

School of Forest Resources

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Master Well Owners—A New Volunteer Program

Rural homes and farms in Pennsylvania rely on private wells, springs, and cisterns for their drinking water. Currently, there are more than one million private water systems in the state and approximately 20,000 new wells are



Participants discuss proper well construction at the Capital Region's Master Well Owner Training.

drilled each year. These systems are not required to undergo any water testing and they do not have to meet any drinking water standards set by the state. Surveys have indicated that many private water systems fail to meet drinking water standards.

Families using private water systems should be aware of changing water quality issues and the best methods to protect their water supply. For this reason, William E. Sharpe, professor of forest hydrology, and Bryan R. Swistock, extension associate, received funding through the USDA Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service to initiate a Master Well Owners Network in Pennsylvania. Creating the network is a two-year collaborative effort among Penn State Institutes of the Environment (PSIE), Penn State School of Forest Resources, Penn State Cooperative Extension, Pennsylvania Groundwater Association, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Coordinated by Stephanie Clemens at PSIE, the program will train 240 volunteers throughout the state in proper construction and management of private water systems. Network volunteers will be required to attend a one-day workshop at which they are given instruction in topics such as well location, construction, and maintenance; land-use impacts/wellhead protection; springs and cisterns; drinking water

standards and water testing; water treatment; and water conservation. In return, Master Well Owners are asked to share their knowledge with homeowners and farmers using private water systems in their local communities. The ultimate goal is to disseminate the information necessary for people to protect the quality and quantity of their home drinking water, and to ensure that people are more aware of their own land-use activities so that they do not contribute to contamination of water supplies.

Eight training workshops will be held throughout the state in the eight Penn State Cooperative Extension regions. Two training workshops have already taken place and six more are scheduled between August 2004 and April 2005.

For additional information, or to become a Master Well Owner, please contact Stephanie Clemens at (814) 865-2205 (mwon@psu.edu) or visit the program Web site at <http://mwon.cas.psu.edu>. 🐾

PENNTAP and SFR Reach Out Together

The Pennsylvania Technical Assistance Program (PENNTAP) is an outreach service of Penn State and one of the first university-based technical assistance programs in the country. It began in 1965.

PENNTAP currently fields 23 specialists strategically placed around the Commonwealth to address many areas including environment, food industry, forest products, information technology and e-business, NASA technology transfer, occupational health and safety, plastics, powder metals, product development services, and statistical data analysis. PENNTAP maintains close working

relationships with Penn State faculty—and many other service providers such as the Ben Franklin Technology Center Partnership, industrial resource centers, and small business development centers—to effectively address clients' needs and enable them to be more competitive in the global market place.

John Pletcher, a 1985 wood products graduate, is PENNTAP's forest products technical specialist. He is housed in the School of Forest Resources (SFR) in the Forest Resources



John Pletcher

continued on next page

A special Donor Honor Roll edition

Laboratory at University Park where his main focus is assisting the secondary wood products industry. He interacts directly with faculty and staff, facilitating a two-way relationship that is mutually beneficial to each program as well as to the forest products industry. For example, Pletcher has assisted with annual wood products short courses such as kiln drying, anatomical properties of wood, wood identification, and lumber drying. This unique, cooperative arrangement has also facilitated linking research efforts within the School to the industry's current needs.

During the past six years in PENNTAP, Pletcher has completed more than 300 cases of technical assistance to approximately 200 wood products companies that report economic benefits in excess of \$5.38 million. The size of companies Pletcher assists ranges from the smaller mom-and-pop shops with few employees to companies with several hundred employees.

Typical requests for assistance are manufacturing efficiency studies, solutions for adhesive and finishing problems, product development, and waste reduction. Pletcher recently helped a cabinet company in southwestern Pennsylvania perform a

feasibility study by utilizing ROMI-RIP, a rough mill simulation program from the USDA Forest Service, to upgrade a gang rip system in their rough mill. He then performed a material balance analysis for the mill. The resulting work saved the company more than \$300,000 annually. Another example involved a case in which Wood Products faculty member Lee Stover accompanied Pletcher to a sawmill in Fayette County. This particular mill, like so many small mills, was struggling just to survive. A quick lumber recovery analysis was performed, and a mechanical evaluation of the mill revealed severe mechanical inefficiencies. The owner shut down the mill the following day, made all recommended mechanical changes, and realized a \$75,000 improvement the following year.

Pletcher is now pursuing a graduate degree in Wood Products and is involved with research evaluating lumber recovery from small diameter hardwoods—from the harvested timber through the drying process.

"I really enjoy helping our wood products industry improve its efficiency and competitiveness in the global market, and completing a graduate degree will allow me to serve the industry even better," says Pletcher. 🐾

RESOURCES is published for faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends of the School of Forest Resources.

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

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

As we move forward . . .

Hello Friends,

As noted herein, two of our senior faculty members have opted for retirement, or as they prefer to be recognized, being "professionally redirected." Drs. Todd W. Bowersox, professor of silviculture, and Larry H. McCormick, professor of forest resources, have each earned the rank of professor emeritus. As many of our alumni realize, over the past 35 years, these two men have carried central teaching responsibilities within our Forest Science major in such courses as Field Dendrology, Forest Soils, Forestry Research, Forest Fire Management, Silviculture, Advanced Silviculture, and Timber Harvesting. They have enjoyed their roles as teachers, and, in turn, our students have recognized them with Outstanding Faculty awards. In many ways these two men have been like bookends in our Forest Science program.

Both of these scientists are well respected in their particular fields and have provided a steady stream of advanced degree graduates to the professional world. During their careers, each has been willing to accept added responsibilities within the School and University. Todd has helped our cause as chair of the Forest Science faculty, coordinator of the Forestlands Office, and in leading numerous planning committees. Larry has also been quick to accept new responsibilities in the form of associate director for academic programs, University Senator, and as faculty adviser to several student organizations. Both men have been cornerstones to the forestry profession in their provision of scientific papers and outreach programs. On a personal note, it has been a pleasure to enjoy their company as fellow faculty members and friends.

When it comes to teaching, Todd and Larry embrace certain unique qualities associated with organization, sincerity, enthusiasm, and spirit. Don't forget those Latin names, attend to chemistry, organize those forest prescriptions, safety first – these are but a few of their key principles. Each in his own way portrays the outdoorsman, the steward of the land, and the scholar. And, in terms of avocations, are their keen attention to woodworking, handcrafted muzzleloaders, squirrel dogs, fly rods, and suspenders. Mercy, these two guys will be missed in terms of the day-to-day happenings around Ferguson Building.

These joint departures also serve to underscore the central importance of our faculty and the critical roles that these people play within our School. One of the keys to our academic programs, extension education efforts, and research systems is the integral assembly of specific disciplines and people. As a School, we are measured in terms of our professional versatility and the balance brought forward by each and every faculty member. The reputation of a School is dependent on the balance and depth of disciplines and specialties. In many respects, this balance is demanded of us as we seek accreditation or certification from our professional associations. This required balance is then reflected in our research and outreach programs.

We will maintain this balance. During this next academic year, Eric Burkhart and Peter Gould will be instructors in Dendrology and Silviculture, respectively. Eric is completing his doctorate under the guidance of Dr. Mike Jacobson and Peter will soon graduate with his doctorate under the direction of Dr. Kim Steiner. We are, indeed, fortunate to have these experienced teachers available for these central courses. In addition, Dr. Bill Sharpe, professor of forest hydrology, will be teaching our Forest Soils course next spring. Thank you, Bill! We intend to move forward in our search for new faculty members relative to the voids created by retirements. Others will be found. But, right now, these are big shoes to fill.

Cheers,
Chuck Strauss



About "The Building"

We have now progressed through the formal bidding process, identified the degree to which we are over-budget, evaluated ways and means for decreasing the cost of the overall project (termed "value engineering"), and tried our best to get the actual construction started. The complete building is organized into 15 bid packages. Right now (7/02), the Office of Physical Plant, our University's central design and building authority, is about to initiate final contracts with the majority of the winning, low-bid companies involved in our project. There is further promise that most of the major "deducts" considered within our "value engineering" proposals will not have to be exercised. This would ensure that the basic teaching and research integrity of the planned structure will be maintained.

Accordingly, actual construction on the initial components of work (excavation, foundations, infrastructure services) should commence by mid to late August (yes, in 2004). Given this start

date, the schedule for our building predicts that the total project will be completed by November-December of 2005. Our School anticipates having access to the new Forest Resources Building by spring semester 2006.

We have also realized additional gains in development over the past six months. Several new donors have stepped forward with contributions and naming preferences to the building. Other potential sponsors have requested proposals from our School and College. We will be meeting with these foundations and companies over the next few months.

Bottom line: our new building will start to take shape over the next few months and will become a functional reality in the very near future. For those of you who identify with forestry, wildlife and fisheries science, or wood products, please join us at this very important point in time. 🐾

Donor Honor Roll

This *Donor Honor Roll* lists alumni, friends, corporations, foundations, and associations that made donations to the School of Forest Resources at the University Park campus between June 1, 2002 and May 31, 2004. Only gifts received are included on this list, not pledges. **THANK YOU TO ALL!**

Every effort has been made to assure its completeness and accuracy. Class years noted are those associated with the School of Forest Resources or interdepartmental programs; degrees received from other Penn State programs or other institutions are not noted. Questions concerning the *Donor Honor Roll* should be addressed to: Ellen Manno, School of Forest Resources, 201B Ferguson Building, University Park, PA 16802; (814) 863-5831; exr2@psu.edu.

We are also pleased to give a few more details on three "naming gifts" announced in the last *Donor Honor Roll* in our Summer 2002 newsletter. The Bommer and Strauss gifts will be joined to name the W.W. Ward Silviculture Laboratory, and the Gerhold gift will dedicate a faculty office in recognition of William Bramble and W. R. Byrnes.

Many other naming gifts have also been made or pledged. In return for their generous commitments, the donors will name spaces in the new forestry building. These will include the Edwards Student Activities Center, the Kocjancic Forest Soils and Water Teaching Laboratory, the Steimer Auditorium, the Schatz Tree Genetics Center, the Weaber Wood Physics Laboratory, the Hoverter Wood Operations Laboratory, the York Group Wood Products Evaluation Laboratory, the Pennsylvania Forest Products Association Atrium, the Albert George Office in Wood Products, the Lowell and Lois Underhill Office in Forest Science, the Association of Consulting Foresters Ibberson Chair in Forest Management Office, the Bartlett Tree Experts Ibberson Chair in Urban Forestry Office, the Matson Lumber Company Office in Wood Products, the Pennsylvania Forestry Association Director Office, the Society of American Foresters Goddard Chair Office, and the Wolfinger Director's Conference Room.

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Edward L. and Candace J. Thompson
David R. Titus
Alden M. '64 and Anne Bushfield Townsend
Paul E. Jr. '68 and Joy E. Troutman
Lowell J. Ulrich
Lowell T. '56 and Lois Bergquist Underhill
Brian J. '97 and Renee A. Vadino
William F. '56 and Ruth M. Vanidestine
Francis G. and Pauline Ann Vinitski
Laurie A. Virostek '01
David M. '40 and Gloria Pineda Waite
Andrew J. Walker
William R. and Nancy Ann Wallace
Douglas E. '81 and Christine Walter
Halfred W. II '67 and Melanie A. Wertz
Herbert W. White '00
Robert L. White '69
William F. '64 and Vicki West Wieger
William A. and Charlotte F. Williams
Karl W. J. '96g, '98g and Shelly R. Williard
J. Edward Wilson '73
Kenneth E. Jr. and Kathleen A. Winger
Thomas R. '84 and Janie Kaufmann Witmer
Frank W. '70 and M. Sue Wright
Alice Wurzbacher
Kim A. York
Martin and Debbie Walker Zukovich
Barbara Collins Zurovchak

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David R. Webb Co., Inc.
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Titusville High School
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Faculty and Staff Resources

San Julian Receives Excellence in Advising Award



Gary San Julian, professor of wildlife resources, has received the 2004 Excellence in Academic Advising Award from Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences Alumni Society. The award recognizes faculty for outstanding service to students in academic advising, career planning, and personal counseling.

In addition to receiving high praise from a host of students he currently advises, San Julian—who received an engraved brass plate and \$1,000 honorarium at Penn State's

commencement ceremonies—got support from a number of colleagues and past students.

"Gary San Julian has been advising students in various roles for more than 30 years," wrote Amanda Yeager, a senior majoring in wildlife and fisheries science, who nominated him for the award. "Today he is recognized among students in the School of Forest Resources as an energetic and approachable faculty member involved in student activities of all sorts. As a dynamic instructor in the classroom, a motivational and considerate adviser, and a supporter of many extracurricular activities, Dr. San Julian inspires students to pursue a college experience filled with rewarding academic and professional accomplishments."

Each year San Julian "officially" advises an average of 25 students, helping as many as 50 some years. In reality, the number of students he provides with advice and counseling is much greater. He is regularly approached by many students in the School who request his assistance in scheduling and seek personal counseling and guidance finding internships and job opportunities.

Senior Nina Cohen is one such unofficial advisee. She "can hardly imagine a more deserving candidate" for the advising award. "He's not my official adviser, but given how much academic and professional assistance he has extended to me over the past year, he might as well be," she wrote in a letter supporting San Julian's nomination. "I have been amazed at how seriously he takes his responsibility to help students succeed."

Since 2000, San Julian also has served as faculty honors adviser to wildlife science students enrolled in the Schreyer Honors College. He serves on thesis committees for graduate and undergraduate research and he also recently completed a term as faculty adviser to the Penn State Agricultural Student Council. Last year, he was honored for his longtime service to students with the 2003 School of Forest Resources Outstanding Faculty Award.

Perhaps graduate student Friedaricka Steed—who noted that San Julian refuses to let students give up on themselves and constantly seeks to build up both their skills and their self-esteem—summed up his impact on students in the School of Forest Resources best: "Dr. San Julian has placed countless blocks in the foundations built beneath students," she wrote. "He has truly earned this award."

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San Julian, who joined Penn State in 1995, notes that watching students succeed in life is reward enough, but he concedes that it is gratifying to be recognized by students." I was honored and humbled by the recognition," he says. "Helping students be successful in their chosen professions is the goal of the faculty in the college." 🐾

Bowersox Receives Outstanding Faculty Award 2004



Todd W. Bowersox, professor of silviculture, is the recipient of the 2004 School of Forest Resources Outstanding Faculty Award. This award recognizes a faculty member who has made extraordinary contributions to the School of Forest Resources community through teaching, advising, and research. Faculty are nominated by students and a final selection is made by a panel of representatives from the School's student organizations.

Bowersox completed a B.S. in Forest Science in 1968, an M.S. in Forestry with an emphasis on silviculture in 1968, and a Ph.D. in Forest Resources in 1975, all at Penn State. He has been employed by the School of Forest Resources since 1968, first as a research assistant and then promoted through the ranks to professor of silviculture.

Bowersox has split his time fairly evenly between teaching and research. Over the years he has taught forest fire management, forest protection, timber harvesting, silviculture, and advanced silviculture. His major research interests have been regenerating eastern hardwood systems, and short rotation intensive culture of hardwoods. His honors include membership in Xi Sigma Pi and Gamma Sigma Delta, serving as president of the Penn State Chapter in 1987-88. He was a member of the Society of American Foresters and the Forest Products Society.

Though Bowersox has been heard to say, "If you can't hunt it, hook it, or cut it, I don't want to talk about it," he nevertheless has been a positive influence in the lives of many students.

Two Spring 2004 Forest Science graduates who were involved in selecting the recipient of this year's Outstanding Faculty Award have high praise for Bowersox. "I have always been impressed that after many years in teaching, he continues to keep the best interest of students as his top priority," explains Chris Dahl.

Jamie Murphy elaborates, "Throughout my four years at Penn State, no individual has influenced my career as much as Dr. Bowersox. Acting as an adviser, employer, and teacher, he has guided me both academically and professionally. He has always shown his students a genuine love for both teaching and practicing forestry." 🐾

Bowersox and McCormick Retire

At the School of Forest Resources Alumni and Friends Banquet on April 23, 2004, Director Chuck Strauss recognized Dr. Todd W. Bowersox and Dr. Larry H. McCormick for their many years of service. Both retired in June 2004. Here are Dr. Strauss' remarks:

Todd W. Bowersox - After spending three years in the U.S. Navy operating from two aircraft carriers, Todd became a forestry student at Penn State. His incoming class of 1962 was the last of the forestry freshman classes at Mont Alto. He became interested in silviculture under the tutorage of Wilber Ward.

Dr. Bowersox was a pioneer in developing cornlike stands of fast-growing trees on good agricultural sites under four-year rotations, with the feedstock directed to paper, particleboard, energy, and chemical industries. His expertise earned him a national and international reputation in the management of biomass plantations.

He has also conducted research on native forests, evaluating long-term forest plots established by the Bureau of Forestry in the early 1900s, the impact of flooding on native forests, and the growth and yield of indigenous tree species. However, his central attention has been upon the regeneration of hardwood forests.

Todd is an active forest manager. He has managed private forestlands, those of the National Park Service, and the University's forests. His research for the Park Service provided guidance in managing forests and white-tailed deer on the Gettysburg National Military Park to ensure restoration of these resources to their original 1863 structure. Todd serves the University in the management of forested wastewater irrigation areas, our Stone Valley Forest, and the Spring Creek Forest. Since 1995, he has coordinated our School's Forestland Management Office, ensuring that our properties demonstrate exemplary practices, provide outdoor classrooms, and develop technology to better manage our forest resources.

When Todd was first hired, he was identified as a researcher. However, he was then asked to teach fire management, and continued doing so for over 15 years. In the mid-1980s a former director proclaimed Todd an expert in timber harvesting, and he successfully taught that course for 20 years. But it was in the early 1970s that Todd was given the opportunity to teach silviculture and he has had a tremendous command on that discipline for 30 years.

Todd has been quick to adapt to the latest in teaching technologies, using Power Point and Web-based delivery systems. But his preferred classroom is in the forest, sharing his knowledge and tremendous insight with small groups of students.

Larry H. McCormick - Failing to heed his father's advice to become an electrical engineer, Larry instead decided to pursue a latent interest in plants, especially trees. In 1963, he entered the four-year forestry program at Penn State. He spent his



Dr. Todd Bowersox (left) and Dr. Larry McCormick (right) pose with Director Charles Strauss and their retirement recognition awards.

initial year at Mont Alto and then transferred to University Park where he received a B.S. in Forest Science in 1967 and a M.S. in Forest Soils in 1969. At this point Larry was prepared to leave and enter the working world to support his wife and two small children, when Dr. Ward convinced him to stay and work on his Ph.D. while serving as an instructor—the rest is history.

For the past 35 years, Dr. McCormick has been an instructor and researcher in the School. He has taught a wide range of forestry subjects, but his mainstays have been field dendrology and forest soils. More than 2000 students have learned tree identification under Dr. McCormick's tutelage—a fact that he takes great pride in. Larry has a reputation for holding class under all types of weather conditions—something he says that builds character in students. Dr. McCormick has received several outstanding teaching awards during his career, including the School's first Outstanding Faculty Award in 1996.

Some of Larry's earliest research was on the revegetation of surface-mined lands. This research led to the publication of a classic paper on the differential tolerance of trees to aluminum toxicity. Over the years he has continued to do research on mine land reclamation with recent studies looking at means of establishing woody plants on mine lands amended with municipal biosolids. He has also conducted research on a wide range of topics including the effects of pear thrips on sugar maple, effects of herbaceous competition on establishment of oak regeneration, and the control of invasive plants, in particular mile-a-minute and Japanese fleece flower. As part of his research, Larry has mentored numerous graduate students who today serve the forestry profession.

During his tenure, Dr. McCormick has served in the University Faculty Senate, as adviser to the Forestry Society, as program chair of the Forest Science faculty, and more recently as associate director for academic programs. 🌱

Blankenhorn Appointed Associate Director for Academic Programs

Dr. Paul R. Blankenhorn, professor of wood technology, has been appointed associate director for academic programs in the School of Forest Resources beginning July 1, 2004. His main responsibility will be directing all matters relating to undergraduate degree programs in Forest Science, Wildlife and Fisheries Science, and Wood Products. Recently, he chaired our accreditation reviews of the Forest Science and Wood Product majors, successfully completed in 2003.

In September 1972, Blankenhorn received the first Ph.D. awarded by the graduate program in the School of Forest Resources. His specialization was in wood science and material science. That year he received the Wood Award for Outstanding Research in the field of Forest Products for his doctoral research. He was appointed assistant professor of wood technology in the Wood Products program in 1975. In 1983 he was promoted to the rank of professor.



He is responsible for teaching courses on the anatomical properties of wood, physical properties of wood, moisture movement in wood, drying of wood, and wood products environmental pollution control. Blankenhorn's expertise in these areas helped him develop the Kiln Operator's Short Course. He also participates in the Advanced Kiln Operator's Short Course and Wood Preservation Pesticide Training Course.

Blankenhorn's research efforts have resulted in three patents and the publication of 116 refereed publications in the areas of kiln drying of wood, wood polymer composites, wood processing, preservative treatment of wood, physical and mechanical properties of wood, polymer impregnation of wood, and wood cement composites. His current research interests are in the processing of small-diameter hardwood logs into lumber and the volatile organics compounds released during drying of hardwood lumber.

Blankenhorn is a past president of the Society of Wood Science and Technology. He has also been active in the Forest Products Society (FPS). He has been the Fundamental Discipline Technical Division Coordinator, chair of technical committees, member of the FPS Annual Meeting Committee, and a member of the Board of Trustees for the FPS Northeast Section. 🌱

The **5th Goddard Forum**, "Putting the Market to Work for Conservation: An In-Depth Examination of Traditional and Non-Traditional Market-Based Mechanisms for Achieving Environmental Improvement," will be held **Tuesday, April 5, 2005**, at the Hilton Harrisburg and Towers, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Contact Professor R. McKinstry at 814-865-9390 or rmb10@psu.edu.

Amanda Yeager Selected as Outstanding Senior 2004



Amanda Yeager was recognized as the School of Forest Resources Outstanding Senior 2004 at a School picnic on April 22. A committee of School of Forest Resources faculty and Xi Sigma Pi members selects the recipient of the Outstanding Senior Award each spring from nominations submitted by faculty, staff, and students. Nominees must be seniors expected to graduate in May, August, or December. Xi Sigma Pi is the School's honor society—a chapter of a

national honor society of natural resources disciplines.

Yeager is a senior in Wildlife and Fisheries Science and will also complete minors in Agricultural Communications and Agricultural Youth & Family Education. She is a member of the Schreyer Honors College. Her adviser Dr. Gary San Julian describes her as “a very energetic and enthusiastic student with a zeal for learning.”

Yeager is pursuing a career in communications and outreach. She has taken the opportunity to develop her skills in the classroom and outside her classes, including several internship experiences. She is certified in Project Learning Tree, Project Aquatic WILD, Project WILD, and Project Pennsylvania Reptiles-Amphibians. For two years, she served as judge and scorer for the Pennsylvania 4-H State Wildlife Contest and Field Day. She has her Red Cross certification in First Aid, Adult CPR, and Infant and Child CPR.

Yeager is an excellent writer with numerous published articles to her credit. She has served as editor for the College of Agricultural Sciences' *Ag Activator*, the newsletter of the Ag Student Council; has written for *The Arboretum at Penn State* newsletter; and has served as an Agricultural Communications intern for the college's Information and Communication Technologies unit where she researched and composed material for *Penn State Agriculture*, the college's monthly magazine.

Yeager has served in many student leadership roles including those affiliated with the student chapter of The Wildlife Society, the student chapter of the Society of American Foresters, Xi Sigma Pi, the Coaly Agricultural Society, and Penn State Ag Student Council. Her involvement in extracurricular programs is a continuation of a very active high school career.

Yeager's many honors include the 2003 Wildlife Leadership Award from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (see related article in the Summer 2003 issue of RESOURCES), the Charles Lathrop Pack Forestry Award (essay contest) from the School of Forest Resources, the College of Agricultural Sciences Internship Award, and the university's Laurel Haven Conservation Endowment Scholarship. She will enter the master's program in Forest Resources at Penn State in January 2005. 🐾

David Lieb Receives 2004 Latham Award

David A. Lieb, a native of Hanover, Pennsylvania, has received the 2004 Roger M. Latham Memorial Graduate Award, given annually to an outstanding, full-time graduate student advised by Wildlife and Fisheries Science faculty members in the School of Forest Resources. Lieb is a Ph.D. candidate in Ecology working with Dr. Robert Carline, adjunct professor of fisheries science and unit leader of the Pennsylvania Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at Penn State.

The Latham Award memorializes Roger Latham, a lifelong conservationist and the outdoor editor of the *Pittsburgh Press*, and was created by Mr. Latham's friends in 1981. The School's Wildlife and Fisheries Science faculty choose the recipient annually.

Lieb completed a master's degree in Ecology in 1998 under Dr. Carline's supervision, and he earned a B.S. in Biology at Penn State 1991.

His master's thesis focused on the effects of urban runoff on water quality, temperature, and the macroinvertebrate community (for example, mayflies, stoneflies, caddisflies) of a small trout stream (Thompson Run) in Centre County, Pennsylvania.

Lieb's doctoral research focuses on the ecological role and conservation status of Pennsylvania's crayfishes. Initial experiments conducted on Spruce Creek, a famous trout stream in Huntingdon County, showed that crayfish consume large numbers of small invertebrates (for example, midges) and are themselves an important food item for a recreationally valuable fish species (brown trout). These experiments clearly demonstrated that crayfish are functionally important in Spruce Creek facilitating the transfer of nutrients up through the food chain to fish.

“Those experiments, along with the knowledge that Pennsylvania's crayfish are currently threatened by exotic species, urbanization, and habitat destruction, really got us thinking. Because Pennsylvania's crayfish fauna has not been comprehensively surveyed since the early 1900s, we began to wonder if our aquatic communities were losing key members (native crayfish) without our knowledge,” says Lieb.

Lieb and his adviser have teamed with Ray Bouchard at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia to conduct a statewide survey of Pennsylvania's crayfish fauna. “Ultimately, we hope that this project will allow natural resource managers to focus conservation efforts on specific crayfish populations, regions, and problems (for example, exotic species, urbanization) facilitating the protection and restoration of Pennsylvania's native crayfishes,” says Lieb.

From 1992 to 1994 and again from 1997 until 2002, Lieb worked as a staff scientist at the Stroud Water Research Center in Avondale, Pennsylvania, where he participated in numerous research projects involving macroinvertebrates and fish.



“That body of work, which dealt mainly with anthropogenic effects on aquatic ecosystems, provided me with a deep appreciation for the remarkable complexity of natural systems,” says Lieb. “One observation from those studies was that benthic macroinvertebrate communities vary naturally from year to year. This variation is often considerable and results in the need for multiple years of data to correctly classify streams. Classifications based on a single year of data, as is currently the standard at many state and federal agencies, may be incorrect, resulting in inappropriate management decisions. For example, efforts may be wasted on good streams that were misclassified as poor.”

In addition to documenting his work in technical papers and professional journal articles, Lieb is active in disseminating scientific information to the public. Throughout the years he has volunteered as an instructor for middle school and high school students, giving presentations, leading nature hikes, and demonstrating fish and macroinvertebrate sampling techniques. He has done the same for high school teachers, volunteer monitoring groups, and the general public. He has also been an active supporter of Maryland’s riparian restoration program (sponsored by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources), convincing a large beef farmer to protect substantial areas of stream bank that were formally grazed by cattle and badly eroded.

In a letter of support for Lieb’s nomination, his adviser Dr. Carline wrote, “David is clearly committed to conservation and this is evident from his participation in many outreach activities. He has volunteered for more educational programs than any graduate student I have advised.” 🌱

Nina Cohen Receives 2004 Rapp Prize for Academic Excellence

Wildlife and Fisheries Science major Nina Cohen, originally from California, is the recipient of the Orpha Kelly Rapp and Jesse Rossiter Rapp '15 Prize for Academic Excellence in the amount of \$3,111. This award is made each spring to the senior in the School of Forest Resources 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.



Cohen is a student of nontraditional age, having returned to complete her bachelor’s degree after a twelve-year hiatus. Her “out of school” experiences include working as a copy editor at a city newspaper, laboring on an organic farm, managing a small dairy operation, running her own portable sawmill business, learning to timber frame and build a barn, and writing magazine articles as a freelance writer. Throughout most of this time, she lived in Virginia.

It was while cutting lumber for landowners that Cohen spent a lot of time in the woods, got exposed to many ideas about forest conservation and sustainable practices, and became a dedicated birdwatcher. She began to consider how she could incorporate her love for wildlife with her concern for the environment. An injury that forced her to stop doing heavy physical work a few years ago created the seemingly perfect time to return to school and put those thoughts into action.

Cohen has earned an A in every course since she enrolled at Penn State in fall 2002. She has been inducted into Xi Sigma, the forestry honor society, and served as treasurer of that organization this past academic year. Nina has already been accepted into our master’s degree program and will begin that in spring 2005. She plans to do a study on wildlife habitat enhancement.

The Rapp Prize for Academic Excellence was first awarded in 1992. Cohen is the sixth Wildlife and Fisheries Science senior to receive the award. Five Forest Science seniors and two Wood Products seniors have also been beneficiaries of the award. 🌱

Sarah Pabian Receives NASA Space Grant Fellowship

Sarah Pabian is one of thirteen graduate students at Penn State recently selected to receive a NASA Space Grant Fellowship. The fellowships are awarded to outstanding students in fields of study that, broadly interpreted, do, or can, promote the understanding, assessment, and utilization of space or space sciences. Pabian, a master’s student in Wildlife and Fisheries Science, and other selected fellows will each receive \$5,000 per year for the next two academic years.



Pabian’s research is related to NASA’s Earth Science Enterprise in that it examines the consequences of atmospheric changes caused by human pollution. Her research will include an evaluation of the effects of acid deposition on breeding forest birds (specifically the ovenbird, *Seiurus aurocapillus*) in central Pennsylvania where levels of acidification are high. In Europe, many studies have reported severe acid deposition impacts on birds including thin eggshells and small clutches. Current research in North America has identified links between declining bird abundance and areas with high rates of acid deposition, but no studies have documented specific effects on eggshell thickness or reproductive success.

Part of the mission of the National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program is to increase awareness of and participation in science, math, engineering, and technology for

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all citizens, with a particular interest in reaching underrepresented groups. Therefore, Pabian and other fellows will participate in mentoring or education outreach activities (for grades K through 16, or the general public) for a minimum of ten hours per semester. Past Space Grant Graduate Fellows have fulfilled their mentoring responsibilities by assisting with the Pennsylvania Farm Show, visiting classrooms, presenting lectures, assisting with educator workshops, facilitating a planetarium show, and tutoring students.

Pabian is originally from Wisconsin and received a B.S. in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2003. Her adviser at Penn State is Margaret Brittingham, professor of wildlife resources. 🌿

Spruce Creek Keystone Project

This past academic year, the Center for Watershed Stewardship (CWS) undertook the initial phase of a multi-year "Spruce Creek Keystone Project" practicum. The practicum enriches the learning experience of graduate students in the Watershed Stewardship Option and produces beneficial outcomes for the host watershed community.

Eight second-year CWS graduate students led the watershed assessment, stakeholder involvement, and planning stages of the practicum under the direction of CWS director Mr. Lysle Sherwin and associate director Dr. Charles Andrew Cole. In addition, seven first-year CWS students played an active role as graduate assistants in the project. The graduate student team is comprised of a variety of majors—Forest Resources, Environmental Pollution Control, Ecology, and Landscape Architecture. Past teams have included Wildlife and Fisheries Science graduate students as well.

The 2003-04 Spruce Creek Keystone Project was notable for the amount of field research and original data collection compared to the five previous Keystone Projects. The team conducted biological and chemical monitoring of Halfmoon Creek, a major tributary to Spruce Creek, with impaired water quality from sediment and nutrients in runoff. The team also electrofished stream segments to construct a fish species IBI (Index of Biological Indicators). Modeling of polluted runoff by the ARC-View GWLF (Generalized Watershed Loading Function) in concert with lab analysis of water samples produced an important finding that nitrogen concentrations exceeded levels for nonimpaired streams at all sampling stations, at all flows—groundwater baseflow, median flow, and storm events.

Spring 2004 Commencement

UNDERGRADUATES

Forest Science

Patrick Anderson, Wade Brown, Christopher Dahl, Lucas Dalenberg, Aaron Garver, Levi Gelnett, Jared Hermany, Toby Herzing, Steven Kepier, Michael Kunkel, Douglas Langford, Thomas Lugar, Douglas Mohny, Jamie Murphy, Richard Pipech, David Planinsek, Thomas Rich, Kevin Riegner, Darren Riggins, Zachary Roeder, Gregory Sanford, Mark Scott, Gary Smith, Zachary Wismer

Wildlife and Fisheries Science

Heather Adams, Jacob Ault, Jessica Barnett, Chad Beemiller, Christopher Bowser, Jessica DeMarco, Matthew Follmer, David Grove, Joel Grove, Russell Kotecki, Gabriel Mignot, Robert Puskas, Ryan Ranella, Benjamin Renner, Rachel Rodkey, Peter Swiatek, Thad Wolfe

Wood Products

Gregory Adams, Joshua Gabert, Timothy Gruver, Marshall Hamilton, Aaron Hauer, Raymond Maudie, Matthew O'Malley, James Walsh, Jon Whitbred

GRADUATES

Wildlife and Fisheries Science

Coren Jagnow, Ph.D.; Patrick Kocovsky, Ph.D.; Steven Means, M.S.; Kristine Playfoot, M.S.

Ecology

Barrett Gaylord, M.S.; Jacob Thompson, M.S.

The Spruce Creek Keystone Project involved three community input meetings, a daylong planning workshop, and a new "open house" format for a community presentation session in April. Student poster presentations describing watershed issues, goals, and stewardship strategies developed by the team were merged with informational displays and staff from Centre County Conservation District, Forest Stewardship Program, Chesapeake Bay Program, and Penn State Cooperative Extension including the Master Well Owners Network. The final report in document and digital form was distributed to a network of partners and is available on loan from the CWS. (Contact: Lysle Sherwin, CWS, 814-865-5736, or lss9@psu.edu).

The Spruce Creek Keystone Project has also been a catalyst for the formation of a steering committee of watershed residents who are exploring the establishment of a community-based organization to address issues and opportunities identified during the practicum. The next cohort of CWS graduate students will be involved with the preparation of a Halfmoon Watershed Restoration Plan.

Funding of the assessment and planning was provided through a Growing Greener grant to CWS from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. Student support and assistantships were funded by the Howard Heinz Endowment, Environmental Protection Agency, Penn State Institutes of the Environment and Pennsylvania Water Resources Research Center, Department of Landscape Architecture, School of Forest Resources, and College of Agricultural Sciences, Office of the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education. 🌱



Eight second-year CWS students led the Spruce Creek Keystone Project. They are, from left to right: Zaneta Hough (Ecology), Tim McSheffery (Landscape Architecture), Coreen Ripp (Forest Resources), Ryan Orndorff (Forest Resources), Hua Xie (Landscape Architecture), Cristina Torres (Environmental Pollution Control), Pat Ryan (Ecology), and Stacey Hoeltje (Ecology). The students are standing by the 1896-1996 State College Centennial statue that includes a pig named Centennia and her piglets Ed (for Education) and Hope (for the future).

School Notes

The School of Forest Resources and its research and extension programs were featured at Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences exhibits at the **2004 Farm Show** in Harrisburg, January 10-17. Informative, interactive and visual displays focusing on American chestnut restoration, wildlife and forest regeneration, wildlife homes, forest management, and tree DNA interested and entertained visitors.

More than 40 undergraduate students prepared posters for the annual College of Agricultural Sciences/Gamma Sigma Delta Student Research Exhibition held March 17-18 in the lobby of the Agricultural Science and Industries Building at University Park. **Amanda E. Subjin**, Forest Science senior, won fifth place for her research poster on the resistance of callery pear to the Asian longhorned beetle that she prepared under the direction of Dr. Kelli Hoover, assistant professor of entomology. Subjin's academic adviser is **Dr. Larry McCormick**.

The President Sparks Award is presented to undergraduate degree candidates who have earned a 4.00 cumulative grade point average based on at least 36 but not more than 59 graded

Penn State credits by the end of the fall semester of the academic year the award is given. College of Agricultural Science students who were honored with the President Sparks Award this past spring were **David Sittler** and **Mary Skinner**, both of whom graduated from the Wildlife Technology program at DuBois in May 2004.

Vincent Cotrone, urban forester in Penn State Cooperative Extension in Luzerne County, serving eighteen counties, was honored as Stewardship Awardee by the North Branch Land Trust at an April 29 dinner event in Wilkes-Barre. At that time he also received a citation from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and the Pennsylvania Senate, for his work.

The first Penn State Cooperative Extension Director's Awards were presented at the County Extension Director's Leadership Institute held in May. The awards program consists of Spirit Awards, the Leadership Award, and the Team Award. **Julianne Schieffer**, urban forester in Montgomery County, serving ten counties, is a member of this year's winning team, the Southwest

continued on next page

Pennsylvania Urban Agricultural Agents Committee. The Team Award recognizes cooperative extension administration and program teams that work together in an exemplary fashion for a specific length of time to address a special initiative or goal.

Dr. Kim Steiner, professor of forest biology and director of The Arboretum at Penn State, and **Dr. John Carlson**, director of the Schatz Center in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences, organized a three-day conference about American chestnut restoration. Held at the North Carolina Arboretum in Asheville, North Carolina, in May 2004, the conference covered the current status of chestnut blight research; and objectives, opportunities, and directions for restoring chestnut trees on National Park Service lands. Approximately 85 attendees heard from six presenters from Penn State and nineteen scientists from other universities, federal agencies, and private organizations. In addition to Dr. Steiner and Dr. Carlson, presentations were made by **Dr. Robert McKinstry, Jr.**, the Maurice K. Goddard Chair in Forestry and Environmental Resources Conservation; **Matthew Diskin**, a former honor student and recent Forest Science graduate; **Song Liu**, a graduate student in forest genetics; and **Timothy Phelps**, research technologist who works with Penn State's hybrid chestnut plantations. A summary of issues and recommendations for National Park Service administrators is being prepared.

Dr. Robert Hansen, extension forestry educator in Bradford County, **Mr. David Jackson**, extension forestry educator in Centre County, and **Dr. Sanford Smith**, extension specialist in the School of Forest Resources, organize a Pennsylvania 4-H Forestry Field Day each year. The 2004 Pennsylvania 4-H Forestry Day was held at the Laurel Haven Conservation Education Center in Julian, Pennsylvania, on May 8. The winners, who are 12 to 18 years old, will have the opportunity to represent Pennsylvania at the National 4-H Forestry Invitational to be held the last week in July in Weston, West Virginia.

More than 35 foresters attended the Mensuration Update Shortcourse on June 9-10. **Dr. Harry V. Wiant**, Penn State Joseph E. Ibberson Chair in Forest Resources, and Dr. John R. Brooks, associate professor of forest biometrics at West Virginia University, presented cruising techniques that can easily save 30 percent of field time. The use of BAF=20 rather than BAF=10 instruments was encouraged to provide better sawtimber estimates. **Jim McQuaide**, Penn State forester, provided instruction on the practical use of GIS and GPS to accomplish real inventory needs. Adam Rousselle, president of FalconInformatics, described space-age inventories based on automated analysis of digital imagery. Completed evaluation forms indicate many participants plan to promptly implement techniques they learned.

The **second annual Ibberson-Chauncey Forestry Forum** is planned to build on the success of last year in making connections among landowners, industry, and government. It continues to be supported by the Pennsylvania Forestry

Association and Penn State's School of Forest Resources. To be held November 4, 2004, at the Penn Stater, the forum will include a presentation on "Ecoterrorism in Forestry" by Dr. James Armstrong, West Virginia University Division of Forestry. Dr. Armstrong has taught a course on this topic and presents a comprehensive discussion of the problem from a national and local perspective. **Dr. Harry V. Wiant Jr.**, Penn State Ibberson Chair, and Penn State graduate student **Timothy Hicks** will discuss "Timber Theft and Trespass," another problem of increasing significance on private, federal, and state forests. Speakers will be followed by a panel including representatives from landowners, industry, and government. Time will be allocated for questions and discussion by attendees. Mark your calendars and plan to attend!



(Above) Teens from Glendale High School listen to Dr. Paola Ferreri (in waders on pond bank) discuss a career in fisheries sciences at Laurel Haven Conservation Education Center. (Below) Dr Henry Gerhold shares from his long experience and wisdom about careers in community forestry. The 35 teens and two teachers separated into four groups and rotated between natural resources career stations throughout the day at Laurel Haven. The program was one of many offered at Laurel Haven to school groups this spring.



Alumni Resources

FORMERLY PUBLISHED AS THE SCHOOL OF FOREST RESOURCES ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

No. 85



President's Message



Lowell Underhill '56

I recently heard a story about a young man who had to arise at 4:00 a.m. every day of the week to deliver a local newspaper. Being conscientious, he wanted his customers to have the news before they sat down to eat breakfast and go about their daily tasks. In the afternoon, coming home from school, he would pass the homes of customers and, in a number of cases, would see the morning newspaper still lying on the porch or front steps. You can imagine his chagrin after the effort and sacrifice

he had made to get it there in a timely fashion. It is my hope this will not be the case with this newsletter. What follows is some news and information that will, hopefully, be of interest to our alumni and friends.

Unlike many other academic units within the University, all School of Forest Resources (SFR) alumni are considered members of the SFR Alumni Group (SFRAG) whether they belong to the Penn State Alumni Association (PSAA) or not. Those who are members of PSAA, are automatically members of the College of Agricultural Sciences Alumni Society (CAAS) and are entitled to all rights and privileges of both entities. The SFR Alumni Group is considered an Affiliate Program Group (APG) of CAAS. CAAS receives a portion of its annual funding from PSAA; the amount remitted to CAAS is based on the number of College of Agricultural Sciences alumni, including SFR alumni, who are members of PSAA. Since membership in SFRAG is dues-free, our income stream is dependent upon voluntary contributions from alumni, support from the SFR Director's operating budget, and possibly an occasional grant from CAAS. We do directly receive a \$50, one-time distribution from PSAA for any SFR alumni who sign up for lifetime memberships and show our APG code of "GAG" on their membership applications. (See ad on page 21).

Within the SFR, we are very proud of this newsletter and, as a consequence, we have completed a nomination form to have the publication considered for an annual communication award offered by PSAA. In addition to the recognition, the award would provide \$500 for our coffers.

George Kemp '53, who was president of the SFR Alumni Group Board of Directors five years ago, has been named president-elect of the CAAS board of directors. He will assume the presidency in 2005 at the end of Les Firth's two-year term.

Our SFR Alumni Group board of directors currently has an active committee that will shortly make recommendations to the board aimed at getting students and younger alumni more involved in the affairs of the SFRAG. One approach is to "piggy back" on a student-mentoring program sponsored by CAAS. We need alumni who are willing and able to share their life experiences with students in their junior year. If you are interested in participating or have questions, please go to the Web site: <http://agalumni.cas.psu.edu/mentoring.html>. The online enrollment form is linked to this page and can be accessed by clicking on MENTOR. Enrollment forms must be completed by August 23, 2004. (See article on page 18).

With the estimated completion for our new building scheduled as spring 2006, we should be able to celebrate the School of Forest Resources centennial in 2007 there at the intersection of Park Avenue and Bigler Road. A committee has been formed to plan for this significant event and you are invited to join in the planning process by becoming a part of this group. If you are interested, please contact either: Rich Yahner by e-mail at rhy@psu.edu or phone 814-863-3201, or Lowell Underhill by e-mail at lowell.underhill@verizon.net or phone 302-764-8759.

As you can see, there are both financial- and service-oriented opportunities where you can help our School. The School and the SFRAG board of directors would welcome and appreciate your support in these worthwhile efforts. Can we count on you to not only read but also take action on the news that's been delivered by getting personally involved in the School's affairs?

Regards,
Lowell T. Underhill '56
1002 Weldin Circle
Weldin Woods
Wilmington, DE 19803-3204
(302) 764-8759

Election Results

Based on 114 ballots returned from our Winter 2004 newsletter, **David B. Lezzer** '00, **Aura L. Stauffer** '89 and '95g, and **Thomas H. Yorke** '64 and '67g, have each been elected to a three-year term on the School of Forest Resources Alumni Group Board of Directors, and **Benjamin G. Tresselt, Jr.** '63 has been elected to a second three-year term. For a complete listing of board members, please see the box on the next page.

Terms of four at-large board members will expire in Spring 2005; we will have another election in January 2005. If you are interested in being a candidate for the board or wish to nominate someone else, use the Response Form on page 27.

School of Forest Resources Outstanding Alumni

Four School of Forest Resources Outstanding Alumni were honored at our Alumni and Friends Banquet on April 23, 2004, at Toftrees Resort in State College: **James R. Grace '78g**, **James C. Nelson '52**, **Walter R. Rossman '50**, and **Alden M. Townsend '64**.

The purpose of the awards is to recognize outstanding School of Forest Resources alumni and to foster closer relationships between the award recipient and students, faculty, staff, and other alumni. The selection criteria for the award include professional achievement, excellence, impact, and recognition;

service to the profession, to the School of Forest Resources, and to the community; and demonstration of high personal and professional standards.

The School of Forest Alumni Group will make up to four Outstanding Alumni awards annually, and one Outstanding Recent Alumni award annually. A nomination form is printed on page 26 and is also available on the School of Forest Resources Web site (<http://www.sfr.cas.psu.edu>). Photocopies are acceptable. Nominations for either award are to be submitted **by September 30** to:

SFR Alumni Group Awards Committee
Ferguson Building
Penn State
University Park, PA 16802

We are pleased to introduce our 2004 Outstanding Alumni Award recipients:

James R. Grace earned a Ph.D. in Forest Resources at Penn State in 1978, under the guidance of Dr. Russell Hutnik, with a focus on forest ecology. Jim's previous academic training included a bachelor of science in forest management at the University of Vermont in 1970, and a master of forest science at Yale University in 1972.

While completing his doctoral degree requirements, he began working as an adjunct professor at Rutgers University, Cook College. Jim was an exemplary teacher; he received the "Professor of the Year" award at Cook College in 1978. In 1980 he became an assistant extension specialist in forestry at Cook College and soon was well known in the northeastern region for his innovative extension programs.

In 1983, Jim accepted an appointment as an assistant professor and extension forester with Penn State's School of Forest Resources. Here he developed the Forest Resources publication series, began the Forest Resources newsletter, led research on issues relating to private forest management, and served as chair of the "Year of the Forest" in 1986.

The "Year of the Forest" was a yearlong event that coincided with the 100th anniversary of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association and celebrated the Commonwealth's forests and all the values they provide. The Pennsylvania Forestry Association honored Jim with the Rothrock Award for Conservation that year for his leadership in that event.

In 1987, Jim accepted a position as deputy secretary in the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources where he administered the bureaus of forestry, state parks, and geological survey. He continued in that role until 1991 when he moved into his current position as state forester of the Bureau of Forestry.

Under Jim's leadership, the bureau has completed two state forest management plans that include area-controlled harvesting schedules, ecosystem management, continuous forest inventory, and the use of GIS technology. Jim was central to our state forests becoming the nation's first certified public forest in 1995. Other states have observed the advantages of certification and have followed Pennsylvania's lead. Jim helped initiate the Ecosystem Management Advisory Committee, providing the opportunity for various stakeholders to consider and debate

School of Forest Resources Alumni Group Board of Directors

Elected at-large members (terms expire Spring 2005):
Joseph E. Barnard ('60 FOR, '63g FOR)
J. Theodore Jensen ('50 FOR), *vice president*
Gregory M. Schrum ('67 FOR T, '69g FOR R)
Lowell T. Underhill ('56 FOR), *president*

Elected at-large members (terms expire Spring 2006):
David J. Babyak ('71 FORSC)
Nelson S. Loftus ('58 and '62g FOR)
E.L. "Dick" Shafer ('56 and '57g FOR)
Mark R. Webb ('73 FORSC)

Elected at-large members (terms expire Spring 2007):
David B. Lezzer ('00 FORSC)
Aura L. Stauffer ('89 W L S, '95g W F S)
Benjamin G. Tresselt, Jr. ('63 FOR)
Thomas H. Yorke ('64 FOR, '67g FOR)

Immediate Past President:
Stanley R. Rapp ('52 FOR)

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

President, College of Ag Sciences Alumni Society,
ex officio:
Leslie N. Firth

SFR Faculty Member:
Henry D. Gerhold ('52 FOR and '54g M FOR)

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

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



Pictured left to right with Director of the School of Forest Resources Charles Strauss in the center are 2004 Outstanding Alumni James Grace, Walter Rossman, James Nelson, and Alden Townsend.

ecosystem management on state forests.

Jim has been active in the National Association of State Foresters, serving as president and on numerous committees. He serves on the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® State Implementation Committee, and is also chair of the board of directors of the Pinchot Institute for Conservation.

Jim is a leader in the forestry profession and has brought further recognition to Pennsylvania's forests.

James C. Nelson earned a B.S. in Forestry at Penn State in 1952 and then embarked upon a 41-year-long career with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry, interrupted by one year of service (1954-1955) in the U.S. Army.

He began his employment with the bureau as a research forester and in 1960 was promoted to forest management specialist. There he worked under the guidance of M.K. Goddard and Joseph E. Ibberson in revising and expanding state forest management plans. He was instrumental in developing a new inventory system, computerizing the timber sales data, and furthering an even-aged management policy for state forest land. In 1965 he was promoted to forest resources planner and developed wildlife habitat guidelines and a comprehensive natural area and wildlife area program for state forests. He authored the "Forest Resource Plans for State Forest Land" in 1970.

Jim was promoted to assistant state forester in 1982 and to state forester in 1989. He was instrumental in establishing the Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory in the Bureau of Forestry and he promoted the Forest Stewardship Program aimed at developing a stewardship ethic.

Jim has been a member of the Society of American Foresters since 1952 and has served as vice chair and chair of the five-state Allegheny Society SAF, as SAF Visiting Scientist to Clemson University, and as a speaker at five SAF national conventions.

He was elected to National Council SAF in 1985, and he was elected Fellow in 1992.

Jim's other professional memberships include Xi Sigma Pi (forestry honor society) and Gamma Sigma Delta (agricultural honor society).

One of Jim's hobbies is collecting antique and historical logging equipment that he has very generously put on display at countless public events throughout the state; he has also prepared and presented a popular slide program on the history of Pennsylvania's forests.

Jim's civic activities include being a volunteer in the Pennsylvania Forest Stewardship Program, a certified official in the National Wheelchair

Athletic Association, past president of the East Berlin Historical Preservation Society, and past member of the board of directors of the Pinchot Institute of Conservation.

Walter R. "Dick" Rossman served in the U.S. Army Air Force during 1944-46. He earned a B.S. in Forestry in 1950 and began his 38-year career as a utility forester with the Potomac Edison Company in Maryland. In 1956 he took a position as forest manager for the Pennsylvania Electric Company in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, where he worked until his retirement in 1988. He managed about 10,000 acres of forest land, supervised Penelec's forestry staff, pioneered a replacement tree planting program, and administered a 25-year research project studying pollution effects on trees.

Dick promoted the "right tree-right place" concept for years before other utility companies adopted it in many parts of the United States. The concept led to the founding of the Municipal Tree Restoration Program with Penn State and the Bureau of Forestry, and later Pennsylvania's involvement in the America the Beautiful Program of the U.S. Forest Service. Dick helped establish the Line Clearance and Forestry Committee of the Pennsylvania Electric Association and served as its first chair. He developed the first erosion and sediment control manual for line construction, which was adopted for use by utilities in Pennsylvania.

Dick had an active role in the forestry profession, serving as chair of the SAF Western Gateway Chapter, president of the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation District Directors, president of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association, and co-founder and chair of Stony Creek/Conemaugh River Improvement Program. He contributed to the State Conservation Commission, Pennsylvania Hardwoods Council, and Penn State Agriculture Advisory Council. Since 1997 he has been president of Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine

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Reclamation, and vice-chair of Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers.

Dick's efforts have been acknowledged by way of the Samuel S. Cobb/Bureau of Forestry Award in 1988, Pennsylvania Forestry Association Rothrock Conservationist of the Year in 1994, certificates of recognition by Pennsylvania State Conservation Committee and by Southern Alleghenies RC&D Area in 1995, Cambria County Conservation District Director Service Award 1973-95, Pennsylvania Conservation Hall of Fame in 1996, and election as Fellow in the Society of American Foresters in 2004.

Dick has been active in the South Ebensburg United Church of Christ. His wife of 54 years describes him as quiet, yet committed, willing to lead, having a genuine love for our country, and desiring to build our forest and natural resources for future generations.

Alden "Denny" Townsend graduated in 1964 with a B.S. in forestry and started work with the USDA Forest Service in Oregon that included looking for trees resistant to white pine blister rust. He developed an interest in tree genetics that led him to Yale School of Forestry where he completed an M.F. in forest genetics and ecology in 1966, and then to Michigan State University where he completed a Ph.D. in forest genetics and plant breeding in 1969.

In 1970 he began his career as a research geneticist with the USDA Agricultural Research Service in Ohio and later worked at the USDA's National Arboretum facility in Maryland. His responsibilities have included the improvement of urban trees such as elm, red maple, spruce, and alder. His work in developing a disease-resistant elm captured national attention. He started by making scores of controlled pollinations between European and Asiatic elms, germinating the seed, growing hybrid saplings, and inoculating them with the disease-causing fungus for the further testing of tolerance or resistance. A long-term process of cloning and screening followed.

Denny has developed and released nine of the ten elm cultivars resistant to Dutch elm disease, and six red maple cultivars that are more adaptive to urban environments. He has also conducted extensive research on resistance of trees to insects, air pollutants, deicing salts, and drought. He has published more than 100 scientific and popular articles and provided leadership in various professional organizations including the International Society of Arboriculture, the Central States Forest Tree Improvement Council, the Metropolitan Tree Improvement Alliance, the Save the Elms Task Force, and Elm Watch. Several of his elm cultivars have been planted at Penn State's University Park campus.

Denny is a member of Xi Sigma Pi (forestry honor society) and Gamma Sigma Delta (agricultural honor society), and has received the 1982 Award for Arboricultural Research from the International Society of Arboriculture, a 1996 Certificate of Merit from the USDA Agricultural Research Service, a 1997 Jackson Dawson Memorial Medal from the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and a 1999 Honor Award from the Secretary of Agriculture.

You're Invited to Participate in the Alumni Mentoring Program

Was there someone in your life who helped guide your academic and career choices? Someone who supported your goals and helped you think through their implementation? How would you like to be that someone for a current School of Forest Resources student? The College of Agricultural Sciences Alumni Society is accepting applications for the 2004-05 Mentoring Program. This program is designed to pair current Penn State students (usually in their junior year) with alumni mentors. As an alumni mentor you could help a student learn about career paths, professional fields, and educational options. Mentoring may occur in person, via e-mail, or over the phone. It may involve a visit to campus or having the student visit you on the job. Retired mentors can also share their experience and participate in common interest activities with students.

I was able to share some opinions and make suggestions that I believe will have and had an influence on his future decisions.... I think the program has a tremendous ability to help and influence students' future decisions by pairing them up with alumni in the profession they hope to enter.

Dave Messics, SFR alumni mentor

The School of Forest Resources encourages our alumni to participate in this program. Your experience is an invaluable supplement to what our students can gain in the classroom. We also think that you'll be impressed when you meet our current students. For more information or to apply, contact Jillian Stevenson at (814) 863-7278 or visit the college's Alumni Association Web site at <http://agalumni.cas.psu.edu/Mentoring.html>.

My mentoring experience was great. Dave really felt more like a friend than an adviser, not to say he didn't give good advice. I definitely made some choices for the summer based on his advice and it worked out great.

Phil Schmidt, Class of 2005

Please note that this program is not designed to provide students with a job or internship. The program seeks to enhance a student's career awareness, so that he or she is better equipped to find internships and jobs that match his or her goals and interests in the future.

Sesquicentennial Web Site

In July 2004, Penn State, founded in 1855, began a yearlong observance of its 150th birthday. Visit <http://www.sesquicentennial.psu.edu> for information about sesquicentennial activities, including a calendar of events, and to learn more about the University's history and achievements. The site will be updated frequently, so check back often.

Recollections of Ferguson Building

In response to the query posted in the Winter 2004 issue of RESOURCES, several alumni sent us recollections of Ferguson Building that are reprinted here.

If these stories prompt any additional memories, they are still welcome for future publication in this newsletter. Send any tidbits of Ferguson Building history to Ellen Manno, 201 Ferguson Building, University Park, PA 16802, or exr2@psu.edu.

If space permits, additional photos of the construction of Ferguson Building will be included in our next newsletter as well.

H. Skip Knoble '64, '68g: "Ferguson Building was where **Bill Stiteler '64, '65g** and I learned the essentials of computer science. We were graduate assistants under Professor F. Yates Borden who spent several hours per week giving us the computer science courses that did not exist then since there was not yet a computer science department. We learned our skills from Yates and as a team were likely the first in the country to simulate a forest on a computer (IBM 7074 at that time)."

LeRoy Shaller '47: "Buildings come and go. Events and associated personnel complement their memory. Following WWII, classes were all jumbled up. Students may have started with the Class of '44, accelerated to '43, and finally graduated in '47 or '50. Mrs. Johnson, department secretary, was the common denominator during that period and immediately recognized students upon their reappearance even after years of interrupted attendance.

"Dr. Arthur Myers trips to college woodlots were memorable. On one exposition, a skunk and her young ones were seen as we crossed their path. The vehicle suddenly backed up, it seemed like half a block, to acquire a young kit. Dr. Myers assured us they were too young to squirt but indecision set in when their little tails came up in such a menacing manner and many attempts were made before a capture was made. The young animal was surgically disarmed (it was legal then) and soon appeared under easels and strange places to startle professors who

usually took it all in good humor. Between classes the skunk would exercise on the front steps and sorted country girls from city girls who sometimes wanted to pet 'the pretty kitty.'"

Paul "Sunshine" Shogren '51: "I enjoyed the atmosphere within the building because it was all forestry students and instructors in a closed, friendly, and helpful community. The Forestry Library was a friendly place, relaxed. Professor Chisman frequented the place a lot to converse with the library staff. One could always receive help from Mrs. Kathryn Johnson in Dean Beede's office. My best professor friend was H. Norton Cope; we had Scouting experiences to share. I passed Silviculture with his help. My nemesis was 'The Hump' Merwin W. Humphrey whose four-credit course in Forest Economics I had on Saturday mornings. I was lucky to 'zip' the course. A scholar I was not!

"During my senior year 1951 I decided to show a Duroc hog at Ag School International Animal Show. I would practice showing and fitting my hog in the hog barn and immediately afterwards attend class at Ferguson—during which time the hog manure on my shoe pacs would escape as 'manure fragrance' and meant that I had plenty of room to spread out and not be bothered by students sitting too close!

"It was our Class of 1951 that revived *The Sylvan* after a hiatus during WWII years. Professor Ronald Bartoo was our adviser and **Hal Birch '51** and **Glenn Haney '51** were co-editors. Our class designed the 'Penn State Forest School' patch and

continued on next page



This photo was taken by Dr. Wallace E. White, professor of wood utilization, on April 21, 1938, the first day of Ferguson Building construction when the top soil was stripped from the site. The photo is taken from the south corner. You can see the Stock Judging Pavilion (now the Pavilion Theatre) behind the Ferguson site, a parking lot, and the dairy (where Agricultural Administration Building now stands).

logo—a keystone shape, hemlock tree in the middle with a double-bit axe, hemlock cone, and oak leaf on the tree.

“Sad to note the disappearance of the oar from the last log raft floated down the Susquehanna River. A history of that raft is found in ‘The Last Raft’ by Joseph Dudley Tonkin. Just as the last raft was sold in 1938 and passed into history, so the Ferguson Building as The Forest Building will pass into history.

“My fervent hope is that the future students inhabiting the new Forest Resources Building will enjoy their educational experience as much as our Class of 1951 did in Ferguson and our glorious year at Mont Alto in 1947.”

O. Lynn Frank '49: “I began my forestry curriculum in fall 1942 at Mont Alto. WWII was in progress and large numbers of students were leaving the university to enter the armed forces. It was questionable if enough members of my class would return to keep Mont Alto open for spring semester 1943. Consequently our class was transferred to the Ferguson Building at University Park. Upon completion of this second semester, we all went into the military and returned after WWII to continue our forestry education in fall 1946 at Ferguson Building. We all graduated in June 1949.

“I do recall a bear in room 114/115, which I believe was the library. It was a grizzly mounted in a stand-up position and was at least seven feet in height. The mouth was showing all of its teeth and its front legs were spread wide in a bear hug position. I do not know who donated the bear, and I cannot recall a mounted moose head in the room.

“The oar displayed on the north wall of Ferguson Building was one of two oars mounted on the front or back of the ‘1938 Last Raft.’ The oars were used by raft crews to maneuver the raft around the obstructions and bends in the river. The raft was built by the remaining old-time raftsmen in the upper headwaters of the West Branch of the Susquehanna River with the destination on the spring floodwaters to Harrisburg. On the evening of March 15, 1938, I along with hundreds of spectators standing on the riverbank at Clearfield watched the ‘Last Raft’ tie up for the night. The raft finally arrived at Williamsport and continued its downriver journey next morning on March 20th when a tragedy happened. At Muncy, the front of the raft hit a pier of the Reading Railroad bridge and all but one of the 48 crew members and passengers were cast into the cold flood waters. Seven people drowned and all of the others were saved by numerous boats at the scene of the accident. The raft was repaired by the raft crew and the Harrisburg destination was cancelled. Journey’s end came at the mouth of Fishing Creek, Fort Hunter. The 36-foot oar stem with a 16-foot-long by 16-inch-wide blade mounted on the end can be seen at the Pennsylvania Lumber Museum located on Route 6 between Coudersport and Galeton. It is suspended from the museum’s ceiling. It is quite impressive.”

(The May 8, 1968 issue of the Centre Daily Times includes a photo of the oar mounted on Ferguson Building and an article about the last raft relic. The oar was presented by R. Dudley Tonkin and the display was placed by Xi Sigma Pi.)

School of Forest Resources Alumni Employment Statistics

For more than three decades, the School of Forest Resources has been conducting alumni surveys one to two years after graduation to learn about employment success. The information gathered has been useful in providing current and prospective students, parents, and faculty and staff with information about career opportunities.

In August 2003, we mailed an employment survey to the Class of 2001-02; that is, students who graduated with a B. S. degree from the School of Forest Resources between August 2001 and May 2002. The survey was sent to 48 Forest Science (FORSC) alumni, 59 Wildlife and Fisheries Science (W F S) alumni, and 7 Wood Products (W P) alumni. We attempted to contact all nonrespondents by phone or e-mail. The total survey response rate (mail survey plus follow-up) was 79% for FORSC, 76% for W F S, and 100% for W P, and 79% overall.

In total, 87% of the FORSC graduates from the Class of 2001-02 were using their degrees in professional pursuits (that is, professional employment or graduate school). The number of Forest Science (FORSC) alumni employed in public forest management a year or so after graduation reached a high of 47% with the Class of 1998-99, and has moderated since to 24% for the Class of 2000-01 and now 22% of the Class of 2001-02. Of the 10 FORSC alumni in public-sector forestry, only two were employed by federal government agencies; the rest were employed by state agencies. In terms of geographic location, eight were in Pennsylvania (two of these had a seasonal job) and the others were in Massachusetts (a seasonal job) and Utah. The average annual salary for public sector forest management positions for the Class of 2001-02 was \$25,500 (based on eight reported salaries). This was a drop from the average annual salary of \$29,000 for the Class of 2000-01, but the Class of 2001-02 responses included three seasonal salaries and the Class of 2000-01 included only one seasonal salary.

The number of FORSC alumni employed in the private sector had dropped significantly to 2% for the Class of 2000-01, but rose again to 18% for the Class of 2001-02. (It was 30% for the Class of 1996-97, 13% for the Class of 1997-98, 14% for the Class of 1998-99, and 21% for the Class of 1999-00). Six of the eight private-sector forestry positions reported were in Pennsylvania; the other two were in New York (with one of these being a temporary position). The average annual salary (based on seven reported salaries) was \$28,000; this was a decline from the \$32,500 average annual salary for the Class of 2000-01 but that figure was based on only one salary.

FORSC alumni pursuing additional education was 17% for the Class of 2000-01, but dropped back to 9% for the Class of 2001-02. Blue-collar employment for FORSC graduates was 7%, down from 11% for the Class of 2000-01. For only the second time in the past 15 classes surveyed, unemployment was greater than zero. In the Class of 2001-02, 7% (two FORSC alumni) reported being unemployed—one was a stay-at-home mom and the other reported being recently “laid off.”

In total, 79% of the W F S graduates from the Class of

2001-02 were using their degrees in various professional pursuits; this summary percentage is the same as it was for the Class of 2000-01. Wildlife and Fisheries Science (W F S) alumni employed in wildlife/fisheries management, which had been below 20% for the past four previous class years, rose to 28% for the Class of 2001-02. Five of the ten wildlife/fisheries jobs reported by Class of 2001-02 W F S alumni were in Pennsylvania (two of these were seasonal), and the others were in Alaska, Florida, New Mexico, and Ohio. The average annual salary was \$22,500 (based on five reported salaries). This is a significant increase over the \$15,500 average annual salary reported for the Class of 2000-01, which included more seasonal/part-time positions.

W F S employment in general resource management remained steady at 17% for the Class of 2001-02 (it was 16% for the Class of 2000-01). W F S employment in management/engineering/sales (nonwood industry) remained steady at 12% (it was 13% for the Class of 2000-01).

The percentage of W F S alumni pursuing additional education was 25% for the Class of 2000-01 but dropped to 15% for the Class of 2001-02. Blue-collar employment for W F S graduates was 6.7%, the second lowest level for the previous twelve years. But unemployment rose to 14.6%; this is only the third time in the past 16 years that unemployment reported for W F S alumni has been in double digits.

Employment of Wood Products (W P) graduates was excellent, with 100% of the Class of 2001-02 reporting employment in some aspect of the wood products industry. Six of the seven wood-products-related positions were in Pennsylvania, and one was in West Virginia. Of the four respondents who reported salaries, three checked the "\$40,000 or more" level and one checked the "\$30,000 - \$34,999" level. Of these four, two indicated being helped by School faculty with their job placement, one networked with alumni, and one was referred by someone he knew at the company.

Get Life! It Pays!

Your membership in the Penn State Alumni Association is much more than just free stuff and discounts-- it's about a lifetime connection to Penn State, to the School of Forest Resources, and to each other.

Why not keep that connection alive forever with a Life Membership in the Alumni Association?

For a limited time, with every life membership recruited, \$50 of the fee will come back to our SFR Alumni Group. This is a great time to think about becoming a life member. Our alumni group will benefit, and, most importantly, you will benefit! Join today!

For the SFR Alumni Group to benefit from your life membership, you will need a special application. Please contact Ellen Manno at 814-863-5831 or exr2@psu.edu.

Penn State Mont Alto Centennial Fellows

In recognition of Mont Alto's 100th anniversary in 2003, the Penn State Mont Alto Alumni Society and the Penn State Mont Alto campus community recognized Mont Alto affiliates and alumni who have demonstrated leadership in their professions and/or their communities. Twenty-two Honorary Centennial Fellows and 70 Alumni Centennial Fellows were recognized at a celebratory dinner on April 3, 2004, at Mont Alto.

The group of Honorary Centennial Fellows includes several people who were affiliated in some way with the State Forestry Academy or with Pennsylvania forestry, and whose names you may recognize: Maurice K. Goddard, Joseph S. Illick, Mira Lloyd Dock, Joseph T. Rothrock, George Wirt, and Edwin Allen Ziegler.

The group of Alumni Centennial Fellows includes 41 individuals who are alumni of the School of Forest Resources, three graduates of the Forest Technology Program at Mont Alto, and two who attended Mont Alto but did not graduate in forestry. These are listed below in alphabetical order.

Leon E. App '63	Alex Kirnak '37
C. Randall Beach '69a	Edward F. Kocjancic '54
Jack V. Berglund* '62, '64g	Victor C. Mastro '68a
Nedavia Bethlahmy '39	Larry H. McCormick '67, '69g, '76g
Robert H. Bommer, Jr. '56	Sheldon B. Mermelstein '48
Ralph E. Brock* '06	John Muench '53, '58g
Henry E. Clepper* '21	William W. Nace* '28
Richard C. Cook '48	James C. Nelson '52
Phillip J. Craul '54, '60g	Walter N. Peechatka '61
R. Alexander Day '67	Chester F. Phelps*
Joseph M. Frank, Jr. '58	Louis W. Schatz* '34
Warren E. Frayer '61	Kerry F. Schell '58, '59g
LeRoy Frontz* '22	Paul Shogren '51
Henry D. Gerhold '52, '54g	George H. Siehl
Jack C. Good '41	George R. Vahoviak '78
Joseph F. Gray '48	William W. Walton, Sr.* '27
Glenn P. Haney '51	Wilber W. Ward* '40, '52g
Robert D. Harman '38	Frank J. Wawrynovic '50
Heinz J. Heinemann '50	Mark W. Webb '73
B. Frank Heintzleman* '07	Richard A. Werner '58
Joseph E. Ibberson '47	Harold H. Wolfinger, Jr. '65
James B. Ingram '79a	Thomas G. Wright '37
George R. Kemp '53	George Yelenosky '55
George P. Kern '50	

*deceased

Ralph Brock's Family Found

The story about **Ralph Brock** '06, our nation's first African American forester, that was referenced in our Winter 2004 newsletter had a large gap remaining: no current-day descendants of the Brock family had been located despite searches of old census records, obituaries, and other sources. When the Brock historical marker at Penn State Mont Alto was dedicated on October 24th, 2003, no Brock family members were present to witness the historic ceremony.

Later that month, however, the American Chestnut Foundation held its annual conference at University Park, and

continued on next page

Doug Oster, a garden columnist from the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, had been invited to cover the event. There he was introduced to the Brock story while talking with several Penn State alumni, and was given Alex Day's name for further details. Day and Oster



Alex Day '67 (far right) at Mont Alto Campus in April 2004 with current-day relatives of Ralph Brock '06, including Arlene Snipe-Burke (center) who confirmed the family connection after reading the *Post-Gazette* article about Brock.

eventually met during the winter months at the Penn State Mont Alto for a taped interview. Day gave Oster the details of Ralph's life as a Forest Academy student and later as Mont Alto nursery superintendent. Also at that time, Oster filmed all the photos of Ralph that the campus staff had on file, including the portrait

of Ralph as a high school graduate.

The print story from the interview was published in the *Post-Gazette* on Saturday, February 21, 2004. It ended with a plea to readers who had information about Ralph Brock to call Alex Day at the DCNR-Bureau of Forestry nursery office.

Within several hours of the Saturday edition's circulation, an excited caller from Pittsburgh was on the phone with Day. Arlene Snipe-Burke had just read Doug Oster's article and had examined the photos, particularly the portrait of Ralph. She said she "saw her uncle's eyes in that photo!" She was convinced she was related to Ralph. During a long telephone call with Arlene the following Monday, Day pieced together a lot of the missing details of Ralph's life after he left the Academy and the employ of the Department of Forestry in 1911. Arlene Snipe-Burke shared names and addresses of her other Brock cousins in West Chester and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and in Hockessin, Delaware.

In April 2004, at the end of its Centennial Year celebration, Penn State Mont Alto saluted more than 120 distinguished graduates, administrators, and professors during a recognition banquet. Ralph Brock had been named a Centennial Fellow and, as a result of that newspaper article in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, several generations of his descendants were present during the gala affair.

All were extremely thrilled to witness their famous ancestor receiving well-deserved recognition from his *alma mater*. The Brock family is currently planning other ceremonies in Ralph's honor, at West Chester, Pennsylvania, and in Wilmington, Delaware, at the Howard School, where he graduated in 1900.

Alumni Notes

1930s

Lee M. James, 1937 – Died August 18, 2003. He was a professor emeritus from Michigan State University, Department of Forestry where he served as a faculty member beginning in 1951 and later as department chairman. Prior to MSU, he worked in Forest Service research.

Throughout his career, he was an active consultant to the U.S. government and forest industry regarding domestic and international forestry. He was elected SAF Fellow in 1973 and held a variety of leadership positions spanning four decades. James received his bachelor's degree from Penn State and his master's degree and Ph.D. from The University of Michigan. As a pioneering forest economist, he published over 80 journal

articles and research publications. He was the major professor for some 100 master's students and 35 Ph.D. students, many with international ties.

Robert F. Felker, 1939 – 318 Preakness Court, Walnut Creek, CA 94597-3686.

Walter W. Francis, 1939 – Cornwall Manor, P.O. Box 125, Cornwall, PA 17016-0125. Mr. Francis shared some of his poetry with us and we are pleased to print two selections on the next page.

After completing a B.S. in Forestry in 1939, Mr. Francis entered the U.S. Army in 1940 and was discharged in 1945. He then worked in forestry in Arkansas, cruising and mapping timber for Pomeroy and McGowan, Forest

Managers. He left forestry for health reasons and pursued a career with the Veteran's Administration. He started as a draftsman and advanced to hospital engineer in Nashville, Tennessee; Fort Wayne, Indiana; and Lebanon, Pennsylvania. After retiring from the Veteran's Administration in 1972 he accepted a job as civil defense director (now Emergency Management Agency) for Lebanon County, Pennsylvania. He "retired for good" after six years and a lot of work on the "Agnes" flood and Three Mile Island. He moved to the Cornwall Manor Retirement Complex in 1995.

Mr. Francis was married to Jane Van Dosen (Home Ec '38) for 62 years; Jane died in December 2003. They have two sons, Michael and Mark.

Poems by Walter Francis '39

Gift of Trees

Of all the gifts God gave to man
And the list defies a number
But near the top of such a list,
And I think you all agree
That one would have to place "the Tree."
For a tree is so much more –
Than just the source of lumber.
Think of the beauty – think of shade,
Think of the creatures in the forest glade
Be thankful for the roots that hold the soil
For wooden tools – that eased man's toil
For fruits and nuts of every kind
For maple syrup, and turpentine
For getting rid of CO
And sending back oxygen – for me and you
For houses, furniture, and ships of the line
Who owe their existence to the oak and the pine
Give Kilmer credit for enduring rhyme,
His tribute has stood the test of time
But he really only scratched the surface
I have done no better – but that was not my purpose.

Time and Distance

I raise my eyes to the mountains,
I see them in many moods.
Early in the morning,
Shrouded in mist and mystery.
As tho to guard
An ancient and unknown history.
I see them again, when the sun is high and a patchwork quilt
Of autumnal hues meets the eye.
In late afternoon with the sun in its slant
Dappled with drifting shadows
Brought on by high flying clouds floating by
Look again as the daylight wanes,
As dusk descends, and silence reigns.
In the distance now—the hoot of an owl
And a whip-poor-will's call casts a spell
Tis nine o'clock—and all is well.
On star-lit nights I gaze in wonder
As earth reaches up and mountain and sky become one
Tis midnight now—the day is done.
At times like this I sit and ponder—as many men have before me.
And all of the cares we have in this life,
But they all become trivial and of short existence,
When weighed on a scale—of time and distance.

1940s

Calvin E. Glatfelder, 1947 – The following information is taken from an obituary provided by **George Kemp '53**. Glatfelder, formerly of York, Pennsylvania, died May 14, 2004 in Naples, Florida. He was born in Fairfield, Iowa, and studied forestry at Iowa State University. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. After he earned a B.S. in Forestry from Penn State in 1947, he worked in Pennsylvania as a research forester for the Department of Forests and Waters. He then moved to the private sector and served in various capacities on the forestry staff of the Glatfelder Pulp Wood Co., P.H. Glatfelder Co. Spring Grove, Pennsylvania. He became vice president and general manager of the company in 1973 and was a member of the board of directors from 1956 to 1990. He held offices in many forestry-related organizations. In 1982, he received the Forestry Achievement Award from Penn State and in 1988 he received the Outstanding Conservationist of the Year award from the Pennsylvania Forestry Association.

Joseph E. Ibberson, 1947 – 3764 Sharon Street, Harrisburg, PA 17111-1905. In May 2004, Joseph E. Ibberson donated the first-ever township conservation area to the Middle Paxton Township. The area is located in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, three miles east of Dauphin and historically known as the Mary Bell Hollow. The area will be called the Joseph J. Ibberson Middle Paxton Conservation Area. Unlike most lands in the commonwealth, the trees in the area have never been cut. Some of the virgin tulip poplar and oaks measure four feet in diameter. The conservation area is intended for the use, enjoyment, and education of the public. Only passive recreation activities such as hiking, walking, jogging, cross-country skiing, bird watching, and flora and fauna studies will be allowed. Hunting will be permitted for wildlife management purposes.

Ibberson's history of generosity also includes: an endowment fund he created in 1997 with the Pennsylvania Forestry Association to foster the preservation and wise use of all forest land in Pennsylvania; the first-ever conservation area consisting of 350 acres he donated

to Wayne Township, Dauphin County, in 1999; land he has donated to the Pennsylvania Game Commission; a \$1.5 million donation to Penn State in 1999 to establish the Joseph E. Ibberson Chair in Forest Resources Management; and the \$2 million he willed to the University in 2003 toward another chair in urban and community forestry.



Joe Ibberson '47 is recognized for his donation of the first-ever Township Conservation Area.

LeRoy D. Schaller, 1947 – 1839 Route 259, Bollivar, PA 15923; schaller@helicon.net. See Mr. Schaller's contribution to the "Ferguson Building History" compilation on pages 19-20.

O. Lynn Frank, 1949 – 1301 Riverview Road, Clearfield, PA 16830. See Mr. Frank's contribution to the "Ferguson Building History" compilation on pages 19-20.

Warren W. Koch, 1949 – **Walter Rossman** '50 reported that Warren Koch died in October 2003. Koch worked for the Osmose Company with wood preservatives and also as a self-employed consultant in wood production development.

Charles Merroth, 1949 – 200 Buchanan St., Warren, PA 16365-2620.

Robert H. Rumpf, 1949 – 51 Kenwood Drive, Carlisle, PA 17013-2122.

John T. Steimer, 1949 – 240 Lion's Hill Road, E009, State College, PA 16803. "Nancy and I have moved from our farm in Warren County to The Village at Penn State. We are enjoying the many activities at the university."

1950s

Nelson Durand, 1950 – 1963 Heidelberg Drive, M. Pleasant, SC 29464-3966; mndurand@bellsouth.net. "Used my forestry background as a springboard to teaching science in public school. Then came an M. Ed. and 33 years in private school administration at Milton Hershey School. We are now living in a retirement community near our daughter and two of our five grandchildren. Have sons in North Carolina and New Hampshire. We travel a lot, but would love to hear from any of the '50s guys and would welcome a drop in."

George Ference, 1950 – 141 Osprey Place, Brunswick, GA 31525-4612; gandjfer@darientel.net.

Harold B. Birch, 1951 – 6017 Northridge Road, Columbia, SC 29206-4337. "My book, *The 50th Pennsylvania Civil War Odyssey*, was nominated for the

Lincoln Award given by Gettysburg College for the best book of 2003 on Civil War soldiers. The book was published by 1st Books of Blommington, Indiana. My next book, now underway, goes by the working title of *A Bedford County, Pennsylvania, Civil War POW and Escapee*."

Paul "Sunshine" Shogren, 1951 – 1638 Memorial Drive, Oakland, MD 21550-4337; shogren@gcnetmail.net. "Am a member of the Garrett County Forest Conservancy Board along with **Carl McIntire** '61. Active in Scouting 65 years in 2003, still winter camp and do the Mile Swim at summer camp. Prostrate cancer in remission; able to use my Finnish Snow Scoop to remove three feet of snow and for exercise, it does not get much better than this in salubrious Garrett County. So for all you 'stump jumpers' on main campus I say 'Excelsior' which, if you attended the October 2003 Foresters' Reunion at Mont Alto you know what that means. If you did not, read Laurence Walker's *Excelsior* and find out." Also see Mr. Shogren's contribution to the "Ferguson Building History" compilation on pages 19-20.

Oscar C. Tissue, Jr., 1951 – 1203 Manchester Street, Clinton, MS 39056-3532.

Henry D. Gerhold, 1952 – 816 Sparks Street, State College, PA 16801.

Russ Gaul, 1953 – 903 W. King Road, Malvern, PA 19355-2062. Mr. Gaul reports that **Al Schutz** '53 and his wife Helen celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in March. A party was given by their son Wayne who was a member of Tau Phi Delta. Al Schutz was secretary-treasurer of the Penn State Mont Alto Forestry Association for 32 years.

Clark Sell, 1954 – 4755 Darlene Way, Tucker, GA 30084-2930.

John H. Strahle, 1954 – P.O. Box 365, Atmore, AL 36504-0365.

Earl Reinsel, Jr., 1956 and 1960g – 3120 Terrace Drive, Missoula, MT 59803-9736.

Lowell T. Underhill, 1956 – 1002 Weldin Circle, Weldin Woods, Wilmington, DE 19803-3204; lowell.underhill@verizon.net. "While on a trip to New York City in mid-December 2003, Lois and I were leaving Saks 5th Avenue when we passed my classmate **Forrest Fenstermaker** and his wife Ruth who were touring the city with a Williamsburg, Virginia, neighborhood group. During the weekend of February 21-22, while we were visiting one of our children and his family in North Carolina, I had the opportunity to meet with two other classmates. **Tom Deimler** lives in Hillsborough, North Carolina, and was being visited by his brother-in-law, **George Weimer**, who lives in Menomonie, Wisconsin. Tom and I had met before, but I hadn't seen George in the 48 years since we graduated. None of us look any older. At least, that's what we told each other."

Thomas A. Breslin, 1957 – 300 N. Eaton Street, Berwick, PA 18603-2600; tomb@pa.net.

1960s

Bill Wieger, 1964 – 112 Gayven Drive, Pineville, LA 71360-4903; bwieger@team-national.com.

H. Skip Knoble, 1964 – 3107 Sheffield Dr., State College, PA 16804; hdk1@psu.edu. See Mr. Knoble's contribution to the "Ferguson Building History" compilation on pages 19-20.

John A. Dickerson, 1969 and 1971g – 3651 Slate Hill Rd., Marcellus, NY 13108. "I retired from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in October 2003. I was the Plant Materials Specialist for NY, PA, VT, NH, and ME for the past twenty years, working out of Syracuse. I enjoyed my career testing and selecting native conservation plants with NRCS, but after thirty years plus a three-and-a-half-year hiatus in the native grass seed business in Nebraska, I decided to work for myself for awhile.

"I have started a conservation consulting business, Finger Lakes Conservation Services. I will provide

training, design, and installation services including mine land reclamation, streambank and slope soil bioengineering, living snow fence and windbreak installation, native grass conversions, wildlife habitat improvement, and created wetland vegetation. I have a small nursery that feeds plant materials into the consulting and installation business. Gail and I have also had a B&B (Slate Hill Meadow) in operation since October 2002 with April through November reservations. We are located just a mile off of historic US RT 20, at the northeast corner of the Finger Lakes.

"I went elk hunting in Oregon with **Tom Greenleaf** '68 in October 2002, and enjoyed our visit tremendously even though no elk were harvested. Hopefully there will be another opportunity. I hope to stop by to see

John Ferrante '69 and his wife Viv this year in Ohio."

1970s

Bill Baldwin, 1974 – 477 Coopers Pond Drive, Lawrenceville, GA 30044-5232; wbaldwin@bellsouth.net. "As I started to write this note, I realized that by the time the summer newsletter issues, it will be thirty years since the class of '74 graduated. I have lost touch with many of my classmates, but if they read this, I ask that they drop me a note at my e-mail address. We are"

Allen S. Gettle, 1975g – 177 Wintergreen Road, Wellsboro, PA 16901-7056.

1980s

Paul Labovitz, 1981 - 730 Wellesley Ave., Akron, OH 44303; paul_labovitz@nps.gov. "I am still with the National Park Service in Midwest. Oldest daughter Sarah will graduate from Bowling Green State University in spring 2004 (Music Education); middle daughter Katie at Ohio University studying video production/film; son Jason will start college in fall 2004. November 2002 I spent two weeks working in the Czech Republic providing assistance to the Czech Greenways/ Environmental Partnership for Central Europe focusing on river conservation, flood hazard mitigation and trail and greenway development. This was my seventh visit to central Europe since 1993. Continue working with Slovak partners on a sister-park project with the Zahorie Protected Landscape Area and the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Sue, the kids, dogs and I are doing well and looking forward to surviving three kids and college."

Delbert Somerville, 1982 – 119 Arboretum Road, Bernville, PA 19506; delberts@juno.com. "I am currently a regional distribution operator for Met-Ed in Reading, Pennsylvania. It is a long story but to summarize, company downsizing resulted in me moving out of the Forestry department and into System Operations."

Sharon Ross, 1987 – 18 Fitch Lane, Greensburg, PA 15601; sross@zoominternet.net. "I hope this note finds all other alumni doing well. I have been employed by Allegheny Power as a utility forester since 1988. I worked as a field forester in Frederick, Maryland, and Hagerstown, Maryland, from 1988 to 1998, at which time I was transferred to our corporate center located in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. I occasionally see **Robert Bell** '91 at utility conferences as he is also working for an electric utility (Pacific Gas & Electric). In fact, Bob has been elected president-elect of the Utility Arborist Association. Congrats, Bob! I always welcome contact from old friends and former classmates. If you recognize my name, drop me an e-mail! Wishing you all well."

Scott Freidhof, 1989 – 4455 CCC Trail, Morehead, KY 40351; scottf@mikrotec.com.

Marvin Shutters, 1989 – 100 South Touchet Road, Dayton, WA 99328-8741; marvin.k.shutters@nww01.usace.army.mil. "I am working as a fisheries biologist for the Walla Walla District of the Corps of Engineers. I am the regional point of contact for all fish-related research and construction at five district dams on the Columbia and Snake rivers: big program, lots of continuous issues, never boring. Outside of work, life is great. Have been married for five years; could not be going better. Fishing in my backyard, riding my horses in the Blue Mountains, and my bird dog fill my time."

1990s

Michelle (Bowser) Costello, 1992 – 660 Longwood Road, Collegeville, PA 19426; michellecostello@msn.com. "My husband Michael (also a Penn State graduate, Math '90) and I celebrated our 11th anniversary in April. We have two beautiful children, Kelsey and Ryan."

Thad Yorks, 1992 – 1635 State Route 2023, Monongahela, PA 15063; yorks@cup.edu. Thad is an assistant

In Memoriam

William C. Bramble, 1929
died October 4, 2003

Lee M. James, 1937
died August 18, 2003

Joseph G. Anthony, 1939
died in December 2003

Harold S. Streator, 1939
died April 25, 2003

Edward M. Williston, 1940
died December 31, 2003

Duane C. Conley, 1942
died July 27, 2003

Stuart G. Rhode, 1942
died November 16, 2003

Calvin E. Glattfelder, 1947
died May 14, 2004

Warren W. Koch, 1949
died in October 2003

Stanley S. Stacey, 1950
died November 15, 2002

professor in the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences at California University of Pennsylvania.

Denise Mitcheltree, 1994 – 3607 Tamarack Road, Renovo, PA 17764; dmitcheltree@hotmail.com.

Christopher Vickery, 1995 – 57 Forest Drive, Orange, Virginia 22960.

Thad Taylor, 1997 – P.O. Box 74, Coudersport, PA 16915; ttaylor@agchoice.com. “I was with International Paper for 6.5 years in Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana. I started with AgChoice as a timber resource specialist/loan officer in Coudersport in November 2003.”

2000s

Roy Bucher, 2003 – 110 Taylor Drive, Apt. #19, Reedsville, PA 17084.

Brock Sanner, 2003 – 1916 Neal Street, Parkersburg, WV 26101.

**School of 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: _____

INFORMATION ABOUT THE PERSON MAKING THE NOMINATION
Name
Address

Phone Number
FAX Number
E-mail

INFORMATION ABOUT THE PERSON BEING NOMINATED
Name
Address

Phone Number
FAX Number
E-mail
SFR Graduation Year and Major

- Please attach a thorough description of the nominee relative to the selection criteria of
1. Professional achievement, excellence, impact, and recognition (and significant career advancement for Outstanding Recent Alumni nominees)
 2. Service to the profession, to the School of Forest Resources, and to the community
 3. High personal and professional standards

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

Send to: School of Forest Resources Alumni Group Awards Committee, Ferguson Building, Penn State University Park, PA 16802 **by September 30**

This nomination form may also be completed on-line at <http://www.sfr.cas.psu.edu/Alumni/AlumniForm.htm>.



RESPONSE FORM

No dues are charged for membership in the School of Forest Resources (SFR) Alumni Group. We rely on contributions to support alumni activities, including the publication of this newsletter. This newsletter is sent twice a year to more than 4,500 alumni at a cost of about \$6,000 per issue. Contributions for the SFR Alumni Group should be made payable to "Penn State" *and designated, in the memo section of the check or in a cover letter, for the School of Forest Resources Alumni Group*; send to Penn State, College of Agricultural Sciences, Development Office, 233 Agricultural Administration, University Park, PA 16802 (or enclose it with this Response Form and it will be forwarded to the correct office). You will receive a receipt, and your contribution will be tax deductible.

_____	_____	_____
(Name)	(Class year)	(Major)
_____	_____	
	(Phone)	
_____	_____	
(Mailing address)	(E-mail address)	

- I have sent a contribution for the SFR Alumni Group in the amount of \$_____ to Penn State, College of Agricultural Sciences, Development Office, 233 Agricultural Administration University Park, PA 16802 (or it is enclosed and will be forwarded to the correct office). The contribution is made payable to "Penn State" and designated for the SFR Alumni Group.
- I would like to nominate the following individuals as candidates for the School of Forest Resources Alumni Group Board of Directors (self-nominations are welcome):

- I would like the following news to be included in an upcoming newsletter. The next issue will be published in winter 2005. To submit news online, go to <http://www.sfr.cas.psu.edu/Alumni/AlumniNews.htm>.

_____ date

Mail this form to: Ellen Manno, Penn State, 201 Ferguson Building, University Park, PA 16802



School of Forest Resources
 The Pennsylvania State University
 113 Ferguson Building
 University Park, PA 16802



*To receive this newsletter
 electronically, contact
 Ellen Manno at emanno@psu.edu*

Visit the School of Forest Resources at
<http://www.sfr.cas.psu.edu/>

August 17	Ag Progress Days College of Ag Sciences Annual Alumni Luncheon and Meeting, Rock Springs, PA. Contact: Jillian Stevenson, 814-863-7278 or jstevenson@psu.edu.
September 9	Eastern Hardwood Regeneration Institute: Oak Regeneration. Repeat of the May 20 meeting. Ramada Inn, State College, PA. Contact: Mike Powell, 814-863-1113 or mjp175@psu.edu.
September 21	Alumni and Friends Social, The Wildlife Society National Meeting, 6 – 8 p.m. Hyatt Regency, Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Contact: Ellen Manno, 814-863-5831 or exr2@psu.edu
October 4	Alumni and Friends Social, Society of American Foresters National Meeting, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. The Westin, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Contact: Ellen Manno, 814-863-5831 or exr2@psu.edu
October 13	Forest Taxation and Financial Planning. Lighthouse Restaurant, Chambersburg, PA. Contact: Mike Powell, 814-863-1113 or mjp175@psu.edu.
October 12	College of Agricultural Sciences Scholarship Banquet, The Penn Stater, State College, PA. Contact: Denise Connelly, 814-865-0113 or dcc6@psu.edu.
October 20	Forest Taxation and Financial Planning. Keystone College, Scranton, PA. Contact: Mike Powell, 814-863-1113 or mjp175@psu.edu.
October 21-22	Thirteenth Annual Pennsylvania Community Forestry Conference, Toftrees Resort, State College, PA. Contact: Dr. William Elmendorf, 814-753-7941 or wfe1@psu.edu.
October 27	Forest Taxation and Financial Planning. Heritage Conservancy, Doylestown, PA. Contact: Mike Powell, 814-863-1113 or mjp175@psu.edu.
November 3	Forest Taxation and Financial Planning. Ramada Inn, State College, PA. Contact: Mike Powell, 814-863-1113 or mjp175@psu.edu.
November 4	Second Annual Ibberson-Chauncy Forestry Forum, Penn Stater Conference Center, University Park, PA. Contact: Mike Powell, 814-863-1113 or mjp175@psu.edu.
November 10	Forest Taxation and Financial Planning. Mercer County Extension Office, Mercer, PA. Contact: Mike Powell, 814-863-1113 or mjp175@psu.edu.
November 18	Advanced Kiln Drying Workshop, Bryce Jordan Center, University Park, PA. Contact: Mike Powell, 814-863-1113 or mjp175@psu.edu.