

Resources

PENNSTATE



College of
Agricultural
Sciences

News from Ecosystem Science and Management | Forests • Soils • Water • Wildlife and Fish • Wood

Fall 2013

Forest Ecosystem Management Major



The Department of Ecosystem Science and Management is offering a new forest ecosystem management major, which will provide students the best of the old and the new. While students in this major (formerly called forest science) will receive the traditional education that has always been the foundation of the program, they'll expand their learning to include new technologies and science-based approaches to forest management.

"We started revamping the major about five years ago," explains Marc McDill, associate professor of forest management. "Our curriculum hadn't been revised since the early 1990s. We've had a lot of changes in faculty and wanted to make sure we're taking the best advantage of expertise."

McDill emphasizes that for students who know they want to be field foresters, the forest ecosystem management major is still the best way to learn those skills. But he and his colleagues also want to attract more students who are interested in the environment and graduate degrees to major in forestry. As is the case in so many other fields, he says, a lot of the growth areas in forestry are for people with advanced degrees. "This restructuring will help us do a better job of teaching our students the skills and competencies they need."

The updated curriculum and expanded focus will make the major more attractive to students who hadn't thought about a career in forestry. "Some students have the idea that forestry is about destroying the planet, and we need to change that image," McDill says. "Forest management really is about saving the planet—we want to send a message that this degree is about doing good for the environment. Students who get a degree in forest ecosystem management will have opportunities to do all kinds of things that protect and manage our forests and make the environment better."

Technology is one driving force for changes in forest management. For example, many forest science graduates used to get jobs measuring trees. "Today," McDill says, "we can fly a plane overhead and with remote sensing and a relatively small amount of ground truthing, we can get better data than we ever got with scores of

people on the ground measuring trees. Technology is changing jobs and people need to learn how to do things differently."

The forest ecosystem management major includes four options: forest management, community and urban forest management, watershed management (hydrology), and forest biology. Courses are now structured sequentially, so that higher-level courses better reinforce what students learned earlier, and students have greater accountability for retaining information they learned. For example, one new required course is on spatial technologies, including Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and GPS. "In the early 1990s this type of class was included in graduate curricula," McDill explains. "Now everyone needs to know it. But it's not just adding a course. This material lays the foundation for integrating that technology into subsequent courses, so students are building on what they learn." ■

Sustainability Lies Beneath the Surface



The ground plays an important role in maintaining a clean environment by serving as a natural water filtration and purification system, explains Henry Lin, professor of hydrogeology and soil hydrology.

The earth's outer layer—from the top vegetation canopy to the strata of soils and layers of underground material—helps soak up and purify water by extracting excess nutrients, heavy metals and other impurities. The ground can also act as a storage container for freshwater.

About 60 percent of the world's annual precipitation ends up in this zone, Lin said.

"In fact, there is more water under the ground than there is in the so-called 'blue waters,' such as lakes and rivers," said Lin.

Poor land management practices that fail to consider how ground water is affected by land uses, such as new building projects, underground storage, and agricultural operations can threaten the system. Just as a global green revolution raised awareness about food security, a "blue revolution" may lead to efforts to water security with clean, safe water supply around the globe. "Beneath the surface lies the foundation of our sustainability," says Lin. ■

Deer-Forest Study



Researchers from Penn State, U.S. Geological Survey, Pennsylvania Game Commission, and Pennsylvania DCNR Bureau of Forestry will be monitoring deer populations and forest changes in Rothrock, Bald Eagle, and Susquehannock State Forests as part of a study to better understand the complex relationships between our state's deer herd and the forest.

Marc McDill, associate professor of forest management, and Duane Diefenbach, adjunct professor of wildlife ecology and leader of the U.S. Geological Survey's Pennsylvania Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at Penn State, are leading the study.

Study areas will be monitored to document hunter experiences, deer densities, and vegetation response to deer and habitat experiments. The objective is to determine the relative importance of deer density, competing vegetation, silvicultural treatments, seed sources and other factors affecting forest tree regeneration and plant species composition. Understanding how these factors work together will allow for better management of deer. Deer and forest management in Pennsylvania is primarily based on the idea that managing white-tailed deer abundance will influence forest regeneration.

"Because indicators of deer browsing have declined in some management units," said McDill. "And regeneration is not improving or not improving as quickly as expected, the relationship between deer browsing and forest regeneration remains unclear."

According to Diefenbach, the research aims to answer some questions that have proven to be controversial in Pennsylvania.

The ability to explain the lack of change in tree regeneration despite deer impact reductions is critical to the Game Commission's deer-management program, Diefenbach pointed out. "The commission needs more information about how the measure of deer browsing impact is related to deer populations and forest regeneration."

The Game Commission currently uses a measure of deer browsing intensity developed by the U.S. Forest Service. This study will help assess how sensitive this measure is to changes in deer density.

However, even if the deer browsing measure is not a good indicator, the study is designed to find ways to either improve monitoring or identify better measures of deer browsing impacts, the researchers said.

For more information, visit ecosystems.psu.edu/deer. ■

In This ISSUE

Features

Forest Ecosystem Management Major	1
Sustainability Lies Beneath the Surface	1
Deer-Forest Study	2
Interview with Mike Messina	3
A Forester at NASA	4
An ESM Partner: The National Park Service.....	5

Department News

News Briefs	8
New Faculty.....	8
Faculty and Staff Awards	9
Retirements.....	9
The Ibberson Chair and the Center for Private Forests	10

Student News

Latham Award Winners.....	10
George Award Winners	11
Outstanding Senior Awards.....	11
Rapp Prize Winners.....	12
Woodsmen Team Receives \$1000	12
Soil Judging Team.....	12

Alumni News

President's Message	13
Editor's Note	13
Spring 2013 Election Results.....	13
Outstanding Alumni.....	14
Alumni News	14
In Memoriam	18
Outstanding Alumni and Outstanding Recent Alumni Award Nomination Form	23
Fall 2013 Response Form.....	23
Calendar	24

RESOURCES is published for faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends of the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management.

Editor: Ellen Manno

Department Head: Michael Messina
Ecosystem Science and Management
College of Agricultural Sciences
The Pennsylvania State University
117 Forest Resources Building
University Park, PA 16802
814-865-7541

ecosystems.psu.edu

We welcome news and comments. Please send to the above address or email Ellen Manno at exr2@psu.edu.

This publication is available in alternative media on request.

Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce.

© The Pennsylvania State University 2013

Code 5181 3.8M10/13Payne





**Interview with
Mike Messina**
Head, Department of Ecosystem
Science and Management

Q: What happened in the last couple of years at the school and why?

MM: We were blended with one plant ecologist and nine soil scientists, some also with expertise in water resources, to become a new department, Ecosystem Science and Management. Our structure and name officially changed on July 1, 2012.

Q: What prompted the change?

MM: Many entities have re-organized in the name of efficiency and that's in part what happened here. But this was also a strategic decision to combine all those with expertise in specific areas of natural resource management—forests, wildlife, fisheries, soils, and water—and unite them under a systems approach. Thus, Ecosystem Science and Management. It's turned out to be a good thing.

Q: How so?

MM: We've grown. We are back up in total faculty to more than 30, near where we were in our heyday in the 70s. Not only is there strength in numbers, but there's value to be gained in diversity and systems thinking. We now have 10 new people at the table, saying: "Hey, have you thought of this or that?" Our graduate students now have 10 new people they can have on their committees, and we have 10 new people offering graduate and undergraduate courses to students from a variety of majors.

Q: What unifies the department?

MM: People with expertise in research, teaching, and outreach involving management of renewable natural resources. We have new partners who value the complexity of forests and landscapes and the interrelationships and dependency of the various components.

Q: In the new organization, exactly what has changed and what's the same?

MM: We still offer a world-class, four-year forestry degree that is accredited by the Society of American Foresters. We really value that accreditation. In 2015, we need to renew this accreditation for another 10 years and we're really going to need the assistance of our alumni and stakeholders.

Wildlife and fisheries science graduates can seek certification as a wildlife or fisheries biologist with The Wildlife Society and the American Fisheries Society. There is no accrediting organization. That program remains strong and also benefits from being part of a larger unit with fresh ideas and fresh backgrounds.

Q: The name is quite different.

MM: The name now fully reflects what we all do in the department. We work in a complicated ecosystem and teach an integrated, systems approach to resource management. We are a leading research institution, so our faculty conduct science and train graduate and undergraduate students in their labs. Our graduates not only understand the science, but are able to apply it on the ground to real-life management problems. I like to say our graduates are real people solving real problems using real science.

Q: Do you anticipate any changes of the value of this program to industry?

MM: We still educate people who understand how to sustainably manage forests for multiple societal goods and services such as wood products, wildlife habitat, clean water and others. Our wood products major was struggling due to low enrollment, so we figured out a way to strengthen and increase interest in that major by moving it into the agricultural and biological engineering department where it has become part of the bioproducts option in a biorenewable systems degree. This move is already paying dividends with increased student interest and by providing graduates with a strong manufacturing and engineering background, which we believe is an excellent fit for the manufacturing jobs in the wood products industry.

Q: Have you seen any change in how faculty approach teaching?

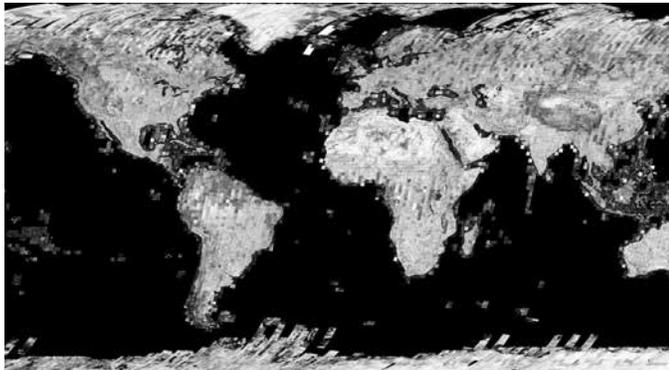
MM: There's a new excitement and electricity in the department. We have faculty who are part of something new, and they've got new partners and are serving on each other's graduate committees. There's an obvious synergy here that didn't exist previously. Bringing smart minds together to collaborate can only improve our programs.

Q: What does the future hold for the department?

MM: I never want to see us step away from our expertise in forestry, wildlife and fisheries, and soils. I think our new composition will provide disciplinary strength plus new opportunities, since we have so many backgrounds and so much expertise at the table. Sustainability is an important issue for our society, and is a strategic priority for the University, and the management of renewable resources is foundational to sustainability. Our department has an important role to play in the future, both in the resource and the product side of the equation. ■

A Forester at NASA

by Darrel Williams, Ph.D. (B.S. '73, M.S. '74, SFR Outstanding Alumni Award 2006)



In July 1972, NASA launched an experimental Earth observation satellite called the *Earth Resources Technology Satellite*, later renamed *Landsat*. At about the same time, Penn State formed an interdepartmental group called the Office for Remote Sensing of Earth Resources (ORSER), and a few members of the School of Forest Resources (SFR), including Yates Borden, Brian Turner, and Peter Dress, established ORSER as a highly regarded R&D (research and development) group in the fledgling field of “quantitative remote sensing.”

ORSER won a sizeable grant from NASA to work with the digital imagery collected by the *Landsat* satellite. As a SFR master’s student at that time, my research was aided by this NASA funding. Working with Brian Turner, a Yale-educated Australian on the SFR faculty from 1969 to 1984, I used the satellite imagery to map the areal extent and severity of gypsy moth defoliation that was ravaging the woodlands of Pennsylvania in the early 1970s. That work was so successful that NASA recruited me in January 1975. When I enrolled in the forestry curriculum at Penn State in 1969, I had no idea that a “forester” could end up working for NASA.

Since then, *Landsat* imagery was collected consistently and repeatedly around the globe and is now used frequently in our daily lives. *Landsat* imagery provides the skeletal backbone of global imagery that made Google Earth possible, and every time one accesses Google Earth, you zoom in “through” *Landsat* imagery to get to the higher-resolution aerial photography that shows your house.

Today, the majority of local TV weather forecasts use a background of *Landsat* imagery to show local weather. Flight simulators use *Landsat* imagery, and it provides realistic landscape backgrounds in many video games. The Department of Defense uses the imagery to plan missions, and because we now have a 40-year global archive, we can quickly compare multiple images of the same area to assess change over time.

This approach was used to discover the secret underground nuclear facilities in Iran about two years ago, and foresters use it to monitor both forest harvesting and regrowth. *Landsat* imagery is considered to be “the international gold standard” of all Earth-observation satellite imagery, and it provides the seminal data set for all carbon “cap and trade” activities.

I retired from NASA in 2010 after 30 years of service. During my time there, I was associate chief and acting chief of the



Hydrospheric and Biospheric Sciences Laboratory, head of the Biospheric Sciences Branch, and the *Landsat* Project Scientist. I now work in the private sector as chief scientist for Global Science & Technology, Inc.

Even though we haven’t been able to keep in touch regularly throughout our careers, Brian and I still help each other professionally. In 2003, as a professor at the Australia National University, Brian asked me evaluate a project one of his Ph.D. graduates worked on using current and historical *Landsat* coverage of the Australian continent to map forests and establish the baseline for their compliance with the Kyoto Protocol.

In 2011, when I was trying to develop a viable low-cost Earth satellite concept that will yield imagery of sufficient quality to augment *Landsat* coverage, Brian helped me obtain international support for my proposal. Although my proposal was not funded, I know that my relationships from SFR enhanced my career, and the probability of the eventual success of my satellite concept.

It truly is a small world! If anyone had interviewed me as an incoming freshman back in 1969, I never would have guessed that I would have a successful career with NASA after graduating with a forest science degree, or established relationships within SFR in the early 1970s that would end up yielding meaningful international collaborations 40 years later. I am very grateful for the SFR training I received and the career opportunities that it provided for me. ■

An ESM Partner: The National Park Service

by Betsie Blumberg



Dr. Jim Finley and Stephanie Perles developing the NPS vegetation monitoring protocol at Penn State's Stone Valley Forest in 2008. Photo by Matt Marshall.

The east wing of the fourth floor of the Forest Resources Building is the workplace of National Park Service (NPS) staff who support resource managers at the national parks in the Northeast Region. This office location enables the Park Service to readily access the expertise and facilities of the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management (formerly the School of Forest Resources) as well as other departments at Penn State. Likewise, the department benefits from NPS research funding, employment, and field experience for undergraduate and graduate students, and from the natural resource expertise of several resident Park Service specialists.

A good example of the benefits of the partnership is the NPS Natural Resource Condition Assessment Program. Park managers need to know the status of the health of their watershed resources; therefore, monitoring is currently conducted to reveal changes in wildlife populations, plant communities, and air and water quality at the parks. However, much data were collected in the past by park staff and other investigators, including faculty and students. This historical record is important in determining long-term trends in watershed health. The Condition Assessments bring together all the data previously recorded at a park and, combined with current monitoring data, present managers with a deeper picture of the watersheds, and are used to develop standards that managers strive to meet in their efforts to conserve the parks' natural resources.

The NPS has funded three interdisciplinary teams at Penn State to perform condition assessments at various parks. One team consists of graduate students in the Center for Watershed Stewardship, an intercollege program administered by the School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture and the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management. This team of seven students with majors in forest resources, wildlife and fisheries science, and landscape architecture, participated in a condition assessment for Valley Forge National Historical Park.



Joseph Pekol (forest science class of 2008) marking a tree in an NPS vegetation monitoring plot while working for the Eastern Rivers and Mountains Network during summer 2007. Photo by Stephanie Perles.

The students gathered previously recorded data for several parameters of air and water quality, forest fragmentation and rate of regeneration, native versus nonnative vegetation, wildlife (especially fish and deer), and characteristics of the human environment such as soundscape and lightscape. They had to compile data from different protocols with different sampling techniques and make it all work together. The report, just about completed, contains maps and much graphical presentation of the material for optimum usefulness for park managers. The two-year project, instructor Lysle Sherwin says, provided students with "a great graduate education experience through close collaboration with NPS management staff to assist in resource stewardship efforts." In addition to experience in regional natural resource planning, the NPS grant provided students with quarter- or half-time research assistantships and wage-payroll income for summer work. And what's more, Penn State's Institutes of Energy and the Environment contributed matching "top-up" funds so that all of the students were supported by full assistantship funding.

In the Northeast Region, a widespread problem is the impact of the increasing white-tailed deer population that is overbrowsing and degrading vegetation in forests, fields, and gardens. The NPS has sponsored research in several parks to evaluate this impact and develop efforts to control it. Gettysburg National Military Park tries to maintain the landscape



Radio-collared white-tailed buck. Photo by Sonja Christensen.



Sonja Christensen with a drugged sika deer. Photo by Wendy Vreeland.

as it existed during the 1863 battle. However, the loss of tree seedlings from browsing deer has greatly diminished forest regeneration. Research on deer and vegetation began in 1985 at Gettysburg National Military Park by Dr. Gerald Storm, then leader of the PA Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, and other faculty¹ and graduate students. Results provided the justification for the park's deer management plan and a protocol for monitoring deer abundance. However, after deer numbers were reduced and the park was able to restore some woodlots to their Gettysburg battle state, concerns arose that the deer survey protocol did not provide accurate abundance estimates.

In 2008, Dr. Duane Diefenbach, adjunct professor of wildlife ecology and current leader, PA Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, and graduate research assistant David Stainbrook captured and marked deer and obtained population estimates for the park. In addition, they tested a deer monitoring technique used by many parks to see if the technique produced accurate results in the field. They found that the distribution of deer increases with distance from roads. Consequently, sampling from roads is not necessarily representative of the abundance of deer across the entire park.

They found that important assumptions of the technique did not hold true, but they were able to modify the estimator to reduce bias. This study is just being completed and will provide the information necessary for the park to make better decisions for controlling deer populations to meet park goals and objectives.

At Valley Forge National Historical Park, deer exclosures have been installed and vegetation monitored since Dr. Storm started the study 10 years ago, followed by Dr. Walter Tzilkowski. Several graduate students² tracked the deer to learn where they spend their time: in the park, out of the park, in forest or on open land; and how widely they range. Using data from this study, the park has developed a program of deer reduction. Dr. Marc Abrams, professor of forest ecology and physiology, is currently conducting evaluations to develop management recommendations for achieving desired forest conditions.

Other interesting studies have been conducted at Assateague Island National Seashore, looking at the park's three ungulate species—white-tailed deer, sika deer, and wild ponies—to understand how they were affecting the dune vegetation. Sika deer are an introduced Asian species smaller (up to 100 pounds) than white-tails, found in the United States, primarily in Maryland and Texas. Initial research was conducted in the 1980s. The investigators, Dr. Tzilkowski and Dr. Ronald Keiper, then professor of biology at Penn State's Altoona Campus³, estimated the abundance of the ungulates and studied their food habits. They found that ponies were the biggest consumers but detected no important diet differences between sika and white-tailed deer. In 2006 and 2007, Dr. Duane Diefenbach, with graduate research assistant Sonja Christensen (now a biologist with the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game), conducted a study of habitat use by sika and white-tailed deer. Use was almost identical although, for unknown reasons, sika populations have been doing better than white-tails at Assateague. The Park Service has since begun using chemical sterilants to reduce the pony population, and modifying the legal hunting program to manage deer populations.

In the last decade, the NPS created the Inventory and Monitoring Program to inventory, in parks with large natural areas, all living things as well as geophysical characteristics (e.g., shoreline change) so that park managers can better understand the resources they are stewarding. Monitoring of selected natural resources and landscape features is to be done routinely and in a scientifically credible way so that ecological changes can be discerned. Development of this program included much important collaboration with faculty, staff, and graduate students, starting in the 1980s when Dr. Richard Yahner and numerous grad students conducted faunal investigations for many parks.

Parks are grouped into "networks" that share similar environments. In the Northeast Region there are four networks and one of them, the Eastern Rivers and Mountains Network, is stationed here. This network includes nine parks in Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Dr. Matt Marshall, current program manager, came to the department as a teaching and research postdoc in 2001. He helped develop the Vertebrates and Vertebrates Lab courses, taught several semesters of

Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation, and conducted research on grassland birds with Dr. Diefenbach. In 2003, he joined the Park Service, but he continues to teach a graduate course, Design of Ecological Field Experiments, and guest lectures in other courses. Marshall brings the challenges of research and management at the national parks into the classroom. Ongoing research and monitoring at the parks in his network will continue to provide faculty and students⁴ with opportunities for research and field experience at the parks.

The partnership between Penn State's School of Forest Resources and the NPS began in 1972. At that time, the NPS established a Cooperative Park Studies Unit here, whose function was to do remote sensing analyses and ecological research for the national parks. Back then, John Karish was working on his master's degree in Forest Resources and later oversaw the national NPS remote sensing effort conducted by the School. Karish, after 30 years as chief scientist for the NPS Northeast Region overseeing research in parks from Maine to Virginia, retired in June 2013 as program manager for the Northeast Region's Inventory and Monitoring Networks. Over the years, in his positions in the Natural Resources and Science Division of the NPS, he has been able to involve many faculty and students in research sponsored by the NPS. The projects mentioned here—only a few of many that have involved faculty and students—reflect Karish's vision of the NPS's role at Penn State: to support both natural resource research and the education of natural resource scientists of the future.

Notes

- ¹ Faculty involved at Gettysburg were Dr. Todd Bowersox, Dr. Richard Yahner, and Dr. Walter Tzilkowski, now all retired.
- ² Several graduate students were involved in this study at Valley Forge: Kristen Heister is now the natural resources specialist at Valley Forge, Gino D'Angelo is a USDA APHIS biologist, Matt Lavallo is a supervisory biologist with the PA Game Commission, and Ben Jones is chief, Habitat Planning and Development Division, PA Game Commission.
- ³ Assisting Drs. Tzilkowski and Keiper with the research at Assateague was graduate student Clifford Brown who is now working as a biologist with the West Virginia DCNR.
- ⁴ Faculty/staff involved with the network helped to develop and continue to help implement various monitoring protocols: Dr. Paola Ferreri, Dr. Caleb Tzilkowski, and Mr. Neihl Williamson, wadable streams protocol; Drs. Jim Finley, Duane Diefenbach, and Tyler Wagner, vegetation monitoring protocol with Stephanie Perles (NPS plant ecologist and former research associate); Ms. Jennifer Stingelin-Keefer and Dr. Margot Kaye, invasive species monitoring protocol. Dr. Beth Boyer and her student, Jimmy Weber, are involved with a research project on stream condition. Two School of Forest Resources alumni, Andrew Weber, hydrologic technician, and Dr. Caleb Tzilkowski, aquatic ecologist, are now network employees monitoring indicators of stream health. Doug Manning, also a graduate of the School of Forest Resources, works as the vegetation monitoring crew leader. ■



Longtime National Park Service Partner Retires

John Karish had an office with our department for most of his career. Karish, one of our alums, retired in June 2013 after nearly 41 years with the National Park Service (NPS). He graduated in 1970 with a B.S. in forest sci-

ence and earned a master's in forest biometrics in 1973. He joined NPS in 1972 as biologist for the Office of the Chief Scientist in Washington, DC. In 1974, he was reassigned to University Park, to serve as the leader of the Penn State Cooperative Park Studies Unit. He became a biologist with the Mid-Atlantic region in 1976 when the unit was transferred to the region. From 1980 to 2009, he served as chief scientist of the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast Regions. In September 2009, Karish became the inventory and monitoring program manager for the National Park Service's Northeast Region. Through four networks, the Northeast Region's inventory and monitoring program serves 40 parks, providing guidance and assistance with natural resource inventories and leadership in the development and operation of a long-term monitoring program, known as "vital signs monitoring."

While Karish has retired, the tradition of cooperation and partnership continues. ■

The Northeast Region at a Glance

- 2,600,000,000 dollars annual economic impact
- 55,000,000 visitors
- 26,500,000 objects in museum collections
- 15,200,000 acres
- 35,000 archeological sites
- 30,840 volunteers
- 3852 buildings
- 1115 national historic landmarks (2461 nationwide)
- 330 cultural landscapes
- 148 national natural landmarks
- 76 park units
- 21 national heritage areas (49 nationwide)
- 14 wild and scenic rivers
- 13 states (from Virginia to Maine)
- 5 national seashores
- 4 national battlefields
- 4 national cemeteries
- 1 international historic site
- 1 international park ■

News Briefs

Effective July 2013, **Henry Lin**, has been promoted to professor of hydrogeology/soil hydrology and **Patrick Drohan**, has been promoted to associate professor of pedology.

Paul Blankenhorn, professor emeritus of wood technology, was awarded the rank of Fellow in the Society of Wood Science and Technology at the annual meeting in June 2013.

Wildlife and fisheries science graduate student **Megan Kepler**, who will enter the Huck Institutes' Ecology doctoral program in fall 2013, received an inaugural Huck Fellowship to study disease and contaminant dynamics in wild fish populations, with a specific focus on disease in small-mouth bass. Kepler's adviser is **Tyler Wagner**, adjunct associate professor of fisheries ecology. Kepler received a Shikar-Safari Club International Foundation Scholarship in summer 2012.

Justin Bohling was our senior lecturer in wildlife science from October 2011 to June 2013. His teaching assignments included Mammalogy, Mammalogy Lab, Reptiles and Amphibians, Conservation Biology and Vertebrates Lab. He also served as faculty adviser to the student chapter of The Wildlife Society.

Undergraduate forest science student **Brian Crooks** won 2nd place for his poster entitled, "The impact of post-fire regeneration on carbon stocks in Sierra Nevada mixed-conifer forests" at the College of Agricultural Sciences' Gamma Sigma Delta Research Expo in March 2013.

Forest science student **Chelsea Kyler** received a \$2500 grant from the College of Agricultural Sciences Undergraduate Research Summer 2013 Program to support her work in developing genetic tools to help ash tree species recover from the emerald ash borer epidemic.

Cairsty Grassie, who completed her Ph.D. in wildlife and fisheries science in spring 2013, received the Paul Hand Award for Graduate Student Teaching Achievement. Grassie was recently hired as an assistant professor of biology at Penn State Altoona.

At the Ag Ball in April 2013, **The Wildlife Society Student Chapter** received two awards from the College of Agricultural Sciences, one for Outstanding Educational Activities and the other for Outstanding Alumni Involvement.

In December 2012, **Marc Abrams**, professor of forest ecology and physiology, **Sanford "Sandy" Smith**, natural resources and youth extension specialist, and **Tim Pierson**, affiliate assistant professor, were honored for 25 years of service to Penn State.

Harold Jarrett, instructor emeritus of mathematics, who touched the lives of many of our forestry alums who started their studies at Penn State Mont Alto, died in September 2011 at the age of 93. ■

New Faculty

Matt Hurteau, assistant professor of forest resources, joined Penn State in July 2011, filling an earth systems ecologist position jointly funded by the College of Agricultural Sciences and PSIEE (Penn State's Institutes of Energy and the Environment).

Hurteau leads the Earth Systems and Ecology Lab, which includes a team of both undergraduate and graduate researchers and postdoctoral scholars. The two main focuses of the lab are forest-based climate change mitigation and adaptation. Both field-based and modeling approaches are used to examine a range of topics, including forest carbon, wildfire, and growth modeling.

Hurteau taught FOR 200, Profession of Forestry, in fall 2012 and will lead the course again in fall 2013. He created a new course, FOR 201, Global Change and Ecosystems, which is open to students in all majors across campus and focuses on the connections between climate and terrestrial ecosystems. He is offering FOR 201 for the second time this fall. At the graduate level, Hurteau has been engaged in teaching special topics courses such as "Science as a Process" and "Science-Policy Interface."

Hurteau also serves as associate editor for *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* and as a member of the Ecological Society of America's Rapid Response Team, which is composed of ecological scientists in a variety of fields who have committed to serve as resources for policymakers and the media.

Hurteau earned a bachelor's degree in forestry from Northern Arizona University and a Ph.D. in ecology from the University of California-Davis.

Laura Leites joined the faculty as assistant professor of quantitative forest ecology in January 2013. Previously, as a research associate in forest biometrics, she worked on modeling global change effects on forest ecosystems, and development of quantitative models for forest ecosystem management and conservation.

Leites co-taught FOR 455, Remote Sensing and Spatial Data Handling, in fall 2011, and every spring she teaches FOR 350, Forest Resources Biometrics, which is taken by both forest science and wildlife and fisheries science students. She also engages in graduate student instruction.

In spring 2012, Leites was named to the board of directors of the Resource Modeling Association (RMA), an international organization of scientists who analyze models to understand and educate others in how to sustainably manage environmental resources.

In fall 2012, Leites hosted the annual Northeastern Mensurationist Organization meeting on Penn State's University Park campus. This association of forest researchers meets annually to discuss quantitative research in forest biometrics.

Leites is also a member of the American Statistical Association, the Ecological Society of America, and the Society of American Foresters. She earned her bachelor's degree from Universidad de la Republica, Uruguay, and her master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Idaho.

David Miller joined us in January 2013 as assistant professor of wildlife population ecology. Miller teaches W F S 446, Population Dynamics, and W F S 447W, Wildlife Management. He also serves as faculty adviser for the Penn State Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

Miller completed his B.S. at the University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point, his M.S. at Auburn University, and his Ph.D. at Iowa State University. His academic interests include population ecology, quantitative ecology, avian and amphibian ecology, conservation decision analysis, and life-history evolution.

Prior to his arrival at Penn State, Miller spent three years as a postdoctoral researcher at the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center working on an amphibian research and monitoring initiative.

Michael Sheriff was recently selected to fill our mammalian/conservation ecologist position, and joined us in fall 2013. Sheriff was most recently a postdoctoral fellow at the Institute for Arctic Biology, University of Alaska–Fairbanks.

Sheriff is teaching W F S 430, Conservation Biology, in the fall with Dr. John Carlson. In the spring, he will teach Mammalogy and Mammalogy Lab.

Sheriff earned his baccalaureate degree from the University of Toronto and his doctoral degree from the University of British Columbia. His research focuses on one of the fundamental questions in ecology: what limits animal abundance? He has studied the effects of stress on reproduction of snow shoe hares and interrelationships among timing of hibernation, reproduction, and warming soil in arctic ground squirrels. ■

Faculty and Staff Awards

Our annual spring picnic, organized by Xi Sigma Pi and hosted at Tau Phi Delta fraternity house, provides the venue for annually recognizing faculty and staff award recipients selected by our undergraduate students. Students submit nominations and a final selection is made by a panel of representatives from our department's student organizations. Here is a summary of our recent award recipients:

Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Assistant Award

2013 Ms. Sarah Wurzbacher
2012 Mr. Ethan Barton
2011 Mr. Andrew Weber

Outstanding Undergraduate Advising Award

2013 Dr. Justin Bohling
2012 Mr. Joe Harding
2011 Dr. Gary San Julian

Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award

2013 Mr. Mike Powell
2012 Dr. Walter Tzilkowski
2011 Dr. Jackie Grant and Mr. Joe Harding ■

Retirements

Richard Yahner retired in December 2011 as professor emeritus of wildlife conservation. He joined the faculty in 1981. His teaching included Mammalogy, Mammalogy Lab, Conservation Biology, and Herpetology. Yahner's research included the study of wildlife-habitat relationships in managed forests and farmlands, and how habitat fragmentation and land-use practices affect abundance and distribution of birds and mammals. During his tenure at Penn State, he served as chair of the intercollege graduate degree program in ecology, and from 1999-2002 he was associate dean for student affairs of the Graduate School.

Gary San Julian retired in December 2011 as professor emeritus of wildlife resources after joining the faculty in 1998. His undergraduate teaching responsibilities included an introductory course in wildlife and fisheries conservation and a senior-level course in natural resources public relations. In 2004, San Julian received an Excellence in Academic Advising Award from the Ag Alumni Society and in spring 2012, he received the Gordon Kirkland Award for Lifetime Professional Achievement in Conservation from the Pennsylvania Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

Walter Tzilkowski retired in July 2012 as associate professor emeritus of wildlife science. Tzilkowski joined the Penn State faculty in 1978 and taught undergraduate courses in Population Ecology, Wildlife Field Research, and Wildlife Management. For many years he served as faculty adviser to the Penn State Chapter of The Wildlife Society. His research focused on the application of mathematical and statistical techniques to describe habitat of wild animals and to estimate wild animal abundance, survival, and harvest strategies.

Kathleen Kasubick, administrative support assistant, retired in June 2011. She joined the School in 1985. Kasubick maintained undergraduate student records and assisted with many facets of the resident education program including course scheduling, room and bus reservations, book orders, faculty evaluations, and more. Kathleen often said that the greatest satisfaction through the years was working with the students, staff, and faculty, and that she enjoyed meeting so many people who made her work environment feel more like a family than a job. ■

DepartmentNews

The Ibberson Chair and the Center for Private Forests

James C. “Jim” Finley, professor of forest resources, was named the Joseph E. Ibberson Chair in Forest Resources Management in the fall of 2011.

The Ibberson Chair’s purpose is to educate students and to continue leadership in the professional management of private forest resources, and Finley is uniquely qualified for the position. He has been employed by Penn State since 1975, with a mostly extension appointment for that entire 36-year period. Throughout his career, Finley has directed and led partnerships for developing and delivering educational programs with the forest industry, Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry, U.S. Forest Service, and various agencies and nonprofit groups.

In addition to having extension responsibilities, he has been active in both teaching and research. In 2006 he co-founded and still co-directs the Human Dimensions of Natural Resources and the Environment intercollege graduate degree program. His research focuses on human dimensions of natural resources, such as hunting, community-based forestry, landowner relations and forest regeneration.

Finley’s primary professional commitment is towards the management of private forests—which is particularly important in Pennsylvania, where nearly three-quarters of forested

acres are owned by private landowners. He leads the Forest Stewardship Program—a multifaceted extension program directed toward private forest landowners to help them improve and maintain the ecological health of their land. That leadership facilitated the creation of the Center for Private Forests, which he now directs, in Penn State’s College of Agricultural Sciences in winter 2012.

According to Finley, the center will foster the retention, stewardship and management of private forests: “We intend to focus outreach and research on the stewardship of private forests and, through this process, create collaborative learning opportunities for students and stakeholders.”

Faculty and staff involved in the center will cut across several Penn State departments and include agricultural and natural-resource economists, forest scientists, rural sociologists, environmental scientists, biologists and others. Finley cited critical challenges that the center will help address: forest parcelization, estate planning, sustainable forest management and regeneration, cross-boundary cooperation, taxation, ecosystem services and community support for retaining working forest landscapes.

Finley, who earned his bachelor’s degree in forest science, his master’s degree in forest resources and his doctoral degree in extension education, all from Penn State, will fill the Ibberson Chair for a three-year term, with subsequent five-year terms possible. ■

StudentNews

Here are snapshots of some of our award-winning students. Read more about them in the online issue of this newsletter at ecosystems.psu.edu/alumni/newsletters.

Latham Award Winners

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

The Latham Award is given annually to an outstanding full-time graduate student advised by a Wildlife and Fisheries Science faculty member.



Lauren Chaby received the Latham Award in 2012. She is concurrently a master’s degree candidate in ecology and a doctoral candidate in neuroscience.

Dr. Victoria Braithwaite, professor of fisheries and biology and Lauren’s adviser, explains, “To some, this may seem an unusual blend, but for Lauren it makes perfect sense. She believes that to

understand and manage animal populations for the future, we have to understand the proximate mechanisms that affect brain and behavior. However, given that her ultimate interests are in the natural world and real ecological challenges, she felt it was important to ground her research within an ecological framework—hence, the master’s.”

“It’s important to me that the public recognizes the expansive interface of science and ‘real’ life,” says Lauren. “I plan to participate in popular science by authoring magazine articles, and eventually a book. I’ve been greatly influenced and helped by books written by articulate scientists. I think books are an excellent way to encapsulate a field for both scientists in adjacent but distinct disciplines and for community members.”

Devin DeMario received the Latham Award in 2011 as a master’s degree candidate in wildlife and fisheries science, working with the U.S. Geological Survey Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit under the supervision of Dr. Tyler Wagner, assistant unit leader and adjunct professor of fisheries ecology.

Devin’s level of participation and leadership roles made her an outstanding candidate for this award. For example, she served on the Pennsylvania State Executive Committee as student representative (2009–2011) and as president of Centre County Federation of Sportsmen from (2009–2011).

Devin completed her degree in spring 2013 and since January 2012 has been working as the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission’s Legislative Liaison. ■

George Award Winners

The John L. George Award recognizes an undergraduate student 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.

Dr. 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.



Sara Mueller was honored with the John L. George Student Conservation Award in spring 2013.

Sara is a Schreyer Honors student and is working on an undergraduate thesis with Dr. Jay Stauffer exploring the foraging habits and niche breadth of the rainbow darter.

She has been a College of Ag Sciences Ag Advocate since spring 2011 and is actively involved in leading tours of the college and promoting its programs.

In spring 2013, Sara completed a semester abroad at Lincoln University in New Zealand.

Sara will serve as president of The Wildlife Society student chapter in the upcoming academic year. A native of State College, Pennsylvania, she plans to graduate in May 2014.

Robert “Bob” Caccese received the George Award in 2012. He was president of the Penn State Archery club and secretary of Delta Theta Sigma, the agricultural student social fraternity. In 2011 he was awarded the prestigious Shikar Safari Club Scholarship for Wildlife Management.

Caccese graduated with a B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science in spring 2012 and now attends Penn State Law.

“Natural resource conservation means a whole lot to me,” he explains. “As a lawyer, I hope to be able to represent the conservationists and hunters of Pennsylvania.”

Samantha Pedder received the George Award in 2011. As president of The Wildlife Society Student Chapter in her senior year, the organization accomplished many “firsts” including a “Kids Go Wild” youth field day and hosting an internationally known speaker.

Samantha, a native of Greensburg, PA, graduated in May 2011 with a B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science. She is currently employed by the Pennsylvania Game Commission in Harrisburg as Outreach Coordinator. ■

Outstanding Senior Awards

Each spring, our faculty and staff nominate candidates for the Outstanding Senior award. The criteria for the award are service to the department, academic performance, service to the University and society, and professional promise and experience. A committee of faculty and Xi Sigma Pi members reviews the nominations and selects the recipient of the award.



Cynthia Nau received the 2013 Outstanding Senior Award. Cindy was an active member of the Penn State student chapter of The Wildlife Society. She was a member of the Penn State quiz bowl team at the Northeast Conclave in spring 2013 where the team earned second place, and she attended The Wildlife Society national conference in Portland, Oregon, in 2012. She volunteered with Trout Unlimited to plant and maintain the riparian buffer on Spring Creek, behind the Penn State sheep barns. Cindy was president of The Wildlife Society Student Chapter in spring 2013.

Professionally, her passion is conservation of cold-water fisheries. She worked in Dr. Jay Stauffer’s lab as an undergraduate assistant and became proficient in sampling streams for fish and benthic macroinvertebrates.

Cindy completed a summer 2012 internship with the Student Conservation Association, working at Yellowstone National Park on their lake trout suppression program. Upon graduation with a B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science in spring 2013, the park hired her as a seasonal fisheries technician to continue work on the program.

Robert “Bob” Caccese was the recipient of the 2012 Outstanding Senior Award. Read more about him above, as he was also the 2012 George Award recipient.

Amanda Bowe was our Outstanding Senior in 2011. She graduated in May 2011 with a B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science, and a minor in Geographic Information Science. As a Schreyer Honors student, she completed an undergraduate thesis on modeling habitat suitability for Meadow Jumping mice in the western Great Plains.

In summer 2009 Amanda was a field technician at Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory in Black Hills, South Dakota, and in summer 2010 she was a bird care intern at Tri-State Bird Rescue and Research in Newark, Delaware.

Upon graduation, Amanda accepted a full-time position with the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, which is part of the University of Wyoming. Her work includes surveying frogs and salamanders on the Medicine Bow National Forest in an effort to develop a long-term monitoring plan. ■

Rapp Prize Winners

The Orpha Kelly Rapp and Jesse Rossiter Rapp '15 Prize for Academic Excellence is given each spring to the senior in our department with the highest grade point average. Elizabeth Rapp Tukey endowed the award in memory of her father Jesse Rossiter Rapp (Class of 1915) and mother Orpha Kelly Rapp.

2013 winner: **Ben Amos** graduated in May 2013 with a B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science. In summer 2011 he had an internship at Presqu'ile Provincial Park, Ontario, where he monitored breeding waterbirds. This fall Ben begins graduate studies at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. He will be studying the restoration of native Pike, Muskie, and Walleye on the St. Lawrence River.

2012 winner: **Noelle Rizzardi** graduated in May 2012 with a B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science. She volunteered at Centre Wildlife Care, and after graduation she pursued this interest at an animal shelter/wildlife center in Pittsburgh. She plans to eventually go on to graduate school and pursue a career in wildlife conservation. Prior to enrolling at Penn State, Noelle earned an A.S. degree in Photography at The Art Institute of Pittsburgh.

2011 winner: **Frank Grano** graduated in May 2011 with a B.S. in forest science and a minor in Arboriculture. He earned the A.S. in forest technology at Penn State Mont Alto in December 2009. As an undergraduate, Frank spent two summers with Bartlett Tree Experts (one in Connecticut and one in Massachusetts), he worked at the Arboretum at Penn State Mont Alto, and he was self-employed in his tree service business. He is a member of the International Society of Arboriculture, and a Certified Arborist. Frank is currently a sales representative with Bartlett Tree Experts in New Hampshire. ■

Woodsmen Team Receives \$1000



Photo by PFFPA.

The Penn State Woodsmen Team has received \$1,000 from the Pennsylvania Forest Products Association to help pay for the team's equipment and travel to future competitions.

The team is comprised of men and women students who compete in collegiate lumberjack competitions throughout the U.S. and Canada. The women's team recently placed first at a competition in Syracuse, NY.

Making the presentation were PFFPA Board members Carl Shaffer of National Industrial Lumber Company and Jay Clark of AFS Energy Systems, and PFFPA Executive Director Paul Lyskava.

Accepting the check were members of the Penn State Woodsmen Team, coach and instructor Mike Powell, and department head Mike Messina.

The check presentation took place at the Timber 2013 Forest Products Equipment and Technology Exposition, which is a bi-annual equipment and machinery show held at the Penn State Ag Progress Days site at Rock Springs. The event is co-hosted by PFFPA and the college. During the show, members of the team conducted demonstrations of competitive lumberjack events and allowed the public to try their hand at competitive ax-throwing. ■

Soil Judging Team



L-R: Melissa Pierce, Dr. Patrick Drohan, April Doroski, Mitch Fleming, Curtis Kennedy, Nancy Kammerer, Assistant Coach Cody Fink, Sara Jones, and reclined is Jacob Gogno.

The Penn State Soil Judging Team placed 6th at the National Collegiate Soil Judging Contest hosted by the University of Wisconsin in Platteville.

Individually, April Doroski placed 7th, Nancy Kammerer 14th, Sara Jones 45th and Mitch Fleming 59th. Penn State finished 11th in the Group Judging component. Ninety students competed in the individual component and over 115 in Group Judging.

"The national contest allows students to practice describing and interpreting soils in an environment very different from their home school," said team adviser Patrick Drohan, assistant professor of pedology. "At the contest, students were directed to describe soils formed in a variety of parent materials in close proximity to the Mississippi River."

The contest is part of the Soil Science Society of America's commitment to soils education and provides participants with an opportunity to see new soils and test their skills against peers from across the country. Twenty-three teams competed this year. There are plans to organize an International Contest at the 2014 World Soil Congress in Seoul, South Korea.

More information about the team and the 50-plus-year history of soil judging at Penn State is available online at agsci.psu.edu/clubs/soil-judging, including a place where you can donate funds to support the team's competition travel efforts. ■



President's Message

Forest Resources Alumni Group,

I hope that this newsletter finds you well. By way of introduction, my name is Howard Wurzbacher, and I am in my first term on the alumni group board of directors, currently serving as president of the Forest Resources Alumni Group. I am a 1979 B.S. graduate in forest science, and have worked as a forester for the Pennsylvania Game Commission for the past 26 years. My involvement with the alumni group goes back some time, and I've enjoyed experiencing the accomplishment of the new building, the 100th anniversary celebration, the Arboretum, and seeing several friends and colleagues recognized by our group with Outstanding Alumni awards.

To begin, I would like to offer my thanks and appreciation to Bob Rorabaugh for his service as president, 2011–2013. Bob's tenure was marked by significant changes brought about by the reorganization of the College of Agricultural Sciences, and the formation of the new Department of Ecosystem Science and Management. Bob was active and vocal in communicating concerns and opinions of our alumni group to the dean and to the college administration.

Change brings both concerns and opportunities. The fact that you have received this newsletter indicates that you have a background of education and training in the science and management of natural resources, provided by the former School of Forest Resources and henceforth by the new department. With that understanding, you are well aware that we practice our disciplines and apply our acquired skills in dynamic environments. Within the natural world, we work in ecosystems, we consider knowledge and information gained from science, and we apply management to attempt to produce desired outcomes and conditions. The program name may have changed, but the fundamentals remain constant and strong. The combination of disciplines represented in the new department gives our alumni group the opportunity to welcome new graduates with a wide range of educational experience and career opportunities.

I feel fortunate in having several perspectives on the past, present, and future of the School of Forest Resources, and the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management: first, as an alumnus; second, as a member of the alumni group board of directors; and third, as a parent of a student in the "old" school and the "new" department. My daughter Sarah recently completed her M.S. in forest resources, and through the two-year process had interaction with undergraduate students, her peer graduate students, and with many faculty and administrators. My external view of her experience as a student has shown me that there are fundamental and positive strengths in the department: students who are motivated and faculty who are actively engaged in advising, teaching, mentoring, and developing students to be competent and successful.

I encourage you to participate with the alumni group, renew old acquaintances and friendships, and build new ones, and to mentor students as they pursue opportunities in our collective professions. Please consider joining some upcoming events such as Career Fair in February 2014 and the 75th anniversary celebration of our alumni group in April 2014.

Best wishes,
Howard Wurzbacher '79 FORSC

814-432-3187 (office)
hwurzbacher@pa.gov

Editor's Note

We're so pleased to send you this newsletter! It's been a long time (2+ years) since we published an issue of RESOURCES. We've kept in touch electronically via email with those of you who have a current email address on file with the Penn State Alumni Association but it's not the same as putting a complete newsletter in your hands (or in your inbox, as the case may be).

Thank you for your patience during the hiatus. And thank you to our college's Communications and Marketing team for their support in getting our newsletter back on track.

We plan to return to our biannual publication schedule and we look forward to receiving and sharing your news. Use the Response Form on page 23 or submit news online at ecosystems.psu.edu/alumni/newsletters/contribute.

We'll still occasionally send out email notices, so please update your contact information if necessary. Go to alumni.psu.edu/about_us/contact_us/update_info.

Thanks!
Ellen Manno, Editor ■

Spring 2013 Election Results

Howard Wurzbacher '79, President
Alex Day '67, Vice President

Three-year terms on the board:

Derald J. Hay '03, '07g
Nathan T. Jobe '00
David B. Lezzer '00
James R. Snyder Jr. '98 (reelected to a second term)

Thank you to board members **Marc Lewis**, **Cecile Stelter**, and **Bob Rorabaugh**, who each completed two terms of service (six years total) on the board. Bob Rorabaugh will remain on the board as immediate past president.

Marc McDill was appointed faculty representative to the board. Thanks to **Sanford "Sandy" Smith** for his service in that role since spring 2009.

Dan Lawler has been appointed graduate student representative to the board. We thank **Mike DiCarlo** for his year of service in that role. Mike graduated with an M.S. in forest resources in summer 2013. He has already begun employment with Mason, Bruce & Girard in Portland, Oregon.

A board of directors listing is available online at ecosystems.psu.edu/alumni/about/board. ■

Outstanding Alumni

Each year the Forest Resources Alumni Group honors up to four Outstanding Alumni and one Outstanding Recent Alumnus at our April banquet. Nominations are due by September 30; forms and biographical sketches of alumni are available online at ecosystems.psu.edu/alumni/awards.

Here are the alumni who have been honored since we last published a newsletter.

2013 Outstanding Alumni



Left to right: Charles J. Barden '89g; Department Head Mike Messina '79; Steven K. Koehn '83; and James M. Guldin '75. Far right is Robert D. Rorabaugh '72, outgoing president of the Forest Resources Alumni Group, whom we surprised with an Outstanding Alum award at the banquet.

2012 Outstanding Alumni



Left to right: Steven F. Resh '74; Earl W. Hower '76a; Thomas K. Fidler '72, '74g; Stephen E. Fairweather '74, '82g; and Director Mike Messina '79. Carson Engelskirger '05, Outstanding Recent Alumnus, was unable to attend the April 2012 banquet to receive his award.

2011 Outstanding Alumni



Left to right: Paul W. Shogren '51; James C. Finley '70, '75g; Jamie Dahl '04, '06g; Director Mike Messina '79; William R. Donley '78; and Michael W. Tome '78. ■

Alumni News

1940s

W. V. "Mac" McConnell, 1943, Tallahassee, Fl. Jan. 2011: "I've put together a website, www.wvmcconnell.net that draws upon my 68 years of learning about the real world. Its focus is public land management." Mac visited Penn State University Park in October 2012—he had not been back to campus in about 60 years!

1950s



Carl Rebele, 1952, of Swanton, Md., represented VFW Post 10077 at a ceremony held June 24, 2010, in Washington, D.C., by the National Unification Advisory Council

Republic of Korea. Each veteran in attendance received a medal of appreciation and a letter from South Korea's president. At the ceremony, veterans had the chance to meet with South Korea's ambassador to the United States.

Thaddeus "Ted" Yarosh, 1952, of Klamath Falls, Ore. In Aug. 2012, Paul Shogren '51 informed us that Ted Yarosh was honored at an August 2012 retirement dinner for 20+ years of service with Boys Scouts of America Crater Lake Council. Eighteen of those years, Mr. Yarosh was Camp Ranger for Camp McLoughlin at Lake of the Woods, Winema National Forest, northwest of Klamath Falls, Ore. Mr. Yarosh will continue serving in his multiple volunteer roles with the Klamath District.

Richard E. Woodrow, 1953, Glenwood Spring, Colo.; woodrows@rof.net. June 2011: "Don Port ('53) and I will be fishing together again in Alaska in August."

Tony Dorell, 1954, shared this link to a video production on The Life of Maurice Goddard: <http://video.witf.org/searchFor?q=the+life+of+maurice+goddard>, which was broadcast by WITF TV, Harrisburg, Pa., in November 2010.

Robert M. Frank Jr., 1954, Hampden, Maine; marion40@roadrunner.com. June 2011: “During a recent visit to Pa., my wife Dorothy and I enjoyed time spent with Phil Eckert ('54) and his wife Marilyn. When Phil and I enrolled for our freshman year at Mont Alto, 1950–1951, our class size was 100 with classes on Saturday mornings and only two or three free periods during the week. We both agreed that the Mont Alto experience was hard work with much fun that set the stage for our future careers in forestry.”



Left to right: Lou Shain ('58), Bob Radomsky, Pat Lantz, Bob Bommer, John Bltzer. Lou Shain started with Class of '56 but graduated with Class of '58.

The Class of 1956 has held a reunion every five years since their 25th anniversary. The 7th reunion began in the Forest Resources Building at Penn State University Park on the morning of June 4, 2011. Dr. Kim Steiner provided an introduction to the Arboretum at Penn State. Afterwards the group ate lunch at the Creamery, toured the Arboretum (until the rains came), and had dinner at the Tavern restaurant in downtown State College.



The Class of 1958 met at Mont Alto, May 31, June 2 for its 55th anniversary reunion. Here are excerpts from Ralph Heilig's summary of the event: “The festivities kicked off with a dinner held in a large tent adjacent to the MAC building. Several alums had Founder's and Centennial Trees designated in their honor. Ralph Heilig was honored with a

Centennial Tree. Heilig's choice of species was *Pinus rigida* (pitch pine for those who may have forgotten). The tree was donated by his daughters Dawn, Karen and Susan and his longtime companion Marie Wolson.

“Saturday's activities included tours of the Waynesboro Watershed, tours of the campus and arboretum, chopping and sawing contests by several younger alums and a visit by some 1958 class members to the Franklin County Industrial Museum in Waynesboro where the featured exhibit was the history of the Mont Alto Iron Furnace, the State Forestry Academy and early photos of the Michaux State Forest, Caledonia and Mont Alto State Parks. The evening meal was a pig roast, followed by five Distinguished Fellow Awards, one of which went to the class of '58's Lou Shain.

“Sunday's schedule began with an all-faith service in the chapel. The closing event was a brunch held at the Millstream Cafe on campus. This gathering was overwhelmingly dominated by the Class of 1958, along with Randall Ackerman, Deb Creager, Dr. Beth Brantley and Forestry head, Craig Houghton.

“Class members who attended were Jim and Doris Durdan, (and Jim's brother, Bill, '59), Joe and Toni Frank, Henry Hartman, Sarge and Irene Hobaugh, Dick and Dorothy Hunter, Ralph Heilig and Marie Wolson, Bill and Justine McCafferty, Roger Odell, Ralph and Gisela Peace, Lou and Bobbie Shain, Bob and Eleanor Slagle, George and Nancy Siehl, Chuck and Carol Strauss, Lena Swartz (representing our departed classmate Ken) and Jack and Maria Zimmerman.

“Ralph Peace and Bob Slagle wrapped up the weekend with a game of 'catch,' tossing the ball back and forth (from behind what used to be the Cottage) at least five or six times before their arms gave out.”

Nelson Loftus, 1958 and 1962g, from Summer/Fall 2012 *Penn State Ag Science* magazine: Nelson Loftus was recently awarded the National Agricultural Alumni and Development Association (NAADA) Volunteer Service Award. The award is presented to those who volunteer with and further the goals of their institutions, as well as inspire and encourage others to further the success of their alma maters' agriculture and alumni programs.

A retired senior scientist and research administrator with the U.S. Forest Service, Loftus served on the Ag Alumni Society Board of Directors from 2000 to 2011, serving as financial secretary, president, and past president. He was instrumental in leading a new campaign to raise \$95,000 to fully endow the Ag Alumni Society's Student Internship Award, which more than met its goal.

Roger Williams, executive director of the Penn State Alumni Association, had these words of support for Loftus: “His passion for Penn State translates into action and to getting things done in ways that strengthen the College of Agricultural Sciences at Penn State and his beloved alma mater.”

“Dr. Nelson Loftus exemplifies the very best qualities of our very best alumni. He is a shining exemplar of everything we look for in a service-minded alumnus.”

1960s

Larry Tombaugh, 1960, Cary, N.C. The Forestry Source, Feb. 2012, reported: "Larry W. Tombaugh, dean emeritus at North Carolina State University College of Natural Resources, received the Forest History Society's highest honor, the Fellow Award."

John F. Boyer, 1961, Camp Hill, Pa.; jbgood717@msn.com.



Class of 1961 met at Mont Alto in June 2011 for their 50th reunion. Front row (left to right): Bob Gingrich, George Kiefer, Bob Davey; second row (left to right): Chris Rea, Wendell Alcorn; third row (left to right): Ed Frayer, Bob Martin, Joe Sucha.

In July 2011, alumni from the Class of 1961 submitted the following notes:

Ed Frayer, "I attended my 50th reunion at Penn State and Mont Alto. Had a great time both places. Will attend the SAF Convention in Hawaii this fall. First time ever to Hawaii and will then be able to say I've visited all 50 states. Have seen Tom Reeder a couple of times since he moved to Florida."

Ron Shields: "I've been volunteering at USGS as we've had record floods this season. My consulting business, with Instreamflow hydrologic analysis with Trout Unlimited is continuing this summer. Our son graduated from Army War College 2, Carlisle, Pa., and his son(our grandson) is at West Point. He'll be in the class of 2015."

Tom Reeder: "Enjoying life in The Villages, Florida. Playing pickleball every morning and then golf 2 or 3 times a week. I could not make the 50th reunion due to a granddaughter graduating at the same time."

Chris Rea: "Had a wonderful reunion at Mont Alto and for the first time in 50 years caught up with some of my classmates. Actually got 7 of 10 trees identified in the Dendrology quiz on the tour of the Arboretum. Although never having worked in the field of forestry, I would not change anything about my college experience. I have traveled to some pretty remote parts of the world and enjoyed so much more the experience. Will be going to Mongolia in three weeks and will tour the Gobi desert. I am told there are some beautiful forests as part of the tour."

Thomas H. Yorke, 1964 and 1967g, Haymarket, Va. In summer 2012, Tom was elected to a second three-year term on the College of Ag Sciences Alumni Society Board of Directors.

Randolph "Randy" E. Ehrenzeller, 1969, Tunkhannock, Pa.; willowbb@ptd.net. In June 2011 wrote, "Although I enjoyed my 35 years with Procter and Gamble, I'm enjoying the last six years of retirement even more! My wife Patty and I are traveling a lot and we are enjoying our grandkids."

1970s



Bruce Edwards, 1971, was among six alumni honored as a College of Ag Sciences 2012 Outstanding Alumni and Outstanding Recent Alumnus at a reception on October 19, 2012, at The Nittany Lion in at Penn State.

Bruce is owner and manager of Starlight Forests, LLC, a timber growing company owning timberlands in northeastern Pennsylvania and southeastern New York. Prior to beginning Starlight Forests, Bruce served as vice president of Mallery Lumber Corp., an integrated forest products company with hardwood sawmills and timberlands in New York and Pennsylvania.

Bruce is a member and past director of the Empire State Forest Products Association and has worked in the forest products industry to promote forestry and resource management. He has been a member of the Society of American Foresters since 1971 and the Association of Consulting Foresters since 1978.

Bruce is also director of the Mee Charitable Foundation, which provides a million dollars each year to local communities. He is director of the Hancock Partners, which devotes itself to the economic development of the local community. He has received the Silver Beaver award for lifetime service to the Boy Scouts of America. He is a volunteer on the Penn State College of Ag Sciences Development Committee, serving on the committee since 2001.

Bruce and his wife Jean are members of the Mt. Nittany Society and lifetime members of the Penn State Alumni Association. The Edwards Family Center in the Forest Resources Building is a result of their generous contributions

Bruce was honored as a School of Forest Resources Outstanding Alumnus in 2007.

Nick B. Hunter, 1971 and 1976g, Morrisville, N.Y.; nunternb@morrisville.edu. In June 2011: "I was affiliated with Penn State for nearly 20 years. I received my B.S. in forest science in 1971, followed by an M.S. in wildlife management in 1976. After 11 years of teaching in the Forest Tech Program at the Mont Alto campus, my wife Maxine and I moved to central New York, not far from Syracuse. There I finished my career as a member of the Environmental Science Department at Morrisville State College (part of the SUNY system)."

James Powell, 1972, Dagsboro, Del.; JimPowell@psualum.com.

Robert A. “Bob” Fala, 1973 and 1975g, Chapmanville, W.V.; BFala@hotmail.com. In June 2011: “After stints with the PA Game Commission, then out West with Arch Coal, have worked the past 22 years with WV Division of Mining and Reclamation. Ran into Ed Draggie last year in upstate West Virginia. Still communicate with Gregg Bierei, Quip Stump, and Ron Brennneman, plus kind of indirectly with Dave Putnam.”

Robert T. Glennon, 1976g, Hobbsville, N.C.; robertglennon@embarqmail.com. In June 2011: “I came out of retirement after a year in April 2011 to accept a position with Virginia Tech as a private lands biologist in Smithfield, Va. I assist landowners in southeastern Virginia improve the wildlife habitat on their property. I work with landowners in the programs of both the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.”

David Legerton, 1976, Orlando, Florida; laugarvatn214@yahoo.com. In June 2011: “Currently teaching middle school life science in Orlando and teaching aeronautics at Rollins College Summer Day Camp.”

Howard Wurzbacher, 1979, Titusville, Pa. The June 2012 issue of *Pennsylvania Game News* reports that Howard completed 25 years of service with the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

1980s

Jeff Shinrock, 1980, Reston, Va.; shinrock@gmail.com. In June 2011: “I have been elected to the Center for Watershed Protection (CWP) board of directors. CWP is a leading organization in providing solutions for clean water and healthy natural resources including partnering with the U.S. Forest Service to develop assessment and management tools for forest management. I have been Principal and Chief Sustainability Officer for Red Eagle Development, a national real estate services firm headquartered in Washington, D.C., since 2006.”

Bruce Snyder, 1981. Bruce Snyder was appointed to the Pennsylvania Governor’s Advisory Council for Hunting, Fishing, and Conservation in February 2012. Bruce is senior regulatory compliance specialist for Range Resources. He is also a member of the external Advisory Board for our department (Ecosystem Science and Management at Penn State).

Dale Garges, 1983, Lufkin, Texas; dalegarges@templeinland.com. July 2011: “I have received a promotion with Temple-Inland to Corporate and Applied Research Center Technical Director. My family and I have relocated from Bradford, Pa., to Lufkin, Texas, and are adjusting to the new climate and culture. Temple-Inland remains a leading producer of containerboard, corrugated packaging, gypsum wall board, SYP lumber, particleboard, medium density fiberboard and hardboard. In my new position I will oversee the technical, quality and product development efforts of the particleboard, MDF and hardboard operations.”

Tom Tuchmann, 1986. The July 2012 issue of *The Forestry Source* reports that Tom Tuchmann will serve as Oregon Governor’s John Kitzhaber’s finance adviser, focusing on solutions on Oregon and California Lands, working with the Department of Forestry on other federal forest issues and developing conservation finance opportunities to conserve private working forests throughout the state. Tom is president of US Forest Capital, advising clients on projects that benefit forest resources and support local economies.

1990s

Daniel Hedderick, 1993, Allegany County project manager and forester, Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service, received one of nine Presidential Field Forester Awards from the Society of American Foresters at 2011 SAF National Convention in Honolulu, Hawaii. Hedderick received the award in recognition for the excellence and professionalism he has displayed in a variety of tasks including working with local governments, assisting private landowners with stewardship plan development and implementation, managing wildfires, facilitating media coverage of forestry issues, working with local loggers and mills on biomass harvesting, and addressing the challenge of invasive species by collaborating with students from nearby universities.

Roxanne Shiels, 1993g, was elected to a three-year term on the Penn State Alumni Association’s governing body Alumni Council in summer 2012. Roxanne is associate director of strategy, planning, and faculty/student engagement in the Office of the Vice President for Outreach at Penn State. This is her first elected term on Alumni Council.

Adam Downing, 1999g, of Madison, Va., was promoted from Extension Agent to Senior Extension Agent with Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) in June 2011. He has been working with VCE since August 2001. ■

Final Building Update!

As most of you know, our building had pyrite in the fill beneath the first floor of the Meadow Wing and the basement floor of the Bigler Wing. The pyrite caused the fill to swell which cracked the floors, drywall, and jammed doors. The 18-month repair process makes the Forest Resources Building the only one on campus to actually get newer as it gets older and it has restored our building to its original grandeur. The beautiful Pennsylvania black cherry that lines the walls of the first floor looks brand new, helping to make this the most desirable place to work and attend classes on campus.

Again, thank you to our building donors for making this incredible space possible. ■

In Memoriam

Honoring classmates who have gone before us

Austin N. “Dick” Lentz, 1935; died April 13, 2012

Alfred J. Appel, 1937; died October 19, 2012

Howard B. Frankenfield Jr., 1939; died May 21, 2010

Hiester LeVan, 1939; died September 22, 1968

Joseph Welker III, 1940; died December 23, 2010

Harry E. Murphy, 1943; died October 21, 2011

Robert “Bob” Kintigh, 1943; died March 21, 2012

Joseph E. Ibberson, 1947; died April 30, 2011

Darwin B. Palmer, 1947; died July 30, 2011

Edward H. “Woody” Plank, 1948; died May 19, 2012

William M. Stiteler Jr., 1948; died June 17, 2011

Harold B. Birch, 1951; died December 1, 2012

Glenn P. Haney, 1951; died March 5, 2012

Robert A. Huber, 1951; died July 25, 2011

Richard “Dick” Love, 1951; died November 23, 2011

Joseph A. Tarr Jr. 1951 and 1952; died November 24, 2012

James C. Nelson, 1952; died March 10, 2012

Joseph E. Arnold, 1953 and 1958; died May 22, 2012

Glenn A. Bergey, 1954; died September 19, 2011

Lawrence “Larry” P. Miller, 1954; died August 7, 2011

Norwood F. “Woody” Robertshaw, 1956; died July 22, 2011

M. Anthony “Tony” Marchetti, 1957; died September 9, 2011

Peter E. Dress, 1958; died May 12, 2011

Anthony “Tony” J. Rotell, 1958; died March 29, 2012

John A. Nordberg, 1960; died March 4, 2013

Jerome “Jerry” H. Magistrella, 1963; died October 28, 2011

Ivan Wayne Lininger, 1966g; died in 2004

Gary C. Wakefield, 1969 and 1969g; died March 27, 2013

Gary D. Morris, 1975; died November 6, 2011

Joseph A. Kovach, 1981; died October 29, 2011

Jon L. DeBerti, 1993a, 1996; died April 25, 2012

J. Timothy “Tim” Kimmel, 1995g; died May 14, 2012 ■

Austin N. “Dick” Lentz, 1935, received his bachelor’s degree in forestry from Penn State, and did graduate work in forestry at Colorado State University. He began his forestry career in forest pathology. During the late 1930s, he joined the USDA Forest Service in land acquisition. He worked with the Maryland Department of Forestry in the Civilian Conservation Corps program and later joined the USDA Soil Conservation Service. For the last 25 years of his career, he was a member of the faculty at Rutgers University, where he was responsible for the Forestry Extension Education Program. He authored many publications in forestry, *Common Forest Trees of New Jersey*. Mr. Lentz received numerous citations during his career. He was Chairman of the Allegheny Society of American Foresters in 1954 and a principal in organizing the national Christmas Tree Growers Association. Austin Lentz passed away on April 13, 2012. (Adapted from obituary in *The Forestry Source*, July 2012.)

Alfred J. Appel, 1937. Alfred Appel passed away on October 19, 2012, in Woodstock, Vt. His son John shared this news: “While a student at Penn State, he was an active member of the Tau Phi Delta fraternity. Al worked for the State of New Jersey, in the Department of Forestry, for 22 years. He retired as head of the department.”

Howard B. Frankenfield Jr., 1939. After graduating from Penn State with a bachelor’s degree in forestry, he joined the U.S. Army. He was an officer in a battalion of infantry engineers that participated in the D-Day invasion, the liberation of Paris, and the Battle of the Bulge. He remained in the Army Reserves and retired as a captain. In the mid-1940s, Mr. Frankenfield moved to Tryon, Ga., as a forestry engineer with Champion Paper. A few years later, he began his own business and expanded it to include land surveying. Howard Frankenfield of Sawanee, Ga., passed away on May 21, 2010. (Adapted from obituary in *Tryon Daily Bulletin*, June 7, 2010.)

Hiester LeVan, 1939. We recently learned of the passing of Mr. LeVan, who died many years ago on September 22, 1968. Mr. LeVan worked as a civil surveyor in the Washington, D.C., area and helped to lay out the Reagan National Airport and the region of Silver Spring, Md. (Info received from LeVan family.)



Harry E. Murphy, 1943, who was honored as a School of Forest Resources Outstanding Alumnus in 2007, died in Birmingham, Ala., on October 21, 2011. During the summers as a Penn State forestry student, he fought fires with “The Red Hats” of the U.S. Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest. In 1942, he enlisted in the U.S. Army, assuming active duty in 1943. In 1944, he was assigned to the European Theater as a construction foreman,

overseeing projects at various ports and serving in the Rhine-land Campaign. The recipient of the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Victory Medal, he rose from the rank of private to Master Sergeant, and later, First Lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army Reserve.

After the war, Harry worked as a District Forester in the Arkansas Forestry Division and then to manage forestry relations for the Tennessee Valley Authority. He met a Yale-trained forester from Birmingham, John M. Bradley Jr., and moved to Birmingham to help Bradley form Resource Management Service, Inc., now a highly successful international forestry consulting firm. Harry believed passionately in the future of the commercial Southern forest and private enterprise forestry, helping to lead the national effort to establish the Association of Consulting Foresters, Inc. (ACF).

In addition to ACF, Harry was a member and a fellow in the Society of American Foresters, a member and former board member of the Forest Landowners Association (and Tax Council), a member of the Alabama Forest Landowners' Association, the Alabama Forestry Association and numerous other state and national professional organizations. An early advocate of Alabama's "Forever Wild" program, he was twice the recipient of the W. Kelly Mosley Environmental Award. In retirement, Harry focused on mentoring other foresters and philanthropy, contributing to the Auburn University School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, the Bradley-Murphy Forestry Natural Resources Extension Trust, the Central American Medical Outreach (CAMO), South Highland Presbyterian Church, and the School of Nursing at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), among other charitable causes. (Adapted from obituary provided by Alabama Forest Owners' Association, Oct. 2011.)

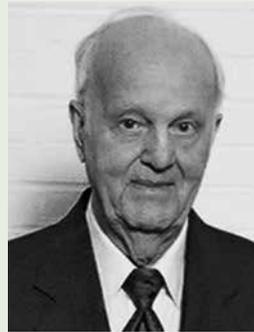


Robert "Bob" Kintigh, 1943. Bob Kintigh of Springfield, Ore., who was honored as a School of Forest Resources Outstanding Alumnus in 2010, died March 21, 2012. After completing his bachelor's degree in forestry, he served in the Navy during World War II as an officer on a destroyer in the Pacific. After his military service, he headed west and earned a master's degree in forestry at the University of California, Berkeley.

He worked a number of years as a consulting forester, several years as a BLM forester, and also operated a cabinet shop for several years. After 1960, he primarily ran his Mountain Home Ranch where the family raised cattle, timber, Christmas trees, and nursery stock.

Kintigh took pride in the fact that he and his wife Margaret were the only tree farmers to ever be named National Grand Champion Christmas Tree Growers (in 1962, a Douglas-fir from their farm in Cedar Flat earned a place in the Blue Room of the White House) as well as National Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year (an honor bestowed in 2006 by the American Tree Farm System).

Bob was elected SAF Fellow in 1986 and was also a Certified Forester. He was a three-term Senator in the Oregon Legislature between 1987 and 1999. In his last Senate term, he led the Senate Agricultural and Natural Resources Committee and served as Senate president pro tempore. (Adapted from obituary in *Western Forester*, March/April 2012.)



Joseph E. Ibberson, 1947, of Harrisburg, Pa., who was honored as a School of Forest Resources Outstanding Alumnus in 2003, died April 30, 2011. After a stint in the U.S. Army during World War II, he earned a B.S. in forestry at Penn State in 1947 and an M.S. in Forestry at Yale University in 1948.

Ibberson's professional career began with the PA Bureau of Forestry in researching the many plantations on state forest lands. Later, as Chief of the division of Forest Advisory Services, he directed forest specialists in forest tree nurseries, entomology, pathology, wood utilization, genetics, planning, management, private land services, and urban forestry.

In retirement, Ibberson continued his forestry activities, piecing parcels of forest land into larger units, improving them through management, and in the end, donating them as State Conservation Areas. Ibberson provided funds (nearly \$10 million) to endow three faculty chairs at Penn State to address current and developing forest resource issues. He was a member of the Society of American Foresters for 63 years and was elected SAF Fellow in 2001. (Adapted from obituary in *The Allegheny News*, Summer 2011.)

Darwin B. Palmer, 1947, of Wilmington, Del., died July 30, 2011. He completed a B.S. in Forestry in 1947. He started his career at Penn State Mont Alto prior to World War II. He served four years and four months in the U.S. Army (Oct. 1941 to Feb. 1946) was discharged as a Major. He returned to Penn State University Park to complete his degree. Palmer subsequently earned a master's degree from Yale University. Palmer was a Penn State classmate of Joe Ibberson '47 and his roommate at Yale.

In 2007, he received a Distinguished Fellow Award from Penn State Mont Alto. He worked for more than 30 years as an estimator-engineer at J. T. Ward & Son, a local contractor. He then was a volunteer guide at Delaware Nature Society, receiving their Lifetime Service Award. He was a plant and tree expert and enjoyed birding trips including hawk migration watch at Hawk Mountain, Pa., and Cape May, N.J. (Adapted from obituary provided by the Palmer family and information from Henry Gerhold '52.)

William M. Stiteler Jr., 1948, of Indiana, Pa., died June 17, 2011. He completed the B.S. in Forestry in 1948 and was a member of the 1936 two-mile relay track team that won the National Championship. He was a veteran of World War II, having served in the U.S. Army. He was employed as a forester for 40 years

with the U.S. Forest Service in Pennsylvania and West Virginia. After retiring, he worked as a consultant in Indiana and surrounding counties. (Adapted from obituary in *The Indiana Gazette*, June 21, 2011.)

Harold B. Birch, 1951. From his online obituary: “Col. Harold Boyd Birch, U.S. Army (Ret.), December 1, 2012. His educational degrees include a B.S. in Forestry from Penn State University, a master’s degree in Education from Colorado State University, a master’s degree in International Studies from George Washington University and a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of South Carolina. He was also a graduate of the Marine Corps Command & Staff College in Quantico, VA., and the National War College in Washington, D.C. At Colorado State University, he was a ROTC instructor and later served as a faculty member at both the Command & General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth, Kans., and the Army War College in Carlisle, Pa. At the Pentagon, he served as a staff officer, both on the Army Staff and with the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

During his 30 years of military service as an infantryman, Col. Birch was a Platoon Leader and Company Commander during the Korean War. In Vietnam he served as Battalion Commander of the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry, 4th Division and then as Division Personnel Officer. His military service ended at Fort Jackson where he commanded a Brigade and then served as the post’s operations officer. In addition to earning two Combat Infantry Badges, his awards included two Legions of Merit, three Bronze Stars for Valor, three Meritorious Service Medals, five Air Medals and a Purple Heart.

After his military retirement, Dr. Birch spent ten years at the University of South Carolina where he served as an assistant research professor. After retirement from the University of South Carolina, he wrote and published two books about Pa. volunteer infantry regiments in the Civil War that had seen service in S.C. *The 50th PA’s Civil War Odyssey* was published in 2003; *The 101st PA in the Civil War* in 2007.

For many years he was President of the Midlands Penn State Alumni Group. He was a member of the Korean War Memorial Committee that organized and oversaw the efforts that led to the erection of the Korean War Memorial in Memorial Park. Governor Hodges presented him with the Order of the Silver Crescent for his work and leadership in this effort.”

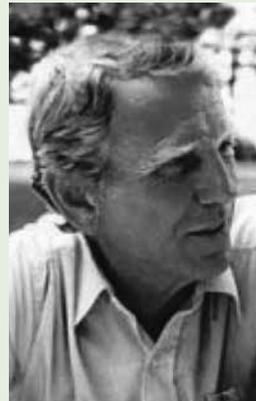


Glenn P. Haney, 1951, of State College, Pa., who was honored as a School of Forest Resources Outstanding Alumnus in 2009, died March 5, 2012. After completing his B.S. in Forestry at Penn State in 1951, Haney earned a master’s in forestry at North Carolina State in 1953. He was awarded a NPA Fellowship at the University of Virginia in 1966. He served for 37 years as a research forestry, manager, and senior executive for

the U.S. Forest Service and Department of Agriculture. He received the Distinguished Service Award from the Secretary of Agriculture (9815) and the presidential Rank Award of Meritorious Executive (1986). He retired in 1990 as Director of the Office of Information Resources Management.

Haney was instrumental in reviving the Penn State-Mont Alto Forestry Alumni Society and restructuring it as a recognized affiliate program group within the College of Ag Alumni Society and the Penn State Alumni Association. Under his leadership, the Forest Resources Alumni Group was officially established in 1993. Haney served as president of the group from 1993 to 1997, and as an associate director on the Ag alumni association board that same period, representing the Forest Resources Alumni Group.

Haney was an elected member of the Penn State Alumni Council, serving a three-year term that began in 1995. In 1997, he was elected as a director on the Ag alumni association board for a three-year term. In 2002, Haney was honored as a charter member of the College of Agricultural Sciences Armsby Honor Society. In 2003, he was honored as a Mont Alto Centennial Fellow. (Adapted from obituary in *Centre Daily Times*, March 9, 2012, and SFR Outstanding Alumni award biosketch.)



Robert A. Huber, 1951, of Leesburg, Va., died July 25, 2011. Mr. Huber served his country in the U.S. Navy and was a veteran of World War II. He worked for the U.S. Geological Survey, traveling the country as a surveyor before settling in the northern Virginia offices to work as a cartographer, and before retiring in 1982 as Chief of Photogrammetry with 30 years of federal service. (Adapted from obituary from Loudon Funeral Chapels.)

Richard “Dick” Love, 1951, of Gaylord, MI, died November 23, 2011. In Dec. 2011, classmate Paul Shogren wrote, “Dick retired as environmental engineer from Wolverine Power Co. He was a World War II Army Air Corps veteran. While a student at Penn State, he was employed to trim campus trees. Periodically his classmates would look up and see Dick swinging from the elms around Old Main, thirty feet about the ground.”

Joseph A. Tarr Jr., 1951 and 1952g, passed away on November 24, 2012. He worked at General Electric before entering the Army Air Corps in October 1942. He earned his flight wings in March 1944 as a B-17 pilot. Stationed in Nuthampstead, England, he flew 35 missions from October 1944 to February 1945; nearly all of his missions were over Germany as a member of the 398th Bomb Group. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross among several medals. Joseph went to Ganon College and Penn State where he earned a B.S. degree in Forestry in 1951 and then a master’s in Wildlife Management

in 1952. He became a forester for Hillerich & Bradsby buying white ash for baseball bats. He retired in 1987 but continued to survey land and manage timber sales for private owners.” (Adapted from his online obituary.)



James “Jim” C. Nelson, 1952, of East Berlin, Pa., who was honored as a School of Forest Resources Outstanding Alumnus in 2004, died March 10, 2012. He was a Forest Resource Planner responsible for developing timber management criteria, wildlife habitat guidelines, natural area, and wild area programs for the state forests. He was the author of the first comprehensive Forest Resource Plan for two million

acres of state forestland in 1970 during a career that spanned 42½ years with the Pa. Bureau of Forestry culminating in the position of State Forester, and was the Director of the Bureau from 1989 to 1994. Jim was a speaker at five SAF national conventions. He was elected to National Council SAF in 1985, and he was elected Fellow in 1992. (Adapted from obituary in *The Allegheny News*, spring 2012.)

Joseph W. Arnold, 1953 and 1958g, died May, 22, 2012. Son Robert J. Arnold (’87a and ’93) sent us this news: “Joseph was a veteran of WWII, having served as a Navy CB, He attended West Point, served through the Korean War in the Army, and was a retired major in Air Force. He attended Penn State and received a BS and MS in forestry from his beloved alma mater. He was true blue Penn Stater, and held season tickets for many, many years. He was the owner of Joseph W Arnold Associates, Foresters and Surveyors. He managed more than 60,000 acres and 500 private clients. He was always an advocate of proper forest management and was very active in that pursuit. He is survived by the love of his life, Nancy (55 ’H&HD), whom he met at Penn State. A daughter, Elizabeth Brown ’00, ’02 (MEd Edu). Two sons, who follow in his footsteps, Jeffrey (’78) and Robert (’87, ’90, ’93).”

Glenn A. Bergey, 1954, died September 19, 2011, in Winterport, Maine. Glenn served his country during the Korean War in the U.S. Navy before a lifelong career that canvassed the country, including Alaska, working for the U.S. Forest Service as a surveyor. (Adapted from obituary from Hempden Gilpatrick Funeral Services.)

Lawrence “Larry” P. Miller, 1954, of West Yellowstone, Mont., died August 7, 2011. He was a founding member and second president of the Potomac-Patuxent Chapter of Trout Unlimited (PPTU). He moved to West Yellowstone, Mont., about 1982, where he operated Sleepy Hollow Lodge until his passing. (Adapted from PPTU newsletter, Oct. 2011.)



Norwood F. “Woody” Robertshaw, 1956, of Lincoln, Calif., died July 22, 2011. After graduating from Penn State, Woody had a 34-year career with the U.S. Forest Service, working in various states across the country including Oregon, Pennsylvania, Missouri, Indiana, Wisconsin, Washington, D.C., and California. He retired in 1989 as Director of Lands and Real Estate Management for the Pacific Southwest Region in San

Francisco. After retirement, he worked for the Trust for Public Land, and then as a Land and Natural Resources Consultant. He served on the Board of the California Tahoe Conservancy and the Brentwood Agricultural Land Trust.

He was a conservationist and planted an estimated million trees throughout his career. He was responsible for brokering numerous land exchanges with private parties to help preserve pristine wilderness areas for the public domain.

During his career, he dressed up as Smokey Bear for appearances at grade schools to educate children about the importance of fire prevention; manned a Forest Service lookout tower; fought forest fires throughout the western United States and designed campgrounds.

His memberships included Tau Phi Delta fraternity, Penn State Alumni Association, Society of American Foresters, and the National Association of Forest Service Retirees. (Adapted from obituary in *The Sacramento Bee*, July 27, 2011.)

Peter E. Dress, 1958, died May 12, 2011. Pete earned a B.S. in Forest Science in 1958, and was a member of Tau Phi Delta Forestry Fraternity. After earning his Ph.D. from Purdue University, he returned to Penn State as a member of the faculty. In 1972, he moved to Athens to join the faculty of the University of Georgia, where he taught and served for 24 years, retiring in 1997. His research focused on developing decision models for natural resource management planning, particularly for the national forest system. He taught courses in statistical sampling, biometrics, resource management, and data structure and computer algorithms. He was named both Xi Sigma Pi Professor of the Year and the UGA Outstanding Researcher in the Agriculture Experiment Station. He was named a University of Georgia Senior Teaching Fellow in 1989–1990. He was instrumental in enhancing the Warnell instructional programs when he was appointed the first Associate Dean of Instruction in the Warnell School in 1992.

Anthony “Tony” R. Rotell, 1958, died March 29, 2012. Adapted from his obituary in the *Bainbridge Island Review*: “Tony was a navy corpsman during the Korean War era. He graduated from Penn State with a B.S. in Forestry. He headed out west to join the U.S. Forest Service in Oregon, moonlighting as a bar owner/ pizza chef alongside his mom and dad at the Crows Nest Tavern in Gold Beach, Oregon. In the late ’60s Tony moved to Bainbridge Island. He began working for the National Park Service in Seattle from which he retired in 1983 after 25 years of service.”

Jerome “Jerry” H. Magistrella, 1963, of Clarion, Pa., died October 2011. A veteran, he served in the U.S. Marine Corps Platoon 257 2nd Battalion MCRD Parris Island, S.C., from 1957 to 1960. During Jerry’s military service, he was assigned to U.S. Marine Corps Pistol and Rifle Team. His competition shooting earned him many awards, among them, the Distinguished Marksman Medal. Jerry was a retired forester with DCNR State of Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry. He was assigned to District 8 Bureau of Forestry as Assistant District Forester in 1975. When Jerry retired in 1992, he fulfilled a dream of his, taking landscape design classes and having a business of his own doing landscape and consulting until 2002. Jerry was also a member of the Society of American Foresters, PA Council of Professional Foresters, and Pennsylvania Forestry Association.

Gary C. Wakefield, 1963 and 1969g, died March 27, 2013. As reported in *The Forestry Source*, June 2013: “He was a U.S. Air Force veteran, having served during the Vietnam era. He taught at Slippery Rock University from 1975 to 1988 in the Parks Recreation Department, and then worked for Miller Chemical of Hanover, Pa., in sales for more than 19 years, having retired in 2013. He also had his own forest consulting business, Wakefield Forestry. In 2010 he authored a novel of historical fiction, *The Gestapo Hunters*.”

Gary Dubler, 1973. The Cameron County School District, Cameron County Conservation District, and Cameron County Outdoor Youth Activities have combined efforts to provide a safe and easy access to the Driftwood Branch of the Sinnemahoning Creek, directly behind the high school and elementary school, and in June 2012, the school board accepted a proposal to name this area as a memorial to Gary Dubler. Gary and his wife Julie dedicated their time, efforts, and money to the school district, and Gary passed away suddenly in 2010.

The short-term vision of this project includes steps up and down both sides of the dike, and a canoe access area along the Driftwood Stream. Signage will also be provided for five specific categories: Aquatics, Forestry, Wildlife, Wetlands, and Birds. A \$12,000 in grant money from DEP, Sinnemahoning Stake Holders Association, and Lumber Heritage has allowed the project to begin.

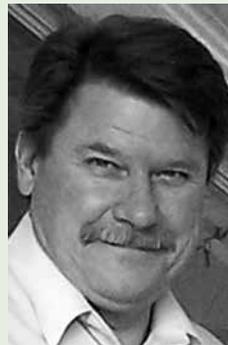
The long-term vision is to continue to build and improve a nature trail on the property the school district owns that extends approximately ½ mile. Checks are to be made payable to Cameron County School District and designated for the Gary Dubler Memorial project. For more information, please contact Don Bickford at Cameron Youth Activities, 814-598-0381 or payoutoutdooredu@windstream.net.

Gary D. Morris, 1975, of Butler, Pa., passed away suddenly on Nov. 6, 2011. He worked for Range Resources as a lease operator and also owned his own consulting forestry business. He was a member of Tau Phi Delta fraternity and an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed hiking, canoeing, kayaking, hunting, and camping.

Joseph A. Kovach, 1981, died October 29, 2011. From *The Forestry Source*, Feb. 2012: “Kovach was a graduate of both Penn State (undergraduate) and Michigan Tech, where he completed a master’s degree. He was fond of Ecuador, a place to which he first travelled as a Peace Corps volunteer from 1981 to 1983. He enjoyed it so much he later returned to work there as a forester for Baltek Corporation for eight years. Later he settled in Wausau, where he worked in the Forestry Division of the DCNR for 18 years as a forest ecologist and silviculturist.”



Jon DeBerti, 1993a and 1996, of Treasure Lake, DuBois, Pa., lost a ten-year battle with cancer on April 25, 2012. He was a wildlife biologist with the Pennsylvania Game Commission for more than 20 years. He started as a part-time biologist aide in May 1984, became a full-time biologist aide in 2000, and then became the agency elk biologist in November 2002. He was also a member of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.



J. Timothy “Tim” Kimmel, 1995g, of Inman, Kansas, died on May 14, 2012. From *HutchNews.com*: “Tim was most recently a professor of biology and anatomy at Hutchinson Community College in Kansas and taught at several other colleges and universities during his lifetime. Among these was Villa Maria College in Erie, Pa. and Barton County Community College in Great Bend, Kan.

“He was an avid naturalist, photographer and outdoorsman, had a great love of birds of prey, and was licensed in the sport of falconry. His love and study of birds of prey led him to become a well-known advocate of raptors and their conservation. He served as past presidents of the Presque Isle Audubon Society in Erie, Pa., the Pennsylvania Falconry and Hawk Trust (where he was named a Life Honorary Member in 2003), the Kansas Hawking Club and the North American Falconers’ Association. Tim was world renowned for his efforts to promote falconry having served as a member of the Advisory Committee and the chair of the Scientific Committee for the International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey.

“He was a member of Phi Kappa Phi, an honorary science society, and the recipient of the 1991 Roger M. Latham Award.

“Donations should be clearly identified as being In Memory of J. Timothy Kimmel, made payable to The Archives of Falconry - Wall of Remembrance, where his name will surely be added, and mailed to 5668 West Flying Hawk Lane, Boise, Idaho, 83709.” ■

Forest Resources

Outstanding Alumni and Outstanding Recent Alumni Award Nomination Form

Please check one:

- Outstanding Alumni Nomination Outstanding Recent Alumni Nomination (alumni who have graduated in previous ten years)

Date of nomination: _____ Is the nominee aware of this nomination? yes no

Information about the person making the nomination:

Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Information about the person being nominated:

Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Graduation year and major: _____

Please attach a thorough description of the nominee relative to following selection criteria:

1. Professional achievement, excellence, impact, and recognition (and significant career advancement for Outstanding Recent Alumni nominees)
2. Service to the profession, the School of Forest Resources, and the community
3. High personal and professional standards

The nomination may also include a list of people who may act as references.

Nominations are due September 30 and may be mailed to:

Forest Resources Alumni Group Awards Committee; Forest Resources Building; The Pennsylvania State University; University Park, PA 16802

Nominations also may be submitted online at ecosystems.psu.edu/alumni/awards.

Forest Resources Alumni Group Newsletter

Fall 2013 Response Form

No dues are charged for membership in the Forest Resources 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 4,000 alumni at a cost of up to \$6,000 per issue for printing and mailing. Contributions for the Forest Resources 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 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 is tax deductible.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Class year: _____ Major: _____

Mailing address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

I have sent a contribution for the Forest Resources Alumni Group in the amount of \$_____ to the 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 Forest Resources Alumni Group.

I would like to nominate the following individuals as candidates for the Forest Resources Alumni Group Board of Directors (self-nominations are welcome):

Outstanding Alumni nomination forms are available online at ecosystems.psu.edu/alumni/awards or from Ellen Manno (814-863-5831, exr2@psu.edu). Nomination deadline is September 30.

I would like the enclosed news to be included in an upcoming newsletter. To submit news online, go to ecosystems.psu.edu/alumni/newsletters/contribute.

Mail this form to:

Ellen Manno, 114 Forest Resources Building, University Park, PA 16802

PENNSSTATE



College of
Agricultural
Sciences

Ecosystem Science and Management
The Pennsylvania University
117 Forest Resources Building
University Park, PA 16802

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
STATE COLLEGE
PA
PERMIT NO. 1

Calendar

October 22 Ag Career Day, Bryce Jordan Center, University Park, PA. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Contact: Richard Rateau, 814-865-7522, rjr20@psu.edu

October 24 Forest Resources Alumni and Friends Reception, SAF National Convention, North Charleston, SC.
Contact: Ellen Manno, 814-863-0362, exr2@psu.edu

November 23 Ag Alumni Society Tailgate, Ag Live' 13, Snider Agricultural Arena, University Park, PA.
Contact: Naomi Knaub, 814-867-1819; nmk107@psu.edu

February 7, 2014 ESM Career Fair, Forest Resources Bldg., University Park, PA.
Contact: Ellen Manno, 814-863-0362; exr2@psu.edu

April 11, 2014 Forest Resources Alumni Group 75th Anniversary Celebration and Annual Banquet, Blue-White Weekend.
Contact: Ellen Manno, 814-863-0362; exr2@psu.edu