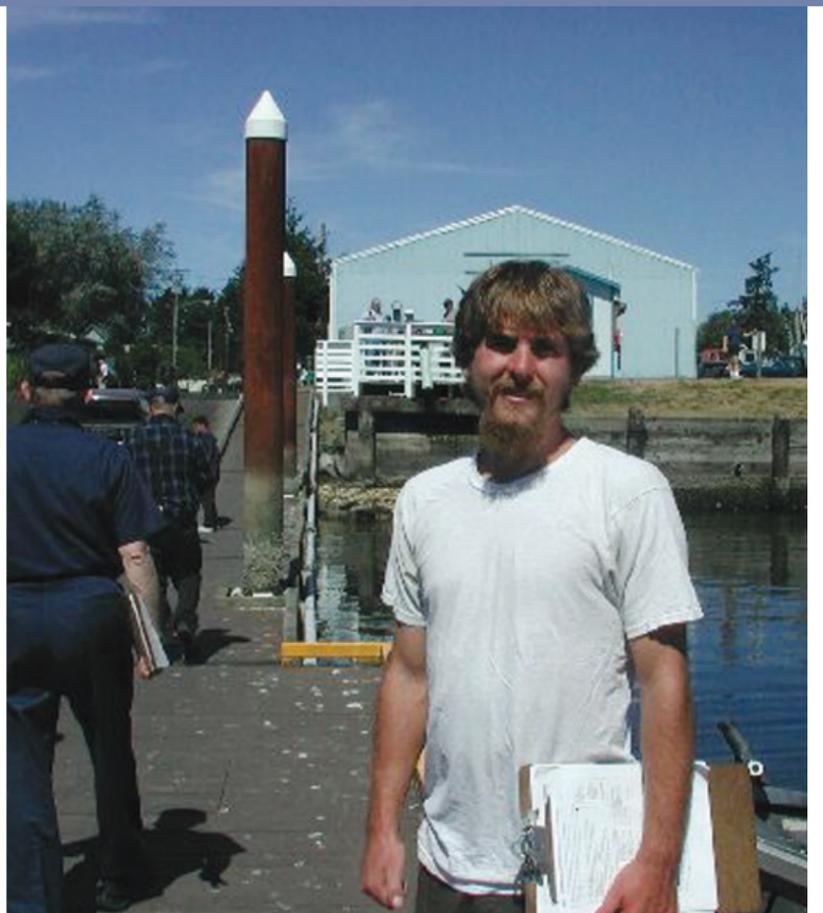
Sometimes, says **Jered Mangini**, it takes a little bit of persuasion to get people to talk. Jered, a Forest Recreation Resources major, spent last summer taking surveys on people’s recreational habits in Gold Beach, Florence, and Newport. Jered wants to find out how people are using the recreational sites there, and where they spend their money.

“The locals say they don’t count because they’re locals, and the tourists say they don’t count because they’re tourists,” says Jered. But most take the survey willingly, even after a day of fishing. After talking to people and seeing what the larger public looks like, says Jered, “you start to care about them.”

Fellow research technician **Angela Gellatly** says her summer work experience has given her a lot more confidence in talking to strangers. “The people are surprisingly willing to take the surveys, especially when we tell them what the project is and that we’re from OSU.” The data collected by Angela and Jered will go into a report by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Each year many students at the College of Forestry go out into the real world to gain work credits for their majors and in the process gain real experience that can make an impact on how they view the world.

Jered Mangini





Heather Marren

As a recreation research assistant, Angela talks to a lot of different people on a daily basis. As part of a larger recreational use study, Angela, like many other Forestry students, gets the opportunity to see for herself the impact that resource research and management, subjects she studies in the abstract in school, have on the real public.

The project of which Angela is taking part, is aimed at gleaned information about both local and visitor use at several recreation areas in Oregon. Angela surveys people at Hood River, Cascade Locks, and Garibaldi to learn how people use the sites and where they spend their money. Eventually the data will be used in an annual report for the Army Corps of Engineers.

For graduates of the College of Forestry, work experience continues their education. **Heather Marren**, a December 2001 Forest Recreation Resources graduate, is the outreach and education intern with the nonprofit organization Friends of Trees in Portland. Heather educates the public about the benefits of the urban forest and the mission of Friends of Trees. The organization is “dedicated exclusively to planting and caring for city trees and inspiring public stewardship of our urban forest,” Heather says.

Heather performs tasks ranging from writing grants for education and outreach equipment to assisting the training of volunteers who give information to the public.

“While studying forestry at the College of Forestry,” she says, “I did not think much about urban forestry. My thoughts seemed to focus on natural areas, some near urban areas but not within. However, many of the same principles of healthy forests apply to both urban and non-urban forests.” The internship “has been a wonderful opportunity for me to use the skills I learned in school while broadening my horizons into new fields.”

For alumni **Mike Cerbone**, work experience after graduation broadened his outlook on a forest recreation career. After graduating in 1999 from OSU with a Forest Recreation Resources degree, he began working for the forest service as a seasonal employee, but soon felt that his

real interests lay in community development. Looking at the University of Oregon, Mike discovered the RARE program, which matches potential employees with many natural resource and recreation companies. The internship gave him nine credits toward his master’s in community and regional planning, \$800 dollars a month, and a rent allowance, in addition to experience needed for the real world and employment in natural resources during the winter months, which he says is difficult to find.

Stationed in Waldport, OR (pop. 2000), Cerbone looked at employee applications, park planning, and writing many grants such as one for a skate park. The internship gave him the skills and experience necessary to succeed in his present job as a field services representative for the Oregon Downtown Development Association. Cerbone is currently assisting Maupin, Gold Hill, Enterprise, and Oakridge to transition from resource- and agriculture-dependant economies to ones based on tourism.

Through work experience, forestry students learn that a career in forestry encompasses more than logging. An undergraduate degree from the College of Forestry can be expanded to include just about any career choice these days, and ways that truly impact lives.

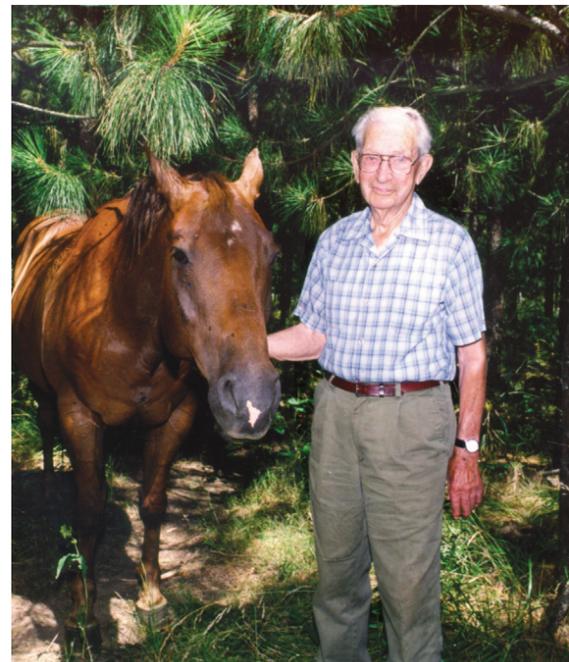
—*Mary Wells*

*Right: Bob Mealey and his horse, Jay
Below: President Paul Risser and
Dean Hal Salwasser enjoy lunch with
JELD-WEN President, Rod Wendt (center)*

College of Forestry scholarships awarded

The College of Forestry awarded 106 undergraduate scholarships totaling \$255,200 for the 2002-2003 academic year. Scholarships ranging from \$400 to \$5,000 were awarded to 75 continuing College of Forestry students and 21 new students who joined the College this fall.

In addition, 46 graduate fellowships were awarded to 39 graduate students, 21 of whom began their graduate education at the College this fall. Graduate fellowships ranged from \$500 to \$5,000; a total of \$123,416 was awarded for the current academic year.



Research

OSU exchanges genetic engineering research with Indonesian scientists

Professor **Steven H. Strauss**, professor of forest genetics and biotechnology in the Department of Forest Science, is currently working on a cooperative project with Indonesia on the genetic engineering of teak.

“The goal is to improve productivity, wood quality, and biological safety by engineering teak that can bypass or greatly delay the onset of flowering,” says Strauss. “Flowering negatively alters wood quality, form, and growth rate in teak.”

Indonesia will send scientists to the United States to participate in gene isolation and modification. The scientists will then take the genes back to Indonesia, insert them into trees, and cultivate the trees. Strauss will aid in the analysis of the

genes in the genetically engineered plants once they yield plant tissues.

The department also hopes to open up a student exchange at some point in the program so that students can learn more about forestry in the context of the Indonesian economy and culture.

Sustainable forestry grants fund Oregon researchers

College of Forestry scientists received three of four grants awarded to Oregon scientists by the National Commission on Science for Sustainable Forestry. The grants, totaling \$670,000, support work intended to provide practical information and approaches to sustainable forestry.

The College researchers and their projects are:

- **Steve Radosevich**, professor in the Department of Forest Science, who will lead a four-university team to assess lessons learned about managing forests

for biodiversity and sustainability based on practical experiences.

- **Thomas Spies**, a courtesy professor in Forest Science and researcher with the U.S. Forest Service, who will head a team that will evaluate the science behind forest biodiversity policies, including carbon storage effects and the role of ecosystem restoration in biodiversity.

- **K. Norman Johnson**, an OSU professor in the Department of Forest Resources, who will lead a team, including scientists from the University of Oregon and University of Washington, in evaluating the needs for systems to support decisions, and determining what types of decision-support systems exist in sustainable forestry and biodiversity management and how they are being applied.

A fourth Oregon grant went to Rebecca McLain, a researcher with the Portland-based Institute for Culture and Ecology, who will assess knowledge about the effects of biodiversity of managing forests to create nontimber products in four U.S. ecoregions.

Fundraising

New and renewed gifts

A laboratory in the Department of Wood Science and Engineering has been named the **JELD-WEN Wood Polymer Chemistry Laboratory** to honor the Klamath Falls wood products company, which has been an ongoing contributor to the College. Company president Rod Wendt, vice president Bob Turner, and other JELD-WEN executives were honored at a May ceremony and lunch at Richardson Hall. Wood Science and Engineering faculty Barbara Gartner, Eric Hansen, and Jeff Morrell presented aspects of their research. John Jensen, a student in Wood Science and Engineering, also spoke. Gary Williamson, an incoming freshman and JELD-WEN scholarship recipient, attended the luncheon.

The JELD-WEN company foundation gave \$50,000 to the Richardson Hall building campaign and continues to support scholarships in the Wood Science and Engineering department. The company is the largest privately held corporation in Oregon and one of the world's largest suppliers of doors, windows, and other millwork.

Bob Mealey '36, a long-time active alumnus of the College and supporter of progressive forestry organizations, has pledged a \$500,000 endowment for interdisciplinary sustainable natural resource studies at the College of Forestry. The endowment will be partnered with an existing \$1.5 million endowment from the Boise Cascade Corp. The combined trust will fund the **Anna K. and Robert H. Mealey/Boise Cascade Corporation** Program in Forest Ecosystem Health.

In a 2000 “educational charter,” Mealey (pictured on opposite page) explained his thinking: “The general public conception of forestry has changed in recent years from careful applications of scientific land and landscape management to a ‘wilderness’ concept where harvest and use of forest timber resources is not tolerated.... The whole point of the gift ... is to enhance the effectiveness of Oregon State University College of Forestry in the philosophy that modern forestry endorses and practices the broad range of science and art required to achieve the full scope of society benefits while perpetuating the long-term best status of forest-related values.”

The employees of the former **Willamette Industries** and other interested donors have an opportunity to contribute toward a planned multi-million dollar endowment to support OSU students. The Willamette Industries Scholarship Fund, a legacy endowment, will be established to support scholarships in the academic areas most representative of the historical alliance between OSU and Willamette Industries: the College of Forestry, the College of Engineering, and the College of Business. Graduates of all three colleges, numbering in the hundreds, were hired by the company over the years, with some eventually reaching the high positions in the business, including former president Duane McDougall. As late as last year, at least half of the 96 salaried staff members at the company's headquarters were OSU alums, with other graduates employed at all levels of the organization. The company merged with Weyerhaeuser Corp. late last year.

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Willamette Industries Scholars will be chosen from a pool of applicants who show high promise and major or minor in forestry with a major or minor in business or engineering. According to the scholarship fund's prospectus, the scholarship will help "prepare these students to carry on the Willamette tradition of creative initiative, autonomous thinking, sustainable vision, and commitment to the larger world."

Robert G. Nielsen, a 1942 Engineering graduate of OSU, has added \$474,000 to a charitable trust that will eventually benefit the College of Forestry to support "programs and research directed toward growing trees." Nielsen owns an Oregon tree farm and has a keen interest in forestry and forest practices.

Outreach Education Events

Forest Engineers

Introduction to ArcView (v8.2),
Applications in Natural Resources
Various dates, Corvallis

Advanced ArcView (v8.2), Applications
in Natural Resources
March 27-28, Corvallis

Professional Foresters

Tree Farm Certification Training
March 12, Roseburg

Growing Natural Resource Leaders for
the 21st Century
March 24-28, Hood River

Variable Probability Sampling
April 7-11, Corvallis

Innovations in Species Conservation:
Integrative Approaches to Address
Rarity and Risk
April 28-30, Portland

Wood Science & Engineering

Plywood Manufacturing
April 28-29, Corvallis

Forest Products Management
Development
May 5-9, Corvallis

For more information about Outreach
Education events, visit: www.outreach.cof.orst.edu/