



# THE PACIFIC FOREST TRUST

*Working Forests Work Wonders For Us All.*

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## **Renowned Conservation Biologist Thomas E. Lovejoy to Deliver Keynote Speech at Forest Fete 2008**

*Pacific Forest Trust to Honor Michigan Senator Debbie Stabenow  
and Forest Ecologist Jerry Franklin for their Leadership on behalf of America's Forests*

SAN FRANCISCO – Supporters of America's working forests will gather at the Presidio's Golden Gate Club on **September 18** to honor some of the nation's leading forest champions at *Forest Fete 2008*, the Pacific Forest Trust's (PFT) annual dinner and awards ceremony.

The theme of this year's *Forest Fete* is *Everyone Wins with Woods*, a nod to the fall's electoral season. The special "conservation convention" will demonstrate how all Americans win with the wood, water, wildlife and well-balanced climate provided by our nation's essential woodlands.

**Thomas E. Lovejoy**, Ph.D., a prominent environmental leader and renowned scientist, will give the evening's keynote speech, titled "Climate Change: Prospects for Nature." He will share his thoughts on climate change, its impact on natural ecosystems and the opportunity for forests to help mitigate the problem. Lovejoy is president of The Heinz Center for Science, Economics and the Environment, founder of the public television series *Nature* and 2001 recipient of the prestigious Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement.

Pioneering forest ecologist **Jerry Franklin**, Ph.D., a professor of ecosystem analysis with the University of Washington in Seattle, will receive the *Sequoia Award for Lifetime Achievement*. With monikers like the "guru of old growth forests" and the "father of new forestry," Franklin has increased the scientific understanding and application of a new forest management paradigm that promotes ecological as well as economic objectives. Franklin has been a frequent advisor to the Pacific Forest Trust, providing research and expertise to inform the organization's ongoing forest conservation, stewardship and climate policy work.

"His work has greatly expanded understanding of the complex web of life expressed in forests, and their immense contributions to society," says Laurie Wayburn, president of the Pacific Forest Trust. "Whether advocating for the importance of protecting old growth forests, or for managing young forests for greater biodiversity, or for creating new incentives to sustain America's forests in a changing world, Dr. Franklin has never shied away from presenting the insights gleaned from rigorous scientific investigation."

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**Michigan Senator Debbie Stabenow** (D) will be honored with PFT's *Outside-the-Box Award* for her leadership in raising awareness of the climate benefits of forests in the U.S. Senate. Stabenow convened a May 21 hearing with the Senate's Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry investigate the role carbon emissions reduction projects can play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It was the first senate hearing specifically held to hear testimony on the role forests play in mitigating climate change.

The **Phillips Family Tree Farm** has been named as the *Forest Champion of the Year*. Stewards of their family land for the past century, the Phillips granted PFT its very first working forest conservation easement established on family-owned forestlands. The 1,000-acre ponderosa pine forest in Shasta County has served as a model for other family landowners seeking to protect their heritage for future generations.

“Our Forest Fete awardees this year are leading advocates for forests, why we should conserve and steward them, and how important they are for dealing with the challenge of climate change,” Wayburn says. “Senator Stabenow and Dr. Franklin should be commended for their important contributions to research, teaching and public discourse about forests and climate. And PFT is proud to recognize the Phillips family for being among the first to stand up with us to champion new tools to help sustain family-owned forests,” Wayburn says.

*Forest Fete 2008* is being presented by Mendocino Redwood Company and Pacific Gas & Electric Company. Supporting sponsors include Autodesk, Cantor CO2e, Ecohaus, K&L Gates, MTR Western, Sullivan & Worcester and WM Beaty Associates. Several dozen more businesses and individuals also will help bring *Forest Fete* to life.

### **MEDIA COVERAGE**

Digital headshots of the award winners are available. Media seeking to cover the event **MUST** call in advance to arrange for access. Contact PFT Communications Manager Chris Harrison at 415-561-0700 for details.

### **About The Pacific Forest Trust**

The Pacific Forest Trust (PFT) is celebrating its 15<sup>th</sup> year as the nation’s leading non-profit organization dedicated to sustaining America’s vital working forests for all their public benefits – wood, water, wildlife and a well-balanced climate. In California, PFT has been instrumental in advancing the role of forests in the state’s climate change programs including the development of the Forest Protocols. Nationally, PFT has published two landmark reports: “America’s Private Forests: Status and Stewardship” (Island Press 2001) and “Forest Carbon in the United States.” Through its *Working Forests, Winning Climate* initiative, PFT is advising state governments and federal leaders about the inclusion of forest conservation and sustainable management in climate policies, markets and best-practices. To learn more about the Pacific Forest Trust, please visit: <http://www.PacificForest.org>.

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