



SONOMA COUNTY FOREST CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP

2023 Living With Fire Forest Conservation Conference

SPEAKER BIOS

Robert Aguero, Registered Professional Forester

Senior Environmental Specialist, Permit Sonoma Natural Resources Division, County of Sonoma
FORESTRY PROJECT PLANNING, PERMITTING, & FUNDING

Robert has been working in the forest and natural resources industry for ten years in private industry, consulting, and government roles. He provides environmental review and permitting assistance to the public and other government agencies and programs, especially in the realm of wildfire planning and project implementation. Robert is a Registered Professional Forester and holds a B.S. focused in Forestry and Natural Resources Management from California Polytechnic State University-San Luis Obispo.

Kim Batchelder

Vegetation Management Coordinator, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District
LESSONS LEARNED FROM SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATIONS LANDOWNER PANEL

Kim began his career managing Wilderness Areas in Colorado, then reforestation projects in rural Costa Rica, followed by forest management certification from Mexico to Chile. He helped form the Sonoma County Forest Conservation Working Group in 2005. Kim manages the Vegetation Management Grant Program, collaborating with County agencies, local non-profits and fire services agencies to determine the best way to use \$25 Million dedicated to vegetation management from the 2020 PG&E Settlement fund. Kim received his B.S. in Biology and Environmental Conservation from University of Colorado at Boulder and Master of Forestry from Duke University.

Briana Boaz

Department Chair, Natural Resources Management, Santa Rosa Junior College
INTRODUCTION TO THE FOREST & FIRE ECOLOGY OF SONOMA COUNTY

Briana coordinates SRJC's Natural Resource Management and Wildfire Resilience Programs at Shone Farm, a living laboratory for SRJC students & practitioners. Her research has focused on soil microbial ecology, invasive species management, and conservation. She holds an M.S. in Integrative Biology from UC Berkeley.

Jill Butler, Registered Professional Forester

Retired Forestry Assistance Specialist, CAL FIRE

TACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO COMMON FORESTRY CHALLENGES IN SONOMA COUNTY

Jill Butler is a retired forester and worked for three state agencies over her 40+ year career. She spent the last 24 years as CAL FIRE's regional coordinator for the California Forest Improvement program. She is a long-time member of the Sonoma County Forest Conservation Work Group and also serves on the board of the Gualala River Watershed Council. Jill has lived and worked in Sonoma County for 50 years.

Thea Maria Carlson

Associate Faculty and Wildfire Resilience Specialist, Santa Rosa Junior College

LESSONS LEARNED FROM SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATIONS LANDOWNER PANEL

Thea Maria Carlson is a land tender, facilitator, educator, community weaver, speaker, writer, and co-creator. Thea lives and tends land at Monan's Rill, an intergenerational consensus-based intentional community in the Mayacamas Mountains, within the ancestral territory of the indigenous Wappo people. At SRJC, Thea co-leads hands-on student internships in ecological restoration and prescribed fire. Thea also supports the Tribal EcoRestoration Alliance and Lake County Prescribed Burn Association with community outreach and planning for prescribed and cultural burning, and is working toward California Prescribed Burn Boss Certification.

Dr. Frederick Euphrat, Registered Professional Forester

Consulting Forester; Adjunct Professor, Santa Rosa Junior College

OPENING PLENARY

Fred Euphrat has been a Registered Professional Forester since 1989, presently consulting with nonprofits including Pepperwood and Jenner Headlands. Fred's family has roots in Petaluma and Healdsburg, and has owned a producing redwood forest on Mill Creek since 1960, which burned in the Walbridge Fire. He holds a Ph.D. from UC Berkeley in Watershed Management.

Lynn Garric

Board Member, Friends of Mark West Watershed

LESSONS LEARNED FROM SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATIONS LANDOWNER PANEL

Lynn Garric is a native of Sonoma County. She has lived in the Upper Mark West Watershed for 50 years where she is the Chair of the Upper Mark West Fire Safe Council and Co-Chair of the Friends of the Mark West Watershed. After losing her home in the 2017 Tubbs Fire, Lynn has rebuilt and loves being part of that community and stewarding her 160 acres that border Mark West Creek.

Dan Grout

Leader, Mill Creek COPE

LESSONS LEARNED FROM SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATIONS LANDOWNER PANEL

Dan is a wildlife biologist and has taught Sustainable Forestry at California State University Monterey Bay & Cal Poly SLO's Field Camp. He has worked as a Senior Ecologist for over 100 of California's State Parks and as Endangered Species Recovery Biologist & Habitat Conservation Planner with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. After the 2020 Walbridge Fire, he became a Leader of Mill Creek COPE and helped author its Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Dan lost his historic Mill Creek family home and ranch in the 2020 fire but is rebuilding among the redwoods west of Healdsburg.

Annie Madden

Wildfire Resilience Program Specialist, SRJC; Restoration Crew Lead, Pepperwood Preserve

FORESTRY TOOLS & MONITORING DEMONSTRATION

Annie is a fire practitioner, land steward, and teacher. As part of the development and leadership team of the SRJC Wildfire Resilience Program, she strives to inspire and engage students in the beautiful world of ecology. Annie also works with the land management team of Pepperwood Preserve on prescribed fire and fuels reduction, invasive species removal, and native plant restoration.

Jason Mills

Senior Restoration Contractor, WRA Environmental Consultants

TACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO COMMON FORESTRY CHALLENGES IN SONOMA COUNTY

Jason Mills leads the Landscape Restoration program for WRA. Jason has also presented his field research for the Society of Ecological Restoration, the California Botanical Society, the California Invasive Plant Council, and the California Native Plant Society. He holds an M.S. with Distinction in Pyrogeography and Botany from California State University Chico, is a California License Landscape (C-27)/Tree Service (D-61) Contractor, and Certified Ecological Restoration Practitioner.

Tori Norville, Registered Professional Forester

Fire Advisor (Sonoma, Napa, and Marin), UC Cooperative Extension

TACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO COMMON FORESTRY CHALLENGES IN SONOMA COUNTY

Tori spent 9 years as a CAL FIRE Forester in Mendocino County before becoming a UCCE Fire Advisor. She teaches fire ecology, the importance of structure hardening/ defensible space, land management techniques, and how fire can be used as a tool. She hopes that over time people will grow to respect fire rather than fear it. Tori is a Registered Professional Forester with a B.S. in Forestry and Natural Resources and a M.S. in Forestry Science focused on disturbance ecology from Cal Poly SLO.

Judy Rosales

Executive Director, Coast Ridge Forest Council

LESSONS LEARNED FROM SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATIONS LANDOWNER PANEL

Judy discovered a love and talent for community engagement while working as a marketing consultant for Native American tribes and businesses that took her on a political campaign throughout the Navajo Nation. This led to a partnership with a tribal energy consultant, which sparked her interest in environmental issues. Upon completing the Natural Resources Management Program at Santa Rosa Junior College, Judy worked as a project coordinator for the Gualala River Watershed Council and as an educator in hatchery practices for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Judy is a long-time resident of the Gualala Ranch in Cazadero near Fort Ross where she lost her first home to the 1978 Creighton Ridge Fire.

Sashi Sabaratnam

UC Cooperative Extension Wildfire Vegetation Mitigation Program Manager, County of Sonoma

FORESTRY PROJECT PLANNING, PERMITTING, & FUNDING

Sashi is a former mayor of the City of Mill Valley and founding member of the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority. She has consulted for the insurance industry and Department of Defense on wildfire resilience, including community engagement and use of data and autonomous systems. She is completing her M.A. in Security Studies from the Naval Postgraduate School, conducting original qualitative research with Sonoma County landowners to uncover the characteristics of effective visualization tools to catalyze community consensus around wildfire vegetation management.

Adriana Stagnaro

Outreach & Project Manager, Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District

Coordinator, Sonoma County Forest Conservation Working Group

Adriana manages public education and voluntary conservation projects on private land, including instream salmonid habitat enhancement, forest management, and wildfire protection. She works often with private landowners, fire safe councils and watershed councils, and acts as the coordinator for the Sonoma County Forest Conservation Working Group. She holds a B.A. in Environmental Studies and is completing her M.S. in Environmental Sciences and Management.

Dee Swanhuysen

Co-Founder, Sonoma County Forest Conservation Working Group, Sonoma County Agricultural and Open Space District; Senior Advisor, Taking Action For Living Systems (TALS)

OPENING PLENARY

Dee and her family live on 8 acres of Pomo lands in a West County mostly redwood conifer forest in the Upper Salmon Creek Watershed. She respects all peoples. She endeavors to increase cooperation among them, urging everyone to share what they know so we grow resilience amongst ourselves and in our forests...in time.

Marshall Turbeville

Chief, Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District; Battalion Chief, CAL FIRE Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit

INTRODUCTION TO THE FOREST & FIRE ECOLOGY OF SONOMA COUNTY

Marshall began his career as a Volunteer Firefighter with the Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District and CAL FIRE seasonal firefighter in 1995. He was chosen to serve as Fire Chief of the Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District in 2013. He was hired full time with CAL FIRE in 2000 and promoted to the rank of battalion chief in 2009. He has responded to a majority of the major wildfires in and near Sonoma County. Marshall focuses his current work on prevention and preparedness including prescribed burning. He also teaches forestry and fire classes at the SRJC Wildfire Resilience Program. Marshall received the prestigious International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year award in 2022 and Wildfire Mitigation Award in 2020. Marshall holds a B.S. in both Civil Engineering and Forestry and Natural Resources from Cal Poly, SLO.

Jason Wells, Registered Professional Forester

Registered Professional Forester, Sonoma Resource Conservation District

FORESTRY PROJECT PLANNING, PERMITTING, & FUNDING

Jason provides technical forest management and planning assistance to landowners, and has helped build a forestry program to address vegetation management concerns and post-fire recovery efforts throughout the County. Jason's work supports the missions of the Sonoma and Gold Ridge RCDs and he has experience developing and implementing grant programs, including the North Bay Forest Improvement Program. Born and raised in Petaluma, Jason is a Registered Professional Forester and holds a B.S. in Forestry with an emphasis in Forest Conservation from Humboldt State University.

Asa Voight

Preserve Manager, Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation; Wildfire Resilience Program Specialist, SRJC

FORESTRY TOOLS & MONITORING DEMONSTRATION

Asa began his professional journey as a farmer at a small organic farm situated along the Russian River. Driven by his passion for conservation and land stewardship, he made a pivotal decision to redirect his career path to natural resource management, including forest fuel reductions, riparian restoration, prescribed fire management, and rare plant conservation and restoration. At the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation, he oversees multiple local preserves containing an assortment of endangered plant species. As a supervisor for the SRJC Shone Farm forest crew internship, he is able to pass along practical skills and knowledge to developing land stewards helping to build community capacity to meet the rising challenges of climate change