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# International Association of Wildland Fire

## NEWS

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## THE FIRST “EMBER AWARD” FOR EXCELLENCE IN WILDLAND FIRE SCIENCE PRESENTED

During the 1<sup>st</sup> Fire Behavior and Fuels conference in Portland in March, 2006, the IAWF presented the first Ember Award for excellence in wildland fire science posthumously to Dr. Frank Albini, who was a fire behavior scientist at the Missoula Fire Sciences Lab. The purpose of the Ember Award is to acknowledge sustained achievement in wildland fire science. The name “ember” was chosen to reflect the fact that research and science often move slowly, and their benefits or impacts may not be apparent for years or more. The IAWF intends to make this an annual award.



**Facilitating  
Communication and  
Providing Leadership to the  
Wildland Fire Community.**

## THE JOURNAL GOING FROM 4 TO 6 ISSUES PER YEAR

The International Journal of Wildland Fire, the peer-reviewed scientific journal of the IAWF and the printed record of most wildland fire-related research, has been so successful that there is a problem--more papers than can be accommodated in four issues per year. Therefore, beginning in 2007, the Journal will increase the number of issues to six each year. More details will be posted on our web site.



IAWF member Dan Jamieson sent this photo taken in January by crew members of the North East Victoria Task Force at the Mt. Lubra Fire in Grampians National Park, Victoria, Australia. Started by lightning, the fire burned 130,000Ha (321,000 acres). Note the spot fires, some of which were reported 2 kilometers in front of the fire.

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## 1<sup>st</sup> Fire Behavior and Fuels Conference: *Fuels management—How to Measure Success*

By Pat Andrews

The 1<sup>st</sup> Fire Behavior and Fuels Conference: *Fuels management—How to Measure Success* was held in Portland, Oregon, March 27-30, 2006. The conference addressed development, implementation, and evaluation of fuel management programs, with a focus on *how to measure success*. The scope included not only the *how to*, but also the *what* and *why* of fuels management.

The 500 conference participants represented a wide range of organizations, disciplines, and countries. The conference program included workshops, invited speakers, oral and poster presentations, panels, and vendor displays. Many of those who responded to the after-conference survey listed "networking" as one of the most valuable aspects of the conference. They noted the benefits of the mix of managers, researchers, academia, practitioners, and policy makers.

There were about 150 presentations (100 oral and 50 poster) covering a range of topics including decision support systems, treatment optimization tools, fuel characterization, fuel mapping, wildland urban interface, ecological considerations,

prescribed fire, fire use, fire policy, fire modeling, fire risk assessments, fuel metrics and evaluation, fire weather, economics, sociology, communication, collaboration, and case studies. Papers submitted by presenters will be published in a proceedings, and about 12 of those papers will comprise a special issue of the International Journal of Wildland Fire.

About 250 people took advantage of the optional pre-conference workshops. They attended several of the 10 workshops that described and demonstrated computer systems, models, and methods that can be used in support of fuels management. The short workshops were designed as an introduction and to give information on how to get additional information, publications, and computer programs.

There was general consensus that this was a very successful first conference in a series planned by the International Association of Wildland Fire (IAWF). The 2<sup>nd</sup> Fire Behavior and Fuels Conference will be in Florida, March 26-30, 2007. This conference will focus on *the fire environment*. Watch [www.iawfonline.org](http://www.iawfonline.org) for details.

*Patricia L. Andrews is a past member of the IAWF Board of Directors and was IC for the conference. She is a fire behavior research scientist at the Missoula Fire Sciences Laboratory, USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station.*



## IAWF Matches Donation to Wildland Firefighter Foundation

At the Fire Behavior and Fuels conference in Portland, Oregon March 27-30, a painting of a fire scene was raffled off as a fund raiser. The winner was Lee Smith from Lake Louise, Alberta, Canada. The proceeds of the raffle was \$1,100, which was matched by the IAWF. A total of \$2,200 was presented to the Wildland Firefighter Foundation. The Foundation's mission is to "honor past, present, and future members of the wildland firefighting family" ([www.wffoundation.org](http://www.wffoundation.org)).

In the photo below, Melissa Schwagerl, center, accepts the donation from Ed Mathews, Operations Section Chief at the conference, and Bill Gabbert, Executive Director of the IAWF. Ed holds the raffled painting.



# Riding the “Loop”

## 9<sup>th</sup> Wildland Fire Safety Summit ®

By Dick Mangan

On November 1, 1966 as the famed Santa Ana winds were giving way to an on-shore flow from the Pacific Ocean, the El Cariso Hotshot Crew moved across a piece of steep and rocky ground in southern California, intending to cold trail and mop-up a fire named “Loop”. In just a few minutes time, “Loop” turned from a docile “nothing” fire into a deadly reminder of the ever-present risks of fighting wildland fires: Eleven members of El Cariso were dead or dying on the hillside, and another eleven suffered burn injuries.

Nearly 40 years later, on a foggy day in April 2006, an international group of “students of fire” who had just attended the IAWF’s 9<sup>th</sup> Wildland Fire Safety Summit in Pasadena, spent the day doing a Staff Ride on the Loop Fire. Coordinated by Bear Divide Hotshot Superintendent Mike Alarid with help from LA County Fire and the Angeles National Forest, the Staff Ride introduced us to the culture of 1960s firefighting, and then walked us through the area and events of the fire itself. Chuck Hartley, superintendent of the Dalton Hotshots on the Loop Fire (and winner of the 1<sup>st</sup> IAWF Wildland Fire Safety Award) was there to show us the equipment of the period, and explain to us his recollections of that fateful day. Using original photos and the newer “sand table” technique, Chuck laid out the fire’s location and spread, as well as the movement of the crews.

After a hike out to Contractor’s Point (overlooking the fire area from the top), we bussed to the bottom of the fire and hiked into the actual burnover site. Along the way, facilitators helped lead discussions that helped us learn from the events, and allowed us to consider what might be our own approach to a similar event, should the situation ever arise.

After we hiked out to the bottom of the fire area and had the “Integration Phase” of the Staff Ride (that’s where

all the participants share the lessons they learned from the day’s event), we were privileged to have Gordon King, El Cariso Superintendent on the Loop Fire, address the group and share his experiences that day. Now 73 years old, Gordon still has a sharp memory of that day nearly 40 years ago, and gave a moving talk about living through such a tragic happening. All of us on the Staff Ride deeply appreciated Gordon’s willingness to share his memories, experiences and insights with us.

The Loop Fire Staff Ride was the culmination of the 9<sup>th</sup> Wildland Fire Safety Summit that was co-hosted in Pasadena by the Los Angeles County Fire Department. It was the first time that the Safety Summit had been held in southern California, and had an outstanding program of

speakers presenting to attendees from around the world, including South Africa, Portugal, Australia and Canada. Dr. Jennifer Thackaberry Ziegler from Purdue University presented the Key-note address, and was followed for the next 3 days by presentations on all aspects of wildland fire and aviation safety issues. Retired LA County Battalion Chief Scott Jones gave an in-depth view of the GlenAllen fatalities from 1993, and CDF Chief John Hawkins was the wrap-up speaker, giving us the “IC’s Perspective of the Cedar Fire” of 2003 in the San Diego. In keeping with the Association’s international mission and membership, presenters came from Canada, Australia and Portugal as well as the US.

*Dick Mangan is President of the Board of Directors of the IAWF, and President of Blackbull Wildfire Services.*



IAWF President Dick Mangan leads a panel discussion.



John R. Hawkins gives the conference attendees some insight into his experiences as Incident Commander of the 2003 Cedar Fire, east of San Diego.



Gordon King describing the 1966 Loop Fire, which occurred on the slope behind him.



Staff ride participants hiking in the footsteps taken by the El Cariso Hot Shots in 1966.

## IAWF Wildland Fire Event Calendar

Our new, more robust calendar on our web site has been wildly successful, averaging 10,000 to 14,000 views each month. When you view the calendar at our web site, if you "hover" your mouse pointer over an event, more details will become visible. If you click on the event all of the details appear. To sort the events on the calendar to ONLY show conferences, meetings, or historical events, click on "Categories" in the upper right corner.

To post an event on the calendar, send us an email at [iaw@iawfonline.org](mailto:iaw@iawfonline.org). Since there are other web sites that specialize in fire training, we do not list training on our calendar.

## Update Your Contact Information

To renew your membership, change your email address, or change your mailing address for Wildfire Magazine, go to our web site and click on "Member Area" then "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 e-mailed to you.

## We hear From Our Readers:

"Your newsletter and magazine helps to bring the fire agencies together for that day when we have to help each other on the fireline--keep up the great work."

Terry Popowich, Fire Program Manager, NW Ontario, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Canada

## Inside the IAWF

### New Directors

During the May 9 Board of Directors conference call, two new Board members were elected. Elizabeth Reinhardt was chosen to fill the remainder of Pat Andrews' term, and Gary Nelson will fill the rest of the term of Shad Sitz. Elizabeth is the Project Leader for Fire Ecology and Fuels at the Missoula Fire Lab in Montana. Gary, retired from the Los Angeles County Fire Department, is now a consultant for course development in the areas of leadership and wildland fire, and instructs wildland fire strategy and tactics, leadership, and incident command. The Board welcomes these new members, and thanks Pat and Shad for their service.

**T**hanks to Paul Woodard, Pat Andrews, Tony Blanks, Mark Kaib, and Dick Mangan for contributing to this edition of the Newsletter.

## Author Identifies The Most "Significant Individual Contributors" To Wildland Fire Knowledge.

Philip Omi in his 2005 book "Forest Fires; A Reference Handbook" lists 24 "significant individual contributors" who have influenced wildland fire policy and knowledge. Of the 12 that are still living today, 7, or 58% of them are currently members of the International Association of Wildland Fire. For more information about the book, go to our Wildland Fire Books page at <http://www.iawfonline.org/books.php>

For a list of the 24 individuals named, see our "IAWF News" on the front page of our web site at <http://www.iawfonline.org>

Send us your photos for the newsletter! Include a caption describing who, what, where, and when..



Researchers studying fire behavior at the Missoula Fire Sciences Laboratory, USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station.

## Profile of IAWF Board of Directors Member

### Paul Woodard

Dr. Paul Woodard is currently a Professor in the Department of Renewable Resources at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, CANADA where he has worked and studied since 1977. He completed his B.Sc.F at the University of Vermont in Burlington and his M.Sc. and Ph.D. at the University of Washington in Seattle. He teaches in the areas of forest fire science and management. His research interests have ranged from fire effects on wildlife habitats, to fireline productivity, to the cost effectiveness of using infrared technology in fire suppression, to fire prevention, to predicting fuel loadings in standing live trees. Paul also consults in the areas of fire cause determination, fire disturbance appraisal and remediation, and fire litigation.

Paul is actively involved in his profession. He was the Associate Editor -

Fire for the Forestry Chronicle for over 10 years. He has twice served as a Councilor in the Rocky Mountain Section of the Canadian Institute of Forestry, Chaired the Renewable Resource Study Group for the Minister of the Environment in Alberta, and was the President of the College of Alberta Professional Foresters.

Paul has been recognized for his many contributions. In 1999, he won the Canadian Institute of Forestry's "Tree of Life Award" and in 2005, he was the recipient of their "Canadian Forestry Achievement Award". Paul has co-chaired a couple of very successful United Way campaigns on



campus.

Paul says he volunteered for the Board of Directors of the International Association of Wildland Fire because "It was his turn". Although he has been a member for many years he has never had the time to contribute to this very valuable group. So when he found time he offered his name as a possible candidate. Paul is currently the Secretary of the IAWF. Additionally, Paul is working with other members on two conferences sponsored by the IAWF, "Human Dimensions in Wildland Fire" which will be held in September 2007 and "Yellowstone + 20: The 1988 Fires" which is scheduled for September 2008.

Paul is an avid golfer because he like hunting for lost golf balls. However, he will be the first to tell you he loses more than he finds.

## Profile Of IAWF Board of Directors Member

### Mark Kaib

It is a real honor and privilege to serve on the board of directors for the IAWF.

I began my fire career after graduating from high school as an Arizona hotshot crewmember for the USFS in 1982. I was quickly captivated by the team spirit and the fortitude required for this work under extreme environmental conditions. Over the next 13 years I worked on other hotshot crews, engine crews, helitack, and for the USFS, NPS, and the BLM in Alaska. I had the opportunity to be a hotshot superintendent in the Southwest U.S., and also to work in Alaska with Native American Crews for the Alaska Fire Service.

During many of those years as a seasonal firefighter I either went to college or traveled the world in the winter season. I was fortunate to have taken the time then to travel extensively throughout Latin America, Southeast Asia, and to 24 countries in Africa.

This travel also provided a great learning experience, to better understand world politics, developing countries, other cultures, and their resource and fire management practices. In 1994, I returned to graduate school to study fire history and ecology at the University of Arizona. In northern Mexico and the Southwest United States, I researched land-use, fire ecology, fire history, and anthropogenic fire influences in mixed-conifer, pine-oak woodland, and semidesert grassland ecosystems.



My wife Kelli and our 6 year old son, occupy most of my free time, spent working in the yard and house or out exploring wild and scenic areas. I am currently the

fire ecologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Southwest Region in Albuquerque, New Mexico where I consult the Refuge's fire programs in Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and Oklahoma. This work is very rewarding. It has allowed me to apply my fire research and management experience to help support the Refuge prescribed fire, restoration, and habitat management goals. Regional fire and fuel monitoring, planning and implementation, research and development, outreach and education, and emergency fire stabilization and rehabilitation planning are some of my current projects and responsibilities. I also participate in wildfire management through the Southwest Geographic Area usually as a Division Supervisor. I feel strongly that the wildland fire community needs a better professional organization, to provide improved policy, direction, and a more effective lobby for enhanced firefighter safety, health benefits, and retirement.