School of Forest Resources Hosts Ukrainian Foresters

In August 2007, the School of Forest Resources and the College of Agricultural Science’s Woskob International Research in Agriculture (WIRA) Committee hosted a Ukrainian forestry delegation for a 10-day visit. The delegation was comprised of five forestry professionals from academia and government agencies—the Institute of Forestry and Landscape Architecture at the National Agricultural University of Ukraine (NAUU) in Kiev, the National Forestry University of Ukraine (NFUU) in Lviv, and the State Committee of Forests (SCFE, which is analogous to the USDA Forest Service) in the regions of Crimea and Ivano-Frankivsk.

The visit was part of a bilateral exchange project to share forestry research and technology. Wayne Myers, professor of forest biometrics; Marc McDill, associate professor of forest management; and Mike Jacobson, associate professor of forest resources, had visited Ukraine in October 2006 where they learned about forest management issues in three regions of the country, with three days in and around Kiev, three days in the Crimean peninsula, and four days in Lviv and the Carpathian mountain region. Their trip was hosted by the faculties from NAUU in Kiev and NFUU in Lviv and local SCFE personnel in each region.

Jacobson met the delegates in Washington, DC, where they later had the opportunity to interact with USDA Forest Service personnel from various units: ecosystem services, forest health monitoring, international programs, and timber management. The Ukrainians also met with nongovernmental organizations including the American Forest Association and US-Ukraine Foundation.

The meetings were a good introduction to U.S. forest management and policy, which is significantly different from what the Ukrainians experience at home. Less than 15 percent of their land is forested, and the Ukrainian government manages nearly all of the nation’s forests. But the government is considering privatization of Ukrainian forests.

En route to central Pennsylvania, the delegates stopped to see forests in the Southern Alleghenies. They later toured Penn State University Park and the School of Forest Resources Stone Valley Forest. At the home of George Woskob, the donor who provided funds to establish the WIRA program, they met with Robert Steele, our College’s dean; Deanna Behring, our College’s director of international programs; and School of Forest Resources faculty.

From State College, the delegates traveled with McDill to Johnsonburg, where they toured Domtar’s minimal emissions state-of-the-art pulp and paper mill. Next they visited the Allegheny National Forest (ANF) where Dr. Susan Stout of the U.S. Forest Service’s Northeast Experiment Station spoke to them about the silvicultural challenges and the research being done there. They also learned about the challenges of managing recreational use of the ANF, and toured the Twin Lakes Recreational Area. At Kane Hardwood’s lumber mill, Blaine Puller, lands manager, gave the delegates a tour and a silviculture lesson. The visit to the northern
forests of the state concluded with a stop at the Pennsylvania Lumber Museum and a forest walk led by Dr. Timothy Pierson, senior extension educator.

The final leg of the delegation’s introduction to Pennsylvania forestry was led by Ken Balliet, forester and business management educator for Cooperative Extension and a member of the WIRA Committee. Three days spent in the Central Susquehanna Valley familiarized the group with our agricultural and forest heritage and showcased the Pennsylvania Forest Stewards program. The delegates visited the Bureau of Forestry silvicultural demonstration area near Laurelton and the woodlots of forest stewards Chandis Klinger (in Paxtonville) and Jay Livziey (in Weikert). The time in the valley culminated with an informal discussion group at the Lycoming County Extension Office that featured seven Pennsylvania forest stewards and the Ukrainian delegation.

“It was indeed a whirlwind tour,” commented McDill, “but the delegates were no doubt much better informed about the diversity of Pennsylvania’s forests; the individuals, companies, and agencies that manage them; and the challenges they face.”

Returning to State College before their final departure, the delegates presented an afternoon seminar in the Forest Resources Building to introduce attendees to forestry and natural resources in Ukraine. They spoke about forest composition, forest education and research, and forest regeneration.

The exchange project will continue. One of several activities on the horizon is being planned by Balliet and Jacobson. They hope to take delegations of Pennsylvania Forest Stewards to Ukraine to explore forest management issues in the context of Ukrainian culture, and to bring forest landowners from Ukraine here as part of a mentoring program.
Looking Ahead

Hello Alumni and Friends,

As I approach the final months of this post, I’d like to reflect on the opportunities and strengths of the Alumni Group and the responsibilities we share in our collective future. One of the real virtues of my position has been the continued ties with our alumni. Over the past 20 years, our Alumni Group has gathered considerable support from several directors and we now enjoy an excellent information system, periodic meetings, allied events, and effective ties with our College and University.

As you know, we send out two issues of our RESOURCES newsletter annually to more than 4700 alums and friends throughout the world. Its dual purpose is updating everyone on the School’s progress, with a further section devoted to alumni news. From all indications, it serves these needs well. Typically, when meeting our alumni, we inquire about the receipt of RESOURCES and secure pertinent comments thereof. Everything has been positive. In fact, a few years ago we asked whether an electronic version might better serve your needs (also saving the School on expenses). About 15% were in favor of e-mail delivery, but the majority opted to retain the “hard copy” system. Please keep in mind that the annual printing and mailing of RESOURCES costs the School about $14 thousand. As such, during our next Alumni Group Meeting (April 18), we should consider a better means for sharing this cost. I’ll also remind you that the School supports the Ellen Manno position in her role as Assistant Director for Special Programs. Nearly 50% of her time is directed to RESOURCES, graduate surveys on employment, and the coordination of our Alumni Group.

Which brings me to the future affairs of our group. Over the past few years your alumni leadership effectively planned and presented the Centennial Celebrations. But now what? Where can we effectively engage our alumni relative to the School’s future? Conveniently, the School’s next strategic plan for ’09 - ’14 will be started this coming fall, including a portion on stakeholder relations and the Alumni Group. What does this organization need and expect from Penn State? In reciprocal fashion, what can the School expect from our alumni? I’ll offer four suggestions on Alumni Group responsibilities, the first of which has already been presented:

1. Share in the financial responsibility of creating and distributing RESOURCES. Perhaps we need to establish some form of endowment that will contribute a better share toward annual needs.

2. Assist the School in critiquing the professional worthiness of our undergraduate majors. Take the time, either as individuals or as elected members of our Alumni Board, in responding to forthcoming surveys on our majors. If interested, please volunteer to Ellen Manno (814-863-5831, exr2@psu.edu).

3. Establish a stronger information-flow system on summer and permanent employment opportunities for our students. These young people recognize the need for experience but require first-hand news on these opportunities. Contact Jamie Murphy for further details (814-863-0362, jam563@psu.edu).

4. Participate in the next Penn State Capital Campaign. Its emphasis will be on student support by way of endowed scholarships and allied teaching needs. Toward this endeavor, I’m hoping that our Alumni Group will provide added momentum in the organization of class gifts for School students.

That’s it – there are your marching orders. My ties with our alumni and Alumni Group have been one of the most enjoyable aspects of this position. You are one of the strongest and most active set of alumni within our College and University. And I’m confident that our assembly will better serve ourselves and this University. After all, “We are Penn State”!

Cheers, Chuck Strauss

Retirement Memory Book

We invite you to contribute material for a Retirement Memory Book for Dr. Chuck Strauss. Share a “remember when ...” story or photo, write a letter, or offer advice or good wishes. Contributions will be compiled into a scrapbook or binder and presented to Dr. Strauss at his retirement.

Contributions must be received by March 31 and should be sent to Angela Clark, 122 Forest Resources Bldg., University Park, PA 16802; adg3@psu.edu; 814-863-7093. Hard copy or digital copy accepted. Please include captions with photos.
Henry Gerhold Retires

Henry D. Gerhold, the longest-serving faculty member in the School of Forest Resources to date, retired in December 2007. He joined the faculty in 1956 as an instructor and advanced through the ranks to professor of forest genetics.

Gerhold’s connection with Penn State began even earlier, as a student at Mont Alto in 1948. He completed a B.S. in forestry in 1952 and stayed at Penn State to complete a master’s degree in 1954. He started doing research for the U.S. Forest Service but was offered the opportunity to start a doctoral degree at Yale School of Forestry. After two years of studies, he was invited back to Penn State in 1956 to do research on the genetics of Christmas trees. Gerhold conducted his Ph.D. research part-time, completing that in 1959, and soon after was promoted to assistant professor.

Gerhold served as the School’s chairman of graduate studies (1964-1985), as assistant director for research and graduate studies (1985-1992), as chairman of the Intercollege Graduate Program in Genetics (1978-1992), as interim director of the School in 1988, and as faculty representative on the SFR Alumni Group Board of Directors (1999-2007).

He conducted research and published widely on the genetic improvement of Christmas trees, landscape trees, and timber species, and was a leader of the extension program in urban and community forestry from 1990 until retirement.

His awards include the 1992 Pennsylvania Forestry Association Award for Outstanding Achievement in Urban and Community Forestry, National Arbor Day Foundation’s 1995 Book Award for Street Tree Factsheets, the 1998 Education Award of the Utility Arborists Association, the 2003 Dr. Joseph Trimble Rothrock Conservationist of the Year Award of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association, and recognition from Penn State Mont Alto in 2003 as an Alumni Centennial Fellow.

Gerhold published two books published in 2007. A Century of Forest Resources Education offers a detailed history of the School of Forest Resources and A Forester’s Legacy explores the life of Joseph E. Ilberson.

Gerhold was recently selected as one of four 2008 School of Forest Resources Outstanding Alumni. Additional details about his accomplishments will be included in our summer newsletter in which all four award winners will be profiled.

David DeWalle Retires

David R. DeWalle, professor of forest hydrology and former associate director of the Penn State Institutes of Energy and the Environment (PSIEE), retired on October 1, 2007.

DeWalle is a distinguished researcher on issues of acidification and its effects on forest ecosystem health that has had a long-standing joint appointment with the School of Forest Resources and the PSIEE.

During his tenure, he has actively served the College of Agricultural Sciences and School of Forest Resources. He has served as assistant director for research and graduate studies and Forest Science program chair in the School of Forest Resources. As a Heinz fellow and executive board member of the Center for Watershed Stewardship—a collaborative initiative of the Department of Landscape Architecture and School of Forest Resources—he helped create the graduate Option in Watershed Stewardship, which is an interdisciplinary hands-on watershed planning program funded by Heinz Charitable Trusts. He has served as chairman of various committees in the School of Forest Resources, president and officer of the Penn State Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta, and member of coordinating council for the Environmental Pollution Control graduate program. He has also served on the faculty advisory committee to the dean and strategic planning committee in the College of Agricultural Sciences.

Since coming to the University in 1969, DeWalle has been major adviser to more than 45 M. S. and Ph.D. students and has authored numerous journal articles and book chapters on acidification and its effects on forest ecosystem health. His area of expertise also includes snow hydrology and he recently coauthored a book on the subject that is currently being published by Cambridge University Press.

DeWalle has a long record of membership and service to the American Water Resources Association (AWRA) that began with his joining the organization in 1980. DeWalle was recognized a Fellow member in 2003. In 2005, he was president-elect and succeeded to president in 2006. His activities include serving as the faculty adviser for the AWRA Penn State Student Chapter, which won the Outstanding Student Chapter Award three times in 1990, 1992, and 1998. He was an associate editor of the Journal of American Water Resources Association.

DeWalle received his bachelor’s degree in forest management and master’s degree in forest hydrology from the University of Missouri, and doctorate in watershed management from Colorado State University.
Beth Boyer Hired as Associate Professor of Forest Hydrology

At the start of the 2008 spring semester, we welcomed Dr. Elizabeth Boyer as associate professor of forest hydrology in the School of Forest Resources and as a member of the Penn State Institutes of Energy and the Environment.

This latest move is a homecoming of sorts for Boyer, who graduated from Penns Valley Area High School in Spring Mills in 1986 and completed a B.S. in Geography at Penn State in 1990. Since then her work has taken her from coast to coast.

Boyer was employed with the U.S. Geological Survey in Menlo Park, California from 1990 to 1997 while completing requirements for an M.S. in 1994 and a Ph.D. in 1998, both from the University of Virginia. She served as an assistant professor at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse, New York, from 2000 to 2004, and held adjunct faculty positions at Syracuse University and Cornell University during that time. Since 2005, she has worked at the University of California in Berkeley, most recently as associate professor in the Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management.

Boyer has taught courses in watershed hydrology, forest hydrology, watershed ecology, hydrological field techniques, and interdisciplinary research methods.

Her research is interdisciplinary in nature, and focuses on hydrological and ecological processes that affect water quality (e.g., nutrients, sediments) and water quantity (e.g., streamflow and water yield) issuing from watersheds. Much of her work focuses on how atmospheric emissions, land use change, and climatic variability affect nutrient loadings in streams and rivers. Understanding factors affecting conditions and trends in surface waters is increasingly important, providing a scientific basis for design and implementation of policies and land management programs to mitigate the effects of pollution.

At Penn State, Boyer will teach undergraduate and graduate courses in forest hydrology and will continue her research on atmospheric deposition and watershed processes. She can be reached at 304 Forest Resources Bldg., University Park, PA 16802; phone 814-865-8830; e-mail ewb100@psu.edu.

Amanda Horning Receives George Award

Amanda Horning has received the 2007 John L. George Student Conservation Award given annually to an undergraduate student in the Wildlife and Fisheries major at Penn State who embodies the spirit and dedication of Dr. John L. George.

George was the driving force behind the establishment of the Wildlife and Fisheries Science program in the School of Forest Resources at Penn State. In 1963, he was appointed as the first wildlife faculty member of the School, and worked tirelessly for the expansion of the program into a full academic major, a dream that became reality in 1981.

The George Award recognizes a student in good academic standing who has committed himself/herself to public service on behalf of the conservation of natural resources, particularly regarding the necessity of protecting and maintaining healthy habitats for wildlife and plants.

Amanda Horning, a native of Reading, Pennsylvania, is a Wildlife and Fisheries Science senior. In addition to degree requirements, she has taken courses focusing on environmental interpretation and education. She has completed 32 hours of training in environmental and historical education offered by the National Association for Interpretation and is a Certified Interpretive Guide.

Horning’s summer work experiences include an internship on Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge on the Outer Banks of North Carolina, during which she rotated among biology, education, and maintenance duties; an internship with the Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge in Seymour, Indiana, where she focused on field biology work and also gave several presentations to the public; and a position with Dr. Jay Stauffer, Distinguished Professor of Ichthyology, during which she gained fisheries lab experience and field experience on the Ohio and Allegheny rivers.

During the school year, Amanda works several hours each week with Penn State Natural Resources Cooperative Extension as an office assistant, and is active in extracurricular activities. She is current president of...
the Penn State student chapter of The Wildlife Society (TWS), served as treasurer of the chapter, helped organize the chapter’s first and second annual Wild Game dinners, and has participated in TWS meetings at the state, regional, and national levels. She is member of Xi Sigma Pi, the national forestry honor society, and has participated in community service projects with that group.

“I have watched as Amanda has become a leader of her peers,” writes Dr. Duane Diefenbach, unit leader of the Pennsylvania Fish and Cooperative Research Unit and faculty adviser to The Wildlife Society Student Chapter.

“Amanda is extremely well organized and an excellent student. Upon graduation, I believe Amanda will have one of the broadest ranges of experience of any undergraduate I have worked with during the past eight years. These experiences span wildlife research, fisheries research, natural history interpretive work, and public relations in both academia and government.”

In fall 2008 Horning plans to study abroad in Australia through the University of Melbourne - Penn State Study Abroad Program and then return to graduate with her B.S. degree in December 2008. She will seek more field experience and also pursue a master’s degree in Agricultural and Extension Education. Horning hopes eventually to return to the high school classroom as an Agricultural Science teacher, to teach a wide variety of subjects that connect to natural resources and instill some of her passion into younger generations.

**Andy Wilson Receives 2007 Latham Award**

Andrew M. Wilson has received the 2007 Roger M. Latham Memorial Graduate Award, given annually to an outstanding, full-time graduate student advised by Wildlife and Fisheries Science faculty members in the School of Forest Resources.

The Latham Award, created in 1981, memorializes Dr. Roger M. Latham (1914-1979) who devoted his career to promote conservation and management of renewable natural resources. Latham was well known as an author and the outdoor editor of the *Pittsburgh Press*, a lecturer, a photographer, a naturalist, a teacher, and a resource conservationist.

Andy Wilson is a Ph.D. candidate in Penn State’s Intercollege Graduate Degree Program in Ecology and is advised by Dr. Margaret Brittingham, professor of wildlife resources. He earned a baccalaureate degree in applied statistics at Sheffield Hallam University in the United Kingdom in 1992. He worked for two years as a research assistant at the University of York and ten years with the British Trust for Ornithology before enrolling at Penn State in 2004.

Wilson’s duties with the British Trust for Ornithology included serving as the Trust’s first official training officer (2002-2004). He was responsible for developing and presenting training programs for the Trust’s 20,000 volunteer fieldworkers, including residential and one-day workshops, lectures, and written materials.

Wilson is a field ornithologist with 25 years of experience from several countries, and a qualified bander. He has experience in the design and organization of large-scale ecological surveys, incorporating use of advanced multivariate statistical techniques, GIS, and spatial analysis. He is writing a book on surveying and mapping the distribution of birds.

True to the spirit of the Latham Award, Wilson shows an appreciation for the social, economic, and biological aspects of fish and wildlife management and demonstrates leadership and communication skills.

One example is his doctoral research, which examines the effects of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) on birds. During the past three years, Wilson has made a dozen or more research-related presentations to a variety of audiences ranging from a talk to a local bird club to training workshops for state agency biologists and land managers. He has also initiated a newsletter that relates the findings of CREP research projects so that volunteers and employees are kept up-to-date on research results and the significance of their contributions.

Wilson has been a guest lecturer in several Penn State courses including Ornithology, Wildlife and Fisheries Measurements, and Field Ecology, and in a Conservation Biology course at the University of South Florida. In spring 2007 he co-taught a one-week intensive field ornithology course with Dr. Brittingham.

Wilson has been an active member of the Intercollege Graduate Degree Program in Ecology and currently serves as its program assistant. His responsibilities include organizing two seminar series, producing a monthly newsletter, and facilitating liaison between students and faculty. In 2006, he was president of the Ecology Graduate Student Organization.

Outside of Penn State, Wilson has become very involved with the 2nd Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas project, as a part-time field assistant and a volunteer in carrying out surveys, inputting data, representing the project at promotional events, and assisting with analysis. He has also refereed manuscripts for several professional journals including the *Journal of Wildlife Management* and *Conservation Biology*.

Dr. Brittingham strongly supported Wilson for this award, commenting, “Andy is committed to research, management, conservation, and public outreach. He exemplifies many of the qualities and goals of Dr. Latham.”

Wilson plans to graduate in summer 2008 and will pursue a career in academia as an avian ecologist, preferentially in the northeastern United States. He would particularly like to work in a liberal arts college environment, possibly after completing post-doctoral research.
4th Annual Cardboard Canoe Race

We kicked off fall season in Stone Valley on September 30 with the 4th Annual Cardboard Canoe Race sponsored and organized by the Forest Products Society and the School of Forest Resources. Fifteen two-person teams participated. Several faculty members brought their families and competed or cheered the participants on. Teams first enjoyed a picnic lunch before gearing up to engineer their cardboard vessels.

The Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation donated the cardboard for the event and the Stone Valley Recreation Area staff provided water safety support.

The rules allow two hours for canoe construction, and specify that a canoe must be made from only uncoated cardboard and duct tape. The duct tape can only be used to cover a seam, thus preventing a team from completely coating their craft in tape. Graduate students Carrie Gilbert and Kristen Brubaker designed the Sinking Siren by cutting thin strips of cardboard, which they taped together. This design presented a potential loophole in the duct tape rules, but the craft held true to its name and sunk.

There were some success stories. Dr. Marc McDill and cohort had the fastest craft coming in at 1 minute and 49 seconds. The next fastest time went to undergraduates Mike Wagaman and Chance Yeckley, who, along with Dr. Peter Linehan and two other students, came from Mont Alto.

Prizes were awarded for the top three teams in speed, as well as the three best sinks, and best design. All participants left Stone Valley with a smile, and perhaps some soggy clothing.

Penn State Woodsmen Team

The Penn State Woodsmen Team was in action in fall 2007 with a demonstration at the Reeds Gap State Park Fall Festival, followed by a scrimmage hosted by Penn College in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. On November 3 the team traveled to Lindsay, Ontario, Canada to attend the 25th Loggersports competition hosted by Sir Sandford Fleming College.

The November competition was special in that it featured Penn State’s first women’s team since 2002. A full team—either male or female—consists of six individuals competing in six single events, three double events, and team events in which everyone participates. The women’s team finished 6th out of 13 teams. To make this even more special, four of these women had never competed before this fall! The men’s team finished 8th out of 29 teams, which made this the best finish since the team was resurrected in 2002.

The team’s spring schedule will likely include a trip to Southern Illinois for the first-ever All American Collegiate Foresters Conclave, and a trip to New Hampshire for the 62nd annual Spring Log Drive competition.

2007-08 College of Agricultural Sciences Scholarships and Awards

The College of Agricultural Sciences awarded more than $1.8 million in scholarships and awards to 670 students for the 2007-08 academic year. This total includes nearly $150,000 that the School of Forest Resources distributed among 80 students, including 13 incoming freshmen. Recipients and donors were honored at a banquet on October 29, 2007, at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel in State College.

The Bill Baldwin Memorial Scholarship in the School of Forest Resources was awarded for the first time this academic year and recognized as a “new scholarship” at the banquet. The scholarship was created in memory of Bill Baldwin ’74 who spent 30 years advocating treated wood and supporting its proper use. Baldwin died in July 2006 in a fire while on company business.

Five of our unit’s scholarships were among those recognized at the banquet for reaching a milestone of continuous support: The William Allison Ritchey Scholarship in Forest Resources and the Frank and Lenore Spearey Scholarship in Forest Resources have been awarded for ten years; the Keystone Kiln Drying Association Scholarship and the Orpha Kelly Rapp and Jesse Rossiter Rapp ’15 Prize for Academic Excellence have been awarded for fifteen years. The Bartlett Tree Foundation Grant-in-Aid has been awarded for twenty years.

Scholarship and award recipients are chosen by unit scholarship committees as well as by a college-wide committee on the basis of their qualifications and donor-established guidelines. For a complete listing of the scholarships awarded by the School of Forest Resources, and the recipients for 2007-08, please visit http://www.sfr.cas.psu.edu/Alumni/newsletters/winter2008/students.html.
Brian Swistock, senior extension associate in the School of Forest Resources, and William Sharpe, professor emeritus of forest hydrology, received the 2007 Education and Public Service Award from the Universities Council on Water Resources at the July 2007 national meeting in Boise, Idaho. They accepted the award on behalf of faculty, staff, and county educators delivering water resources extension education programs throughout Pennsylvania.

In September 2007 staff assistant Barbara Irwin was recognized for 25 years of service to Penn State.

Undergraduate student Amanda Hornig, a senior in Wildlife and Fisheries Science, received a scholarship award from Shikar-Safari Club International, a private wildlife conservation group in September.

James Finley, professor of forest resources, received the 2007 Leadership Award at Penn State’s Cooperative Extension Annual Conference in October. This award honors an extension professional who has a strong history of outstanding leadership and contributions to Penn State Cooperative Extension and who has demonstrated the highest overall standards of performance.

Nicole Brown, assistant professor of wood products, was recently recognized for excellence in teaching. She was presented with the NACTA Teaching Award of Merit at our college’s Scholarships and Awards Banquet in October 2007. The college makes one award each year to a faculty member with less than five years of teaching experience at Penn State. The award is made available through the college’s institutional membership in NACTA—North American College and Teachers of Agriculture.

The Penn State SAF Student Chapter won third place in the SAF (Society of American Foresters) Outstanding Student Chapter Award competition for the 2006-2007 academic year. The award is based on many criteria including service to members, to the Society, to the forestry school, and to the community; involvement with other natural resource organizations; outside recognition; and chapter management. Seven chapters competed for the award.

The Penn State SAF Student Chapter won the student quiz bowl at the SAF National Convention in Portland, Oregon, in October. Team members were undergraduates Kim Linette, team captain and two-time national quiz bowl winner, Chris Layau, SAF chapter president; and John Schwarter; and graduate student Ben Gamble, past SAF and Xi Sigma Pi chapter president. Twenty-seven teams competed in the quiz bowl.

Ph.D. candidate Shibu Kar was invited this past fall to participate as a partner in the Poverty Environment Network, a part of the Center for International Forestry Research based in Bogor, Indonesia. As a partner, he is collaborating with graduate students in 26 countries around the world to develop similar data collection protocols. Kar is conducting a marketing analysis of natural products enterprises and is currently carrying out fieldwork in Bangladesh.

In November 2007, David DeWalle, professor emeritus of forest hydrology, and William Sharpe, professor emeritus of forest hydrology, received the 2007 ENRI Career Award. The Career Award recognizes College of Agricultural Sciences faculty, extension educators, and staff who have had a distinguished career in the environmental and natural resources field for a period of ten or more years. ENRI, the Environment and Natural Resources Institute, is part of the College of Agricultural Sciences and the Penn State Institutes of Energy and the Environment.
President’s Message

Greetigs fellow alumni.

I hope this edition of our newsletter finds you all doing well!

Let me start with a word of explanation and thanks. For those of you who follow our Alumni Group activities closely, you will remember that Tom Yorke was re-elected for a second term as president at our meeting last spring. However, at our summer meeting, Tom decided to step down. This called for the board to elect his successor and I am grateful to the board for giving me this opportunity to serve as your president. Marc Lewis was elected to serve as vice-president.

Tom did an excellent job in leading our Alumni Group over the past couple of years! Tom also deserves a very special thanks for working very hard along with many other alums to make our Centennial Celebration a great success. I wish Tom all the best as he continues on in his support of our Alumni Group.

Thanks to any and all who worked to make our celebration a great success.

I believe most of you are aware the Dr. Strauss has announced his retirement and we thank him for his leadership and wish him well in this new phase of life. Chuck also deserves a great big thank you for his leadership of our School these last few years. Under his tenure we have seen the new building completed, new faculty hired, and he, too, played a major role in the Centennial Celebration.

The search for a new director is currently being conducted and we hope to have that position filled within the next couple of months.

As we enter into our second 100 years it is very exciting to anticipate what changes may take place. We are seeing significant progress toward The Arboretum at Penn State. Thanks to Dr. Kim Steiner for his leadership efforts.

Beyond the new building and the arboretum there are many possibilities for us to be involved. The board has discussed the need to increase our student scholarships, as well as becoming mentors, local recruiters, and advocates for the School within the University system.

The board welcomes your ideas to serve and improve our School of Forest Resources. Please feel free to contact any of us or communicate your ideas to Ellen Manno.

We hope you will mark your calendars for the upcoming alumni banquet. It promises to be a very special event!

Mark Webb
11021 U.S. Route 6
Union City, PA 16438
(814) 663-5393
mrkrwebb@earthlink.net

Candidates for the School of Forest Resources Alumni Group Board of Directors

The School of Forest Resources Alumni Group board of directors includes 12 at-large members who are elected to a three-year term and who may serve a second consecutive term if re-elected. The terms of four at-large members expire in Spring 2008 and therefore an election ballot is enclosed in this newsletter on page 18. Here are brief biosketches, in alphabetical order, of the candidates listed on this ballot. Incumbents are noted with an asterisk (*). Vote for no more than four candidates. Ballots must be postmarked by March 28, 2008. You can also vote online at http://www.sfr.cas.psu.edu/Alumni/Newsletters/Winter2008/Response.html.

Thomas A. Breslin (1957 FOR)
“After graduation in 1957, a brief stint with Pennsylvania DCNR, and a six-month tour of duty with the Army, I returned to Pennsylvania and worked with John Bitzer in the Pennsylvania DCNR on the statewide volume table project.

“In November 1958 my wife Lucy, son Vince, and I moved to Warsaw, New York, when I accepted an appointment as forester for New York State Conservation Department. I served as a service forester for ten years in western New York, transferred to New York Department of Parks and Recreation in 1968, and was appointed park manager of Letchworth State Park in 1978. I retired from that position in 1992. We moved back to Pennsylvania in 1997 to be caregivers for my Aunt Betty, my mother’s only surviving sister who had no children but had been a ‘second mother’ to my brother and me.

“Lucy and I have three grown children who all have families of their own; we have five granddaughters and one grandson that we can spoil.”

R. Alexander Day (1967 FOR T)
“I graduated from Penn State School of Forest Resources with a B.S. in 1967. I worked two years (1965-1967) as technical forest adviser to Dominican Republic Forest Service with the U.S. Peace Corps and served three years in the U.S. Army (Signal Corps) in
Elected at-large members (terms expire Spring 2008):
Joseph E. Barnard ('60 FOR, '63g FOR)
J. Theodore Jensen ('50 FOR)
Gregory M. Schrum ('67 FOR T, '69g FOR R)
Denise Mitcheltree ('94 and '96 W F S )

Elected at-large members (terms expire Spring 2009):
David J. Babyak ('71 FORSC)
Franklin S. Judd ('67 FOR T and '73g FOR R)
E.L. “Dick” Shafer ('56 and '57g FOR)
Mark R. Webb ('73 FORSC), president

Elected at-large members (terms expire Spring 2010):
Marc D. Lewis ('78 FORSC), vice president
Robert D. Rorabaugh ('72 FORSC)
Cecile M. Stelter ('89 FORSC, '90g FOR R)
Thomas H. Yorke ('64 FOR, '67g FOR)

Immediate Past President:
Thomas H. Yorke ('64 FOR, '67g FOR)

Director, School of Forest Resources:
Charles H. Strauss ('58 FOR)

Assistant Director for Outreach, School of Forest Resources:
Richard H. Yahner

President, College of Ag Sciences Alumni Society, ex officio:
Nelson S. Loftus ('58 FOR, '62g FOR)

Faculty Member, School of Forest Resources:
Henry D. Gerhold ('52 FOR and '54g M FOR)

Undergraduate Student, School of Forest Resources:
Clark W. McColly

Graduate Student, School of Forest Resources:
Benjamin M. Gamble ('06 FORSC)

Executive Director:
Ellen A. Manno ('86g FOR R)

In this newsletter, the year(s) noted next to alumni names indicate(s) when they received degree(s) from the School of Forest Resources at Penn State. Degrees received from other Penn State programs or other institutions are not noted.

Ralph E. Heilig (1958 FOR)
"I am a life member of the Penn State Alumni Association, the Society of American Foresters, the Pennsylvania Forestry Association, the American Legion, and the Navy League of the United States. I am a volunteer Admissions Officer with the U.S. Naval Academy."

Jennifer A. Ottenberg Miller (2000 W F S)
"In December 2000 I graduated with a B.S in Wildlife and Fisheries Science and a minor in Forest Science. Upon graduation I moved to Galway, New York, to complete an AmeriCorps service term with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation at John Boyd Thacher State Park/Emma Treadwell Thacher Nature Center. My service hours focused on developing education curricula and trail guides and presenting weekly nature programs to the park visitors and local community.
"Upon completing my AmeriCorps term of service, I began my professional career in environmental consulting. Over the last seven years I have worked as an environmental scientist for engineering firms throughout the Mid-Atlantic and South Atlantic Coastal Plain regions specializing in wetlands, habitat assessments, and rare, threatened, and endangered species. I am a member of The Wildlife Society and Society of Wetland Scientists, and certified as a Professional Wetland Scientist (PWS)."
“My daughter Danica and I reside in Baltimore, Maryland, where we are active ‘outdoorswomen.’ Our favorite past times include hiking, birding, and Penn State and Steelers football. I also enjoy returning to Penn State each spring to interview School of Forest Resources students for summer internships and entry-level positions.”

Denise H. Mitcheltree (1994 W FS and 1996g W FS) *
“I grew up in a rural township outside of Williamsport, Pennsylvania, and developed an appreciation for nature at an early age. By junior high, I was determined to play a role in wildlife conservation efforts.

“My undergraduate studies in Wildlife Science at University Park commenced in August 1990 and I can remember vividly my first class—Biology 101 in Schwab Auditorium with 900 other students. During my junior and senior years, I participated in various independent studies by assisting graduate students with their data collection: Carolyn Mahan, quantifying chipmunk behaviors; Helene Harvey, inventoried woodlots to develop a biodiversity index; and Tom Serfass, compiling literature of fisher biology.

“I graduated in May 1994 and immediately initiated my M.S. degree in WFS at Penn State with Dr. Robert Brooks as my adviser. My research focused on the chemical immobilization procedures, captive management, and reintroduction strategies for the Pennsylvania Fisher Reintroduction Project. I completed my M.S. in 1996 and continued working as an assistant coordinator of both the river otter and fisher reintroduction projects through 1997.

“In 1997 and 1998, I assisted with captive management of African hoof-stock, black rhinoceros, reticulated giraffe, and cheetahs at a unique conservation center in Texas. I returned to Pennsylvania to perform radio-telemetry monitoring of translocated elk and in 1999 I was accepted into the Ross Leffler School of Conservation where I spent 40 weeks training to become a Wildlife Conservation Officer with the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

“From 2000 through July 2007, I was assigned to 300 square miles in Potter County where some of my responsibilities included law enforcement of hunting, trapping, and wildlife laws, and providing public awareness presentations concerning wildlife conservation and biology. Recently I accepted a promotion within the Wildlife Habitat Management Bureau of the Pennsylvania Game Commission to become a game lands manager. My new responsibilities include the supervision of two habitat crews of six men who perform wildlife habitat maintenance on seven State Game Lands in Potter and Tioga counties that consist of approximately 45,000 acres of hunting grounds.”

Thaddeus M. Taylor (1997 FORSC)
“I graduated from Penn State in 1997 with a B.S. in Forest Science and from Texas A&M in 2000 with an MBA. I am an SAF Certified Forester and a senior loan officer with forest products lender, AgChoice Farm Credit. I live in Coudersport, Pennsylvania, with my lovely wife of ten years, Cynthia, and our three children. I am a director with the Allegheny Hardwood Utilization Group, a member of the Pennsylvania Forest Products Association and the Penn York Lumberman’s Club, and was recently elected secretary-treasurer of the Pennsylvania Chapter of Society of American Foresters. I am the head wrestling coach for Coudersport High School. I spent six years with International Paper in Texas and Louisiana. I was forestlands team leader, and later procurement team leader and timber security leader for IP’s 345,000-acre East Louisiana Forest before deciding to relocate and raise our children back home in Pennsylvania.”

*incumbent

Penn State Forest School Patch . . . Part 2!
The introductory article on the Penn State Forest School Patch that appeared in our last newsletter prompted a trip down memory lane for several alumni.

Joe McNaney ’55 wrote, “My original patch is still on the Levi jacket I wore while working at the sawmill with Orville Schmidt . . . The patch was purchased at Mont Alto in 1951 and has been on the Levi jacket ever since . . . The jacket no longer fits . . . and was given to my grandson Colton who helps me plant seedlings on my Greene County Tree Farm.”

Rex McHail ’50 reported on the origin of the patch: “I have the prototype of the original patch since I designed it and had it produced while a first-year forestry student at the Penn State Mont Alto Forestry School. Our class was the first class after World War II and the majority took our freshman year at the Mont Alto campus. We began the fall of 1946 . . . We started an acre club where I believe the idea of a decal or patch was generated. I volunteered to create one with the help of Swede Lindahl, Norm Martin, Jack Lavin, Pat Mussmano, and probably had input from many others. I no longer have my original design sketches nor copies that were sent to the Standard Pennant Company, Big Run, Pennsylvania, not far from my hometown of Bolivar, PA. They made a prototype . . . and from that a run was ordered.”

Neither Jack Lavin nor Bob Lindahl had any further details to add to the story, and Pat Mussmano is deceased, but Norm Martin ’50 recalls “all of the fellows that Rex mentioned were housed on the second floor at the only housing at the time at Mont Alto. The married men were housed off campus. We did meet frequently in one of our rooms to relax and go over the happenings of the day, so I presume Rex would have started the design of the patch in this manner. . . . My recollection . . . is a little fuzzy, but I do recall Big Run, PA, as the patch producer. I had one of the first patches, but I did not have a decent jacket to have it sewn on so the patch was put aside . . .”

Additional questions about the origins of the patch arose when Harold Birch ’51 provided this information from the 1951 Sylvan: “Then came February 1950 when our class of 1951 took control of the [Forestry] Society with the election of the following officers . . . . The first big innovation of this semester was the adoption of an emblem for our organization. The new emblem was designed by a committee composed of ‘Sunshine’ Shogren, Bob Zarr, Hal Birch, Al Steinele, and John Kalafus. The design chosen was a green fir tree in the center of a white keystone with an ax and oak leaves superimposed upon the tree.”

continued on page 13
The Class of 1950’s inaugural issue of The Seedling, a student newsletter at Mont Alto, featured an Acers emblem on the cover page.

Patch designer Rex McHail ’50 donated this patch (chenille wool on a felt keystone) produced in his freshman year at Mont Alto by The Standard Pennant Company in Big Run, Pennsylvania.

This patch was donated by Diane Peterson Ritchey, wife of the late William A. Ritchey ’50. Note the slight differences from the McHail patch, such as the lettering and tree outline. The patches were hand-sewn and therefore had variations.

Glenn Haney ’51 had the same wool patch as McHail’s and Ritchey’s depicted above, but he also had this felt-on-felt patch (year unknown) produced by The Standard Pennant Company. The letters are embroidered and the tree, axe, leaf, and acorn are appliqués.

The first page of the 1951 Sylvan includes this artwork prepared by Paul Shogren’s (Class of 1951) sister, presumably drawn from the Forest School patch.

Earl Reinsel ’56 donated this felt patch to the Centennial Silent Auction on behalf of Tau Phi Delta. The School successfully bid on the patch and acquired it for the collection. Also made at The Standard Pennant Co., this patch has a ragged trim.

This Class of ’54 patch was designed by Rod Cobi ’54 and donated by Temp Reynolds ’54. It is wool chenille and was produced by The Standard Pennant Co.

Karl Lutz ’78 donated this patch of cotton twill with embroidered lettering and design. Where it was produced is unknown. Notice the text has been changed to “Forestry School.”

Do you have a different patch to donate to the collection?
The “emblem” appeared on the cover of the May 1951 Penn State Forestry Society Annual Banquet program, and in the 1951 Sylvan yearbook, also published in May by the Society.

Paul “Sunshine” Shogren confirmed, “As noted in the minutes of the Forestry Society, a patch committee was organized. . . . I did indeed prevail upon my younger sister [Sandra], about 13 years old at the time, who was taking art classes at Carnegie Tech (now Carnegie Mellon), to help us design the patch.” Shogren sent a photo of the patch that his sister still has at the bottom of her sewing box!

Hal Birch ’51 hypothesizes that the pieces of the story fit together this way: “Paul’s sister translated McHail’s patch into black and white and the committee and the Forestry Society immediately accepted it. I could never explain why the double-bitted ax handle in the black-and-white version was swollen below the head. Was it a mistake by an inexperience young artist? The original patch, by a forestry student at Mont Alto, did not have that minor distortion. The ax, pinecone, and oak leaf on the original patch, however, are poorly placed, and the young artist did a better job of positioning them on the pine tree.”

The Class of 1950’s inaugural issue of The Seedling, a student newsletter at Mont Alto, dated November 11, 1946, reports on the organization of the Acers Club (mentioned above by Rex McHail). That issue featured an Acers emblem on the front cover, and this emblem also appeared on the first page of the 1947 Forest Echoes Mont Alto yearbook. The keystone outline may have been carried forward to the Forest School patch design.

The patches have a “The Standard Pennant Co.” label on the back, so there is no question about where they were produced. Unfortunately, two floods in Big Run—one in 1977 and another in 1996—wiped out all the company’s historical files, including old stock samples.

According to James Casady, current president of The Standard Pennant Company, the older patches were “pieces of art”—each made individually, sewn by hand with a sewing machine. Each patch had two penciled numbers or initials on the back—one marking indicated who did the actual embroidery and the other marking indicated who finished that patch (that is, who stitched together the embroidered piece and the felt and the buckram backing, and trimmed it.) The older patches were of wool yarn that was looped (chenille). The company advanced to a more automated production process in the early 1990s, and today, Orlon, an acrylic yarn is used.

The Forest School patch design had some longevity. Karl Lutz ’78 sent an e-mail indicating that he bought a patch around 1977 at University Park—that’s 30 years after the patch was first produced! The patch had been sewn on his denim jacket, but in more recent years it was tacked to his bulletin board. Lutz’s patch is cotton twill and includes the text "Forestry School" instead of "Forest School." Where it was produced is not known. The Forest School patch design had some longevity. Karl Lutz ’78 sent an e-mail indicating that he bought a patch around 1977 at University Park—that’s 30 years after the patch was first produced! The patch had been sewn on his denim jacket, but in more recent years it was tacked to his bulletin board. Lutz’s patch is cotton twill and includes the text "Forestry School" instead of "Forest School." Where it was produced is not known.

Individual class patches also existed. A phone call from Bob Frank ’54 and follow-up with classmate Rod Cobi confirmed that Cobi designed a circular patch for the class of 1954 that was also produced by The Standard Pennant Company. Temp Reynolds ’54 describes the class patch as follows: “A circular patch, 6 inches in diameter. Like the Forest School patch, it is chenille.

Around the edge, white letters set in a circular blue background one-inch high say ‘PENNSYLVANIA STATE FOREST SCHOOL.’ In the center (about 4 inches in diameter is a green maple leaf with a double bit axe and a peeve crossed and a red keystone about 1.75 inches high with a white ‘54’ centered. A black-on-white banner at the bottom of the center is a cursive ‘Mont Alto.’”

“A mystery maze of memories of many old men” is how Rex McHail ’50 described our efforts to piece together the history of the Penn State Forest School Patch.

Articles such as this aim to preserve that history. We also plan to frame a sample of the Forest School patches for display in the new Forest Resources Building. Some of the patches we have on hand to date are depicted here. If you have a patch from the 1960s or later, or one that is different from those shown here, please consider donating it to the display. Contact Ellen Manno at exr2@psu.edu or 814-863-5831.

**Former Mont Alto Math Instructor, Harold Jarrett, Feted on 90th Birthday**

“Anyone attending the Mont Alto campus from 1947 through June 1959 should remember Harold Jarrett, algebra and trig instructor. You may also recall Jarrett led the glee club, helped coach the baseball and basketball teams, and played a mean game of ping pong.

“In 2003 we located Mr. Jarrett at Dover, Ohio, and invited him and his wife, Evelyn, to attend the 100th anniversary reunion of the Mont Alto School of Forestry. We were elated when the Jarretts accepted the invitation.

“In 2007 someone suggested that we dedicate a Founders Tree in honor of Harold Jarrett. A few phone calls were made and e-mails were sent to fellow alums who had attended Mont Alto during the Jarrett era. We also learned that Harold would celebrate his 90th birthday on December 9, 2007.

“After realizing we could (and did) raise the required $5,000 for a Founders Tree, three alums from the Mont Alto class of 1954-55 (George Siehl, Kerry Schell and Ralph Heilig) were invited by Cathy Knoop, the Jarretts’ eldest daughter, to attend the party hosted by their elder son Boyd at his home near Dayton.

“The party was a great success. Harold was genuinely surprised with the dozens of birthday greetings from alums, and the Founders Tree Award. He later commented this was the most memorable birthday celebration in his entire life. He also stated that his years of teaching at Mont Alto were the most enjoyable years of his working career.”

– Ralph Heilig ’58
easy system,' said Mezger. 'There's a bit of luck that helps him track the trees' progress and assess what needs to be done next. 'It's not an allowed to naturally regenerate in sunny spots. pine, lodgepole pine, and white fir trees are in the forest, the next generations of ponderosa a rotating annual basis. As larger gaps emerge units and selects trees to remove from each on board feet annually and still has more standing dedicated management, he cuts about 250,000 from 2007 Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year. Adapted as one of our School of Forest Resources baccalaureate program. Good was honored to receive a Paul Mellon grant to study_AUTOBIOGRAPHY CAN CONTACT RALPH HEILIG AT (717) 263-8647 OR BY E-MAIL AT REHEILIG@COMCAST.NET.”

Robert W. “Bob” Mezger, 1947 – 5545 Sylvia Ave., Klamath Falls, OR 97603-8150. Bob Kintigh '43 of Springfield, Oregon, sent us news that Mr. Mezger was recognized as the 2007 Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year. Adapted from Capital Press, November 23, 2007: “Mezger began accumulating his 1500 acres in 1978. Thanks to 30 years of selective harvesting and dedicated management, he cuts about 250,000 board feet annually and still has more standing timber than he started with. Instead of clear-cutting, Mezger has divided his land into nine units and selects trees to remove from each on a rotating annual basis. As larger gaps emerge in the forest, the next generations of ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, and white fir trees are allowed to naturally regenerate in sunny spots. Mezger periodically measures his stands and enters the information into a computer database that helps him track the trees’ progress and assess what needs to be done next. ‘It’s not an easy system,’ said Mezger. ‘There’s a bit of luck involved in the whole process.’”


Charles A. Keeley, 1948 – 358 Carr Wynn Road, LaFollette, TN 37766. A correction to the information printed in our summer 2007 issue: “I spent 32 years in central Maryland supervising the planting about 3,000,000 seedlings—not 33,000,000 seedlings.”

Caleb M Pennock, Jr., 1948 – 250 Pantops Mtn. Rd., Apt 5417, Charlottesville, VA 22911. “I served in the Navy in the Pacific Theater on an LST as a navigator and later as captain. After graduation in 1948, I began my lifetime work with the Virginia Department of Forestry for 42 years. I started work in Farmville as a trainee, was transferred to Warrenton as a county forester, and later was promoted to regional chief of forest management in charge of ten counties in the Richmond area. “In 1962, I was assigned to the headquarters office in Charlottesville and held positions as director of forest management, fire control, administration, and retired in January 1991 as deputy state forester. My major responsibilities as deputy were support services that included technical, fiscal, purchasing, building and equipment maintenance, capital outlay projects, budgets, and short- and long-range planning. “I received a Paul Mellon grant to study loblolly pine management for one semester at North Carolina State College. I was also awarded a National Institute of Public Affairs Scholarship to attend the University of Virginia for one year. “Before retirement, my family and I traveled across the United States by camping with a tent, then a camper, and then with an Airstream trailer. We sold the trailer, but have traveled to many countries outside the United States. We are now living in a retirement community that is located in Charlottesville. Since we are located in a university town and a medical center, our residents have very interesting backgrounds, such as medical, law, education, government and foreign service. I am the only forester and, as a result, they gave me the job as chair of the Tree Committee. Keeps me busy.”

Paul R. Drury, 1949 – Ralph Heilig ’58 sent us this obituary for Mr. Drury who died September 15, 2007: “Drury retired from the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry in 1982 as assistant district forester on the Delaware District at Stroudsburg after 32 ½ years of service. “Born on a small farm near Mercersburg in 1921, Drury grew up during the Great Depression. He graduated high school in 1939 and worked briefly for the National Youth Administration program at Mauch Chunk (Jim Thorpe), Pennsylvania, where he learned to weld and assemble aircraft wings at the Lehighton Airport. He then took a job with Fairchild Aircraft in Hagerstown, Maryland. “Soon thereafter he volunteered for the draft, was assigned to the Army Air Corps, and trained as a radioman and aerial gunner. In November 1943 he became a waist gunner in the B24J ‘Liberator’ bomber. “Following several missions over the Balkans, Hungary, Italy, and Germany, Drury’s B24 was shot down on Feb. 22, 1944 near Regensburg, Germany. Only Drury and one other crewman were able to safely reach ground by parachute. He was captured by German farmers and taken to a large POW camp in Poland, known as Stalag Luft IV. “A year later, in February 1945, with the Soviet army advancing westward, his captors decided to move all 6,000 POWs, on foot, southward into Germany. Thus began the infamous 80-day Death March that covered 600 miles during one of the most severe winters in European history. In April 1945 the prisoners were liberated by the US 104th Infantry Division. “Drury was briefly hospitalized and returned to the United States by troopship. He was honorably discharged in September 1945 and immediately applied to Penn State but did not gain admittance until October–more than a month after classes had begun. “Having been out of school more than six years and having just been released from 14 months of near-starvation in captivity, he came close to academic failure. According to Drury, the one individual who came to his aid and encouraged him to continue was H. Norton Cope, his silviculture professor. “Drury remained in the Air Force Reserve, earned a commission and retired in 1982 as a major. He was promoted to assistant district forester at Stroudsburg in 1958. While in District 19, he served 20 years as air operations officer, supervising the air attack helicopter program.” Anyone wishing to read Drury’s autobiography can contact Ralph Heilig at (717) 263-8647 or by e-mail at reheilig@comcast.net.”

Robert H. Rumpf, 1949 – 51 Kenwood Drive, Carlisle, PA 17013-2112; rumpf@embargmail.com.

1950s


Harold R. Birch, 1951 – 6017 Northridge Road, Columbia, SC 29206-4337. “Thanks to ’51
classmate Ron Coder for sharing information on the 100th anniversary events in State College via mutual friends, and thanks to George Kemp ‘53 for hand-carrying material to me en route to Hilt Head, SC, on both the Penn State celebration and the Mont Alto celebration. (George and I went to the same Pittsburgh High School.)”

Paul “Sunshine” Shogren, 1951 – 1638 Memorial Drive, Oakland, MD 21550; shogren2@verizon.net.

Oscar C. Tissue, Jr., 1951 – 1203 Manchester St., Clinton, MS 39050.

Nelson Bevard, 1952 – P.O. Box 37, Kinburn ON K0A 2H0 Canada; nelsonbevard@hotmail.com. “After graduation and discharge from the Navy, I worked for a few years for the Maryland Department of Game and Inland Fish (now Dept. of Natural Resources), and then did another degree at Oregon State in forest engineering. After a couple of years with BLM in Oregon, and again in Maryland, I got connected with consulting engineering companies working overseas on development projects. This brought on residences in Iran, Colombia, Thailand, and Honduras, with much travel to developing countries in between. I retired in 1995 after nearly three years in Honduras on an agriculture and rural development project. Helen, my good wife of over 50 years, and our two dogs and 20-pound cat are enjoying a rural setting on 100 acres near Ottawa, Ontario. The property is about half pasture on which we graze other people’s heifers in the summer and half woodlot where I try to practice some of the forestry lessons and harvest firewood to heat the house during our long winters.

“I keep in touch with Phil Clark, Don Barnett, and Stan Rapp on a more or less regular basis, and was happy to see Jim Nelson and Ted Yarosh at the reunion and tree dedication at Mont Alto last spring, all from the Class of ’52. It would be a pleasure to hear from any other classmates.”


George R. Kemp, 1953 – Mr. Kemp died October 15, 2007. He served as vice president (1997-1999) and president (1999-2001) of the School of Forest Resources Alumni Group, and as associate director, elected director, and president (2005-2007) of the College of Ag Sciences Alumni Society. For forty years, Kemp was president of The Kemp Group, which designed, built, and updated secular and Christian camps. He traveled to Puerto Rico, Korea, and Japan. He was one of the founders of Cornerstone TV (WPCB).

Kemp is one of four School of Forest Resources 2008 Outstanding Alumni who will be honored at our alumni banquet in April 2008. A more detailed biosketch will appear in our next newsletter.


Robert M. “Bob” Frank, 1954 – 40 Marion Drive, Hampden, ME 04444; marion40@roadrunner.com. “I manage to conduct two or three consulting jobs each year. Timber harvests in a coastal Maine red spruce forest and in white pine alongside a tidal river were both challenging operations this past year.”


Richard G. “Dick” Wallace, 1956 – Mark Webb ’73 informed us that Mr. Wallace died December 16, 2007. Wallace was honored as one of our School of Forest Resources Outstanding Alumni in 2005.

Adapted from Wallace’s obituary in the Erie Times News: “Wallace served in the U.S. Army and had a career of more than 50 years in the forest industry. After retiring from Hammermill/International Paper Company in 1992 after 32 years, he was a forestry consultant and owned and operated Wallace and Associates Forestry, Inc. He was an active member of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association and the Society of American Foresters. In 2004, he published his first book, Building Family Wealth by Investing in Rural Land and Trees.”

Robert C. Baldwin, 1957 – 432 E. Irvin Avenue, State College PA 16801-6601. “September 2007 saw the end of my active duty. At the time the experiment station was going through budget cuts so they found a position for me at the Applegate Ranger District of the Rogue River National Forest in SW Oregon. There I joined a U.S. Army Reserve unit located in Medford, Oregon. I stayed in the reserves until the late 1980s, as company training officer, company commander, battalion supply officer, battalion training officer, and 6th Army Liaison to the Oregon National Guard in Salem.

“At the Applegate District I worked in the Timber Management department, mostly as small- and large-sales forester. I attended silviculture training to update my knowledge base and become a Certified Silviculturist. This involved attending three months of graduate-level courses at U. of Montana, U. of Idaho and Washington State. The last requirement included writing an indepth silvicultural prescription (virtually as rigorous as a master’s degree thesis) and orally defending it for three to four hours before a board of professors, forest

A Message to the Class of ’58

Mark the period June 5-10 on your 2008 calendars. We will all become “Pioneers,” a designation given by the Penn State Alumni Association to grads marking their 50th anniversary. There is not now, nor has there been, a forestry class with the cohesion and spirit of the class of ’58.

At University Park, Nelson Loftus, Chuck Straus, and Ellen Manno will put together an agenda to complement the Traditional Reunion Weekend (Thursday, June 5 to Sunday, June 8) planned by the Penn State Alumni Association. Further south, at Mont Alto, George Siehl, Ken Swartz, and Ralph Heilig, with the help of Ron Ackerman and Deb Creager of the Mont Alto Development staff, are planning activities for the period of Sunday noon, June 8 through Tuesday noon, June 10.

A special note to our classmates who did not spend their freshman year at Mont Alto: You are invited, yes encouraged, to come south to the ‘boondocks’ at the edge of the Michaux State Forest. The Mont Alto campus is the cradle of forestry in Pennsylvania. Please join us and soak up some interesting forest history. We have a field trip planned for June 9 to the Eisenhower Farm and other features in the Gettysburg area. More later on the full schedule of events.

Meanwhile, please send your e-mail address, snail mail address, and phone number to me.

One final note for now: Penn National Estates (one mile from the Mont Alto campus) is holding 15 motel rooms for the nights of June 8 and June 9 at a minimal cost. If interested, call George Siehl ASAP at (717) 352-8773.

Ralph Heilig ’58, 532 Briar Lane, Chambersburg PA 17202
(717) 263-8647, rehelig@comcast.net

“Late 1979, I was transferred to the Forest Supervisor’s Office of the Rogue River National Forest. My main task was to develop timber yield tables. With all the pre-work, scientific reviews, public scrutiny, etc. that task took me several years and resulted in more than 20 tables to cover the complete range of complexity of timber typed and ecological conditions found on the forest. I also helped the timber planner on the adjacent Winema National Forest headquartered in Klamath Falls to prepare yield tables for one of their ponderosa pine types.

“After the management plan was approved and began to be implemented, I basically remained in planning and silviculture and helped the districts of the forest plan projects and write silvicultural prescriptions. This, like the work on the Applegate District, gave me a lot of time in the field climbing up and down the hills to study groups of stands in preparation for planning meetings and prescription writing. I got to work on and with every district on the Rogue River Forest, which was very rewarding. On December 31, 1999, I retired after about 38 years of federal service, but continued to volunteer at the forest for a couple of years.

“Since retirement my wife and I have traveled a little, mostly to southern California and Arizona. I have joined the local Habitat for Humanity chapter as a building volunteer. Currently we strive to build four houses a year with eight to twelve regular volunteers working two to three days a week. In 2007 we were building two houses in Medford and two in Ashland, Oregon. This kind of work is more rewarding than any job I did in the Forest Service and I plan to continue building houses for a long time.”

W. Ed Frayer, 1961 – 5009 Harbor Heights, Lady Lake, FL 32159; edf@mtu.edu. “I retired from Michigan Tech University in 2000, went to Arizona for three years, and am now located in Florida. After not working at much other than my golf game for the past several years, I returned to teaching and am now teaching three stat courses at a junior college.”

Walter N. Peechatka, 1961 – 5 Lantern Lane, Camp Hill, PA 17011-8457; wpeechatka@pennag.com. “I completed a 30-year career in state government here in Pennsylvania in several state agencies ten years ago. During that time I was a bureau director in several state agencies and served as deputy secretary of agriculture for the last six years of my career.

“I also served five years as executive vice president of the Soil and Water Conservation Society in Ankenyi, Iowa, a professional society representing 13,000 members worldwide.

“The last ten years I served as executive vice president of PennAg Industries Association representing agricultural businesses. I retired from the full-time position in October 2007 and am currently serving as senior advisory to PennAg on a part-time basis.

“One of the highlights of the last few years has been serving on the Penn State Board of Trustees for the last five plus years representing the agricultural community that has six seats on the Penn State governing body.

“Since I devoted most of my career to soil and water conservation and related activities, I have not been active in many forestry-related activities but I was recently appointed to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Council so I expect to renew some acquaintances with foresters and others from the council and within the agency.”

Joseph J. Sucha, 1961 – 14400 Clore Lane, Fredericksburg, VA 22407-1500; mistymeadow82@hotmail.com. “I retired from the Marine Corps after 26 ½ years, worked another nine years for three different defense contractors who conducted computer wargaming primarily for the Marines. We bought a small farm near the Chancellorsville Battlefield in Virginia. We raised Christmas trees for about ten years, but got wiped out when a three-year drought hit this area. Sandy and I have just been enjoying life and the grandkids for the last several years.”

Dennis L. Schweitzer, 1961 – 0205 SW Custer Street, Portland, OR 97219-2916; janden04@hotmail.com. “I have been retired from the U.S. Forest Service since 1991. After a one-semester teaching gig at Purdue, we settled and have lived here in Portland since. My current big problem is figuring out how to get four tickets for the Sept. 6 football game between real alma mater PSU and adopted friend Oregon State.”

Merl Waltz, 1961 – 2923 Roosevelt Avenue, Chambersburg, PA 17201; mawlwa@innernet.net. “Harley Wilson, forestry class of 1941, died 10/18/2007. Harley was a WWII vet with service at Normandy and elsewhere in Europe and earned a Purple Heart and Bronze Star. He worked as a self-employed surveyor and for the Army Corp of Engineers. He was predeceased by his wife and son and survived by two daughters.”

1970s

Charles Myers, 1972 – 46529 Pebblebrook Place, Steelev, VA 20165; clmyers@fs.fed.us. “I have been with the U.S. Forest Service since 1979, working in a variety of positions in the East. Recently I was forest supervisor of the Monongahela National Forest in West Virginia.”
In Memoriam

Archer D. Smith, 1934 – died August 17, 2007
Harley L. Wilson, 1941 – died October 18, 2007
H. Bruce Gardner, 1942 – died March 11, 2007
Ralph K. Peter, 1942 and 1946g died September 13, 2006
George R. Kemp, 1953 – died October 15, 2007
Gregg B. Rishel, 1980g died September 28, 2006

national director of forest management inside the Beltway, and currently I am regional forester for the Southern Region of the Forest Service and living in Atlanta.”

Stephen M. Bratkovich, 1973 – 225 Stinson Boulevard, New Brighton, MN 55112-5021; sbratkovich@comcast.net. “On July 3, 2007, I retired from the U.S. Forest Service. My combined state and federal service totaled 32 years. For the past 15 years I was with the Northeastern Area, State and Private Forestry, located in St. Paul, Minnesota. Prior to moving to Minnesota, I worked more than nine years as an extension forester with Ohio State University, five years with Oklahoma State University Extension, and 2 ½ years with the Nebraska Forest Service.

“I’m currently an adjunct associate professor at the Univ. of Minnesota in the Dept. of Bioproducts and Biosystems Engineering. I’m also working as a forestry consultant and freelance writer.”

John J. Serfass, 1973 – 80 Stinson Lake Rood, Rumney, NH 03266; 3jsrumney@roadrunner.com. “This past July I retired after 35 years with the federal government. I began my career with the Soil Conservation Service (now NRCS) the summer before my senior year, and worked in Berks, Adams, and Chester counties. In 1975 I began my Forest Service career that took me to Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, and New Hampshire. My last position was as district ranger on the White Mountain National Forest. My wife and I have no immediate plans to leave New Hampshire, but we have begun to feel the tug from somewhere in northcentral Pennsylvania.

“One of our daughters works for the U.S. Forest Service in Montana and so does her husband. Our other daughter’s husband also works for the Forest Service in California. I guess forestry has become a family calling!”

Robert A. “Bob” Daniels, 1974 – 1430 Whispering Pines Circle, Starkville, MS 37959; bobd@ncw.com. “I retired as extension professor in the forestry department at Mississippi State June 2006. I am now working in my consulting firm, Daniels and Associates, and in forestland real estate in Mississippi. I’ll finish my term on the SAF Council in December 2007, and am still active in the Mississippi Forestry Association on the board of directors. My best to all in Pennsylvania and at Penn State.”

Lou Neuman, 1974 – 6376 Duck all Ct., Tallahassee, FL 32309; LouNeuman@dep.state.fl.us. “I was elected president of the National Association of State Land Reclamationists (NASLR) during NASLR’s 35th annual meeting in September 2007. I had served on many other NASLR committees, including the executive committee. Last year I was elected vice-president of the organization. NASLR advocates the uses of research, innovative technology, and professional discourse to foster the restoration of lands and waters affected by mining related activities. NASLR membership is open to state, individuals, and corporations involved in land reclamation. The 2008 meeting is scheduled to be held in Pennsylvania. I have been involved with mine reclamation for more than 25 years and now work as an environmental specialist with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Mine Reclamation. It was during Dr. Hutnik’s ecology class that I was introduced to reclamation of mines.”

1990s

Richard Todd Stanford, 1991 – MTRS, HHC 3/187 INF, APO AE 09344. Ralph Heilig ’58 sent this news: “Todd, as he is known, joined the Army at age 33 in 2002. He volunteered for Army service, entering as a private. Qualified as a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division. A year later he entered Officer Candidate School (OCS). Graduated OCS April 2004 as a 2nd Lt., Infantry.


Thomas L. Serfass, 1994g – Frostburg State University, Dept. of Biology, Frostburg, MD 21532; tserfass@frostburg.edu. A Frostburg news release in Sept. 2007 announced that Dr. Thomas Serfass, associate professor in the Frostburg State University Department of Biology, was awarded the prestigious Wilson H. Elkins Professorship from the University System of Maryland, an award that supports professors who demonstrate exemplary ability to inspire students and whose professional work and scholarly endeavors make a positive impact beyond USM. Serfass is the first in the history of the USM to receive the award for three straight years, USM officials said. The $80,000 award will allow him to continue his work with otters, in particular this project in Tanzania’s Rubondo Island National Park, which he hopes will benefit not only the otters but the community there as well.

John J. Morgan, 1996 – 1398 Herndon Road, Lawrenceburg, KY 40342.

Beth (Verhanovitz) Clark, 1999 – 104 Centennial Drive, Richlandtown, PA 18955. “I gave birth to my first child, Noah Rori Clark, on March 11, 2007. After my maternity leave, I will be returning to my position as environmental education specialist at Nockamixon State Park.”

2000s

Stephanie Rebain, 2002 – 1056 N. Franklin Ave., Loveland, CO 80537-4655; stephanierebain@yahoo.com.

Patrick Barry, 2004g – 1840 Worden Avenue, Klamath Falls, OR 97601; pbarry@usgs.gov.


Adam McClain, 2006 – 15 Zoo Road, Fairfield, PA 17320; alm_346@yahoo.com. “I am working for the Cumberland County Conservation District, as the watershed specialist. I work with a variety of interesting projects such as the county Envirothon, stormwater BMPs, stream monitoring, public relations, and watershed education.”
SFR Alumni Group Ballot

Our ballot has a new format to reduce printing and postage costs. You also have the option to cast your ballot online at http://www.sfr.cas.psu.edu/Alumni/Newsletters/Winter2008/Response.html.

Please vote by marking an “X” in front of the name of the candidate(s) of your choice. Candidates are listed in alphabetical order. Vote for no more than four candidates. Ballots must be postmarked by March 28, 2008 and mailed to Ellen Manno, 416A Forest Resources Building, University Park, PA 16802.

See pages 9 - 11 for biosketches.

_____ Thomas A. Breslin ’57 FOR Berwick, PA
_____ R. Alexander Day ’67 FOR T Bellefonte, PA
_____ Ralph E. Heilig ’58 FOR Chambersburg, PA
_____ Jennifer A. Ottenberg Miller ’00 WFS Baltimore, MD
_____ Denise H. Mitcheltree ’94 WFS, ’96g WFS Renovo, PA
_____ Thaddeus M. Taylor ’97 FORSC Coudersport, PA

Come to our Annual Meeting!

The annual meeting and banquet of the School of Forest Resources Alumni Group will be held Friday, April 18, 2008 at Toftrees Resort and Conference Center in State College. We will honor four School of Forest Resources 2008 Outstanding Alumni:

- Henry D. Gerhold, 1952 FOR, 1954g FOR
- George R. Kemp, 1953 FOR posthumous award
- Nelson S. Loftus, Jr., 1958 FOR, 1962g FOR
- Lowell T. Underhill, 1956 FOR

The deadline for banquet reservations is April 11, 2008. Banquet is limited to the first 130 registrants.

Schedule of Events
Friday, April 18
3:30 - 5 p.m. SFR Alumni Group Board of Directors Meeting
5:30 p.m. Director’s Reception
6:30 p.m. SFR Alumni and Friends Banquet, and School of Forest Resources 101st Anniversary Celebration Outstanding Alumni Awards

Saturday, April 19

Lodging
Small blocks of guest rooms have been reserved at
(1) Toftrees Resort and Conference Center. Cost is $139 for Friday night. To reserve a room in this block, please call Toftrees at 1-800-252-3551 no later than March 17 and mention “School of Forest Resources Alumni and Friends.”
(2) Sleep Inn on North Atherton Street in State College. Cost is $94 for a room with two double beds and $89 for a room with one queen-size bed. To reserve a room in this block, please call the Sleep Inn at 814-235-1020 no later than March 20 and ask for the “Forest Resources Alumni” block.

Questions? Contact Ellen Manno, 814-863-5831; exr2@psu.edu.

SFR Alumni Group Annual Meeting Registration

Name(s): __________________________________________ Class year: __________
Address: __________________________________________ E-mail: __________________
________________________________________________________ Phone: __________________
________________________________________________________

Total amount enclosed for banquet dinner ($35 per person; special rate for full-time Penn State students is $18 per student): $_________
(There will be a vegetarian option, please indicate here the number of vegetarian meals requested: _______)

Make checks payable to PENN STATE, write “SFR Alumni Banquet” on the memo line, and remit to: Ellen Manno, Penn State, School of Forest Resources, 416A Forest Resources Building, University Park, PA 16802.

Banquet reservation deadline is April 11, 2008. Room reservation deadlines are in March as noted above.
RESPONSE FORM

No dues are charged for membership in the School of Forest Resources (SFR) Alumni Group. We rely on contributions to support alumni activities, including the publication of this newsletter. This newsletter is sent twice a year to more than 4,700 alumni at a cost of about $7,000 per issue. Contributions for the SFR Alumni Group should be made payable to “Penn State” and designated, in the memo section of the check or in a cover letter, for the School of Forest Resources Alumni Group; send to Penn State, College of Agricultural Sciences, Development Office, 233 Agricultural Administration, University Park, PA 16802 (or enclose it with this Response Form and it will be forwarded to the correct office). You will receive a receipt, and your contribution will be tax deductible.

(Name)                     (Class year)                                     (Major)

(Phone)

(Mailing address)         (E-mail address)

• I have sent a contribution for the SFR Alumni Group in the amount of $ ___________ to Penn State, College of Agricultural Sciences, Development Office, 233 Agricultural Administration University Park, PA 16802 (or it is enclosed and will be forwarded to the correct office). The contribution is made payable to “Penn State” and designated for the School of Forest Resources Alumni Group.

• I would like the following news to be included in an upcoming newsletter. The next issue will be published in summer 2008. To submit news online, go to http://www.sfr.cas.psu.edu/Alumni/AlumniNews.htm.

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Mail this form to: Ellen Manno, Penn State, 416A Forest Resources Building, University Park, PA 16802
Visit the School of Forest Resources at [http://www.sfr.cas.psu.edu/](http://www.sfr.cas.psu.edu/)

## Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 10-13</td>
<td>Hardwood Lumber Grading, Snider Ag Arena, University Park, PA.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Michael Powell, 814-863-1113 or <a href="mailto:mjp175@psu.edu">mjp175@psu.edu</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 14-16</td>
<td>Hardwood Log Grading, Snider Ag Arena, University Park, PA.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Michael Powell, 814-863-1113 or <a href="mailto:mjp175@psu.edu">mjp175@psu.edu</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 18</td>
<td>School of Forest Resources Alumni and Friends Banquet, Toftrees Resort and Conference Center, State College, PA.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ellen Manno, 814-863-5831 or <a href="mailto:exr2@psu.edu">exr2@psu.edu</a></td>
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<td>May 12-15</td>
<td>Basic Kiln Drying of Lumber, Forest Research Lab, University Park, PA.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Michael Powell, 814-863-1113 or <a href="mailto:mjp175@psu.edu">mjp175@psu.edu</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 16</td>
<td>Advanced Kiln Drying of Lumber, Forest Research Lab, University, PA.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Michael Powell, 814-863-1113 or <a href="mailto:mjp175@psu.edu">mjp175@psu.edu</a>.</td>
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<td>June 22-28</td>
<td>Conservation Leadership School, Stone Valley Recreation Area, Petersburg, PA.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Michael Powell, 814-863-1113 or <a href="mailto:mjp175@psu.edu">mjp175@psu.edu</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 6-12</td>
<td>Conservation Leadership School, Stone Valley Recreation Area, Petersburg, PA.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Michael Powell, 814-863-1113 or <a href="mailto:mjp175@psu.edu">mjp175@psu.edu</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 12-14</td>
<td>Wood Structure and Identification, Forest Resources Building, University Park, PA.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Michael Powell, 814-863-1113 or <a href="mailto:mjp175@psu.edu">mjp175@psu.edu</a>.</td>
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