

AWPPW, G-P lauded for environmental awareness

By **WILLIE WORMAN**
Environmental Representative
AWPPW Local 13

In May of 2007, Georgia-Pacific in Toledo, Oregon, received two environmental awards for our outstanding work on our new environmental awareness program and our new community outreach program. These programs helped to build trust within our community.

The first award was the Georgia Pacific Environmental Excellence Award for a large facility and the second award was the Koch Environmental Health and Safety Excellence Award. We were the first GP facility to be recognized by Koch Industries.

We are involved in several new projects through our outreach program. In cooperation with SOLV and

Thompson's Sanitary Services, we host an event called "Down By The River." This is an organized clean up of the river banks along the Yaquina River from Toledo to Newport. It ends with a lunch donated by a local business.

We plan to extend this program to include a cleanup along the Siletz River town loop. This project is still in the conversation phase.

We also host the Olalla Trail Project. We have been working with local Boy Scouts to build a nature trail around the Olalla Reservoir. We have finished two phases of this trail that extend just over a mile. Hopefully, this spring and summer we will be able to finish phase three and open the entire trail for hikers and bikers.

When finished, this trail will extend

around the entire Olalla Reservoir and will be just less than three miles long.

Once our Olalla trail project is complete, we plan to have an Olalla dam clean up each year. This will be a group of local kids, grades 7 through 12, taking a walk around the Olalla trail cleaning up the year's accumulated garbage and ending with a barbecue. This will be done in cooperation with the health class at Toledo middle and high schools. This cleanup will be part of the students' final for their environmental health section.

In March, Steve Edenfield and I were guest speakers at "Career Day" at Toledo High School. This project is meant to show the local youth what kinds of opportunities are out there for those who plan to go to college, as well as for those who plan to stay and work within their community.

We also took that opportunity to spread the word to the local youth about what is going on at the mill and what it takes to work at GP from both a union and salaried perspective.

G-P Toledo's "Environmental Expedition" is a full day event at our Olalla Reservoir where our college co-op students work with the environmental department to put together fun and hands-on exhibits to teach our local middle school kids about our environment.

"Olalla Creek Salmon Restoration" is a new project we have started. We are currently investigating how we can help the coho salmon population thrive

in a creek that is fed by our Olalla Dam. So far, we have had a good run of fish and in a couple of years we will know what kind of return we have obtained.

We also have a new G-P Toledo "Green Team." This team is in charge of finding more environmentally-friendly ways to do things around the mill. It started by maximizing our recycling within the mill. There will soon be new environmental kiosks located in various places around the mill. These stations will be a place where we can separate the type of trash we are discarding into cans for garbage, paper only, recycle, glass, and cans with a deposit. We spend far too much to have garbage hauled off when we can recycle a lot of it through our OCC plant.

Also the Boy Scouts make good use of the deposit cans. This is another good way to give back to our community.

We have been invited to help Toledo High School become a "Green School." The school would like to have their students build kiosks throughout the main building of the school to help instill the importance of recycling to the young people of this community.

Moreover, we are looking to host some field trips for local middle school kids to our dam and teach them how our water system works. We will also share our efforts in helping the local salmon population thrive in the Olalla creek. This will include an explanation of how our tide gates and fish ladder work at our barrier.

If you have any environmental projects or ideas you would like to share or get some help with or have questions about any of these current projects, feel free to contact the AWPPW Local 13 Union Environmental Rep., Willie Worman, at 541-336-8343.

(Editor's Note: In recognition of Earth Day, the Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers asked the NW Labor Press to share some of things it is doing at Georgia Pacific to help the environment.)

CLARIFICATION

An article in the April 18 Workers Memorial issue of the Northwest Labor listed 59 workers killed on the job in Oregon in 2007 and reported that they were compensable under state workers' compensation laws.

That list of the fatally injured included federal employees, self-employed workers, city of Portland police and firefighters, and others who are excluded from the Oregon Workers' Compensation system by statute.

Additionally, the 59 names listed is not an official count of work-related fatalities in Oregon as tracked by the Department of Consumer and Business Services.

OPEN
FORUM

U.S. Air Force bidding process worries Rep. Wu

To The Editor:

Many leaders in the labor community have shared their dismay with me regarding the Air Force's decision not to award a \$35 billion defense contract to the U.S.-based bidder, Boeing Company.

Personally, I am deeply concerned about both the decision and the Air Force's overarching procurement processes.

While it is essential that the Air Force identify a high-quality, cost-effective means of replacing its air-to-air refueling tanker fleet, we must recognize that a project of this magnitude has major implications for American workers. The Air Force should be making every reasonable effort to ensure its procurement process produces the best overall value for the American people — both in terms of the immediate cost and the broader implications for the U.S. economy — and I am not confident that it did so in this case.

The Government Accountability Office is currently reviewing the way in which the Air Force made its decision. Should they discover any evidence that the procurement process was anything less than fully fair, transparent, and comprehensive, it will be imperative that this contract decision is revisited.

Contract decisions of this magnitude should be made with a complete evaluation of the impact that the selection will have on our domestic labor force. American workers are the backbone of our economy, and they must receive due consideration.

In addition, maintaining a solid domestic industrial base is essential to both the U.S. economy and our national security. In their role as military guardians, Air Force officials should know that.

U.S. Rep. David Wu
1st District
Aloha Oregon

Alternative fuels are the answer to America's energy crisis

To The Editor:

Each time I read the advertisement in NW Labor Press that encourages us to support the Bradwood Landing LNG sight, I cringe. This advertisement epitomizes what is wrong with unions. I am a union member and have been on and off for the past 42 years. Usually, I swear by unions, not against them.

LNG is a limited fossil fuel. Why would this country want to again base its future security on yet another fossil

fuel supplied by yet another foreign country?

Alternative fuels are the answer to America's energy crisis. When unions place the future security of this country below the self-serving creation of a relatively few temporary union jobs, it makes me ashamed to be a union member.

Tom Wenning
OPEU 11
Portland



PLEASE VOTE
MIKE FAHEY
PORTLAND CITY COUNCIL
POSITION #1

To all my friends in the Labor Movement—

First and foremost, I want to thank you for your years of friendship and support. Together we have worked to protect and defend the rights of workers in the City of Portland and the State of Oregon. In the past 45 years as a union member, I have seen a broad range of attacks aimed at undermining the economic security of working families. Together we have turned back attacks on the prevailing wage, minimum wage increases, our public school teachers and government employees, and working conditions. While a State Representative in Salem (and co-chair of the Labor Committee), I fought legislation that would have limited registered nurses' decision-making on the best care to provide their patients. I aggressively fought every anti-worker bill that was assigned to the Labor Committee. I actively and openly defended PERS (Public Employees Retirement System). This year marked 25 years since we started the Carpenters Food Bank. Together, with all your support, we have kept the doors open feeding 450 to 500 families a month and helped our Brothers and Sister who have been laid off or on strike and our union retirees on fixed incomes.

For more biographical information and my stands on current issues please visit one of the following web sites:
<http://www.friendsformikefahey.com> or <http://blog.friendsformikefahey.com>

(Authorized by Friends for Mike Fahey, 6809 N. Armour St. Portland, Or 97203. 503-289-5626)



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