
NEWS RELEASE

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection



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RELEASE
DATE: September 12, 2011

Diane Dealey Neill, founder of the “California Forestry Challenge” to be Honored For Outstanding Contributions to California Forestry

Sacramento – The California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection will present Diane Dealey Neill with its highest honor, the “Francis H. Raymond Award for Outstanding Contributions to California Forestry.” The presentation will be made during the Board Meeting on Wednesday, September 14, 2011 in the first floor auditorium of the Resources Building located at 1416 9th Street in downtown Sacramento.

The Board is recognizing Ms. Dealey Neill for her work with the “California Forestry Challenge.” The California Forestry Challenge is a field-based forestry instruction and education program for high school students founded by Ms. Dealey Neill in 2003. The program instructs students in the fundamentals of forestry fieldwork calling upon professional foresters, biologists, and other resource professionals to serve as instructors and mentors to the students. The students are also presented with a contemporary forestry-related problem to solve in a team format. The teams develop written and oral presentations that address the problem. The teams are later judged on their presentations. Winning teams have been featured at State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection and California Licensed Foresters Association meetings. A number of the students have subsequently chosen to major in forestry and related fields in college upon graduation from high school.

In recognizing Ms. Dealey Neill’s accomplishment, Board Chairman, Stan Dixon stated, “Diane is to be congratulated for her tireless dedication to educating California’s youth and for the many lives she has influenced toward a greater understanding of forestry in this great State.”

The award is named for Francis H. Raymond who was the Director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection from 1953 to 1970. Mr. Raymond was one of the primary advocates for the passage of the Professional Foresters Law in 1973. Since 1987 the Award has been presented to a group or individual who has achieved excellence in forestry in California.

Who: The California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

What: The Francis H. Raymond Award

Where: Resources Building – 1st Floor Auditorium, 1416 9th Street, downtown Sacramento

When: Wednesday September 14, 2011

(Presentation to occur at approximately 11AM.)

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