



# OldSmokeys Newsletter

Newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Retirees – Winter 2013

## *President's Message—Mike Ash*

Well, the Christmas holiday season was the closing chapter for the busy year of 2012! I could write a lot of things about this last year, but I want to focus on the year in front of us. Let's start with my hope that you all achieve some important goal you have for yourself, that you stay healthy, and that you stay in touch with your OldSmokey friends.

This is an important time of the year for Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) members. Those who pay dues annually should have paid by January 1. All are asked to confirm the nomination of our next President-elect by February 15.

Why vote if the nominee is going to get the job anyway? Consider your vote a vote of confidence in and expression of support for a fellow OldSmokey who has just stepped forward to take on three years of the considerable amount of work involved in leading our PNWFSA as President-elect, President, and Past President. Please use the ballot on page 5 to show OldSmokey **Al Matecko** how much we appreciate his willingness to take on this responsibility.

And, if you pay your dues annually and have not yet paid them for 2013, please send in your check with your ballot.

Almost two-thirds of the way through my own PNWFSA presidency, I continue to be amazed by the efforts made by members of the PNWFSA Board of Directors—some of whom labor many years at certain essential jobs—who keep what I characterized in my Fall 2012 message as “the largest and probably most active of all the Forest Service retiree organizations” just that. The bottom line: there would be no PNWFSA without those who maintain the organization's database, manage its fiscal resources, record its proceedings, organize its events, and keep its membership informed through its quarterly newsletter. The other bottom line: doing all that needs to be done to keep PNWFSA doing its job depends absolutely on a certain number of members who are willing and able to take on and do one of these jobs. All these jobs either now need or sometime will need new blood. So, please take a look at those jobs and figure out which would be the best fit for you.

Finally, after 60 years the PNWFSA has changed the location of its monthly Board of Directors meeting and members luncheon. Starting on Friday, February 22, that location will change from the Elks Club in Beaverton, Oregon, to the Old Spaghetti Factory on Macadam Avenue in Portland, Oregon. I and all your OldSmokey friends look forward to seeing you there.

*Mike Ash*

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Visit the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association website at: [www.oldsmokeys.org](http://www.oldsmokeys.org)

## *PNWFSA Election 2013 Ballot on Page 5!*

## Forum

### *OldSmokeys Can Help*

### **U.S. Forest Service Future in Doubt?**

The future is always uncertain, and the future courses of the U.S. Government and its agencies in the current era of the “fiscal cliff” and coping with declining budgets occasioned by deficit- and debt-reduction measures are perhaps more uncertain now than for a long time. For the U.S. Forest Service, the only certainty in this uncertainty is a future in doubt. That doubt has many facets.

Will the Forest Service continue to exist as an agency in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, or will it join or even be consolidated with other federal natural resource agencies in the Department of the Interior or a new cabinet department? As retired Forest Service historian OldSmokey **Jerry Williams** and others have documented, presidential administrations have attempted such reorganization many times. Perhaps given the impetus of the era the time for such an attempt to succeed is upon us.

If the Forest Service continues to exist as an agency, how might it operate? Some see the Forest Service already evolving from “actually implementing management plans” to an agency that “puts together management plans in conjunction with [the] public and [contracts] all implementation” as Sharon Friedman has observed in her “A New Century of Forest Planning” blog. Some think the outfit is “practically there in most cases” and see advantages. “These would be longer-term contracts with multiple-year objectives. The benefit in doing business this way is that if the Forest Service is legally bound by contract, the funding to fulfill the contract is much more likely to be included within future Forest Service budgets.”

Among the questions this raises, of course, is if this would prove more efficient and effective in terms of mission accomplishment? And is the Forest Service already there? Some would say it is, especially in the case of “public-private partnerships” under which concessionaires operate many National Forest System recreation facilities. Forest restoration projects also are being approached in such a manner.

And then there are increasing pressures to transfer National Forest System lands to state, local, or even private ownership and management that would effectively put the Forest Service out of business—except, perhaps as or part of a large national wildfire management and suppression organization. And these are just a few of many possible combinations and permutations of this future of doubt.

Should, however, the National Forest System and the Forest Service survive, there are many things OldSmokeys could do as individuals and as an organization to help it adapt to and thrive in the future. One is to join the National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) and help it help the Forest Service address some of its important issues. Another is to help the Forest Service remain relevant and present on the national forests. This will be especially important should the outfit’s evolution continue to emphasize specific-function contracting. Even in

such a way of doing major components of the public’s business, there will always be the need for the visible “forest ranger” in the field to interpret and communicate the citizen-owners’ stake in and responsibility for—as well as opportunities to enjoy—their national forests.

There will, in other words, always be a need for what some OldSmokeys are calling “An Agency to Match the Mountains” that should be a viable U.S. Forest Service of properly prepared and trained forest officers, present on the ground, pursuing a mission more clearly defined, delineated, and deconflicted in law. We can help such a Forest Service be a part of America’s future.

--Jim Golden, Chair

*National Association of Forest Service Retirees*

### *OldSmokeys Can Help*

### **U.S. Forest Service Past is Preserved**

The storied past of the U.S. Forest Service is preserved in a body of literature that ensures our outfit’s first century will be well remembered. An excellent example of that literature is a 1943 book *The Pine Tree Shield* described in the **Books** section of this issue of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter*. Another, of course, is our Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) 2005 centennial anthology *We Had an Objective in Mind* again available as described on page 7.

*Timber-Lines*, proudly “Published now and then by R-6 Forest Service Thirty-Year Club”—predecessors of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* and your PNWFSA—for decades, is a treasure trove of Pacific Northwest Region history. It is especially rich with the stories—mostly in the form of memoirs—of those who came before us.

“If it were not for experiences of the past little progress would be made in human development. If it were not for pitfalls overcome or avoided along the way we have come, we would walk with much less confidence into the future,” the editor of the June 1959 issue of *Timber-Lines* wrote in introduction to that issue’s “Memoirs” section in which, he continued, “we endeavor to mirror the past for whatever benefit it may have for the future. If history really repeats itself, as has been said, then perhaps our mirror will reflect what the future holds in forest conservation and development.”

That’s one good reason for preserving the stories of those who went before us as well as our own. Another good reason is that they are just darn good stories! That’s why, for your *OldSmokeys Newsletter*’s **My First Forest Service Job** section as well as for a planned book the working title for which is **My First U.S. Forest Service Job** of “first job” adventures from our outfit’s first century, I am mining all the *Timber-Lines* issues I can get my hands on for early days stories that balance the super stories of more recent decades OldSmokeys have sent in for the series and the planned book. Getting one’s hands on many of those *Timber-Lines* is helped by the fact they are available on Oregon State University’s The Valley Library website.

So, please help keep our outfit’s past alive by sending in your “first job” stories and suggesting any such stories from *Timber-Lines* or other sources. Between the early-days stories

and our own more recent stories, we have an opportunity to leave our Forest Service successors an invaluable legacy.

--Les Joslin

## **OldSmokeys Newsletter Editor Proved Name- and Fact-Challenged in Fall Issue, Corrects Errors**

I blew the names of two OldSmokeys and an important fact about a third in the Fall 2012 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

First, on the *Forum* page, I got **Jeff Blackwood** right under his lead op-ed “The Evolving U.S. Forest Service Workforce Has Real Merit” but somehow referred to him as “Jeff Blackwell” in the adjacent page 2 column. How’d I do that? Got me! Perhaps it was a flashback to my October 2011 visit to the famous “Blackwell’s” bookstore in Oxford.

Then, in the *Changes* and *New Members* sections, I got **Dave Govatski** right, but reversed the “o” and “a” in his name to produce “Gavotski” in the *Books* section lead sentence of the review of his new book *Forests for the People*, even though I got it right later in the piece. How’d I do that? Got me! I can’t even conjure up a stupid reason for that!

Also, in the *New Members* section, I stated **Nora Rasure** retired after 32 years of service. Nora is anything but retired! Nora, of course, is Deputy Regional Forester in Region 6, and at the time I was reminded of that fact, she was detailed as Acting Regional Forester in Region 9. The editor, who should pay closer attention to all things RO, regrets this error and again welcomes Nora to the PNWFSA!

There were a few typos in the issue, too, but no additional errors—at least that I’ve noticed or that have been brought to my attention—as egregious as these. I apologize to Nora, Jeff, and Dave.

--Les Joslin

## **OldSmokeys Newsletter Editor Likes Job**

This is the twenty-eighth *OldSmokeys Newsletter* I have produced since assuming this job from OldSmokey **Wendall Jones** at the beginning of 2006. Among my many ambitions has been editing a small newspaper. The Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association has enabled me to come as close to that ambition as I likely will, and do so focused on those I’ve admired for their service in an agency in which I was privileged to serve.

I had a vision for the *OldSmokeys Newsletter* I spelled out on this page in the Spring 2006 issue. It’s a vision that, with the understanding and support—and editorial freedom—provided by PNWFSA leadership over the years, I have largely achieved and readers seem to appreciate. I like the job, and plan to continue for a while. But nothing is forever, and someday I’ll have to pass editorship of the *OldSmokeys Newsletter* to a successor for whom I hope the PNWFSA is searching.

—Les Joslin

**“I may disapprove of what you say,  
but I will defend to the death your right to say it.”**

—Attributed to Voltaire

## **OldSmokeys News**

### **OldSmokeys Change Monthly Meeting Venue to Old Spaghetti Factory**

The Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) Board of Directors voted six to two with one abstention at its October 26, 2012, meeting to change the venue of its monthly board meetings and luncheons from the Beaverton Elks Club to The Old Spaghetti Factory, 0715 S.W. Bancroft Street, just south of downtown Portland, Oregon, off Macadam Avenue.

#### **Reasons for the change**

The reasons for this move were:

- Many members don’t come to the meetings because the Elks Club is too far west from their eastside Portland metropolitan area homes.
- Members who do come to the meetings have been concerned about the continuing deterioration of the Beaverton Elks Club building.

This was not an easy decision because:

- The OldSmokeys and the Thirty-Year Club, from which the PNWFSA evolved, have been meeting at the Beaverton Elks Club for over 45 years.
- While members haven’t always been pleased with the food service, the current cook has been very well received and extremely accommodating to members who tell him about their dietary requirements.

PNWFSA President-elect **Linda Goodman** and Board members **Bev Pratt** and **Sue Triplett** comprise the Transition Team that will implement this change.

#### **Timing of the change**

The Transition Team recommended, and the Board agreed at its November 30, 2012, meeting, that the OldSmokeys hold the December 2012 and January 2013 meetings and luncheons at the Beaverton Elks Club, and move to The Old Spaghetti Factory for the February 2013 meeting.

This timing provides adequate notice to the Beaverton Elks Club and its cook, as well as adequate time to notify all OldSmokeys by announcements at meetings, e-Notes to members, and this article.

#### **How Old Spaghetti Factory Luncheons Will Work**

PNWFSA members such as Bev Pratt and Deb Warren will greet members as they arrive, allow them to choose their meal options, take their payment in cash or check (credit cards cannot be used), and give them a slip of paper which identifies the menu items they ordered to put by their place at the table of their choice.

The Old Spaghetti Factory will provide bar service starting at 11:00 a.m. when servers will begin to take orders and payment for alcoholic drinks. The wait staff will bring the meals out starting about 11:30 a.m. Gratuities are included in the menu item prices.

The Old Spaghetti Factory will provide microphones and screens for presentations; presenters will have to provide projectors if needed.



### How to Get to the Old Spaghetti Factory

The Old Spaghetti Factory is on the Willamette River about one-half mile south of the Ross Island Bridge and three blocks east of Macadam Avenue.

You can get there by train if you like. Take the Portland Street Car Line to the most southern station which is on Lowell Street. It is a 500-foot walk from the station to the Old Spaghetti Factory.

There are many road routes possible, and your GPS system (if you have one) should find the best route from your start point. There is a map link on the <[OldSmokeys.org](http://OldSmokeys.org)> website under the *Events* tab.

Follow these driving directions to get to the Old Spaghetti Factory from different points of the compass.

- **From the East**—Take I-84 to I-5 South; take Macadam Avenue, Lake Oswego exit; turn left onto SW Macadam Avenue; turn right onto SW Bancroft Street. The Old Spaghetti Factory is on the left at 0715 SW Bancroft Street.
- **From the South**—Get on I-5 North toward Portland; take exit 298 to Corbett Avenue; keep right at the fork, follow signs for Johns Landing; turn right onto SW Corbett Avenue; take the second left onto SW Richardson Avenue (0.6 mile) (*SW Richardson Court is just past SW Richardson Street, and if you reach SW Mitchell Street you've gone a little too far*); turn left onto SW Macadam Avenue/Oregon Highway 43 (*U.S. Postal Service is on the corner*) (0.5 mile); take the third right onto SW Bancroft Street (*which is just past SW Moody Avenue*)(0.1 mile). The Old Spaghetti Factory is on the left at 0715 SW Bancroft Street (*if you reach SW Lowell Street, you've gone a little too far*).
- **From the West**—Take U.S. Highway 26 East toward Portland; take the middle lane through the Vista Ridge Tunnel following signs for Market Street/City Center; follow Market Street (0.9 mile); continue onto SW Harbor Drive (0.3 mile); keep right at the fork, follow signs for Sheridan Street (0.1 mile); turn left onto SW Sheridan Street (0.1 mile); take the first right onto SW Moody Avenue (0.9 mile); turn left onto SW Bancroft Street; drive two blocks and turn left into the parking lot before you crash into the restaurant.

So, we look forward to seeing you at the January 25, 2013, meeting at the Beaverton Elks Club and at the February 22, 2013, meeting at The Old Spaghetti Factory.

### Election 2013

## OldSmokey Al Matecko Nominated to Serve as Next PNWFSA President-elect

OldSmokey **Alan J. "Al" Matecko** has accepted the Board of Directors' Nominating Committee invitation to serve as President-elect of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA).

After approval by the membership (*please see "Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association Election 2013" story and ballot on page 5*), Al will be installed in that office at the an-

nual PNWFSA Spring Banquet on May 19, 2013, and be in line to succeed OldSmokey **Linda Goodman** as President in May 2014.

Al currently serves as Director, Public and Legislative Affairs, Pacific Northwest Region. This is the first time in many years that an active duty U.S. Forest Service member will hold this office. In the early days of our organization—back in the Thirty-Year Club era—this was much more common. Read more about Al on page 5 and then fill out and send in the ballot on that page to show your support for Al and his nomination.

### Events 2013

## OldSmokeys Set Spring Banquet 2013 at Charbonneau Country Club on May 19, Summer Picnic 2013 on August 9

The Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) Board of Directors at its October 26, 2012, meeting scheduled the 2013 Spring Banquet at the Charbonneau Country Club in Wilsonville, Oregon, for Sunday, May 19.

At this banquet, OldSmokey **Linda Goodman** will take over from OldSmokey **Mike Ash** as President of the PNWFSA, and if confirmed by the membership (*again, please see "Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association Election 2013" on page 5*), OldSmokey **Al Matecko** will be installed as President-elect.

Welcoming these two to their new offices, and thanking President Mike for his leadership, are just two of many reasons for OldSmokeys to attend this spring's annual banquet. Another is the super silent auction conducted every other year.

Complete information about and a reservation form for Spring Banquet 2013 will be in the Spring 2013 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*. **See page 8 now for an early reservation form!**

Also at that meeting the Board scheduled the annual Summer Picnic in the Woods at the Wildwood Recreation Area near Mt. Hood for August 9. Complete information about and a reservation form for the Summer Picnic will be in the Spring 2013 and Summer 2013 editions of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

## OldSmokeys Treasurer Bill Funk to Assume PNWFSA Database Manager Job from OldSmokey Vern Clapp

OldSmokey **Bill Funk**, who has served as Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) Treasurer since relieving OldSmokey **Vern Clapp** of those duties in May 2011, is now set to relieve Vern as PNWFSA Database Manager at the end of January 2013.

Starting with the old Thirty-Year Club card files, Vern created the Database Manager job and then faithfully did that job for 19 years.

Bill has offered to continue to serve as Treasurer for a short period of time until another OldSmokey steps up to do the job.

Treasurer and Database Manager are two critical positions without which your PNWFSA would simply fail to function. Members inclined to serve as Treasurer should contact Bill or President **Mike Ash**.

*Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association Election 2013*

## **OldSmokeys are Asked to Approve Al Matecko's Nomination as Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association President-elect**

OldSmokey **Al Matecko**, still serving in the U.S. Forest Service as Region 6 Director of Legislative and Public Affairs, has accepted the Board of Director's Nominating Committee's invitation to serve as President-elect of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA). If approved by the membership, Al will begin service in that office in May 2013 and be on tap to relieve current President-elect OldSmokey **Linda Goodman** as President in May 2014.

Every year, according to PNWFSA bylaws, the OldSmokeys elect one of their number to serve as President-elect for one year, to lead the PNWFSA in the office of President during the following year, and then serve a third year as Past-president.

So, to show Al how much OldSmokeys appreciate his willingness to accept and discharge this three-year leadership commitment, please use the ballot below to send in your vote to approve his nomination.

### *A Few Words from Al Matecko*

"I've been fortunate to be with the Forest Service the past twenty-plus years, and am honored to be considered as a future President of the OldSmokeys. I also served a total of 28 years in the U.S. Air Force as both an active duty member and a reservist. Since 1998, I have had the privilege of serving Region 6 as Director of Public Affairs.

"My wife, Sue, is a retired registered nurse (RN) and has been a true inspiration in all I do as well as being a great mom to our now adult children, Kellie and Patrick. Though I grew up in Virginia, my bachelors degree in communication is from the University of Pittsburgh and my masters degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Retirement is in my near future, and I look forward to the possibilities it holds.

"It was a pleasure to join the OldSmokeys after participating on the committee that organized and hosted the 2005 U.S. Forest Service Centennial Celebration and Reunion in Portland. The people I worked with, from Chairman **Bob Williams**, to **Elmer Moyer**, to **Bev Pratt**, to **Bob Tokarczyk**, to **Doug Porter** and too many more to mention, were all superb people who took me in as one of their own. This crew was a group of caring, dedicated, energetic, and wonderful individuals who truly place the Greatest Good above their own interests. I took pride in them, and now that I am one of them, I take pride in the next chapter of my membership.

"My goal will be to help further preserve the past, give pride in the present, and determine how we can best set the table for future generations not just within the OldSmokeys but also within the Forest Service."

### *Please Cast Your Ballot by February 15!*

Clip or copy the ballot below or just use a plain sheet of paper or even send an e-mail to approve the nomination of **Al Matecko** to serve as President-elect or to write in the name of your own candidate for the job. Please send in your ballot not later than February 15, 2013. E-mail ballots may be sent to Secretary **Deb Warren** at <debwarren@hotmail.com>.

**Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association  
Winter 2013 Ballot for Election of PNWFSA President-elect**

The PNWFSA Board of Directors has nominated **Al Matecko** to serve as its new President-elect.  
Confirm your support of this nomination by casting this ballot for this nominee, or write in another name.

I cast my ballot for **Al Matecko** to serve as PNWFSA President-elect \_\_\_\_\_ (check here), or

I cast my ballot for \_\_\_\_\_ (write in here) to serve as PNWFSA President-elect.

*Mail your ballot to PNWFSA, P.O. Box 5583, Portland, Oregon 97228, by February 15, 2013,  
or cast your ballot by e-mail addressed to Secretary Debra Warren at <debwarren@hotmail.com>.*

*Thanks for voting!*

**OldSmokey  
Carl Hickerson  
Donated Concrete  
Forest Service Shield  
to National Museum of  
Forest Service History**



“I ‘liberated’ the concrete badge for safekeeping,” OldSmokey **Carl Hickerson** of Scottsdale, Arizona, told the *OldSmokeys Newsletter* on November 21, 2012, of a concrete U.S. Forest Service shield he rescued in 1942 from the office of a vacated Civilian Conservation Corps camp. “I performed that duty and kept it safe for nearly 70 years, through more than 25 lifetime moves.”

And then, in March 2012, Carl donated the historic “concrete badge” to the National Museum of Forest Service History in Missoula, Montana.

Carl, at 15 years old a seasonal employee on the Los Padres National Forest in California, was one of 25 “Forest Service rookies” moved into the vacated Mission Creek Civilian Conservation Corps Camp during the summer of 1942. The camp was “closing and the enrollees returning home, mostly to Texas. I witnessed the last of the 150 men roll out of camp in stakeside trucks on 31 July 1942.”

The camp comprised bunkhouses, a mess hall, and an office. “There, on the wall of the office, was left hanging the concrete Forest Service badge. Having been told by the guy in charge that the building and any remaining contents soon would be demolished, I ‘liberated’ the concrete badge for safekeeping.”

“The concrete badge is an exact replica, obviously hand-made, about eight pounds, 12.5 inches high, 11.5 inches wide, one-inch-plus thick. Inscribed on the back, scratched in the cement [was] ‘Doug Howard, 2-26-36’” to identify the maker and the date it was made.

Carl was one of hundreds—if not thousands—of high school boys the Forest Service hired during World War II to make up for the manpower shortage occasioned by the war. Carl finished high school, served 18 months in the U.S. Army, “including the occupation of Japan and service in General MacArthur’s Honor Guard Company” before going to Oregon State College on the G.I. Bill, earning a degree in forestry, and continuing the 37-year Forest Service career he began at age 15.

*Editor’s Note: Many thanks to Carl for his fascinating story!*

**OldSmokey Dale Robertson Held School  
on Virtues of Paper vs. Plastic Bags in  
October 8, 2012, *Wall Street Journal***

As he put it, U.S. Forest Service Chief Emeritus and OldSmokey **Dale Robertson** “got on [his] high horse” about a letter to the editor of the *Wall Street Journal* that missed “the most important point” in the paper versus plastic argument.

“You both just assume that plastic and paper bags just appear at the grocery store...without giving any thought to where they come from or what they are made of!” his October 8, 2012, letter in the same national newspaper chastised the writers for their “pretty shallow arguments” in favor of paper bags but “that weren’t very convincing either way!”

“Here’s the real deal!” he enlightened them and millions of other readers. “Plastic bags are made from oil which is a non-renewable natural resource” while “paper bags are made from wood waste and small, low quality trees” which are a plentiful and renewable resource.

“Do you know that the Federal Government spends billions of dollars every year thinning the forest to reduce heavy fuels that cause large catastrophic forest fires because they can’t thin them fast enough?” Dale warmed to his subject. “Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona had the largest forest fires in their [states’ histories] within the last 2 years! You only have to visit these states to see what a mess we have with dead, dying, and unhealthy forests. We have a crisis on our hands, especially with the Western Forest. The forests are too thick with trees, unhealthy, and highly susceptible to insect and disease outbreaks because of lack of management and thinning of the forests. Eventually, fires wipe them out!

“The only long term solution to this problem is to create a market for more paper bags. This is a ‘winner’ all the way around! It would reduce the Federal budget which is now only making a small dent in solving the problem, achieve more healthy and productive forests, avoid huge environmental problems resulting from catastrophic forest fires, save life and property, and create millions of jobs in rural America which is hurting the most! And people who choose to use paper bags would know they are providing the economic incentive to improve the forest and the environment. It is a ‘market approach’ to solving a huge problem, now only feebly addressed with taxpayer dollars, by providing a sustainable long term market solution to a very serious problem.”

*Editor’s Note: Many thanks to OldSmokey Darrel Kenops for forwarding Dale’s letter.*

**PNWFSA Annual Dues for 2013 Were Due on January 1**

If you are a PNWFSA member who pays his or her dues on an annual basis and who has not yet paid his or her dues for 2013, you may use the Bill for Collection provided on page 7 of the Fall 2012 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* to pay.

Or you can just send a check for \$20.00 payable to PNWFSA, P.O. Box 5583, Portland, Oregon 97228-5583.

You may wish to convert to a Lifetime Membership for a one-time payment of \$250.00 and not have to pay again.



## OldSmokey Jon Stewart Walked 28 Days on the Hayduke Trail in Utah

OldSmokey **Jon Stewart**, arguably the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association's most intrepid and inspiring backpacker, returned home to Bend, Oregon, on November 3, 2012, after walking 370 miles of the Hayduke Trail in Utah in 28 grueling days.



"The Hayduke route—I will never call it a trail!—is an intellectual as well as physical challenge; lots of cross-county route-finding adventures using topographic maps, route logs, a compass, and extensive searches for critical cairns in the hope of plotting routes past canyon pour-offs and up and down huge mesas," Jon reported on return from this latest adventure. Readers will recall *OldSmokey Newsletter* reports of Jon's completing the Pacific Crest Trail, the Continental Divide Trail, the Great Divide trail in Canada, and the Long Trail in Vermont.

"Finding the correct chimney often involved the physical challenge of a class 3 or 4 rock climb with up to a fifty-pound pack up and down a couple thousand feet of stepped cliff faces," Jon said. He usually packs very light loads, but "I had to carry up to 10 liters of water for one three day period!" in that arid country. "It's good to see a few clouds in the sky and know where I am getting my next drink of water," Jon enthused on his return to Bend.

"I am now halfway done with the route, but totally enchanted—and halfway terrorized—by it. It is a total adventure that engages the mind and body—even old decrepit bodies like ours—in crossing some of the most convoluted, remote, and visually exciting country in the entire world. I met only six other hikers on the entire route in 28 days of crossing 370-plus miles of canyons, plateaus, and mountains from Arches National Park via Canyonlands and Capital Reef national parks and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area to Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. I hope to finish it via Bryce, Grand Canyon, and Zion national parks this coming spring."

*Editor's Note: According to the Hayduke Trail website: "The Hayduke Trail is an extremely challenging, 800-mile backcountry route through some of the most rugged and breathtaking landscapes on earth. Located entirely on public land, the trail links six of the national parks of the Colorado Plateau in southern Utah and northern Arizona with lesser known, but equally splendid [national forest, BLM district, wilderness and wilderness study area, and primitive area] lands in between them." The trail is named after George Washington Hayduke III, a fictitious character in Edward Abbey's novel The Monkey Wrench Gang, to "pay homage to Abbey for his tireless defense of these fragile and threatened public lands and to heighten awareness and promote conservation of the wild places that he and so many others have come to need and love." Thanks to Jon for this report and the photograph of him on the Hayduke Trail, and good luck to him on the spring walk that promises a sequel.*

## OldSmokeys Day at Historic Siskiyou Smokejumper Base Museum is Scheduled for September 21, 2013



The Siskiyou Smokejumper Base (SSB) Museum south of Cave Junction, Oregon, has scheduled a special OldSmokeys Day on September 21, 2013, to share with Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association members the progress made in restoring the historic base and developing the historic SSB Museum that opened to the public last summer.

Opened in 1943, the SSB was the first aerial firefighter base in Oregon history and one of the four bases established when the smokejumper program began. It is the only one of the original four bases still standing in its original location and condition and contains one of the most complete assemblages of historic smokejumper buildings in the nation including the nation's oldest smokejumper parachute loft. Smokejumpers from this base jumped fires in Oregon and California. The base closed in 1982.

Over the past 10 years, SSB alumni have devoted thousands of hours to the restoration of the historic structures—including that oldest smokejumper parachute loft in existence—and developing a museum to preserve this U.S. Forest Service heritage resource and tell the smokejumper story.

Tours on OldSmokeys Day will start at 10:00 a.m. and lunch will be provided at noon. Bring your family and friends and enjoy the day.

The historic SSB is located at Illinois Valley Airport on U.S. Highway 199 about four miles south of Cave Junction, Oregon.

*Provided by Chuck Sheley, Editor, Smokejumper Magazine, with additional information and logo from Siskiyou Smokejumper Base website.*

## OldSmokeys Centennial Anthology *We Had an Objective in Mind* is On Sale for Just 15 Bucks!

The Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association's popular 2005 book *We Had an Objective in Mind*, which sold out two printings of 1,750 copies, is available again at a **special sale price of just \$15.00!** That's 25 percent off the original price of \$20.00.

This 580-page book, published by the OldSmokeys for the U.S. Forest Service Centennial in 2005, contains over 300 personal stories that provide insight into the life and times and humor and spirit of Forest Service life in Oregon and Washington from 1905 to 2005.

To order your copy or copies for just \$15.00 each plus postage, contact OldSmokey Past President **John Berry** online at <jdberry50@yahoo.com>, by telephone at 503-698-5213, or by mail at 11407 SE Cedar Way, Happy Valley, Oregon 97086.

**Remember, this sale price applies only to copies of the book ordered from John. It does NOT apply to books ordered through [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com).**



### Reserve Early for May 19 OldSmokeys Spring Banquet at Charbonneau Country Club!

There's no time like the present to reserve your place or places for this year's Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association Spring Banquet at beautiful Charbonneau Country Club just south of Portland near Wilsonville, Oregon!

As announced on page 4...

*The banquet will be held on Sunday, May 19, 2013, from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.*

You can use the form below to reserve your place or places *now* at one of the two big OldSmokey gatherings of the year to visit with friends, see our new President **Linda Goodman** and new President-elect **Al Matecko** installed in office, enjoy an outstanding meal, participate in the every-other-year silent auction, and win door prizes.

Doors and the **no-host bar** will open at 1:00 p.m. and both the **silent auction** and **social hours** with appetizer table will be under way by 2:00 p.m. The buffet-style **dinner** catered by our old friend and honorary OldSmokey Dave Dalton will be served at 3:30 p.m. The fun will also include a raffle of one of outgoing President **Mike Ash's** beautiful wooden bowls and door prizes.

*The whole works will set you back just \$25.00 per person plus whatever you decide to bid for wonderful silent auction items!*

Silent auction donations may be given to OldSmokey **Mary Moyer** who must be contacted by the end of April at 503-254-7302 or online at <mandemoyer@yahoo.com> about what you are donating and how. Door prize donations may be given to OldSmokey **Bev Pratt** at 503-255-3265 or online at <prattpratt@aol.com> either on the day of the banquet or before if you are unable to attend.

Driving directions to Charbonneau Country Club for any OldSmokeys who don't already know the way will be provided in the Spring 2013 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

**Send in this reservation form (or a copy of it) to reserve your place(s) not later than May 5, 2013!**

Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association  
**SPRING BANQUET—MAY 19, 2013**  
Charbonneau Country Club, Wilsonville, Oregon

### RESERVATION FORM

*Mail this reservation form and a check for \$25.00 per person (payable to PNWFSA) to:  
PNWFSA, P.O. Box 5583, Portland, Oregon 97228-5583*

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ dinners at **\$25.00** each for (names exactly as they will appear on name tags):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

My check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed. Please print your name here: \_\_\_\_\_

*Send this reservation form in to be received no later than May 10, 2013*



## Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association

### Who Are We? OldSmokeys Facts 2013

By Bill Funk, Treasurer



The OldSmokeys are the members of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA), one of several regional associations of U.S. Forest Service veterans and successor to the old Thirty-Year Club of Forest Service retirees and still-serving agency veterans.

**How Many.** At the start of 2013, the membership of the PNWFSA stands at **925** with a net gain of **13** members during 2012. On the plus side, **34** new members signed up during 2012. This gain was offset by the deaths of **20** members (**14** of whom were replaced by their spouses as members). We lost an additional **15** members for various reasons.

**Age.** Our membership keeps getting a little older. Our average age is creeping up to **75** years, an increase of nearly **one** year from last year. This is in spite of the 2012 new members whose average age is nearing **65**. There are **37** in our ranks (members and/or spouses) who are nonagenarians (between **90** and **100** years old). **Six** are older than **100**—the oldest being **105**.

**Where.** We are all over the United States. Most of us are in the Pacific Northwest: **571** in Oregon and **183** in Washington. There are **21** in Arizona, **21** in Montana, **18** in California, **17** in Idaho, and **14** Virginians. The balance is spread through another **30** states. We keep moving; there were **35** address changes recorded this year. As usual, there were so many e-mail address changes we lost count.

**Dues Status.** Currently, we have **553** lifetime members who have paid in **\$50,541** over the years, and we have **373** members who pay their dues annually—so far in 2012, that has amounted to **\$6,620**.

**Donations.** In 2012, PNWFSA received **\$2,750** in donations—of which **\$2,080** were for the Elmer Moyer Memorial Emergency Relief Fund, **\$100** were for our Grant Project Fund, and **\$570** were donated for general use.

**Finances.** Our largest operating expense in 2012 was **\$8,497** for the quarterly newsletter and annual directory. This is down considerable from the past thanks to **221** members electing to go paperless with the newsletter and directory. The complete PNWFSA financial statement will be published in the Summer 2013 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

### OldSmokey Ball Caps Still Available!

Wearing the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association ball cap both identifies you as an OldSmokey and helps fund the PNWFSA's good works around the region.

Contact OldSmokey **Bob Williams** at <rwms35@comcast.net> to order one or more for just \$10.00 each plus a small charge for postage.

## Forest Service News

### U.S. Forest Service Mobilized to Assist Superstorm Sandy Response

U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell on November 1, 2012, announced that interagency wildfire suppression crews and incident management teams had been mobilized to assist with the response to Superstorm Sandy which struck the northeastern United States on October 30.

“Our incident management teams bring skills in organization [and] planning and will assist with logistical needs of communities tragically affected by Hurricane Sandy,” said Chief Tidwell.

One incident management team coordinated a logistical staging area in New York City and well-being checks of residents in about 200 buildings greater than six stories high in Rockaway and Coney Island. Working with the National Guard, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)-contracted ambulances, and local health department sanitarians, they checked more than 3,000 apartments, transported 12 residents to hospitals for critical medical attention, and facilitated prescription refills and other critical medical assistance.

Another team helped plan and implement debris removal and disposal by more than 1,000 pieces of equipment across New York City. And still another supported and supplemented Long Beach City services until they could operate on their own again.

“Crews are clearing downed trees, providing support to local emergency response agencies, and assisting at FEMA facilities,” Chief Tidwell said of the work then being accomplished by wildfire suppression crews.

By the morning of November 1, six incident management teams and 11 wildfire suppression crews, a total of more than 250 personnel, were staged or en route to impacted communities. Among them were a couple Region 1 and five Region 5 hotshot crews. At the height of the operation, that commitment was 10 incident management teams, 43 wildfire suppression crews, and 30 liaison personnel—a total of over 1,200 personnel of whom about 900 were Forest Service people.

As most OldSmokeys know, interagency hotshot crews are highly trained 20-person wildland fire and all-risk crews. They are considered a national firefighting resource, and Superstorm Sandy was a national priority incident. “Although our firefighters are most well known for their wildland firefighting, wildland firefighters and overhead personnel have skills applicable to all types of emergencies,” said Gordy Sachs, Deputy National ESF-4 Coordinator, U.S. Forest Service. Under the National Response Framework, the Forest Service provides firefighting assets to respond to hurricanes and other national emergency incidents.

In responding to major storms, fire crews and incident management teams typically perform tasks such as clearing downed trees from roads so local responders can conduct search and rescue missions; assisting FEMA logistics facilities that provide water and other commodities needed to sustain life; providing

communications equipment and support to local emergency response agencies; and command and control support for emergency response agencies.

*Prepared from U.S. Forest Service News Release “U.S. Forest Service wildland firefighters and interagency crews mobilized to assist with Hurricane Sandy response” of November 1, 2012, and update by same headline of November 7, 2012; Pacific Southwest Region News Release “U.S. Forest Service firefighters from California Supporting Federal Response to Hurricane Sandy” published November 1, 2012, on YubaNet.com; U.S. Forest Service News Release “Wildland firefighters, interagency crews help East Coast storm recovery” of November 12, 2012, and information provided to OldSmokey John Berry by Robin Cole, National Incident Management Organization (NIMO) coordinator at the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) in Boise, Idaho, and Gordy Sachs, Deputy National ESF-4 Coordinator, U.S. Forest Service.*

## U.S. Forest Service Ranks 254 of 292 in 2012 “Best Places to Work” Survey

The U.S. Forest Service ranked 254<sup>th</sup> of 292 agencies in the 2012 “Best Places to Work in the Federal Government” survey conducted by the nonpartisan Partnership for Public Service according to a December 13, 2012, report.

This report, based on the largest sample ever of the workforce of two million, confirmed a steady decline in morale among and ebbing commitment of federal employees.” This poses what *The Washington Post* on December 12, 2012, termed “a challenge for the Obama administration as President Obama, who pledged to reinvigorate federal work and make government ‘cool again,’ embarks on a second term.”

“Government-wide, 60.8 percent of employees were satisfied with their jobs this year,” the newspaper reported. The job satisfaction index score for the Forest Service was 53.4 percent, down 4.7 percent from its 2011 index score of 58.1 percent. The agency experienced its lower scores in the effective leadership category and its highest score in the employee skills-mission match category.

“The survey confirmed some good things that we already knew about our agency,” Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell wrote in a December 13 letter to all Forest Service personnel. “The survey also revealed some areas that need more attention...particularly our management and leadership engagement.”

Searching for reasons for those lower leadership category scores, Sharon Friedman in a December 13 “A New Century of Forest Planning” blog posting speculated “it could be that, say in some of the more draconian diversity efforts, the Department [of Agriculture] is chewing Forest Service leadership about not doing enough, and the folks on the districts think that the Forest Service leadership dreamed up some of the more Dilbertian policies.”

Complete results of this Partnership for Public Service survey are available online at <[www.bestplacetowork.org](http://www.bestplacetowork.org)>.

*Prepared from the December 13, 2012, Best Places to Work in the Federal Government online report; “At federal government agencies, survey finds sagging job satisfaction” by Lisa Rein in the December 12 issue of The Washington Post; U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell’s “Employee Viewpoint Survey” letter of December 13, 2012; and “Best Places to Work Report 2012” blog by Sharon Friedman in a December 13, 2012, “A New Century of Forest Planning” blog posting.*

## U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell Predicted Future of Larger Wildfires

Wildfires are going to get bigger and more costly to suppress in a future of longer, hotter, and drier fire seasons that lies ahead.

That’s what U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell told the City Club of Boise, Idaho, in a November 30, 2012, speech, the *Idaho Statesman* reported on December 1, 2012.

“Wildfires have burned in excess of 8 million acres six times since 2004, a dramatic increase over the yearly totals seen in the past five decades,” the newspaper said. “As many as 12 million to 15 million acres will burn annually now because of warming temperatures and drier years,” Chief Tidwell predicted. “This comes even as state, tribal, and federal agencies put out 98 percent of all the fires that start. Firefighters jump on those blazes as aggressively as they can,” he said.

“It’s that 2 percent that become very large very quickly,” Tidwell said.

Longer, hotter, and drier fire seasons are only part of the problem. Fuels, especially in the wildland-urban interface, are an added factor that “has drastically changed the way we fight those fires,” Chief Tidwell said.

“Today’s fires are often so ferocious that managers won’t risk putting crews in their path,” the article continued. “The thousands of homes that have been built in and on the edges of the national forests have forced managers to shift resources and prompted firefighters to protect communities and lives.”

“More than 30,000 homes have burned in the past decade, Tidwell said, including 3,000 just this year.... Experts expect fires to keep claiming houses, but fuel-reduction steps can make communities safer and easier to protect. Fuel reduction, of course, is expensive.

“Federal budget cuts will make money more scarce, but communities are increasingly taking responsibility, he said. Flagstaff, Ariz., passed a \$10 million bond to do forest restoration on private and federal land there.

“Experiences in Idaho this year show that fuel-reduction works. On the 340,000-acre Mustang Complex Fire north of Salmon, a logging project in Hughes Creek helped firefighters turn the blaze away from U.S. 93, a critical economic corridor.”

Here in the Pacific Northwest Region, years of fuels modification—forest thinning—projects on the Deschutes National Forest were credited with helping keep the almost 27,000-acre Pole Creek Fire from burning into the town of Sisters and surrounding residential areas. “Instead of having fire in the crowns of these trees, the fire was just on the ground as it approached these areas,” a Forest Service fuels specialist explained.

“There is no question our restoration work can make a difference,” the *Idaho Statesman* quoted Chief Tidwell.

The Forest Service plans to increase National Forest System timber sales “by 20 percent in the next two years as part of a restoration effort to make communities safer and watersheds more resilient,” the newspaper reported. “That would increase the money that the agency gets from cutting trees, which could be put back into restoration.”

*Prepared from “U.S. official: Wildfires to get more destructive” by Rocky Barker in the December 1, 2012, Idaho Statesman, and other sources.*

### *New Aerial Firefighting Technology?*

## **U.S. Forest Service May Find PCADS Aerial Firefighting Technology Useful**

An aerial firefighting technology called Precision Container Aerial Delivery System (PCADS) based on missile and bomb technology perfected by Boeing may someday be another arrow in the U.S. Forest Service firefighting quiver.

Developed by Boeing Phantom Works, PCADS uses precision GPS technology to guide air-dropped 250-gallon corrugated boxes filled with water or firefighting chemicals onto wildfires. The system is designed to airdrop at higher and safer altitudes than current aerial firefighting system and to burst open at lower and more optimum altitudes about 200 feet above the ground. It has been approved for testing using U.S. Air Force aircraft.

“Each year, wildfires devastate residential, industrial, and natural areas across the western United States,” said William Cleary, PCADS program manager for Boeing Phantom Works. “Using Boeing’s GPS guidance technology, PCADS is a solution that can save lives and property.”

Boeing recently received approval of its PCADS Test Plan from the U.S. Air Force’s Air Mobility Command. The approval clears the way for the Wyoming Air National Guard to use PCADS in live-fire demonstrations to test the system’s effectiveness. In a recent test in Arizona, 16 PCADS units were dropped from a C-130 Hercules aircraft.

*Prepared from “Boeing PCADS technology to wage war on forest fires” provided by John Combes of National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) to whom it was provided by Joe Gorsch of Missoula, Montana.*

### *New Aerial Firefighting Contractor?*

## **U.S. Forest Service Has Possible New Air Tanker Option in Central Oregon**

Aero Air of Hillsboro, Oregon, plans to use the Madras, Oregon, municipal airport as “its base of operations for aerial firefighting in Central Oregon and across the country,” according to a report in the November 14, 2012, edition of *The Bulletin*, Bend, Oregon’s daily newspaper.

Aero Air has contracted non-firefighting services with the Oregon Department of Forestry for decades, and also has had contracts with the federal government, the article reported.

Aero Air has taken over Redmond, Oregon-based Butler Aircraft Company’s lease of a 44,000 square-foot hangar at the Madras airport apparently as a base for a fleet of seven recently purchased MD-7 jet aircraft the report said “can be modified to hold up to 4,000 gallons of water or retardant.”

“Aero Air also bought Butler Aircraft’s two DC-7 planes” under the terms of an agreement that gave the company “control of Butler Aircraft Co.’s firefighting services.” This marks Aero Air’s first involvement in fire fighting. The company decided to enter the field when “officials with the U.S. Forest Service started putting out feelers for new planes to join fire-fighting efforts.”

*Prepared from “Aero Air to base tankers in Madras” by Elon Glucklich in the November 14, 2012, issue of The Bulletin.*

## **U.S. Forest Service Implements “eRecruit”**

“On September 17, 2012, the Forest Service completed the transition to eRecruit,” the October 2012 U.S. Forest Service’s *HR Messenger* reported. According to that report, eRecruit is “the automated solution that replaces Avue for accepting job applications and staffing vacancies” and is the “model for the future state of staffing Department [of Agriculture]-wide.”

“As part of the ongoing OneUSDA initiative, Staff Acquisition has been identified as the top priority for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) human resource programs,” the report stated. The new eRecruit “solution” provides “an end-to-end staffing platform that gives hiring managers, HR specialists and job applicants a seamless experience when it comes to filling or applying for vacant positions.”

As far as the job application process is concerned, “eRecruit brings the Forest Service in line with the Presidential Hiring Reform Initiative and the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) by having applicants go through USAJOBS.gov to apply for federal positions.”

“Direct integration between eRecruit and USAJOBS allows information to flow between the two systems, eliminating the extra steps that Avue required. Applicants will build a profile, submit applications and track their applications for specific vacancies without having to leave USAJOBS.”

On the hiring end, eRecruit implementation involves “virtual” hiring manager training supported by the “eRecruit Intranet Page” explained as a “one-stop-shop for leadership communication, upcoming activities, How-To’s, field involvement, eRecruit highlights, training highlights and other helpful resources.”

The fact the Forest Service was replacing “the issue-laden AVUE automated employment application process” with a “new staffing solution” called “eRecruit” was reported in the Spring and Summer 2012 *OldSmokeys Newsletters*.

## **U.S. Forest Service Discriminates Against Female Personnel, Women Say**

Although “the U.S. Department of Agriculture is tackling a history of discrimination with more training and accountability as part of a cultural transformation program,” some current and retired U.S. Forest Service women claim “sex discrimination is still prominent within the agency,” according to a Federal Radio News report by Jolie Lee.

“Specifically, female employees in Region 5 of the Forest Service are objecting to the disparity between how men and women are hired and promoted,” the report said. “The employees also point to hostile workplace conditions where, in some cases, they say they experienced egregious sexual harassment.”

“We want to see more women get the opportunities they deserve, getting promotions...getting jobs and getting paid for their skills and experience level commensurate to the men,” Elaine Vercruysse, a logging systems planner on the Plumas National Forest, told Federal News Radio. Vercruysse has filed a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission on behalf of all women in Region 5. “In all, Region 5 has



about 5,000 employees, of which 1,500 (or about 30 percent) are women,” she said. In contrast, the federal workforce is 44 percent women. Vercruyse’s bottom line is that the Forest Service favors men over women.

“We are aware of the employees’ concerns and take them very seriously, as we do all allegations of misconduct,” the U.S. Department of Agriculture has responded. “The allegations have already been or are being fully investigated. It is the policy of the USDA and the Forest Service to provide a workplace that is free of harassment.”

Vercruyse maintains that the Department’s and the Forest Service’s cultural transformation program does not effectively address discrimination against women.

*Prepared from Federal News Radio report “Women say discrimination still part of Forest Service culture” by Jolie Lee of December 3, 2012.*

*Editor’s Note: Extensive reporting on this topic is available from Federal News Radio at <[www.federalnewsradio.com/index.php?nid=851&sid=3128587](http://www.federalnewsradio.com/index.php?nid=851&sid=3128587)>, from Forest Service retiree Sharon Friedman’s A New Century of Forest Planning blog.*

## U.S. Forest Service Closed Historic Rager Ranger Station on Ochoco National Forest

“Rager Rats” became another endangered species—they won’t be making them any more—when the U.S. Forest Service closed the Rager Ranger Station on November 30, 2012.

About 70 miles east of Prineville, Oregon, the more than 100-year-old headquarters of the Paulina Ranger District on the Ochoco National Forest was the most remote year-round ranger station in the Pacific Northwest Region. Starting in 1908, Charles Congleton was the first ranger there. Many district rangers—including quite a few OldSmokeys who proudly bear the Rager Rat title—succeeded him during the ensuing century.

“It was a financial-driven decision,” said District Ranger Sandy Henning from her Prineville office, an almost two-hour drive from her Paulina Ranger District. The decision had been announced earlier in 2012 by Forest Supervisor Kate Klein. “It was an important part of the community for a long time.”

Indeed it was. In addition to routine ranger district “caring for the land and serving people” functions of timber sales, grazing permits, recreation, firefighting, etc., Rager Ranger Station was base for the remote Paulina area ranching community’s Rager Emergency Services ambulance—largely staffed by Forest Service personnel—from 1986 until the station’s recent downsizing.

Save for the administratively attached Crooked River National Grassland staff still in Madras, Oregon, virtually the entire Ochoco National Forest workforce now commutes to the field from its Prineville headquarters.

*Prepared from multiple sources including “Isolated Rager Ranger Station closing” by Dylan J. Darling in the November 30, 2012, edition of The Bulletin, Bend, Oregon’s daily newspaper, and from an Associated Press article published November 30, 2012, as “Ochoco National Forest’s century-old Rager Ranger Station closing” in The Oregonian and as “Century-old Oregon ranger station is closing” in the San Francisco Chronicle as well as in other newspapers.*

## U.S. Forest Service Participated in Recreation Public-Private Partnerships Conference in Reno

Leslie A.C. Weldon, Deputy Chief of the U.S. Forest Service for the National Forest System, was the senior Forest Service participant in the November 7, 2012, Recreation Public-Private Partnerships Conference held in Reno, Nevada, in conjunction with the annual conference of the National Forest Recreation Association (NFRA), the trade group of private operators of public recreation facilities.

The purpose of the conference was to share information on how public agencies and private partners—through public-private partnerships (PPPs)—operate public recreation facilities on National Forest System and other federal and state lands, and to facilitate networking between leaders in both public agencies and private companies who have experience with such operational partnerships.

Other speakers at the conference included Warren Meyer, proprietor of ParkPrivatization.com, the leading online journal of Recreation PPP news and issues, who is also president of the NFRA and chief executive officer of Recreation Resource Management, one of the largest private managers of public recreation facilities in the country; Jim Rodgers, chief executive officer of Kampgrounds of America ; Eric Mart, president of California Land Management (a subsidiary of which operates Mt. Hood National Forest recreation facilities) and past-president of NFRA; Steve Werner, vice-president of American Land & Leisure, a long-time Forest Service concessionaire; and Kevin Kuhlman of the National Federation of Independent Businesses.

### Partnership issues

The recreation industry in June 2012 “asked the Department of Agriculture to authorize a partnership pilot program to modernize and upgrade national forest recreation sites, particularly campgrounds and marinas,” an article entitled “Recreation industry wants to work with Forest Service to modernize areas” in the American Recreation Coalition (ARC) June 22, 2012, issue of *Federal Parks & Recreation* said.

“There are those in the private sector willing to invest in campground and marine projects, but current Forest Service policies are a major deterrent to investment,” ARC said in its June 18 newsletter after ARC leaders met with Under Secretary of Agriculture Harris Sherman. On July 20 ARC reported that “the Agriculture Department and the recreation industry... agreed to take three immediate steps toward developing partnership projects.” These are:

- agree on potential pilot projects
- identify Forest Service policies and laws to determine what new laws and rules may be required
- assess the financial feasibility for private investments in national forest recreation sites

“In general, the partnerships projects would provide such features as modern facilities (hook-ups, dump stations, WiFi), onsite vehicle storage (from recreation vehicles to boats), and longer site management permits.”

### Privatization concerns

The public-private partnership proposal is opposed by outdoor recreation groups. These critics, ARC noted in its August 3, 2012, newsletter, “say the proposal will heighten the influence of concessioners in the national forests, and the public opposes such influence.”

As Katy Benzar, president of the Western Slope No-Fee Coalition, put it: “This initiative would take forests in the exactly wrong direction. Since the Forest Service has authority to retain campground revenue and use it for operational expenses, the whole rationale for concessionaire management no longer makes sense. They [the Forest Service] should be phasing them out, not giving them even more power.”

Benzar particularly objected to (1) the proposal being developed in private, (2) a recommendation to store recreation equipment on national forest land and in marinas, and (3) a recommendation to ease the transfer of permits to operate in the national forests.

Derrick Crandall, ARC president and recreation industry lead negotiator, said “Benzar misreads the intentions of his team [which are] to use partnerships to help the Forest Service in tough budget times.” He refuted her concerns.

“Despite Benzar’s criticism, the recreation industry and the Department of Agriculture have begun to set deadlines for action” on “identification of potential pilots, identification of Forest Service policies and laws, and financial feasibility,” ARC reported .

*Prepared from multiple sources including NFRA’s online 2012 Recreation Partnership Conference announcement and ARC’s Federal Parks and Recreation newsletters for June 22, July 20, and August 3, 2012.*

## U.S. Forest Service Strives to Retain Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument

Although county officials in southwestern Washington have praised improvements in U.S. Forest Service administration of the 110,000-acre Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument, efforts to make the monument within the Gifford Pinchot National Forest a national park continue.

The National Parks Conservation Association in 2009 began a major push for national park status for Mount St. Helens, contending that status and National Park Service management would provide an elevated profile and more stable funding. There was pushback.

At the behest of a 2009 Mount St. Helens Congressional Advisory Committee recommendation, the Forest Service by the 2012 season had made several committee-mandated improvements for enhancing the visitor experience including:

- a new outdoor amphitheater and other interpretive improvements at the Johnston Ridge Observatory;
- a reopened former Coldwater Ridge Visitor Center (closed after the 2008 season because of dwindling operational funds and increasing deferred maintenance issues, but renovated with more than \$700,000 in economic stimulus funds) “repurposed” as the Mount St. Helens Science and

Learning Center at Coldwater;

- new recreation opportunities that include kayaking at Coldwater Lake and mountain biking; and
- road and trail improvements and new interpretive panels and signs around the monument;

Despite such changes, overall visitation to Mount St. Helens was roughly flat in 2012 according to Tom Mulder, the Forest Service monument manager. And those changes were made with one-time sources of funds.

“The Forest Service does an outstanding job within their ability and funding, but it’s still nowhere close to making Mount St. Helens the economic engine it could be,” Mark Smith, owner of nearby Eco Park Resort told Barbara Laboe of *The Daily News* in mid-November 2012. “Until the Forest Service puts \$4 million to \$5 million here a year, it will always be underfunded compared to what the Park Service could do.”

As of the end of November 2012, both sides were waiting to see if Representative Jaime Herrera Beutler (Republican-Washington) would push for a proposed “\$300,000 to \$500,000 national park feasibility study” Laboe of *The Daily News* on November 19 “considered key to moving the national park debate forward.”

At your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* deadline, the question if Congress will designate the Forest Service-administered national volcanic monument as a National Park Service-administered national park or national monument remained unresolved and unlikely to be resolved anytime soon.

*Prepared from multiple sources including November 20, 2012 “Forest Service reports on improvements, progress at Mount St. Helens”; May 18, 2012 “Mount St. Helens monument gets new life”; May 15, 2012 “Resolution reignites Mount St. Helens debate;” and December 11, 2011 “Congresswoman urged to consider park status for Mount St. Helens” by Eric Florip in The Columbian, Vancouver, Washington daily; and November 19, 2012 “Herrera Beutler still on the fence over volcano decision” by Barbara Laboe in The Daily News Online from Longview, Washington.*

## U.S. Forest Service and Partners Win Emmy Award for *Green Fire*

The U.S. Forest Service, the Aldo Leopold Foundation, and the Center for Humans and Nature received a regional Emmy award for “best historical documentary” at the recent 54<sup>th</sup> annual Chicago/Midwest Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for the documentary *Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time*.

Leopold, a Yale Forest School graduate who served in the Forest Service from 1909 to 1928 and died in 1948, helped shape modern conservation science, policy, and ethics. *Green Fire* explores Leopold’s life and career and also his contemporary influence. *Green Fire* is the first feature-length documentary about the conservationist.

Since its premiere in February 2011, the film has screened at more than 2,000 venues in the United States and around the world. It is airing on public television and will be distributed nationally beginning in April 2013.

*Prepared from U.S. Forest Service News Release “U.S. Forest Service, partners win Emmy for ‘Green Fire’” by Tiffany Holloway, Office of Communications, WO.*

## U.S. Forest Service Scientists Synthesize Best Practices for Fuels Management in Dry Mixed Conifer Forests

Scientists at the U.S. Forest Service's Rocky Mountain Research Station, along with collaborators from the Pacific Northwest Research Station, Humboldt State University, and the University of Montana, synthesized a vast array of information on the ecology, management strategies, and effectiveness of fuel treatments within the dry mixed conifer forests of the northwestern United States.

The results of this synthesis was published in "A comprehensive Guide to Fuels Management Practiced for Dry Mixed Conifer Forests in the Northwestern United States" (RMRS-GTR-292) in late November 2012 and presented by Dr. Terrie Jain, research forester and the project's lead scientist, at the 5<sup>th</sup> International Fire Ecology management Conference in Portland, Oregon, on December 7, 2012.

"This synthesis is unique because it is designed to enhance cross-disciplinary communication among key stakeholders and land managers," Dr. Jain said. "We focused on information to directly address questions and concerns presented by land managers."

To download or read the report online, please visit <[http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs\\_gtr292.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs_gtr292.html)>. To request a CD or printed copy, call 970-498-1392 or e-mail Richard Schneider at <[rschneider@fs.fed.us](mailto:rschneider@fs.fed.us)> and reference RMRS-GTR-292.

*Prepared from Rocky Mountain Research Station News Release "Scientists synthesize best practices for fuels management in a dry conifer forest" of November 26, 2012.*

## U.S. Forest Service Researchers Find Logging Debris Improves Soil and Discourages Invasive Plants

Researchers Tim Harrington of the Pacific Northwest Research Station; Robert Slesak, a soil scientist with the Minnesota Forest Resources Council; and Stephen Schoenholtz, a professor of forest hydrology and soils at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University conducted a five-year study at two sites in Washington and Oregon to see how retaining logging debris affected the soil and other growing conditions at each locale.

The logging debris that remains after timber harvest traditionally has been seen as a nuisance. It can make subsequent tree planting more difficult and become fuel for wildfires. It is commonly piled, burned, or taken off site. Logging debris, however, contains significant amounts of carbon and nitrogen—elements critical to soil productivity. Its physical presence in the regenerating forest created microclimates that influence a broad range of soil and plant processes.

The researchers found that keeping logging debris in place improved soil fertility, especially in areas with coarse-textured, nutrient-poor soils. Soil nitrogen and other nutrients important to tree growth increased, and soil water availability increased due to the debris' mulching effect. The debris cooled the soil, which slowed the breakdown and release of soil carbon into the

atmosphere. It also helped prevent invasive species such as Scotch broom and trailing blackberry from dominating the sites.

Forest managers are using this information to help maximize the land's productivity while reducing their costs associated with debris disposal.

*Prepared from "Logging Debris Matters: Better Soil, Fewer Invasive Plants" in the August 2012 Science Findings published by the Pacific Northwest Research Station.*

## U.S. Forest Service Entomologists Deem Pine Butterfly Outbreak Declining

U.S. Forest Service entomologists who in August 2012 evaluated pine butterfly populations and damage on the Malheur National Forest since 2009 to have peaked in 2011 and to be declining. This defoliator of ponderosa pines significantly affected about 250,000 acres along the eastern side of Silvies Valley southeast of Seneca, Oregon.

In most pines within the outbreak area, annual feeding by larvae has removed nearly all needles from branches except for partially-eaten current-year needles at the branch tips, leaving trees with a candelabra-like appearance. Although the defoliation has been severe, the impact of pine butterfly on trees has been mostly growth loss rather than mortality.

By last year, the trees were looking better (i.e., less new defoliation) than they did last year, even in the worst defoliated stands. That's because the pine butterfly population is collapsing in those areas of heaviest defoliation as a result of the buildup of natural predators and parasites as well as starvation. Reduced insect populations mean a decrease in defoliation pressure, resulting in trees retaining the needles produced last year, which they did not do in the previous couple years because of high larval population levels in those areas.

Some of the public feared the defoliated trees were already dead or likely to die. But the trees are quite resilient to this type of damage and very much alive; they produce healthy new buds which produce new foliage the next summer, and they still have ample food reserves (carbohydrates) stored in the roots and lower bole to survive the short-term loss of nearly all their needles.

Entomologists expect the infestation will be nearly over this year, and that the forest will soon look healthy again.

*Prepared from an article by Don Scott, Entomologist, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, provided by OldSmokey Bob Devlin.*

## U.S. Forest Service Publishes Report on Natural and Cultural History of Beargrass

The U.S. Forest Service's Pacific Northwest Research Station recently published *Natural and Cultural History of Beargrass* on this ecologically, culturally, and economically important Western United States plant. For the first time, with this publication, landowners, land managers, and harvesters have a comprehensive report about the species.

"Beargrass is emblematic of a web of natural and cultural diversity in the West," said Susan Stevens Hummel, a research forester at the station and lead author of the report. "This means



that organisms and processes—like people, plants, and pollinators—are interrelated.”

Beargrass is a member of the lily family that, when in bloom, produces a single stalk capped with clusters of white flowers. It grows in a wide variety of habitat types and conditions, but in just two geographic areas—from the mountains of northwestern Washington south into west-central California, and from Canada south into Wyoming along the Rocky Mountains.

The plant provides food, habitat, and raw material for an array of wildlife species, has longstanding cultural value and is harvested by Native Americans, and is coveted by the commercial floral greens industry.

Hummel and her coauthors found that historical and contemporary land use practices in beargrass habitat, combined with the rise of the commercial floral greens industry, are creating shifts in disturbances within beargrass habitat.

“We found that beargrass is experiencing decreased disturbance from natural and human-caused fire, but increased disturbance from leaf harvest from the floral industry,” Hummel said. “Our report looks at each of these different disturbance types and their potential effects on beargrass, its pollinators, and on human gatherers.”

No coordinated effort monitors beargrass harvests.

“This report clarifies for land managers the importance of beargrass and offers researchers a list of knowledge gaps about the plant,” Hummel said. “By addressing some of the key issues identified in this report, forest management practices can be developed to help sustain the ecological web of which beargrass is a part.”

*Natural and Cultural History of Beargrass* is available online at <<http://www.treesearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/42172>> and in print by e-mailing <[pnw\\_pnwpubs@fs.fed.us](mailto:pnw_pnwpubs@fs.fed.us)> or calling 503-261-1211 and referencing “PNW-GTR-864.”

*Prepared from U.S. Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station News Release “Beargrass, a plant of many roles, is focus on new report” issued November 19, 2012.*

## Yale Students Won \$50,000 Award for Deschutes National Forest Funding Plan

A group of Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies students won the National Forest Foundation (NFF) \$50,000 Barrett Foundation Prize for their “Deschutes Collaborative Conservation Fund—Sustainable Funding for a Restoration-Based Economy” plan to pay for forest health improvements on the Deschutes National Forest by funding an industry that would make and sell products made from biomass and other woody material generated by thinning projects. The NFF announced the award on October 15, 2012.

“Money from a new property tax, surcharges and recreation fees could help restore the health of the Deschutes National Forest, generate jobs and create an industry using the material cleared out of the woods,” reporter Rachael Ross of *The Bulletin*, the daily newspaper in Bend, Oregon, summarized the scheme on October 29, 2012. The Deschutes National Forest is headquartered in Bend.

The students’ proposed “collaborative fund would be structured as a Community Development Financial Institution” that would “make low-cost loans [to] and buy stakes in small forest products businesses to help jump-start the industry” that would manufacture products only a few of which are now commercially viable. The envisioned products include animal bedding, juniper flooring, and wood chips, among others.

“The fund itself will be financially sustainable,” the proposal said. “At the same time, as the capacity of the forest product industry grows, the value of forest products will increase, leading to both more restoration and new industry development.”

The Barrett Foundation Prize was created by Craig Barrett, the former chairman and current vice-chairman of the NFF Board of Directors and retired chairman and CEO of Intel Corporation. “We asked for proposals that were innovative and realistic in meeting the dual standards of forest management and economic sustainability,” said Barrett. “The creative ideas brought forward not only met our requirements but seem to have a high probability of success in the marketplace.”

The prize-winning plan generated supporters and skeptics.

Forest Supervisor John Allen wrote in support to the proposal: “The Forest Service is committed to accelerating the pace of restoration on the Deschutes National Forest; nevertheless, there remain considerable economic and social barriers to accomplishing restoration goals. I believe that the Deschutes Collaborative Conservation Fund would enhance the region’s ability to increase the scale and intensity of restoration.”

“Just how tax and spend is ‘innovative’ escapes our understanding,” *The Bulletin* editorialized on November 6, 2012, asking why “local residents should pick up this tab when they have no control over what happens “ on the national forests. Then, noting “the real issue is timber,” *The Bulletin* opined “true innovation might have come from a focus on how to restore that once-mighty industry, which for decades poured money into the local economy”...“rather than ask taxpayers to finance a new type of industry” through “an additional property tax, surcharges on water bills and added fees for hikers, bikers and beer drinkers, among others.”

Why did Yale students focus on the Deschutes National Forest for what they hope will be “a model for public lands throughout the West”?

“If it’s not possible to build a successful restoration economy in Central Oregon, it is unlikely to be possible anywhere.”

*Prepared from National Forest Foundation News Release “NFF Announces Barrett Foundation Prize Winners” of October 15, 2012; “Paying to restore forest health” by Rachael Rees in the October 29, 2012 issue of The Bulletin; and the editorial “Plan for more forest taxes, fees isn’t ‘innovative’” in the November 6, 2012, issue of The Bulletin.*

## OldSmokeys Need New Treasurer!

Your Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association needs to replace OldSmokey **Bill Funk**, who is taking over the critical position of Database Manager from OldSmokey **Vern Clapp**, as **Treasurer**. If you are willing and able to step up and take on this key job, please contact PNWFSA President **Mike Ash** or **Bill** as soon as possible for details.

## Features

### Smokey, Walk Away from the Walk of Fame!

By James G. Lewis, Ph.D.  
Staff Historian, Forest History Society



Once again, the American voters have gotten it wrong. Once again, they failed to elect Smokey Bear to the Madison Avenue Advertising Walk of Fame in this year’s voting, which closed at the end of September. The iconic bear is just that—ICONIC. He *defines* the word. His picture could be in the dictionary beside the word to illustrate what an icon is.

This advertising legend set the standard for all advertising characters that have followed. There are few others with Smokey’s longevity, and fewer still that combine his longevity with his level of international fame and recognition, and none who have benefitted society more. He is not pushing a product we don’t need, like the Coca-Cola polar bears, which are on the Walk. Smokey is promoting an idea that saves lives. Created in 1944 to promote the message that forest fires are destructive and that humans need to be vigilant about preventing them, by 1964 he had become so famous that the U.S. Postal Service gave him his own zip code to help handle his volume of fan mail. His famous phrase “Only YOU can prevent forest fires!” became so widely recognized that he only had to say the first two words and people knew what he was talking about. In one poster, he simply prompted people to “Think” and they knew what to think.

Matt Scheckner, executive director of Advertising Week, which oversees the Walk of Fame, unwittingly told us its fundamental flaw: “Going back to 2004 when we first started, what we have tried to do is mix classic and contemporary; and by design we work to freshen it up every year.” Every other walk or hall of fame is for those who have earned a spot because of their contributions to the field over a long period of time. It shouldn’t be a popularity contest or what strikes the public’s fancy now. Even the Hollywood Walk of Fame

has standards! For theirs, you have to have a minimum of five years’ experience in your field and, unlike Kim Kardashian, you need to actually do something worth commemorating in stone.

I suspect Mr. Scheckner realizes this Walk isn’t what it really should be. And I also suspect Advertising Week is somewhat ashamed of the venture. I couldn’t find a website dedicated to the Walk, and it doesn’t even have a listing in Wikipedia.

Rather surprising for an organization dedicated to the art of promotion.

But back to the flaws of the election process. Contrast what’s just happened on Madison Avenue with how they handle things a few hours north at Cooperstown. In 1936, when they voted in the first class for the Baseball Hall of Fame, voters elected the five men who to this day remain the gold standard of baseball: Ruth, Wagner, Cobb, Johnson, and Mathewson. Journalists and knowledgeable fans still measure every player who’s followed against those guys and what they did on the field. They won’t vote in Mike Trout or Bryce Harper next year because they’ve caught our fancy. They measure those rookies against the greatest, like Ruth or DiMaggio, and tell them, “Okay, you had one outstanding year. If you want to be enshrined, do it again for nine more.” The hall has standards, like players can’t be considered eligible for enshrinement unless they played for 10 years and have been retired for five calendar years.

The Advertising Walk of Fame should have standards, too; like the character has to have been “active” for five years, and it should have first appeared a minimum number of years before (I suggest eight) to prevent a character in its fifth year of usage from being elected. The three additional years provide extra time to assess merit, impact, and durability. Smokey easily meets these eligibility standards. After all, he was created 60 years before the Walk of Fame was established.

Some characters in the Advertising Walk of Fame, like the AOL Running Man, weren’t well remembered at the time of their election and don’t resonate at all today—the equivalent of having an MVP season and then below-average numbers the rest of his career. Some are so new, like Mayhem from Allstate Insurance (which first appeared in 2010) that it makes a mockery of the very idea of a walk of fame. And why was a character like Progressive Insurance’s Flo, created in 2008, under consideration last year and then elected this year? Bob Garfield of *Advertising Age* summed it up nicely after last year’s nominees: “[H]ow do we all know Flo?” Garfield asked. “It’s because she’s on TV every three seconds, and we can’t get out the DVR fast enough to fast-forward past her.”

With Smokey, less is more. You don’t have to hear his message every five minutes to know what it is. That’s how you know he’s the marketing gold standard.

Smokey changed more than just marketing—he changed the world. He should’ve been in the inaugural class of the Advertising Walk of Fame. Now he’s reduced to campaigning for votes against insurance peddlers and sugar pushers. When they nominate him next year for the Walk of Fame, to Smokey, I say, just walk away.

*Editor’s Note: James G. Lewis is the staff historian at the Forest History Society, Durham, North Carolina, where he is a co-editor and contributor to their blog “Peeling Back the Bark,” from which this article is adapted and published in your OldSmokeys Newsletter with permission. He is also the author of The Forest Service and the Greatest Good: A Centennial History published by the Forest History Society in 2005.*



## Have You Heard of Smoked Bear?

By Les Joslin

Yep, you read that headline right. That's not one of my typos.

An amiable, furry "cousin" of our revered Smokey Bear, Smoked Bear—at right, his face smudged with smoke and his jeans tattered and soiled from fire fighting—showed up in Elko, Nevada, in 2009. What for? To advocate active management (e.g., logging and grazing) of wildlands to help reduce fuel loads and thus reduce severe wildfires.

"Wildfires are harming and killing animals, and the fires are polluting our environment." That's Smoked Bear's take; a slightly different kind of wildfire prevention from Smokey's fire safety message.

Smoked Bear is the brainchild—er, brainbear?—of Elko attorney and activist Grant Gerber. "He, his son Travis, and their cartoon bear have a compelling argument to reverse more than 40 years of federal land policy that Gerber says coincides with progressively severe wildfires in the West," according to a profile by Dylan Woolf Harris of the *Elko Free Press*.

Most recently, Smoked Bear "shared the spotlight with the featured speakers of the day, including New Mexico Congressman Steve Pearce, Ruidoso Mayor Ray Alborn" and others including Alamogordo mayor Susie Galea at "an important local meeting in Ruidoso, N.M.," Harv Twite of KEDU Radio wrote to the *Elko Free Press* on October 12, 2012.

"The rally was put on by the Ruidoso/Lincoln County Association of Realtors protesting Forest Service policy and demanding change," according to Mr. Gerber.

If you'd like to know more about Smoked Bear, check out his website at <[www.smokedbear.com](http://www.smokedbear.com)> or just Google "Smoked Bear" for the latest from the *Elko Free Press* and other possible sources.

*Prepared from multiple sources including "Gerber leads 'Smoked Bear' campaign" by Adella Harding in the Elko Free Press on January 14, 2010; "Smoked Bear visits charred forests" by Dylan Woolf Harris in the Elko Free Press on August 31, 2011; a letter to the editor "Smoked Bear visits New Mexico" in the Elko Free Press on October 12, 2012; the Smoked Bear website; and a November 26, 2012, telephone conversation and e-mail exchange with Mr. Gerber who provided additional information and authorized use of the above Smoked Bear photograph.*



## I Wanted to Fight Fire

By Roy Sines

Forest fires have intrigued me since Glenn Charleton, the Entiat District Ranger, would pick up my dad to work on fires in the mid 1930s. We lived on a farm three miles above Steliko Ranger Station on the Entiat River in north central Washington. Dad didn't like fires because he usually came home sick. In

those days fire people blamed fire sickness on soapy dishes but later learned the cause likely was mayonnaise in sandwiches or other sandwich spreads.

In 1939, when I was seventeen, I pestered the U.S. Forest Service protective assistant (PA) so often about a job fighting fire that he finally hired me to work on a 50-60 acre fire in Potato Creek. (The next day I was replaced by a mule.) The fire burned down to Potato Creek and uphill about 200 yards above the creek. My job was to fill metal backpack cans with water from Potato Creek and carry them to the top of the fire, pick up empty cans, fill them again and climb back to the top. I didn't even get to squirt water on the fire. Haven Stanaway arrived at the fire the next day with a short pack string to pack water so I was upgraded to mopup. Horse logging teams lost their jobs to tractors in our area that year and I believe this was the first year a tractor was used to build fire line.

My first season working for the Forest Service was 1940. My job was to man Cougar Mountain Lookout, a back country station. Because Cougar Mountain was an emergency lookout, I started work too late to attend fire guard school. Training for fire suppression came from studying the old Guard Handbook and the section on firefighting was especially intriguing for me. It is amazing how much firefighters had learned about the science of fire suppression by the time the handbook was written. It taught about weather, up and downdrafts, the fire triangle, using ridges for fire line location, and fire hazards—all which are still basic to modern firefighting.

There were a lot of lightning fires in those years and after one storm I could see thirty smokes at one time. My first fire to fight alone was ignited by lightning shortly before dark and was a mile and one-half from my lookout, so the PA dispatched me to the fire. The rule was to be ready at all times and to leave for a fire within five minutes after being dispatched. The PA told me he was also dispatching a small crew who would hike up to the fire. In my boyish exuberance I was determined to reach the fire first and have it controlled before help came. Well, I practically ran down the trail and found the fire which was a burning snag with a small ground fire at its base. I dug a line around the fire and felled the snag with my Pulaski. The weather had cooled and by working as hard as I could it took less than two hours to have the fire dead out. During short breaks I would look down the hill to see if the crew was coming and would be there before I had the fire out. Rules were to stay with a fire for twenty-four hours after it appeared to be out. As it turned out, the fire was out by nine o'clock and the crew didn't arrive until midnight. The foreman checked the fire, then we all went to the lookout for the rest of the night.

Laurence Bortz was the Entiat Ranger District headquarters fireman. He was a firefighter deluxe and taught me a lot about fighting hot, fast-spreading fires. Laurence kept a fire pack and tools in his car ready to go. (The district only had one pickup and a horse truck in those days.) I truly believe that the Entiat Ranger District was and is the most flammable district in Region 6 because of the cheat grass and other explosive fuels that are very dry in the low country by early June.

Early in June 1941, Laurence and I and a crew were dispatched to the Ohme Garden Fire along the Columbia River



near Wenatchee. The fire was burning mostly cheat grass and when we arrived it was about 75 acres in size. My thoughts were that we should build a line on the ridge top and down a spur ridge to the highway. Well, Laurence took the lead and started direct attack along the top of the fire. He dug fire line and threw dirt like a wild man and instructed us to follow and fight fire like he was doing. In those days this was the type of training common with old-time foremen. I was amazed that his strategy would even work or that we could work long enough at that pace to get ahead of the fire. But we did and turned the corner and built line down a spur ridge to the highway.

What Laurence taught me was the need for enough fire training and experience to know when to back off or when to fight fire. I like Kenny Rogers' song about the gambler who knows when it's time to play and when to fold. This theory seems to apply to firefighting very well today.

*Editor's Note: OldSmokey Rachael Sines contributed her late husband Roy Sines' article, originally published in the 1995 book Memorable Forest Fires edited by my old friend Gil Davies, retired from the Klamath National Forest and now resident in Chico, California, and the late Florice Frank, and published by their HiStory ink Books. I thought this "first Forest Service job" story would make a good feature; should the planned My First U.S. Forest Service Job book be published it will be included along with the many others being received and developed. I recall a pleasant dinner with Roy and Rachel at the Bend, Oregon, home of mutual friends John and Barbara Merlin about a dozen years ago and not long before Barbara retired from the Forest Service.*

## Changes *Compiled by Secretary Deb Warren*

These changes and others received during 2012 are reflected in the new *OldSmokeys Membership Directory 2013* enclosed with this issue of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

**Boyd, Bob** – Change address: 60622 Ridge Heights, Bend, OR 97702

Change telephone: 541-382-3373 Change e-mail: bob.boyd@bend.k12.or.us

**Bunster, Ray & Ursula** – Change e-mail: reneob@cox.net

**Clarke, Tee & Edward H.** – Deceased; no further information

**Craig, Dave & Karen** – Change e-mail: davecraig@century-link.net

**Curtis, Elizabeth L. "Liz"** – Change address: 788 SE Goldeneye Dr, College Place, WA 99324

Change home telephone: 509-529-2139 Change cell phone: 541-215-9271 Email remains the same

**Franano, Barbara & Bob Spateholts** – New members: P.O. Box 1080, Prineville, OR 97754

Telephone: 541-416-0572 E-mail: bnblodge@wildblue.net

**Foiles, Otis W. "Pete"** – Deceased November 11, 2012; Becky survives

**Harlan, W. Thomas & Marylee** – Change e-mail: tom.harlan@me.com

**Heath, Becki** – Change address: 3644 Ridgeview Blvd, Wenatchee, WA 98801

**Hess, Leo John** – Deceased October 7, 2012

**Hensley, Jerry D. & Charlotte** – New Members: 513 King Ave, Hines, OR 97738

Telephone: 541-573-3757 E-mail: jhensley000@centurytel.net

**Holly, Carole Gillespie & Tim** – New members: PO Box 568, Mt. Vernon, OR 97865

Telephone: 541-932-4931 E-mail: ticah@ortelco.net

**Jones, Patricia M.** – Change address: 8709 SE Causey Ave, Apt 104, Happy Valley, OR 97086

Change telephone: 503-652-8225

**Lamb, Alan J. & Ellie** – New members: 1280 NE Kane Dr, No 56, Gresham, OR 97030

Telephone: 503-491-5349 E-mail: eleanor6644@frontier.com

**Lemmon, Richard Mark "Dick"** – Deceased September 21, 2012; Dona survives

**Lysne, Mark E. & Meliana** – Change e-mail: mklysne@centurylink.net

**Merzenich, James & Karen Wilson** – Change address: 35200 Northernwood Dr, Brownsville, OR 97327

**Musser, Lloyd A. & Maureen** – Change address: 12281 SE Bari Ave, Happy Valley, OR 97086

Change telephone: 503-367-3946 E-mail remains the same

**Perkins, Ann** – Deceased June 20, 2011; John survives

**Rainville, Suzanne & Bob** – New members: 2048 Creekside Ln, Boise, ID 83706

Telephone: 208-427-7958 E-mail: srainville0102@gmail.com

**Roberts, Kenneth "Ken"** – Deceased December 14, 2012; Betty survives

**Robertson, F. Dale & Margie** Change address: 16600 N Thompson Peak Pkwy, Scottsdale, AZ 85260

Change telephone: 480-928-2126 E-mail remains the same

**Romancier, Robert Marshall "Bob"** – Deceased November 7, 2012; Glenda survives

**Rosenberger, John A.** – Change e-mail: rosenberger97470@gmail.com

**Schmidt, Debora G. "Deb" & Dave G. Kretzing** – New members: 37307 Parsons Cr Rd, Springfield, OR 97478  
Telephone: 541-933-2693 E-mail: dgschmidt327@msn.com

**Shenk, Vicky** – Change e-mail: shenkvicky@q.com Add cell phone 360-600-0146

**Shenk, William David "Bill"** – Deceased October 18, 2012; Vicky survives

**Shumate, Jack B.** – Deceased December 17, 2011; Avis survives

**Snell, J.A. Kendall & Candice** – New members: 2064 E Main, Hillsboro, OR 97123

Telephone: 503-716-0384 E-mail: kensnell47@gmail.com

**Torrence, Jim & Elizabeth** – Change e-mail: jetink2@gmail.com

**Wilson, Bonna** – New e-mail: bonna@mailstation.com

## **New Members** *Compiled by Secretary Deb Warren*

Welcome to these new OldSmokeys who have joined the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association since the Fall 2012 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* went to press.

**Barbara Franano & Bob Spateholts** of Prineville, Oregon, joined on November 15, 2012. Barb retired from the U.S. Forest Service as fisheries biologist on the Lookout Mountain Ranger District, Ochoco National Forest, on December 29, 2012, after 31 years and eight months of federal service, 23 of those years in the Forest Service and 14 in Region 6. Barb started her career after high school as a U.S. Department of Agriculture clerk-typist in Missouri and later as a U.S. Bureau of Reclamation secretary in Denver, Colorado. After time off to raise three boys, she earned a B.S. degree and an M.S. degree with fish and wildlife emphasis at West Texas State University, Canyon, Texas. She moved to Park City, Utah, to serve on the Heber Ranger District, Uinta National Forest, as a wildlife biologist and then a fishery biologist. Accepting a transfer, Barb and Bob and son Gabriel moved to Prineville, Oregon, where Barb completed her career on the Ochoco National Forest. Bob is a fishery biologist who works for Portland General Electric at Pelton Dam.

**Jerry D. & Charlotte Hensley** of Hines, Oregon, joined on December 12, 2012. Jerry retired from the U.S. Forest Service on the Emigrant Creek Ranger District, Malheur National Forest, after 40.5 years of federal service. Jerry is the new PNWFSA area representative for the Malheur National Forest.

**Carole Gillespie Holly & Tim Holly** of Mt. Vernon, Oregon, joined on November 4, 2012. Carole retired from the U.S. Forest Service as planning staff officer on the John Day, Oregon-based Malheur National Forest, on June 30, 2012, after 34 years in the Forest Service—all in Region 6. Tim retired from the Forest Service in September 2001 as a law enforcement officer on the Malheur National Forest after 33 years of service in the agency. Carole started her career on the Packwood Ranger District, Gifford Pinchot National Forest, first as a temporary while a student and then as a permanent employee. She graduated from Iowa State University in 1980 with a B.S. degree in forestry, and worked in special uses on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest; in timber, mining, and recreation on two Malheur National Forest ranger districts; and then moved to the SO as forest recreation program manager and forest environmental coordinator before taking on the forest planning staff officer position. Tim started his career on the Malheur National Forest in 1969 as a temporary in fire management. After earning an associate's degree in range/ranch and forest management at Treasure Valley Community College, Ontario, Oregon, in 1971, he started permanently on the Malheur National Forest in range management in 1973. He then held positions as recreation zone manager, assistant fire management officer, and then law enforcement officer until he retired.

**Alan J. & Ellie Lamb** of Gresham, Oregon, joined on November 26, 2012. Alan retired from the U.S. Forest Service in May

1982 after 33 years of service that included 15 years in Region 5 but also assignments in Regions 1, 2, 3, and the WO. He and Ellie moved to Gresham in August 2012 after 23 years in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

**Deborah G. “Deb” Schmidt & Dave G. Kretzing** of Springfield, Oregon, joined on October 19, 2012. Deb retired from the U.S. Forest Service as district ranger on the Cottage Grove Ranger District, Umpqua National Forest, on August 1, 2012, after 34 years in the Forest Service. Dave retired from the Forest Service on October 31, 2012, as the hydropower coordinator on the McKenzie River Ranger District, Willamette National Forest, after 35 years of service in the agency. Both Deb and Dave started their careers on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest as temporary employees while working their ways through college. Deb worked in timber and Dave in fire prevention. Deb graduated from Oregon State University with a B.S. degree in forestry in 1978, and Dave graduated from Penn State in 1977 with a B.S. degree in earth sciences. Deb worked as a timber planner on the Willamette National Forest, a timber management assistant on the Malheur National Forest, and a district ranger on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest before moving to the Umpqua. During most of her career Deb served on one of the national incident management teams in the planning section. Dave worked as a timber sale administrator on the Gifford Pinchot, in silviculture and watershed on the Willamette, as forest hydrologist on the Malheur, and as zone hydrologist on the Willamette before taking on the hydropower position.

**Suzanne & Bob Rainville** of Boise and McCall, Idaho, joined on November 29, 2012. Bob and Suzanne started their U.S. Forest Service careers on the Kootenai National Forest in 1978 where they met and married. Suzanne worked as a timber sale forester, district silviculturist, and district resource planning assistant in Montana and northern Idaho while Bob was a fisheries biologist. In 1987, after 10 years in Region 1, Bob and Suzanne moved to the Deschutes National Forest for the next five years. Suzanne worked for a short time as an environmental coordinator and then as district ranger on the Crescent Ranger District while Bob was the resource staff officer in the SO. In 1992, Bob and Suzanne transferred to the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. Suzanne started as public affairs officer for a short time and then became natural resources staff officer while Bob was the district ranger at La Grande. Bob retired in 2003 after working a short time on the Blue Mountains Demonstration Project. Suzanne left the Wallowa-Whitman in 2002 to be deputy forest supervisor on the Boise National Forest, and in 2006 moved to McCall, Idaho, as forest supervisor of the Payette National Forest where she retired on April 1, 2011, after 33 years of service. Bob and Suzanne spend time in both McCall and Boise. Both are active in Rotary and with local non-profits focused on at-risk kids. Bob also has a small business as a certified mediator and facilitator.

**J.A. Kendall “Ken” & Candice Snell** of Hillsboro, Oregon, joined on October 2, 2012. Ken retired from the U.S. Forest Service at the RO in Portland as Director of Fire, Fuels and Aviation for both the Pacific Northwest and Alaska regions on

December 31, 2011, after 43 years in the Forest Service, 32 of those in Region 6. As a student at the University of Montana from which he graduated with a B.S. degree in forestry with a minor in biometrics in 1970, Ken worked in trails and fire on the Clearwater National Forest, TSI and fire on the Lolo National Forest, and was a Missoula smokejumper. He earned a M.S. degree in forestry and biometrics at the University of Montana in 1978. In his professional Forest Service career, Ken pursued fuels quantification work at the Intermountain Research Station and the Pacific Northwest Research Station before joining the Region 6 RO where he was in fire management operations and planning and then Program Manager for Plant Ecology, Program Manager for Air Quality and Forest Insects and Disease, and Deputy Director for Fire, Fuels, and Aviation for the BLM and Forest Service before that final two-region assignment mentioned above.

## Memories

**Theola “Tee” Clarke** died June 18, 2012, at age 93. She was a PNWFSA member and widow of the late Edward Hugh “Ed” Clarke who died June 20, 2009 (*please see Fall 2009 OldSmokeys Newsletter, page 17*). Theola Mortvedt was born January 20, 1919, in Story City, Iowa, where she grew up. She met Ed at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, and his U.S. Forest Service career eventually brought them to the Pacific Northwest Region. Ed retired from the Forest Service in 1980, and he and Tee lived in Hood River, Oregon. After Ed’s death, Tee moved to Trout Lake, Washington, where their daughter Margaret lives, and later to Annandale, Virginia, where their daughter Pamela lives. Survivors include daughters Pamela Clarke Simpson and Margaret Clarke Jacobson; three grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

*Editor’s Note: Margaret Johnson recently informed PNWFSA of Tee’s death.*

**Otis W. “Pete” Foiles** died November 11, 2012, at age 98. He was a PNWFSA member. Pete was born February 16, 1914, in Kampsville, Illinois. He graduated from Loveland High School in Loveland, Colorado, and earned a B.S. degree in forestry at Colorado A&M (now Colorado State University) in Fort Collins, Colorado. Pete started his federal service career with the Civilian Conservation Corps doing forestry related jobs. After graduation from Colorado A&M, he accepted an appointment in the National Park Service at Crater Lake National Park. Pete married Bertha “Becky” Cowen in 1940; together they raised five children. In 1942 he transferred to the U.S. Forest Service and the nearby Butte Falls Ranger District, Rogue River National Forest; to accomplish this transfer, District Ranger Dick Tubman moved the Foiles’ possessions to Butte Falls in the district’s one-ton truck. Pete served on the Butte Falls and Union Creek ranger districts of the Rogue; as district ranger of the Wallowa Valley Ranger District, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, in Joseph, Oregon, and the Tonasket Ranger District, on the then-Chelan National Forest before it became the Okanogan National Forest, in Tonasket, Washington. Pete then served as Siuslaw National Forest recreation staff

officer in Corvallis, Oregon, where he drafted legislation that resulted in designation of the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area and Cape Perpetua Scenic Area, and then as recreation officer in the RO in Portland before he retired from his 43-year federal service career in 1976. Survivors include Becky, his wife of 72 years; daughter Elouise Mattox; sons Peter and Stephen; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**Leo John Hess** died October 7, 2012, at age 86. He was a PNWFSA member. Leo was born March 24, 1926, in Ashley, North Dakota. He was a career forester with the U.S. Forest Service for 37 years. Survivors include his son Tom, granddaughters and grandsons, great-granddaughters and great-grandsons, and a great-great-granddaughter.

*Editor’s Note: No further information was available at press time.*

**Robert Larsen** died November 6, 2012, at age 55. Robert was born August 16, 1957, in Vancouver, Washington, but lived most of his life in La Center, Washington, where he graduated from La Center High School in 1977. A quadriplegic since an October 1980 automobile accident, Robert worked as a U.S. Forest Service naturalist interpreter on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest and the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument for 15 years until 2007. Survivors include his mother, two brothers and three sisters.

**Richard Mark “Dick” Lemmon** died September 21, 2012, at age 86. He was a PNWFSA member. Dick was born August 26, 1926, in Baker, Oregon. Dick attended schools in Baker and graduated from Baker High School in 1944. Basketball was his favorite sport, and he played on the 1943 team that took second place in the state basketball tournament. He enjoyed summers at his Grandfather Lemmon’s cabin on Granite Boulder Creek. Dick joined the U.S. Navy’s naval aviation cadet program in March 1944, near the end of World War II, and was discharged in October 1945 at the end of the war. He went to work for the U.S. Forest Service that fall, and worked seasonally while he attended Oregon State College where he earned a degree in forestry in 1950. Thirty-three years in the Forest Service took Dick to various duty stations in Oregon including the Blue Mountain Ranger Station, Seneca, service as district ranger at Unity on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest and Pendleton on the Umatilla National Forest, and in the Region 6 RO in Portland. Dick married Mona Jean Mitchell in 1949 in the Salt Lake Temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Mona Jean died, and he married Dona Marie Jeffords in September 1976 in the Logan Temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He was an active member of the church and served in many capacities including a mission in Nigeria. In retirement, Dick enjoyed traveling to visit family, picking huckleberries and spending time at daughter Diane’s cabin., cutting wood and being in the mountains. Survivors include his wife, Dona; sons Andrew, Scott, Kevin, and John; daughters Rhonda Gardner, Elaine Fresh, Diana, and Jolene Simpson; 44 grandchildren; and 44 great-grandchildren.

**Anne Perkins** died June 20, 2011, at age 77. She was a PNWFSA member and wife of John B. Perkins. Anne Boulton



was born March 25, 1934, in Evanston, Illinois. She attended Albion College and graduated from Iowa State College. Anne married John in 1957, and his U.S. Forest Service career took the couple to Portland, Oregon; Methow Valley, Washington; Gold Beach, Oregon; Petaluma, California; Klamath Falls, Oregon; and after 1972 to Hoodspport and Lacey, Washington. Poet, homemaker, and teacher of piano and cello, Anne was artistic and adventurous. She loved canoeing, camping, family gatherings, and travel, and had a life-long association with Scouting and the United Methodist Church. She was a 50-year member of PEO, and a founding member of PEO Chapter GQ in Mason County, Washington. Survivors include John, her husband of 54 years; their sons Daniel and David; their daughter Ruth Huling; and five grandsons.

*Editor's Note: John recently informed PNWFSA of Anne's death.*

**James Leonard "Jim" Rhyno** died August 7, 2012, at age 74. Jim attended forestry school at Colorado Agricultural and Mechanical College in the 1950s and served in the U.S. Forest Service on the Rogue River National Forest, the Paulina Ranger District of the Ochoco National Forest, and the Naches Ranger District of the Wenatchee National Forest where he was the TSI technician. He retired from the Forest Service in 1994 and worked for a while at a Naches, Washington, hardware store. Survivors include a daughter, Michelle Spence, and a son Matthew.

*Provided to the OldSmokeys Newsletter by OldSmokey Charles M. Stansel.*

**Kenneth "Ken" Roberts** died December 14, 2012, at age 79. He was a PNWFSA member. Ken was born March 29, 1933, in Hoopa, California, a member of the Yurok Tribe. He grew up in Martins Ferry, attended the one-room Klamath River School, and graduated from Hoopa High School in 1950. Ken worked in the logging industry and, in September 1951, enlisted in the U.S. Air Force to serve in the Korean War. Assigned to Japan, he flew 25 combat missions over North Korea as a B-29 tail gunner. In his next assignment, he flew as an aerial refueling boom operator until honorably discharged in 1955. In December 1954, while in the Air Force, Ken married Betty Masten of Hoopa, California. Immediately after discharge from the Air Force, Ken used G.I. Bill benefits to begin college and earned a B.S. degree in forestry from Humboldt State College as a member of that college's first class of foresters to earn bachelor's degrees. Ken joined the U.S. Forest Service and worked on the Siuslaw and Willamette national forests before serving as district ranger on the Paulina Ranger District at the Ochoco National Forest's remote Rager Ranger Station and on the Estacada Ranger District, Mt. Hood National Forest. Following a tour as timber staff officer at the Umpqua National Forest SO in Roseburg, Oregon, Ken served as forest supervisor, Tongass National Forest Chatham Area, in Sitka, Alaska, where he retired in 1989. Following retirement, Ken and Betty settled in Redmond, Oregon, where he enjoyed wood turning and the area's many hunting and fishing opportunities and from which he managed a small family tree farm in California and he and Betty traveled to Hawaii and wintered in Arizona. Survivors include Betty; daughters Cynde Burfo and Korie Bartnik; and

four grandchildren.

**Robert Marshall "Bob" Romancier** died November 7, 2012, at age 77. He was a PNWFSA member. Bob was born June 12, 1935, in Springfield, Massachusetts. He spent his early years in Hartford, Connecticut, and Cushman, Massachusetts, just outside Amherst, and graduated from Amherst High School. Bob earned a B.S. degree in forestry at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and, on a full scholarship, a master's degree at Yale. He then married Mary Lou Armstrong, his first wife. A son and a daughter were born while he earned a Ph.D. in forest ecology at Duke University. Bob's U.S. Forest Service research career included his own research and guiding and directing the research of others. He was assistant director of the Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station in Portland, Oregon, from 1972 to 1974, then moved to Corvallis, Oregon, to direct the Station's laboratory there—the Forest Service's largest field laboratory. From 1980 to 1994, he was deputy director of the Northeastern Forest Research Station in Broomall, Pennsylvania. His family had remained in Oregon, and in 1992 he married his second wife, Glenda Faxon, then working in Seattle. From 1994 until he retired from the Forest Service in 1996, Bob was the Forest Service Research representative at the interagency Regional Ecosystem Office in Portland that provided support to the Northwest Forest Plan. After his retirement, Bob and Glenda settled in Redmond, Oregon. Survivors include his wife, Glenda; sons Rob Romancier, Peter Faxon, and Greg Faxon; and seven grandchildren.

**William David "Bill" Shenk** died October 18, 2012, at age 79. He was a PNWFSA member and recent president of the PNWFSA. Bill was born July 10, 1933, graduated from the University of Massachusetts with a B.S. degree in forestry in 1955, and began his 37-year U.S. Forest Service career two months later. "Bill believed strongly in the mandates and vision of the Forest Service," *The Columbian* of Vancouver, Washington, reported on October 25, 2012. "Protection of the headwaters of navigable streams, management of timber, wildlife, range lands and public use were never out of his vision. A long lean man with infinite energy, he grappled physically and intellectually with fire suppression throughout his career." That career, during which he alternated between administrative and fire control positions, took Bill to the Malheur, Fremont, Deschutes, and Colville national forests as well as to the Region 6 RO, the WO, and the National Advanced Resources Technology Center (NARTC) in Marana, Arizona. Bill Served as district ranger on the Lakeview Ranger District of the Fremont National Forest, deputy forest supervisor on the Deschutes National Forest, and forest supervisor on the Colville National Forest. He was a member of interregional fire overhead teams for about 30 years, serving as a line boss for most of them and as a fire boss (called "incident commander" more recently) for about five years before his forest supervisor appointment. Fire positions he held were as fire staff officer on the Deschutes National Forest, cooperative fire director for Region 6, fire equipment branch chief in the WO where he developed the National Fire Cache System, and director of the

National Fire School at Marana. Bill was a life member of the Society of American Foresters and joined the PNWFSA OldSmokeys—the Thirty-Year Club then—in 1983. He served as 2010 president of the PNWFSA. Bill had other loves. The Boston Red Socks were his team, skiing, golf, running, and weight training were his sports. A National Ski Patrol volunteer for 25 years, he remained on the rolls until his death. He golfed from his youth, and played a respectable 86 in one of his last games just weeks before his death. Above all, Bill was a good and diligent family man and an unusually even-tempered person. Survivors include his wife of 59 years Vicky; married daughters Diane Shenk and Karen Whitehead; married son Thom; and grandson Zachary Whitehead.

*Prepared from multiple sources including an October 25, 2012, obituary in The Columbian (Vancouver, Washington) and a profile in the Winter 2009 OldSmokeys Newsletter.*

**Jack B. Shumate** died December 17, 2011, at age 91. He was a PNWFSA member and also a member of the Pacific Southwest Region Amigos. Jack was a veteran of World War II. He enlisted in the U.S. Army with his Oregon State College ROTC unit and saw action in the European theater that included 129 days of continuous combat during the Battle of the Bulge. As a forestry student before the war, he worked as a U.S. Forest Service fire lookout on the Willamette National Forest. Jack returned to Oregon State after the war and graduated as a forester in 1948. His career in the Forest Service took him from his first assignment as a junior forester on the Sitgreaves National Forest through assignments on the Apache, Coronado, and Tonto national forests, all in Arizona, and the Region 3 RO in Albuquerque, New Mexico; the Internal Audit Unit at the Region 6 RO in Portland, Oregon; and then to a tour as head of that unit in the WO. Jack also served as forest supervisor of the Dixie National Forest in Utah, and in 1969 on loan to the U.S. Department of State's Agency for International Development (USAID) in the Republic of Vietnam as a team leader working with that country's forest service to create a wood products industry. Other assignments included the Region 4 RO Lands and Minerals Unit and a 1958 detail to the WO to help write the old yellow-paged fire handbook. Jack retired from the Forest Service in 1975 and moved to Mesa, Arizona, where he became active in the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) and served as president of the Mesa chapter of that organization for several years. Survivors include Avis, his wife of nearly 70 years; their sons Jon (a Forest Service retiree) and James; eight grandchildren (one also a forester); and 20 great-grandchildren.

*Editor's Note: Avis recently informed PNWFSA of Jack's death. Prepared from an entry in the April 2012 Southwest Forest Service Amigos.*

**Roy Earl Skelton** died October 25, 2012, at age 68. Roy was born in Wenatchee, Washington, in 1944, and moved to Leavenworth when he was six. As a boy, he loved to ski and play football. Roy graduated from Leavenworth High School, enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1964, and served in an armored division in Germany until he was honorably discharged in 1967. He married Mikie Stanphill in 1968, and they had two sons, Shane and Randy. A U.S. Forest Service firefighter, Roy

was in charge of the Rogue River Hotshots until he transferred to the Umatilla National Forest as Heppner Ranger District assistant fire management officer. Three years later, the family moved to Winthrop, Washington, where Roy served as fire management officer on the Winthrop Ranger District, Okanogan National Forest, from 1976 until he retired from the Forest Service in 1995. Roy's favorite thing to do was flying air attack on wildfires all over the United States. After retirement, he worked at other jobs, then became an electrician and ran his own business for 10 years. He loved hunting, fishing, and the outdoors. Survivors include his wife Mikie; sons Shane and Randy; and six grandchildren.

*Provided to the OldSmokeys Newsletter by OldSmokey Bob Devlin.*

**Bert Toler** died September 24, 2012, at age 86. He was a PNWFSA member. Bert was born September 6, 1926, in Glen Alum, West Virginia. After serving in the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1946, he earned a degree in forestry at West Virginia University in 1951. Bert served in the U.S. Forest Service in various positions in the state of Washington for about 30 years. After retirement, he moved to Dallas, Oregon, where he was active in the Kiwanis Club and Dallas United Methodist Church, was Dallas Food Bank volunteer, and belonged to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Masons, and Shriners. Survivors include Shela, his wife of 60 years; Kay Bertrand; Greg Toler; Shannon Toler; and five grandchildren.

*Provided to the OldSmokeys Newsletter by OldSmokey Lee Boeckstiegel.*

## Letters

### **Dale Farley** remembers Pete Foiles

Pete was my first district ranger when I was a junior forester on the Tonasket Ranger District of the Okanogan National Forest. Pete was a great model for us and I'll never forget him.

### **Jack Grubb** remembers Pete Foiles

My wife, Jo Ann, was born and raised in Loveland, Colorado, on a farm west of town. She remembers Pete Foiles as a student school bus driver. In those days, and at least until 1945, junior and senior high school students drove the school buses to the rural areas. Pete drove the bus Jo Ann rode on for a year or two. Jo Ann had an opportunity to reminisce with Pete a time or two while I was ranger at Hoodspout on the Olympic National Forest.

### **Elton Thomas** remembers Pete Foiles

In early 1976, I was selected by Stu Hanna to fill a group leader position in the Pacific Northwest Region RO in recreation. I came from the resource assistant position on the Diamond Lake Ranger District, Umpqua National Forest, where, living on the compound, one could walk a block to work. This changed, of course, with moving to Portland where my family and I settled in Aloha. The result was an hour bus ride each way from the park-and-ride. I had been in the new job several months when Pete came by my desk one day and suggested we take a stroll. He recognized that I was going through culture shock and needed a gentle hand on my shoulder and some fatherly advice (which he was more than able to provide on each account).

As we strode down the hall of the old RO, Pete was telling me that every now and then one needed to take a hike to clear the mind and put things in perspective. But, he cautioned, always make sure that you took along a handful of papers to make it look like you were on an important mission. We both got a chuckle out of that remark, just as we approached the elevator bank on the sixth floor. No sooner had Pete finished with his advice than the elevator door opened and the regional forester got off and marched down the hall toward his office carrying an armful of papers. Pete and I looked at one another and both broke out laughing. I'm sure the RF wondered what that was all about.

Pete was a great mentor and friend, as was his son Peter. I worked with him, too, on the Fremont National Forest. He truly represented all that was the best of the Forest Service, and I agree with Dale: He will be missed.

#### **Elton Thomas** *remembers Dick Lemmon*

I remember Dick Lemmon as a district ranger I wanted to emulate. I first met him the summer I graduated from high school while attending fire guard school at Sparta in 1961. It had been a CCC facility and the Forest Service set up wall tents for guard school. It took on an appearance of the historical CCC camp.

Dick taught map and compass. He was a good teacher and I borrowed heavily from his material as I taught the same course several years later up the Grande Ronde River at Mt. Emily's logging camp with my dad who was the La Grande District FMO. I remember how patient Dick was in helping young, gangly teenagers get their "pace" established from the base line he laid out.

He was definitely cut from the cloth that made the Forest Service so successful in small communities. He left an impression on me for the better.

#### **Bob Romancier** *remembered Elmer Moyer*

I was touched by the [Fall 2012 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*] **Letters** section memories of Elmer Moyer, and I want to contribute. Those who wrote identified Elmer as a solid citizen, one who saw what was needed and got it done with dispatch, grace, dignity and compassion. All true, but I remember Elmer also as an entertaining, witty friend who knew how to have fun!

Glenda and I accompanied OldSmokeys Elmer and Mary and also Glenn and Dot Cooper and Pat McCarthy on a 21-day European tour of 10 countries in the fall of 2000. Marvelous memories—the special one was of Elmer at a banquet in Rome where he put on a woman's hat and moved through the restaurant with a big [fake] rose in his teeth. The waiters who had been pinching every woman in our group of 29 honored Elmer with his very own *pinch!* We all howled. A different side of Elmer had appeared, and he entertained us at other times on the tour.

A few years later, on a Panama tour, Elmer, with a keen eye, was the first to identify a "Jesus Christ lizard" as it ran across the surface of a pool of water, and we had to believe him—we saw it, too.

I miss Elmer.

**Nick Nicholas** *remembers Jim Rhyno*

Jim Rhyno and I attended the Colorado A&M forestry summer camp at Pingree Park in 1956. His heart's desire was to be the district ranger on the Redfeather Ranger District, Roosevelt National Forest.

I'd see Jim from time to time when he was stationed at Union Creek Ranger Station on the Rogue River National Forest. Jim was a good guy.

#### **Vicky Shenk** *remembers her husband Bill*

Bill has moved on, but we remain. So we celebrate[d] Bill's great life, his joy and his happy demeanor as he would have wished, by gathering together [on October 27, 2012] to recall the times each of us had with him. We had good times, zany times, and moments we treasure. Some of our memories go back many, many years, and others were just a few sweet moments ago. For many of us he was special: a jubilant example of what life can offer if we but dare. For others he was dependable and steady, a loyal friend, buddy, co-worker, leader, boss, or employee. Did he walk on water? No! But he sure floated well and could splash even better. On his beloved forests he walked his talk, though he often used rather colorful language as he moved up the trail.... It occurs to me that when one travels a radiant path, as he did, of course you would use colorful words to frame the journey.

As for me—for a first time the wonder and power of words fails me. I have often thought that we can share the world with those incredible symbols of thoughts and disclosure.... Today, dear friends, they cannot succeed.

Just remember, with me and our children and their families, how he lived large, laughed long, and loved much.

Please keep in touch. I will need to know that you are still in my world.

#### **Mike Ash** *remembers Bill Shenk*

Bill Shenk had a great career with the Forest Service, and following retirement was an active OldSmokey and recent president of our organization.

He fought a courageous battle with cancer. Those who made it to the [May 20, 2012] banquet recall that Bill and Vicky showed up to a standing ovation from all of us who knew the tough fight they had been waging.

#### **John & Susan Butruille** *remember Bill Shenk*

We have lost a good friend in Bill Shenk. We worked with and socialized with Bill and Vicky from coast to coast. John first met Bill at fire training in Arizona, and we had the good fortune of being in R-6 and the WO at the same time. We have many wonderful memories as part of the Forest Service gang living in Aloha in the 1970s. Bill was liked for his skills and sense of humor on and off the job. He and Vicky made a great team. We will miss him.

#### **Al Gano** *remembers Bill Shenk*

We always enjoyed Bill and hope he will always be remembered.

#### **Allen Gibbs** *remembers Bill Shenk*

Bill Shenk contributed to my public affairs career path.

Bill essentially had no forest PAO, although the Colville National Forest had a couple good people at the Spokane infor-



mation center which was partially paid for by Region 6 and Region 1. Bill wanted a PAO to help him.

He hatched out a zoned PAO plan with Bill McLaughlin who wanted to advance me to a GS-12. In those days we had home delivery of the *Spokesman-Review* in the Okanogan Valley towns, and our only TV stations were Spokane stations. Paul Hart at Wenatchee had a similar situation although folks on cable had Seattle and Spokane TV stations. Both Paul and I wanted to get more coverage for our forests out of Spokane, so Shenk's proposal seemed worthwhile and McLaughlin thought it a way to justify my getting a 12.

The zone deal didn't produce desired results. I was on the road a lot to Spokane and Colville, and to Seattle. The Okanogan forest plan and Early Winters ski resort required me to work press and externals in Seattle and north Puget Sound. [These were] obviously two very different news media markets and different conservation/recreation externals, and the two external groups were often not in agreement with each other about national forest issues.

Bill Shenk worked closely with me, and when he met with Spokane news media folks, they liked him. I learned a lot about the Colville country which meant northern Idaho country, too. [It was] easy to work with Congressman Tom Foley's folks out of Spokane, as Foley's district included all and later part of Okanogan County.

Thanks to Bill Shenk, when the opportunity came to apply for the Idaho Panhandle National Forests PAO job in 1987, I knew the Spokane externals and press, [and] I knew quite a lot about northern Idaho Forest Service operations. Bill Morden hired me, and from there I went to the WO.

[It was] one of those times when unexpected consequences proved to be beneficial. Wouldn't have happened were it not for Bill Shenk wanting his own PAO.

Looking at Bill Shenk's photo, I'm reminded how similar in face and style to that of Bill Morden. I remember when meeting Bill Morden for my interview, I wondered if they were related. As I later learned, they both enjoyed golf. They had both asked me if I played golf. I said, "I took golf in college." The responses were the same. "You drive the cart."

#### **Phil Hirl** *remembers Bill Shenk*

I was sorry to hear that [Bill Shenk died on October 18, 2012]. Bill was a good guy, and it was good to see him and Vicky at our [May 20, 2012] banquet.

I enjoyed Bill as a forest supervisor [on the] Colville National Forest. He often went to the field with us engineers. Think I golfed with him a time or two there. He was a better man than I; then, most are.

And he was a good OldSmokey. He had a good year as our president.

#### **Ron Ketchum** *remembers Bill Shenk*

Bill Shenk is one of the longest acquaintances I have over my Forest Service career.

I first met him on the Volcano fire on the Tahoe National Forest in 1960. He was a sector boss on a division led by Emil Sabol and I was Emil's line scout. He was enjoying himself immensely, as he did almost everything he took part in.

He preceded me as TMA on the Prairie City Ranger District of the Malheur National Forest, and I was able to build on things he started in administering the infamous Hines land-for-timber exchange.

When I left there for the Sisters Ranger District ranger job, there was Bill as fire staff officer on the Deschutes National Forest, where we were able to work on many projects together. I was also in the plans organization of this Class I fire team.

In the latter part of our careers we were both on the Regional Management Team for a number of years.

Prior to our retirements, Dave Alexander and I put on a team-building for his Colville National Forest team.

The last time I talked to him was at the OldSmokeys picnic in August. I'm thankful for those few last minutes.

During all that time, I can't recall a time when he was anything but upbeat. I'm sure he had down times, but he never exhibited them to me.

I will miss him.

#### **John Marker** *remembers Bill Shenk*

[Bill Shenk's death] is indeed sad news and brings all kinds of memories to an aging mind.

My relationship with Bill was from our association in fire. I think our first contact was in 1970 when the Wenatchee National Forest was involved in major fires. Bill and I met over the phone, as I remember, getting Porterville crews to Moses Lake from Bakersfield's Meadows Field on charter jets. Our introduction on the phone was quick but we had instant rapport and arranged for 20 crews to arrive in Washington in something like two hours from liftoff.

Later Bill and I worked together in the "Home Office" in the Fire & Aviation Management shop and enjoyed visiting about our current and past experiences in fire. And then we both retired in Region 6 and had even more stories to share.

Bill was the quality of person that, in my opinion, is not found in great numbers in today's outfit. He was a top hand and one I would like to be with when things go south on a fire.

They are not making people like Bill in great numbers these days, which is sad for us and the future of the national forests. Bless him and Vicky; those of us who knew him were the lucky ones.

#### **Ted Stubblefield** *remembers Bill Shenk*

Bill's warm big smile will long be remembered! What an optimist; he encouraged us all when times were tough.

Even when he was sitting in a chair at the last "Sextant gathering," just a shadow of himself from what he'd been through, his smile stretched across the deck to all of us and I'll always remember him in that way.

Great friend for 30 years.

#### **Ted Yarosh** *remembers Bill Shenk*

Bill Shenk and I go back to the National Ski Patrol days at Bachelor Butte—oops! Mt. Bachelor, these days. Don Peters, Bud Ball, and others were with us then, too. I remember Bill just as a lot of others have described him. My best memory of Bill is his gracefulness on the ski slopes. Wow! He could ski and bring the akia down so smoothly with a hurt skier inside. I

have not seen Bill for many years, but my memory of him is strong. He was the greatest!

**Connie Franz** *remembers Bill Shenk*

I agree with everything every person has said [about Bill Shenk. He was] a terrific person. I will miss him.

Bill helped me a lot on my first procurement job on a class one fire team.

I also remember going to the Colville National Forest when he was the forest supervisor, I think. We were on the sidewalk outside the office, and he had a golf club in hand and said he was going golfing over there as he pointed toward the mountains. I said perhaps before he went golfing he would want to check on an apparent fire in the trees he had just pointed to. About that time a horn blasted away at the office, and all he said was “It is a fire! Help us out...! I said OK, naturally, and ran into the office to set up a procurement team to see what equipment was available from loggers, etc. We had a fairly new contracting officer and I don’t know that she had worked on a fire; I don’t think so, but we got things moving, and fast!

Bill was on the run, and put his golf clubs away for another time.

**Dave Kolb** *remembers Bert Toler*

Bert and I attended forestry classes at West Virginia University and came West for summer jobs as undergraduates.

I was a year ahead of Bert and graduated in 1950. My wife, Jane, grew up in Morgantown, West Virginia. We married in 1950, but didn’t move to Oregon until 1951 because Jane had promised to work for two years as a home economist. The forestry school didn’t have graduate courses at the time, so I earned an M.S. in botany.

Jane and I along with Bert and a classmate all had temporary jobs on the Umpqua National Forest. Bert and his friend went back to school in September. Jane and I stayed on and I was hoping to get a permanent appointment before my temporary expired. It came through in late October. [Dave retired in 1980.]

I’m sorry to hear of Bert’s passing and will miss him. At my age each passing of a friend and colleague is a reminder of our own mortality!

**Jerry Wojack** *remembers Bert Toler*

I was sorry to hear about the passing of Bert. I worked with Uncle Bert (as I called him) for years as his assistant service chief on a Region 6 fire overhead team. He was my mentor and a man I deeply respected.

You could say he taught me all I know to become a logistics chief for one of Region 6’s national teams. I remember all those fires, long hours and days, local and political pressures, logistic problems, etc., and I cannot remember once Uncle Bert losing his cool. He was always there to help the team and me attain our objectives and keep our cools. He taught me to look ahead and anticipate potential problems and fire needs and do what was necessary to solve or avoid them.

In the fire team critique meetings, he was always constructive in his review of the team’s action...during the fire... He shouldered the responsibility for any of the service section’s failures and/or problems, but gave credit and/or praise to members of his section or team who deserved it.

I will miss Uncle Bert, but I will never forget the many mornings I woke him up in fire camps with hot coffee and him lighting his first cigarette.

**Benny Parmele** *remembers “The Ochoco Gang” pictured on page 30 of the Fall 2012 OldSmokeys Newsletter*

I remember Cranston Fosburg [as] district ranger on the Snow Mountain Ranger District. He was out in the field about all the time. In the spring he counted the ranchers’ cattle into the forest. And in the fall he would help gather the cattle. He loved to ride his horse. He also went out to help the crews pile slash or whatever. He hired me in 1955. A great man to work for.

I also remember Sam Miller. He was fire control officer on the Snow Mountain Ranger District, my boss, and fun to work with. I learned a lot from Sam. He worked with the slash crew and with the [indecipherable] on the logging skid tracks. If I remember right he was a co-pilot in a B-17...over Germany. He said the crew he trained with in the U.S. was lucky and all came home together. Sometimes when they landed they had holes in the plane that you could see through.

Bob Snell was the timber officer on the Snow Mountain Ranger District. He would lay out places for the crews to thin out small trees and places to prune trees, and if there was a fire Bob got [the site] ready to plant trees. He would work with the crew to plant the trees. He was the photographer on the district and forest and was real good. In those days everyone worked as a team. One day he found a nice lady. He was so happy [he] was like an 18-year-old. It was good to see them together, and they did get married. He was fun to work with.

Cal Weissenfluh was the district ranger on the Snow Mountain Ranger District in the 1960s. Cal was a people person. He liked to work with the crew [and] was fun to work with. He came up with a very good idea to keep the fish alive in Delintment Lake. So Cal, I, and two crew members put up a windmill (about 12 feet tall) and ran a hose out in the lake. That winter the lake froze over, but where the hose ran it didn’t freeze. The next summer [we] had some nice fish.

**Betty & Zane Smith** *comment on PNWFSA and NAFSR*

We are so pleased with the benefits associated with PNWFSA and its superb *OldSmokeys Newsletter*. They provide the networking and information we want and enjoy. Thanks to all those who tirelessly devote so much time and effort to keeping our organization going. It is unmatched compared to all the other organizations we belong to.

It is our wish that every OldSmokey will join us in becoming a member of the National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR), our national organization dedicated to supporting our programs for the National Forest System, Forest Research, and State and Private Forestry. We need your strength added to the fine work of NAFSR to continue the mission, values, and traditions which have marked our Forest Service history. Those who have followed us continue the dedication and professionalism that made us what we are today. They need our support during these times of urbanization, changing challenges, economic crisis, and at times political non-support. Your presence can make a difference.

**Tom & Kitty Thompson** *thank OldSmokeys who*

*attended “Rendezvous in the Rockies”*

Thanks to all you OldSmokeys who made it to our Rendezvous in the Rockies. It was a special time and you all made it very special, indeed [“Especially the hospitality suite!”—Kitty].

As some of you know, I’m being treated again for my leukemia. Things are lined up for a stem cell transplant probably in early December. We have a good match! Thanks for all your prayers and special thoughts!

*Editor’s Note: This is a November 2012 note. Watch for updates in your OldSmokeys E-Notes and Newsletter.*

**Bill Ciesla** *comments on “Rendezvous in the Rockies”*

Pat and I saw lots of former colleagues and friends at the Rendezvous in the Rockies reunion in Vail. It was a great event.

**Bob Blakey** *comments on Columbus Day Storm article in Fall 2012 OldSmokeys Newsletter*

This article is an excellent account [of the Columbus Day Storm of 1962] and a special perspective from some of the Forest Service people working in the most affected areas and a special part of the storm’s history. Very well done.

**Walt Furen** *comments on OldSmokeys Newsletter*

Always enjoy my latest issue to help keep track of workmates and acquaintances from my 1958-1966 R-6 days on the Fremont, Willamette, and Umpqua national forests. Letters are great and love the group photos and searching for familiar names and faces. There are many! Thanks.

**Rita Glazebrook** *comments on Elmer Moyer article and fund*

Thank you for the stories about the late Elmer Moyer and for naming the emergency fund in his honor and memory.

I am sending in a contribution to the Fund which has helped so many people over its history.

Thank you [PNWFSA Board of Directors] for all you have done and are doing to keep the Association viable.

**Carl Hickerson** *enjoys Uncle Sam’s Cabins articles in OldSmokeys Newsletters*

I enjoy “Uncle Sam’s Cabins” articles. My wife and I spent our newlywed summer at Northfork Guard Station on the Clackamas River in 1949. And I spent the 1950 summer in the 1905 log cabin at Bagby Hot Springs, a 14-mile drive from Oak Grove Station. Bobbie was in California having our son in June 1950. I opened a couple hundred miles of trail and rebuilt the No. 9 phone line to Thunder Mountain Lookout and to Bagby that spring and summer. Wonderful years!

**Robert Lease** *comments on the “new” sagebrush rebellion*

While in eastern Oregon I picked up a cap. On the front is a lookalike emblem of the Forest Service shield encompassed in a red circle with a slash across. Needless to say local opinion of the Forest Service is not good.

The primary reason is the proposal to close a large portion of forest roads which the locals use to access hunting camps and for woodcutting, mushroom hunting, or just riding their motorcycles, four-wheelers, etc. Feelings are running pretty high. So far two forest supervisors have been “transferred.” The first developed the [transportation management] “plan”

and left the signing to his replacement, who left the Forest Service soon after arriving on the job. It reminds me of the “sagebrush rebellion” several years ago which I think was over the same issue.

**Dick Spray** *comments on fire response times*

A friend and I took an early September backpacking trip into Table Lake and Hole-in-the-Wall Park. We had a lot of discussion of “fire” since we were exposed to the results of the B&B Fire to our east.

Last year a PCT thru-hiker who was resuming his trip to Canada from Santiam Pass took a photo of the Shadow Lake Fire just ten minutes after it was officially reported by the Black Butte Lookout. He thought nothing of it since he expected the Forest Service “shock and awe” of jumpers and air retardant and helicopter water drops would quickly put it out. It was very small. I understand it grew to 10,000 acres and cost \$10 million to fight.

Slow response has been a hallmark on the Sisters Ranger District for at least the last ten years.

It would seem that a return to the 10 a.m. policy might be appropriate.

**Sheryl & Greg Bowman** *check in from Eugene, Oregon*

We have spent most of the year in Eugene. We went to Mazatlan, Mexico, last February and again in June to finalize our purchase of a condo on Cerritos Beach. We will only be there part-time as I [Sheryl] can’t leave family in Oregon and Washington for very long!

**Fern Nilsen** *checks in from Milwaukee, Wisconsin*

I enjoy being a member of other Forest Service retiree associations. Their newsletters are well done and provide family togetherness with other regions.

Greetings from R-9 Retirees Association. We are beginning our 30<sup>th</sup> year.

*Editor’s Note: Fern is president emeritus of the Region 9 retiree association.*

**Sheila & Ken Till** *check in from Fort Collins, Colorado*

Sheila retired from the Rocky Mountain Research Station in December 2012 after 31 years with the U.S. Forest Service. Ken and Sheila planned to retire to Lake Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, to join family. It has been a great career with the Forest Service working in Region 6 for many years in fire management and also with both the Corvallis Lab at Oregon State University as well as the Pacific Northwest Research Station in Seattle.

We came to Fort Collins and the Rocky Mountain Research Station via the Albuquerque Service Center as we spent time in New Mexico. As budget director for the Rocky Mountain Research Station, I’ll miss all those people I’ve worked with in the seven intermountain states and at all the research labs. Not retiring, but doing something else for the next chapter in my life, as I’m looking for both consulting and a small business of my own.

The Forest Service family has been great over the years.

**Letters** *is the section of your OldSmokeys Newsletter for sharing thoughts and feelings. Please send ‘em in.*



## Books

### Elizabeth Canfield Flint's 1943 *The Pine Tree Shield* is Amazingly Relevant to Today's U.S. Forest Service

By Les Joslin



Any OldSmokey lucky enough to get hold of and read Elizabeth Canfield Flint's *The Pine Tree Shield: A Novel Based on the Life of a Forester* will live her fictionalized true story of her husband Howard R. Flint's career in the early years of the U.S. Forest Service and find many of the challenges he faced then similar to those faced by the outfit today.

"Aside from using fictionalized names of most characters, the events are actual," Chris Jewett, one of the author's grandchildren, said of this "novel" on March 17, 2010. The main character, Hugh Kent, is really Howard Flint, whose Forest Service career took him and the author from national forests in the Great Lakes states during the outfit's earliest years to those in the Rocky Mountain states as it struggled toward maturity. Characters ranging from Gifford Pinchot to mountain aviation pioneers Bob and Dick Johnson appear as themselves. Others, such as a regional forester dubbed Dudley readers who know their Forest Service history will recognize as Major Evan W. Kelley, have been changed. But the facts of the story, and Flint's role in it, are just that—historical fact.

Flint's role? Howard Flint spent his more than quarter-century Forest Service career—cut short by death in the line of duty—as an innovative forester and researcher, district ranger, forest supervisor, and regional forest inspector striving to build what readers of this review would expect me to call "an agency to match the mountains" and sometimes taking moral or political stances in direct conflict with official Forest Service policy in the process.

As supervisor of the Kaniksu National Forest, for example, Flint proved a true leader. "Hugh understands our problems," one of the rangers said to [the author] one night, 'sees what we've done,' then added with a grimace, 'What we've left undone, too. It's what we need. A fellow does a better job out in the hills when he thinks someone's going to see it, especially who realizes what he's put into it.'" Flint realized, the author noted, because he'd served "a long apprenticeship."

That leadership and his fire expertise led Forest Supervisor Flint in 1918 to plan and man for the 1919 fire season—which proved "a standard by which other fire years were to be measured for many years"—in a way disapproved of by the penny-wise but pound-foolish district (regional after 1930) and Washington offices. He faced a still-current problem: "Congress will make up any deficit, if it runs into millions, to put out forest fires, while it haggles over hundreds to keep them from getting started," Flint observed. "It's hell to have a job to do and be hamstrung so you can't do it." He did it his way anyway, and saved the Kaniksu from the worst ravages of that 1919 fire season visited on less-prepared forests including the neighbor-

ing Pend Oreille National Forest.

His reward? A Forest Service driven to cut costs closed his Kaniksu supervisor's office and lumped it with the Pend Oreille. "Since we made such a good record, the brass hats figure that the Kaniksu doesn't have a fire problem, that it's the Pend Oreille that's the fire forest, so they're going to take our fellows over there and let that organization run the Kaniksu as a side issue, apparently. I am to be dumped into the Missoula office...." Flint explained to the author. He and his rangers took the lumps. "The longer I stay in the Forest Service the greater my respect grows for the great body of its men and the more my respect wanes for the overhead handling of the personnel."

Transferred to the district office in Missoula as an inspector, Flint made the best of "getting farther and farther from the field" in innovative ways that made a lasting difference in the field. This soon took him to the two-week November 1921 national conference on fire control convened at Mather Air Field near Sacramento, California, by Chief Forester William B. Greeley. All seven districts (regions since 1930) were represented by virtually all the Forest Service's leaders and brightest minds at this first national conference held by the Forest Service on any topic.

Flint made the most of those Missoula years. During the last decade of his life and career, from 1925 to 1935, he and Forest Service pilot Nick Mamer pioneered aerial imagery mapping and aerial firefighting activities in what is now the Northern Region.

Throughout the ups and downs of their Forest Service career, the Flints were faithful to the outfit and its mission as they bounced from assignment to assignment and station to station. "Home was where Hugh and the flag were," the author wrote of their ranger station life. "It might be silly, sentimental, but I miss the flag," she told her husband when promotions brought moves to towns. "I want the children to grow up under it...."

It's a shame Mrs. Flint's account of Flint's wisdom and courage is no longer available and apparently no longer known or valued. The copy of *The Pine Tree Shield* for which I successfully bid just six bucks at the silent auction at the September 2012 Forest Service reunion in Vail, Colorado, was stamped "Property of the U.S. Forest Service R-6" and then stamped "No longer needed" with a written "Discard" notation. Wrong! This book and its message are sorely needed by today's Forest Service. Along with the current edition of Pete Steen's *The U.S. Forest Service: A History* it would be required reading in any "History and Literature of the U.S. Forest Service" course I would design for any entry-level forest officer candidate school—be it one-week, one-month, or three months in duration—conducted by any version of the proposed U.S. Forest Service Academy that should sooner rather than later prepare future Forest Service leaders. It would have to be reprinted, of course. But that's relatively simple. I did it with John Riis' 1937 book *Ranger Trails*.

In the meantime, since *The Pine Tree Shield*—published in 1943 by Doubleday, Doran & Co., Inc., Garden City, New York—is long out of print, prospective readers have to look hard for a copy. A very few copies are available from online

used book dealers at prices that range from about \$50.00 to \$100.00 or more.

I can't believe my luck! Many thanks to OldSmokey **Dave Scott** who rescued and later donated the "no longer needed" and "discarded" copy I bid on at the reunion.

## **Brinda Sarathy Explores *Pineros: Latino Labor and the Changing Face of Forestry in the Pacific Northwest***

The exploitation of Latino workers in many industries, from agriculture and meat packing to textile manufacturing and janitorial services, is well known. By contrast, pineros— itinerant workers Professor Brinda Sarathy says form the backbone of the forest management labor force on United States federal land— toil in obscurity. That's the author's premise.

Drawing on government papers, media accounts, and interviews with federal employees and Latino forest workers in Oregon's Rogue Valley, Sarathy in *Pineros: Latino Labor and the Changing Face of Forestry in the Pacific Northwest* investigates how the federal government came to be one of the single largest employers of Latino labor in the Pacific Northwest. She documents Pinero wages, working conditions, and benefits in comparison with those of white loggers and tree planters, exposing exploitation that, she argues, is the product of an ongoing history of institutionalized racism, fragmented policy, and intra-ethnic exploitation in the West. To overcome this legacy, Sarathy offers a number of proposals to improve the visibility and working conditions of pineros and provide them with a stronger voice in immigration and forestry policy-making.

According to the University of British Columbia Press which published *Pineros* in January 2012, "This vividly drawn account fills many gaps in our understanding of forest management in the Pacific Northwest, making clear that true environmental justice must take into account not only stewardship of forests, but also the treatment of the people who work in them."

Brinda Sarathy, Ph.D., is Assistant Professor of Environmental Analysis at Pitzer College in Claremont, California, and her research on pineros has been supported by grants from the Ford Foundation, the Rural Sociological Society, the Morris K. Udall Foundation, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

*Editor's Note:* *Pineros: Latino Labor and the Changing Face of Forestry in the Pacific Northwest* was published by the University of British Columbia Press in hardcover (ISBN 9780774821131) on January 25, 2012, at \$85.00 and in paperback (ISBN 9780774821148) on July 1, 2012, at \$32.95. Probably the best way to order this book is from Amazon.com that lists it online for \$94.00 in hardcover and \$35.95 in paperback and also makes it available on Kindle.

Prepared from a University of British Columbia Press website, Brinda Sarathy's fact sheet at <<http://bsarathy.com>>, and the Amazon.com website.

--Les Joslin

**Books** invites readers' reviews, too. Please send them in!



## ***Uncle Sam's Cabins***

### **Big Elk Guard Station**

#### **Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, Oregon**

With a history that dates back to 1907, Big Elk Guard Station is the oldest continuously used U.S. Forest Service administrative site on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest.

The Forest Service built the current station cabin in 1929. A garage built by the Civilian Conservation Corps was added in 1938. Forest guards and fire crews lived in and worked from it each summer for over half a century as they built and maintained trails, prevented and fought forest fires, and did other work in this corner of the old Ashland Ranger District.

This log structure is located on the same spot as an earlier guard station, a small two-room log cabin built in 1907 that was the first Forest Service structure built on what was then the Crater National Forest, became the Rogue River National Forest, and is now the lumped Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest. The current cabin is the last remaining example of Forest Service log construction on the Rogue River-Siskiyou, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Now a recreation resource, the fully furnished Big Elk Guard Station is available for rent from May 20 through October 31. The cost is \$50 per night for a maximum of six occupants. The maximum length of stay is seven consecutive nights. For reservations call 1-877-444-6777 or visit <[www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)>.

*Editor's Note:* Big Elk Guard Station is just off Forest Road 37, the main access route through the east side of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest. To get there from the Medford area and Interstate Highway 5, take Oregon Highway 140 east from White City to the junction with Forest Road 37; from the Klamath Falls area and U.S. Highway 97, take Oregon Highway 140 west to the junction with Forest Road 37. Turn on to Forest Road 37 and drive south about four miles to the guard station driveway. Turn left and travel through the gate to the station.

Prepared from the Big Elk Guard Station National Register of Historic Places nomination, Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest and ReserveAmerica websites, and information gathered during personal visit. U.S. Forest Service photo.



## Out of the Past

### Late OldSmokey Evan Jones Painted Joe Graham’s Historic Cabin at Clackamas Lake Ranger Station

*As related to Les Joslin by Lois and Valeri Jones*

As sons of pioneer U.S. Forest Service ranger Ira E. Jones, the late OldSmokey **Evan Jones** and his brother Forrest were born to be the Forest Service foresters they became.

And, after he retired from the Forest Service in 1972, Evan discovered he was an artist. That happened when he attended an art class with a friend who didn’t want to be “the only man in the class.”

Among his paintings are the one of pioneer Ranger Joe Graham’s original Clackamas Lake Ranger Station log cabin built in 1906, shown at right, and another of the one-room, log Camp Sherman School building in which his bride Lois taught grades one through eight beginning while he was a forester on the Sisters Ranger District, Deschutes National Forest.

Evan and Lois met after both had served in the armed forces during World War II, Evan an Oregon State College forester away from the Forest Service to serve in the U.S. Army Air Corps and Lois away from her native Garden City, Kansas, and Oregon State studies to serve in the U.S. Navy as a hospital corpsman.

Back in Oregon at the University of Oregon in 1946 after being discharged from the Navy, Lois met Evan through his sister with whom she had taken skiing lessons at Camp Sherman. Shortly thereafter, even though she hadn’t graduated from college, Lois was offered the teaching job at Camp Sherman near Sisters and Evan. She took the job in September 1947, and they married in November. With the cooperation and encouragement of Evan and their son and daughter, Lois later graduated from the University of Oregon and earned a teaching certificate.

Evan’s career took them to many assignments. While district ranger on the Mt. Hood National Forest’s old Collawash Ranger District, he had occasion to visit Joe Graham’s old cabin at Clackamas Lake Ranger Station. The photograph at right shows District Ranger Jones and his district clerk, Doug Verdery, on the cabin’s front porch in December 1959. Evan knew retired Ranger Graham who lived in Sisters.

After Evan retired and discovered art, he painted places important to him and in his life. One of these was the Camp Sherman schoolhouse in which Lois had taught. That painting hangs in the home Lois and their daughter Valeri share in Bend.

Another was Graham’s log cabin. Evan donated that painting to the Forest Service, and until recently it hung in the visitor center the historic Clackamas Lake Ranger Station office building became.

*Editor’s Note: Many thanks to OldSmokey **Lois Jones** and her daughter Valeri for sharing the story of Evan Jones’ post-Forest Service years as an artist.*



*Evan Jones’ painting of Joe Graham’s 1906 log cabin once hung in the visitor center at historic Clackamas Lake Ranger Station.*

*Photograph by Les Joslin*



*District Ranger Evan Jones, Collawash Ranger District, Mt. Hood National Forest, and District Clerk Doug Verdery stayed at Joe Graham’s original Clackamas Lake Ranger Station log cabin in December 1959.*

*Photograph by William Rines*



## The Way We Were



Left to right: Kent Mays, Bob Romancier, Joe Brennan, Jack Koning, John Wharry, and Warren Yeend at McKenzie Bridge Ranger Station in 1955.

## McKenzie Bridge Ranger Station Seasonal Crew Members in 1955

By Bob Romancier

Three future OldSmokeys—**Kent Mays, Bob Romancier, and Joe Brennan**—were among the six seasonal crew members Wayne T. Swank photographed outside the mess hall at McKenzie Bridge Ranger Station, Willamette National Forest, in 1955.

Somehow these future OldSmokeys lined up one, two, and three from left to right in Wayne’s photograph. Kent was foreman of the fire suppression crew. I was fire lookout on Olallie Mountain. Joe was fire lookout on Horsepasture Mountain.

The other three are Jack Koning, fire lookout on Indian Ridge; John Wharry, a member of the trail crew; and Warren Yeend, a member of the fire suppression crew.

Working as the fire lookout on Olallie Butte, Mt. Jefferson to my south and Mt. Hood to my north, was a great summer’s experience for me, a kid from Massachusetts. I shared Olallie with a mountain lion. His tracks covered mine on two occasions. And I had a face-to-face encounter with a black bear. We ran in opposite directions. I think he moved slower than I did. The only smoke I saw that 1955 season I saw when visiting Joe on Horsepasture Mountain Lookout. He was a good friend.

I went on to a career in Forest Service Research.

Wayne Swank, from West Virginia and a fine friend indeed, became a very famous forest scientist who mostly worked on the Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory watersheds in North Carolina.

*Editor’s Note: Bob died on November 7, 2012, about a week after completing this article (please see **Memories** on page 21). Bob visited his “still standing...well, leaning” Olallie Mountain Lookout two years ago with his son Rob and his family. It’s “only a five-mile hike each way now,” he reported.*

## My First Forest Service Job

### How Much Can You Learn in Two Months?

By Kathy Manning Geyer

After waiting several months to hear if I were going to get the U.S. Forest Service job I had applied for, I got impatient and went to the Region 6 RO Lands and Minerals Group to find out what was taking so long. I met with a very patient and tactful gentleman named Mel Suchy who explained the job of and qualifications for a GS-12 mining engineer. About half way through the conversation I decided I probably was not qualified. So we talked about my qualifications straight out of college with little experience. It turned out to be a very fruitful afternoon because the Ochoco National Forest was looking for someone to inventory rock bound mineral deposits across the forest and I knew something about the geology and mineral deposits of the Ochoco Mountains. Mel and I had a couple chuckles about that interview many years later.

So, in September 1971, I took a two-month GS-7 temporary job working on the Ochoco National Forest for George Franz. I was to survey and map agate and thunderhead beds across a 200 square mile area. George was a very thoughtful man with an understanding and caring attitude. He had never had a professional woman or a geologist before and said so. He was straightforward about what the forest wanted and what he expected as a final product. He started my Forest Service career off perfectly when he told me that, if he couldn’t find a technical word that appeared in my report in Webster’s dictionary, I should not use it. It wasn’t that he didn’t appreciate my professional expertise; it was he wanted to understand what I was telling him. Throughout my career as a Forest Service geologist, George’s words rang true. If a recon forester, a road engineer, or a district ranger couldn’t understand my “geology-ese,” they wouldn’t pay attention to what I said and I wouldn’t be very helpful. I did find that learning “engineering-ese” and something about logging systems came in real handy! Language is really important. It can make or break communication.

My first couple days in the SO in Prineville, Oregon, were spent getting acquainted with the Forest Service way of doing things. George had me meet with people who helped me with timesheets and other administrative procedures. He introduced me to the radio system I would use daily. George was concerned about my safety and stressed I was to check in daily if not back by 5:00 p.m. when the office closed. At the time I dismissed this as nice, but not necessary, since I’d spent a lot of time alone in the field before that job.

Next, I spent about a week working out how to cover this large area in about six to seven weeks before mid-November snows. I had to cover about six square miles each day and travel long distances to and from the field. George insisted I make a plan for every day that included routes out and back. After a week of that, I was ready for some field geology! September and October are wonderful in the Ochocos, and I had a

fabulous time driving and hiking those mountains. By the end of October, the weather was colder and wetter.

### *Five learning experiences*

I recall five memorable learning experiences that fall. Fortunately, none involved any injuries to my vehicle or me. But each was a test of my alertness, patience, and problem-solving skills!

I suppose everyone has a first experience making a corduroy road because of getting a truck too far into a wet meadow. Because I was on a two-month temporary appointment, I was using my own vehicle, a turquoise 1969 Datsun pickup. It was a wonderful vehicle for me because it was small, light in weight, and had a place I could throw rocks in the back. I spent one afternoon figuring out how to get it unstuck in a meadow. You'd expect the Ochocos to be dry in late September. Not all of it was dry! Never again in my 30-year Forest Service career did I make corduroy road.

In my six-square-mile-a-day surveys I drove every possible road to access as much area as I could. That meant I traveled the not-so-traveled dirt roads frequently, in and out of ravines and across streams and meadows. My next learning experience involved the too-dry dust pocket. The narrow road wandered through the forest, then turned and went down a short slope into a draw and across a creek. No problems there. I'd driven a number of this type of road. I finished surveying and had to go back the way I'd come. I took a running start to get up the short slope, at the bottom of which was a stretch of thick dust. I hit that stretch, and it was like trying to get traction on silk. My momentum ceased. In numerous tries I could not make it up the slope because of the dust. I had to resort to calling for help on the radio. After that radio exchange I was determined to never again get myself into a situation in which I had to tell the rest of the forest what a stupid mistake I'd made!

My next adventure had to do with a tank trap, wheel base, and vehicle clearance. I really did not want to hike into a large area to check out a couple rock formations I'd seen on aerial photos, so decided to cross a dirt barrier constructed to stop vehicle traffic. That was a mistake. Half over the barrier my pickup and I were jerked to a stop on the top. I could tell I had three wheels touching the ground before I got out. A quick assessment told me it was time for a coffee break; this was going to take some time! I'd wedged the frame of my truck on the tip of a large boulder in the pile. I couldn't go forward or backward on only three wheels. I sat there looking at my truck, determined not to repeat the radio call for help! Behind the seat in my truck were a small collapsible army shovel and a car jack. I figured the only way I'd get out was dig enough dirt from under the rock to settle it and lower my truck. Several hours later I was tired, sweaty, and dirty, but my truck was on four wheels and I was able to get off the barrier. I learned that a short hike is sometimes best in the long run.

The weeks went by and my survey narrowed to the least accessible areas. This meant hiking into some of the more remote sections. The weather had started to turn cold and wet. By this time I was routinely checking in with the SO toward the end of the day by radio. George had told me that, if I didn't

call in, he'd head out to find me. The day I decided to hike down into a large roadless canyon, the forecast was for rain with possible snow flurries in the higher elevations. The trailhead where I left my truck was in the snow zone that day. I headed down the trail and spent the day checking outcrops of rock along the slopes and creeks. It was a long, cold, wet day. By late afternoon I was headed back up to my truck and worried about getting to it in time to radio in before 5:00 p.m. I was really tired and cold by then. About halfway back, I sat down under a tree to rest. Before I really knew what was happening I was very drowsy. Somewhere in my head an alarm went off and I stood up. I was in a preliminary stage of hypothermia. I had to get myself back up the trail to my truck and out of the weather. When I finally got to my truck, it was snowing and I was freezing. I grabbed the radio and tried to contact the SO. It was after 5:00 p.m. One of the lookouts heard me and relayed to the SO. The lookout got through, but George had already left the SO headed out to find me. I met him about half way back to Prineville.

That day I was never so happy to see someone who cared enough to check up on me. George was a great supervisor for this rookie. The most valuable lesson I learned—the one about caring—I learned from George. I remembered it through the next 30 years as I became a supervisor. In a short period of time he made a big impact on me that lasted for a long time.

*My First Forest Service Job* has some super stories scheduled for coming issues of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

OldSmokey **Jack Inman** will share “Pogue Point Lookout, 1955” with us in the Spring 2013 issue.

OldSmokey **Robbie Robertson** will tell us about “Starting With a Bang in 1950!” in the Summer 2013 issue.

Still other stories by current OldSmokeys including **Ken Cochran, Fred Henley, Carl Hickerson, Kent Mays, and Ted Stubblefield** are in the queue, to be followed or supplemented by first job stories from the early decades of the outfit penned long ago by or about such Region 6 characters as **Grover Blake** in 1907, **Mel Lewis** in 1907, **Walt Perry** in 1910, **Larry Mays** in 1927, and others.

Your *My First Forest Service Job* story is wanted, too! So please send it in!

*Feature, Out of the Past, and The Way We Were* articles by OldSmokeys are also wanted to enliven these pages of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

*So please pick up your pen or sit down at your keyboard, write them out, and send them in to:*

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*or attached to e-mails to:*

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## Winter 2013

*Note: Your mailing label shows the year through which your dues are paid. For example, if your label shows "13" your dues are paid through December 31, 2013. If it shows "LT" you are a lifetime member and owe no further dues.*

**Join us for lunch on the last Friday in January 2013 at the Beaverton Elks Club, 3500 SW 104<sup>th</sup> Avenue, off Canyon Road, just east of Highway 217, at 11:00 a.m. Note: Location will change in February 2013!**

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