

# School of Forest Resources

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## Grace Appointed Penn State Goddard Chair



Dr. James R. "Jim" Grace, deputy secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR), has been selected as the new Maurice K. Goddard Chair in Forestry and Environmental Resource Conservation. He will begin his three-year term on August 23, 2010.

The Goddard Chair is a faculty position unlike any other at Penn State, with a focus on providing leadership on public policy issues. Those chosen to fill it need not have extensive academic

or research experience. The Chair holder is expected to spend half of his or her time on public outreach, a third on teaching, and the remainder on other scholarly activity.

The Chair was established in 1983 to honor Maurice "Doc" Goddard, Pennsylvania's "father of state parks." Goddard directed the School of Forest Resources from 1952 to 1955 and during his subsequent tenure in state government, serving under five governors, he succeeded in establishing a state park within 25 miles of every Pennsylvanian. Goddard also oversaw the enactment of landmark environmental legislation. The establishment of the Chair reflects the desire of having an individual at Penn State who follows a tradition set by Goddard himself: fostering dialogue on important environmental issues among government, industry, academia, and the general public.

Jim Grace's current responsibilities in PA DCNR include the direction of the bureaus of State Parks and Forestry, as well as the Bureau of Facility Design and Construction. Under his leadership, Pennsylvania's state parks were awarded the nation's top honor as the 2009 National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management. With 117 state parks, Pennsylvania has one of the largest and most diverse park systems in the country.

During Grace's tenure as director of the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry (1994 to 2007), the bureau incorporated the principles of ecosystem management and a landscape approach to forest management. In addition, the bureau provided more than \$5 million for research and Extension activities, and more than 100,000 acres were added to the state forest system. In 1997, Pennsylvania state forests became the first public forest in the nation to be granted a

certificate of good forest management by the Forest Stewardship Council. At 2.1 million acres of state forest land, Pennsylvania has one of the largest sustainable certified forests in the nation.

Grace "has the qualities essential to help policy makers arrive at balanced decisions for natural resource management" and will "stimulate present and future decision makers to reach out with imagination, conscience, and eagerness to work for solutions to problems of natural resource management," write those who recommended him for the Goddard Chair.

School of Forest Resources director Mike Messina agrees that Grace has the perfect experience required of the position: "Jim's experience as a long-time conservation leader will greatly help our School maintain its important role in Penn State's land-grant mission. His expertise complements existing strengths among our faculty quite well."

Grace previously served in a deputy secretary role in the former Department of Environmental Resources from 1987 to 1993. Prior to that he was on the faculty at Rutgers and at Penn State. As assistant professor and extension forester in the School of Forest Resources (1983-1986), Grace developed the Forest Resources publication series and 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 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association (PFA) and celebrated the Commonwealth's forests and all the values they provide. The PFA honored Grace with the Rothrock Award for Conservation that year for his leadership of that event.

Grace earned his PhD. in Forest Resources at Penn State in 1978 under the guidance of Dr. Russell Hutnik, with a focus on forest ecology. His previous academic training includes a B.S. in forest management at the University of Vermont in 1970 and a master's degree in forest science at Yale University in 1972.

Grace plans to be settled at Penn State in time to teach FOR 480, Policy and Administration, in fall 2010. 🐾

## Winter 2010 Issue: Not Lost in the Mail

Your winter 2010 issue of RESOURCES did not get lost in the mail or in e-mail cyberspace.

Due to some faculty and staff changes, we were unable to publish the newsletter earlier this year. We intend to return to our biannual publication schedule.

*A newsletter for our alumni and friends*

## South Africa - Penn State Forestry Tours

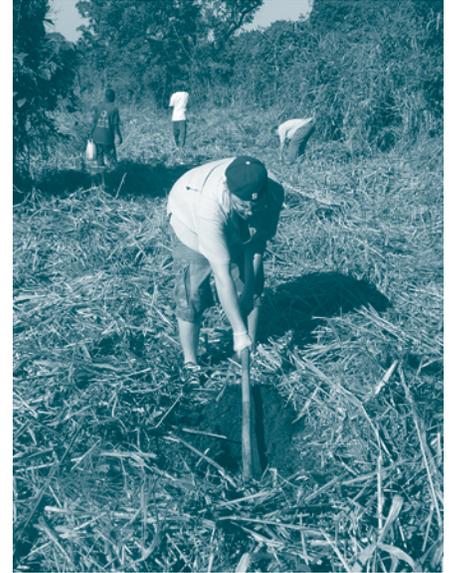
In summer 2009, four South Africans visited Pennsylvania on a two-week forestry study tour. Pierre Ackerman and Cori Ham from the Department of Forest and Wood Science at Stellenbosch University, Willie Louw from the Saasveld Forestry School at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, and Mark Filter, a private forest landowner, toured various forestry operations in Pennsylvania.

South African small-scale timber farmers increasingly supply raw material to primary processors. The study tour provided an opportunity for our visitors to learn from an industry based on small-scale timber farmers. They examined the sustainability of Pennsylvania forests, and the related roles of Penn State Cooperative Extension, NGOs (non-government organizations), and state agencies.

Being used to plantation forests with timber rotations as short as six years, the South Africans were fascinated by the long rota-

tion periods and diversity of management strategies employed in our natural hardwood forests. Highlights of their tour included visiting the Allegheny National Forest, small-scale timber operations in Clarion and Wellsboro, and the Montpelier Forest Estate in Virginia.

This summer a group of Penn State students and



continued on next page

RESOURCES is published for faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends of Penn State's School of Forest Resources.

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Left and right: Penn State students planted trees in South Africa that were part of a carbon sequestration project. Native species planted were *Khaya niasica*, *Brachystegia spiciformis*, *Pterocarpus angolensis*, and *Milletia stuhlmannii*.



faculty traveled to South Africa and Mozambique. Penn Staters had traveled to South Africa in summer 2008, and this year the Mozambique part of the trip was added to experience more of Africa's diversity of forestry and natural resources. The tour included stops at an FSC-certified tropical forest, a national park, and forest industry plantations. One of the highlights for the students was spending time in a rural village, and helping with tree planting and other community-based activities.

The forestry tours are part of a broader effort to create opportunities for exchange in research, extension, and teaching among faculty and students at Penn State and Stellenbosch University. The tours alternate—one year a group from Africa visits the United States and the following year a group from Penn State visits Africa. 🐾

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Hello Alumni and Friends:

It's hard to believe that 19 months have passed since I began this position. I have just about completed my "get to know Pennsylvania" tours and visits, and things are starting to settle down. But how can things settle down and still remain so busy? This is something that I need to determine!

Although this first year passed so quickly, it has left me very pleased and excited. I am pleased and excited with how productive and positive the faculty and staff are no matter how difficult our economy gets. I am pleased and excited with how professional and active our students are. I have really enjoyed those few chances that I get to interact with the students, and I try not to think that they weren't even born yet when I was in their position! I have been very pleased and excited with how dedicated our alumni and friends are to this School. Service on outside committees involving our alumni has been a great experience that continually reminds me about how important this School is to so many people. Finally, I am pleased and excited with how important Pennsylvania's natural resources are to so many people. This convinces me that our teaching, research, and outreach activities will remain vital to Pennsylvania's long-term future. Just two days ago I had the privilege of participating in the 2010 Pennsylvania Forest Stewards Annual Meeting and Picnic. More than a dozen School faculty, staff, and graduate students presented programs to 150 Pennsylvania landowners on a day when the temperature and humidity reminded me too much of my years in Texas. Several of the presenters from outside the School were alums of our programs. It was a day that not only demonstrated the commitment our School has to our University's land-grant mission, but also a day that made me proud to be the Director of the School of Forest Resources.

The next two years are predicted to be quite challenging economically, but the University and College administrations are working diligently to minimize the impact on our School. We are committed to maintaining excellence in all of our missions even as we are forced to tighten our belts. I am surrounded here by excellent colleagues who will find ways to keep us strong and maintain our leadership status.

I invite you to read on to learn more about what we are up to. Please stay in touch.



Warmest regards,  
Mike Messina

# Faculty and Staff Resources

## Lee Stover Retires



Lee Stover retired in July 2010 after 32 years of service in the School of Forest Resources and the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences.

Stover earned a B.S. in Biophysics in 1972 and an M.S. in Solid State Science in 1974, both at Penn State. From 1974 to 1980 he was a graduate research assistant in Penn State's College of Earth and Mineral Sciences. In 1980 he was hired as a research assistant in the School of Forest Resources. Through the

years, Stover was involved in extension, research, and teaching.

In his Cooperative Extension role, Stover led numerous workshops and short courses including Wood Structure and Identification; Chainsaw Safety and Safe Tree Felling; Kiln Drying; Hardwood Tree Grading, and Log and Lumber Grading. He also presented programs on chainsaw safety at the Pennsylvania Governor's Conference on Health and Safety at the 80<sup>th</sup> session in 2006 and the 82<sup>nd</sup> session in 2008. Stover visited wood products operations throughout the state and provided one-on-one, hands-on consultation and problem-solving. He also served as an expert witness in court cases.

Stover's resident education responsibilities included leading and assisting with a wide range of courses including introduction to wood products, macroscopic wood identification, anatomical properties of wood, timber harvesting, chainsaw safety, forest resources mensuration, and wood products manufacturing systems and products.

He maintained the "sawmill and shop" in the Forest Resources Lab including all the equipment housed therein. He helped countless undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and staff with individual research projects that required use of those facilities.

Stover assisted with many research efforts in the fields of physical and mechanical properties of wood, wood anatomical structure, moisture movement in wood, kiln-drying of wood, wood-polymer composites, and wood-cement composites. He also assisted with the development of research equipment and techniques. His talents were tapped by forestry and wildlife/fisheries faculty as well; examples include projects related to weed control in *Populus* plantations and remote-collaring of red squirrels.

In 2000, Stover was honored with the School of Forest Resources Outstanding Faculty Award. To cap his successful career, he was awarded The American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers' Blue Ribbon Award in the 2010 Educational Aids Competition for a safety fact sheet that he co-authored titled "Safely Using Farm Tractors in the Woods." The award requires a rating of 90% or better, and goes to a maximum of 10% of entries.

According to Stover, "One of the best things about my time at Penn State has been the opportunity to work with a wide variety

of individuals both within the School of Forest Resources and the College of Agricultural Sciences. I thoroughly enjoyed the teaching opportunities provided to me by the wood products-related industries in Pennsylvania." ❀

## Farewell to Jamie Murphy

In December 2009, the School of Forest Resources bid farewell to Jamie Murphy who served as instructor and coordinator of undergraduate programs since January 1, 2006. Murphy moved to Colorado to join her husband Chris Dahl in Estes Park. He has been employed by the National Park Service at Rocky Mountain National Park since June 2009.

In addition to her responsibilities for recruitment, academic advising, and curricular matters, Murphy had also been teaching. Each fall semester she co-taught a section of the College's first-year seminar, "Be a Master Student," and in "Professional Careers in Forest Resources" she helped Forest Science and Wood Products sophomores develop career goals and academic plans.

Murphy also organized and implemented new initiatives. She developed an exit-interview procedure for graduating seniors in order to evaluate and improve curricula, and she piloted the first-ever School of Forest Resources Career Fair in 2009.

After only a few short years on the job, School of Forest Resources faculty, students, and alumni nominated Murphy as a candidate for the College of Agricultural Sciences 2009 Excellence in Academic Advising Award—clearly a testament to how highly she is regarded. We miss Jamie Murphy, and all the energy and enthusiasm she brought to her work. We thank her for a job well done.

Murphy welcomes visitors to Colorado. "Just don't all come at once!" she asks.

## ... and "Welcome Back" to Ellen Manno

Ellen Manno applied for the position vacated by Jamie Murphy and was successful in her bid to return to the job she held once before. Manno served as coordinator of undergraduate programs from July 1988 through March 1997 when she opted to move to a part-time position.

The School has essentially collapsed the full-time and the part-time positions into one, with some duties being redistributed to others. For example, Paul Lupo, research support technologist, has assumed responsibility for the "Professional Careers in Forest Resources" course. Manno will continue her work with the School of Forest Resources Alumni Group, including publishing this RESOURCES newsletter. The transitional months at the start of this year were quite busy; therefore, you did not see a winter 2010 issue of RESOURCES.

"I am honored and excited to be re-hired in this full-time position. I look forward to the increased contact with our current students and to maintaining connections with them as alumni," says Manno. ❀

## In Memory of Rex E. Melton

December 4, 1921 – March 13, 2010



Rex E. Melton, the fifth of six children, was born on a farm in Ozark, Missouri in 1921. His father died during the Depression when Rex was 12. He took on odd jobs to help support the family, working in a cheese factory, cracking black walnuts, and shooting rabbits for the local market.

Melton entered the University of Missouri in 1939. He was dating Margie Maddox at the time, and they married in 1942. That same year he joined the Army Air Corps. He was a First Lieutenant in the 454th Bombardment Group, piloting B-24 aircraft in the European and Mediterranean theatres where he flew 24 missions and was decorated with a Purple Heart, Distinguished Flying Cross, and Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters. He completed his B.S. degree in agriculture in 1946.

Melton earned a Master of Forestry in forest entomology at the University of Michigan in 1947, and that year was hired by Penn State Mont Alto. He taught dendrology, surveying, mensuration, and forest practices at Mont Alto from 1947 to 1955, and also taught at Blue Jay Camp from 1948 to 1954. In 1955 he became resident forester at the 6,300-acre Stone Valley Experimental Forest in Huntingdon County, and served as director of the forest until 1978. In 1966 he relocated to Ferguson Building at University Park to resume teaching and to help administer instructional programming. He edited the alumni newsletter from 1974 until 1988, when he retired as professor emeritus after 41 years of service.

Melton's devotion to academic advising and personal counseling of students was formally recognized in 1988 when he was awarded the Excellence in Academic Advising Award by the College of Agriculture Alumni Society. Alumni have also honored him by endowing a Founder's Tree in the Mont Alto Arboretum. Melton was an elected Fellow in the Society of American Foresters, and a Golden Member.

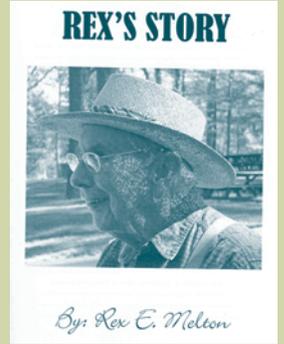
Melton pursued many hobbies during his life. He tied his own fishing flies, hunted, played the harmonica, and practiced beekeeping, woodworking, and leather craft. He loved gardening, birds, music, and his family.

Melton was preceded in death by Margie, his wife of 63 years, and is survived by four children and their spouses, five married grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Memorial ontributions can be made to:

Rex Melton Memorial Fund  
Shaver's Creek Environmental Center, Penn State  
3400 Discovery Road, Petersburg, PA 16669

Rex Melton's family kindly shared his autobiography with us. Thanks to the efforts of Ralph Heilig and Sanford Smith, the autobiography, complete with photos and an addendum of memorial tributes, is now available as a .pdf file online at <http://sfr.psu.edu/alumni/alumni-pdfs/RexMeltonAutobiographyAndTributes.pdf/>. If you access this file, we ask that you consider making a donation in Rex Melton's memory to Shaver's Creek Environmental Center if you have not already done so.



To all who knew and respected Rex Melton:

Following Rex's death, his family very generously donated a small collection of the flies that Rex had tied. Chuck Strauss volunteered his time and talent to construct a shadow box and mount the flies as a tribute to Rex.

It is our desire to offer this collection for sale to the highest bidder. Thus, we are using the RESOURCES newsletter to alert as many as possible about this one-of-a-kind memento of a beloved professor, friend, sportsman, and patriot.

If you are interested in bidding on the collection you are invited to prepare a sealed written bid and mail it to Ralph Heilig, 532 Briar Lane, Chambersburg, PA 17202. The bid opening will be held Friday, October 22, at 11:30 a.m. at my residence. Bidders are invited to be present at the bid opening.

Bids less than \$75 will not be considered.

Bidders should include the bid amount, name, address, phone number, and e-mail address (if available). The successful bidder will be notified by e-mail, phone, or USPS as soon as possible and will have five business days to make payment.

100% of the successful bid amount will be given to the Shaver's Creek Environmental Center, in memory of Rex Melton.

-Ralph Heilig '58  
rheilig@comcast.net

## SFR Faculty and Student Awards

The School of Forest Resources annual spring picnic, organized by Xi Sigma Pi and hosted at the Tau Phi Delta fraternity house, was held on Tuesday evening, April 18. The recipients of the long-standing Outstanding Faculty Award and Outstanding Senior Award were announced at the picnic, as were two newer awards—Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Assistant and Outstanding Adviser Award.

The **2010 SFR Outstanding Faculty Award** was presented to **Mr. Mike Powell**. Powell assists in several courses including Forest Mensuration and Chainsaw Safety each spring, and Anatomical Properties of Wood in the fall. This past spring he was also a teaching assistant in Forest Biometrics. Powell advises the SAF Student Chapter and also the Penn State Woodsmen Team. He spends many hours, including evenings and weekends, attending practices and club meetings, and driving students to events as far away as Canada.

Students appreciate Powell's involvement. Writes one nominee, "Mike Powell deserves this award because he always shows concern for the students, and he is a role model for students. . . . If it wasn't for Mike being in some of the classes that I have taken, I don't think that I would have done as well as I did."

Powell is director of the Conservation Leadership School, a one-week residential program for high school students offered for several weeks each summer. He also assists in coordinating other outreach efforts such as short courses in kiln drying and lumber grading.

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. Margaret Brittingham, Dr. Beth Boyer, Dr. Jackie Grant, Dr. Wally Tzilkowski, and Dr. Eric Zenner.

Forest Science student **Tiffany Roddy** was recognized as the **2010 SFR Outstanding Senior**. Roddy was active in the SAF Student Chapter, having served as vice president and treasurer, and in the Eta Chapter of Xi Sigma Pi, first as treasurer and then as president in her senior year. Roddy initiated the chapter's participation in a Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Walk this spring and served as team captain to raise money to help fight that disease. She also took the lead on organizing the SFR Spring Picnic.

Roddy was recognized for academic achievement while pursuing the associate degree in Forest Technology, and at Penn State Mont Alto she was also awarded an undergraduate research grant and conducted a forest inventory project. Her academic success continued in the baccalaureate degree program at University Park. In addition to Xi Sigma Pi, she is a member of the Gamma Sigma Delta Agricultural Honor Society and Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. Roddy worked for two summers as a forestry intern for Weyerhaeuser in her home state of Louisiana, and a third summer as a member of Penn State's oak regeneration crew. She had a job lined up before she graduated: she is now working with Weyerhaeuser in Eugene, Oregon.

A committee of SFR faculty and Xi Sigma Pi members select 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 Derek Larsen.

The **2010 SFR Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Assistant Award** went to **Mr. Shawn Rummel**, Ph.D. candidate in Ecology. Rummel served as graduate student teaching assistant for FOR 475, Forest Soils, taught by Dr. Bill Sharpe in spring 2009. In spring 2010 Rummel was the sole instructor for the course.

"He knows how to take hard academic concepts and make them easy to understand with simple diagrams or visual representation. . . . He has done an excellent job walking the difficult line between maintaining high academic standards and making students happy to learn," writes one student.

Rummel completed his M.S. degree in 2006 on the short-term effects of forest liming on soil chemistry and terrestrial macroinvertebrates. His current research involves the dispersal and residency of three species of domestic trout in two Pennsylvania streams.

Students nominate candidates for the Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award, and the recipient is selected by leaders of SFR student organizations. Also nominated this year were Kristen Brubaker (Ph.D. candidate in FOR R), Kacey Dananay (M.S. candidate in W F S), Sarah Pabian (Ph.D. candidate in W F S), and Tom Ruffing (M.S. candidate in FOR R - wood products).

**Dr. Margot Kaye** was honored as the **2010 SFR Outstanding Adviser**. Kaye teaches Field Dendrology and Forest Fire Management at the undergraduate level, and a graduate-level introduction to tree-ring methods. She advises undergraduate students in Forest Science as well as graduate students in Forest Resources and in the interdepartmental graduate degree program in Ecology. Both undergraduate and graduate students work in Kaye's Forest Ecology and Dendroecology Lab.

"Margot excels at helping students set and meet personal goals, and makes sure that every step of the process is within your ability, then sets a reasonable deadline based on your schedule and holds you to it," writes one undergraduate student.

A graduate student adds, "Margot has gone out of her way to mentor any student who works in her lab, whether they are her official advisees or not. She has shown a level of commitment—that exceeds expectations—to help these students develop academically, professionally, and personally."

The Outstanding Adviser Award is based on the overall excellence of the adviser in three areas: academic advising, individual student goal-setting and career planning, and personal counseling. Also nominated this year were Mr. Joe Harding, Dr. Gary San Julian, Dr. Allyson Muth, and Mr. Lysle Sherwin. ❀

# Student Resources

## Tim O'Donnell Receives George Award

This past spring, Timothy P. O'Donnell was honored with the 2009-10 John L. George Student Conservation Award. The award is given annually to an undergraduate student in the Wildlife and Fisheries major at Penn State who embodies the spirit and dedication of Dr. John L. George.

The George Award recognizes a student in good academic standing who has committed himself/herself to public service on behalf of the conservation of natural resources, particularly regarding the necessity of protecting and maintaining healthy habitats for wildlife and plants.

O'Donnell, a native of Feasterville in Bucks County, graduated in May 2010. In addition to his major, he completed a minor in Marine Science. He was president of the Marine Science Society where he coordinated and participated in service projects including clean-ups of Sayers Lake and Raystown Lake in Pennsylvania, and Ocean City beach in New Jersey. He also participated in a service project at Shaver's Creek Environmental Center to improve one of the hiking trails. As an aquarium volunteer, he fed organisms and cleaned the aquarium at the HUB on campus on a weekly basis. As a member of Xi Sigma Pi honor society, he maintained and improved the woodcock trail at Shaver's Creek. He also served on the Rules and Regulations Committee for THON.

O'Donnell conducted undergraduate research. Under the direction of Dr. Todd LaJeunesse in the College of Science, he studied algae from the coral communities off the coast of Taiwan.

"Coral reefs are among the most diverse communities on Earth," said Tim, "and I am grateful for the opportunity to participate in research that will guide the management of coral reefs in the future."

This fall O'Donnell will attend the Grice Marine Laboratory at the College of Charleston to pursue a master's degree in marine biology.

Dr. John L. George was the driving force behind the establishment of the Wildlife and Fisheries Science program in the School of Forest Resources at Penn State. In 1963, he was appointed as the first wildlife faculty member of the School, and worked tirelessly for the expansion of the program into a full academic major, a dream that became reality in 1981.

## Jonathan Freedman Receives 2009 Latham Award

Jonathan A. Freedman was selected to receive the 2009 Roger M. Latham Memorial Graduate Award, given annually to an outstanding, full-time graduate student advised by Wildlife and Fisheries Science faculty members in Penn State's School of Forest Resources.

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

Freedman is a Ph.D. candidate in Wildlife and Fisheries Science, studying the effects of dams, dredging, and development on fish ecology. His advisers are Dr. Jay Stauffer, Jr., Distinguished Professor of Ichthyology, and Dr. Robert C. Carline, former adjunct professor and leader of the Pennsylvania Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit.

Freedman is originally from Toronto, Canada, where he earned a B.S. in Zoology at the University of Guelph (2001) and an M.S. in Biology at the University of New Brunswick (2005). He came to Penn State in 2005 to study the effects of human development on fish communities and food-webs in the Allegheny, Ohio, and Monongahela rivers around Pittsburgh.

"My interests lie in the broad fields of community and evolutionary ecology. More specifically, I'm interested in biogeography, life history strategies, phenotypic plasticity, and the adaptation of species to anthropogenic disturbances and species introductions," explains Freedman.

True to the spirit of the Latham Award, Freedman actively communicates his research findings to the scientific community as well as to the public. He has already published three papers in peer-reviewed journals with more in the works. He has given many invited oral and poster presentations at professional meetings. His public education efforts range from one-on-one conversations to large group meetings.

His adviser Dr. Stauffer notes, "I have observed that Jonathan takes the time and interest in explaining to fishermen, interested observers, and local politicians the purpose of our research and collecting efforts. He is the first to volunteer to make presentations and give seminars locally and to national and international audiences."

Examples of Freedman's public outreach include participating in a project at a local middle school where he was interviewed about Jacques Cousteau's legacy, and organizing and leading a multimedia presentation on "The Fishes of Pennsylvania" at Penn State Exploration Day—an interactive and cross-disciplinary program designed to introduce children to science. Freedman's presentation included a display of live as well as preserved fishes, video of fish behavior, and information on fish identification and conservation.

To share his current research with the general public, Freedman has written an article for Warm Mineral Springs and Little Salt Spring Archeological Society newsletter, and is creating a video presentation for use by the society and by the Penn State Diving Program.

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Freedman's leadership roles have included serving as Webmaster and executive board member of the Penn State Canadian Club (2006 – present), president of the School of Forest Resources (SFR) Graduate Student Organization (2007-08), and chair of the SFR Seminar Organizing Committee (2007). He has been a teaching assistant for a variety of courses including biology, mammalogy, human physiology, and fishery science.

Freedman plans to graduate in 2010 and pursue a career in academia, which he hopes will allow him to continue his research in aquatic ecology as well as afford him many opportunities for teaching and public outreach. 🐾

### Christopher Hone Receives 2010 Rapp Prize for Academic Excellence



Forest Science major Christopher Hone is the 2010 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 ended the award in memory of her father Jesse Rossiter Rapp (Class of 1915) and mother Orpha Kelly Rapp.

Hone graduated in May 2010 with a B.S. in Forest Science, Forest Management option, and a minor in Wood Products Marketing. He served as our college's student marshal at commencement, an honor bestowed on the graduating senior with the highest grade point average in the College of Agricultural Sciences. In addition, he received the 2010 Gamma Sigma Delta Outstanding Senior in Agriculture Award.

Hone was also enrolled in the Schreyer Honors College. He completed an honors thesis with Dr. Margot Kaye, assistant professor of forest ecology, on the effects of wood invasive species on leaf litter. Hone is assisting Dr. Kaye with invasive species research this summer.

As an undergraduate, Hone was active in the Society of American Foresters Penn State Student Chapter. He was a member of the group's quiz bowl team and participated in their first M.S. Walk.

Born in Charlotte, North Carolina, Hone has lived in several eastern states. Scouting introduced him to natural resources and fostered his interest in forestry.

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

### 5th Annual Wild Game Dinner

The 5th annual Wild Game Dinner hosted by the Penn State Chapter of The Wildlife Society was held Saturday evening, March 27 at the State College VFW.



*At left is just a sampling of the plentiful food: venison, bear, fish, pheasant, and more!*

*Judges, pictured at right, determined the "winners" in the various dish categories.*



*Dr Gary San Julian poses with graduate student Devin DeMario, the guest speaker.*

The evening also included live music, auction items, raffle prizes and time for fellowship. 🐾

### 2009-10 College of Agricultural Sciences Scholarships and Awards

The College of Agricultural Sciences awarded more than \$1.7 million in scholarships and awards to 675 students for the 2009-10 academic year. This total includes nearly \$130,000 that the School of Forest Resources distributed among 81 students, including three incoming freshmen.

Recipients and donors were honored at a banquet on October 12, 2009, at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel in State College. Wood products senior **Jesse Mowry** served as master of ceremonies.

Two of the College's 12 new scholarships for 2009 were made possible by School of Forest Resources alumni: the **Nelson S. and Brenda W. Loftus Internship Award** and the **Harold H. "Sandy" Wolfinger Trustee Scholarship**.

Two of our School's scholarships were among those recognized at the banquet for reaching a milestone of continuous support. The **Mark Petty Bush Memorial Scholarship in Wildlife and Fisheries Science** has been awarded for 15 years. The **Orpha Kelly Rapp and Jesse Rossiter Rapp '15 Memorial Scholarship** has been awarded for 25 years. 🐾

# Commencement

## Summer 2009 UNDERGRADUATES

### *Forest Science*

Timothy Culbreth, Robert Kirkpatrick, Christopher Peters, Justin Raynor, Brandon Snyder

### *Wildlife and Fisheries Science*

Bryan Roden-Reynolds, Jessica Sheroke

### *Wood Products*

Eric Croston

## Summer 2009 GRADUATES

### *Forest Resources*

Audrey Broucek, M.F.R.; Wade Brown, M.S.;  
Katherine Gordon; M.S.; Phillip Manning, M.S.

### *Wildlife and Fisheries Science*

Mary Lundeba, Ph. D.; Doris Mason, M.S.

## Fall 2009 UNDERGRADUATES

### *Forest Science*

Erick Butters, Matthew Eisel, Charles Hendrickson, Daniel Hicks, Robert Jack, Brandon Karlheim, Stephen Laskowski, Ryan Ling, Kevin Linkoski, Andrew Miller, Katherine Mulfinger, Vincent Nadji, Gary Paynter, Christopher Peiffer, Justin Ross, Lisa Scarbrough, Mark Slocum, Gregory Wiltsie

### *Wildlife and Fisheries Science*

Matthew Adams, Jerrica Billet, Anthony Ferreri, Matthew Gordon, Luther Haupt, James Hearn, Stacey Pecen, Adam Poole, Douglas Straub, Kelly Voorhees

### *Wood Products*

Ty Angney, Kye Golembewski

## Fall 2009 GRADUATES

### *Forest Resources*

Carrie Gilbert, M.S.

### *Ecology*

Andrew Scanlan, M.S.

## Spring 2010 UNDERGRADUATES

### *Forest Science*

Andrew Baker, Stephen Balamuta, Kyle Bjalme, Drew Carpenter, William Fye, Matthew Hauenstein, Christopher Hone, Zachary Jones, Derek Larsen, Devon Lucabaugh, Adam Monday, Derrick Nahill, Matthew Puchalsky, Tiffany Roddy, Jessica Shue, Daniel Strunk, Chance Yeckley

### *Wildlife and Fisheries Science*

Justin Benner, Daniel Bove, Jacob Bransky, Michael Chips, Justin Clark, Kenneth Desjardins, Eric Edelstein, Evan Goldstrohm, Lauren Grant, David Grube, Cody Hickman, Weston Hillegas, Zachary Liotus, Michael Mc Connell, Eric Nordberg, Timothy O'Donnell, Jessica Pepe, Ian Plummer, Amanda Powell, William Reese, Chad Stanczyk, Karl Stefan, Robin Sutker, Cara Weist, Daniel Wilson, Robert Zellers

### *Wood Products*

Aaron Gallaher, George Hanson, Steven Kelly, Jesse Mowry, Lauren Rega, Scott Stringer

## Spring 2010 GRADUATES

### *Forest Resources*

Roy Brubaker; M.F.R.; Daniel Heggenstaller, M.S.;  
Lidiia Iavorivska, M.F.R.; Shiba Kar, Ph.D.;  
Justin Kozak, M.F.R.; Thomas Ruffing, M.S.

### *Wildlife and Fisheries Science*

Michael Bernard, M.S.; Kristin Black, Ph.D.;  
Sonja Christensen, M.S.; Benjamin Lorson, M.S.

# School Notes

**Dana Whaley** joined us in February 2009 as administrative staff assistant in the Undergraduate Programs Office when **Kathleen Kasubick** went on medical leave.

**Harry V. Wiant, Jr.** retired from the Joseph E. Ibberson Chair in forest resources management in August 2009. It was back in July 2002 that he was named the first recipient of that newly endowed position. During his tenure here, Wiant initiated the annual Ibberson Forum for forest landowners and foresters, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Forestry Association and the School of Forest Resources. He was actively engaged in both undergraduate and graduate education, teaching courses in forest measurements, forest policy, and consulting forestry. He served as co-adviser of the Penn State Student Chapter of the Society of American Foresters. He continued research in forest inventory techniques and taught short courses for foresters on that topic. Wiant was also active in the Pennsylvania Forestry Association, serving as vice-president in 2005-06. In 2009 he was awarded the Alumni Association Faculty Award from his alma mater, West Virginia University.

**Robert G. "Bob" Wingard** died November 24, 2009. Wingard was a wildlife management specialist at Penn State for 31 years (1952-83). He was a World War II veteran, serving as an aviation chief ordinance-man.

In fall 2009, **Rachel Cleaver**, then a senior in Wildlife and Fisheries Science, received a scholarship award from Shikar-Safari Club International, a private wildlife conservation group.

**Jay R. Stauffer, Jr.**, distinguished professor of ichthyology, was recognized for 25 years of service in fall 2009.

At Penn State Alumni Association's Annual Volunteer Awards program in November 2009, The **School of Forest Resources Alumni Group** received the Fellowship and Networking Award for the SFR Centennial Celebration held in 2007.

The Urban Forestry Program won a 2009 Penn State Cooperative Extension Director's Team Award. The team consists of **Bill Elmendorf** (School of Forest Resources), Vinnie Cotrone (Northeast Region), Mark Remcheck (West Region), Julianne Schieffer (Southeast Region), Scott Sjolander (West Region), and Ellen Roane (PA Bureau of Forestry). The Team Award recognizes administrative or program teams that work together in an exemplary fashion to address a special initiative or goal.

*Avian Ecology and Conservation: A Pennsylvania Focus with National Implication*, published in 2010 by the Pennsylvania Academy of Science, includes chapters written by a number of School of Forest Resources personnel including **Margaret Brittingham**, **Duane Diefenbach**, **Matt Marshall** and graduate students **Laurie Goodrich**, **Glenn Stauffer**, and **Andy Wilson**.

**Sandra E. "Sandi" Stauffer**, retired staff assistant, died from complications of Parkinson's disease on February 28, 2010. She had retired in 2005 after 25 years of service.



**Nicole Brown** and **Paul Smith** hosted Korean visitors who visited the School of Forest Resources in February 2010 to tour the wood products labs and discuss formaldehyde emissions regulations. Pictured above, left to right: Dr. Sumin Kim (assistant professor, Department of Architecture, Soongsil University, Korea), Dr. Nicole Brown, Dr. Byung-Dae Park (assistant professor, Department of Wood Science and Technology, Kyungpook National University, Korea), Dr. Paul Smith, and Dr. Jong Young Park (senior research scientist from the Korea Forest Research Institute). Dr. Park also presented a seminar entitled "Microstructure of Cured Urea-Formaldehyde Resin Adhesives for Wood-Based Composite Panels."

**Rex E. Melton** died March 13, 2010. Read more about Professor Melton on page 5.

**Emily Thomas**, master's candidate in W F S, won Best Student Paper award at the annual PA chapter of The Wildlife Society meeting in State College in March 2010 for her paper, "Effects of oil and gas development on forest songbirds in the Allegheny National Forest."

At the 13th annual Environmental Chemistry Student Symposium held at University Park in March 2010, **Sarah Pabian**, Ph.D. candidate in W F S, won best overall presentation for her poster, "Soil calcium and forest bird habitat quality," and **Keith Price**, also a Ph.D. candidate in W F S, received an award for his poster, "Importance of stream hydrology on downstream transport of biologically stored phosphorus."

Forest Science senior **Christopher Hone** served as our college's student marshal at spring 2010 commencement, an honor bestowed on the graduating senior with the highest grade point average in the College of Agricultural Sciences.

**Hunter Carrick** received the Editor's Award this year from the International Association for Great Lakes Research. The Editor's Award recognizes the crucial role played by peer review in assuring the quality of the Journal of Great Lakes Research. It is presented for "outstanding support of the journal's review process." The award was given at the annual meeting in Toronto, Canada, in May.

June 2010 marked a milestone for the Penn State Wood Products Extension program. The **Penn State WoodPro** Web site, <http://woodpro.cas.psu.edu>, maintained by **Chuck Ray**, received its 200,000th visit since its start-up in 2002. Penn State WoodPro was initiated as a tool for communicating primarily with the Pennsylvania wood industry, but the visitation statistics reveal that users are spread across the globe. As a result, the site's resources have been broadened to address issues affecting forest resources worldwide.

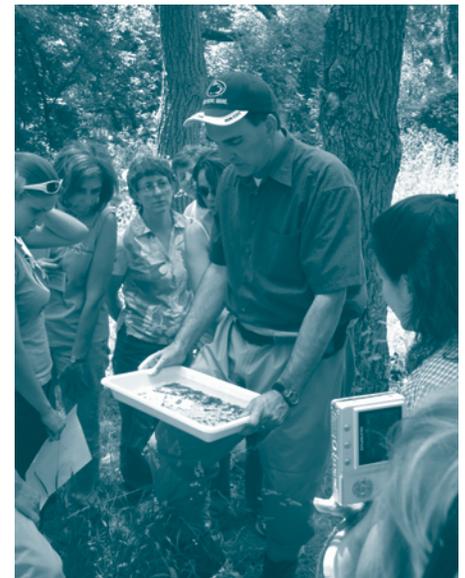
**Victoria Braithwaite** has been appointed associate director of the Penn State Institute of the Neurosciences and will oversee and facilitate neuroscience research and teaching at University Park. She will continue to be a faculty member of the School of Forest Resources.

**Tau Phi Delta** fraternity swept the honors at the Year-End Greek Life Recognition, receiving the following three honors for the second year in a row: Chapter of Excellence, Outstanding Fraternity Chapter of the Year, and Distinguished Community Service Award. Tau Phi Delta also received the highest award given by the University—the President's Cup for Organizational Excellence.

**James and Linda Finley** have pledged \$200,000 to the Pennsylvania Forest Stewards Endowment. The endowment supports a program that trains volunteers in the principles of forest stewardship so they can share that knowledge with forest landowners throughout the state. The endowment is part of the couple's estate plans.

**Bruce Lord** has accepted a faculty position with the Department of Statistics at Penn State where he will have a full load of teaching and consulting beginning fall 2010. He will teach one of the statistics courses required of School of Forest Resources' students, so we will continue to benefit from his expertise.

The 2010 **Forest Resources Institute for Teachers (FRIT)**, with a "Woods and Waters" theme was taught by **Bryan Swistock**, water resources Extension specialist, **Joseph Harding**, Forestlands Manager, **David Jackson**, Cooperative Extension Forest Resources Educator, and **Sanford Smith**, Forest Resources Extension Specialist. In this photo, school teacher participants look on as Swistock explains how specific aquatic insects indicate water quality. FRIT is offered each year to educators teaching grades K-7. For more information about FRIT contact Smith at [sss5@psu.edu](mailto:sss5@psu.edu).



## Third Annual School of Forest Resources Career Fair

Friday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Network with students. Conduct interviews.

Share information about your organization and employment opportunities.

Employers seeking both summer interns and full-time hires are welcome.

Please contact Ellen Manno at [exr2@psu.edu](mailto:exr2@psu.edu) or 814-863-0362  
to request registration details.

# Alumni Resources



FORMERLY PUBLISHED AS THE SCHOOL OF FOREST RESOURCES ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

No. 96

## President's Message



Marc D. Lewis '78

Greetings fellow SFR alumni,

I hope that you are all having a good summer and have the opportunity to enjoy time with family and friends.

With everything that's been going on in the School of Forest Resources during the past year, we were unable to produce a winter edition of the alumni newsletter. Details regarding the changes that

have taken place are explained in this issue. Rest assured that the SFR Alumni Group is alive and well.

On November 6, I had the pleasure of attending the Penn State Alumni Association's Annual Volunteer awards presentation and recognition dinner with Tom and Jeanne Yorke and Chuck and Carol Strauss. We were there on behalf of the SFR Alumni Group to accept the Fellowship and Networking Award for our 2007 SFR Centennial Celebration. It was quite an honor to receive this award and I again thank Tom Yorke for submitting the nomination.

The SFR Alumni and Friends Banquet was held on the evening of April 23 and was preceded by a wonderful day of activities. Following refreshments and a tour of the Forest Resources Building in the morning, we enjoyed informational presentations given by faculty, staff, and students, which gave everyone a good look at what is going on at the School from the various perspectives. After lunch and informal interaction with the faculty, students, and staff, Kim Steiner led a tour of The Arboretum at Penn State. Kim filled us in on a lot of the history of the Arboretum—how it was designed and put together—as well as on what will be occurring in the future. The next time you visit Penn State, make it a point to take a look at the Arboretum. It is a beautiful location that overlooks the Forest Resources Building, and is a nice quiet place to relax and enjoy the view of Ag Hill.

The evening banquet provided an opportunity to visit and reminisce with old friends. A memorial tribute was given to Rex Melton who passed away on March 13, 2010. Many of us had Professor Melton for classes or knew him, and the stories that were told gave a true picture of the quality individual he was.

Congratulations to the very deserving Outstanding Alumni honored at the banquet: David Gustafson, Joseph Barnard, Robert Kintigh, Malcolm Stehman, and Thomas Yorke. The accomplishments and contributions that these individuals have made to our profession and society as a whole are a reflection of the quality people who come out of our School.

As we look forward to the year ahead, please consider getting reconnected and contributing to the future of the School of Forest Resources. There is an article in this newsletter listing various ways to become involved. **Become ACTIVE alumni!**

Marc D. Lewis '78  
P.O. Box A  
Hills Grove, PA 18619-0901  
(570) 924-3507  
lewism@epix.net

## School of Forest Resources Outstanding Alumni



Left to right: Stehman, Barnard, Messina, Gustafson, and Yorke

At the SFR Alumni and Friends Banquet on April 25, 2010, at Toftrees Resort and Conference Center in State College, we honored 2010 SFR Outstanding Recent Alumnus **David J. Gustafson '00** and four 2010 SFR Outstanding Alumni: **Joseph E. Barnard '60, '63g**; **Robert G. "Bob" Kintigh '43**; **Malcolm H. Stehman '56**; and **Thomas H. Yorke '64, '67g**.

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 awards 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 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)

Elected at-large members (terms expire Spring 2013):

Marc D. Lewis ('78 FORSC) *president*

Robert D. Rorabaugh ('72 FORSC) *vice president*

Cecile M. Stelter ('89 FORSC, '90g FOR R)

James R. Snyder, Jr. ('98 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. Bove

Graduate Student, School of Forest Resources:

Brett G. Diehl ('09 W P)

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 2010 election results are as follows, based on 97 ballots cast: **James R. Snyder, Jr.** '98 has been elected to a first three-year term on the School of Forest Resources Alumni Group Board of Directors, and **Marc Lewis** '78, **Bob Rorabaugh** '72, and **Cecile Stelter** '89 and '90g were each elected to a second term. Since we did not publish a winter 2010 newsletter, the ballot and candidate biosketches were distributed via e-mail and votes were cast via an online survey tool. (At the time of the election, 2,100 SFR alumni had e-mail addresses on file with the Penn State Alumni Association.)

**Marc Lewis** and **Bob Rorabaugh** continue as president and vice president, respectively, and **Marc Webb** '73 remains on the board as immediate past president.

Ben Gamble is finishing up his master's program and **Brett Diehl**, Ph.D. candidate in wood products, is the newly appointed graduate student representative. 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 2011, so we will have another election in winter 2011. If you are interested in being a candidate for the board or wish to nominate someone else, please use the Response Form on page 23. 🐾

## SFR Alumni Employment Statistics

In October 2009 we mailed an employment survey to the Class of 2007-08 comprised of 36 Forest Science (FORSC) alumni, 27 Wildlife and Fisheries (W F S) alumni, and two 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. Total response rate (questionnaire plus phone/e-mail) for the Class of 2007-08 was 89%.

In total, 91% of the Forest Science graduates from the Class of 2007-08 were using their degrees in professional employment or graduate school a year or so after graduation (based on a 92% response rate). Sixteen percent of the FORSC alumni in the Class of 2007-08 were employed in general resource management. The number of FORSC alumni in seasonal positions increased since last year: six FORSC alumni from the Class 2007-08 were in seasonal positions compared with two alumni from the Class of 2006-07.

Of 12 FORSC alumni in public-sector forestry, two were with the U.S. Forest Service and the others with state agencies, and only two were not in Pennsylvania (one with USFS in Idaho, and one with the Maryland Forest Service). Of the five FORSC alumni in private-sector forestry, three were in Pennsylvania, one was in Georgia, and the other "traveled all around" on contract work. The average annual salary for public forest management positions was \$27,500—based on seven reported salaries, three of which were seasonal or part-time. If only full-time permanent salaries are included, the average annual salary was \$33,750.

*continued on next page*

Biosketches of our 2010 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. 🐾

FORSC alumni pursuing additional education accounted for 6% of the Class of 2007-08—down from 27% for the Class of 2006-07, but comparable to the 5% for the Class of 2005-06.

In total, 88% of the Wildlife and Fisheries Science graduates from the Class of 2007-08 were using their degrees in professional pursuits (based on an 85% response rate). Nearly a third (31%) of W F S alumni were employed in wildlife/fisheries management. Of the seven wildlife/fisheries jobs reported, three were with federal agencies (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and USDA APHIS) in Pennsylvania and New Jersey; three were with private fisheries enterprises in Maryland, Alaska, and “around the globe”; and one was with Idaho Fish and Game.

The average annual salary for positions in wildlife/fisheries management (based on only one reported salary for a full-time position) was \$37,500. W F S employment in general resource management was 13% of the Class of 2007-08. The percentage of W F S alumni pursuing additional education was 27%, the second highest percentage in the previous 10 years. Blue-collar employment for 2007-08 W F S graduates was 8% and unemployment was at 4%.

The two Wood Products (W P) graduates in the Class of 2007-08 chose different paths. One was in a graduate program and the other opted to work in construction. ❀

## Alumni: Seeking Volunteers and Making Connections

We encourage and appreciate active alumni!

Here are some of the many ways that alumni can be involved with the School of Forest Resources.

- SFR on Facebook
- SFR Advocates
- SFR Class Representatives
- SFR Annual Career Fair
- SFR Alumni Group Board of Directors
- Be a guest speaker at SFR student club meetings
- Interact with students at other School and College events such as the spring picnic, graduation brunch, and more.

The SFR Alumni Group was awarded a \$400 grant from the College of Ag Sciences Alumni Society (CAAS) Competitive Grant Program. The money will be used to support the following initiatives—some of which are new and some of which are ongoing.

### SFR on Facebook

We are venturing into the social media world! We have created both a School of Forest Resources Facebook “page” and a Facebook “group.” To find us, log in or create a Facebook account at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com). It’s free. In the search box, type “School of Forest Resources, Penn State.”

Facebook offers a way for us to stay in touch with each other—for free—and strengthen our connection with alumni who are spread out in all 50 states and in countries throughout the world. We also envision this as a means by which our current students can more easily connect with alumni, particularly regarding career paths and employment opportunities.

Give it a try and visit us on Facebook. We’ll eventually sort out whether we want to keep both the “group” and the “page” or just the “page.” We welcome your feedback!



### SFR Advocates

We are currently recruiting alumni to serve as “SFR Advocates” at Penn State’s 19 campus locations. SFR Advocates will be a resource for our College’s “AG advisers” at the Commonwealth campuses and will meet with students to talk about career experiences. This increased level of alumni activity will strengthen both our School’s and our College’s presence at the campuses and be a valuable resource for current and prospective students. The CAAS grant will allow us to provide our SFR Advocates with a “business card.”

### SFR Class Representatives

Leading up to our SFR Centennial Celebration in 2007, we established a network of class representatives. It is time to renew and expand that network. Class representatives keep their classmates connected and informed about SFR events and opportunities (usually via e-mail).

### SFR Annual Career Fair

The annual career fair provides an opportunity for employers to make direct contact with our students. We encourage exhibitors from all fields related to natural resources. Even if you don’t have an immediate job opening, you can establish a talent pool to draw from in the future. This past spring, for the first time, we also had an “Alumni Corner” at the fair that gave our current students the opportunity to meet and learn from our alumni.

### SFR Alumni Group Board of Directors

As always, we are looking for candidates who are interested in serving on our alumni board. Our at-large members are elected to a three-year term. We hold annual elections to fill vacancies created by members who are rotating off the board.

If you are interested in volunteering your time and talents, please contact Ellen Manno by phone (814-863-0362), e-mail ([exr2@psu.edu](mailto:exr2@psu.edu)), or letter (114 Forest Resources Bldg., University Park, PA 16802). You can also note your interests on the Response Form on page 23. ❀

# Alumni Notes

## 1930s

**Dudley C. Carey**, 1938 – died Nov. 5, 2009. From obituary in Yale newsletter: After his degree at Penn State, Dudley earned a master's from Yale. He was an industrial specialist at the Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, WI. He served as naval officer in World War II and as a packaging specialist in the Naval Supply Systems Command in Washington, DC. He worked for American Standard in packaging and materials handling and was a wood products technologist for the Defense Construction Supply Center in Columbus, OH. He held the rank of Commander in the U.S. Naval Reserve.

## 1940s

**Samuel A. Custer**, 1942 – died December 28, 2009. After graduation, Custer joined the military as an enlisted man in the Army Air Corps, went to Aviation Cadet School, and became an officer in time to serve in World War II with the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force in Europe as a photo lab commander. After WWII, he was separated from active duty but was a member of the Air Force Reserves.

Between 1946 and 1950 he was employed as a forester for the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company, and later became the executive director of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association.

He was recalled to active duty for Korea in 1950. During his active military service from 1950 to 1971 he held various command and staff positions in the areas of reconnaissance, mapping, charting, and geodesy.

He retired from the U.S. Air Force in 1971 with 29 years of service. His military decorations included five Commendation Medals, four battle stars, and the Legion of Merit.

While on active duty he also received master's degrees from Boston University and George Washington University and graduated from the Air Command and Staff School and the Air War College.

In 1972 he became a government civilian and the assistant chief of staff of the Defense Mapping Agency (DMA). He retired from DMA as executive assistant to the director in 1981, and was awarded

the DMA's Distinguished Civilian Service Medal.

He was a life member of the Penn State Alumni Association and was awarded the Distinguished Fellow at Penn State Mont Alto.

**Lloyd E. George**, 1943 – died July 20, 2009. From obituary in *The Augusta Chronicle*: After receiving a B.S. in Forestry from Penn State in 1943, George served as a Lieutenant rifle platoon leader with the 36th Infantry Division in France where he received two Purple Hearts, one Bronze Star, and other awards before retiring from the Army in August of 1945 due to serious wounds. He was employed by Kimberly-Clark in Wisconsin and Michigan as a chief forester and woodlands manager in the Lake States before moving to Augusta, Georgia, in 1976 where he retired as regional forester in 1983 after 38 years with Kimberly-Clark Corporation. He was a member of the Society of American Foresters for 60 years; he served as chairman in Michigan while living in Iron Mountain.

**Bob Kintigh**, 1943 – 38865 E. Cedar Flat Road, Springfield, OR 97478-8634; bobkin43@q.com.

## 1950s

**J. Ted Jensen**, 1950 – 323 Summit Ave., Jenkintown, PA 19046; JTJPOB33219046@aol.com. Jensen and classmates **Nelson Durand** and **Henry Van Haelewyn** attended their 60<sup>th</sup> reunion at Penn State's Alumni Weekend in June 2010.

**Paul Shogren**, 1951 – 1638 Memorial Drive, Oakland, MD 21550; shogren2@verizon.net. "In the July/Aug issue of *The Penn Stater*, page 74, there is the obituary of Albert Klingman (a renowned dermatologist best known for developing Retin-A, the anti-acne and wrinkling drug). He entered Penn State Mont Alto because the school's director offered him a job (waiting tables) to help pay his way. That director was **H. Norton Cope**. Cope and I got along well because of our mutual interest in Boy Scouting."

**Robert "Bob" James**, 1953 – 34 Hickory Drive, Slingerlands, NY 12159; rmjames2@juno.com: "After receiving my B.S. in Forestry I did the following: Inspected and treated standing utility poles, received an M.S. in Wood Utilization at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, conducted wood preservation research and wood products research, and then taught high school chemistry for 21 years."

**Richard E. Woodrow**, 1953 – 401 Yale Circle, Glenwood Springs, CO 81601; woodrows@rof.net. "Oct. 2009: **Don Port '53** and I had a great fishing trip in Alaska in 2008. Came back with a year's supply of salmon and halibut and had a great week together."

**Tony Dorrell**, 1954 – 1463 Kern Springs Road, Woodstock, VA 22664; tdorrell@shentel.net. "Thanks to the Penn State library and digital technology, you can now browse through the Penn State *La Vie* yearbooks online at <http://www.libraries.psu.edu/digital/lavie/>. An example of what you can find is this photo of Tau Phi Delta fraternity in the 1954 *La Vie*. A number of our classmates are in this photo."



**W. Frank "Lucy" Miller, Jr.**, 1954 – died November 5, 2004. From Mississippi State, College of Forest Resources newsletter, Winter 2005: "Miller graduated in forestry at Penn State and completed a master's degree at Duke University the

following year. He accepted a position at then Mississippi State College in 1959 and taught forestry, silviculture, and photogrammetry until his retirement in 1995. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Mississippi Remote Sensing Center and was its first director. Teaming with NASA and the National Geographic Society, he helped establish methods to interpolate satellite photos, ground truth observations, and computer data to direct archeologists to the probable ground sites of ancient civilization ruins.

**Jay L. Geesman**, 1957 – died June 9, 2010. From obituary in *Ocean City Today*: “Geesman had been employed with Hershey Rose Garden in Hershey, PA, and Copenhagen Nursery in Mechanicsville, PA, and he was a Worcester County forester. He was the first superintendent of Shad Landing State Park (now Pocomoke River State Park), retiring in 1991, and consulted as a forester for Paul Jones Lumber Company in Snow Hill. He was a member of the National Guard and the Maryland Forestry Board.”

**Anson E. “Andy” Wright**, 1957 – died January 20, 2010. From obituaries in *Erie Times-News* and *Towanda Daily Review*: After Penn State, Wright earned a masters degree at Yale University. He received active duty training and served as a captain in the United States Army Reserves. He was employed by the Masonite Corporation in Bradford County before moving on to Milville Lumber Products and later to other activities. He was a well-known forester throughout the New York and Pennsylvania regions and was recognized as an expert in the field.

**W. Bud Brown**, 1958n and 1972 – 617 Pecan Ave., Charlotte, NC 28204-2725; buddbrown@aol.com.

**Ralph Heilig**, 1958 – 532 Briar Ln., Chambersburg, PA 17202; reheilig@comcast.net. “Nov. 2009: Just returned from a trip through Ohio and Kentucky. Stopped in Dayton for a brief visit with former Mont Alto math instructor, Harold Jarrett.

Harold, though aging, is still ‘sharp as a tack.’ He is homebound and his wife,

Evelyn, is a resident of a nursing home (Alzheimer’s). Harold borrows books regularly from the library and says he reads about one book per day. Also likes to solve math puzzles (Can you imagine that!). For all of you alums who had Jarrett for algebra and trig, I urge all of you to send him a birthday or Christmas greeting. He will be 92 on December 9th. His address: 260 Ridgewood Ave., Dayton, OH 45409-2218.

My next visit was to the quarters of Captain **Todd Stanford** ’91 and wife Karen who are currently at Fort Knox, KY, where Todd is completing company commander’s school. Todd enlisted in the Army as a private with the 82nd Airborne in 2002. A year later he wised up and enrolled in OCS. He has been to Iraq twice and will deploy (probably to Afghanistan) next summer. In the interim, the Stanfords will move to Hawaii in February where Todd will likely take command of a Stryker company before being shipped out.

Our final visit was to Lexington, KY, where we were hosted by my ‘58 classmate, **Lou Shain** and wife Bobbi. The Shains gave us the grand tour of Lexington and the UK campus. Prior to our departure

## Kerry Schell’s Memorial Service



Standing (l to r): *Ralph Peace, George Siehl, Jazk Zimmerman, John Tarn.* Seated (l. to r) *Ralph Heilig and Lou Shain.*

We six—Peace, Siehl, Tarn, Zimmerman, Shain and Heilig—filled one whole pew, right up front at the Messiah Lutheran Church, in Knoxville, TN, not far from Kerry’s home.

Just prior to the sermon, Catherine Yeager (formerly Kerry’s wife) gave a brief biographical sketch of Kerry’s boyhood. Kerry’s father died when he was eleven and he was sent from his home in Tower City, PA, to the Hershey School for Boys where he spent the next seven years of his life. Kerry graduated from Hershey in 1945, worked several years for the Pennsylvania Game Commission, spent two years in the Army, including a year in Korea where he befriended a young Korean boy (and later paid for the lad’s college education). At the conclusion of his tour with Uncle Sam, Kerry matriculated at Mont Alto.

The sermon, given by The Rev. George Doebler, was excellent! He had gotten to know Kerry well. He told how Kerry would ask him pointed questions about religion for hours at a time. (Shades of life in the classroom at PSU!).

A luncheon reception followed the memorial service and several of us made our remarks about Kerry. George read a letter that he had received from Bob Slagle. As usual, it was superbly worded, concise and to the point. It generated tears.

Had it not been for the sobering fact that our faithful friend and classmate had been taken from us, it would have been a terrific weekend. As it was, we were all enriched by the experience and realize more than ever, that we have lost a very complex, sometimes exasperating, even irritating, but truly a dear friend. As Pastor Doebler stated, “..... in spite of his often curt, gruff manner, etc, Kerry grew on you!”

The ‘Old Man’ of our class may be gone but he will not be forgotten.

Ralph Heilig ’58

(Nov. 10th) we celebrated the 234th birthday of the Marine Corps and drank to the other Marines in the Class of 58: **Maurice (Sarge) Hobough, Jim Durdan, Bob Ward, and Tom Stumpf.**”

**Kerry F. Schell, 1958 and 1959g** – died November 20, 2009, the day before his 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday. After earning a B.S. and M.S. in forestry at Penn State, Kerry Schell earned a Ph.D. in forest economics at Duke University in 1962. He worked for the Pennsylvania Game Commission before serving in the Army during the Korean War (1952-53). Schell was an economist with the Tennessee Valley Authority and an associate professor of forestry at the University of Tennessee from 1965 to 1990, when he retired. He was active in many conservation organizations including the Society of American Foresters, named SAF Fellow in 1988 and honored with the SAF Outstanding Service Award in 2000. He also received the 2004 Penn State Mont Alto Centennial Fellows Award. He was quietly very generous to others. Donations are being accepted towards a Founders Tree in Kerry Schell’s memory. Checks are to be made out to “Penn State Mont Alto” with “Founders Tree for Kerry Schell” written on the memo line, and mailed to Penn State Mont Alto, Attention: Deb Creager, Office of Development, One Campus Drive, Mont Alto, PA 17237. See Ralph Heilig’s report on Kerry Schell’s memorial service on previous page.

**Gabriel B. “Gabe” DePietro, 1959** – died October 11, 2009. Ralph Heilig ‘58 provided this information: “After graduation, Gabe worked briefly for USDA Forest Service in Washington, then with the PA Department of Forests and Waters where he worked on the Weiser District, Cressona; Buchanan District, McConnellsburg; fire protection staff, Harrisburg; assistant district forester, Bald Eagle District, and later promoted to district forester on District #7. He was a Tau Phi Delta brother.”

1960s

**Ed Frayer, 1961** – 5009 Narbor Heights, Lady Lake, FL 32159; edfrayer@hotmail.com. “(Dec. 2009) Mei and I had a full

## In Memoriam

Dudley C. Carey, 1938  
died Nov. 5, 2009

Wilferd E. Whitney, 1938  
died April 12, 2009

Samuel A. Custer, 1942  
died December 28, 2009

Lloyd E. George, 1943  
died July 20, 2009

Robert G. Wingard, 1949 and 1950g  
died November 24, 2009

Alan N. Schmidt, 1950  
died January 3, 2008

W. Frank “Lucy” Miller, 1954  
died Nov. 5, 2004

Jay L. Geesaman, 1957  
died June 9, 2010

George T. Weimer, Jr., 1957  
died February 13, 2010

Anson E. “Andy” Wright, 1957  
died January 20, 2010

Kerry F. Schell, 1958 and 1959g  
died Nov. 20, 2009

Gabriel B. “Gabe” DePietro, 1959  
died October 11, 2009

James F. Pierce, 1962  
died March 4, 2009

William C. “Bill” Eckert, 1965  
died June 16, 2005

Paul J. Walter, 1966  
died September 10, 2009

Rodney L. Whiteman, 1986  
died June 21, 2010

David E. Frey, 2008  
died May 23, 2009

year. Mei continues to work full-time for the Florida Dept. Agr. in Gainesville. I’ve been teaching algebra and statistics at two colleges in Ocala, as well as a course on Florida seashells in an adult education program. We bought a condo in Gainesville (in addition to our house in Lady Lake) so that Mei doesn’t have to drive 160 miles every weekday.”

Ed gathered the following news from his classmates in Dec. 2009 for the anticipated winter 2010 newsletter (that was not published).

**Carl (Mac) McIntire** wrote: “Eleanor and I are busy sports fans. The nine grandchildren keep the old car running up and down the East Coast. Boy, do I love I-95. A day at NASCAR is a trip on 95. This Saturday the oldest G-Son plays at Ravens Stadium for the Maryland 3A football championship. We are truly blessed.”

**Ron Shields** wrote: “Another

interesting, challenging year. Addie was diagnosed with multiple myeloma, blood plasma cancer last spring. After an aggressive treatment with some newer chemo, the doctor believes that the cancer is in remission. Treatment continues. Our son was chosen to attend Army War College and was also promoted to J-3 in-charge of operations for the Idaho National Guard. Our daughter continues in her job as the human relations administrator for MT State Legislative Services. We have fun with our grandkids who are here in Helena. I continue to work with the U.S. Geological Survey as a ‘Volunteer for Science’ and have a small consulting business doing hydrologic studies, mostly with Trout Unlimited on their ‘instreamflow’ reservations and proposed leases for instreamflow. Fishing has been ‘good’ this year. Also had some conversations with **John Boyer** and **Chris Rea**. Chris and I shared our photos of our

trip to Oregon to work for USFS in 1958 . . . those were the DAYS.”

**Joe Sucha** wrote, “Sandy and I spend a large part of our time going to our grandchildren’s soccer, field hockey, swimming, gymnastics, football and wrestling games and meets. Our grandson is on the Olympic Development soccer team here in Virginia, which means traveling to several states. Not sure we’ll be able to keep up with them once they get in high school! We just returned from a cruise to the Panama Canal. Almost made national news when our ship hit the side of the locks and blocked passage for over an hour. Divers were sent down to check out both the ship and the locks.”

**Walt Schwenger** wrote, “Don’t have ‘news’ any more. Everything is ‘olds’ (no vehicular implications). Just keep on trying to keep up with Boy Scouts, Lions, Alpha Phi Omega, Mentors for Berks Youth, Project Vote Smart, and Appalachian Trail maintenance. Resigned from SCORE counseling this week.”

**Jim Bull** wrote, “It sure went fast but it’s been a good year for us. Polly and I celebrated our 50th anniversary in February. In May, Polly managed to win about \$450 at the woman’s national bowling tournament in Reno. I caught a 163 lb. halibut when we visited our son and grand daughter on Prince of Wales Island in early July. A long-needed pruning and thinning of 4-1/2 acres of Douglas-fir/Ponderosa Pine got me in the best physical shape in years. We got 15 cords of firewood out of the effort so our heating is set for at least two winters, perhaps three. Tentatively I’ll be back East next summer doing some genealogical research and attending a family reunion. I’ll probably stop in to see the new forestry building at PSU so I can say I’ve been there.”

**Werner Bruckner** wrote, “We are busy with Habitat for Humanity activities in the Medford, Oregon, area. Our volunteers finished another two houses this year. This makes 14 houses that we’ve helped construct since 2003. In October Jackie and I with 7 other folks from around the country went to El Salvador to help build a Habitat for Humanity house for a needy family.”

**Bob Stroh** wrote, “Finally, I will be retiring from the University of Florida. December 31 will be my last day. Kelly and

I will be staying in Gainesville. I would enjoy going to work for Home Depot or Lowes . . . maybe I should just sit back and relax.”

**Chris Rea** wrote, “I had a chance to talk with **Ron Shields** for the first time in almost 50 years. A friend was trying to contact him and called to see if I had his contact info. I did not, but my wife Googled his name (Ron Shields, Penn State) and everything was there, including a picture. Attending all the GA Tech basketball games and taking care of ‘the farm.’”

**John Boyer** wrote, “Since I haven’t shared any news with the Class of ’61 since we graduated, I’ll give you a summary of what I’ve been up to in the last nearly 50 (can you believe it) years. I worked for the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh in grounds maintenance and contract oversight pending my orders to active military duty. I remember attending **Ron and Addie Shields’** wedding in Indiana PA in the summer of ’61. I was married in February ’62 and entered the Army at Fort Knox KY. Basic Army Officers Course; then off to Fort Hood TX as a tank platoon leader; then to Fort Wolters, TX and Fort Sill OK to complete helicopter flight school. I was ‘lucky’ enough to be one of two graduates of my flight class to receive orders to Vietnam. In February ’63 my first daughter Meg was born and in March I went to Vietnam to fly gunships in the Army’s first armed helicopter unit. I returned unscathed and my second daughter Beth arrived. I was assigned to the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division in ’64 where I flew in Air Assault exercises preparing the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Airmobile to deploy to Vietnam. My third daughter Amy was born in March ’65. Since the 82<sup>nd</sup> didn’t care much for ‘leg’ officers, I went to airborne training and learned how to jump out of perfectly good airplanes. My military obligation complete, I started a job with Atlantic Richfield Oil company as a marketing representative based in State College. In a ‘moth to the flame’ move I decided to apply for a regular Army commission (as opposed to reserve officer) and make the Army my career. I was assigned as a helicopter flight instructor at Fort Wolters TX and in ’67 was back in Vietnam with the 1<sup>st</sup> CAV as commander of a Brigade flight platoon and on the

ground as the Brigade S-3 Air. It was a different war in ’67-’68 (TET Offensive Jan. Feb. ’68 ). I was awarded the Purple Heart, the Silver Star, the Distinguished Flying Cross wOLC, the Bronze Star, the Air Medal w15OLC, the Army commendation Medal W”V” device, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry W palm, and the Combat Infantry Badge. In ’68 I attended the Infantry Officers Advanced Course at Fort Benning GA where my first son Jack was born in Dec. ’68. In ’69 I became a company commander and battalion S-3 in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne division at Fort Bragg NC. In 1970, after much reflection on Vietnam and the prospect of returning for a third combat tour of duty, I left the military. In my first and only job related to my forest management schooling, I became a Park Superintendent at Canoe Creek State Park near Altoona PA only to find that after my military experiences, the job seemed a little too ‘laid back.’ I tried the life insurance industry for awhile before becoming borough manager of Mount Union PA in ’72 after the Agnes flood. I remember watching the TV to see **Wendell Alcorn** return from a North Vietnamese prison and thinking how happy I was for him and his family. In ’78 I took a job with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Community Affairs (renamed Community and Economic Development in ’95 ) in areas of local government, housing and community development. In 1981 I was divorced and remarried in 1985. My wife Diana and I have one son, Aaron, who is a junior at the University of Pittsburgh with hopes of becoming a medical doctor. I retired from the Commonwealth in 2003 after 25 years service. During the ’90s I remember having lunch with **Walt Peechatka** when we both worked for the Commonwealth. I keep busy looking after the needs of my son the college student, and enjoying my six grandchildren. I look forward to hearing from the members of the PSU Forestry class of 1961. John F Boyer Jr., 2000 High St., Camp Hill PA 17011; 717-730-0483;jbgood717@msn.com.”

**Hugh Cunningham** wrote, “I’m in Naples, FL working on our ‘camp.’ Don’t spend much time on a computer down here. Fixing this place up has become a second (or third) career. Bought this old trailer 5 years ago because it is located next

door to my sister. Our plans are to stay the winters here but we have only been able to spend a few weeks each year and then called back home to attend to Darlene's aging mother. Unless I'm mistaken I haven't put news in the newsletter ever. I'm still in good health, the same height and weight now as then; married to the same sweet bride of 46 years; retired from federal service in '95 (US Air Force, USDA Forest Service and USDI Office of Surface Mining). I was a consulting soil scientist for the following 10 years then retired again. Now we do family stuff with children, grandchildren, and old folks. In warm weather Darlene and I put in a lot of miles biking the Great Allegheny Passage (bike trail that runs from Pittsburgh to Washington DC through Connellsville). Also kayaking (folbots) on lakes and quiet parts of Youghiogheny River. We also take in several bluegrass festivals each year. Our home is in Fayette County near Connellsville PA."

**Ron Glass** wrote, "Ivy and I have had a good year. I rowed all season in our quad team. It's over for the season—water too cold for us old guys. We will row indoors this winter with real water in tanks. Spend time in the gym and on my bicycle with friends in the winter when not rowing. I lead a College and Career Bible study every Monday night here in our home. Attend a men's Bible study every Thursday morning. Ivy is the mother-confessor for a whole group of people. She has a real heart for people's problems. The phone burns off the hook some days. We visit PSU about once a month. We have a small condo there. Old friends from grade school, high school, and college still live there or have moved back, so we get to visit often. I correspond with **Dinus** and **Shields** several times a week about political issues. We are conservative wonks."

**Doc Dinus** wrote, "Health = stable. Spent most of October in the Balkans. River cruise up the Danube from the Black Sea to Budapest. Beautiful countryside all the way. Met lots of interesting people. Very political. Most still admire US, but some are doubtful about current administration. Wonder why we seek to become more like Europe when they want to become more like the US once WAS! Young people, as usual I guess, are especially vocal. Devoted many

mornings and evenings discussing what to do. Teacher friend's wife delivered a baby girl, so I am back in school covering 2 classes for him. Students/school love it, but I am not sure how to feel about it as various and sundry legislative and union rules prevent me from being the sole and final voice. Nevertheless, duty calls and I am educating all 55 of them!"

**Bob Davey** wrote, "I still hunt the big woods and in Clinton County that means side hills and some steep slopes. It's a great aerobic workout and the forest is why we became foresters. Our family was home for Thanksgiving and we will spend Christmas Day in New York City where our youngest daughter Molly is a starving opera singer. She has a couple of gigs on Christmas."

**Harry Bucha** wrote, "Diana continues to keep the books for Magic Diamond

Casino. She also quilts when she can find the time. I still hunt—recently destroyed a deer, the front spoiler, and the driving lights on my Silverado while driving home."

**Bob Hrobak** wrote, "The year has gone well enough as we adjust to life without our oldest son. Both Joy and I are in reasonably good health and still manage to play tennis and golf weekly. Although I have not officially admitted to myself, my days of singles play in tennis may be gone. The distribution business I started 10 years ago has done well and I put 30-35 hours a week into it. I hope to slow that down in the near future and will if the sale of a portion of it goes through as planned. After 13 years we are well rooted in Texas and have undertaken the building of a log home on a piece of land in East Texas that

### On the Loss of Rodney Whiteman '86



We are saddened by the loss of a fellow alumnus and Tau Phi Delta fraternity brother, Rodney Whiteman, as a result of a June 21 plane crash in Lock Haven, Pennsylvania. Rodney was killed in the line of duty as a forester for the USDA Forest Service. He was on assignment to evaluate gypsy moth damage via aerial surveys in the central Pennsylvania region.

Originally from Oil City, PA, Rodney was 46 years old and had worked for the Forest Service for 24 years. He leaves behind his wife Megan and daughter Haley who reside in

Morgantown, West Virginia.

After graduating from Penn State in 1986, Rod began work with the U.S. Forest Service as a forestry technician at the Northeast Research Station on oak-dominated forest research projects. In 1987, he transferred to the Morgantown Field Office, Northeastern Area, State and Private Forestry as a forester in the Forest Health Protection Group. Over the years, he became an expert in all aspects of the gypsy moth suppression in the Mid-Atlantic states.

Rod also worked extensively as a firefighter and was certified as a Firefighter Type-2, Single-resource Helicopter Manager and Faller B. He served as the Morgantown Field Office aviation officer and trainer. He also served as a regional division coordinator, monitoring and controlling various invasive species.

While at Penn State, Rod was an active member of Penn State's student chapter of the Society of American Foresters and a leader in Tau Phi Delta. His fraternity took pride in winning the fraternity blood drives during Fall 1984 and 1985 and initiating a still-standing community program of helping to manage Lederer Park in the State College borough.

Rod exemplified the spirit of Tau Phi Delta and the School in helping allied groups and in pursuing the management of our forest resources. Please join us in remembering this fine person and in recognizing his work toward society's environmental benefits.

*Chuck Strauss and Earl Hower, on behalf of the alumni of the School and brothers of Tau Phi Delta*

sits on a 5-acre wooded point on the best largemouth bass lake in the state. I did not know how popular these things are until getting started, but the cabin construction business seems to be doing well. The land we have also has some sentimental value as it was where Joy grew up and actually gathered up the cows long before they put in the lake 30+ years ago.”

**William C. “Bill” Eckert**, 1965 – died June 16, 2005. Information provided by Bill’s wife, Dawn Eckert: “After graduating from Tyrone High School in 1957, Bill joined the Navy serving on the U.S.S. Lookout and the U.S.S. Protector. He became a Navy reservist in 1962 and started college at the University of Montana. He graduated from Penn State in 1965 where he studied wood products and forestry. He was honorably discharged from the Navy in 1968. He started his career with Borden Chemical Company in Bainbridge, New York and Sheboygan, Wisconsin, and transferred to Oregon in 1970. He was also employed by Willamette Industries, Particleboard Division and Georgia Pacific Chemical Company. Bill worked in research and development and sales management over the years. He retired in July 2003.”

**Paul J. Walter**, 1966 – died September 10, 2009. From obituary in *Centre Daily Times*: “He earned a B.S. in wood engineering from Penn State and was a commercial industrial building contractor and founder of Ag-Com Builders in Centre Hall. Previously, he worked for Potlach and Borden Chemical, where he developed and patented two wood adhesives.”

**Richard Claggett**, 1969 – 8 Armaranth Drive, Littleton, CO 80127; rickwardog@msn.com. “Nov. 2009: Enjoyed a wonderful deer hunt in the Black Hills of Wyoming with fellow Penn State Tau Phi Deltas and foresters **Mike McNamara**, **Don Young**, and **Joe Armstrong**. We got four deer but the real fun was around the campfire and talking about those good old days! We’re all retired now and enjoying life!”

**Paul L. Lilja**, 1969 – 2514 Dividing Ridge, Coudersport, PA 16915; liljalndsp@zifome-dia.net.

## 1970s

**Bob Rorabaugh**, 1972 – 57 Byers Rd., Burnside, PA 15721

**Doug Carl**, 1975 – 7413 Flora St., Springfield, VA 22150-3913. Mr. Carl sent us Sam Custer’s (class of 1942) obituary, and wrote (Jan. 2010): “Both Sam and I attend Grace Presbyterian Church. On December 28, Sam passed away. I have known Sam for the past seven years or so. He was truly a member of the ‘Greatest Generation’ and a loyal Penn State fan. He will be missed by many, and blessed those who met him.”

**Susan Gallagher**, 1978 – 9527 Hurty Ave., Conifer, CO 80433; premwyodoc@msn.com.

**Virginia Burne Glasscock**, 1979 – 208 David St. Picabo, Bellevue, ID 83313; info@anglingservices.com. “Oct. 2009: My husband David Glasscock and I own and operate Idaho Angling Services, providing guided fly-fishing trips around the Sun Valley area. In March 2009 I was also hired by The Nature Conservancy as the Silver Creek Preserve assistant. Since our 1987 marriage, Dave and I have lived in the same little log cabin in the small ranching town of Picabo with winter trips to New Zealand for more fishing and outdoor adventures.”

## 1980s

**Stephen D. Bertsch**, 1980 – 622 Wallace Dr., Wayne, PA 19807; stevebertsch@verizon.net. “Oct. 2009: I am currently working for Performance Controls in Montgomeryville, PA. I am a mechanic assembler of MRI equipment for Hitachi Medical Corp. in Japan. Even though I am not working in my field of study, I still love the great outdoors and hike and visit national forests and national parks when I can.”

**Steve Koehn**, 1983 – 20916 Old York Road, Parkton, MD 21120; skoehn@dnr.state.md.su. In September 2009, Maryland Dept. of Resources Forest Service Director Steve Koehn was sworn in as president of the National Association of State Foresters (NASF) at its 87<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in Albuquerque, NM. Koehn has previously served as NASF’s vice president and treasurer and

as president of the Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters.

In May 2010, Koehn received a 2010 Arbor Day Award from the Arbor Day Foundation for his dedication to planting trees and conservation efforts. Koehn played a vital leadership role in the passage of the Maryland Sustainable Forestry Act of 2009.

**Peter D. Smith**, 1985 – from *The Forestry Source*, March 2010: “Texas Forest Service employee Pete Smith received a Vice Chancellor’s Award in Excellence for his extensive work on tree issues in Galveston following Hurricane Ike. Smith, the agency’s urban forestry partnership coordinator, has worked for the Texas Forest Service for more than two decades.”

## 1990s

**John Groninger** (1991g) and **Charles Ruffner** (1995g and 1999g) are both currently faculty members in the Department of Forestry at Southern Illinois University. See page 21 for a news release about time they spent in Afghanistan. Groninger writes, “Charles and I both credit Penn State’s outstanding forestry program for giving us a leg up in our preparation to tackle the unfamiliar in Afghanistan .... While I can go on and on about the particulars of how I have benefitted from all of my forest resources instructors and courses, Charles and I both look back especially favorably on **Larry McCormick’s** forest soils class as putting us both on a trajectory toward doing this type of work.”

**Keith Christenson**, 1996 – 3390 Paramaribo Pl., Dulles, VA 20189; tropicalbats@hotmail.com. “After living in the Dominican Republic, Panama, and Zambia, I currently live in the small South American country of Suriname. I write a bi-weekly column on Suriname wildlife for the U.S. embassy community here, am actually employed by the Department of State as a Security Escort (a position that allows me to take weeks off for my field work), and sometime toward the end of 2010 will be moving from 6 degrees N latitude to 60 degrees N latitude (Oslo Norway), which will be no small change.”

**John Morgan**, 1996 – 1398 Herndon Road, Lawrenceburg, KY 40342; John.Morgan@ky.gov. “Sept. 2009: I’ve landed in Kentucky working for KY Fish and Wildlife. Doing a dream job spending most of my time working on the impossible - restoring northern bobwhite (<http://fw.ky.gov/pdf/quailplan08.pdf>).”

**Beth (Verhanovitz) Clark**, 1999 – 104 Centennial Drive, Richlandtown, PA 18955. “Oct. 2009: I had my second child, Sydney Helen Clark, on July 20, 2009. She joins big brother Noah Rori Clark. I am currently on maternity leave from my position as Environmental Education Specialist at Nockamixon State Park.”

2000s

**David E. Frey**, 2008 – died May 23, 2009 as the result of injuries sustained in an off-road vehicle accident. He was employed through Penn State University, working as a forester for the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veteran Affairs at Fort Indiantown Gap.

## Forestry experts help Afghans with land, water use

By K.C. Jaehnig 12/08/2009

CARBONDALE, Ill. ~ In arid Afghanistan, forests might seem to have little connection with farms. Not so, say two forestry professors from Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

“The biggest problem farmers there have is the lack of a steady supply of water when they need it,” says John W. Groninger, an expert in the cultivation of forest trees. “Forests collect water in the winter and dispense it fairly evenly through the growing season. Without the forest, the water comes down in destructive spring floods and is gone.”

Groninger and colleague Charles M. Ruffner are working in Afghanistan under the auspices of a U.S. Agency for International Development project called AWATT ~ Afghanistan Water, Agriculture and Technology Transfer. In addition to the interdisciplinary team from SIUC’s College of Agricultural Sciences, AWATT involves agriculture experts from Colorado State University, New Mexico State University and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign as well as in-country universities, government ministries and other Afghan agencies. All of them focus on increasing the country’s ability to sustain itself through a better use of land and water.

The pair’s most recent trips, in late summer and early fall 2009, build on earlier visits made in 2005 and 2008.

“The last time we went, we talked with water users and farm owners to find out what the issues were relating to water availability,” Ruffner says. “Now we’re putting what we learned into practice upstream.”

Monsoons bring rain to Afghanistan’s mountainous southeast, making cone-bearing forests there deep and dense. But these forests face threats. Mountain residents cut down trees ~ lots of trees ~ to sell, to smuggle, to build with, to burn. They dig up roots for fuel. They graze their sheep on low-growing seedlings, plants and shrubs, destroying the next generation of trees and allowing soil to wash off the slopes and into the dams and irrigation canals downstream.

“They’re hard on the land because they need every possible resource just to survive into the next month or week or day,” Groninger says. “All those years of war have meant that the priorities are on surviving. That can separate you from what you need to do to sustain your society long term.”

This year’s efforts reflect a shift in focus for Groninger and Ruffner, from the relatively safe north to the riskier southern and eastern portions of Afghanistan.

“This is where they have true forests, and the Ministry of Agriculture wanted us to go there, but the security problems add to the challenge,” Groninger says. “Before, we could travel as civilians, but in the southern part of the country, everything is strictly under the wing of the U.S. military.”

The military’s focus has also shifted, from projects that become targets as soon as they’re built to restoration efforts that sustain farming and natural resources.

“It’s frustrating for them when they no sooner finish something like a building and then it’s blown up,” Groninger says. “As one commander told us, ‘It’s tough to blow up trees.’”

These shifts in emphasis allowed the foresters to work closely with soldiers in trying to restore Afghanistan’s upland forests and watersheds.

“They didn’t know how to establish vegetation in an inaccessible, overgrazed environment or how to develop a vegetative buffer system along the waterways,” Groninger says. “We put together plans for getting grass and trees in the ground, the first tangible step for getting the watershed under



To get to work in Afghanistan’s southeast region, Southern Illinois University Carbondale foresters (from left) John W. Groninger and Charles M. Ruffner had to don helmets and flak jackets and travel by helicopter.

control.”

Ruffner took core samples from trees to use in determining how much rain has fallen annually in the region over the last two to three centuries. “We have no idea how much water courses through these watersheds because they have no gauges,” he said. “If we know whether recent years have been abnormally dry or abnormally wet, the engineers can better design systems that are appropriate for the area.”

At the request of provincial officials, they also taught workshops on forest protection.

“In some areas, everyone lives from the forest – it’s a huge economic driver – but people lack an understanding of how a healthy forest relates to their overall livelihood,” Groninger says.

Ideas that seem obvious to Americans – keep sheep from eating too much of the low-lying vegetation, keep rills from becoming gullies, leave cones so that seedlings will grow – in many cases represent new knowledge for Afghans.

“If you grow up not seeing tree seedlings, for example, because they’re all eaten, you will not understand where the next forest comes from,” Groninger says.

In addition, much folk knowledge has been lost, Ruffner notes. “Men our age don’t exist – they were killed off,” he says. “There’s a new generation who haven’t had the old traditions passed down.”

Since their return, the pair has put together what they refer to as a “call to arms” for American foresters and watershed experts, urging them to put their knowledge to work in this ravaged country.

“A lot of the problems Afghans are going through now are those that people in this country went through 100 years ago,” Groninger says.

In the States, those problems led to the establishment of cooperative extension systems, a federal forestry service, water and soil conservation agencies. Afghanistan offers those with specialized skills the opportunity to bring such advances to a country that desperately needs them.

“We want to inspire people, especially the young, to go out into the world and do good,” Ruffner says.

Adds Groninger, “We want people to understand that everybody has something to offer, that they can do things they’ve never dreamed of.”

Ruffner smiles. “I tell my classes, ‘Don’t sell yourself short,’” he says. “You never know what you can do for someone.”

## 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)

Is the nominee aware of this nomination?  yes  no

Date of nomination: \_\_\_\_\_

### INFORMATION ABOUT THE PERSON MAKING THE NOMINATION

Name  
Address  
Phone Number  
E-mail

### INFORMATION ABOUT THE PERSON BEING NOMINATED

Name  
Address  
Phone Number  
E-mail  
SFR Graduation Year and Major

Please provide 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  
Forest Resources Building, The Pennsylvania State University  
University Park, PA 16802

**by September 30**



**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. 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. Please 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 volunteer for the following alumni activity: (Please see related article on page 14.) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- To reduce printing and mailing costs, I would like to receive only electronic copy of this newsletter.  
My e-mail address is: \_\_\_\_\_
- 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://sfr.psu.edu/alumni/awards> or from Ellen Manno, 814-863-0362; [exr2@psu.edu](mailto: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 2011. To submit news online, go to <http://sfr.psu.edu/alumni/newsletters/contribute>.

\_\_\_\_\_ date

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Mail this form to: Ellen Manno, Penn State, 114 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://sfr.psu.edu/>

## Calendar of Events

September 30	SFR Outstanding Alumni nomination deadline Contact: Ellen Manno, 814-863-0362; exr2@psu.edu
October 5	SFR Alumni and Friends Reception. 6 - 8 p.m. TWS Annual Conference, Snowbird, UT Contact: Ellen Manno, 814-863-0362; exr2@psu.edu
October/November	Timber Taxation and Forest Finance Workshops. Dates/locations to be announced. Contact: Michael Powell, 814-863-1113 or mjp175@psu.edu
October 12	Ag Career Day, Bryce Jordan Center, University Park, PA. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Contact: Denise Connelly, 814-865-0113, dcc6@psu.edu
October 28	SFR Alumni and Friends Reception. 7 - 9 p.m. SAF National Convention, Albuquerque, NM Contact: Ellen Manno, 814-863-5831; exr2@psu.edu
November 27	Ag Alumni Society Tailgate, Ag Live' 10, Snider Agricultural Arena, University Park, PA Contact: Naomi Knaub, 814-867-1819; nmk107@psu.edu
Feb. 25, 2011	Third Annual School of Forest Resources Career Fair, Forest Resources Building, University Park, PA Contact: Ellen Manno, 814-863-0362, exr2@psu.edu
April 2011	SFR Alumni Banquet, Blue-White Weekend Contact: Ellen Manno, 814-863-0362; exr2@psu.edu