

School of Forest Resources

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FOREST SCIENCE • WOOD PRODUCTS • WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES SCIENCE • WATER RESOURCES

Center for Wood Innovation and Sustainability

The School of Forest Resources is home to a number of research centers, and our faculty are affiliated with quite a few more external to our unit.

The School's newest center, the Center for Wood Innovation and Sustainability, was initiated in late 2008 with funding from the U.S. Forest Service's Wood Education and Resource Center, with additional funding from Pennsylvania's Hardwoods Development Council.

The name of the Center indicates that innovation and sustainability are critical for the future of industries allied with eastern hardwoods, both primary and value-added. The overarching theme of the Center's work is increasing the competitiveness of companies that manufacture products from hardwoods, and both economic and environmental sustainability are addressed.

Judd Michael, professor of sustainable wood-based enterprises, serves as Center director, and Bob Berg is assistant director for economic analyses. Berg, a School of Forest Resources alum, studied forest economics under Chuck Strauss, director and professor emeritus, and then enjoyed a long career in industry before returning to Happy Valley. Other School faculty involved with the Center include Paul Smith, professor of sustainable building materials marketing; Chuck Ray, associate professor of wood products operations; Nicole Brown, associate professor of wood chemistry; and Lee Stover, senior research associate.

Key areas of activity during the Center's first year include: business management, economic analyses, product testing, and supply/demand issues for wood-based raw materials. The Center will provide product testing for the industry when new environmental chambers in the York Group laboratory in the Forest Resources Building come online.

One example of how the Center has assisted the Pennsylvania forest products industry is the dissemination of information to help producers better manage their human resources. A firm's "human capital" is a distinct source of competitive advantage, and yet most firms in the hardwood industry are not very good at fully utilizing their people. This fall the Center will publish the second edition of the "Human Resources Best Practices" handbook, which is sponsored by the Hardwoods Development Council and will be available from the School.

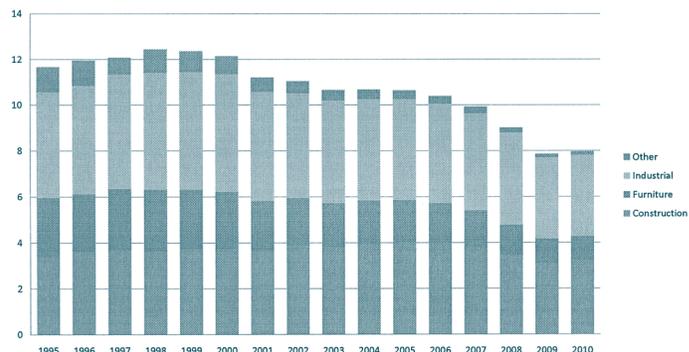
One of the Center's biggest impacts has been its *Executive Briefings* newsletters. This publication began earlier this year and is currently sent electronically to more than 2,000 recipients. In the first issue, Bob Berg wrote a series of articles giving his outlook on the housing industry and hardwood markets. Back in March, Berg predicted that the U.S. housing market was about to hit bottom

and that by the end of 2009 the overbuilt conditions and excess inventory of homes would be reduced to acceptable levels. In a later issue, Berg debunked the myth that housing starts cannot rebound until unemployment rates decline.

The Center has also tried to tackle the tricky question of what will happen to demand for hardwood products. Analyses have been conducted on the end-use demand for hardwood lumber, and whether there will be enough "certified" hardwood products available to meet the new demand for these "green" products.

An example of the data presented in the Center's newsletter is seen here. The graph illustrates the consumption of hardwood lumber by four key industry sectors, and clearly shows the decline during the past two years. Additional analyses are being conducted, with special attention being paid to the so-called "woody-biomass" that is available for bioenergy and other innovative uses.

Figure 1: U.S. Domestic Hardwood Lumber Consumption (Billion Board Feet)



Other activities of the Center include presentations for industry associations and training programs for industry managers. Center personnel also gave testimony before a committee of the Pennsylvania Legislature. One of the Center's strengths is management development training programs that address leadership, communications, and conflict resolution.

Center personnel enjoyed working with the Keystone Wood Products Association this past year, and this fall will partner with the Pennsylvania Forest Products Association (PFPA) on a day-long training program at PFPA's annual meeting in September.

The Center's *Executive Briefings* newsletter is free, and alumni and friends of the School are welcome to sign up. To add your name to the list, please send an e-mail to David Harry (dwh8@psu.edu) or call 814-865-7541. Back issues of *Executive Briefings* are also available. 🐾

A newsletter for our alumni and friends

Wolfingers Create Trustee Scholarship

Sandy Wolfinger ('65 FORSC) knows without a doubt his career achievements were made possible by his Penn State education, and he wants to ensure that hard-working students receive the same opportunities. To accomplish this goal, he and his wife, Connie Wolfinger, are giving \$50,000 to the University to establish the Harold H. "Sandy" Wolfinger Trustee Scholarship. The award will assist undergraduates with financial need, giving first preference to students majoring in forest science in the School of Forest Resources.

"Our hope is that the scholarship will not only help financially, but also validate the student's hard work and plant a seed of encouragement that they might help others when they are able to do so," said Wolfinger.

Wolfinger is president of the consulting forester partnership Northern Forests, LLC. In addition, he and Connie, a real estate

broker, developed Field & Stream Real Estate along with their son, Shawn. The couple resides in Cuba, N.Y., where they are developing an arboretum on the extensive grounds of their current residence.

The Wolfingers previously supported the new Forest Resources Building and also established a scholarship at Penn State Mont Alto, where Wolfinger spent his first year of school. Their commitment to Penn State also has been demonstrated by hosting forestry students and faculty at their home for overnight forestry field training.

The Trustee Matching Scholarship Program is designed to keep a Penn State education accessible to all qualified students, regardless of their financial means. The program has a unique matching component ~ the University matches 5 percent of the principal of each gift annually and combines these funds with income from the endowment to effectively double the financial impact of the scholarship. ❀

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 extr2@psu.edu.

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Hello Alumni and Friends:

I have now passed six months on the job, and fully understand the origin of the expression “drinking from a fire hose.” I have met more people on and off campus representing more organizations, associations, and agencies whose names will require multiple refreshers to commit to memory. Nevertheless, these interactions have convinced me that representing our School to our numerous stakeholders and cooperators is one of the best parts of my job. The Penn State faculty and staff I have met, even if they are not alums, share a pride in our great university that shows in everything they do. Off campus, the many School alums I have met demonstrate a deep commitment to the well-being of our programs. I refer here to more than just casual questions I get about former professors, but also to suggestions about how to improve our programs and to sincere offers to help where possible.



Something that you and I are concerned with daily is the state of our economy (and the economy of our state). As I write this, Pennsylvania still has no budget for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Proposed budgets show that this could be a rough year for Penn State. Many campus activities are currently on hold while we await news from Harrisburg about how Penn State fares budget-wise. The impact will be felt in the School as our students face another tuition hike and we increasingly find replacement of retired faculty to be something for which we have to negotiate earnestly. But no one promised me that this job was going to be easy!

Besides wrestling with budgetary issues, we are looking forward to a brighter future through several current activities including working on our five-year strategic plan and preparing to launch a search for the next Goddard Chair. These issues help us maintain our optimism despite the economy. One thing that seems to have not waned even in these challenging times is the support of our alumni. I am continuously awed by the aforementioned engagement of our alums, and it reaffirms my decision to accept the position of director of the School.

On a more personal note, my Texas wife, a high school teacher who wanted to finish out the school year there, has now joined me in Pennsylvania and has remarked frequently about the cool summer here. But neither of us is going to miss those five-month Texas summers!

Please stay in touch.

Warmest regards,
Mike Messina

Conservation Leadership School

Penn State’s experiential summer youth education program celebrated its 60th year with the completion of this year’s Conservation Leadership School (CLS).

Wetlands were the focus of CLS this summer, with activities at Scotia Barrens vernal pools, Interstate 99 mitigated wetlands, Black Moshannon State Park Bog Natural Area, and several sites that were once agricultural fields.



Presenters included personnel from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ducks Unlimited, and several Pennsylvania state agencies, namely the Game Commission,

Department of Environmental Protection, and Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of State Parks.

Along with wetland education, CLS provided students with team building, conflict resolution, and problem solving challenges through programs by the Centre County Youth Service

Bureau’s Zerby Gap ropes course, Rural Leadership program of Pennsylvania (RULE), and the new vertical adventure course located at the Stone Valley Recreation Area.

More than 55 high school students from across Penn-

sylvania participated, with many expressing interest in attending Penn State in the future. Students experienced numerous “firsts” such as shooting a gun, cutting down a tree, and viewing 3 of the 5 carnivorous plants in North America.

Throughout the week of CLS, students explore their beliefs in conservation and themselves, and interact daily with activities to improve their knowledge of the world around them.

CLS 2010 will run June 27-July 3, July 11-17, and July 18-24, with a focus on wildlife. For more information, please contact CLS director Mike Powell at 814-863-1113 or mjp175@psu.edu. 🐾



Faculty and Staff Resources

Dr. Wayne Myers Retires



Wayne Myers, professor of forest biometrics, retired on June 30, 2009, after nearly 31 years of service at Penn State and 40 years on university forestry faculties.

After earning M.F. and Ph.D. degrees in forest ecology (1965) and forest entomology (1967), respectively, at the University of Michigan, Myers began his professional career in Canada as a research forest entomologist and biometrician. He then joined the faculty of forestry at Michigan State University, where he remained for nine years, special-

izing in biometrics and remote sensing. His work at Michigan State included participation in the Forestry Faculty Program of the U.S. Forest Service in Portland, Oregon, and a biometrics capacity building consultancy assignment in Brazil.

In 1978, Myers joined the faculty in our School of Forest Resources. In 1979 he did an IPA (Interagency Personnel Agreement) with U.S. Forest Service State & Private Forestry. In 1984 he began a joint appointment as co-director of Penn State's Office for Remote Sensing of Earth Resources (ORSER), one of the early centers for analysis of NASA satellite image data. Myers was influential in developing methods for remote sensing analysis, and a pioneer in geographic information systems (GIS). He developed two computer-based spatial data handling systems "from scratch," using Penn State's Stone Valley Experimental Forest and the Scotia Barrens (State Games Lands No. 176) as testing grounds for GIS in natural resources.

As co-director and then director of ORSER (later renamed ORSSIR, the Office for Remote Sensing and Spatial Information Resources), Myers developed pattern-based approaches to landscape-level ecological mapping. He was co-leader of a team that did a biodiversity analysis for vertebrates in Pennsylvania using GIS-based habitat models (GAP Analysis), developing a framework by which to evaluate land-use decisions and trends for biological diversity systematically and objectively. His later research focused on innovative approaches to detect and assess situations in which specific forest sites assume special significance by virtue of their placement in particular landscape patterns.

In addition to publishing numerous refereed articles, Myers has co-authored two books, with a third, *Statistical Geoinformatics for Human-Environment Interface*, in progress. In 2002, Myers received the Boggess Outstanding Paper award from the American Water Resources Association for a co-authored publication, "GIS and Remote Sensing in Landscape Level Analysis of Watersheds and Water Resources."

In line with his interest in international work, Myers spent two years (1988 and 1989) in India as forestry advisor for the U.S. Agency for International Development. There he introduced GIS as a tool to help people cope with complex social/environmental issues. Since then he has worked extensively in cooperative water-

shed research in India. Myers has also had Research Fellowship assignments in Malaysia on three different occasions, including PSU liaison for a memorandum of agreement with the University of Malaysia Terengganu.

Myers has taught a number and variety of undergraduate- and graduate-level courses in the School of Forest Resources during the past three decades, including Forest Biometrics, Remote Sensing and Spatial Data Handling, Forest Fire Management, Natural Resources GIS, International Forestry, Artificial Intelligence and Expert Systems, Multispectral Remote Sensing, and Multivariate Analysis for Forest Resources. In 2001, Myers received the Edward D. Bellis Award in Ecology for "outstanding contribution and dedication to educating and training graduate students." In 2004, Myers was named to the College of Agricultural Sciences' Community of Teaching Excellence, which recognizes educators who significantly contribute to our college's national reputation for excellence in teaching and learning. ❀

SFR Faculty and Student Awards

The School of Forest Resources annual spring picnic has for many years been the venue at which the School's Outstanding Faculty and Outstanding Senior awards have been presented. At this year's picnic, held on the evening of April 16 at Tau Phi Delta Fraternity, two new awards were also presented: Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Assistant Award and Outstanding Adviser Award.

The **2009 Outstanding SFR Faculty Award** was presented to **Paul Lupo**, for his excellence in teaching and his keen interest in student participation and hands-on education. Lupo establishes a high standard for learning in the classroom and takes extra time to meet with students and help them study class material. He co-teaches FOR 203 (Dendrology), FOR 366 (Forest Measurements), and FOR 497 (an experimental GPS class). He is also involved with extracurricular student activities and guest lectures in other classes.

This annual award recognizes a faculty member who has made extraordinary contributions to the School of Forest Resources community through teaching, advising, and research. Students nominate faculty and a final selection is made by a panel of representatives from the School's student organizations. Also nominated for the award this year were Dr. Walter Tzilkowski, associate professor of wildlife science, and Dr. Hunter Carrick, associate professor of aquatic ecology.

Wildlife and Fisheries Science student **Rachel Cleaver** was recognized as the **SFR Outstanding Senior 2009**. In her freshman year, Cleaver joined the Penn State Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society, and during her sophomore through senior years she has held the offices of secretary, treasurer, and vice president, respectively, in that organization. She worked as a volunteer with the Natural Resources Extension unit at the Pennsylvania 4-H Wildlife Field Day. She served as a tour guide during the School's Centennial Celebration in 2007, and as a senior she mentored two

incoming first-year students in the inaugural year of the School's Peer Mentor Program.

Cleaver was employed as a fisheries research assistant in the School since her freshman year. She assisted teaching Field Ichthyology at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center at Presque Isle, Pennsylvania. She served as a judge for the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science, and as an assistant in the Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow Program. Her academic achievements include an award for a poster presentation at the University's Undergraduate Research Exhibition, an award in the College's Guldin Speaking Contest, and induction into Xi Sigma Pi honor society.

Cleaver is an avid hunter and angler and she is staying with us to complete an M.S. in Fisheries under Dr. Jay Stauffer.

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. Also nominated this year was Forest Science senior Erin Stewart.

The SFR Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Assistant Award, presented for the first time this year, went to **Phillip Manning** for his dedication to students in FOR 466W (Forest Management). Manning established a high standard for learning and always made extra time for his students.

Manning is completing an M.S. degree in Forest Resources and is advised by Dr. Marc McDill. He earned a B.S. degree here in 2007 in Wildlife and Fisheries Science with a minor in Forest Science. His current research involves updating and developing

growth and yield models for Pennsylvania forests to aid in the development of forest planning models. His personal interests are hunting, fishing, and hiking,

Undergraduate students nominate candidates for the Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Assistant Award, and the recipient is selected by leaders of SFR student organizations. Also nominated this year were Mary Lundeba, who just completed a Ph.D. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science this summer; Yvette Dickinson, Ph.D. candidate in Forest Resources; and Sarah Johnson, Ph.D. candidate in Ecology.

Dr. Nicole Brown, who was promoted to associate professor of wood chemistry this summer, was honored with the Outstanding SFR Adviser Award, a new award presented for the first time this year. Brown teaches W P 400 (Properties of Wood), W P 413 (The Chemistry of Wood) and W P 418 (Chemical Processing of Wood). She exhibits excellence in advising, career planning, and counseling students. She invites undergraduates to work in her research lab, serves as faculty adviser to the Forest Products Society student chapter, and initiated the annual SFR Cardboard Canoe Race.

The Outstanding Adviser Award is based on the overall effectiveness of the student adviser as reflected by the nominators and the undergraduate student body. Excellence in three areas are emphasized: academic advising, individual student goal-setting and career planning, and personal counseling. Also nominated this year were Dr. Paola Ferreri, associate professor of fisheries management; Dr. Gary San Julian, professor of wildlife ecology; and Dr. Eric Zenner, associate professor of silviculture. 🐾

Student Resources

Emily Thomas Receives 2009 Rapp Prize for Academic Excellence



WFS senior Emily Thomas (right) also received the 2009 Gamma Sigma Delta Outstanding Senior in Agriculture Award

Wildlife and Fisheries Science major Emily Thomas of Warren, Pennsylvania, is the recipient of the Orpha Kelly Rapp and Jesse Rossiter Rapp '15 Prize for Academic Excellence. 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.

Thomas completed an associate's degree in Wildlife Technology at Penn State in 2007, and graduated this past spring with a B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science, Wildlife option.

She has been employed as a seasonal biological science technician at the U.S. Forest Service Northeast Research Laboratory in Irvine, Pennsylvania, since summer 2005, working there with research wildlife biologist Dr. Scott Stoleson.

In May 2009 Thomas began collecting data for a master's thesis, with Dr. Margaret Brittingham as her adviser. Her research will address the large- and small-scale effects of oil, gas, and mineral activity on forest songbirds in the Allegheny National Forest.

At Penn State DuBois, Thomas served as vice-president and president of the ECO Club, and also tutored students in wildlife, forestry, and chemistry courses. At Penn State University Park, Thomas was active in the Penn State Wildlife Society and was inducted into the Gamma Sigma Delta honor society of agriculture. This past spring, Thomas was honored with the 2009 Gamma Sigma Delta Outstanding Senior in Agriculture Award after a se-

continued on next page

lection committee reviewed the academic records of all the seniors in the College of Agricultural Sciences.

In her spare time, Thomas enjoys snowboarding, riding motorcycles, hunting, and geocaching.

"I love that I live directly next to the Allegheny National Forest and try to take advantage of this privilege as much as I can," said Thomas. "I also enjoy volunteering to band birds for the public at the Jamestown Audubon Society and for a local study on American kestrels."

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

Hands-on Learning

This past spring, 33 Forest Technology students from a course taught by Dr. Andrew Bartholomay ('04g) at Pennsylvania College of Technology surveyed three square miles of the Penn State Stone Valley Forest.

Survey objectives were to gather raw data pertaining to overwintering deer densities and deer browse impact on vegetation. Students worked in two-person crews, with each crew responsible for surveying 233 to 265 plots. Plots were laid out on one-mile-long transect lines that ran north to south. The students provided compasses, and Penn State's Forestland Management Office provided GPS units pre-loaded with the plots as waypoints, detailed color paper maps, detailed color twig and bud ID guides, and data collection booklets. PSU Forestland Management Office staff and Dr. Bartholomay supervised the crews.

The project offered the opportunity for hands-on learning about sampling, cruising, and white-tailed deer, and the students professionally and efficiently completed the work faster than anticipated. Individuals interested in the raw or processed data can contact Brent Harding at bah173@psu.edu.

The PSU Forestland Management Office acknowledges Dr. Bartholomay, his students, forest resources extension educator David Jackson ('07g), and Pennsylvania Game Commission wildlife biologist Justin Vreeland ('02g) for their participation in this project. 🐾

Tau Phi Delta Honored

The Penn State fraternity and sorority community is comprised of 92 organizations. Of this group, 51 are Interfraternity Council (IFC) fraternities. Each year, the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life

conducts a thorough annual review of each of these organizations.

Tau Phi Delta was one of four IFC fraternities named as **Chapter of Excellence**

at an awards ceremony on April 27,

2009. The Chapter of Excellence Award is presented to chapters that have surpassed the minimum expectations and have distinguished themselves in the areas of community service, philanthropy, and educational programming.

Tau Phi Delta also received the **Distinguished Community Service Award**. Most significantly, Tau Phi Delta was also recognized as the **Most Outstanding IFC Fraternity of the Year!** 🐾



Left to right: Tau Phi Delta members John Murdock, Jeffrey Decker, Tyler Gebhardt, Mitchell Vowler, and Aaron Gallaher.

Spring 2009 Commencement

UNDERGRADUATES

Forest Science

Michael Bosold, Kevin Cook, Jeremy Ernst, Aaron Gillung, Christopher McClelland, John Murdock, Samuel Scavo, Erin Stewart, Travis Weinzierl, Glenn Werner, Brian Williamson

Wildlife and Fisheries Science

Aaron Barkdoll, William Brown, Lauren Cipressi, Rachel Cleaver, Robin Heagy, Daniel Hontz, Aaron Kaiser, Micah Lehman, Andrew Meyer, Peter Mohn, David Nihart, Wes Reichard, Lauren Rowe, Emily Schneider, Brandon Shihinski, Alex Stewart, Erica Stuber, Heather Szalkowski, Emily Thomas, Kevin Yoder, Melody Young

Wood Products

Nathan Beary, Brett Diehl, Nathaniel Elser

GRADUATES

Forest Resources

Philip Brumbaugh, M.F.R.

Wildlife and Fisheries Science

Howard Goldstein, M.S.; Aubrey Lashaway, M.S.;
Rebecca Stewart, M.S.

Ecology

Andrew Wilson, Ph.D

School Notes

At a joint meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Society (WOS) and the Association of Field Ornithologists (AFO) in April in Pittsburgh, PA, Ph.D. candidate **Sarah Pabian** won the Alexander Wilson Prize from the WOS for her paper titled, "Calcium and Forest Bird Habitat Quality" and Ph.D. candidate **Jason Hill** won a Best Oral Presentation award from the AFO for his talk on "Post-fledging movement, behavior, and habitat use of adult Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows."

In April, Goddard Chair Professor **Harry Wiant** was awarded the 2nd Annual Outstanding Faculty Award presented by the West Virginia University Forestry Alumni Association.

Ed Palpant, who was employed by the School of Forest Resources 1966 - 1983, taking care of the greenhouses and assisting faculty with a wide variety of research projects, recently moved to Colorado. His address is 30991 C.R. 356, Buena Vista, CO 81211.

M.S. candidate **Devin DeMario** received the Best Student Paper Presentation Award at the 2009 Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference for her paper, "Evaluation of Panfish Enhancement Regulations in Pennsylvania Lakes."

Duane Diefenbach received a 2009 Award for Professional Excellence from the University of Maine's Wildlife Program. He also received the Scientific Excellence Award in 2009 from the USDI's National Cooperative Research Unit Recognition Awards Program for his work "on research projects of major significance in Pennsylvania."

"Farmlands and Wildlife of Pennsylvania and the Northeast" is a 67-page booklet written by **Margaret Brittingham**, professor of wildlife resources, and former graduate student **Amanda Yeager** to "increase awareness and knowledge about farmland wildlife, its history, and its management." Copies are available for \$9 (plus shipping) from the College of Agricultural Sciences Publications Center. For ordering information, call (814) 865-6713 or visit the college's publications Web site at <http://pubs.cas.psu.edu>.

The School's **Laurel Haven Conservation Education Center** hosted numerous educational programs for students and teachers this past spring. Youth learned about forest resources from A (Aspect) to Z (water Zones). Shown here are several second grade students from Howard Elementary exploring forest soils. The



center specializes in custom-tailored school programs to help teachers connect youth to forests while meeting required topics in the state teaching standards. The college's Department of Entomology also assisted in several programs.

In June 2009, the National Park Service (NPS) Inventory and Monitoring Program filled two full-time, permanent positions that are housed in the School of Forest Resources. **Caleb Tzilkowski** is the new aquatic ecologist for the Eastern Rivers and Mountains Network. Tzilkowski earned his Ph.D. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science at Penn State in 2005; he also completed his B.S. and M.S. (Ecology) degrees at Penn State. For the past 10 years he has worked extensively on the ecology of benthic macroinvertebrates, stream fishes, periphyton, and water chemistry. **Andy Weber** is the new hydrologic technician for the network. Weber earned a B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science at Penn State in 2005 and an M.S. in Biology at Tennessee Technological University in 2008. With the addition of these two positions, a total of nine NPS employees are based at University Park, eight of whom are housed in the School.

Paul Smith, professor of sustainable building materials marketing; **Nicole Brown**, associate professor of wood chemistry; and senior research associate **Lee Stover** are part of a team that received a \$100,000 grant from the Green Building Alliance (GBA) in June 2009 for product and market development of thermo-treated hardwood. Their partner in this project is Babcock Lumber Company, a wholesale distributor of building materials headquartered in Pittsburgh. Four of 22 proposals were selected to receive grants in this round, which is the fourth round of Product Innovation Grants awarded since GBA began its Green Building Products Initiative in 2006.

Wood Products senior **Steven Kelly** received one of four \$5,000 scholarships awarded by the Composite Panel Association's Foundation.

Forest Science junior **Tiffany Roddy** received a \$1,500 scholarship from the Forest Landowner Foundation.

Effective July 2009, **Nicole Brown** was promoted to associate professor of wood chemistry; **William Elmendorf** was promoted to associate professor of urban and community, and **Judd Michael** was promoted to professor of sustainable wood-based enterprises.

Administrative staff assistant **Andrea Lego** retired in July 2009. She first joined the School in 1993 and worked in the Director's Office, and has had several appointments since then, totaling about 10 years of service to the School. Her most recent appointment was with the Wood Products faculty, as well as support for alumni events such as the Centennial and annual banquets.

Phase I of **H.O. Smith Botanic Gardens in The Arboretum at Penn State** is complete. Encompassing 33 acres with approximately five acres of gardens, Phase I contains 17,000 plants representing 700 species and cultivars. An esplanade flanked by annuals and perennials, a rose and fragrance garden, lotus pool, fountain and overlook pavilion are expected to be major attractions. Also included are an event lawn and terrace featuring subtropical plants. This first phase of construction was financed almost completely by private philanthropy and donations. For photos and more information, visit <http://www.arboretum.psu.edu/>.

Alumni Resources



FORMERLY PUBLISHED AS THE SCHOOL OF FOREST RESOURCES ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

No. 95

President's Message



Marc D. Lewis '78

Greetings fellow SFR Alumni, It seems like only a short time ago that I was graduating from the Penn State School of Forest Resources, and here I am the president of the SFR Alumni Group. Where did all of those years go?

Since becoming more involved with the SFR Alumni Group, I have come to realize what a strong, committed group we have. Our two most immediate past presidents **Tom**

Yorke '64 and **Mark Webb '73**, with whom I've had the pleasure of serving, have certainly provided leadership and energy, and I thank them for that.

You will note elsewhere in this newsletter that we are looking for candidates for our board of directors. If you are interested in reconnecting to Penn State or staying involved, please consider submitting your name.

Also, please send us your current e-mail address so that we can keep in contact more easily, and help us save money by sending you the RESOURCES newsletter electronically.

As you may recall from a previous newsletter, the SFR Centennial Celebration was recognized with the Penn State Ag Council's Leadership in Action Award. I am pleased to report that the SFR Centennial Celebration is receiving a second award as well. The Penn State Alumni Association's (PSAA) Alumni Council Awards Committee will recognize us with a Fellowship and Networking Award, to be presented at the November 6 meeting of the Alumni Council. Many thanks to **Tom Yorke** for submitting the nomination!

Here's an excerpt from the May 18 letter we received from the PSAA awards committee: "This year's awards program was exceptionally competitive as we received over 80 nominations from nearly 50 different affiliate groups. Each nomination was carefully reviewed and the committee debated each selection at length. Your commitment to our University and the Penn State Alumni Association serves as a model for alumni everywhere. We are proud of your group and its accomplishments."

Mike Messina '79 is now firmly entrenched in his new job as director, and from all accounts is doing a fine job. The SFR has not been immune from the trying times that we have all been facing in the business world. Budget cuts and uncertainty from both the state and federal government have affected operations in the SFR. Mike has also been getting out and about, meeting folks in forestry organizations and other related entities across the state and beyond.

There has also been a change in leadership of the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences. Robert Steele has stepped down after 12 years as dean to become a full-time professor in the Department of Food Science. Bruce McPheron, at Penn State since 1988, most recently as professor of entomology and our College's associate dean for research and graduate education, has taken over leadership of the College. I am sure Bruce will do a fine job.

Don't forget the good old days at Penn State's School of Forest Resources and who WE ARE!!!

Marc D. Lewis '78

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School of Forest Resources Outstanding Alumni



Four School of Forest Resources Outstanding Alumni were honored at the SFR Alumni and Friends Banquet on April 24, 2009, at Toftrees Resort and Conference Center in State College. Pictured above with SFR Director Dr. Mike Messina (center) are (left to right): **Glenn P. Haney '51**, **John C. Davies '52 and '57g**, **Ralph E. Heilig '58**, and **Keith D. Horn '55**.

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.

continued on next page

School of Forest Resources Alumni Group Board of Directors

Elected at-large members (terms expire Spring 2010):

Marc D. Lewis ('78 FORSC) *president*
Robert D. Rorabaugh ('72 FORSC) *vice president*
Cecile M. Stelter ('89 FORSC, '90g FOR R)
Thomas H. Yorke ('64 FOR, '67g FOR)

Elected at-large members (terms expire Spring 2011):

R. Alexander Day ('67 FOR)
Ralph E. Heilig ('58 FOR)
Thaddeus M. Taylor ('97 FORSC)
Denise H. Mitcheltree ('94 and '96g W F S)

Elected at-large members (terms expire Spring 2012):

Tracey L. Coulter ('01a 2FORT, '03 FORSC, '05g FOR R)
Franklin S. Judd ('67 FOR T and '73g FOR R)
Roxanne C. Shiels ('93g FOR R)
Richard E. Vrboncic ('80 FORSC)

Immediate Past President:

Mark R. Webb ('73 FORSC)

Director, School of Forest Resources:

Michael G. Messina ('79 FOR)

Assistant Director for Outreach, School of Forest Resources:

James C. Finley ('70 FORSC and '75g FOR R)

President, College of Ag Sciences Alumni Society,
ex officio:

Carrie Bomgardner

Faculty Member, School of Forest Resources:

Sanford S. Smith ('01g FOR R)

Undergraduate Student, School of Forest Resources:

Amanda L. Bowe

Graduate Student, School of Forest Resources:

Benjamin M. Gamble ('06 FORSC)

Executive Director:

Ellen A. Manno ('86g FOR R)

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

Election Results

The Spring 2009 election results are as follows, based on 56 ballots cast (13 hard copy and 43 online): **Tracey Coulter** '01a, '03, and '05g; **Roxanne Shiels** '93g; and **Richard Vrboncic** '80 have each been elected to a first three-year term on the School of Forest Resources Alumni Group Board of Directors, and **Frank Judd** '67, '73g was elected to a second term.

Board members elected **Marc Lewis** '78 as president and **Bob Rorabaugh** '72 as vice president. **Marc Webb** '73 remains on the board as immediate past president.

Dr. Richard Yahner stepped down from his position as the School's associate director for outreach. Those duties have been assumed by **Dr. James Finley** who now serves on our board. **Dr. Sanford Smith** is now faculty representative on the board, appointed to this position after Dr. Henry Gerhold's retirement. For a complete listing of board members, please see the box to the left.

Terms of four at-large board members will expire in Spring 2010, so we will have another election in winter 2010. If you are interested in being a candidate for the board or wish to nominate someone else, please use the Response Form on page 15.

SFR Alumni Employment Statistics

In October 2008, we mailed an employment survey to the Class of 2006-07, comprised of 23 Forest Science (FORSC) alumni, 27 Wildlife and Fisheries Science (W F S) alumni, and 5 Wood Products (W P) alumni. Alumni also had the option to complete the survey online. We attempted to contact all nonrespondents by phone or e-mail.

In total, 100% of FORSC graduates from the Class of 2006-07 were using their degrees in professional pursuits (that is, professional employment or graduate school) a year or so after graduation (based on an 83% survey response rate). Equal numbers of 2006-07 FORSC alumni were employed in public forest management and private forest management—about 24% in each sector. Fourteen percent of the FORSC alumni in the Class of 2006-07 were employed in general resource management. FORSC alumni pursuing additional education was 27% for the Class of 2006-07—the second highest level in 20 years.

In total, 95% of the W F S graduates from the Class of 2006-07 were using their degrees in professional pursuits (based on an 89% survey response rate). W F S alumni employed in wildlife/fisheries management was 37%; only three times in the past 20 years has this statistic been higher. The percentage of W F S graduates working in Pennsylvania was noticeably greater this year than in past years. W F S employment in general resource management was 23% for the Class of 2006-07. The percentage of W F S alumni pursuing additional education was 19%, comparable to most classes in the past 10 years.

Employment of Wood Products (W P) graduates for the Class of 2006-07 was again excellent (based on a 100% response rate): three W P alumni were employed in the forest products industry and two were serving in the U.S. Marine Corps.

For more details, please see the full article at <http://www.sfr.cas.psu.edu/Alumni/newsletters/Summer2009/SFRalumni.html#4>. 🐾

Biosketches of our 2009 Outstanding Alumni are online at <http://www.sfr.cas.psu.edu/Alumni/AlumniAward.html>

Nominations for next year's Outstanding Alumni and Outstanding Recent Alumni are due September 30. Nomination forms are also available online. 🐾

Forest School Patch Project Completed



A lot has happened since the Forest School Patch update in our Summer 2008 newsletter.

You may recall that the class of 1950's inaugural issue of *The Seedling*, a student newsletter at Mont Alto, dated November 11, 1946, reported on the organization of the Acers Club. That issue featured an Acers emblem on the front cover, and this emblem also appeared on the first page of the 1947 *Forest Echoes* Mont Alto yearbook.

Thanks to Diane Peterson Ritchey, wife of the late **William "Bill" Ritchey '50**, we know the class of 1950 also had an Acers patch that consisted of a bright red chenille wool leaf, and red and white chenille wool lettering, on yellow felt. The Acers patch has a Standard Pennant Company label on back, and Mrs. Ritchey donated the patch to our collection.

Charles Engle '59 donated his patch, which has the words *Forestry School* on it. Engle's patch, which he "probably purchased at Mont Alto in 1955," is cotton canvas, unlike the felt and wool patches manufactured at The Standard Pennant Company.

The donated patches have been framed by **Glenn Haney '51**, and the collection now hangs in the Edwards Student Center on the first floor of the Forest Resources Building at Penn State University Park.

As you can see in the photo, a one-page summary of the history of the Forest School patch is part of the framed display. Copies of a more detailed, multiple-page article are available near the display for those who are interested. The article will also soon be available on our School of Forest Resources Web site. 🌲

Alumni Notes

1920s

E. Clyde Pyle, 1926a – Mr. Pyle's son recently donated "Our Trip thru the European Forests, March 28 - June 13, 1925" to Penn State University Libraries, Special Collections. The book is comprised of 70 pages of notes compiled by Dr. J.V. Hofmann of the Penn State Forest School at Mont Alto. **E. Clyde Pyle** was a member of the expedition.

1930s

Manuel "Manny" Gordon, 1935 – Died July 23, 2009. From *Times Leader*, 7/26/09: "He was employed by the state Bureau of Forestry between 1939 and 1979, assigned for most of those years as the district forester in Lackawanna County. During the Great Depression, he was in charge of the Civilian Conservation Corps in northeastern Pennsylvania. He served in the U.S. Army, overseeing prisoner of war forestry camps in France during World War II.

"Manny Gordon was most recognized for his television work with WNEP, Channel 16, where he urged everyone to 'Enjoy! Enjoy! the great outdoors of northeastern Pennsylvania.' He received the unique honor of having both the Manny Gordon Recreational Site in Lackawanna State Park and the Manny Gordon Pond in McDade Park in Scranton named after him during his lifetime. He was active with multiple civic, religious and environmental organizations.

"Memorial contributions may be made to St Joseph's Center, 2010 Adams Ave., Scranton, PA 18509, or Temple Israel, 236 S. River St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702."

Richard L. Dolton, 1938 – from the executor of his estate: "Mr. Dolton passed away on November 27, 2008 . . . He remained active and dedicated to the field of forestry throughout his lifetime. Please note his passing in your newsletter, which Mr. Dolton read regularly with great enthusiasm."

Stanley M. Filip, 1939 – Died May, 26, 2009. From *The Forestry Source*, July 2009: "From 1939 to 1944 he served as a consulting forester, Works Projects Administration project supervisor, and industrial forester in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps during WW II and then worked for the U.S. Forest Service for 32 years as a research forester in the Northeastern Forest Experiment Station in Kingston, Pennsylvania, and in Laconia and Durham, New Hampshire. During his career in New Hampshire, he was in charge of experiments at the Bartlett Experimental Forest and was involved in educating many forestry students during almost 25 years there. He also authored many articles on the silviculture of northern hardwoods. He as named SAF Fellow in 1992."

1940s

S. Gayley Atkinson, 1941 – 90 Foulkeways, Gwynedd, PA 19436-1003.

Richard S. Sartz, 1941 – 3620 Old Vineyard Rd., La Crosse, WI 54601. Mr. Sartz submitted this news in winter 2008; the editor regrets the news was misfiled and not printed until now: "My brother, **Jacob P. Sartz**, class of 1938, known to his fellow classmates as 'Tarz' died on Oct. 23, 2007. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps 'Flying Cadet Program' in 1941 and retired from the Air Force as a full colonel in 1961."

David Robertson, 1942 – Died February 4, 2009. Mr. Robertson and his wife Ruth established the Robertson Family Endowment for the Reestablishment of the American Chestnut in the College of Agricultural Sciences at Penn State in 2000.

Harry E. Murphy, 1943 – 3128 Woodhaven Dr., Birmingham, AL 35243-5715.

Robert "Bob" Early, 1948 and 1949g – 407 Pleasant View Road, Hummelstown, PA 17036-8007. Mr. Early informed us that Marianne Early, his wife of 54 years and a retired nurse, died January 15, 2009. Mrs. Early was also grandmother of **Ashlee Early '07** who is a forester for the state Bureau of Forestry in Wellsboro, Pennsylvania.

Richard C. "Dick" Bedger, 1949 – Died March 25, 2009. From an obituary sent to us by **Dick Rossman** '50: "A veteran of WWII, Bedger served in the U.S. Army during the liberation of the Philippines and in the Asiatic Pacific campaign, earning Bronze Stars for each. He was active in the Indiana County Christmas Tree Growers Association, having served as president. He was also a member of the Society of American Foresters and the International Plant Propagation Society. He was involved with the Boy Scouts of America for many years, having received the Silver Beaver Award."

1950s

Norman Martin, 1950 – 5282 Cidermill Road, Erie, PA 16509; martins@verizon.net

Walter "Dick" Rossman, 1950 – 2282 New Germany Road, Ebensburg, PA 15931. "I passed my 82nd birthday on Jan. 19, 2009. I don't know how many more there are. My family doctor (the optimist) says many more. Mary and I celebrated our 60th anniversary this year by walking through Egyptian temples and PETRA, Jordan. We met in 1947 when she was a student live-in housekeeper for Dr. and Mrs. Bramble (forestry professor) and I was living at DTS Fraternity on E. Fairmount Ave. We walked many times between E. Fairmount and E. Park Ave. (Bramble's address). Obesity was not a word in use then."

In May 2009, Mr. Rossman and other board members of the Stonycreek-Conemaugh River Improvement Project received special recognition at the Western Pennsylvania Environmental Awards dinner for reducing the impact of abandoned mine drainage and improving water quality in the Stonycreek and Little Conemaugh watersheds in Cambria and Somerset counties. Rossman started the program in 1985 with the Cambria County Conservation District.

Harold B. Birch, 1951 – 6017 Northbridge Road, Columbia, SC 29206. "I own a small tract of forest land in the headwaters of Town Creek that flows from Bedford County, Pennsylvania, into Maryland and there it joins the Potomac River. The Maryland Forest Service sponsors a calendar with great pictures of Town Creek and its environs. I made a small financial contribution and was listed in the latest calendar as a sponsor by the editor **Daniel B. Hedderick**, a Maryland forester. I was pleased to learn that he is a Penn State Forestry grad (1993)!"

Mr. Birch had submitted other news in winter 2008 as well; the editor regrets the news was misfiled and not printed until now: "Sad news of **George Kemp**'s passing. George and **Herb Kirkwood**, both of the class of 1953, came from Mont Alto to State College in the fall of 1950 to room with four foresters from the class

of 1951 in an inexpensive rooming house on East Foster, diagonally across from Acacia Fraternity. The house was owned and run by an old, nearly blind lady, who we knew as 'Ma' Harm. She cleaned our three second-floor rooms and three more on the third floor. We dubbed the rooming house 'Ma's Dust Bowl' (MDB for short) for obvious reasons. The class of '51 foresters who resided there were **Bob Czapiewski**, **Charles Frost**, **Walt Edinger**, and I."

William C. "Bill" Knechtel, 1951 – Died June 14, 2008. From an obituary sent to us by **James McCullough** '51, '52g: "Knechtel joined the U.S. Army Air Force in 1994. After his service he continued his education, earning the forestry degree at Penn State and continuing his post-graduate work at the University of Montana in Missoula. He worked as a forester for the U.S. Forest Service throughout the Northwest, retiring in 1981 after 33 years of service. After his retirement he had a gun-smithing business repairing rifles and shotguns and building complete rifles. He was a member of the Society of American Foresters, the National Rifle Association, and the Oregon Hunters Association."

Paul "Sunshine" Shogren, 1951 – 1638 Neniruk Dr., Oakland, MD 21550; Shogren2@verizon.net. "After 5 months am still hobbling around, now because of my left kneecap becoming misaligned. Nothing gets simple in old age. Want to encourage my 1951 classmates to send their autobiographies to me ASAP so we can proceed and publish our book this fall. So far, 80% have responded. My new project is to reenact Johnny Appleseed for county 4th graders who come by for a day of Living History of the late 1700s at our local 4-H camp. John Chapman in legend walked the Braddock Road in 1794 or thereabouts on his way to Pittsburgh and Ohio. The road goes through the northern part of our county and Garrett."

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

John C. Davies, 1952 and 1957g – 655 Willow Valley Sq., Apt. L505, Lancaster, PA 17602-4873.

Henry D. Gerhold, 1952 and 1954g – 816 S. Sparks St., State College, PA 16801; hdg@psu.edu: "Marilyn and I are enjoying retirement. She continues to improve physically after her surgery in December 2007, but we seldom venture far from home. I'm winding up a couple of research projects, and helping the Pennsylvania Forestry Association manage its investments and editing its magazine. If you are not a member you should consider joining this fine organization: <http://pfa.cas.psu.edu/>."

Thaddeus "Ted" Yarosh, 1952 – 5160 South Etna St, Klamath Falls, OR 97603-8531; yarosh@charter.net.

Milton E. Dickerson, 1953 – 715 Glen Rd., Jay, NY 12941. "I can't say how much I enjoyed being back at Penn State for the SFR Centennial Celebration, April 27, 2007. And after driving 471.5 miles from the High Peaks of the Adirondacks, the first person I met was **Rex Melton** who called me by name! What a pleasant surprise since the only class work I had with Rex was at Summer Camp in 1952. Please say 'thanks' to Rex and extend my best wishes to him. How proud I am to be a Penn State forester and to have had professors like Rex to teach and instruct us. And also thanks to **Dr. Henry Gerhold** and Mrs. Gerhold whom we sat with at the banquet. Sorry I am so late in expressing my appreciation to them and to all of you in making the celebration an enjoyable one for us. I still practice 'forestry' (forest improvements) almost every day on our 130 acres of woodlands with chain saw and tractor at age 79. I do have a helper now—a 4-year-old golden retriever. But she enjoys lunch rather than hearing the chain saw run. My best wishes to all."

Robert M. Frank, Jr. 1954 and 1956g – 40 Marion Dr., Hampden, ME 04444; marion40@roadrunner.com. "Through the efforts of both **Temp Reynolds** '54 and **Tony Dorrell** '54, the Mont Alto class of 1950-51 has been brought back together again. About 25 members of this class (calling ourselves 'Foresters/Old Timers') are now able to communicate with each other via the Internet or other means by sharing memories, old photographs, and current happenings. Thanks Temp and Tony—job well done!"

Glenn Wiggins, 1954 – 702 Caroline St., Port Angeles, WA 98362-3502; glenn@olympen.com. Mr. Wiggins submitted this news in winter 2008; the editor regrets the news was misfiled and not printed until now: "So pleased to see a photo of Professor Jarrett in the winter 2008 issue. I used to watch him play ping-pong at noon. It was something to see as he took on all challengers with an uncanny style of speed and rhythm, standing way back from the table's edge. My congratulations to him on his 90th. He looks as sharp as ever."

Walter A. Hough, 1955 – 109 Gander Way, Hendersonville, NC 28792; walthough@earthlink.net.

Kenneth D. Swartz, 1958 – Died June 15, 2009. From obituary in *Patriot-News*: "He was retired from the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry after working 40 years, having served as the district forester of Michaux State Forest since 1970 until his retirement in 1998. He was a life

member of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association, life member of the Pennsylvania Forest Fire Museum Association, and Fellow of the Society of American Foresters. He was awarded the Distinguished Fellows Award from Penn State Mont Alto in June 2008.”

Joseph B. Whitecavage, 1959 – 128 White Horse Lane, Fishers, IN 46038-1623; jbwwhitecavage@sbcglobal.net. “Energy Conservation-Safety Thru Corrosion Engineering-Pipeline Integrity & Leakage Control Surveys: Environmental Testing & Analysis of Air, Soil & Water. Serving for over 50 years to ‘Replenish the Earth, and Subdue It.’ Genesis 1:28b. Joe Whitecavage, President, J.B.WHITECAVAGE, LIMITED.”

1960s

Adam Bulharowski, 1960 – 13469 N. Barlasina Dr., Oro Valley, AZ 85755; adam1960@bulharowski.net. “I often wondered why there are so few entries here from the Class of 1960, then realized that I hadn’t ever posted anything either, so I’d best remedy that situation before complaining about it. After graduation in 1960, I re-matriculated, subsequently graduating in 1962, having earned my degree in EE. I then spent the next 37 years as an engineer with the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory in Laurel, Maryland, and retired in 1999. As you can see from my address, I have become a ‘desert rat,’ having developed a love affair with Arizona when, along with **Harry Bowlin** ’60, I worked a summer job in 1959 at the Southwest Forest and Range Experiment Station in Flagstaff. **Bill Stauffer** ’60 and **Dean Berkey** ’60 worked in Arizona that summer also, and the four of us drove out and back to Pennsylvania in Harry’s trusty 1952 Mercury. My love of the outdoors, and of the Forestry and AG sciences has never diluted, and I still roam the Arizona mountains regularly, mostly photographing the beauty that surrounds me. Some of my photography can be seen on my Web site at bulharows-

Class of 1960 – 50th Reunion

A committee from the Class of 1960 is planning a reunion at Mont Alto, Sunday, June 6 through Tuesday, June 8, 2010. Contact **John Feldmeyer** ’60 at efeldm@innernet.net or **Adam Bulharowski** at adam1960@bulharowski.net for details.

Traditional Reunion Weekend at University Park will be June 3-6, and the Class of 1960 will be honored as pioneers. For more info, please call the Penn State Alumni Association at 800-548-LION (5466), option 4 or e-mail alumni-reunions@psu.edu.

In Memoriam

Manuel “Manny” Gordon, 1935
died July 23, 2009

Ross H. Mellinger, 1936
died October 12, 2008

Tony Delsardo, 1937
died November 20, 2003

Marshall T. Augustine, 1938
died September 25, 2008

Richard L. Dolton, 1938
died November 27, 2009

Stanley M. Filip, 1939
died May 26, 2009

James E. Wilkinson, Jr., 1939
died June 30, 2008

John E. Griffith, 1941
died September 18, 2008

Joseph B. Paul, Jr., 1942
died March 6, 2009

David Robertson, 1942
died February 4, 2009

George F. White, Jr., 1948
died March 5, 2006

Richard C. “Dick” Bedger, 1949
died March 25, 2009

Alan N. Schmidt, 1950
died January 3, 2008

Frank Klimavicz, 1951
died October 7, 2002

William C. Knechtel, 1951
died June 14, 2008

Kenneth D. Swartz, 1958
died June 15, 2009

Merl J. Waltz, 1961
died May 19, 2009

Eugene E. Long, 1971
died May 9, 1998

Nathan R. Botic, 2003
died May 5, 2009

ki.net. The class of 1960 is currently planning a 50th reunion at Mont Alto in 2010. For details, send me an e-mail.”

John W. Feldmeyer, 1960 – 1402 Social Island Road, Chambersburg, PA 17202; efeldm@innernet.net. “Retired from Letterkenny Army Depot in Oct 1990 after 30 years—18 ½ years and Uncle Sugar is still paying me to stay home. Hunting, keeping after my 3 acres, and volunteer work keep me busy. Kids and grandchildren scattered all over the USA. One grandson in the USMC getting ready for deployment and another entering the Naval Academy in July 2009. Looking forward to our class reunion in 2010. God bless our military.”

Ed Frayer ’61 has heard from a few alums. As for Ed, he hopes to see some Penn State forestry grads at the SAF National Convention in Orlando, Florida, in November. Send newsletter info for the 1961 class to Ed at edfrayer@hotmail.com or 5009 Harbor Heights, Lady Lake FL 32159; (352) 751-7273. Ed’s **Class of 1961** news:

“**Doc Dinus** writes: Greetings from the 4th corner. Winter was long, colder and wetter than average. Snowfall was above average here in the lowlands, but only average or slightly less in our nearby mountains.

“My darling wife, Linda, suffers from various maladies. All of which, happily, are under control so long as she adheres to prescribed diet and medication. My recent back injuries have proven more serious than anticipated. Physicians have therefore restricted my physical activities. Not nice. Gone are pleasures such as tilling the garden, beating back the brush, cutting firewood, riding horses, and jumping from aircraft. Who said that aging was easy? Clearly not for wimps!

“Given our physical limitations, both Linda and I have taken to utilize our excess energies to help at our local high school - small and rural. And, we seem to be doing some good and are having a blast along the way. I help with classes, in laboratories, and on field trips. We both also do our best to make FFA activities successful. Our FFA Forestry Team won the state championship again this year - 3rd time a row! All told, we graduate a disproportionate

number of students headed to 2- and 4-year universities in science, engineering, human medicine, and vet science. Despite our great showing on the FFA forestry front, however, I have been unable to interest students in forestry. But then, no body is hiring such graduates. Where did we go wrong?

"Many thanks to **Ed Frayer** for his work on reacquainting us with one another. His prompting to exchange email addresses has, at least in my case, opened a whole new world. I receive and send, regularly, messages from/to a wide variety of classmates and fraternity brothers. Nothing beats starting a morning with notes and jokes from so many of you. Please keep the mail coming and enjoy the returns before it is too late."

"**Ron Shields** writes: Things are moving along. This winter Addie was diagnosed with Multiple-Myeloma blood plasma cancer. She has been going through treatments in order to get it in remission, so far progress is being made. She has a very positive attitude and we've had great support through prayer and help from friends and church members. Otherwise I still volunteer with USGS as scientist emeritus (fancy name for gopher) and operate a hydrology consulting small business, mainly working with Trout Unlimited on instreamflow leases.

"Brian and his family are still in Boise, where he is on National Guard staff as a homeland security expert and started War College this spring. Our daughter Kelly and family are here in Helena where she is the human relations administrator for the state legislative services division.

"Also talked with **Warren Mathias** (1961 HORT) this spring; he was Best Man at my wedding, almost 48 years ago."

"From **Jim Lacek**: The class of 1960 is preparing for a 50th reunion to be held during the summer of 2010. A number of the class of 1961 are actually members of the class of 1960 - bonded together at Mont Alto in 56-57. We want **Dick Henry**, **Tony Santoli**, **Hans Gregerson**, **Norm Uber**, **Jerry Magistrella** of 1963 and any other strays back."

"**Wendall Alcorn**. New phone is 828.577.1577; 2017 Deep Woods Dr., Hendersonville, NC 28739. Don't think I have anything of interest for the world of forestry. After living in the west/desert for many years, and now in North Carolina, I'm often heard commenting on how I can't see much because of all these damned trees. What a commentary from a forestry major."

"From **Bob Davey**: Classmate **Merl Waltz** died on May 19, 2009. Merl was an army veteran and worked over 35 years for the Bureau of Forestry. His last work assignment for the bureau was district forester of the Buchanan Forest District with headquarters in McConnellsburg. In retirement Merl was busy as always.

He did research on Fire Towers in Pennsylvania for the Fire Wardens Museum, planted trees on the home farm, planted trees on the Sproul State Forest with PennReleaf, and was even dispatched out West in 2008 with Pennsylvania volunteer specialized fire crew. Merl was always a straight shooter and devoted his life to forest conservation.

"For myself, retirement is a great gig. To **Dinus** we are still burning firewood at our place. Splitting and stacking wood is great therapy and a super way to lose aggression. Knotty white oak doesn't care."

"**Bob Stroh** writes: Several names (**Dinus**, **Shields**, **Mathias**) are names that I haven't thought of in years. I just flipped through my *Sylvan* yearbooks that I have here in the office. Saw lots of young faces with lots of bushy hair.

"I am still here at the University of Florida (GO GATORS!!) as director of the Shimberg Center for Housing Studies (<http://www.shimberg.ufl.edu>) but plan to retire at the end of December. Physically holding together pretty well for an old man. Aside from some sore joints, I can't complain. I think it is the result of a young wife and three kids in their mid 20s still living at home that keeps me going."

Merl J. Waltz, 1961 - Died May 19, 2009. He was a district forester with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources in McConnellsburg, retiring in 2002 after 41 years of service.

Leon E. App, 1963 - 5055 Hurop Rd., Sandston, VA 23150, sueandleonapp@comcast.net. "Sue and I are still fully retired. I serve as associate director for Henricopolis Soil and Water Conservation District. Also active in Boy Scouting as district advancement chair working primarily with Eagle Scout candidates. Treasurer and trustee of Sandston Masonic Lodge #216, and elder and trustee of Sandston Presbyterian Church.

William "Bill" Mitchell, 1963 - 24817 N. 45th Drive, Glendale, AZ 85310. "Had an enjoyable trout fishing experience with **Dennis Molli** '63 in Sedona, Arizona, this February. Also, made contact with **Donald Woodruff** who started at Mont Alto in 1959, graduated in Wood Utilization in 1965. He is doing well operating his wood office furniture making business in Maine between sailing and taking care of 400 acres of Maine timberland."

William J. "Bill" Herb, 1968 and 1977g - 1835 Hamlet Place N., Bel Air, MD 21015-1548. "I retired as a hydrologist from the USGS in 2005, but continue to work for Booz Allen Hamilton supporting the Army's Installation Management Command IT Directorate in its relocation from

the D.C. area to San Antonio. I'm working out of Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland, and am anticipating joining my wife, who is waiting along with my dog and my boat, at our house on Maryland's Eastern Shore. My forestry career, working at Nittany Timberlands in State College, lasted for about 2 months before I was drafted. By the time I was discharged, the company had shut down, and I went back to grad school. In 1973, **Tom Yorke** '64. '67g hired me to work with the USGS in College Park, Maryland, and I spent the rest of my career with that organization in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Texas, Minnesota, and finally back to Maryland again."

Frank J. Bertrand, 1969 - RR3 Box 266, Towanda, PA 18848; Bertrand@epix.net. "Finally retired from PENNDOT as appraiser for District 3-0. Still retired as Lt. Col USAR. Still performing appraisals of all sorts over the state."

1970s

James "Jim" Powell, 1972 - 302 Greenhill Road, Willow Grove, PA 19090-2813; james.h.powell@verizon.net.

Steve Resh, 1974 - 104 Sunset Dr., Lavale, MD 21052-1917. **Paul Shogren** '51 informed us that Steve Resh, professor and coordinator of forestry education programs at Allegany Community College (ACM) was named a Fellow by the Society of American Foresters. Resh has been an ACM faculty member since 1986 and has been coordinator since 1995.

Gene Odato, 1975 - 154 Polecat Rd., Landisburg, PA 17040; godato@pa.net. "Was awarded a 2008 Distinguished Alumni Fellow, Penn State Mont Alto."

Earl W. Hower, 1976a - IWLA, 707 Conservation Lane, Gaithersburg, MD 20878; ehower@iwla.org.

David Legerton, 1976 - 1630 Cypress Ridge Dr., Orlando, FL 32825; langarvatn214@yahoo.com. "Currently teaching 5th grade in Orlando. Just became a grandpop. Visited the Nittany Valley and Mont Alto several years ago—it brought back many wonderful memories. Spending my summers traveling around the United States and Canada and teaching aeronautics to kids at summer day camp at Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida."

Pete Prutzman, 1977 - 1512 Millcreek Dr., Arkadelphia, AR 71923; pprutzman@kingwood-forestry.com.

Susan Gallagher, 1978 - 9527 Hurty Ave., Co-nifer, CO 80433-9123; premwyodoc@msn.com.

Valerie (Tate) Zahuranec, 1978 - 300 Lamp-lighter Drive, Lewisburg, WV 24901-1045. vzahuran@gmail.com. "Recently hired as an English as a Second Language teacher for Greenbrier County School System, Lewisburg, West Virginia. Married to **Bill Zahuranec '77** (billz73@gmail.com). Celebrated our 30th anniversary this past September. Bill is a senior resource forester, Plum Creek Timber Company. Children: Ross ('07 IST), Diana, Junior, PSU, Anthropology and Italian. We have enjoyed visiting the campus the past 7 years as we transport them back and forth!"

1980s

L. Dale Garges, 1981 and 1983g - 694 South Avenue, Bradford, PA 16701; dalgarges@templeinland.com. "After a number of years in plant management, I have returned to the technical side of the business at Temple-Inland in Mt. Jewett, PA. Our Medium Density Fiberboard plant is doing well in spite of the difficult economic times due to a great team, which is focused on being the lowest cost provider. I have been at this facility since 1995 after leaving Werzalit of America with 12 years service to them as quality and production manager. I have had the opportunity to lead every aspect of the MDF mill from the finishing and shipping area, quality control, process improvement, maintenance, plant manager, and now back to technical director, which is my favorite role. We are very interested in the growth of the wood industry into bio-fuels as we both are users of residual wood both for process furnish and fuel. I would be pleased to hear from anyone regarding this transition. Go STATE!"

Steven W. Koehn, 1983 - 20916 Old York Road, Parkton, MD 21120-9135; swkoehn@comcast.net. "On June 3, **Steve Koehn**, Maryland State Forester and vice president of the National Association of State Foresters, testified in Washington, DC, before the House Ag Subcommittee on Department Operations, Oversight, Nutrition, and Forestry. The object of the hearing was to discuss the future of forestry policy in the United States. 'State Foresters believe it is important to reestablish effective programs that maintain and diversify markets even in difficult budget times,' said Koehn. 'Particularly when forests are being called upon to address national climate and renewable energy priorities.'"

Claire Travis, 1983 - 138 Spring Branch Rd., Fort Mill, SC 29715; magee@comporium.com. "I have had a great sales career with Weyerhaeuser's Fine Paper Division since 1984. I held several territories ranging from the Carolinas, Texas, and initially in Georgia/Alabama. In spring of 2007 we merged with Domtar and I became the sales operations manager for our export efforts. We are currently selling copy paper and printing paper products in Europe,

UK, Asia, and Mexico. I have been employed within the Weyerhaeuser system for 23 years and now 2 years with the new Domtar company, which was formed in spring '07. My husband is the international sales manager for a small OEM construction equipment company and travels to Europe, Australia, and UK frequently. We have one dog and a great life in small-town South Carolina. Although the paper industry is going through many challenging times with this current economic environment, I feel Domtar is in a good position to weather the storm. I have not been back to State College in over 15 years so I guess it is time for a road trip to see a football game. I do my best to contribute to Penn State's charitable requests and feel my education has served me very well over the years. I hope everyone is well from the class of '83 Forest Products and would love to hear from fellow alumni!"

Bob Bechtold, 1984 - 19819 Samalga Circle, Eagle River, AK 99577; rbechtold@matsugov.us. "Thanks for the great newsletter from the SFR. I enjoy the updates and reading about those who are reaping the rewards of their labors of love, such as **Dr. Strauss**, **Dr. Bowersox**, and **Dr. McCormick**. But, it was especially gratifying to read about Dee's (**Delores Breon**) retirement. She was always the smile and greeting that well represented the School of Forest Resources.

"I have been meaning to write for a very long time, but our lives seems to be caught up in all the work, text messages, and daily routine. After graduating with my B.S. in Forest Science in 1984, I worked as a forest technician at the Military Academy in West Point NY. Next, I returned to Happy Valley to continue school, apply for permanent work, and enjoy the football games.

"In 1985, I re-entered the military, this time with the Army, and completed many courses including Officer Candidate School and a few Engineering Officer courses. I served three years in Germany, and three years at Fort Devens Massachusetts. Our best accomplishment in Germany, other than assisting with the winning of the Cold War, was to adopt our daughter Amy. At Fort Devens, our best achievement was that we adopted our son, Robbie.

"Next, we were sent to Alaska in 1992, where we have lived in Eagle River since. From 1992 to 1999, I served as a project manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and retired as a Major in 1999. And for the last eight years I have been managing construction of new schools in the Mat-Su Valley in Alaska. We are on our 17th year in Alaska, and I could bore you with pictures of scenery, and fish and animals, but I will not. It does amaze me that I live in such a great place, and I even enjoy the winters, as long as we have one or two escapes and a few hunting trips each winter.

"I did run a few laps around the beautiful new facility just before the 38-6 trouncing of

Wisconsin in October 2007, and just one week after the 2007 tailgating at the building. I know it is more than a coincidence for us to stay so close to the Creamery. Great job."

Heather (King) Jennings, 1989 - 502 E. Boone Ave. #645, Spokane, WA 99258; samand-heatherj@yahoo.com. "Moved to Spokane, Washington, 2 ½ years ago. Currently employed by Gonzaga University as a groundskeeper and really like my job!"

1990s

Laurie (Kashuba) Smith, 1992 - 1056 Big Ridge Rd., Oneida, TN 37841; lauriesmith@fs.fed.us. "I am working with my second forester trainee with the Forest Service. It's odd to think that I am training the next generation of foresters. Work is even more challenging during these difficult economic times. I recently got to catch up with alumna **Callie Jo (Pickens) Schweitzer '95g** at a Kentucky-Tennessee SAF meeting where she was presenting. It's always great to meet up with another Penn Stater."

Charles C. Choplick, 1993 - 77 Hill Top Rd., Halifax, PA 17032; cchoplick@state.pa.us.

2000s

Jennifer A. Ottenberg, 2000 - 2001 Fitzwarren Place #201, Baltimore, MD 21209; JOttenberg@mde.state.md.us. "I recently accepted a position as a natural resource planner with Maryland Department of the Environment - Wetlands and Waterways Program Tidal Wetlands Section."

Derald Hay, 2003 and 2007g - 303 Prescott Drive, Chester Springs, PA 19345; dhay@foxrothschild.com. "I am a lawyer at the law firm Fox Rothschild, LLP with a practice focused on environmental law, regulatory compliance, and real estate transaction."

Nathan R. Botic, 2003 - Died May 5, 2009. As a student in the School of Forest Resources, Nathan worked in the Natural Resources Extension Office. After graduation, he worked with the Pennsylvania Hardwood Development Council's Woodmobile and later the Georgia Land Trust. He was a U.S. Air Force veteran, a former cabinetmaker, and owner of Botic Photographic Services. His mother, Donna Brumert, is compiling "happy memories of Nathan" for a memory book; notes can be sent to her at deliz66@atlanticbb.net.

Rebecca Miller, 2005 - 4527 Chestnut St., Bethesda, MD 20184-4740. In June, Rebecca was the host for a group of Penn Staters at the National Zoo in Washington, DC, where she works with California sea lions, grey seals, American beavers, North American river otters, Mexican wolves, and brown pelicans.



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 4,000 alumni at a cost of up to \$6,000 per issue for printing and mailing. 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)
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	(Phone)	
_____	_____	
(Mailing address)	(E-mail address)	

- I have sent a contribution for the SFR Alumni Group in the amount of \$ _____ to Penn State, College of Agricultural Sciences, Development Office, 233 Agricultural Administration University Park, PA 16802 (or it is enclosed and will be forwarded to the correct office). The contribution is made payable to “Penn State” and designated for the School of Forest Resources Alumni Group.
- I would like to nominate the following individuals as candidates for the SFR Alumni Group Board of Directors. (Self-nominations are welcome.) _____
- Outstanding Alumni nomination forms are available online at <http://www.sfr.cas.psu.edu/Alumni/AlumniAward.html> or from Ellen Manno, 814-863-5831; exr2@psu.edu. Nomination deadline is September 30.
- I would like the following news to be included in an upcoming newsletter. The next issue will be published in winter 2010. To submit news online, go to <http://www.sfr.cas.psu.edu/Alumni/AlumniNews.htm>.

_____ date

Mail this form to: Ellen Manno, Penn State, 416A Forest Resources Building, University Park, PA 16802

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

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Outstanding Alumni
Nominations are due
September 30!

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

Calendar of Events

September 22	SFR Alumni and Friends Reception, 6-8 p.m., TWS Annual Conference, Monterey, CA Contact: Ellen Manno, 814-863-5831; exr2@psu.edu
September 30	SFR Outstanding Alumni nomination deadline Contact: Ellen Manno, 814-863-5831; exr2@psu.edu
October/November	Timber Tazation and Forest Finance Workshops. Dates/locations to be announced. Contact: Michael Powell, 814-863-1113 or mjp175@psu.edu
October 1	SFR Alumni and Friends Reception , 7-9 p.m., SAF National Convention, Orlando, FL Contact: Ellen Manno, 814-863-5831; exr2@psu.edu
October 27	Ag Career Day, Bryce Jordan Center, University Park, PA. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Contact: Debbie McAllister, 814-865-7522, djm415@psu.edu
November 14	Ag Alumni Society Tailgate, Ag Live' 09, Snider Agricultural Arena, University Park, PA Contact: Naomi Knaub, 8140867-1819; nmk107@psu.edu
Feb. 26, 2010	Second Annual School of Forest Resources Job Fair, Forest Resources Building, University Park, PA. Contact: Jamie Murphy, 814-863-0362, jam563@psu.edu
April 2010	SFR Alumni Banquet and Tailgate, Blue-White Weekend Contact: Ellen Manno, 814-863-5831; exr2@psu.edu