

SAF Names 2008 National Award Winners

The Society of American Foresters has announced the winners of its seven national awards for 2008. The award recipients will be recognized for their outstanding contributions to the forestry profession during a ceremony at the 2008 SAF National Convention, to be held November 5–9 in Reno, Nevada. The winners were approved at the June 2008 meeting of the Society's governing body, the SAF Council.

The awards process begins with written nominations and references by professional peers. The Forest Science and Technology Board or the Committee on Professional Recognition then reviews the nominations. Their recommendations are then sent to the SAF Council for its review and approval. The rigorous review process produces candidates with a national profile and a comprehensive history of sustained contributions to the forestry profession and service to the public.

Barrington-Moore Memorial Award

The Barrington Moore Memorial Award recognizes outstanding achievement in biological research leading to the advancement of forestry. The recipient need not be a member of the Society. Presented annually, the award consists of an engraved plaque in the shape of the SAF emblem and a \$1,000 cash honorarium.

Stephen Arno



Although Stephen Arno retired from his position as research forester at the US Forest Service's Rocky Mountain Research Station in 1999, he remains an active forestry professional. He is well respected throughout the forestry community and is often asked to speak at professional meetings, continuing education courses, and university classes. He is known as the pre-eminent fire ecology expert in the Northern Rocky Mountains, and his work in the science of fire chronology has been used by forest managers in implementing the National Fire Plan, Healthy Forests Initiative, and Healthy Forest Restoration Act.

He has published more than 150 scientific papers, books, and articles, and his publications represent some of the major references for resource managers.

In addition to his academic work, Arno has participated in many SAF activities and was an active participant in the Missoula Chapter's work on the Sawmill Gulch Fuels Hazard Reduction Project—a collaborative project among the Missoula Chapter, the Sierra Club, and the Missoula Ranger District on the Lolo National Forest.

He is the recipient of several awards and honors, including the Association for Fire Ecology's Harold Biswell Lifetime Achievement Award, the Montana Tree Farm Program's Educator of the Year, and the Forest Service's Chief's Award for Excellence in Technology Transfer, and he was named SAF Fellow in 2006. He joined the Society in 1980.

W. D. Hagenstein Communicator Award

The W. D. Hagenstein Communicator Award recognizes an SAF member who displays the ability, talent, and skill to lead innovative and exemplary communications initiatives and programs that increase the general public's understanding of forestry and natural resources at the local, regional, or national level. Presented annually, the engraved award consists of a cash honorarium of \$500.

Sharon Kyhl



Before accepting her current position as the Wyoming Capitol City Coordinator for the US Forest Service, Sharon Kyhl was the interpretative specialist, and recreation planner for the agency's Center for Design and Interpretation in the Rocky Mountain Region. In this role, she utilized her skills and resources to provide education to the public about the practice of forestry and how it fits into the larger concept of natural resources conservation.

Kyhl enhanced the communications activities of the local SAF chapter by incorporating its involvement in high-profile events, such as the Conservation Expo, Habitat for Humanity projects, the Earth Day celebration at the University of Wyoming and for the City of Cheyenne, and other outdoor education events. In addition, she organized and implemented several forestry field trips and public education projects, including the 2005 Annual Colorado-Wyoming SAF meeting, a Walk with a Forester in 2006, and a Water Conservation Expo in 2007.

All totaled, she has conducted more than 300 educational and interpretive efforts at locations across the country, all of which have related to forestry issues. Named Fellow in 2007 she has been an SAF member since 1979,

Kyhl is the only Certified Interpretive Planner with the US Forest Service. In 1994, she received the Chief's Wilderness Education Award for development of the Wilderness Box Environmental Education Curriculum, which was adopted nationally by the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and several state agencies.

John A. Beale Memorial Award

This award recognizes outstanding efforts over a sustained period of time by an SAF member in the promotion of forestry through voluntary service to the Society. Presented annually, the engraved award includes a cash honorarium of \$500.

James Rombach, CF

An SAF member since 1963, Rombach began his service to the Society in the early 1970s as a member of the Willamette Chapter of the Columbia River Section of the Washington SAF. He served in key roles, including forest policy chair in 1973–1975. In 1975, he was elected chair-elect of the Columbia River Section, where he conceived, organized, and led the first-ever SAF Leadership Workshop for new officers. In 1976, he estab-



lished the current SAF Northwest Office and negotiated joint office space with the Western Forestry and Conservation Association and the World Forestry Center—a relationship that continues today.

Rombach served on the Oregon SAF executive committee through the 1980s and, since 1998, he has filled the position of awards chair. He was named Fellow in 1986 and, in 1991, he was recognized as Forester of the Year by the Oregon SAF. He has served on SAF National Convention Committees for the 1983, 1999, and 2007 conventions and, from 1999 to 2002, he served on SAF's National Recognition Committee.

During his career at Weyerhaeuser Company, he played a key role in the company's response to the eruption of Mt. St. Helens, particularly in its efforts pertaining to timber salvage, forest recovery, and safety within the 68,000 acres inside the blast zone. From 1998 to 2007, he served on a team that reviews and evaluates Oregon tree farms. In 2000, he and his family established the James Rombach Family Foundation to educate high school students, teachers, and administrators about the benefits of high school forestry education programs. A year later, in 2001, he cofounded the Oregon Natural Resources Education Foundation, which promotes the funding of high school forestry programs.

Technology Transfer Award

The Technology Transfer Award recognizes outstanding achievement in technology transfer, implementation, and extension by a Society of American Foresters member as evidenced in the recipient's career or involvement in SAF Working Group or science program activities. Presented annually, the award consists of an engraved plaque and a \$1,000 cash honorarium.

Mike Cloughesy



Michael Cloughesy is director of forestry at the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI), where he oversees the development and implementation of OFRI's forestry education programs for landowners and the general public. In this capacity, he has sponsored conferences on carbon management and global climate change, harvesting biomass, and creating bio-energy from forest materials, and each year thousands of foresters and forest landowners attend OFRI-supported educational events and programs, such as the Master Woodland Manager Program, Tree School, and the Oregon Small Woodlands Association Full Spectrum Forestry Tours.

Throughout his career, he has distinguished himself through his tireless efforts to communicate the benefits of sound forestry practices to his fellow foresters, forest landowners, youth, and the general public. As an extension forester in Oregon's Lane and Douglas Counties, he taught more than 200 workshops, tours, and classes that reached an estimated 7,500 forest landowners.

Cloughesy has a reputation for sharing his ideas and helping others succeed, and is known for his ability to communicate

complex natural resource issues in understandable terms. As a result, he often is asked to serve on planning teams for conferences and advisory boards and has been sought out by groups, such as the Oregon Forest Industries Council, Oregon Small Woodlands Association, and the Oregon Tree Farm System.

In his service to SAF, Cloughesy has worked as coordinator for three state annual meetings and as Program Committee co-chair for the 2007 SAF National Convention. He joined SAF in 1979.

Young Forestr Leadership

The Young Forester Leadership Award recognizes outstanding leadership by a young forestry professional in the development and promotion of an individual program or project or for a sustained leadership role benefiting the practice of forestry and the Society of American Foresters. The engraved award consists of a cash honorarium of \$500.

Greg A. Scheerer



A SAF member since 1989, Scheerer served as chair of the Virginia Tech Student Chapter from 1991 to 1992, a position in which he organized several work projects, service activities, and educational meetings. In doing so, he set an excellent example for his fellow students and chapter members through his positive attitude and professionalism.

From 1997 to 2000, Scheerer served as the Robert E. Lee Chapter's secretary-treasurer, chair-elect, and chair (twice). He also chaired the chapter's nominating committee in 2000 and is currently in his eighth year as chair of its Service Projects Committee, a position in which he has assisted in the cutting, splitting, and delivery of 12 pick-up loads of firewood for charity.

Scheerer has served on the Forest Resources Advisory Committee for Virginia Tech's College of Natural Resources Advisory Board since 2002 and is currently serving on the Virginia Forestry Association's Board of Directors. He has given presentations on forestry to school children, college students, civic organizations, forest landowner education programs, and logger education workshops and, last year, he established the first annual Log A Load for Kids Fishing Tournament.

He received the 2005 Virginia Division's SAF Merit Award, the 2007 Virginia Division's Young Forester Leadership Award, and the 2008 Appalachian SAF's Young Forester Leadership Award. He also represented the Virginia Division on the Forest Council of Virginia, a legislative umbrella group for all forest resource-related organizations in the state.

Outstanding Journalism Award

The Outstanding Journalism Award recognizes high-quality journalistic coverage of topics that increase the American public's understanding of forestry and natural resources. The award may be presented to an individual involved in print (magazine, newspaper, book, etc.), television, or radio journalism. Presented annually, the engraved award consists of a cash honorarium of \$500.

Dave Steinke and Steve Dunsky



David Steinke is public affairs specialist with the Forest Service's Rocky Mountain Region and runs the agency's Creative Services Department. He also is a fire photographer and Type I incident information officer and provides information officer training.



Steven Dunsky has been a writer, producer, and director with the Forest Service for nearly 20 years. He works with his wife Ann, who works for the Forest Service as an editor. The team's productions have been shown in visitor centers from Washington, DC, to Washington State, and from Alaska to Indonesia. Several of their programs have been aired on public or cable television, and the team has won several awards for their work.

Together, Steinke and Dunsky, with the help of Ann Dunsky, produced *The Greatest Good, A Forest Service 2005 Centennial Film*, a feature-length documentary on the history of the agency. The film is broken down into four separate and distinct parts, including the "Fight for Conservation," "Building the System," and "The Greatest Good," and has been renowned for its balanced and fair approach.

The Greatest Good was produced for the Forest Service's 2005 Centennial and, during its centennial year, the film was shown to audiences at more than 1,200 official venues. At each screening, a Forest Service representative was present to introduce the film and answer questions.

Public television selected *The Greatest Good* to show exclusively on PBS for two years. Since then, it has been shown more than 8,500 times on 585 stations in 49 states. The potential audience during that time is estimated at more than 255 million viewers. In 2008, it will be released in seven languages and be distributed worldwide to a new audience who will gain a greater understanding about the relationship between people and forests from the lessons learned by the US Forest Service.

Sir William Schlich Memorial Award

The Sir William Schlich Memorial Award recognizes broad and outstanding contributions to the field of forestry with emphasis on, but not limited to, policy and national or international activities. Presented in even-numbered years, the award consists of

an engraved medallion and a cash honorarium of \$500. Nominees need not be members of the Society of American Foresters

Michael Wagner



Wagner began his international experience as a US Peace Corps volunteer in Ghana, West Africa, from 1973 to 1975, where he taught tropical forestry, forest management, botany, entomology, and chain saw operation and maintenance at the Sunyani Forestry School.

During his academic career he authored or edited six books, 10 book chapters, four symposia proceedings, 100 peer-reviewed journal articles, 33 technical publications, and 175 scientific presentations, including several plenary addresses at scientific conferences. He has taught 26 university courses, including five international courses on sustainable tropical forestry in Ghana, Honduras, and Panama.

Wagner has played a substantial and lead role in the internationalization of the forestry curriculum at Northern Arizona University (NAU) School of Forestry, where he developed and currently coordinates the undergraduate International Focus Area. He brokered the Southern Cross University in New South Wales, Australia, and Northern Arizona University student-staff faculty exchange program, which has been in existence for four years and has at least one exchange each year. He also was successful in bringing a Peace Corps Masters International program in forestry to NAU, which allows students to combine a nonthesis master's degree in forestry with a typical two-year Peace Corps assignment.

Wagner has managed a robust international forestry research program for the past 20 years. Much of this work has focused on developing mixed native species plantation strategies as a mechanism for pest control. He is currently funded to develop plantation strategies and novel pest control approaches in Ghana.

In service to SAF, he has helped organize two joint meetings of the Southwestern SAF and the Professional Association of Mexican Foresters-Chihuahua Section. He joined SAF in 1973, is the current chair of the World Forestry committee, and was named SAF Fellow in 1999.

For information about the SAF national awards, as well as nominating materials, visit the SAF website at www.safnet.org/who/nationalawards.cfm.