

SAF to Recognize Award Winners at National Convention

The Society of American Foresters has announced the winners of its seven national awards for 2011. The award recipients will be recognized for their outstanding contributions to the forestry profession during a ceremony at the 2011 SAF National Convention, to be held November 2–6 in Honolulu, Hawaii. The award winners were approved at the February 2011 meeting of the Society's governing body, the SAF Council.

The awards process begins with writ-

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

Young Forester Leadership Award

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



Tamara L. Cushing

Cushing is assistant professor and extension forestry specialist in forest economics and business at Clemson University, where she teaches undergraduate courses in forest economics, forest management, and integrated pest management, and graduate courses in forest business. In addition to teaching, she also conducts research on economic and management issues affecting landowners (including biomass), advises undergraduate forestry majors, serves as the committee chair for five students working toward a master's degree in forest resources and one doctoral candidate, and serves as faculty adviser to Clemson's SAF Student Chapter.

She has more than 20 publications on topics ranging from popular articles on estate planning to scientific results from studies on income, property, and estate taxes. As an extension forestry specialist she has given more than 50 presentations to landowner groups, foresters seeking continuing education credits, scientific audiences on study results, and lumber cooperatives. She also serves as the webmaster for the South Carolina Tree Farm Committee and the South Carolina Prescribed Fire Council, and, from 2009 to 2010, was team leader on the Wood-Based Energy Wiki through extension.

In her service to SAF, she has held a variety of positions at the local, state, and national levels, including 2011 chair of the Keowee Chapter, 2011 Heartland Leadership Academy Program Committee Member, 2010 Chair of SAF's House of Society Delegates, 2008 chair of the Kentucky-Tennessee SAF, and 2006–2007 chair of the East Kentucky Chapter, and reviewed articles for the *Journal of Forestry* and the Northern and Southern Journals of Applied Forestry.

In addition to SAF, which Cushing joined in 1994, she is a member of the South Carolina Forestry Association, the South Carolina Tree Farm Committee, and the South Carolina Prescribed Fire Council. A registered forester in Georgia and South Carolina, she is the 2010 recipient of the Dr. Ansel E. Miller Excellence in Teaching Award and the 2007 Faculty Service-Learning Award, for incorporating service learning into Integrated Forest Resource Management courses.

Award in Forest Science

The SAF Award in Forest Science recognizes distinguished individual research in any branch of the quantitative, managerial, and/or social sciences leading to the advancement of forestry. Presented annually, the award includes a \$1,000 honorarium.



Russell T. Graham

Russell T. Graham's 35-year research career has transcended all aspects of silviculture, including, but not limited to: wood products production, managing and understanding coarse woody debris, sustaining northern goshawk habitat, wildfire behavior modification, and analyzing and managing ecosystems at multiple temporal and spatial scales. On these and other subjects he has published more than 200 scholarly articles in 47 refereed journals, and the quality of his work is exemplified by Google Scholar showing many of his papers as having been cited more than 50 times—at least two have been cited more than 200 times.

The impact of Dr. Graham's work is revealed by the "Science Basis for Changing Forest Structure to Modify Wildfire Behavior and Severity" authored by Graham and associates, which was used to inform the Healthy Forests Initiative and was read into the official record for the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (a layman's version of the paper was distributed at the act's signing).

Graham has been invited to speak and publish at many scientific meetings in Canada, Mexico, Europe, and Asia, and he is a founding member of the Forest Ungulate Research Network centered in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Within the United States, he has been invited to speak at more than 450 scientific, managerial, and policy meetings covering a wide variety of forest science and management topics. In addition to conducting and reporting his own research, he has led several large and complex science teams, including the Interior Columbia River Basin Science Team (eastern Oregon and Washington, western Montana, and Idaho), Hayman Fire Review Team (Colorado), Utah Northern Goshawk Assessment, and the Fuel Synthesis Project.

As a 38-year member and Fellow in the SAF, Graham has been acknowledged locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally for his contributions to both forest science and forest management. He received the international Wings Across Americas Award in 2006 and the University of Idaho College of Natural Resources Celebrating Natural Resources Award in 2002. The Rocky Mountain Research Station presented him with the eminent sci-

ence publication award in 2008, and he received an award from the Cientifico Norteamerio of Guadalajara, Mexico, for contributions to forest science in 1998.

Gifford Pinchot Medal

The Gifford Pinchot Medal recognizes outstanding contributions by a forestry professional in the administration, practice, and professional development of North American forestry. The award, presented biennially (odd-numbered years), consists of an engraved medallion and a \$500 honorarium.



John A. Helms

Helms is professor emeritus of silviculture at the University of California–Berkeley, where he has taught approximately 3,500 undergraduate and graduate students and supervised numerous master's and doctoral candidates during his career. His research has focused on regeneration, stand structure control, silvicultural systems, and tree physiology, particularly in regard to carbon dioxide exchange and water use of trees experiencing stress from competition, drought, and air pollution.

His publications include 117 articles on forestry, silviculture, and tree physiology in scientific and technical journals; chapters in *Tree Physiology and Yield Improvement* and *Regional Silviculture of the United States*; coauthorship of *Principles of Silviculture and Silviculture in the Sierra*; and SAF's *Dictionary of Forestry*, for which he served as editor.

His administrative service to the University of California includes appointments as association dean of the School of Forestry and Conservation (1972–1974), vice chair of the Department of Forestry and Resources Management (1974–1975, 1977–1978), and department chair (1989–1993). He has provided congressional testimony on SAF's behalf regarding several subjects, including forest health (2003), the US Forest Service Centennial (2005), the Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act (2006), and forests, climate change, and wildfire (2007).

In addition to providing congressional testimony, his service to SAF includes numerous positions on the local, state, and regional levels, such as chair of the Bay Area Chapter (1971–1972), chair of the Silviculture Working Group (1986–1990), associate editor of the *Western Journal of Applied Forestry* (1985–I 992), program chair of the San Francisco SAF National Convention (1991), chair of the Forest Science and Technology Board (two terms, 1995–1998), SAF Council member for District III (2001–2003), and, of course, SAF President (2005).

Currently, Helms is a co-coordinator of the International Union of Forest Research Organization's Working Party on Forest Terminology (2001–present), a member of California's The Forest Foundation's board of directors (2009–present), and a member of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative External Review Panel (2008–2011).

Helms, who joined SAF in 1969 and was named Fellow in 1997, has received many honors and awards during his career, including SAF's John Beale Memorial Award (1999), the C. Eugene Farnsworth Distinguished Lecturer award from the State University of New York

College of Environmental Science and Forestry (2004), the S.J. Hall Distinguished Lecturer award from the University of California–Berkeley (2005), and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the University of Washington Forest Resources Alumni Association (2010).

Carl Alwin Schenck Award

The Carl Alwin Schenck Award recognizes devotion and demonstrated outstanding performance in the field of forestry education. Presented annually, the award includes a cash honorarium of \$500.



Tom Hennessey

Hennessey has taught at Oklahoma State University (OSU) since 1976, and during his career he has been consistently recognized as one of the most effective and engaging instructors on the OSU campus. Known for encouraging his students to think critically, Hennessey goes beyond merely presenting topics and demonstrates, through discussions of forests' role in carbon sequestration and climate change, why subjects like the biological mechanisms of photosynthesis and respiration are important.

In addition to engaging students in the classroom, Hennessey is also known to be an excellent field instructor. He has a reputation for seizing teachable moments wherever they occur, as exemplified by his "mini field trips," which give life to the theoretical material he presents indoors.

Given his expertise in the field, Hennessey has taught at OSU's Forestry Summer Camp for many years, which is held at different locations within the United States. Yet, regardless of the camp's location, he responds to each change with enthusiasm and uses each site's biological and geographical features to help his students be more observant and think about what they're seeing in the field. As the department's exit interviews with seniors suggest, his efforts have paid off, for many cite the summer camp as a highlight of their undergraduate experience.

Hennessey also teaches the Senior Capstone course in Urban and Community Forestry, and, in that capacity, has worked with communities throughout the state to develop hands-on projects that give students the chance to apply the forestry knowledge they've received from their classes. Among the projects he has developed are community forest inventory and health assessments, and quantification of forest-provided environmental benefits. These projects also afford Hennessey the chance to mentor his students in the presentation of scientific matters to civic leaders and the public at community meetings.

Outside the university, Hennessey has served as the long-time chair of the local Citizen's Tree Board and has helped educate the public through volunteer efforts with Keep Oklahoma Beautiful and the Okalahoma Tree Bank Foundation. He has given countless evening seminars throughout the state on topics ranging from sustainable forestry to tree selection and care, and he regularly speaks to school-aged children at events such as Arbor Day and Earth Day celebrations.

Hennessey joined SAF in 1975 and was named Fellow in 2008.