

In Memoriam

ANDREA LAVENDER KOONCE

31 December 1951–24 July 2010

It is with sadness and many fond memories that we note the passing of Andrea (Andi) Koonce following a long illness. As one of the founders and the first Chair of the Board of the International Association of Wildland Fire in 1990, Andi was instrumental in working with others to develop the idea and the funding for producing an IAWF-sponsored peer-reviewed scientific journal. The goal was to provide an outlet for high-quality fire research and to highlight the international importance of fire science. As a result of these efforts, the *International Journal of Wildland Fire* was launched in 1991, with Jason Greenlee as its managing editor, and Ross Wein as its first scientific editor. Andi continued to help shepherd the Journal's development until the mid-1990s, as a member of the editorial board, and as president of IAWF. Without Andi's creativity, dedication and persistence, the *IJWF* would not exist and would not have grown into the successful international journal that we know today. For this we owe Andi our deepest gratitude.

Andi graduated from high school in Los Alamos, NM, in 1969. She went on to earn a BSc in Political Science at Arizona State University in 1973, and an MSc and PhD from Oregon State University in 1981. Her graduate studies in forest science, forest ecology, and forest pathology formed a basis for her PhD research, which explored interactions between fire and dwarf mistletoe in ponderosa pine. After graduation, she went to Honduras to teach at the National School of Forest Sciences, where she directed a tree improvement program in tropical pines. After the Honduran school closed, Andi returned to the US where she joined the faculty of the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point in 1982. She established the Fire Science Center there in 1984, which supported research and extension activities related to prescribed fire in the midwestern US. She left academia and joined US Forest Service Research as Project Leader of the Prescribed Fire research unit at the Pacific Southwest Research Station's Forest Fire Laboratory in Riverside, CA, in 1988. As one of the few female research project leaders in the Forest Service at that time, Andi strongly supported enhancing the participation of women in fire research. (Note: I was also a Project Leader in Riverside during that period, and got to know Andi well as we had adjoining offices and shared support staff.) While in Riverside, Andi continued collaborations on tropical forestry and maintained an ongoing research program on agroforestry and fire damage in Caribbean pine plantations in Nicaragua. At the request of Forest Service International Programs, she collaborated with Israeli scientists on fire damage in conifer plantations in Israel. It was also during this period that Andi was most involved with IAWF and with the Journal. When the Pacific Southwest Research Station



eliminated several lines of research due to funding reductions in 1996, Andi joined the Fire and Aviation Management Staff in the Forest Service's National Office. While there, she provided expertise in fire planning and fuels management for several years and then moved to Milwaukee, WI, as a fire staff specialist in the Forest Service's Eastern Regional Office. In this capacity she provided technical expertise in support of prescribed burning and fuels management programs to National Forests over a 20-State area. After several years in Milwaukee, Andi returned to California, where she led the Forest Health Protection Program for the four National Forests in southern California.

Those of us who knew Andi will always remember her lively spirit, her unique perspective, and her dedication to fire science and fire management. On behalf of the IJWF, I would like to offer our condolences to her family, friends, and colleagues.

Susan G. Conard

Editor-in-Chief, *International Journal of Wildland Fire*

Note: With thanks to the many colleagues who provided information on Andi's life and who reviewed the material contained here. Any remaining errors are, of course, my own.