



Forestry News

Institute for Sustainable Forestry

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Piercy, CA

SMARTWOOD™ AND CERTIFIED FORESTRY ON THE RISE

At the cusp of the millennium and ten years into the Institute for Sustainable Forestry's efforts to promote sustainable forestry, news on the progress of forestland certification is very upbeat. Certified wood products are receiving growing attention and increasing market share. Consider these indicators of success:

- ☒ **In California, 113,000 acres of forestland including 200 owners have been certified as of June 1999; many have achieved certification through the nine Certified Resource Managers currently working in California.**
- ☒ **National total acreage for certified forest land: approx. 4,000,000 acres.**
- ☒ **Total acreage internationally: approx. 40,000,000 acres.**
- ☒ **Municipal governments of several US cities, including New York City, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Berkeley, and Ashland, OR, have specified the use, wherever possible, of certified wood in government contracts.**

☒ **The federal government has ordered that priority be given to environmentally-preferable products, services and forest materials in its "Greening the Government" initiative.**

☒ **Major building projects are specifying the use of certified wood products. A current example is a 7000-unit mixed residential/commercial building development in Los Angeles in which certified wood is specified for all cabinets and flooring.**

The original drive for certification and sustainable forestry came from environmental organizations and foundations around the world. Today the market demand for certified wood has widened to include larger wood producers, suppliers and distributors, who show increasing interest in certification and the higher prices consumers are willing to pay for sustainably harvested timber products. In the bigger picture, the best news is what this means for forests globally as acreage managed sustainably continues to grow.

WHAT IS CERTIFICATION?

For those new to the concept, certification is a voluntary process in which landowners apply to have a team of assessors evaluate their properties for compliance with rigorous standards of management for sustainable forestry. These standards involve both ecological and socioeconomic criteria based on the overarching principles stated in ISF's Ten Elements of Sustainability (see page 4). The certifying organization (in this case SmartWood™) is known as "third-party" since it has no economic connection with either landowner or lumber producer.

Evaluation is conducted by a team of assessors whose combined credentials

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PHOTO: DOUGLAS FIR

Tanoaks



Announcing...A conference:
**HARDWOOD MANAGEMENT IN MIXED FORESTS
OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**
Current examples and future possibilities.
See page 7 for information and registration materials.

Institute for Sustainable Forestry
promotes ecological and economical well-being of forest-based communities in Northwestern California.

Our Programs:

- SmartWood™ Certification and labeling of ecologically harvested forest products
- Wild Iris Project to incubate a native hardwood industry
- Forestry research and development
- Public education and technical assistance

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FROM THE ROOTS

As the Institute for Sustainable Forestry (ISF) has grown over the decade, so has our vision expanded. Due in part to our perseverance, to the generous support of funders, to our strong associations with other communities and organizations, and to our accomplishments, the reach of our message has spread.

Across the region and beyond, ISF is not alone in the movement toward conservation-based development, and although we vie for the same funding, some of us call our relationships “cooperation.” It’s about sharing ideas and strategies, and building parallel “models” of sustainable industry development in our local communities. It’s about working on-the-ground, while at the same time taking our message to other communities, learning from others, and banding together to move national agendas. We are constantly challenging ourselves and each other to understand more and to get smarter about markets, finances, industry, and management. It is much easier to work together, becoming stronger and sharing that knowledge. We need each of our community forestry models to succeed, so that there are various alternatives to the boom-bust cycles of resource extraction – alternatives that empower forest stewards, from which we can all learn.

Partnerships, like the Canada-US Association of SmartWood™ Certifiers, allow us to participate in a regional, national and international market arena which increases the visibility of the certified wood products industry for everyone – improving forestry on-the-ground. Increased acreages of certified forestland and increased market demand and participation enhance the opportunities for these incentives to improve livelihoods in forest-based communities.

One of our jobs is to bring the benefits of the broader efforts (like certification

and regional marketing partnerships) home to our community – to the roots – in order to lead by example and learn by doing. At ISF, we call that the Watershed to Woodshop program, designed to connect local needs to the resources that are more effectively generated through regional or national efforts. This might mean that the type of business approach to development exemplified by Whit McLeod, Whitethorn Construction (our local source of SmartWood™ certified products), or the cooperative marketing of the Humboldt Woodworker’s Guild can be examples to help other enterprises. As ISF takes Wild Iris Forest Products from its seed stage of development through sprouting the demonstration facility into the start-up stage, a steady supply of lumber will be available for flooring, furniture and other locally-produced products. SmartWood™ certification becomes a more attractive option locally by Wild Iris’ ability to buy low-grade logs. Hardwood industry development needs SmartWood™ to ensure that hardwood harvests are part of a long-term, ecosystem-based strategy.

ISF’s vision – including wide acceptance of certification, Wild Iris as a hub of sustainable hardwood industry expansion, and ISF serving educational and research needs of sustainable forestry development – depends on your participation. What do you need from ISF programs? Please let us know, and show your support with a tax-deductible donation and subscription to our bi-annual newsletter (we promise). Thanks! Hope to hear from you soon. (jwait@isf-sw.org)

for the soil - Jude

Jude Wait, Executive Director

WOODWORKER WHIT MCLEOD: RECYCLING MATERIALS FOR UNIQUE DESIGNS

Many of us set out on our life path only to find it leading to unexpected places. That's what happened to Arcata woodworker Whit McLeod. After getting a degree in wildlife biology, he became disenchanted with the field when he realized that all the study sites that he'd established in old-growth forests were being logged. He decided to change his focus to woodworking, something he had enjoyed since he was a boy. He vowed that he would undertake the craft without using old-growth wood or the exotic tropical hardwoods that were so popular at the time.

Whit found inexpensive space in old mill buildings in the Humboldt Bay area. Combing the region for used equipment, he amassed an array of machinery including molders, planers, resaws, and hydraulic presses. Plugging into a niche market, the one-man shop produced fine wine presentation cases. This association with the wine industry was to shape his future work.

In 1987 Whit obtained his first lot of old oak wine barrels. The wood had

been imported from Europe during the late 1800s. Cooperages in the Bay Area had fashioned it into barrels that served as the aging and fermentation vessels for California wines for a century. Whit fabricated a handcrafted, folding chair out of the barrel staves, employing their shape and curvature as design elements. It was the first in what has become a line of products for the Arts and Crafts furniture market. That oak stock not used for furniture he turned into flooring, using his molding machinery.

Whit then acquired a large quantity of European white oak casks when the Italian Swiss Colony winery in Asti closed in 1991. This quarter-sawn material lent itself to numerous uses. Whit's graceful design talent is evident in a line that now includes: Morris chairs, bow arm chairs, love seats, settees, tables made of the white oak, and benches and tables made of redwood. All of the visible materials used in the line are reclaimed and salvaged wood products.

Whit's love of design and the creativity that he brings to his art are apparent in all that he does. One sees it in the pleasing lines of his chairs and settees as well as in the superb marketing material he has produced, part of which is printed on an old letterpress in his workshop. His catalog not only displays his work but educates consumers about reclaimed woods, the history of the cask stock, coopering, full utilization of materials (even his sawdust gets shipped out and turned into particle board), and the history of the barrel stock.

But if Whit's furniture pieces are principally constructed of recycled materials, what's his connection to restoration forestry and certified hardwoods? Whit still does utilize his molding capacity to produce tanoak flooring. But he's also looking ahead. Wine cask material won't be available forever. Already he



makes his upholstery frames with tanoak. He has been experimenting with fabricating chair posts of tanoak as well. He creates the post using a traditional joinery method that bonds five pieces together to form the single post. In other trials, Whit has found that tanoak steams and bends well, and also responds to fuming, which softens the often-strong visual contrast in the wood's grain. These are pioneering innovations. By continuously experimenting with the material, he's creating a body of knowledge not only for his own use, but for others interested in tanoak furniture applications.

Whit McLeod Arts and Crafts Furniture is creating a model that many in the region might hope to emulate. Whit has succeeded in using environmentally friendly materials to create fine products, most of which are successfully marketed in areas of higher capital concentrations. Thus he is exchanging a "green" resource from this region for dollars generated elsewhere. In doing this he is able to provide employment for two full-time and two part-time skilled workers. He is successful in his marketing. In all, he has created a dynamic small business, by converting the region's recycled and sustainably harvested resources into value-added products that are also artifacts of grace and enduring beauty.

by Douglas Fir



Whit McLeod uses a vintage chain mortiser to prepare a piece for joining.

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cover the areas of expertise needed for the particular property – usually a forester, an ecologist and a forest economist. The process builds in local consultation and expertise in order to allow community issues and interests to be considered. (SEE: Steps to Certification.)

BENEFITS FOR THE FORESTS

Sustainable forests should look like the forests of memory and imagination. They should include trees diverse by size, species and age; wildlife habitat and fish-spawning streams; and the complex, diverse and interconnected system of soil, plant, fungi, lichen, insect and microbe life that are integral components of healthy watersheds and ecosystems. These, as well as a moratorium on logging in ancient forests, are the ecoforestry values that ISF and SmartWood™ certification aims to promote and protect. For land that has been degraded by past logging, certification's

objectives are to restore healthy forest conditions.

In fact, forests improve under sustainable prescriptions. One Certified Resource Manager, Craig Blencowe, cites a property that has been managed for over 25 years according to principles similar to the Ten Elements of Sustainability. Volume has tripled. More timber has been harvested over that increment of time than originally existed on the property. Good stewardship continues to pay off.

BENEFITS FOR COMMUNITY

The other important focus of certification criteria involves community social and economic values. Sustainable forestry implies a level of community involvement and control in forest operations, since those who inhabit and steward the land have the greatest interest in its sustained health and productivity. Ideally local value-added production will yield greater economic returns from forestry. The interests

and rights of local workers and Native American people, as well as the customary and historical claims of forest-based communities, are addressed in certification guidelines. Preference is given to local mills and local loggers. Certification requires restoring and protecting the condition of local roads and watersheds. Ecosystems, timber and non-timber values, recreational and spiritual values of forestland all must be upheld and protected in perpetuity. Both economic and quality of life benefits accrue for local communities when forestlands are managed sustainably.

Local businesses are sensing the potential for profitability from certification. An example is Whitethorn Construction in southern Humboldt County. They have recently invested in a new building to house their hardwood flooring operation, an indication of the faith this small business has in the fledgling industry.

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The ISF/SmartWood™ Certification Criteria: The Ten Elements of Sustainability

1. Forest practices will protect, maintain and/or restore the aesthetics, vitality, structure, and functioning of the natural processes, including fire, of the forest ecosystem and its components at all landscape and time scales.
2. Forest practices will protect, maintain and/or restore surface and groundwater quality and quantity, including aquatic and riparian habitat.
3. Forest practices will protect, maintain and/or restore natural processes of soil fertility, productivity and stability.
4. Forest practices will protect, maintain and/or restore a natural balance and diversity of native species of the area, including flora, fauna, fungi and microbes, for purposes of the long-term health of ecosystems.
5. Forest practices will encourage a natural regeneration of native species to protect valuable native gene pools.
6. Forest practices will not include the use of artificial chemical fertilizers or synthetic chemical pesticides.
7. Forest practitioners will address the need for local employment and community well-being and will respect workers' rights, including occupational safety, fair compensation, and the right of workers to collectively bargain, and will promote worker owned and operated organizations.
8. Sites of archaeological, cultural and historical significance will be protected and will receive special consideration.
9. Forest practices executed under a certified Forest Management Plan will be of the appropriate size, scale, time frame, and technology for the parcel, and will adopt the appropriate monitoring program, not only in order to avoid negative cumulative impacts, but also to promote beneficial cumulative effects on the forest.
10. Ancient forests will be subject to a moratorium on commercial logging during which time the Institute will participate in research on the ramifications of management in these areas.

STEPS TO CERTIFICATION

STEP 1. APPLICATION

After reviewing SmartWood™ program information, the landowner/forester submits an application to SmartWood™. A SmartWood™ staff member follows up with a telephone call to discuss the next step, which may be a scoping. Some applicants go directly to the field assessment.

STEP 2. SCOPING

A scoping is a preliminary evaluation of an applicant's forestland to determine certification potential. The majority of scopings proceed to the field assessment.

STEP 3. FIELD ASSESSMENT

A three-to five-member field team with regional and local expertise is assembled to evaluate field-level management planning and practices, review supporting documentation, and conduct interviews.

STEP 4. ASSESSMENT REPORT

The team produces a field report. The report includes conclusions rendered from the site visit, scores for each criterion, and conditions for certification. The field report is then reviewed by two experts in a peer review process.

STEP 5. CERTIFICATION DECISION

A SmartWood™ certification committee evaluates the assessment team's recommendations and the peer review comments. The committee then makes a final decision on the candidate's certification.

STEP 6. FOLLOW-UP AUDITS

SmartWood™ conducts annual on-site audits on all SmartWood™ certified operations to ensure that management practices continue to meet SmartWood™ certification standards.

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PHOTO: DOUGLAS FIR

Protecting water quality is one of the goals of SmartWood™ certification.

COST OF CERTIFICATION TO SMALL LANDOWNERS

Certification can add to the already high cost of preparing a Timber Harvest Plan or a Non-industrial Timber Management Plan. The simplest and most cost-effective approach for the small landowner is to hire a SmartWood™ certified resource manager to write the management plan. Other landowners have sought group certification to help reduce costs and facilitate sustainable forest management.

A Certified Resource Manager is a forester whose management philosophy has been endorsed as being compatible with certification guidelines. The process is rigorous and detailed. Sample sites from plans that the candidate has written are audited. Land managers' supervision of logging operations on sites under their management is evaluated. Once a land manager is certified, forestry activities under his or her management are certified. If and when this association ends, certification of the land also comes to an end. However, this arrangement gives even the smallest landowner access to all the benefits of certification without significant initial investment. (Contact SmartWood™ for the growing list

of Certified Resource Managers.)

BENEFITS FOR LANDOWNERS

Benefits of certification for landowners (and their heirs) are truly significant. In addition to the ecosystem and community values already mentioned, there are substantial personal and economic rewards. This type of management allows owners to optimize the long-term economic and ecological potential of the property. They benefit from ongoing expert technical advice and support of the Certified Resource Manager. The satisfaction and pleasure of observing and participating in this process is no small benefit. The certification stamp of approval gives the landowner credibility and recognition for good management practices.

Certification ensures a long-term stream of economic benefits can flow from the land from multiple entries over time. The careful management required by certification standards reduces the potential for over-harvesting or doing environmental damage that would foreclose future opportunities. Stand structure is improved, so much so that harvest volumes can increase substantially. (Contact ISF for a copy of Paul Harper's paper "Dispelling the Financial Myth of Restoration Forestry.")



PHOTO: DOUGLAS FIR

Sustainable forestry practices enhance wildlife habitat.

THE ISF COMMUNITY

It's significant that, among organizations promoting sustainable forestry, ISF is perhaps the only one that developed within the commu-

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SELLING SMARTWOOD™

A Few Words with SmartWood™ Marketing Director Steve Sage

Certifying lumber is a good idea. But in today's marketplace, ideas don't necessarily sell themselves. Ideas need to be promoted if they're to gain a competitive edge.

Enter Steve Sage, SmartWood™'s marketing director. Sage comes to ISF/SmartWood™ with more than twenty-five years in the wood products business, having risen through the ranks to the position of Regional Vice President of sales for one of the West's largest lumber producers. He knows the wood industry inside out. And with SmartWood™ he feels he has come home.

In college Steve earned a degree in Biology and worked as an arborist. These experiences sensitized him to the complex life systems of the forest. Throughout his years in the wood business, he was looking for an opportunity to make a difference in the way forest resources are managed. Realizing that even from his executive position within the industry he was not able to influence forestry practices, Steve began looking for alternatives. This led to his discovery of SmartWood™. It was immediately apparent to him that the certification process was a powerful way to change "business as usual" in the forests. He signed on in 1996.

For Sage, the key to approaching the industry with certified wood is to play up the business angle. Like any other industry, the wood products industry is profit-driven. His job is to sell distributors and retailers on certified wood products. "Put this stuff in your stores, advertise it as 'environmentally friendly' coming from certified forests, and 65% of your customers will buy it and pay more money for it," he tells them. And the response? "The response from con-

sumers is incredible," says Sage. As evidence of that, Steve has been very busy training sales people how to sell certified products. Recently he trained 150 people in Washington, all members of a distributor's sales force.

For Sage, distribution is the key to success in any industry be it furniture, cosmetics, or wood products. "If you don't control distribution, you can't control the market." He offers the example of

Columbia Forest Products, a certified chain-of-customer* company with 600 distributors nationwide that controls 60% of the hardwood plywood market. By certifying this network, Steve maintains that the competition will also have to work towards certification to hold on to their market share. What that means is more certified forest acres to meet the increased demand.

"And that, after all, is what this is all about – better forest management."

Steve has reason to be optimistic. He sees that mainstreaming certified wood products rather than depending on small distributors is changing the face of the industry. Consumers, however, continue to play an important role in promoting certified wood. Steve suggests that when you buy wood, ask your dealer, "Do you have this item in certified wood?" If they ask "What's that?" tell them it's wood from an ecologically well-managed forest. If they don't have it, request that they carry it.

**Companies that can meet SmartWood™ standards for handling certified products without intermingling them with non-certified materials can be approved for chain-of-customer certification.*

by Douglas Fir

Photo: Thembe

It represents and with its own home-grown guidelines. When ISF was organized in 1990, The Ten Elements of Sustainability were hammered out in a community-based meeting in the home of Peggy and Jan Iris. When the international organization for sustainable forestry, the Forest Stewardship Council, was created in 1993, it drew heavily from the Ten Elements in order to articulate its own guidelines for certification. Community values continue to be a strong focus for both the ISF and the FSC.

"Companies concerned with communities tend to be drawn to certification," says Walter Smith, Western Regional Director, ISF/SmartWood™. "However, more recently, bigger companies are becoming interested." With the growing importance of certified wood in the marketplace, this is no surprise. For the forests as a whole, this is a very welcome development. How the global marketplace interfaces with community values will undoubtedly present new challenges for certification. We'll keep you posted as certification moves ahead.

by Elizabeth Montague



Managed Tanoak stand.



Steve Sage.

PHOTO: DOUGLAS FIR

PHOTO: DOUGLAS FIR

☞ *Cosponsor a Conference* ☞

HARDWOOD MANAGEMENT IN MIXED FORESTS OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA *Current examples and future possibilities*

☞ OCTOBER 7-9, 1999 ■ MATEEL COMMUNITY CENTER IN REDWAY, CALIFORNIA ☞

Why should we manage for hardwoods? How were hardwoods distributed historically? What part do hardwoods play in a healthy forest? What management options make most economic sense? What's the value of different species? In a region dominated economically by the softwood industry, questions of this sort puzzle many landowners.

Hardwoods do make up a significant component of Northern California's coastal forests, especially on sites that have regenerated following logging. Over the years landowners and foresters have dealt with these species in various ways ranging from simply burning them to producing high-quality hardwood lumber. Hardwood management has been a major focus of ISF's work since its inception. The Institute's mission is to promote forest practices that contribute to the long-term ecological and economic well-being of the region. In keeping with that mandate ISF has been exploring economically viable ways to utilize the region's hardwoods in conjunction with restoring or maintaining forest health.

Much research has been done on various aspects and methods of hardwood management. However, many questions remain unanswered; in some cases even unasked. It's time to gather researchers, landowners, practitioners and regulators together to explore the issues in hardwood management, to share what we know and to determine what we need to find out. To accomplish this, ISF is cosponsoring a conference with FLC (corresponding with FLC's annual Fall gathering) and UC Cooperative Extension, to be held in an area that offers many examples of different hardwood management prescriptions as well as hardwood processing facilities.

The conference agenda (next page) focuses on management and silvicultural concerns. A major feature will be an examination of the ecological role that hardwoods play in our forests, including a look at the history of hardwood distribution in the region. Foresters representing a range of management experiences will present an array of current management options. Attention to utilization opportunities is planned as well.

Key people engaged in hardwood research will be in attendance to present their findings. We're hopeful that the conference creates an opportunity for landowners, practitioners, and agency people to interact with researchers to share practical experience and help define future research needs.

The conference will take place on the world's largest tanoak floor. There will be displays of fine woodworking and other products utilizing native hardwoods. There will be a banquet and entertainment. Above all, we wish to create an atmosphere where a wide variety of ideas can meet and mingle.

HARDWOOD MANAGEMENT AND MANUFACTURE FIELD TRIPS

At October's Hardwood Management Conference you'll have the opportunity to visit three distinct examples of how landowners are dealing with their hardwood components. The topics that the field trip will illustrate include tanoak conversion issues, selection for hardwood stand improvement, fire hazard management, conservation easements for working forests, and hardwood manufacture. At the conclusion of the forestland portion of the excursion, we'll visit Whitethorn Construction's molding mill which has been producing tan oak flooring for the past ten years.

The buses will leave Redway and head towards the coast past the hamlet of Whitethorn. First on the docket will be Barnum Timber Company's even-age rehabilitation of hardwood-dominated sites. Barnum foresters will be on hand to answer questions regarding their approaches.

Immediately adjacent to the Barnum site is the SmartWood™ certified Johannesen operation. This small landowner site is an example of selective mixed forest management. Together the two ownerships represent an example of collaboration between small and large landowners through road sharing and erosion management.

The next site will feature a working forest under a conservation easement. The Metz property demonstrates some precommercial thinning in a pure tanoak stand, stream restoration, and erosion control projects. This property is part of a watershed-level planning process in conjunction with other private landowners, a private conservation initiative (Sanctuary Forest), and the state parks.

The last stop, Whitethorn Construction, will give participants a look at a value-added processing facility. The molding mill here has produced much of the flooring (largely tanoak and black oak) coming out of this area. A wood products researcher will speak about utilization opportunities in hardwoods, and the facilities managers will be in attendance to answer questions regarding the operation.

Wild Iris Forest Products' mill site in Piercy (14 miles south of Redway) will be available for a "supplementary" field trip. Wild Iris is a hardwood (primarily tanoak) facility that includes sawmill, air drying space, kilns, and planer. Tours of the operation will be an option for Wednesday or Saturday afternoon.

THE PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6

2:00 - 5:00 P.M. Optional Visit to Wild Iris Wood Products mill site.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7

8:00 A.M. Registration, Coffee, Continental Breakfast
Mateel Community Center, Redway

8:30 A.M. Welcome and Introductions

8:45 A.M. Northcoast Landscape Overview – This panel looks at the changes that have occurred in the composition of Northcoast forests. Speakers will present their research on the pre-settlement landscape, as well as the results of forest management in the past 30 years.

9:45 A.M. Ecological and Biological Roles of Hardwoods in Mixed Coniferous Forests – What roles do hardwoods have in our forests? What value do they have in maintaining biodiversity? What kinds of relationships exist between hardwoods and softwoods? The panel will explore these questions with reference to the management challenges that they imply.

11:15 A.M. Utilization Opportunities and Challenges – An overview of the utilization potential for west coast hardwoods and a discussion of the preliminary results of a major tanoak yield and recovery study.

12:00 P.M. Catered Lunch

1:00 P.M. Current Hardwood Management Strategies Under Various Ownerships – Foresters from private (industrial and non-industrial), tribal and public lands will discuss current silvicultural practices as they relate to hardwoods.

2:30 P.M. Current Hardwood Management Research – Featuring the latest work being done on the west coast relating to stand thinning, yield studies, harvest strategies and other topics, this panel focuses on issues of central interest to landowners and managers.

4:00 P.M. What's Needed for an Ecologically, Economically and Operationally Successful Hardwood Industry? – This panel explores the research needs as well as some of the barriers that stand in the way of a viable industry. Included will be scientific data gaps (around such issues as regeneration, growth and yield, on-the-ground techniques), regulatory challenges and market opportunities.

5:30 P.M. Poster Session

7:30 P.M. BBQ Dinner/Entertainment

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8

8:30 A.M. Field Trip (see previous page for details)
Buses depart Community Center for Barnum Timber Company and Johannesen Property.

12:00 P.M. Lunch at Whitethorn Grange

1:00 P.M. Field trip continues to Metz Property and Whitethorn Construction's hardwood processing facility.

3:30-4:30 P.M. Buses return to Redway

7:00 P.M. Banquet, Speaker.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9

9:00 A.M. Tying it Together: Research and Practice – A recap and synopsis of the previous day's field trip linked to Thursday's topics.

10:00 A.M. Forest Certification – The benefits of acquiring sustainable certification and how to go about it on your land.

11:00 A.M. Conservation Easements for Working Forests – Models for securing permanent environmental protection while maintaining a stream of economic benefit.

12:00 P.M. Concluding Remarks

12:30 P.M. Adjourn/Catered Lunch

2:00 P.M. Optional visit to Wild Iris Forest Products

CONFIRMED PRESENTERS

Andrea Tuttle – Director, California Department of Forestry

Karen Waddell – Pacific NW Forest Sciences Lab, USFS

John Tappeiner, PhD – Forest Sciences, Oregon State Univ.

Susan Bicknell, PhD – Forestry Department, Humboldt State

Greg Giusti – Forester, UC Cooperative Extension

Tom Horton, PhD – Forest Sciences, Oregon State Univ.

John Shelly, PhD – UC Forest Products Laboratory

Paul Harper – Institute for Sustainable Forestry

Dave Hibbs, PhD – Forest Sciences, Oregon State Univ.

Rick Standiford, PhD – Dept of Forestry, Univ. of California

Kim Rodrigues – Forester, UC Cooperative Extension

Fred Euphrat, PhD – Consulting Forester

Dan Macon – Rangeland Trust

Others to be announced

With financial assistance to ISF from USDA Forest Service

Society of American Foresters extended education

credits available.

REGISTRATION AND LODGING INFORMATION

Because the Garberville-Redway area does not have a single motel facility to accommodate everyone coming to the conference, we are offering a variety of choices. We have blocked space at a number of lodges/motels and provide a description below of their facilities. In all cases say that you are part of the Hardwoods Conference when calling for a reservation. Our space is blocked only until August 31, after which you won't get our discount.

BENBOW INN – The classic Tudor-style inn, visible from US 101 south of Garberville (and three miles south of conference site), features unique old-world graciousness. These Queen rooms do not have televisions. Rates: \$115 + tax. Phone 800 355-3301, locally 707 923-2124, FAX 707 923-2897. Only ten rooms available.

BEST WESTERN HUMBOLDT HOUSE INN – Garberville's newest offers continental breakfast and outdoor pool. Book directly with motel (not with Best Western). Rates: Double rooms \$77 + tax. Phone 707 923-2721. 50 rooms available.

SHERWOOD FOREST MOTEL – In Garberville, set back from the street, Sherwood Forest is literally the center of town. Standard amenities. Rates: Double rooms \$54 + tax. Phone 707 923-2721. 25 rooms available.

BRASS RAIL INN – The closest to the conference (a block away), we have blocked all 17 rooms. Rates vary depending on room size from \$44 to \$66. Phone 707 923-3931.

DEAN CREEK RESORT – On the South Fork of the Eel River north of Redway, Dean Creek offers a variety of choices. Rates: \$55 to \$94 (some with kitchens). Phone toll free 877 923-2555 or locally 707 923-2555. Only 11 rooms in all.

OTHER MOTELS: Humboldt Redwoods Inn, Garberville – Phone 707 923-2451. Lone Pine Motel, Garberville – Phone 707 923-3520. Garberville Motel, Garberville – 707 923-2422. Redway Inn Motel, Redway – Phone: 707 923-2660.

REGISTRATION FORM

Hardwood Management in Mixed Forests of Northern California

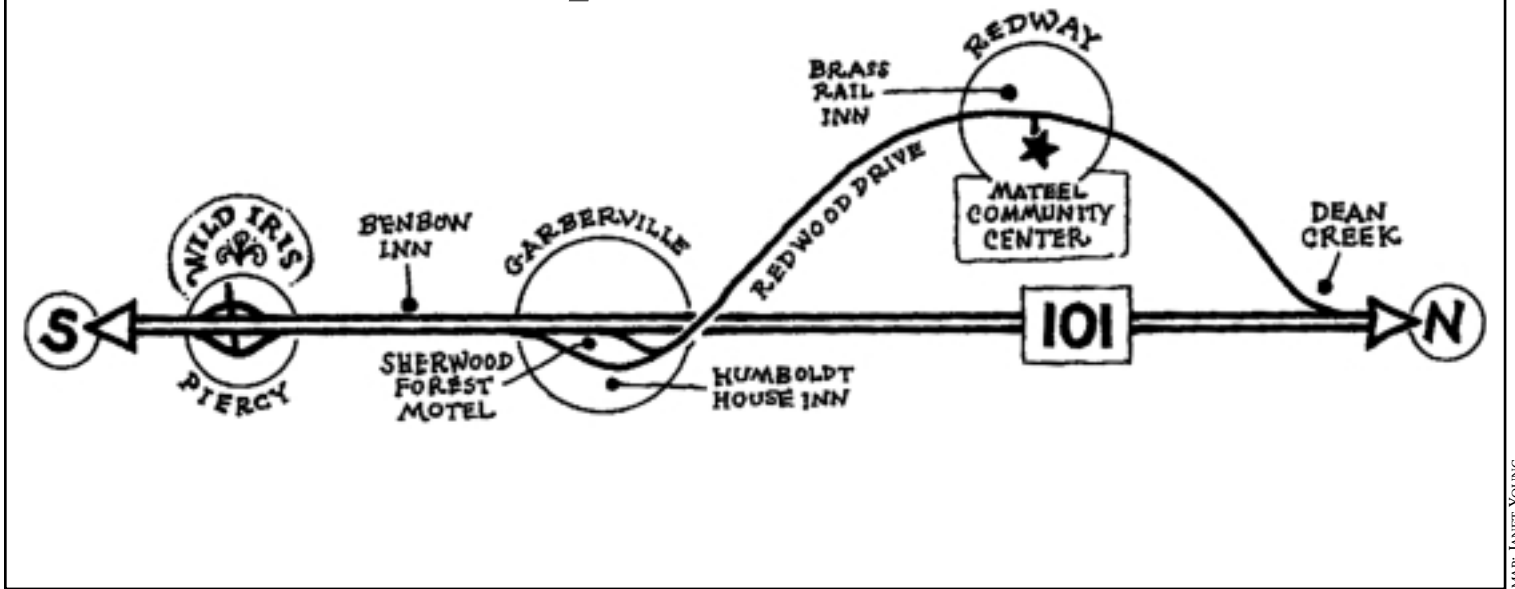
Please register us for the following:

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION	NUMBER OF PEOPLE	TOTAL
PARTICIPANTS <i>Fee covers Thursday and Saturday sessions, continental breakfast, snacks and technical materials</i>	\$75	
THURSDAY LUNCH <i>Catered at Conference Center</i>	\$12	
THURSDAY DINNER (BAR-B-Q) <i>Prepared by Garberville-Redway Rotary Club, with entertainment</i>	\$20	
FRIDAY FIELD TRIP <i>Includes bus, lunch, and refreshments</i>	\$25	
FRIDAY BANQUET DINNER <i>At the Conference Center, with Speaker</i>	\$25	
SATURDAY LUNCH <i>Catered at Conference Center</i>	\$12	
RESERVE A TABLE FOR DISPLAY	\$50	
TOTAL ENCLOSED		\$

Name _____
 Organization, Tree Farm, Ranch or Company _____
 Address _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____
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 PO Box 1580, Redway, CA 95560
Questions? Call Douglas at ISF
 (707) 247-1101

Conference Map



Managed mixed hardwood-conifer stand

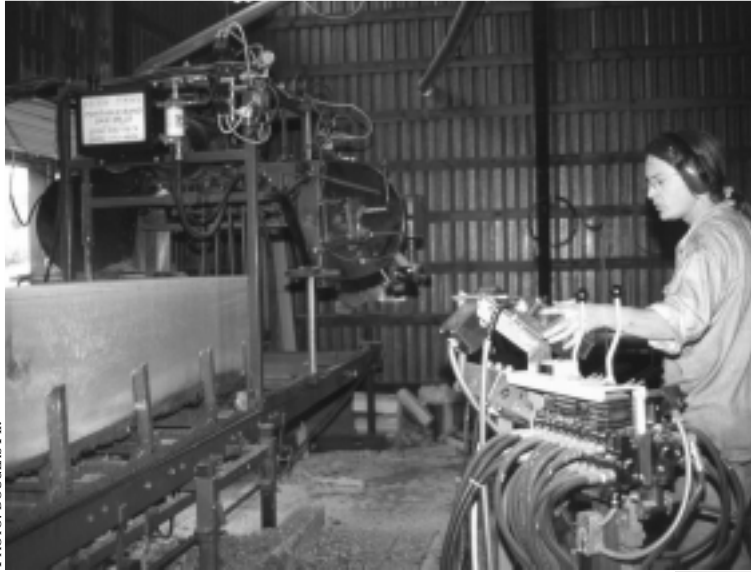


PHOTO: DOUGLAS FIR

Sawyer Mark Whitaker at the headrig.



PHOTO: DOUGLAS FIR

Tanoak lumber air-drying in the Wild Iris mill.

WILD IRIS FOREST PRODUCTS GOES ON-LINE IN '99

Since our last *Forestree News* a year ago, a lot has happened at ISF's Wild Iris demonstration hardwood processing facility in Piercy. A functioning lumber mill now greets you upon stepping into the large building that houses the milling and drying operations. The smell of freshly cut tanoak permeates the air, and one end of the building is almost filled with tall stacks of air-drying lumber. Outside, the rainbird sprinklers keep the tanoak log decks moist until they are ready to be milled. Perhaps most exciting is that Wild Iris is in business selling the lumber that it's producing.

We have debugged and improved the headrig bandsaw. Lumber conveyors and green chain are now functioning, and the edger and a dust collection system have been installed. In another building the planer and another dust collection system are set up. A pop-up saw with a conveyor belt feeding into a large bin is used to convert edgings and slabs from the headrig into firewood.

The bins of firewood are dumped outside in rows to be sold on a you-haul basis. After a long use-permit delay, we have completed one of the two planned kilns and are now producing kiln-dried lumber, some of which has been sold. The Kent resaw awaits installation.

Since January the mill has cut about fifty thousand board feet of tanoak lumber. ISF's Pilot Project provided logs for the first milling trials. Logs have also been milled from a SmartWood™ certified parcel near Whitethorn for a tanoak yield study being conducted by John Shelly of the UC Forest Products Laboratory (see accompanying story). Currently high - quality logs are being cut from one of Registered Professional Forester Jim Able's SmartWood™ certified parcels.

Some of the personnel at the mill have changed. Millwright Barry Annis, who over the last couple of years has built a good deal of the facility, recently departed for other pursuits. Len Schaerer, with considerable experience

in the wood products industry, is in charge of production; Mark Whitaker, an experienced sawyer, runs the headrig. Ben Bertain is being trained on the headrig and other production machines. The emphasis in the mill is on teamwork and flexibility in order to meet the varying needs of a demonstration facility.

The next phase in the Wild Iris facility's development is to analyze the data from the yield study and trial runs and incorporate this information into the Wild Iris business plan. Results of the yield study will provide valuable predictive tools. We will be able to determine far more accurately the quantity and grades of the mill's output based on our log supply.

In the meantime, Wild Iris is milling and drying lumber and continues to sell it to flooring producers and woodworkers, bridging the gap between dream and reality.

by Bill Eastwood

TANOAK YIELD STUDY COLLECTS DATA FOR MARKETING PROJECTIONS

The development of a viable hardwood industry on the North Coast has been hampered by the lack of good data on the amount and quality of lumber that can be milled from the trees available for sustainable harvest. A 1995 ISF study ("An Analysis of the Possible Regional Economic Benefits of Small-Scale Sustainable Forestry") has shown that tanoak holds the most promise of all the region's hardwoods for supporting a sustainable hardwood industry. The fact that most of the tanoak trees are in the lower grades makes it even more essential that accurate grade-yield figures be available for business planning.

To that end ISF is a cooperator in a tanoak recovery and yield study being carried out by John Shelly of the University of California Forest Products Laboratory. The US Forest Service is funding the study. The other two cooperators are the Arcata Economic Development Corporation and the Mendocino Forest Conservation Trust. John chose the three sites to detect possible regional variations in the grade-yield of tanoak and also to analyze different types of manufacturing facilities. ISF's study logs came from the SmartWood™-certified Johannesen parcel near Whitethorn.



John Shelly checks moisture content.

The study design calls for the production of around seventy-six thousand board feet, equally divided among the three sites.

John Shelly is gathering data at all manufacturing stages from standing tree to kiln-dried lumber. National Hardwood Lumber Association (NHLA) certified lumber grader Robin Thompson is doing all the tree, log, and lumber grading at each site to ensure data uniformity. John has prepared exacting data collecting and processing guidelines. John and Robin have provided training for the forestry and mill staff in grading, milling, and drying techniques. This has been of great benefit and has increased overall staff skills. The last of the study wood has recently been milled, most of the wood is air-drying, one kiln load has been dried, planed and graded, and another is on the way.

No preliminary results of the study are available yet. For the sawyers reading this, John did comment that it's clearly very important to get control of drying conditions immediately off the saw. Top load restraint on the stickered lumber piles is also definitely important.

by Bill Eastwood

THE GRADER SPEAKS...

(Robin Thompson, NHLA certified hardwood grader, shares his thoughts on the grading process for the yield study)

Once the logs reach the mill site, the next study task is to grade them. Log grading is an artistic science or scientific art, depending on how you view things. The more experience one has with the task, the more accurate the results of the evaluation. The logs must be measured and tallied for volume and then graded according to the various defects or characteristics found in them. No two logs are alike. Deductions from the log scale are taken for poor tree form such as sweep or crook. Defects in the interior of the log must be assessed and deductions taken from the scale where applicable. All this is aimed at predicting both the quantity and quality of lumber that will come from that log. The higher the grade of log, the higher the percentage of "upper"-grade lumber that can be expected from it.

In the hardwood industry, typically the log grader at the plant sets the value

of the logs by assigning grades. This information in conjunction with the scale for the logs determines what the log seller will earn. Therefore this must be done thoughtfully and carefully to ensure that the plant pays only for the



ISF hardwood grading workshop, Hoopa Valley.

material that will be utilized as lumber. On the other hand, the sellers need to receive adequate compensation for their logs.

After log grading and milling comes the grading of the green lumber prior to placing it on stickers for drying. Once again, this inspection is based

on an industry-wide standard to place value on the product and be able to sort that product. The USDA Forest Service has developed guidelines for the log grades. These log grades, accompanied by the log scales, predict the yields of grade lumber as defined by the NHLA hardwood lumber grade rules. Since these grading guidelines were developed for the eastern hardwoods, one of the goals for the Wild Iris study is to determine how they apply to western species.

Finally, after the lumber has been dried and removed from the kiln, it is planed and graded once again. This final grading takes into account any defects that may have developed in the drying process. Such defects include warp, stain, checks, splits, etc. When the final grading is complete, the data are assembled at the lab where data analysis can be performed. A comprehensive report of the results will be made available at the end of the project.

PRIVATE LANDOWNER GROUPS ELIGIBLE FOR PUBLIC FUNDS

Community-based conservation groups and landowner associations are forming all over the country to address a multitude of environmental and natural resource issues. As groups are organizing, government agencies are embracing landowner involvement in agency-sponsored projects. The California Department of Fish and Game and the Department of Forestry (among others) have recognized this opportunity as a way to better use their limited cost-share and assistance program funds. What does this mean to an organized group of non-industrial landowners? It means technical and financial assistance for projects that include:

- ☒ **Tree planting – reforestation and erosion control**
- ☒ **Fisheries restoration – road upgrades that save sediment from entering streams, riparian planting projects to provide shade and bank stability, and a variety of habitat enhancement projects**
- ☒ **Fire hazard reduction/timber stand improvement – thinning and vegetation management**
- ☒ **Wildlife habitat incentives - maintaining and improving wildlife habitat**
- ☒ **Developing a stewardship plan**

Many landowners and landowner groups are not aware that these kinds of assistance programs are available to them. For the past two years ISF has been implementing the Landowner Association Forest Stewardship (LAFS) Program in an effort to increase awareness of these opportunities. This program offers workshops, technical and planning assistance, and assistance to landowner associations with the goal of encouraging coordinated

landscape-level management. In April of this year a long-time vision came one step closer to fruition when ISF was notified that the Seely Creek Watershed Association (SCWA), a Garberville-area group that ISF has been working with, would receive grant funding from the Department of Fish and Game to write a watershed restoration plan.

This summer SCWA members and ISF staff will begin field work to assess the road system and problem erosion sites as well as habitat for steelhead and coho salmon. After the assessment process we will prioritize rehabilitation projects and make recommendations on how to achieve the goal of restoring Seely Creek's salmonid fishery. The SCWA watershed plan with its baseline data will serve as a working document to guide restoration efforts into the future and act as a first step to acquiring the necessary funding to complete the prioritized projects. The plan can also act as a foundation for further management planning such as fire hazard reduction, stewardship planning, and certified forestry.

In the upcoming months ISF will be compiling the information gathered thus far in the LAFS program and making it available to interested landowners. Included in this landowner guide will be information handed out at the LAFS-sponsored workshops (Roads, Watershed Planning, Planting, Timber Stand Improvement, Forest Assessment for Landowners), case studies on landowner associations, and other useful information.

For more information about the LAFS program or related topics call Mike Vollmer at 247-1101 or e-mail info@isf-sw.org

by Mike Vollmer

UPPER MATTOLE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT SIGNED

In 1997, Sanctuary Forest, Inc., a Mattole watershed land trust, brought together public, private and non-profit organizations that own and/or manage 3,500 acres of adjacent old-growth forests, riparian habitat and connecting forestlands in the Mattole River headwaters. These lands form a link between the Sinkyone Wilderness State Park and the King Range National Conservation Area on the Lost Coast of northern California.

On June 24, 1999, a two-year effort creating a new millenium model for conservation in California culminated in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This MOU officially created the Upper Mattole River and Forest Cooperative. The MOU marks unanimous decision to join in partnership and emphasizes management coordination across property and administrative boundaries. The wide-ranging participants include the Bureau of Land Management,

California State Parks, California Dept. of Fish and Game, Wildlife Conservation Board, California Coastal Conservancy, California Department of Forestry, Restoration Forestry, Sanctuary Forest, Inc., and Save-the-Redwoods League. Together with community participation, the Cooperative will develop action plans for river restoration, public trail access, scientific research, education, fire management and the prescriptions necessary to protect the area's sensitive old-growth forests and salmon.

Assemblymember Virginia Strom-Martin, instrumental in the formation of the Cooperative, stated, "I offer my congratulations and continued support to finding effective partnerships for conservation." John Kolb, district superintendent for California State Parks, Northcoast Redwoods District, added, "State Parks welcomes this opportunity to join with other landowners to find common goals

in protecting our state's natural heritage."

The signing ceremony occurred at the new BLM King Range Administrative Office in Whitethorn, California. Tim Metz, a SmartWood™ Certified Resource Manager and private landowner who owns acreage dedicated to sustainable forestry adjacent to the Sinkyone Wilderness State Park, said, "Forest planning and restoration across political boundaries is the future of land management in California."

Immediately following the signing, a public meeting was held at the Whitethorn Grange. Local landowners were introduced to the Cooperative and given a forum to share ideas, concerns and suggestions regarding future management strategies of the Upper Mattole River watershed.

by Sanctuary Forest

WATERSHED TO WOODSHOP: Putting all the Parts in Motion

Since its inception in 1991, ISF has been committed to regional economic growth through the development of a sustainable hardwoods industry. The goal is the creation of a small-scale, timber-based industry model parallel to the prevailing and dominant corporate one. To accomplish this ISF has set out to demonstrate that long-term sustainable harvest of second-growth forests can help to both restore ecosystems and watersheds, and generate sustainable community economic viability.

But jump-starting the hardwood industry can be likened to an old vaudeville act where the comedian spins plates on poles – first one, then two, then three, then four, using his hands, arms, head, and foot to support the poles. At the end, the performer is surrounded by a blur of precariously balanced whirling disks and the audience is astounded that he can keep them all in the air, all spinning, all connected to him.

In this case the spinning plates represent the forest itself, landowners, the certification process, forestry practices, manufacture of hardwood lumber, value-added processes, marketing, distribution and retailing, and the consumer. It's necessary

to get all these elements moving interdependently and at once for the industry to be successful. A daunting task!

ISF has focused on certain components of this chain more than others. Certifiable forest practices, support to landowners, and public education have been at the center of much of the Institute's work. Primary manufacture activity is embodied in the Wild Iris Forest Products' demonstration mill. Marketing has taken root in the SmartWood™ program.

The missing piece of the model represented by the spinning plates is the creation of an extensive and lasting business network of value-added manufacturers, craftspeople, and their markets. The connection is apparent. In order for the primary producers (like Wild Iris) to prosper, there must be a tier of secondary manufacturing. This tier encompasses furniture (see article on Whit Mcleod), flooring, and fine cabinetry enterprises to absorb the output of the lumber manufacturers and to market products beyond regional boundaries. The more value that's added within the region, the more economic benefit accrues locally.

But concurrently the secondary producers have many needs. These businesses, often fledgling, require assistance ranging from technical (related to materials, product development, and manufacturing processes) to business support (business plans, marketing strategies, and cost-accounting methods). They also would benefit immensely from stable markets for their products. A network of small hardwood-related businesses would be a real advantage to entrepreneurs, especially in their start-up phases, to help them get established in the marketplace. Such a network would also provide on-going technical and marketing support to more established businesses. Overall, the kind of assistance that a network can provide distinctly increases the viability of the model.

In recognition of this situation, the US Environmental Protection Agency under its Community-Based Environmental Protection program awarded ISF a

Sustainable Development Challenge Grant in 1998 to get such a support network up and running. This project, titled "Watershed to Woodshop" runs for three years. Among the activities that the funding can be used for are:

- ☒ **Technical and educational workshops and industry association meetings**
- ☒ **Production of technical papers in support of the hardwoods industry**
- ☒ **Directories and referral services**
- ☒ **Network and organizational newsletters**
- ☒ **Public relations (working with the press and other media outlets to promote the hardwoods industry)**
- ☒ **Web site and other internet-related development**
- ☒ **Cooperative marketing tours and trade show participation**
- ☒ **A community-wide Watershed to Woodshop festival to instill community pride, display products and services, demonstrate techniques, and create a fun environment for learning about ecologically-based forest products.**

The range of activities that the project can support is quite wide. The Institute is seeking the suggestions and guidance of the existing ISF network on this valuable program. We'd like your input. If you are involved in any part of the chain (from watershed to woodshop and beyond), what needs do you have that might be addressed by this project?

We want to get all those plates in the air, get them spinning, and keep them there. Please let us hear from you with your ideas and concerns. This will enable us to mold the program into a vital force for hardwood industry development.

by Douglas Fir



PHOTO: JUDE WAIT

Tanoak chest by Bud Rogers

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCTS WORKSHOP SCHEDULED FOR MID-SEPTEMBER

On September 18, 1999, at Beginnings in Briceland, CA, the Institute will offer a workshop on special forest products, including medicinals, mushrooms, and plants used for food, dyes and ceremony. Focusing on local species in their habitats, our theme will be protection, cultivation and propagation of wild plants and mushrooms. Because global demand for special forest products is rising at the same time habitat is shrinking, increasing efforts are being made to support these species in abundance by learning to cultivate and propagate them in our forest and backyard gardens.

Learn more about the richness of species on the land you steward, about the current issues and how you can participate in the exciting network of organizations and initiatives underway to ensure forest diversity. Our program will include presentations on wild plant seed sources, gathering, germination and the "fire method" with Richo Cech of Horizon Herbs and United Plantsavers; ethical wildharvesting techniques of particular medicinals with Christina Johnson of Trinity Alps Botanicals; mushroom issues and culture with Yana Valachovich, mycologist and researcher; and recent findings from field research on the trillium, threatened medicinal and wildflower, with Erik Jules, plant ecologist and educator with the Siskiyou Field Institute. In addition, we plan to include local Native American perspectives on forest gathering and species propagation practices. Watch for a final program announcement mail-out in early August with registration to follow.

HOT OFF THE PRESS!!!

Get your own *Hardwood Utilization Techniques for Northern California* binder from ISF for \$25 (order form on back page).

CALL TO WOODWORKERS....

Prepare for the sideshow of tanoak furniture and other handcrafted items at the Hardwood Management Conference (see description beginning on page 7) at the Mateel Community Center October 7-9! Here's an opportunity to show how beautiful and durable tanoak items can be. More than 200 people statewide will see your work.

You still have time to start a project for display at the conference. We've got tanoak in stock and are willing to discount the lumber to those agreeing to show at the conference. In addition, the Watershed to Woodshop program will fund photos of your entries for your use and ours.

We also are looking for a permanent collection of prototypes, samples and displays to help us promote tanoak products. We'll trade wood with you if you can supply us with useable items.

Contact Douglas or Jude at ISF, 707 247-1101.

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

SmartWood™ National Program

www.smartwood.org

Descriptions of SmartWood™ programs, product finder, certified operations worldwide and more.

Forest Stewardship Council

www.fscoax.com

The international certifying body's page with a good news section on sustainable forestry around the globe.

The Institute for Sustainable Forestry SmartWood™

www.isf-sw.org

Good guide for west coast sources of certified products as well as Certified Resource Managers.

Western Hardwood Association

www.westernhardwood.com

Though not related to certification, this site features great descriptions of regional hardwoods, including technical specs as well as other useful information.

Forest Stewards Guild

www.ForestStewardsGuild.com

A professional organization devoted to promoting ecologically responsible resource management.

Forest World

www.forestworld.com

An industry site with a sustainable forestry section; good daily news in the field of forestry/forest politics.

Society of American Foresters

www.safnet.org

Also a good source of current news in the field as well as SAF programs and nationwide events.

WWW Virtual Library of Forestry

www.metla.fi/info/vlib/Forestry/Organization/

A huge list of forestry-related topics and links.

Forestland Stewardship program

www.ceres.ca.gov/foreststeward/

CDF's Forest Stewardship program includes info for landowners regarding technical and financial assistance and cost-sharing programs available in California.

USDA Forest Service

www.fs.fed.us

Most interesting to readers of Forestree News might be the state and private forestry section.

There will be a grading training series offered at the Wild Iris facility later in the summer. If you are interested in more details, call ISF. Robin Thompson, National Hardwood Lumber Association grader, will be the trainer.

Institute for Sustainable Forestry

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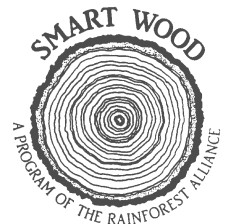
PHOTO: DOUGLAS FIR

Fruiting Madrone.

Help us help the forest.



Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Telephone _____
Landowner? _____ Acreage _____ Watershed _____
Skills/Profession _____



MEMBERSHIP

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Low-Income Supporter: \$10-20/year | <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing Supporter: \$100/year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Supporter: \$25/year | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Family/Business Supporter: \$50-100/month |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family/Business Supporter: \$40/year | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Individual Supporter: \$25-100/month |

WILD IRIS

- Enclosed is \$ _____
 Wild Iris Contributor: \$100 Wild Iris Sustainer: \$1000
- I pledge to give \$ _____ by _____
- Please send investment details for:
Equipment some interested community members are purchasing essential pieces of equipment such as a kiln, molding mill etc. that will be leased to us.
- Other people that ISF can contact about Wild Iris: _____

PUBLICATIONS

- NEW!!! Hardwood Utilization Techniques for Northern California** \$25
- Market Study** \$25
- Economic Feasibility Study** \$15
- Working Your Woods – An Introductory Guide to Sustainable Forestry** \$5
- SmartWood™ Landowner and Forester Handbook** \$10 (2nd Edition under revision)

Please make checks payable to the **Institute for Sustainable Forestry**. Return this form to the address below:
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