

# FORESTRY NEWS



## Leading By Example

Some days even cause Ralph Thomas to smile! Such was the case at the National Indian Forestry and Wildland Fire Management Conference when he was honored with the prestigious “**Paul Gleason Lead By Example Award**”.



### Ralph in San Diego, CA

This award is presented by the National Wildfire Coordination Group (NWCG) Leadership Subcommittee to recognize individuals or groups that exhibit Paul Gleason's lead by example spirit. Paul Gleason was a well-respected Hotshot Superintendent, hero of the deadly Dude Fire in Arizona, and father of LCES. This national recognition acknowledges those in the wildland fire service who exemplify special fire leadership values. Ralph is one of only two BIA

employees to have received this important recognition. Ralph received his award from BIA NIFC Director Lyle Carlisle. “I was very surprised by the award,” stated Ralph. “It was nice to be recognized, but when I realized that Lyle was talking about me, I leaned over to my friend and stated, he’s a \*#!\* good liar!” Ralph is happy that the award allows people from the outside to see part of what is done within Indian Country. Ralph’s extensive career in Fuels Management isn’t limited to the Southwest. Each winter for the last five years he had headed to Florida as a Prescribed Fire Coordinator on Seminole and Miccosukee lands for any where from three to seven weeks. Burn bosses from all over the United States arrive to sharpen their skills while being mentored by Ralph. Besides the experience Ralph gained working at Fort Apache, he also served on Type 1 teams as a Division Supervisor for eight years, and as an air attack trainee until he received his qualifications for that. He was also the Fort Apache Hotshot Superintendent from 1984 to 1993. The Fort Apache Agency is justifiably proud of Ralph’s many accomplishments.

## Fort Apache Designation

Fort Apache and Theodore Roosevelt School were officially designated as a National Historic Landmark (NHL) by the Secretary of Interior last month. National Historic Landmarks are very



### Fort Apache N.H.L

significant historic places that possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States. “By designating these sites as National Historic Landmarks, we are ensuring that future generations will know these im-

portant chapters in our nation’s story and expand opportunities for tourism that generate economic returns for our local communities” stated Secretary Salazar. The WMAT and the Fort Apache Heritage Foundation invite everyone to join them to celebrate this new designation at Ndee La Ade/Gathering of the People on May 12, 2012. More information can be found at [www.fortapachearizona.com](http://www.fortapachearizona.com).

## Student Honored

Helitak crewmember Butch Gregg was recently honored by being nominated for membership in the National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS) which is an honor society for high achieving first and second year college students. Membership in the Society is for students who are in the top 10% of their class and have a grade point average of 3.4 or better. Butch is currently taking classes through Northern Arizona University to qualify

## Getting Ready For The Fire Season

Pack tests, safety reviews, and fire classes are all taking place in April to prepare firefighters for the upcoming fire season. Contact Training Specialist Varnell Gatewood right away at 338-5481 for more information or to sign up.

