



February 2022

**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 2022 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 Friday, March 4, 2022.

Dave Jackson (2007g Forest Resources)

Currently I am a Forest Resources Educator with Penn State Extension. I work out of the Centre County office in Bellefonte. I have statewide programming responsibilities and have been with Penn State in this position since January 2002. My primary responsibility is to deliver educational programs to private forest landowners, natural resource professionals, and youth on a wide range of forest-resource-related topics including forest stewardship, sustainable forestry, best management practices, wildlife habitat enhancement, and forest health. This is accomplished by providing numerous Extension outreach opportunities and creating educational materials.

I earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse, New York, in 1988 in the fields of forest resource management and forest biology. I completed a Master of Forest Resources degree at The Pennsylvania State University in August 2007. For my master's work I created educational materials on using herbicides to manage forest vegetation.

Prior to coming to Penn State, I worked in various seasonal and temporary positions with the U.S Forest Service in Montana, Vermont, and Pennsylvania, as well as with Boise Cascade

Corporation in southwestern Oregon. I also spent a year working for the University of Kentucky on their teaching and research forest before accepting a permanent position with the Virginia Department of Forestry in 1992. I spent eight years there working as a county-based service forester. I left Virginia in 2000 to take a position with Forecon, Inc. Consulting Foresters as a field forester assigned to manage approximately 35,000 acres of TIMO land in the eastern Catskill Mountains of New York.

I am a member of the Society of American Foresters, the Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals, and the Pennsylvania Forestry Association. I serve as the Inspector Training Coordinator for the Pennsylvania State Tree Farm Committee and Treasurer for the SAF Rothrock Chapter.

Steven Narolski (1978 Forest Science)

I earned my undergraduate degree in Forest Science back in 1978. Though born and raised in Ohio, Penn State was where my high school counselor strongly suggested I enroll for which I am eternally grateful for that direction. Upon earning my B.S. from Penn State, I landed in the Pacific Northwest to begin my professional career as a forester. My career path led me through numerous employment opportunities including USFS inventory supervisor, state forester for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, assistant district forester with Boise Cascade, a stint with forestry consulting, a registered professional forester with a redwood lumber company, and most recently working for the U.S. Department of Energy in keeping high voltage transmission lines clear of vegetation towards maintaining critical reliability across the Pacific Northwest and the Desert Southwest.

My generation had the mantra that one person can make a difference, and this was the drive that caused me to persevere throughout my professional career to maintain employment as a professional forester.

When I declared that I would pursue an education as a forester and study at Penn State, I heard all sorts of negativity about the lack of jobs within the profession and that I was wasting my time. It was only upon my graduation as the first in my family to go to college that I was a fifth-generation forester.

This determination helped me earn an invitation to participate in the graduate honorarium in the Continuing Education in Forest Ecology and Silviculture that I parlayed into a Master of Forestry certificate.

We all have our own motivations but mine was to embrace a career that I truly enjoyed. Striving to understand the synecology of western ecosystems was something that I credited to my college mentors – Chuck Strauss, Peter Fletcher, and Kim Steiner.

It was kind of what you hear professional athletes talk about—how the game slows down for them so they are able to perceive all the subtle nuances. The same became true for how to

look at the interlocking parts of forest management and how to accomplish goals while protecting wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration, environmental protection, and wildfire mitigation. These trials at applying management to mimic natural processes led to authoring many articles in peer magazines and public agencies.

It would be an honor to help guide the next generation of natural resource specialists based upon the wealth of knowledge and experiences accrued through my professional career. But most importantly, this would be my continued opportunity as an alum of Penn State's College of Agriculture to continue to lead in these disciplines.

Austin Noguera (2017 Forest Ecosystem Management)

I graduated with my B.S. degree in Forest Ecosystem Management, Forest Management option from Penn State in 2017. While attending the University, I also completed a minor in Geographic Information Science (GIS). During my time on campus, I was active in a multitude of organizations including the Woodsmen Team, Ag Student Council, Society of American Foresters (SAF) Student Chapter, and Tau Phi Delta Fraternity, where I served as President. Through these organizations I was given the opportunity to expand my horizons and gain valuable leadership skills for the path ahead.

After graduation, I worked at two different consulting firms, Eastern Forest Consultants (Blacksburg, VA) and Heartwood Ecological Consulting (Belmar, NJ). Through these jobs, I gained valuable forestry skills like timber cruising, invasive species management, and applied silviculture. I worked with private landowners and provided them the knowledge to manage and maintain their forests. Currently, I am employed as a Service Forester with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) in the Bureau of Forestry. Being a Service Forester allows me to incorporate all that I have learned through school and consulting to help the people of northeastern Pennsylvania. I perform public outreach and give private landowners the information they need to make sustainable choices for their property. I also serve as my district's Urban Forestry Coordinator to assist communities in making the best of their urban forests.

I am an active member in SAF, Trout Unlimited, and the Boy Scouts of America. I enjoy hunting, fishing, hiking, and exploring new places in my free time. I currently reside in Stroudsburg, PA, with my wife, Emily (ChE 2017), and our cats, Nugget and Noodle, and our dog, Boomer.

Corbin J. Rinehart (2011 Wood Products) *

I began my time at Penn State in pursuit of a general business degree and after a couple years decided to make a change to a degree path with more direction. I relied upon my passion for

the outdoors and interest in business to guide me into the Wood Products program in the School of Forest Resources. I also spent many countless hours with fellow Forestry and Wood Products undergrads while an active member and eventual president of Tau Phi Delta Fraternity, Treehouse.

Before entering the workforce and choosing my path, I had three potential job options within the LBM industry – one in building materials distribution, one in lumber brokering, and one with a hardwood lumber manufacturer. I chose to enter the lumber manufacturing business with Allegheny Wood Products (AWP) based in Petersburg, WV, and was hired as the Outside Sales Representative for the western United States tasked with providing truckload quantities of mixed hardwoods to distribution centers in all major markets – Denver, CO, and west. AWP put me through the ringer of a 6+ month training process where I worked with the foresters, dry kilns, and sawmill. During that time, I learned and assisted in running every aspect of the tree-to-lumber process giving me unquantifiable knowledge of the manufacturing side of the lumber business.

After two years at AWP, I chose to move to Windsor Mill and become the product specialist for trim products in the New England market. Since joining Windsor in 2013, I have taken on roles as territory manager of New England, territory manager of the Mid-Atlantic, and now work as the Business Development Manager covering states from Minnesota east. Working for Windsor has also allowed me to get involved with many industry associations including Pennsylvania Builders Association, York Builders, and Northeastern Retail Lumber Association. I currently sit on the board of directors for the Northeastern Young Lumber Execs, an organization that is working to bring more young talent into the lumber and building materials industry and am excited to see what the future holds for an industry that is often overlooked but always a necessity.

Two Penn Staters came together in December 2014 when I married Stephanie Childress Rinehart (Spring 2012, B.A. Spanish) and we have two daughters and a son together: Carson Lynn (2017), Jack Andrew (2019), and Paige Lynn (2021). I am also an avid fly fisherman, hunter, and outdoorsman and enjoy spending time tailgating for Penn State football with family and traveling.

Howard G. Wurzbacher, Jr. (1979 Forest Science) *

I attended Penn State University Park from the fall of 1975 through the spring of 1979, graduating with a B.S. in Forest Science. Following graduation, I worked as a seasonal technician for the U.S. Forest Service on the Kootenai National Forest in northwestern Montana. From 1982 until 1987, I worked as a log scaler and procurement forester for Fisher & Young and Endeavor Lumber companies in northwest Pennsylvania. In 1987, I began employment with the Pennsylvania Game Commission, working as a Forest Technician,

Forester, Assistant Regional Forester, and Regional Forester in the 10-county PGC Northwest Region, retiring in 2018 after more than 31 years of service with the Game Commission.

I have been a member of the Society of American Foresters since 1993 and have participated in SAF at the local chapter level as Plateau Chapter Secretary/Treasurer, Chair-Elect, and Chair; at the Division level as PA Division Chair; at the State Society level as the Allegheny SAF Awards Committee Chair and as a member of the Allegheny SAF Executive Committee; and at the national level as a member of the Committee on Professional Recognition. I was deeply humbled to be recognized by the Allegheny SAF with the Robert W. Bauer Outstanding Service to Forestry Award in 2013, and as a Fellow by national SAF in 2021. I have been a SAF Certified Forester since 2002.

I am a member of Tau Phi Delta fraternity, the Pennsylvania Forestry Association, the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, the Foundation for Sustainable Forests, the Roach/Bauer Forestry Forum steering committee, and the Twin Valley Hunting Club. I volunteer with the "Over the Hill Gang," doing trail maintenance on the Gerard Hiking Trail system in Oil Creek State Park.

I have previously served three terms as a member of the Forest Resources Alumni Group Board, including two years as President. I also served as the Forest Resources representative to the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences Alumni Society. I was recognized by the Forest Resources Alumni Group as one of the recipients of an Outstanding Alumni award in 2018.

My wife, Cindy, and I live near Titusville. We have two daughters: Ashley, who is a professor of creative writing and literature at Montevallo University in Alabama; and Sarah (2013g), who is a forestry extension educator with Penn State in Williamsport.