



February 2021

**Candidates for Election to the
Forest Resources Alumni Group Board of Directors**

The Forest Resources Alumni Group Board of Directors includes 12 at-large members who are elected to serve a three-year term, and who may serve a second consecutive term if re-elected.

Below, in alphabetical order, are brief biosketches of candidates running for Spring 2021 election to the board. Degrees listed are those earned in the School of Forest Resources/Department of Ecosystem Science and Management. Candidates noted with an asterisk () are incumbents. Write-in candidates are permitted.*

Vote online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AlumniBoardElection>, or print the ballot and mail it to Ellen Rom, 114 Forest Resources Bldg., University Park, PA 16802.

Vote for no more than four candidates. **Ballots must be received by Tuesday, March 2, 2021.**

Shorna Allred (1997g, FORR)

I am a native Texan and first-generation college student, who fell in love with central Pennsylvania after travelling to attend Woodward Gymnastics camp every summer as a high school student. Fascinated to learn more about the northern hardwood forests of the Pennsylvania, I decided to attend Penn State. After earning a B.S. (1994) in Environmental Resource Management and an M.S. in Forest Resources (1997) at Penn State I went on to Oregon State University to obtain my Ph.D. (2001) in the Dept. of Forest Ecosystems and Society. I started as an Assistant Professor in Purdue University's Dept. of Forestry and Natural Resources in 2001 and joined the Cornell University faculty as an Associate Professor in the Dept. of Natural Resources and the Environment in 2007. I am also the faculty dean of Alice Cook House, an undergraduate residential community on the Cornell Campus.

The focal area of my research is conservation social science and investigating the human dimensions of natural resources management issues. I enjoy permeating the boundaries between research, teaching, and outreach by engaging students and practitioners in community-based initiatives. I teach undergraduate courses in environmental justice,

community-based research methods, and global sustainability and lead a global service-learning program, Global Citizenship and Sustainability Borneo, that builds indigenous community resilience in the rainforests of Southeast Asia. I have collaborated with and advised numerous state and federal agencies on conservation social science issues including the USDA Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation, and the Albany Pine Bush Commission. Over the course of my career, my co-principal investigators and I have been awarded \$7M in grants from funders such as the USDA, NOAA, NSF, Ittleson Foundation, National Park Service, and the New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation.

My integrated conservation social science research and extension program was recognized by a Career Award from the Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals (2015), the 2018 Engaged Scholar Prize, and 2019 SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Faculty Service. I was also recognized with an award from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (2015) for my applied conservation social science research in wildlife habitat conservation on private lands. I am a member of the Society of American Foresters and the International Association for Society and Natural Resources and serve on the Board of Directors of The Nature Conservancy NY. In my spare time I enjoy hiking and challenging myself with CrossFit workouts, spending time with friends and family, travelling, reading historical fiction, and my new hobby of playing the ukulele.

Todd "Teddy" Fisher Jr. (2014 WFS)

I earned my B.S. degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Science from Penn State in 2014 and I am currently finishing my M.S. degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology at Clemson University (expected to graduate in May 2021). While attending Penn State, I was an active member and officer in the Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society, Earth House, a camp counselor for Outdoor School at Shaver's Creek, a THON committee member, and a teaching assistant for the mammalogy course. I worked at the Penn State Deer Research Center gaining valuable research and animal care experience during my 4 years on campus. I also completed an internship with the Wildlife Leadership Academy, a conservation education field school for high school students, between my junior and senior year. This opportunity provided valuable networking opportunities and experience in conservation education. In 2014, I was honored to receive the John L. George Student Conservation Award from the department.

Following graduation, I worked as a wildlife technician for the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's Montgomery Parks. I learned of this position from a fellow Penn State alumnus that I met through networking in The Wildlife Society during my time at Penn State. This position focused primarily on white-tailed deer management in the suburban and

urban areas just north of Washington, D.C. and involved interacting with various stakeholder groups. Following this 9-month, term position, I accepted a summer technician position working with graduate students from Ball State University on an urban and rural white-tailed deer project in Bloomington, Indiana. This position allowed me to gain first-hand research experience and apply skills learned through my education at Penn State as we captured fawns and adult deer to place GPS and VHF collars on to track movement and survival in the surrounding areas. Following completion of this position, I returned to Montgomery Parks for another term position and was subsequently hired into a career position as a Wildlife Ecologist in 2016. In this position, I had a more active role in the white-tailed deer management program for the Parks system until my departure in the summer of 2018. In August of 2018, I decided to pursue a graduate research assistantship at Clemson University. My research there focused on human dimensions of wildlife and hunting, with projects focused on the impact of special hunting clinics for college students on the recruitment and retention of hunters and building a profile of wildlife management area hunters in South Carolina. During my time at Clemson, I had valuable opportunities to work in partnership with the state agency there and present research at various conferences. My research and coursework are complete for this degree and I am currently putting my finishing touches on my thesis with plans to defend in the coming months. During my time at Clemson (2018-2020), I volunteered for the National Deer Alliance as a digital media specialist with a focus on social media content and contributing articles for the President's Blog.

After completing my coursework, I began applying for jobs and was fortunate to be offered a position in my hometown as the Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation for York County Parks. I began this position in May of 2020. My role in this position is all encompassing of various responsibilities when it comes to park management and in a leadership role. Included in my duties is the responsibility for the management of natural resources for the 11 county parks and over 4,500 acres of public land. This position gives me the opportunity to serve the community and parks that I grew up in here in York County, PA.

Following my graduation from Penn State, my career took me from Maryland to Indiana, back to Maryland again and then all the way to South Carolina. After several years, I have found my way back home and I currently reside in Red Lion, York County, Pennsylvania where I can make weekend trips to Penn State anytime. I am an avid outdoorsman, spending my time hunting, fishing, hiking, and exploring the natural world as much as I can. A passion of mine that began when I was at Penn State is wildlife and nature photography and it is rare to see me without my camera within reach. It is also rare to find me without my faithful four-legged best friend, a black lab named Bailey that was rehomed to me in 2017. I am also an avid Penn State football fan and attend nearly every home game with my father who has been a season ticket holder since 2006.

Brian D. Lee (2005g FORR) *

Currently, I am the Associate Dean for Faculty Resources, Planning and Assessment at the University of Kentucky (UK) - College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. I serve 265 full-time faculty members in 14 departments working across the land-grant mission areas.

I have applied geospatially based analyses and visualization to community decision-making processes for land use planning primarily at the watershed/landscape scale in my research and my teaching at UK. I have been responsible for teaching/managing a variety of courses. My geospatial applications courses often enrolled students from Forestry, Earth and Environmental Sciences, Biosystems Engineering, Plant and Soil Science, Public Health, and Anthropology. I have been the Director of Undergraduate Studies for both the Landscape Architecture and the Natural Resources and Environmental Science degree programs.

My research efforts have focused on Elk Landscape Suitability Modeling, Targeting Reforestation in Appalachia, Predicting Urbanization in Central Kentucky, Characterizing Kentucky's Large Forest Blocks and Interior Forests Over Time, Watershed Characterization Utilizing Landscape Scale Indicators, and Housing Price Differences in Central Kentucky. In 2017, I co-edited *Water in Kentucky: Natural History, Communities, and Conservation*, a book published by the University Press of Kentucky. I am also a former Editor of *Landscape Journal*.

My doctoral research in the School of Forest Resources - Center for Watershed Stewardship (completed in 2005) focused on the form and function of Pennsylvania community watershed organizations and their capacity building efforts in watershed management. In 2009, I was recognized as Teaching Fellow by the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture. In 2014, I was internationally recognized for my service-learning teaching by the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture. My formal education also includes a B.S. of Landscape Architecture from Penn State, and a Master of Regional Planning and a Master of Liberal Arts (Landscape Ecology) from the University of Pennsylvania. I also worked at Andropogon Associates and the University of Pennsylvania.

I live with my wife Cynthia and our two daughters, Sophia and Fiona, in Lexington, Kentucky. We enjoy traveling, hiking, gardening, and cooking together as well as caring for our two Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs, Godiva and Gigi. I am still in pursuit of creating the more perfect pizza.

Charles H. Strauss (1958 FOR) *

My basic qualifications for a second term on the FRAG Board are my Penn State bachelor's in Forestry (1958) and having completed a first term on the Board. So, what did I accomplish? My major emphasis was encouraging the completion of our September 2020 newsletter, our first in three years.

I joined the School of Forest Resources faculty in 1961, after completing a master's degree in Wood Products Marketing at Michigan State (1960) and one year's employ with the California Redwood Association in San Francisco. The School had developed a new post in Wood Products Extension, and I was asked to apply.

Our director, Pete Fletcher, suggested I set my sights on a PhD. This started a regimen of faculty work during the day, dinner at home, and returning to the office for evening studies. One course per semester, but it all worked out, with a second master's in Economics (1968) and a doctorate in Resource Economics (1974). Now, that did not take long, did it ? ?

My focus on economics resulted in an invite to join the resident faculty in 1965, with teaching responsibilities in Forest Economics (FOR 440) and Forest Inventory Measurements (FOR 366). Later, I team-taught Forest Management (FOR 466) with Pete Dress and Brian Turner. Anyone remember the Purdue Management Game?

Teaching and advising were great pursuits – you need to work with your students and, above all, listen to them. There were added roles as faculty adviser to the Forestry Society, Xi Sigma Pi, The Sylvan (10 years each), and Tau Phi Delta (30 years). And along the way there were other “student/faculty involvements” - the Phi Psi 500!

Faculty promotions at Penn State require a serious dedication to research. For me, these endeavors included economic modeling of public recreation systems, analysis of woody biomass energy production, economic and logistical designs of white-water boating, and the impact of recreation programs and wood product industries on the State's economy. Accordingly, I progressed thru the ranks of Assistant, Associate, and Professor.

In 2001, the Dean asked me to serve as the School's interim director. After a national search for a new director, I was also interviewed and appointed director. During the next eight years, our School's focus was on the design and construction of the new Forest Resources Building (2002 – 2006), the hiring of 12 new faculty members, and celebration of the School's 100th Anniversary (2007). Closely aligned with these efforts was maintaining close contact with our alumni and stakeholders on matters central to our School's agenda. Their support was imperative in the success of our new building and our professional programs.

Following my 2008 retirement, Carol and I maintained ties with our friends and family. For me, there was a continuation of hunting and fishing, involvement in photography, and gardening (many, many tulip bulbs are planted each fall). We did 1400 this fall. I also pursued my first term with FRAG's Board and maintained working ties with Penn State Mont Alto's Arboretum Committee, Development Committee, and Advisory Board.

Jason K. Wenrich (2000 FORSC) *

I graduated in 2000 from the School of Forest Resources with a B.S. in Forest Science, Forest Management Option. For the past 21 years I have been working as a consulting forester in the private sector. Since 2005 I have been employed by Forecon, Inc., which is a multi-faceted, natural resources consulting company with offices in New York, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia.

My career with Forecon, Inc. began in Oak Hill, West Virginia, as an office manager and staff forester. Forecon, Inc. opened an office in 2012 near State College, Pennsylvania, which I am currently managing. One of my primary roles is coordinating projects like forest inventories and timber sales throughout the northeast for state agencies, timber investment management organizations, large land holding companies, high net worth individuals, and private landowners. In addition to directing our operations in West Virginia, I am responsible for business development across all our offices.

My professional organizations include Society of American Foresters, Association of Consulting Foresters, West Virginia Forestry Association, Pennsylvania Forest Products Association, and Pennsylvania Forestry Association.

I live in Julian, Pennsylvania, with my wife Jenny (ANBIO '01) and three children.