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# **SAF March 2022 Newsletter**

## **Message from the Chair**

**Tim Robards**

The last two years as Vice-Chair and then Chair of the California SAF have been a rewarding experience. This, despite the pandemic that meant we went to virtual summer and winter meetings in 2020, and the national convention go virtual in 2020 and 2021. A big thank you to those of you who worked in preparation for the national convention to be in Sacramento in 2021. That work will be valuable in preparation for the convention returning to Sacramento in 2023.

Cal SAF has a dedicated team of volunteers working behind the scenes that keep the business of the organization running smoothly year over year. A big thank you to those on the Executive Committee, the Board of Directors, and those that show up regularly to meetings providing their input.

We have two members that have stepped into the previously vacant roles of Policy and Communications Committee Chairs. Thank you to Juli Stewart and Bill Keye, respectively, for taking on those key leadership roles. There is a clear need for our Society to provide California forest policy input from our professional forester perspective, across ownerships, from the WUI to the upper watersheds.

Thank you to J. Lopez (Board of Forestry and Fire Protection member) and John Todd (incoming District 3 Director) for representing us at the National Christmas Tree tour visit in Pasadena. A big thank you to Rachelle Hedges for helping to organize the tour with the national office. I was able to visit the Tree where I live at the Dixon fairgrounds and talk with the Six Rivers National Forest Supervisor and staff.

I often reflect this time of year on how the past year has gone with my current job. The yardstick I use is the answer to this question: How many days did have where I asked myself, “Do they really pay me to do this?” Usually, there are many of those days, even when it is a tough year of challenges. I honestly cannot imagine doing anything else than forestry and am grateful for the opportunity to work with foresters and the larger forestry community.

Wishing you the best over the holidays with family and friends. Hope to “see” you at the winter meeting in the new year.

Tim Robards



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## Message from the Vice Chair

Rachelle Hedges

### The 2021 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree

Every year, a different national forest is selected to provide a tree to appear on the west lawn of the U.S. Capitol building for the holiday season. As many California SAF members know, this year, the tree came from our very own Six Rivers National Forest. Cut on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, the tree formally began its whistle-stop tour with a visit to Crescent City on the 29<sup>th</sup>. The tree made its way south from there, making a dozen stops at small towns and big cities throughout our great state. After a week of travel through California, the tree headed east, finishing its journey on November 19<sup>th</sup> on the West Lawn of U.S. Capitol Building.

California SAF members and leadership met the tree at stops throughout California – including our current Chair, Tim Robards, visiting the tree in Dixon, as well as Past Chairs John Todd and Jay Lopez visiting the tree at its stop in Pasadena (pictured).



California SAF contributed to the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree's Journey in another way as well. Yours truly (Chair-Elect Rachelle Hedges) had the honor of working with a team from national to develop an informational brochure that accompanied the tree on its journey, as well as a series of [FAQs](#) for the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree website.

Watching the tree travel through our state and seeing the joy it brought to the hundreds of Californians who attended the whistle-stop tour was a wonderful start to the holiday season. The positive media coverage and celebrations that accompanied the tree on its route were a welcomed departure from most of the reporting surrounding California's forests in 2021 – which often felt bleak at best – and served as a good reminder of the positive impacts our forestlands in California have on the citizens of this state. My only disappointment came during the nationally televised tree lighting ceremony, which contained almost no information about the tree or its USFS origins, instead focusing on the trees' final destination on land managed by the National Parks Service. (Something to work on for 2022...)

**Save the Date:** Announcing the 2022 California SAF Winter Meeting March 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>!

Announcing the 2022 California SAF Winter Meeting, *Proactive Approaches for Restoring Fire Resilient Forests in California*, which will be held **virtually** on March 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022.





## Vice Chair cont.

After a wonderful in-person summer meeting in Shaver Lake, Cal SAF leadership has been working towards an in-person this spring. Unfortunately, in light of the current COVID variant and associated restrictions in California, Cal SAF leadership have agreed that the safest and best way for us to hold our 2022 Winter Meeting will be **virtually**.

This year's meeting will focus on what we, as a community of interest, can do to advocate for forest management that will help prevent the continued and **unsustainable** loss of our forestlands (and the resources these lands provide) to megafires in California. The meeting will feature presentations by subject matter experts during the first half of the day, and then will see members rolling up their sleeves and getting to work in small group breakout sessions designed to identify and develop the resources needed to assist Cal SAF's membership in advocating for proactive, tangible, and actionable efforts at local, state and regional levels.

As always, an Executive Committee meeting open to all members will be held on Thursday (March 17<sup>th</sup>), with the larger program held on Friday (March 18<sup>th</sup>). **More details will be emailed to Cal SAF members in the coming weeks.**

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## Cal SAF Launching Media Outreach

Bill Keye, Communications Chair

A test of any profession is how well it serves society. Fairly or not, society rejected foresters' advice for many years, a trend that accelerated with the Timber Wars of the 1990s. Trust was invested with advocates, some quite devout, who believed that the best way to protect the forest was to make sure that nothing happened. Such "Nothingism" now has likely run its course, and its fruits are bitter indeed.

Collectively, we have lost our way and broken one of California's great natural assets, our precious forests. Patches remain that we have not yet destroyed. We have to save them. Huge swaths have gone to brush. We have to reclaim them.

It is said that the darkest night is just before dawn. Well, here we are. Foresters, that dawn is ours to claim. The public is ready for change. We can help make things better. Let us go out and serve society.

Your Executive Committee, with the support of our National SAF, is working to rise from the ashes and begin again. Your help is requested, and that of your neighbors, families, communities and networks.

A Press Release has gone out seeking to increase our professional visibility in 2022. You will find it in this newsletter. Please do what you can to get the message out.

William W. Keye

CA Registered Professional Forester #2417  
530-355-0670 [wwkeye@gmail.com](mailto:wwkeye@gmail.com)



## District 3 Board Representative Report

John Todd

Happy New Year! As we start 2022, we have substantial challenges to meet as we care for our forests. However, these challenges are broadening the importance of the work we do to protect, restore, and utilize our natural resources. I would like to thank all of you who voted in our recent SAF National Election and for maintaining your membership in SAF. One of my primary responsibilities as a Board member is to be a conduit of information between California and Hawaii SAF members and the SAF National Office. In early December, I was able to attend an in-person Board meeting in Washington, D.C., in a shadowing capacity. That trip, and the guidance of prior District 3 Board member, Nick Dennis, have given me the tools to be successful in this position.

So, without further ado, let's get started. Membership in SAF currently stands at 9,399 members. While this number has continued to decline, the decline has lessened, and the number of new members has increased over recent years. During the recent meeting, our consultant, The Moery Company, presented their analysis of the membership survey to the SAF Board and will be following up with SAF staff on recommendations to provide a clear membership structure and value proposition to help all levels of SAF recruit new members and retain existing members.

The 2021 SAF Virtual Convention was a success. SAF2021 Registration is open and on demand content will remain available through January 16, 2022. Recognition of our 2021 award recipients took place during the convention. Several of the award winners provided must-listen videos; to hear them, click on the [Wall of Honor](#) link. Please mark your calendars for the 2022 SAF National Convention, scheduled for September 20-24, 2022, in historic Baltimore, Maryland.

During the December 2021 Board meeting, the Board approved the funding strategy needed to support the previously approved five-year staff and program restructuring plan for 2022-2026. This plan adds staff to improve program delivery and innovation in how SAF supports its members and the profession. The approved funding strategy includes making use of our investment performance over recent years. We will draw the additional \$1.7 million needed to fund these positions over the next 5 years and place the funds in a money market account. Each year the SAF Board will review and approved these funds as part of the annual budget process.

In the 2022 budget, the Board also approved funds to pay for Directors and Officers insurance for all Executive Committee members at the State, Division, and Chapter levels. This insurance provides an added layer of personal protection for our volunteer leaders who are stepping up to serve SAF and its members.

One of the bonuses I enjoyed when traveling to DC was getting to see again the National Christmas tree (*aka Sugar Bear*), in all its glory, on the National Capitol lawn. Congratulations and many thanks to the USFS staff from the Six Rivers National Forest who made the long trip across the country representing California forests at every stop!

In closing, I would like to thank Nick Dennis for his strong representation of California and Hawaii SAF for the past three years. Nick did an excellent job of prompting and assisting Cal SAF leadership when needed and keeping Western forestry issues front and center at the National Office. I look forward to representing you on the SAF Board of Directors.

If needed, you can reach me at [frstrydude@verizon.net](mailto:frstrydude@verizon.net) or at (626) 808-7305.

John Todd  
Board Member, District 3



**Karin Linnen, BS Forestry, QAC**  
**Vice Chair California Society of American Foresters**



Karin Linnen has over 25 years of experience in forestry and agriculture. She started her career as a wildland firefighter with the U.S. Forest Services and the Bureau of Land Management in fire suppression, visiting every county in California and dozens of states. Her career encompasses natural resource management for state agencies and private companies, research, project management, and environmental outreach. Karin is currently employed at Contra Costa Department of Agriculture in Quarantine and Pest Exclusion. In this position, Karin has worked on invasive insects surveys, delimitations, investigations, and inspections.

Karin has been a member of SAF for 18 years. She served SAF in a variety of leadership roles, including Bay Area Chapter Chair (2004-2014), NorCal SAF Newsletter Editor, and the NorCal SAF Communications Committee. In addition, Karin is the recipient of the *2005 NorCal SAF Forestry Achievement Award* and *2015 Leadership Award*, SAF Bay Area Chapter at UC Berkeley.

She attended Feather River College in Quincy (AS in Forestry and Natural Resource Management) and the University of Montana in Missoula (BS in Forestry and Resource Management). She also holds a Qualified Applicator Certificate from the California Department of Pesticide Regulations. Karin lives in the San Francisco East Bay with her husband Daniel, two teenage children, and German Shepherd-Labrador.

As we move into the future, it will be imperative that California SAF continues to lead and influence efforts in resource stewardship, sustainability, outreach, and raising awareness of forest health. Climate change, intensifying wildfires across the state, and the goals of healthy forests will require SAF to engage people of diverse backgrounds. Karin is honored to serve as 2022 Vice-Chair for California SAF and look forward to engaging our members throughout California.





# Bay Area SAF Chapter

David Bakke

## Report From the Bay Area Chapter's November Meeting

For those of you who could not make November's meeting, we enjoyed a very nice evening shared with the Cal Forestry Club. They hosted us for one of their traditional bean feeds. The weather cooperated with a gorgeous evening outside. After the meal, the group completed an activity that I hope all our members might give some thought to doing. Each person was given a small index card and instructions to answer three questions as succinctly as possible (the "30-second elevator pitch"):

- How does forestry as a career choice fulfill you?
- How do you define forest sustainability?
- What short motto or phrase would you put on a bumper sticker in support of forestry?

I am hoping to use these answers to help us to develop talking points for outreach to students to consider forestry as a field of study and for use in talking with the public. Who knows, we might even get some bumper stickers made!!!

Here are a few of the answers received:

- Our forests serve our spirits, economies, and environments. Helping our forests means helping everyone.
- Sustainability isn't just about ecology, but about collaboration between different groups of people. Indigenous groups need to be involved in forestry decisions.
- "Got Trees?"
- Forestry fulfills me because I know I am working with the land for its betterment.
- "Prescribed burning is LIT!"
- Forest sustainability is cultivating a more informed culture and improving forest health and industry.
- Forestry allows me to work in and protect the places I love and engage with an amazing community of people with different backgrounds.
- "People need trees, trees need people"
- "Forests, on fire on purpose"
- Forestry brings joy to my life knowing I am contributing to a more sustainable world.
- "Healthy Forests – Healthy People"
- Forest sustainability allows perpetual use but does not create lasting damage to the organisms in the forest

**What would your responses look like?** Send them to me at [dbakke@bayareasaf.org](mailto:dbakke@bayareasaf.org).

## Bay Area Chapter Plans for 2022

On December 7<sup>th</sup>, the Chapter leadership got together and discussed our plans for 2022. I think we came up with some really good ideas for Chapter meetings and activities for the new year (starting with our first meeting on January 27<sup>th</sup>). We agreed to hold virtual meetings as well as in-person meetings throughout the year. Let us know if you have ideas for additional Chapter meetings or if you want to assist with any of these meetings.

Some of the meetings we will be working on:

- An update on Bay Area tree mortality as a follow-up to last year's meeting – what's been learned about the causes, what new mortality is being seen (like all the pine mortality along the Hwy 24 corridor in the East Bay).
- A field meeting in the East Bay to look at forest restoration and what the term means to different landowners and what it looks like in practice.
- A Spring in-person meeting with the Cal Forestry Club; maybe including another Chapter work day at Russell Research Station.
- A visit to vineyards in the Napa area to discuss wildfires and the effects on vineyards and wine quality. Wine tasting may be involved....
- Meeting with Forest Service leadership in Regional Office in Vallejo to discuss restoration/infrastructure funding and other issues.
- Field visit to fuelbreaks and prescribed fires implemented by Moraga Orinda Fire District
- Field meeting with Marin Municipal Water District or San Francisco Water District to see their land management and discuss current issues.



## **Bay Area Chapter SAF cont.**

- Field meeting with Marin Municipal Water District or San Francisco Water District to see their land management and discuss current issues.
- Field visit to Pescadero Creek County Park in Big Creek to discuss wildfire effects and restoration after the fires.
- Virtual meetings that will highlight the work of forestry-related companies based here in the Bay Area (and that employ Chapter members), such as the Pacific Forest Trust, Scientific Certification Systems, New Forests, and Silva Terra.
- In addition, we will still need to get planning on the Student Hiring Fair that we hope to host in October 2022 (crossing our fingers that the University will allow in-person meetings again by then) – a focus on forestry and land management internships or jobs in the Bay Area.

### **Bay Area Chapter Leadership:**

David Bakke, Chair 707-344-4717, [dbakke@bayareasaf.org](mailto:dbakke@bayareasaf.org)  
Helena Murray, Vice-Chair – 707-980-2375, [helena.murray@usda.gov](mailto:helena.murray@usda.gov)  
Rachelle Hedges, Secretary 310-480-7098, [rachelle.hedges@berkeley.edu](mailto:rachelle.hedges@berkeley.edu)  
Martin Matarrese, Treasurer 510-377-1332, [martinmatarrese@gmail.com](mailto:martinmatarrese@gmail.com)

Ideas for Chapter meetings, let us know!

Interested in taking on a chapter leadership position? Contact anyone of your Chapter's current leaders – we have many things that you can get involved with.



## SAF Meeting & Event Schedule

### 2022 California SAF Proposed Meeting Schedule

#### March 2022

3/17/22 – Executive Committee Meeting: 10:00 – 4:00 pm (virtual meeting)

**3/18/22 – Winter Meeting (virtual meeting)**

#### April 2022

4/26/22 – Board of Directors Meeting: 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

#### May 2022

5/24/22 – Board of Directors Meeting: 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

#### June 2022

6/9/22 – Executive Committee Meeting: 11:00 am – 3:00 pm

#### July 2022

7/26/22 – Board of Directors Meeting: 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

#### August 2022

8/18/22 – Executive Committee Meeting: 9:00am-4:0pm

8/19/2022 – Summer Meeting, Location TBD

8/23/22 – Board of Directors Meeting: 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

#### September 2022

~~9/16/22 – Executive Committee Meeting: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm (tentative)~~

~~9/17/22 – Summer Meeting, Location TBD (tentative)~~

**9/20-9/24 – SAF National**

9/27/22 – *of Directors Meeting: 11:00am-12:00pm*

#### October 2022

10/25/22 – Board of Directors Meeting: 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

#### November 2022

11/15/22 – Board of Directors Meeting: 11:00 am – 12:00 pm\*

#### December 2022

12/8/22 – Executive Committee Meeting: 11:00 – 3:00 pm

\*Moved up one week for Holiday