

## Staff News at Stuntzner

After 15 years of service to Stuntzner Engineering and its customers, a familiar face in the Coos Bay office has retired. **Kathy Hutchinson** was a go to person for accounting questions from employees and clients alike. She is happy to start her retirement lifestyle off with a month-long trip to warmer weather with her husband Butch and will now have more time to spend with her family and friends. We are sad to see Kathy's office dark after her many years with the company, but wish her all the best in retirement.

**Ron Stuntzner** has been selected to receive an Oregon Society of American Foresters (OSAF) Lifetime Achievement Award this year. The award was presented during the evening banquet at the OSAF annual meeting in Seaside, Oregon on April 26, 2012. Congratulations, Ron!

Stuntzner's Dallas office manager, **Cliff Barnhart**, has been re-elected to the Association of Consulting Foresters of America, Inc. (ACF) board for another 6 years. He will be president-elect and transition to the office of president. He has obviously proven to be a valuable resource for ACF. We all congratulate Cliff.

Late last fall Stuntzner was fortunate to have **Jerry Brown** join the staff. A native Oregonian (born in Prineville), Jerry graduated from Linfield College and has been a licensed CPA for 23 years in public accounting, serving in a CFO capacity the last 13 years. His partner, Jody, is a child development director at Nike. They have a blended family of 4 married kids with 1 grandchild and 2 more due this fall. His current role with Stuntzner Engineering is to lead the transition to new accounting/project reporting software. Welcome aboard, Jerry.

## The 'Bunker'

In a previous issue of the SEF newsletter (Spring 2011) the importance of and methods for concrete testing for various construction jobs was discussed. While most common for large commercial or municipal projects, concrete testing can be specified by an engineer or architect for a variety of jobs ranging from the largest down to the smallest in size, depending on the importance the designer puts in the durability of the structure.



Recently, for example, a client owning a large public/private golf course on the Oregon Coast had contracted with an architectural firm for some rather unusual buildings to be designed. The buildings were of modest size: approximately 13 feet by 38 feet by 10 feet tall. They were to serve the golfers on the course as a 'rest station' for bathroom facilities as well as a dispensary for refreshments and equipment.

These buildings were to be constructed in such a way that they would blend into the incredibly beautiful scenery of the course which is located very close to the Pacific Coast shoreline. The

### Completed Bunker

buildings, designated 'Bunkers', were to be of extremely durable construction and aesthetically consistent with the surrounding landscape. All walls were to be poured concrete as well as the foundation and floor. Portions of these bunkers would be back-filled with sand which would be replanted with vegetation to give the exposed portions of the bunkers a "nestled-in" look.

As such, these bunkers were specifically designed for extra strength, resistance to salt-air corrosion and inherent rigidity by special additives in the mix recipe creating a concrete with the necessary attributes for this demanding environment. Architectural details were added such as special form boards to leave a "wooden board look" on the concrete building exteriors left exposed. All in all, the construction of these unusual buildings was both durable yet pleasing to the eye, in fact, almost invisible to the casual glance of passing golfers.

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For quality assurance, SEF was sub-contracted by the builder to provide special inspections including rebar placement, epoxy-bolt inspection and, of course, concrete testing to insure the provisions of the plans were adhered to. While mostly straight-forward in procedure, the conditions on-site were what really made the testing procedures special. The location of the bunkers was a real challenge, especially for the rather large mix trucks delivering the concrete to the jobsite. Access roads are limited and very tight as they wind in and out, around, over and through the fore dunes and grasses. Golfers at play on the course were not to be interfered with, working space was at a premium and weather on the Oregon Coast in winter is always a challenge.



**Bunker in Progress**

As of this writing, construction continues in different locations on two different courses at the same general facility. But the construction of the first Bunker is nearing conclusion now. While not the largest or potentially most important testing job performed by SEF personnel, this particular job offered one of the most interesting and satisfying. It also serves to remind us that the size of a project is not as important as the conditions on-site and the priority the engineer or architect places on the quality of construction. No job is too small to be considered important when the designer deems otherwise. Concrete testing is often the proof needed by the designer that the design parameters were indeed achieved by the builder. SEF clients deserve no less.

*Pete Stingley, Engineering Technician & Draftsman, Coos Bay*

## **New Stuntzner Website**

Stuntzner Engineering & Forestry is excited to announce the launching of its new website. We feel it represents Stuntzner well and think you will agree. We invite you to log-in at [www.stuntzner.com](http://www.stuntzner.com) and let us show you around. Comments are welcome.

Stuntzner still offers the same broad range of superior services it has given for the past 44 years. For those in need of engineering, forestry, survey, environmental, water rights or land use planning services contact Stuntzner.

Whether you are in the forestry, agricultural, residential, commercial or agency market Stuntzner has the expertise and successful experience to get your job done right in a timely manner, thus saving you frustration, time and money.

Thank you to SightWorks for their knowledge, creativity and patience.

## **Survey Vacation in Belgium**

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be a surveyor in another country or even a different region in the USA? What kind of equipment and software do they use? How do they handle property disputes? Do they use anything similar to our public land survey system? In many cases, their system of land ownership stretches across a time period longer than the USA has been a country. How do they keep track of deeds over that period of time when oftentimes some areas have even become part of a different country?

Well, I certainly don't have all the answers to these or a bucketful of other questions you could come up with, but in my own way I'm working on getting at least some of the answers. I recently returned from spending a day with Christof Albrecht, a surveyor in Belgium. Christof works for ARCADIS, which is an internationally recognized survey firm....

The day of our meeting finally arrived and any apprehensions either of us felt quickly melted as we started making plans for the projects we would be working on for the day. As it turned out, Christof used the same Trimble equipment I was familiar with. The project for the morning was a site survey of an area that was to become a storm water detention pond. He suggested I use the GPS equipment to gather topo points while he used the S6 to gather detailed data on a ditch line. I said, "Wait a minute. I don't read or speak Belgian" thinking that would be the language in the data collector, but to my welcome surprise it was in English. I asked why they used English and he replied that they were using the equipment (made) before Trimble came out with a Belgian version and it was easier to stick with what they were familiar with. He explained that the Belgian words for some of the fields were longer than the English words so the screen looked considerably different.

Our afternoon project was a site survey for a proposed sewer line in a town about an hour away from the first project. The first thing we did on the new project was set traverse control points. I occupied the traverse point with the GPS receiver while Christof moved ahead to pick the next traverse point. After we had all the traverse points set, Christof used the S6 to gather site data from each point. It was pretty detailed work involving a feature code library they had developed. Later that evening, at his office, Christof downloaded the data collector and produced a quick map of our handiwork. All the field coding enabled him to produce a map with all the line work and symbology in a matter of minutes.

.... my visit with Christof got me thinking about some of the questions I mentioned at the beginning of this article. Wouldn't it be great fun to get a handful of surveyors together along with their spouses and take a survey vacation together? I would like to propose that you contact me if you are interested. It doesn't matter if you are able to go in the foreseeable future or not; I would simply like to build a list of like-minded surveyors so when one of us decides to take a trip we can let each other know and can develop a group for a least part of the trip. Alternatively, we could also play host to surveyors desiring to come here. I have mentioned this idea to Christof and he is willing to get the word out to other surveyors he works with. Please send an email to [jbminor@frontier.com](mailto:jbminor@frontier.com) if you are interested in being a part of this project.

*John Minor, Professional Land Surveyor, Coos Bay*

# Log Market Report

Log prices have been fairly steady through the past 6 months with the China export market not being a force in the market like it was a year ago. Demand for Japan export sorts has been good; however, they have been trying to lower prices over the past 3 months where there has not been competition from the China markets. Domestic mills have been buying with some price increases driven by low inventories due to winter weather. This has been most prevalent in the Douglas County markets where 2 mill Douglas-fir log prices have been \$50/Mbf higher than prices in the north Willamette Valley during the past couple of months. Pole markets are still strong, especially for lengths over 60 feet.

The Log Lines reports a Douglas fir 2 mill from the Willamette Valley and Southern Oregon region at \$574/Mbf which is up 4% in April over the previous month, and down 4% from a year prior. They show a 2 mill hemlock for the same period at \$480/Mbf which is the same as the previous month but down 5% from a year prior.

Lumber prices have been at a slow climb during the first quarter of 2012 with the *Random Lengths* composite lumber price climbing from around \$270/M at the beginning of the current prices around \$315/M. Panel prices have had more of a roller coaster ride with the prices now up approximately 16% over the beginning of the year and up 22% from a year ago.

Housing starts for November continue to languish at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 654,000 as of March. *Source: National Association of Home Builders*

The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) and Wells Fargo produces a Housing Market Index (HMI), which measures builder perceptions in current home sales, expectations for the next six months and rating of prospective buyer traffic. The April HMI was at 25, down slightly from the February and March rating of 28. One year ago the index was 16. An HMI of below 50 indicates more builders view sales conditions as poor than good. NAHB says builders continue to confront challenges in construction credit, getting accurate appraisal values for new homes and competition from foreclosed properties.

| Domestic            | South           | North       |
|---------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| DF SM               | \$530-\$650/MBF |             |
| DF Camp Run         | \$500-\$575/MBF |             |
| DF 2M 12-15"        | \$550-\$600/MBF | \$550-\$575 |
| DF 2M 16"+          | \$550-\$600/MBF | \$575-\$600 |
| DF 5"-11"           | \$56/ton        | \$525-\$575 |
| Conifer pulp        | \$28/ton        | \$35/ton    |
| Whitewood Camp Run  | \$450-\$500/MBF | \$450-\$515 |
| Red Cedar           | \$650/MBF       | \$1,000     |
| Pine 6"-11"         | \$350/MBF       |             |
| Pine 12"+           | \$400/MBF       |             |
| Alder sawlog 6-7"   | \$370-\$390/MBF | \$400-\$525 |
| Alder sawlog 8"-9"  | \$480/MBF       | \$625-\$650 |
| Alder sawlog 10-11" | \$540/MBF       | \$675-\$700 |
| Alder sawlog 12"+   | \$575-\$590/MBF | \$725-\$750 |
| Mixed Hwd. Pulp     | \$25/ton        | \$28/ton    |
| Alder Pulp          | \$27/ton        | \$30/ton    |
| Maple 12"+          | \$400           | \$450       |
| Maple 10-11"        | \$350           | \$400       |
| Maple 8"+           | \$40/ton        | \$375       |

| Export-DF             | Coos Bay | Longview    |
|-----------------------|----------|-------------|
| 9-11", Japan Sort     | \$540    | \$640       |
| 12"+ Japan Sort       | \$590    | \$670-\$700 |
| China/Korea Sorts 8"+ | \$525    | \$550-\$600 |
|                       |          |             |
| Export-Whitewood      | Coos Bay | Longview    |
| China/Korea 8"+       | \$525    | \$550-\$575 |



Ronald E. Stuntzner, PE, PLS, CWRE at Stuntzner Engineering, Coos Bay

## Why Do We Need Healthy Rivers?

Clean, healthy rivers are the lifeblood of our communities and are vital to our health, safety, and quality of life. Most Americans live within a mile of a river or stream, and all of our drinking water comes directly or indirectly from rivers and streams. By protecting and restoring rivers, we are protecting clean drinking water, creating jobs and recreation opportunities that benefit our economy, and revitalizing our natural heritage for future generations.

### Healthy rivers give us clean drinking water

More than 60 percent of Americans' drinking water comes from rivers and streams. A healthy river and surrounding forests can act as a natural water filter, reducing the need to treat the water with chemicals or expensive filtration systems.

### Healthy rivers are good for the economy

Going fishing may feel like taking the day off, but its overall economic impact in the U.S. is estimated at \$116 billion. And consider the fact that more people fish in the United States than go to Disneyworld. When Americans participate in outdoor activities, they aren't just having fun and staying fit, they're also pumping billions of dollars into the economy-- in industries including manufacturing, leisure and hospitality, transportation, and wholesale and retail trade.

### Healthy rivers are home to fish and wildlife

America's rivers support a wide variety of wildlife and fish, and are especially important during times of breeding and migration. In dry areas, particularly in the western U.S., rivers and streams are crucial to the well-being of wildlife. From kingfishers to crawdads, otters to black bears, eagles to trout, whatever creature you're looking for, chances are you'll find it along the river.

### Healthy rivers are fun!

Beyond all the other services and benefits healthy rivers can provide, they are just plain fun. Rivers and streams offer endless recreation opportunities, including swimming, fishing, boating, hiking, and wildlife-watching. Whether you need exhilaration, solitude, a much-needed break from the daily grind, or just a pleasant place for a family float or picnic, there's a river out there, beckoning you to come out and play.

### Heritage

From the homelands of native Americans to our earliest settlements, explorer routes, and battlefields, to the evolution of music, literature, and art – our nation's culture and heritage is written in the currents of our rivers. Think of Mark Twain on the Mississippi, or Lewis and Clark following the Missouri and Columbia rivers as they traveled west. Our rivers connect us to the past, and the future.

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