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Architect Michael Green Keynotes 2015 SFI Conference

By [Michaëlle Bradford \(/users/michaëllebradford\)](#) October 05, 2015 | 10:59 am EDT



Michael Green, renowned architect and advocate for tall wood buildings, will keynote the 2015 Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Conference, October 6 to 8 in Olympic Valley, CA.

SFI celebrates 20 years as a voice for responsible forestry practices. More than 300 people, andowners, brandowners, conservation and community organizations to academia, government agencies and resource professionals, are expected to attend the annual conference to learn about the latest research in conservation and exchange ideas about improving forestry practices.

Earlier this year, [Green teamed with Finnish engineered lumber and LVL timber manufacturer Metsä Wood \(<http://www.woodworkingnetwork.com/iconic-empire-state-building-gets-wood-makeover>\)](#) to re-engineer the Empire State Building in LVL timbers.

NEWS

[Why Wood is Best for Building Explained at New Website](#)

<http://www.woodworkingnetwork.com/news/woodworking-industry-news/why-wood-best-building-explained-new-website>



As timber grows, it soaks up carbon dioxide, and that carbon is stored in wood products, a carbon sink mitigates climate change. About half of the dry weight of wood is stored carbon; while 16 percent of global fossil fuel goes into manufacturing steel, concrete and bricks. [TheMostNaturalResource.com](#) touts benefits of building with wood.

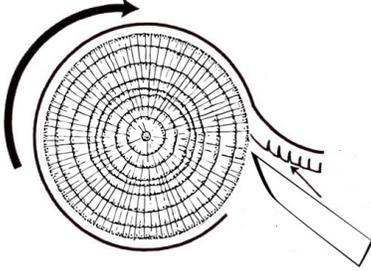
SFI Breaks Records

Also earlier this year, SFI and its partners across North America set a new Guinness World Records title, planting 202,935 trees in one hour. SFI partnered with 29 teams of 25-100 people each to plant trees in locations from New York City to Vancouver Island, British Columbia.

Organized by SFI, the effort involved 1,165 volunteers from all ages and backgrounds, including the forest sector, community organizations, youth groups, conservation groups and SFI Implementation Committees. They planted trees between 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. EDT on May 20, 2015.

"As SFI celebrates its 20th anniversary, I can't think of a more exciting way to recognize and reinforce our commitment to healthy forests and sustainable communities, and to reaffirm that the actions we take today can have a significant and material impact on the future of our forests," said Kathy Abusow, president and CEO of SFI.

Since 2010, SFI has awarded 38 conservation and 28 community partnership grants totaling more than \$1.9 million to foster education, research and pilot efforts to better inform future decisions about our forests.



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What You Might Not Know About Slip Match

Slip is a matching type that must be specified. It is most often used to minimize the barber-pole effect common with book matching. In slip matching, the leaves of veneer are fed into the splicing machine the same way they come off the slicer or lathe.

About the Author:



Michaelle Bradford

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Researcher plants seeds of caribou recovery

BY JONATHAN CHARLTON, THE STARPHOENIX OCTOBER 6, 2015



Gordon Stenhouse, adjunct professor at U of S, has been studying how human-made features affect wildlife.

Caribou and grizzly bear populations are low in Western Canada, and a University of Saskatchewan researcher has been trying to figure out an effective way to help them.

Gordon Stenhouse has spent three years studying how linear features — power lines, seismic lines and roads that criss-cross boreal forest — affect the predators and prey in Alberta. This week, he's presenting his findings at the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Annual Conference in California. The StarPhoenix called him up for a biology lesson. This interview has been condensed and edited.

First off, what's the relationship between grizzly bears and caribou?

You've got predators and prey. Caribou are the prey species, and grizzly bears and wolves are predators that eat caribou.

The challenge for caribou has been that usually when you modify forest conditions you increase the number of other prey species like white-tailed deer and moose, and when you increase the number of prey species you get a concurrent increase in the number of predators like wolves and bears.

We're trying to look at ways to put habitat conditions back that are more favourable to caribou to encourage their

recovery.

How are man-made features making life hard for caribou?

Those linear features make it easier for predators to move around the landscape.

Think of building trails when you're in the bush — it's much easier for you to walk on a trail than through the bush. So by making all these linear features, or trails, through the bush, you've increased the hunting efficiency of predators, and that increase in efficiency has had a detrimental effect on caribou ... We found that specifically more for wolves than grizzly bears. Grizzly bears will use them, but grizzly bears will hunt (caribou) where they find them. Wolves are more a species that moves around the landscape looking for prey.

If these trails are bad news for caribou, wouldn't they help predators?

These same access corridors provide access for people — and people are the predators for grizzly bears. So as you put more linear features and access to high quality bear habitat, there's usually more poaching events that occur and more bears die at the hands of humans.

What's next?

Our work has been focused on trying to identify which lines can be recovered. It's all about wise use of a conservation dollar — so when we're trying to recover a species there's limited resources to do that, so we want to make sure we go in and put the recovery into the places that will have the greatest impact ...

If we're going to go in and, say, plant more trees, or revegetate these areas, we know now where the best places to do that are.

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Gordon Stenhouse, adjunct professor at U of S, has been studying how human-made features affect wildlife.



SFI ANNUAL CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 6-8 2015

September 16, 2015

By: The Working Forest

From the SFI Founder's Reception to the inaugural 5K Fun Run/Walk, and the Annual SFI Reception and Dinner there is something worthwhile for everyone at the SFI Annual Conference in Olympic Valley, CA, October 6-8

Our fantastic line up of speakers, sessions and networking activities promise to provide unique and exciting opportunities to come together, enjoy learning about innovation in the forest sector, renew relationships, establish partnerships, and share ideas.

Conference Activities

SFI Founder's Reception — Tuesday, October 6 (5:15 – 7:00 p.m.)

Join us as we recognize the special individuals who played a critical role in SFI's early days and celebrate the successes and growth SFI has seen over the past 20 years. Thank you to our Conservation and Community sponsors for their generous support of this event.

Conference exhibitors will be joined by SFI's Board of Directors, External Review Panel, staff, and others, providing conference attendees an excellent opportunity to network and learn more about partners and initiatives within the SFI community.

Just because the reception is over doesn't mean the fun has to be! Join us in the Hospitality Suite to continue networking from 9:00 – 11:00 p.m.

First Annual SFI 5K Fun Run/Walk — Wednesday, October 7 (7:00 – 8:30 a.m.)

SFI, in partnership with The Conservation Fund, will host the inaugural 5K Fun Run/Walk! Come out and run (or walk) with us and make new friends.

Thanks to generous support from The Conservation Fund and Weyerhaeuser the SFI 5K Fun Run/Walk is free to all participants. But, advanced registration is required. To register, choose this event when registering for the conference, or sign up at the conference

registration desk upon arrival.

SFI Annual Reception and Dinner — Wednesday, October 7 (6:00 – 9:30 p.m.)

Enjoy delicious food, local music, casino games and outdoor activities on the banks of beautiful Lake Tahoe, for an experience unique to California and Tahoe. This event is made possible thanks to the generous support of Sierra Pacific Industries.

SFI Annual Conference: Growing our Future

Oct 05 2015

As [SFI Inc.](#) celebrates their 20th anniversary, PEFC heads to the USA to join them for their Annual Conference, taking place this week between 6 and 8 October 2015, in Lake Tahoe, California.

Celebrating 20 years of leadership and growth, SFI, one of our members in North America, looks to highlight how the actions we take today shape the future of our forests. In response, the conference will bring together stakeholders from across the supply chain - from landowners to brand owners and everyone in between - to advance understanding and ensure a better future for all.

PEFC will be represented by Ben Gunneberg, CEO of [PEFC International](#), as well as Bill Street, Chairman, and Sheam Satkuru-Granzella, Vice-Chair, of the PEFC Board of Directors, as they examine global connections and provide updates on international developments in sustainable forest management.

In a special move in light of SFI's anniversary celebrations, the PEFC International Board of Directors will also travel to California to hold their Board meeting in conjunction with the conference.

With a great line up of speakers and sessions, the SFI Annual Conference promises to provide an exciting opportunity to come together, enjoy learning about innovation in the forest sector, renew relationships, establish partnerships, and share ideas.

Further Information

- [Conference website](#)



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PA Environment Digest

An Update On Environmental Issues In Pennsylvania

Crisci Associates

Blog

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2015

PA Sustainable Forestry Initiative Takes Youth Logger Training To New Heights

Gone are the days when children followed their fathers to work in the woods. These informal apprenticeships are a thing of the past because of today's safety considerations. So the [PA Sustainable Forestry Initiative Implementation Committee](#) decided if they can't bring youth to the forest, they would bring the forest to youth.

"What are the risks to the supply chain, to our economy, to forests in general, if we don't secure a future generation to care for our forests and to harvest them responsibly?" said Kathy Abusow, SFI Inc. President and CEO. "The Pennsylvania Committee members are thought leaders when it comes to youth training."

For the second year in a row, students in the Natural Resource Management Career and Technical Program at Central Mountain High School in Mill Hall received the SFI Professional Timber Harvester Training credential.

The training is provided through a partnership with the Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee that allows students in the program to complete it as part of their regular curriculum at no additional cost to them or the school.

"We hope that through this partnership more students will become interested in a career in the forest sector. By graduating with this training credential, these students come out ahead of the game as they enter the workforce. They already have the training that employers are looking for," said Chuck Coup, the SFI Implementation Committee's Program Manager.

The training is the same that loggers in Pennsylvania are required to complete to maintain their status as harvesting professionals recognized by SFI.

The training program emphasizes safety, environmental conservation and professionalism. Students are taught requirements for timber harvesting safety, and methods of protecting the environment during timber harvesting operations, including best management practices for protecting water resources.

The Pennsylvania Committee has a history of expertise in logger training. More than 7,000 individuals have participated in the [Pennsylvania SFI Professional Timber Harvester Training Program](#).

About 700 participants maintain their current training status each year, and some loggers have completed more than 100 hours of training.

The benefits of the training program were further recognized and bolstered when the Pennsylvania DCNR Bureau of Forestry

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About Me

[David E. Hess](#)

This Blog is a companion to [www.PaEnvironmentDigest.com](#), the weekly online newsletter published by Crisci Associates, Harrisburg, PA. I can be contacted at 717-576-0420 or by sending email to: DHess@CrisciAssociates.com. I served as Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection from 2001 to 2003, as staff in the Pennsylvania Senate and in the former Department of Environmental Resources for over 30 years.

[View my complete profile](#)

adopted a policy in 2007 that requires SFI-trained loggers to lead all commercial timber harvesting activities on Pennsylvania's 2.2 million acres (890,308 hectares) of state forestland.

And most recently, the SFI Committee convinced state lawmakers to unanimously designate June 5 officially as Pennsylvania Sustainable Forestry Initiative Day. Both the House and Senate Resolutions specifically cite SFI logger training as a major reason for declaring SFI Day.

"This strong recognition from the state government is a fitting tribute to the 20-year history of progress and leadership on sustainability from the Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee. It also reminds us all of the critical role loggers play on the front lines when it comes to the sustainability of habitats and ensuring critical steps are taken to protect things like water quality," Abusow said.

The Pennsylvania Committee was presented with the 17th annual SFI Implementation Committee Achievement Award at the SFI 2015 Annual Conference.

For more information on programs and activities, visit the [PA Sustainable Forestry Initiative Implementation Committee](#).

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Posted by [David E. Hess](#) at [5:48 PM](#)

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CDFW News



UNCATEGORIZED

CDFW Receives Prestigious Award for Endangered Species Conservation

OCTOBER 8, 2015 | AHUGHAN

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and partners from government, education and private industry are being recognized for outstanding efforts in wildlife conservation. The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) presented the SFI Conservation Leadership Award for conservation work to CDFW, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, North Carolina State University and Sierra Pacific Industries at its annual conference in Squaw Valley on Wednesday, Oct. 7.

The award is for the partnership's work related to the fisher, a large member of the weasel family that ranges from California to British Columbia, including the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Researchers are working to better understand fisher habitat and to restore the animals to some areas where they were historically found.

"It's wonderful to have CDFW scientists and staff recognized on a national level for their dedication and hard work protecting a precious state resource," said Neil Manji, Manager of CDFW's Northern Region. "We thank SFI for the award and look forward to continuing to work with our partners in the coming years."

Because of declining habitat and population losses, fishers in Oregon, Washington and California are

proposed for federal listing as a threatened species. Recently the California Fish and Game Commission voted to list fishers in the southern Sierra Nevada as threatened under the California Endangered Species Act.

Beginning in 2009, 40 fishers were captured on public and private timberlands in northwestern California and released onto Sierra Pacific Industries' Stirling Management Area, east of Chico. The released fishers and their offspring have been studied since that time and the results indicate that a small population was successfully established. The restoration of fishers to this area has strengthened the population of fishers in northern California by expanding their range. It has also created a unique opportunity to study fishers on a landscape managed for multiple objectives including wildlife habitat, ecosystem services and forest products.

This was the first time fishers have been restored to their original habitat in California. The project is a collaborative success story showing how wildlife agencies, universities and private timberland owners can collaborate to conserve wildlife.

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CDFW Communications, (916) 322-8944

Sierra Pacific and Partners Win SFI Leadership in Conservation Award for their work in reintroducing fishers in California



CC BY 2.0 *"Fisher, Ipswich River" by brunop from somerville, usa*

You may never have heard of an animal called the fisher, but the world needs them because, like all animals in an ecosystem, they perform an important function. The rare fisher is a member of the weasel family that, despite its cuddly looks, is a high-on-the-food-chain predator, important in helping control porcupine populations in the northern United States and much of the boreal forest in Canada. Major losses of fishers began over 100 years ago, when they were trapped for their furs. Since that time, their decline has continued due to habitat loss and other factors, so that their geographic range has declined by roughly 50% in California alone.

Studying the Sierra fisher habitat

Sierra Pacific Industries, a family-owned lumber company based in Anderson, California, partnered with several environmental, academic and government organizations to better

understand fisher habitat, restore the species to forests where they've been lost and help them expand into new areas. Partner groups include the Northern Sierra Nevada of California, North Carolina State University, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It certainly takes a village to bring this fisher back.

A key technique in the collaborative, ongoing study has been night-time trapping operations that fit the fishers with radio collars to track their natural movements and locate their reproductive dens. Physical tracking and data gathering is performed, particularly of mom fishers and their kits (young) as they grow. Motion-control cameras are also set up around their dens. Study results have shown that the fisher prefers lower elevations and small, streamside forest stands with dense canopy that are not uniform. At least one tree must be larger than average for fishers to use as platforms to rest in.

Mimicking habitat to make wildlife at home

Sierra Pacific Industries is incorporating these newly understood habitat needs into its modern forest management practices that already closely mimic natural forest events. Standard practices include maintaining a dynamic and diverse forest landscape with characteristics of young forests, openings with grasses, oak woodland and streamside vegetation. So far, the efforts on behalf of the fishers are paying off with a high survival rate in new habitats and healthy offspring.

Working forests meet sustainable practices

"Sierra Pacific has been a Program Participant with SFI since we started in 1995, have had their 1.9 million acres of forests certified to the SFI standard since 2001, and have been helping fisher populations even longer – since 1990," Paul Trianosky, SFI's VP of Conservation said. "They have demonstrated a true commitment to restoring fisher populations and include them in forest management plans. The more we learn through this project, the better positioned forest managers will be to help maintain fisher habitat."

For its work in re-introducing the fisher, Sierra Pacific Industries and its partners were recognized by SFI with a Leadership in Conservation Award. The award is presented annually to recognize program participants involved in strong partnership activities achieving ongoing and far-reaching benefits.

"It's gratifying to receive recognition that our forests certified to SFI can provide both forest products and wildlife habitat for these magnificent animals. We are partnering with some very dedicated wildlife biologists who all want to ensure this project continues to be a success," said Mark Pawlicki, Director of Corporate Affairs and Sustainability at Sierra Pacific Industries.

To find out more about SFI, its requirements for wildlife conservation and companies that participate, visit <http://www.sfiprogram.org/>.



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News

Logging giant SPI recognized for helping restore forest creature

By [Guy McCarthy, The Union Democrat](#) October 20, 2015 01:00 am



One of California's largest logging companies, which owns timberland, operates two sawmills and employs about 300 people in Tuolumne County, has been recognized for helping restore forest-dwelling fishers east of Chico.

Fishers have been hunted for their fur pelts since the 18th century, and they lost more than 250 square miles of habitat in the 2013 Rim Fire, according to state and federal Fish and Wildlife agencies. They have recommended the species be listed as threatened.

California Department of Fish and Game personnel release a fisher in a Sierra Pacific Industries project area in northern California. Mark Lathrop / Sierra Pacific Industries.

Sierra Pacific Industries, based in Anderson, is billed as a forest products company that owns and manages close to 1.9 million acres of timberland in California and Washington. The company owns about 300,000 acres in Tuolumne, Calaveras and Amador counties.

About 16,000 acres of SPI's timberlands were damaged in the Rim Fire. No SPI land was damaged in the Butte Fire in September. The company's sawmills are in Standard and Chinese Camp.

Fishers are mammals in a family that includes weasels, mink, martens and otters, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a partner in the project with Sierra Pacific Industries.

A grown fisher, long bodied and short-legged with a bushy tail, is about the same size as a large, domestic cat, with light brown to black-brown fur.

"The fisher's range was reduced dramatically in the 1800s and early 1900s through trapping, predator and pest control, and alterations of forested habitats brought about by logging, fire, urbanization and farming," federal Fish and Wildlife staff state on a Pacific Southwest Region web page.

The population is threatened now by rodenticide used in illegal marijuana grows that overlap fisher habitat in the Klamath Mountains and southern Sierra Nevada.

In spite of their name, fishers are not known to hunt or eat fish, according to the nonprofit Defenders of Wildlife. Fishers do stalk, kill and eat hares, rabbits, rodents, birds and porcupines. They also eat berries, nuts and insects.

The species name may have started with French trappers more than two centuries ago, who called individual European polecat pelts “fichet,” pronounced fee-shay.

Federal Fish and Wildlife staff have proposed listing the West Coast fisher population as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. In June, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife recommended state Endangered Species Act protection for the Pacific fisher in the southern Sierra Nevada portion of its range.

In the meantime, Sierra Pacific Industries, state and federal fish and wildlife departments and researchers from North Carolina State University are tracking about 40 fishers with radio collars released over a three-year period on SPI lands.

The project area is on a 160,000-acre tract of Sierra Pacific Industries property east of Chico, Mark Pawlicki, SPI’s director of corporate affairs and sustainability, said.

Some fishers born in the project area have matured to the point where they are now reproducing, according to SPI.

The project partners were awarded the Leadership in Conservation Award at the Sustainable Forestry Initiative 2015 Annual Conference in Olympic Valley near North Lake Tahoe.

Sustainable Forestry Initiative is billed as an independent nonprofit organization that works with conservation groups, communities, resource professionals, landowners and other organizations and people committed to healthy forests, responsible purchasing and sustainable communities.

Sierra Pacific Industries counts itself among the largest lumber producers in the United States.

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ARTICLES

Plum Creek CEO honored for leadership and advocacy by SFI

Published on **15 Oct 2015** Written by [Kathy Abusow](#) Posted in [Industry](#)



The [Sustainability Forestry Initiative \(SFI\)](#) recognized Rick Holley, the CEO of Seattle-based Plum Creek Timber Company, this month for his longstanding work in illustrating how wood that's produced from responsibly managed forests ultimately benefits our communities.

Holley has been a driving force behind the effort to use wood and wood products developed from responsibly managed working forests in the sustainable built environment. For his continual advocacy and leadership on behalf of working forests, SFI has awarded him with the SFI Presidents' Award as part of the 20-year anniversary celebration of SFI's transformation and market acceptance.

Holley was one of the early adopters of SFI and has twice served as Chair of the three-chamber board, equally representing economic, environmental and social interests. His support since the early 1990s has helped make SFI a proof point for responsible forestry in the supply chain.

Sustainable forest management remains a key focus for SFI. Responsibly managed forests reduce greenhouse gases and improve air quality by absorbing carbon dioxide as they grow. Forests serve as wildlife habitat, provide for clean drinking water and bring employment opportunities for local communities, among many other notable benefits.

Wood is considered a renewable resource and is a prime choice among architects and builders for its aesthetic appeal. The environmental benefits of using wood in construction and renovation projects largely depend upon forests that are responsibly managed.

Under Holley's tenure, Plum Creek has become one of the largest and most geographically diverse private landowners in the United States. All of the company's forest ownership is certified to the SFI forest management standard. SFI presented the President's Award to Rick Holley because he has been with the company since its

inception and has overseen its transformation into an independent nonprofit charitable organization with continually improving standards.

Rick Holley and Plum Creek understand the actions we take today will determine the future of our forests. Plum Creek, like all SFI program participants, opens its doors to the scrutiny of independent third-party audits and takes great pride in supporting healthy forests, sustainable communities, conservation partnerships and the responsible procurement of forest products.

1

Kathy Abusow made 1 contribution in the last 6 months

[Kathy Abusow](#)

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DfE/Sustainability Manager, Herman Miller, Inc.

Congrats to Rick, Plum Creek and SFI.



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Deforestation

Kathy Abusow on 20 years of sustainable forestry



14 October 2015

Toby Webb

Sustainable Forestry Initiative's Kathy Abusow talks with Toby Webb about progress over the past 20 years, and the impact of improving governance and

standards

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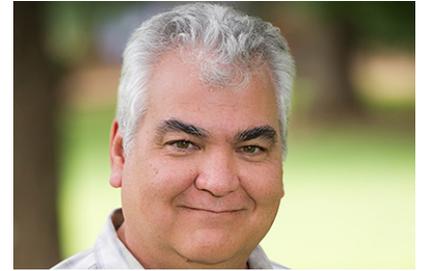
**Our
forthcoming
events**

October 12, 2015 | By Paul Trianosky

Sustainable Forestry Initiative Annual Conference Goes Zero to Help Future Forests Grow Big

Paul is Vice President of Conservation and External Affairs at the Sustainable Forestry Initiative. With nearly 30 years of experience in forestry, non-profit management, forest certification, collaborative partnerships, and landscape-scale conservation, Paul works to grow and maintain partnerships with conservation organizations.

Most people understand that the widespread use of fossil fuels contributes to the presence of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. What a lot of people don't realize is that we are also surrounded by millions of highly efficient, natural "machines" that work to counterbalance this effect... trees!



Paul Trianosky



Photo courtesy of The Conservation Fund.

The Conservation Fund's Go Zero[®] program capitalizes on the power of nature to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions by planting trees and protecting forests across the United States. The program helps its donors calculate their estimated CO₂ emissions and then ensures the planting of trees to trap or "sequester" those emissions over the lifetime of a forest. As a leader in the forest carbon market, The Conservation Fund has used carbon financing to protect 74,000 acres of working forestland on the north coast of California alone.

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative and The Conservation Fund share a core belief that environmental protection and economic vitality fundamentally reinforce one another. Together, these two organizations strive to ensure that forests can maintain their vital role in providing clean air, water and wildlife habitat, while providing the values and benefits that all of us depend upon.

To mark the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, our 2015 Annual Conference was recently held in California's Olympic Valley near Lake Tahoe. Thanks to the generous sponsorship from Resolute Forest Products, a Sustainable Forestry Initiative Program Participant, the 2015 Sustainable Forestry Initiative annual conference became a carbon-neutral event by helping fund tree planting and

conservation through the Go Zero program. Go Zero was a great fit for the Sustainable Forestry Initiative annual conference because we support the Fund's mission to prevent the loss of America's last large and intact privately-held forests. Go Zero offset the CO₂ emissions resulting from attendee travel, hotel stays, and all of the major conference sessions. These efforts will reduce the impact on the climate and help build awareness about the importance of good forest stewardship.

The Conservation Fund broke new ground when it acquired 24,000 acres of redwood and Douglas fir in 2004, called the Garcia River Forest. Sustainable Forestry Initiative's carbon offset donation will benefit future projects in the Garcia River Forest, in part, by keeping the lands working sustainably for people and wildlife in California.



Sustainable forest management of the 23,780-acre Garcia River Forest enables the storage of more than 77,000 tons of carbon emissions annually. Photo by Matthew Gerhart.

With The Nature Conservancy holding a conservation easement on the property, the project became one of the first and largest projects to meet the qualifications of the Climate Action Reserve, with the purpose of sequestering carbon to counteract the effects of climate change. The Fund also implemented sustainable forestry practices to restore water quality and protect habitat for species like coho salmon, steelhead trout and spotted owl. These lands are certified to multiple forestry standards, including the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

Sustainable Forestry Initiative Inc. is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting sustainable forest management. While we develop and oversee standards for forest management and the forest products supply chain, we are more than a set of standards—we are a community that stands for future forests. Sustainable Forestry Initiative works at the intersection of thriving forests, sustainable communities and responsible procurement, and the Go Zero partnership is a shining illustration of how members of our community can help change the world, naturally.

To learn more about the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Annual Conference, and what we've accomplished over our 20-year history, visit <http://www.sfiprogram.org>.

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2015 SFI Annual Conference Student Scholars: Celebrating the Past, Looking Towards the Future

Rocco Saracina / 24 hours ago

I can't clearly remember what I was doing 20 years ago. I'd like to think that I was exploring the local forest, as eight-year-old boys do... turning over a log in search of a salamander, though likely finding a far less interesting leopard slug. Around that same time, SFI's founders were embarking on a far more important exploration: sustainable forest certification. It was a profound idea, and one that would chart a new course for forest managers, brand owners, conservation advocates, government, and academia. The Sustainable Forestry Initiative has since enjoyed 20 years of growth and improvement; and has emerged as a powerful instrument to guarantee the innumerable environmental, economic, and social benefits forests provide, be it ensuring carbon cycles, or providing salamander habitat.



At the SFI Annual Conference two weeks ago, we took pause to recognize SFI's visionaries. It was a well-deserved celebration, honoring the tireless work of these leaders to develop and promote the critical intersection of thriving forests, sustainable communities, and responsible procurement. Our Conference also provided an opportunity to cultivate the future, through SFI's Annual Conference Student Scholarship Program.

Since 2010, SFI has offered scholarship opportunities for forestry and natural resource students to attend our conference. This is an excellent chance for students to meet the SFI community, and for those attending our conference to interact with the next generation of forestry leaders. This year's program was generously supported by Weyerhaeuser, Bureau Veritas, American National Standards Institute, and Stuwix Joint Resource Venture. The 2015 cohort included 14 bright students hailing from University of California Berkeley, Humboldt State University, Oregon State University, University of Idaho, and The World Forestry Institute. This year's program also benefited from great student mentors, who went above and beyond to help welcome the student group into the SFI Community.

While the diversity of students and Universities is exciting, it's what they had to say about the scholarship and the SFI Annual Conference that reminds me how important our program is:

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“ I know that it would not be possible without our sponsors, and I thanked those that I met. It was such an amazing experience and eye opening opportunity. I thoroughly enjoyed myself and made many great contacts in the process. It is an experience that I will never forget and am so grateful for!”

Hether Ward – BS, Environmental Management and Protection, Humboldt State University

“ I had an amazing time at the conference. I learned so much more about SFI and made some great contacts. Thank you for helping put together the student group and organizing the fun run. I can't think of anything I did not like about the conference.”

Kristina Hossley – BS, Forest Engineering and Civil Engineering, Oregon State University

“ Thanks again for all the effort you put into the SFI conference and the student program. I was very impressed by how well the students were integrated into the community, and how welcoming everyone was. I think you'll appreciate knowing the networking didn't stop when the conference ended. I sat next to Doug Onley from Yakama Forest Products on my flight to Seattle, and we spent the flight talking about forestry in Washington and Idaho.”

Rebecca Sheridan, Ph. D., Forest Resources, University of Idaho

“ I can't emphasize enough how important this program is; we do need the next generation of foresters to be leaders with the right mind set on issues like conservation and sustainability. I think this program offers the right opportunity to work on that.”

Daniel G. Scognamillo, Ph.D. – Associate Professor Wildlife Ecology and Conservation/GIS,
Stephen F. Austin State University (student mentor)

As SFI celebrates our founders, twenty year anniversary, and all the accomplishments marked along the way, one thing is clear: The future is only as bright as those that strive for it. So as we remember our beginnings, we also work toward our future and nurture the leaders who will guide it. To me, it's not just about discovering the salamander under the log, but about ensuring that there's a forest for salamanders to thrive in.

Once again, thank you to our 2015 Annual Conference Student Sponsors:

STUDENT SPONSORS



Looking ahead to 2016:

While most students attending our conference come from the general vicinity of the conference venue, we welcome any natural resource students, subject to sufficient sponsorship funding. Please plan now to help support an even greater student turnout next year. To explore sponsorship opportunities, please contact Amy Doty: amy.doty@sfiprogram.org, 202-596-3458.

If you work at (or with) a university and would like to receive the scholarship application to distribute, or if you have general questions regarding the SFI Annual Conference Student Scholarship program or mentorship opportunities, please contact Rocco Saracina: rocco.saracina@sfiprogram.org, 202-596-3459.

Rocco Saracina, Research Coordinator at SFI, is a 2011 Humboldt State University Alumnus with a BS in Environmental Science, Ecological Restoration, and a Minor in Wildland Soil Science.