

# Hardworking group of volunteers provides firewood

by Robert Alverts

Greetings all! We had an excellent woodcut on Saturday, April 5. Nearly 25 volunteers with 10 vehicles cut, split and

delivered a full 10 cords of wood from Weyerhaeuser Company land outside of Vernonia. We had 14 volunteers from the famous forestry con-

sulting firm Mason, Bruce and Girard, who also rented a wood splitter for our use. They also had a colleague from Birmingham, Alabama, join us! Seven

outstanding Explorers and their leader, [redacted] joined us from the Boring area; forest worker Schlaebitz from Portland came all the way from Bay to help; Bob P [redacted] Vernonia resident with a truck; and myself as a member of American Woodcutters Association. I am the coordinator. Twenty cords of firewood were on hand also, available for pickup at the distribution site in Vernonia.

We had a great time and delivered some excellent service to the flood victims.

Thanks also to Precision Stihl NW for use of chain saws, and for

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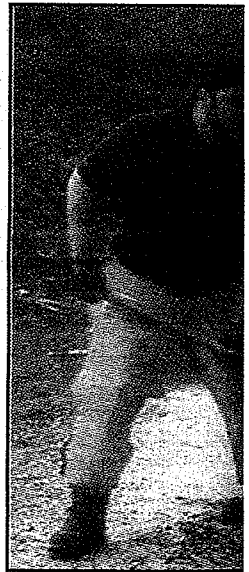
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Volunteer Rey Garcia is shown working with firewood for the Co... next woodcut will be... courtesy of Robert A...



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had a colleague from Birming-  
ham, Alabama, join us! Seven

outstanding Explorer Scouts  
and their leader, Don O'Dell,  
joined us from the Gresham-  
Boring area; forester Bruce  
Schlaebitz from Plum Creek,  
came all the way from Coos  
Bay to help; Bob Prohaska, a  
Vernonia resident with a flatbed  
truck; and myself as the Soci-  
ety of American Foresters  
woodcut project  
coordinator. Twenty people from  
the Multnomah County ACS  
were on hand also, for unloading  
at the distribution center in  
Vernonia

bar oil, safety glasses and oth-  
er items loaned or donated for  
our use. And thanks to Krispy  
Creme doughnuts for donating  
to our effort.

We are still looking for addi-  
tional loads of logs from local  
as well as eastern and south-  
ern Oregon to be delivered.  
Once on site, we will get them  
cut and delivered to the Ver-  
nonia Distribution Center.

Our next woodcut will be on  
Saturday, April 19 and April 26.  
We will likely go to BLM land  
near Vernonia. We need wood-  
cutters, volunteers, pickups,  
trailers, wood splitters, etc. for  
this next round.

To donate wood, time or  
whatever, and for more info on  
signing up to help, call the  
CCFR center in Vernonia at  
503-429-4948.

We had a great time and deli-  
vered some excellent wood to  
the flood victims.

Thanks also to Portland SAF  
member Jim Rombach for his  
generous donation to the effort.  
Thanks to Precision Pump and  
Stihl NW for use of their great  
chain saws, and for the chaps,



Volunteer Rey Garcia from Hillsboro hard at work cutting up firewood for the Columbia County Flood Relief effort. The next woodcut will be this coming Saturday, April 19. Photo courtesy of Robert Alverts.

**0%**  
**INTEREST FOR**  
**12**  
**MONTHS**

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Submitted photo  
**A truck load of logs donated and hauled to Vernonia by eastside mill and timber operators will be cut into firewood Saturday and delivered to residents stricken by the December flooding.**

# Vernonia ca burning witl

VERNONIA — Vernonia residents stricken by the December floods received a helping hand from east of the Cascades last weekend in the form of much-needed firewood to heat their homes.

Don Bodewig of DR Johnson Lumber, of Prairie City, donated an entire truck load of dry pine logs. Russ Young and Iron Triangle Logging of John Day delivered the logs to Pendleton, where Richard Dodge and Blue Mountain Lumber Co. completed the relay by hauling them to Vernonia.

A team of volunteers made up of foresters and local residents will cut, split and deliver the firewood — estimated at eight cords — to local residents Saturday.

## ACCU WEATHER® FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

### Astoria 5-Day Forecast

**Tonight**

Mainly cloudy; breezy with showers

40

Shown is tomorrow's weather. Temperatures are tonight's lows and tomorrow's highs

**Thursday**

Mainly cloudy

52° 39°

**Friday**

Considerable clouds

56° 38°

**Saturday**

Mostly sunny

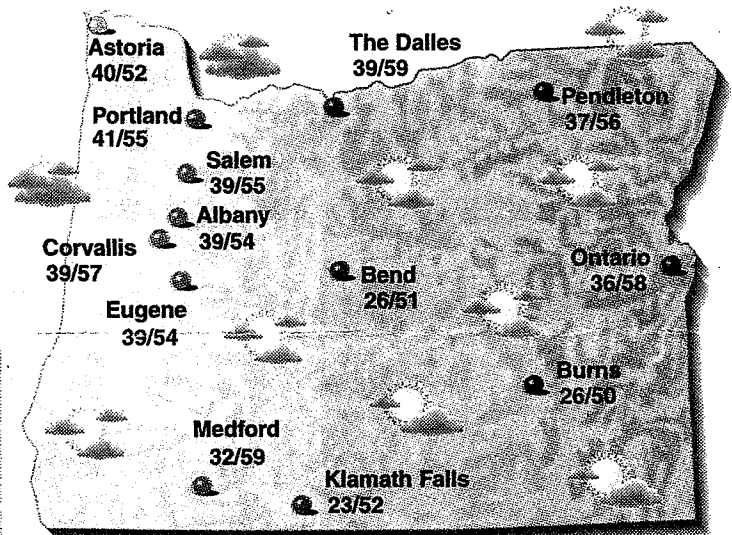
60° 47°

**Sunday**

Mostly cloudy

61° 47°

### Oregon Weather



Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2008

### Almanac

Astoria through Tuesday.

**Temperatures**

High	50°
Low	39°
Normal high	57°
Normal low	41°

**Precipitation**

Yesterday	0.83"
Month to date	3.44"
Normal month to date	3.83"
Year to date	26.96"
Normal year to date	28.95"

### Sun and Moon

Sunset tonight	8:14 p.m.
Sunrise Thursday	6:13 a.m.
Moonrise today	none
Moonsset today	7:25 a.m.

Last	New	First	Full
Apr 28	May 5	May 11	May 19

## n keep fires 1 donation

Project organizer Bob Alverts of the Society of American Foresters, and a former Bureau of Land Management area manager for Grant County in the 1970s, cited a long list of businesses and individuals on both sides of the Cascades for making the donation possible.

"Thanks to these generous rural colleagues from Grant and Umatilla counties, helping their friends in need in Columbia County," the retired forester said. "And, thanks to Darren Mahr of the Oregon Department of Forestry for arranging for the load of logs."

The unusually cool spring has extended the heating season in Vernonia, he noted, further adding to the need for firewood.

To date, the Woodcut Project, sponsored by Oregon SAF, has cut, split and delivered 28 cords of firewood to the flood victims. But Alverts and his team of volunteers don't plan to put up their chainsaws anytime soon.

"There is more work to do," he said. "We will continue to find additional sources of logs and we'll plan at least several more days cutting wood."

Forest products companies Weyerhaeuser, Longview Timber and Green Diamond Resources, along with the Bureau of Land Management, have all provided logs or wood for cutting.

Stihl Northwest of Chehalis, Wash., and Precision Pump and Power Equipment of Banks, Oregon have provided chainsaws and other equipment and supplies for the volunteer woodcutters.

Alverts encouraged eastside residents who have logs or wood that they would like to donate to the Vernonia storm victims to contact him at (503) 639-0405 or by e-mail at balverts@teleport.com

"In a town of only about 2,500 people, more than 800 homes were flooded," he said, "and many residents are living temporarily in FEMA trailers."

### On the record

Assault arrests

At 8:13 p.m. Monday, Astoria

# POINT of view

## How will the salmon shortage affect you?



*"I won't have any salmon to eat! I think our commercial fishermen should get to fish before the sports fishermen."*

**Eleanor Leppinen**  
Astoria



*"It won't affect me, it will affect the fishermen. Tear the dams down."*

**Greg Gardner**  
Astoria



*"Personally, it won't affect me except we'll see a few relatives less. They won't come down to fish, between the salmon shortage and the high price of fuel."*

**Ginny Campbell**  
Astoria



*"Very much so. I like to fish, so it's terrible. And I have a little 2-year-old granddaughter, and she won't be able to see the salmon going through to the spawning grounds. It's very concerning. We're messing with our ecosystem."*

**Lori Paich**  
Astoria

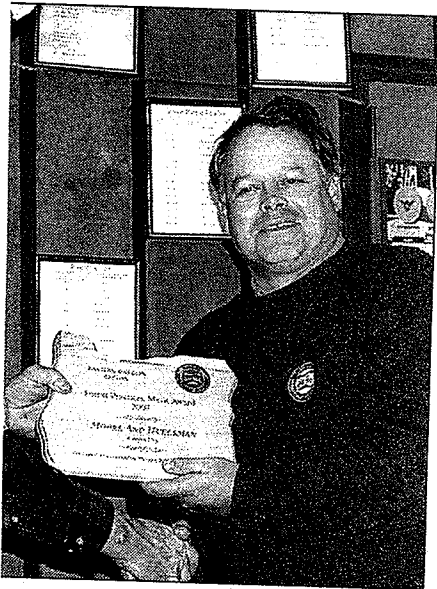


*"My husband fishes for trout, so we'll be eating a lot more trout. Economywise, it will kill us. It will teach us not to deplete the earth's resources."*

**Cheryl Waite**  
Astoria

# LD...

## Charge of their future



The Eagle/Scottta Callister  
award from ODF forester Kirk Ausland's Dinner.

ODF Foresters Mitch Mund and Kirk Ausland presented letters of commendation recognizing the quality of salvage work done by Todd Hueckman, after the Egley Complex Fire, and O'Rorke Logging Inc., after the Shelton Fire.

They also presented a Merit Award from the ODF's Eastern Oregon Regional Operator of the Year Award program to Tim Hueckman, representing Moore and Hueckman Logging, in recognition of the company's projects on private and federal land.

A special award – including a new vest – went to Mund, who was cited for years of service and his contributions as a “firefighter extraordinaire.” He was honored for his efforts to coordinate air attack on fires and particularly for his role in seeing that ground firefighters were equipped with signal mirrors to improve safety and communications.

# EO mills, loggers to the rescue

Blue Mountain Eagle

VERNONIA – Vernonia residents stricken by the December floods in coastal Oregon received a helping hand from east of the Cascades last weekend in the form of much-needed firewood to heat their homes.

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donation possible.

“Thanks to these generous rural colleagues from Grant and Umatilla counties, helping their friends in need in Columbia County,” the retired forester said.

He also cited the efforts of Darren Mahr of the Oregon Department of Forestry in arranging for the load of logs.

The unusually cool spring has extended the heating season in Vernonia, he noted, further adding to the need for firewood. To date, the Woodcut Project, sponsored by Oregon SAF, has cut, split and delivered 28 cords of firewood to the flood victims.

Other contributors to the program so far include forest products companies Weyerhaeuser, Longview Timber and Green Diamond Resources, along with the Bureau of Land Management.

Alverts encouraged eastside residents who have logs or wood that they would like to donate to the Vernonia storm victims to contact him - 503-639-0405, or email to balverts@teleport.com.

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# Loggers, Foresters Aid NW Oregon Storm Victims

BY ROD NICHOLS

In the aftermath of the storms that raked coastal Oregon and Washington last December, retired forester Bob Alverts was touched by the plight of local residents struggling to recover from the heavy flooding. He knew that area forest landowners also faced a challenge: cleaning up thousands of wind-toppled trees. Understanding the connection, he launched a project through the Oregon Society of American Foresters (SAF) that would benefit both groups.

Since then, the Woodcut Project has marshaled dozens of volunteers, along with loaned trucks and equipment, to convert downed timber and donated logs into nearly 83 cords of firewood for the homeowners of Vernonia, Ore., and other storm-afflicted communities. Additional donated wood from timber companies will push the total well into triple digits.

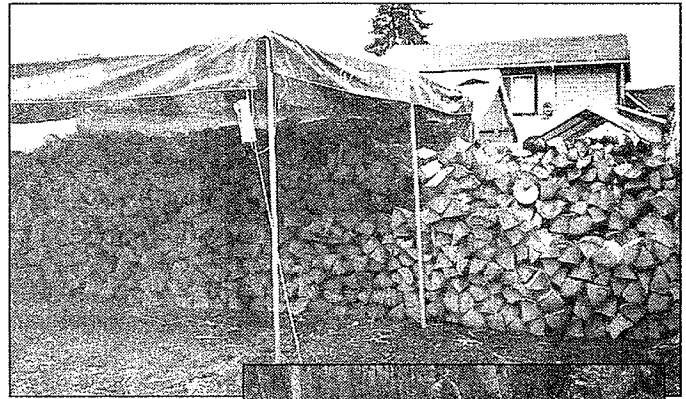
"We have at least another 30 cords equivalent promised from Plum Creek, Roseburg Forest Products and Starker Forests," Alverts said. "So when it all comes in we will have well over our 100-cord goal."

Earlier, Longview Timber Company (formerly Longview Fibre) donated the equivalent of 40 cords that was cut up

by local residents.

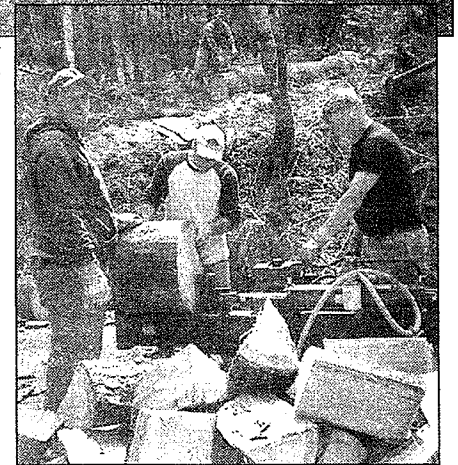
The back-to-back storms late last year hit the Oregon and Washington coasts with hurricane-force winds, mowing down thousands of acres of trees. Farther inland where wind damage was less, torrential rains erased forest roads, swept bridges off their pilings and left thousands without power. The SAF and other volunteers focused their early efforts on providing relief to those hardest hit, among them the residents of Vernonia, Ore. In the town of only 2,500 people, more than 800 homes were flooded.

Using loaned chainsaws and other gear from Stihl Northwest, the workers cut and split the downed and donated logs into firewood, then hauled it to the beleaguered community. The timing was right, Alverts said, as the unusually cool spring had extended the heating season, depleting many homeowners' wood supplies.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BOB ALVERTS

**A group of volunteers at Vernonia cut and split wood and produce a stack of firewood.**



While it is customary to hold the credit roll to the end, in the case of the Woodcut Project the corporations, individuals, small businesses and organizations that stepped up to help the storm victims is a story in itself. Saw shops loaned the volunteers new chainsaws, log splitters and other equipment to process the downed wood, while others offered trucks to transport logs to work areas and pickups to haul the firewood to distribution sites. Cash donations from SAF members and a \$1,200 SAF Foresters' Fund grant helped reimburse some of the volunteers and supporters for expenses.

Local news media helped solicit helpers for the weekend "woodcut" days, while others furnished food and refreshments for the woodcutters themselves, who put in several long days turning logs into fireplace fuel.

The Society of American Foresters' plea for help reached others far beyond the storm area. DR Johnson Lumber of Prairie City donated an entire truckload of dry pine logs. Iron Triangle Logging of John Day hauled the logs to Pendleton, and local mill

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Blue Mountain Lumber completed the relay by delivering them to Vernonia.

Landowners donating wind-thrown timber to the Woodcut Project ranged from industrial forest products companies to federal resource agencies.

Alverts offered special thanks to a list of contributors including: Oregon Society of American Foresters; Weyerhaeuser Company; Longview Timber Company; Bureau of Land Management Tillamook Field Office; Oregon Department of Forestry; DR Johnson Lumber Company; Iron Triangle Logging; Blue Mountain Lumber Company; Mike Pihl Logging; Stihl Northwest; Precision Outdoor Power Equipment; Mason, Bruce and Girard Consulting Foresters; Jennie Cornell; Jim Rombach; Beaverton Krispy Kreme; Boy Scouts of America Explorer Post 459; Boring Fire District; Green Diamond Resource Company; Smallwood News; Columbia County Commissioner Tony Hyde; Columbia County Disaster Relief Coordinators Susan Wagner and Robb Wilson; The Independent Newspaper; Bob Williams; Oregon State University Extension; Associated Oregon Loggers; local Vernonia resident volunteers;

church group volunteers; AmeriCorps volunteers; Multnomah County work crews; and Plum Creek, Roseburg Forest Products and Starker Forests.

In a recent email to this host of volunteers and donors, the SAF member thanked them for their efforts to date and left the door open for follow-up.

"This fall we may do some additional woodcutting for these folks, so stay tuned!" Alverts said.

Local residents in the storm-afflicted areas will have opportunity to cut their own firewood this summer. The Oregon Department of Forestry's Astoria office is making wood available in recently logged areas under permit on a first-come, first-served basis. Details can be obtained by calling the office's information line, 503-325-7215.

Anyone who has logs or wood that they would like to donate to the SAF Woodcut Project for the storm victims is encouraged to contact Bob Alverts, 503-639-0405, balverts@teleport.com. ♦

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*Rod Nichols is a public information representative for the Oregon Department of Forestry in Salem. He can be reached at 503-945-7425 or rod.l.nichols@state.or.us.*

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## Oregon State is Reorganizing

To better meet the future challenges of natural resource education and research, and to cope with tighter budgets, the Oregon State University College of Forestry is reorganizing. Starting July 1, portions of the Forest Resources department combined with the Forest Engineering department and elements of Forest Science to become the Department of Forest Engineering, Resources and Management (FERM). The mission of this new department is centered on active management of forests to achieve a broad range of objectives from timber production to watershed restoration and forest health. The remainder of Forest Resources and Forest Science was merged to form the Department of Forest Ecosystems and Society (FES). This department will bring together biological and social scientists to seek integrative approaches to the sustainability of

forests and the services they provide. Both new departments will include resident and extension faculties.

In this restructuring, the undergraduate and graduate programs of the Forest Resources department will not be changed. The Forest Management degree will be housed in FERM (together will all the Forest Engineering programs), while the Recreation Resources Management and Natural Resources programs will be housed in FES. Graduate programs in Forest Resources will be managed by the graduate faculty, now split across two departments.

Darius Adams will serve as interim department head for FERM, pending the completion of an external search for a permanent head. Thomas Adams will serve as interim department head for FES, also pending completion of a search.

Questions can be directed to Darius Adams at 541-737-4952. ♦



## We Remember

### Richard "Dick" Dingle 1918-2008

Richard William ("Dick") Dingle, 90, passed away peacefully on June 1, 2008 at Avalon Care Center in Pullman.

Mr. Dingle was born in 1918 in Bismarck, North Dakota. He spent most of his childhood in St. Paul, Minn., and graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1941 with a degree in Forestry. He served as a Navy lieutenant on a landing craft during World War II in the South Pacific from 1944-1946. In 1948, Dick earned his Master's degree in Forestry from Yale University. From 1948-1953 he taught in the Forestry Department at University of Missouri, Columbia, while conducting his Ph.D. research. In 1953, he earned his Ph.D. in Forestry from Yale University, with a specialty in silviculture.

Dick taught in the Forestry Department at Washington State University from 1953 until he retired in 1983. He was dedicated to his students, the preservation and sustainable use of forests and the development of the perfect Christmas tree—one that naturally grew to the perfect form and needed no pruning. This quest took him on sabbatical to Europe in 1969 where he pursued a pure source of seeds of the rare Spanish fir. He later planted them at the Forest Experiment Station in Vancouver, Wash. In 1981, he joined a WSU-AID project in Indonesia.

Dick and his wife Barbara enjoyed many adventures traveling around the world, including a trip to New Zealand and many Elderhostels from Alaska to Bermuda, Newfoundland to England and Austria.

Dick was an active and devoted member of the Pullman Presbyterian Church for many years and an active member of the Society of American Foresters. Donations may be made to The Nature Conservancy, Nature-Serve, WSU Common Ministry or the Pullman Presbyterian Church. ♦