



International Association of Wildland Fire

NEWS

www.iawfonline.org

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Facilitating Communication and Providing Leadership to the Wildland Fire Community.

Contact us at iawf@iawfonline.org or 605-890-2348

ACCOMPLISHMENTS-2005

The IAWF had a great year in 2005. Here are a few of the things our organization accomplished.

8th Wildland Fire Safety Summit. We supported a very successful Wildland Fire Safety Summit in Missoula, Montana, thanks to the cooperation of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group and the U.S. Forest Service. The attendees were treated to three days of presentations from the finest experts in wildland fire safety and human factors. The proceedings are posted on our web site. The conference attendees received a CD that contained all of the proceedings that are available for all of the Safety Summits since 1997.

Contribution to WFF. We passed a hard hat at the Safety Summit to collect funds for the Wildland Firefighter Foundation. The conference attendees contributed \$719, which the IAWF matched, resulting in a total donation of \$1,438. The IAWF supports the mission of the WFF, which is to "honor past, present, and future members of the wildland firefighting family". The WFF provides emergency support services to the families of injured and fallen wildland firefighters.

Wildland Fire Safety Award. The IAWF inaugu-

rated the IAWF Wildland Fire Safety Award in 1997 at the first Wildland Fire Safety Summit in Rossland, British Columbia. Previous Safety Award winners include **Marty Alexander, Dick Rothermel, Alan Beaver, Harry Luke, Paul Gleason, and Chuck Hartley. Dr. Ted Putnam** was recognized in 2005 for his exemplary contribution to fire fighter safety. (See page 4 for a profile on Mr. Putnam)

Executive Director. In January, 2005, Bill Gabbert was hired as the IAWF Executive Director. Bill's extensive career in wildland fire included terms on the IAWF Board of Directors. He was also the Fire Management Officer for a group of seven U.S. National Parks, held wildland fire management positions for the U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service, and served on Type 1 and Type 2 Incident Management Teams. Bill's contributions have been very signifi-

cant in part because of his knowledge of the wildland fire business. He maintains our office, our financial records, our membership management system, coordinates our web site, edits the newsletter, and is responsible for all of our graphic presentations.

Wildland Fire Fatalities in Spain. After 11 Spanish firefighters were killed on a fire in Catalonia Province, IAWF President **Dick Mangan** established contact with the Minister of Forestry offering our services as needed to assist in the review of the events.

Wildfire magazine, an official publication of the IAWF, had another successful year. Major issues addressed in 2005 by *Wildfire* magazine included the wildland-urban interface, personal protective equipment ideas from overseas, radio communications on emergency incidents, the use of

An interface fire in Okanogen, Washington, with the column of the Farewell fire in the background. 2003 photo by Marc Titus.



Incident Meteorologists, GIS & GPS technology, and aviation on wildfires.

The International Journal of Wildland Fire. The scientific journal of the IAWF continues to grow. Subscribers have online access to full text PDF and html content. The Journal has a very high "impact factor", which is a measure of how often papers in the Journal are cited. **Domingos Viegas** is chair of the Journal's advisory committee.

FireNet is an email-based discussion and information distribution system, or listserv, specifically serving the wildland fire global community. A few years ago the IAWF took over the operation of FireNet after the previous hosts in Australia discontinued operation due to time constraints. Now it is hosted through our site and **Chuck Bushey** does yeoman's work in helping to sign up new subscribers as well and filtering (making sure there is no spam) and distributing the content. The subscription base hovers around 900. A large number of people have commented that FireNet is providing a valuable service.

Internet Site. The Internet site, www.iawfonline.org, continues to grow and improve. New features in 2005 include:

- The ability for members to join, update their mailing address, and pay dues online.
- A forum-type bulletin board.
- Polls.
- Expanded News items on the front page.
- A map where members and others can plot their location along with a photo if desired.
- A Wildland Fire Event Calendar that displays important future and past historical events of interest to wildland firefighters.
- A Wildland Fire Book section.

President's Column. The President of the Board of Directors, **Dick Mangan**, continues to write a monthly editorial for *Wildfire* Magazine, called "From the President's Desk" which addresses pertinent topics of the day. In addition to appearing in *Wildfire*,

the columns are posted on our web site on the Documents and Reports page.

Infamous Fires. We have put together a partial list, by date of the year, of some of the more famous, or infamous, multiple fatality wildland fires around the world over the last 150 years. It is not intended to be a complete list of every fatality fire, but, as far as we know, it is the only record of fatality fires listed by date of the year.

There are several purposes for doing the research and compiling this list by calendar date. Most importantly, it is hoped that individuals and organizations involved in fire, especially wildland fire, will mark these dates on a calendar, or refer to the IAWF's online Wildland Fire Event Calendar. By having these wildland fires on a calendar, the lessons learned from even a 130 year old fire will be less likely to be forgotten. An forgotten lesson learned may save the life of a current or future firefighter.

This listing can be found on our web site at www.iawfonline.org. If you go to the "Wildland Fire Event Calendar", it can display ONLY these historical fires if you click on the box in the upper right corner that says "All categories" and choose "Historical Events". Hover your mouse pointer over the event and more details will appear. If you click on the event even more details will be visible. A .pdf version of the Infamous Fires list can be downloaded from our Documents and Reports page.

Assistance to Foreign Visitors. We have assisted and provided information to wildland firefighters in other countries, i.e., Turkey and Chad, who need help with wildfire issues in their countries or have asked for help in visiting fire facilities in our country.

WGA Meeting. A representative of the IAWF participated in a "Workshop on Forest and Rangeland Health Collaboration" in Casper, Wyoming organized by the Western Governors Association.

Australian Fire Conferences. IAWF Board members participated in the Australasian Fire Authority Council (AFAC) conference as well as the Fire Management Officer's Group (FMOG). An Australian IAWF Board member also serves on the IAFC Wildland Fire Policy Committee.

Newsletter. The IAWF began an electronic newsletter that is being distributed by email to our members and web site visitors who "sign" our guest book.

What's in store for 2006 and Beyond?

1st Fire Behavior and Fuels Conference. The conference, titled: "*Fuels Management—How to Measure Success*", is being organized in association with the National Interagency Fuels Coordinating Group, the Joint Fire Science Program, the U.S. Forest Service, the Canadian Forest Service, the British Columbia Ministry of Forests and Range Protection Program, and the University of Montana. It will be held in Portland, Oregon March 27-30. The Association owes a great debt to **Dr. Patricia Andrews** and her planning committee for what appears to be an outstanding conference. Their hard work has attracted over 102 research presentations, 55 posters, and 10 very informative workshops. Attendance is expected to be high for this conference that has been recognized by the Society of American Foresters as being worth 17.5 CFE Contact Hours in Category 1.

The Ninth Wildland Fire Safety Summit will be held in Pasadena, California, April 25-28, 2006. **Dick Mangan** is coordinating the efforts of the IAWF, Los Angeles County Fire Department, and the National Wildfire Coordinating Group's Safety and Health Working Team to produce this premier event in the heart of one of the busiest wildland fire areas in the country.

Second Wildland Fire Policy Summit. On February 9, 2006, the IAWF will convene the second meeting of major U.S. wildland fire organizations in Washington, D.C. to discuss ways the organizations can work together more effectively to address the wildland fire problem. Two representatives from wildland fire agencies in Canada will also attend.

2nd Fire Behavior and Fuels Conference. Planning has already begun for this 2007 conference.

Other conferences are in the planning stages for 2007 and 2008. We will distribute more information as details are developed.

INSIDE THE IAWF

December saw a change in the IAWF Board of Directors as a result of elections for three expiring terms. The IAWF is pleased to announce that the following individuals have been elected:

Marc Titus, Wildfire Prevention Coordinator for the State of Washington Department of Natural Resources at Sedro Wooley, to a 3 year term on the Board.

Chuck Bushey, owner/president of Montana Prescribed fire Services in Billings and former IAWF Board member and vice-president, was elected to a

new 3-year term. Bushey has been managing the IAWF's "FireNet" website (www.iawfonline.org/firenet.s.html).

Rick Gale of Boise, Idaho, Retired National Park Service Wildfire Director and currently with Organizational Quality Associates, was re-elected to a new 3-year term on the Board and will continue to serve as Vice President.

IAWF President **Dick Mangan** was re-elected to a new term as President. Mangan, a retired US Forest Service forester, is now owner and president of

Blackbull Wildfire Services in Missoula, Montana.

In addition to the above, the current Board of Directors consists of **Howard Dupuis** (Treasurer), **Paul Woodard** (Secretary), **Mark Kaib**, **Gavriil Xanthopoulos**, **Tony Blanks**, **Shad Sitz**, **Keith Harrap**, **Patricia Andrews**, **Don Saari**, **Jim Tidwell**, **Domingos Viegas**, **Marc Titus**, and **Chuck Bushey**.

We thank those retiring Board members who dedicated much time to our organization. Specifically **Leslie Anderson** and **Joe Lowe**.

Any member of the IAWF who would like to serve on the Board of Directors can be considered if a nomination is received by October 31 each year. The 3-year terms of the directors are staggered so that several expire on December 31 every year.



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Give us your ideas about the direction the IAWF should take. Our web site has a Bulletin Board where members can post messages and comment on messages left by other members. Go to our web site at www.iawfonline.org

and click on "Member Area" and then on "Login". Your "user name" is your e-mail address. If you don't know your password, click on "forgot your password" and it will be emailed to you. After you log in, click on Community/Bulletin Board. Choose a

forum, then you can read the posts, add a topic, or post a message.

Polls

After you log in, click on Community/Polls to participate in polls about wildland fire.

5TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FOREST FIRE RESEARCH (ICFFR)

The preparations for the 5th ICFFR in Portugal are proceeding well, according to the staff for the conference. At the closure of the deadline for abstract submission more than 250 papers had been received and are now being peer reviewed. Abstracts originating from at least 26 countries were received, covering

many topics of fire research.

In connection with this conference two advanced courses will take place. The first one will be dedicated to Fire Safety and is coordinated by **Dick Mangan** (President of the IAWF). The second one will deal with Fire Behavior Modeling and is coordinated by **Dr.**

Wendy Anderson.

The Chair of the conference is **Domingos Xavier Viegas**, a member of the IAWF Board of Directors. The meeting will be held November 24-26, 2006. For more information please contact: icffr@dem.uc.pt.

In the photograph above, does the text in the sign look Greek to you? If so, you are very perceptive. The photo was taken by Board member Gavriil Xanthopoulos at a conference near Elatia, Greece. Notice the Wildfire Magazine on the table. Send us your photos of Wildfire magazine in interesting places: iawf@iawfonline.org

ARTICLES FOR WILDFIRE MAGAZINE OR THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF WILDLAND FIRE

If you have an idea for an article in Wildfire Magazine, contact **Lisa Allegretti**

at lallegretti@prismb2b.com or 312-840-8443. For information about submitting a

paper to the Journal, go to our web site and click on the Journal link.

2005 WILDLAND FIRE SAFETY AWARD

The IAWF inaugurated the IAWF Wildland Fire Safety Award in 1997 at the first Wildland Fire Safety Summit in Rossland, British Columbia. The nominees are reviewed and voted upon by a committee comprised of previous IAWF *Wildland Fire Safety Award* recipients and a member of the IAWF board who chairs the committee. The award is given to someone in the wildland firefighting community who has made a significant contribution to wildland firefighter safety, either directly on the fireline; or indirectly through management, cultural changes, or through wildland fire research.

This year's *Wildland Fire Safety Award* recipient cuts across all of those lines. He has been previously described as a "hybrid" that has been able to view wildland fire safety from the aspect of several different disciplines bringing a unique point of view not always readily seen or accepted by others. The International Association of Wildland Fire presented this year's *Wildland Fire Safety Award* to **Dr. Ted Putnam** at the conference banquet.

The previous day at the Safety Summit Dr. Putnam was also presented the *Paul Gleason Lead by Example Award*. This award was created by the Wildland Fire Leadership Development Committee under the National Wildfire Coordinating Group in honor of Paul Gleason, a wildland firefighter whose career spanned several decades before his death from cancer in 2003.

This award was developed to recognize individuals who lead by example and for demonstrating leadership traits during or in support of wildland fire opera-

tions. **Paul Gleason** was also the 2nd recipient of the IAWF *Wildland Fire Safety Award* in 1998.

Dr. Putnam has demonstrated a long-term passion for wildland firefighter safety. Ted started learning about fire protection initially with structural firefighting training in the military and then later gained a background in both wildland fire operations and research while with the US Forest Service.



He started his wildland fire career with 3 years as a district crew firefighter on the Clearwater National Forest (Idaho) in Region 1. This was followed by 11 seasons as a smokejumper, 3 of which were as a Supervisory Smokejumper. Ted earned his PhD in Experimental Psychology from the University of Montana, and combined this with his wildland fire experience began working for the fire technology and development wing of the US Forest Service at the Missoula Technology and Development Center (MTDC). Over a period of 25 years in US Forest Service R&D Ted made a number of significant contributions to personal protective equipment for wildland fire-

fighters, publishing widely including articles in *Wildfire* magazine and the *International Journal of Wildland Fire*.

During the 1980's and 1990's he was actively involved in many wildland firefighter fatality investigations including the 1990 Dude Fire in Arizona and the 1994 South Canyon Fire in Colorado. Ted retired from the US Forest Service in 1998.

Ted is known as a person who could think outside the "box" when it came to wildland firefighter safety. His personal beliefs and convictions have influenced our appreciation nowadays for the importance of human factors in wildland firefighter safety and he was instrumental in organizing the original Wildland Firefighters Human Factors Workshop in June 1995.

Although now retired, he still remains active in speaking and writing about wildland firefighter safety. The IAWF congratulates Dr. Putnam for receiving both of these significant awards for leadership in the wildland fire community.

Previous Safety Award winners include

**Marty Alexander,
Dick Rothermel,
Alan Beaver,
Harry Luke,
Paul Gleason, &
Chuck Hartley.**

OTHER WILDLAND FIRE AWARDS?

The IAWF initiated the Wildland Fire Safety Award in 1997.

The U.S. Forest Service has quite a number of awards they give to their fire management employees,

the Wildland Firefighter Foundation has their "Fire Fighter of the Year" award, and there is a "Paul Gleason Lead by Example" award.

Are there other awards or award categories that

should be established? Let us know what you think, by posting on our Bulletin Board or send an email to iawf@iawfonline.org

Thanks to Paul Woodard, Tony Blanks, Domingos Xavier Viegas, Marc Titus, and Dick Mangan for contributing to this newsletter.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

The IAWF is an association "formed to promote a better understanding of wildland fire, and built on the belief that an understanding of this dynamic natural force is vital for natural resource management, for firefighter safety, and for harmonious interaction between people and their environment. The Association is dedicated to communicating with the entire wildland fire community and providing global linkage for people with shared interests in wildfire and comprehensive fire management."

As part of this mandate, the Association has accepted some of the responsibility to help fire managers and foresters stay current in wildland fire-related fields. We will do this by assisting in the development and delivery of conferences, summits, and courses that are of sufficient quality that they are recognized by the Society of American Foresters and other state-level professional certification agencies as contributing to the continuing education of a practicing wildland professional.

Please let us know if there are specific areas which in your opinion need to be addressed through formalized learning venues or opportunities. We welcome your feedback.



8th Wildland Fire Safety Summit, Missoula, MT, 2005



Some members of the 2005 IAWF Board of Directors working on a revision of the IAWF's Strategic Plan. Left to right: Paul Woodard, Dick Mangan, Leslie Anderson, Domingos Viegas, Rick Gale, Pat Andrews, Shad Sitz.

1ST FIRE BEHAVIOR AND FUELS CONFERENCE: HOW TO MEASURE SUCCESS

The first in a series of Fire Behavior and Fuels conferences will be held in Portland, Oregon, March 27-30, 2006. This conference will address the development, implementation, and evaluation of fuels management programs, with a focus on *how to measure success*.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

- Anyone involved in developing, implementing, or evaluating fuels management activities.
- Policy Makers
- Managers
- Practitioners
- Researchers

WORKSHOPS:

There will be an option for attending workshops on March 27. Participants will be able to choose up to 4 workshops from a list of 10. Workshop registration is first come, first served.

CO-SPONSORS:

- National Interagency Fuels Coordinating Group
- The Nature Conservancy, Global Fire Initiative
- Joint Fire Science Program
- U. S. Forest Service Research
- National Fire Plan
- Canadian Forest Service
- British Columbia Ministry of Forests and Range, Protection Program
- National Center for Landscape Fire Analysis

REGISTRATION:

Register and make hotel reservations before Feb. 15, 2006 for reduced hotel and registration rates.

PROGRAM:

There will be more than 150 oral and poster presentations on topics including:

- Fuel management policy
- International perspectives
- Financial and economic considerations

- Multi-agency collaborations
- Ecosystem health and restoration
- Community protection
- Social values and perceptions
- Fuels measurement methods
- Silviculture
- Mechanical fuel treatment
- Prescribed fire
- Landscape management
- Fire prevention
- Fire behavior modeling

CFE CREDITS:

The conference has been recognized by the Society of American Foresters as being worth 17.5 Continuing Forestry Education Contact Hours in Category 1.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER:

Check our web site at www.iawfonline.org (click on Conferences).

More information about our conferences at:

www.iawfonline.org



Mark your calendar:

March 27-30, 2006

for the Fire Behavior and Fuels Conference

Save April 25-28,

2006 for the Wildland

Fire Safety Summit

9TH WILDLAND FIRE SAFETY SUMMIT

The 9th Wildland Fire Safety Summit will be held in Pasadena, California, April 25-28, 2006.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

Firefighters, prescribed burners, land managers, fire chiefs, agency administrators, safety officers, researchers, fire aviation specialists, and public officials.

CO-SPONSORS:

Los Angeles County Fire Department and the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) Safety & Health Working Team.

REGISTRATION:

- Lower registration rates for IAWF members.
- All others will receive a free 1-year IAWF membership.
- Credit cards will not be charged until April 15, 2006.
- First-come, first-served on optional Staff Ride registration

Register before

March 15, 2006 for

- Reduced registration fees
- Reduced hotel room rates

PROGRAM:

- Staying safe on the fire-line.
- Liability and legal implications.
- Aviation safety.

- Fire weather.
- Heavy equipment safety.
- Making firefighters safer.
- Vendor displays.
- Safety in the wildland-urban interface.
- Expanding the work force with contracting.
- Policy, practices, and procedures.
- Case studies and lessons learned.
- International wildland fire safety.
- Health and fitness for the firefighter.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER:

Check our web site at www.iawfonline.org (click on Conferences)



Optional Loop Fire Staff Ride (Field Trip) – Friday, April 28, 2006

The conference will be within a short distance from the scene of the Loop Fire of 1966 in which 12 members of the El Cariso Hot Shots were entrapped and died. Register for an optional Staff Ride to visit the site, walk in their foot steps, and hear a first hand analysis of someone who was there that day.