

## BANQUET

January 13, 2009 | Ramada Inn, Tallahassee, Florida, USA

### RECOGNITION OF DENNIS HADDOW, EIGHTH KOMAREK LECTURER

Kevin M. Robertson

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DR. ROBERTSON: Good evening everybody, and welcome to the Tall Timbers 24th Fire Ecology Conference Banquet. Our first order of business tonight is to express our appreciation to Dennis Haddow for being the Eighth Komarek Lecturer at this conference. I was entirely convinced before the conference that the perfect person to give the Eighth Komarek Lecture would be Dennis Haddow, and I was just pleased as could be when he not only willingly but enthusiastically accepted our invitation to come and speak. But his presentation Monday morning exceeded all of my expectations. During this conference, I've heard nothing but how excited, energized, enthusiastic, and challenged everyone is after hearing his message, "Prescribed Fire in the Wildlands: Our Increasing Challenge." Having somebody on the other side, so to speak, in air quality regulation who is an enthusiastic promoter of prescribed burning is almost too good to be true, and we deeply appreciate everything you have accomplished over the years. We certainly hope that Dennis will not be a stranger to us in retirement.

I would like to invite you up, Dennis, so we can give you this token of our appreciation. Hopefully this plaque will serve as a reminder of this conference, which I think will be a historic event, and you certainly have been a key part of it. We truly appreciate your coming to be the Eighth Komarek Lecturer.

MR. HADDOW: I'd like to thank the folks here at Tall Timbers and the others who invited me here and presented me with this. I've been in fire now for 42 years. I started on a fire crew in '67, and I've picked up a few awards along the way, but none that actually mean more than this. This comes right from the people who are out there trying to get the job done relative to prescribed fire.

During my presentation, I talked about some of the challenges we're going to have with existing regulations and those new regulations that I'm just sure are going to come. We are going to see tighter standards. But air quality regulations will never, ever take away our ability to use fire. We might give that away, if we're not careful, if we're not smart. But the ability for us to keep prescribed fire, to do more burning than we're doing right now, even with tougher standards, is in our hands. The ball is in our court. The key is: Will we be smart? Will we do what we need to do? So if you're concerned about prescribed fire and air quality and you want to know what the future is, ask yourself. Try and figure out what we need to do to make sure we don't have problems. I identified a few of those during my talk. There are other folks that can help us out. I think the idea of prescribed fire councils nationally is fantastic. Hopefully we'll do a good job in working through them and existing groups, like Tall Timbers, and make sure we get the right message out about what we need to do to keep our ability to burn.

I sincerely thank you all for this and the folks here that invited me, and I've enjoyed it. I've picked up a bunch of new stuff. It's interesting, every time you go to a fire conference there's something new, and that's definitely been the case here, where I've picked up a lot of new ideas and learned about new technologies. So, again, thank you.

*Citation:* Robertson, K.M. 2010. Recognition of Dennis Haddow, Eighth Komarek Lecturer. Page 108 in K.M. Robertson, K.E.M. Galley, and R.E. Masters (eds.). Proceedings of the 24th Tall Timbers Fire Ecology Conference: The Future of Prescribed Fire: Public Awareness, Health, and Safety. Tall Timbers Research Station, Tallahassee, Florida, USA.