



## Forest Resources Alumni Group News

News for alumni and friends of Penn State's Department of Ecosystem Science and Management (formerly Penn State's School of Forest Resources).

October 7, 2017

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### Name Change for Alumni Group - Your Vote Requested

At its April 2017 meeting, our Alumni Group's board of directors unanimously approved changing our group's name to Forest Resources and Ecosystem Science and Management Alumni Group. Our constitution requires that the change now be brought forward to all members for a vote.

The vast majority of our alumni are graduates of the School of Forest Resources, but already more than 400 students (undergraduate and graduate) have earned degrees since we became the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management in July 2012. We want to ensure all graduates feel included in our group going forward.

Please register your vote ( <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AlumniGroupNameChange> ) of support (or not) to change the name of our alumni group to Forest Resources and Ecosystem Science and Management Alumni Group.

Voting deadline is October 30, 2017.

Thank you.

### President's Message

Summer/Fall 2017, Issue No. 101

My first days at Mont Alto Campus were filled with adjustment to many changes. I was a 5-hour drive away from home with no vehicle, I didn't know anyone, and they told me I needed to sign up for an "e-mail account." I really had no idea what e-mail was. I had a word processor, not a computer. By the time I graduated, we were using GIS to map forest management projects. The chain and compass were relegated to the closet in the basement of the Ferguson Building.

"The only thing that stays the same is that everything changes" is a line from a mid-1990s country song entitled *Time Marches On*. Indeed, time marches on. We now have a new Forest Resources Building that houses what we once knew as the School of Forest Resources, and is now the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management.

By now you have received a postcard (hopefully) with information about our move toward using online communication. We hope to provide you with new communication via online content on the department's website, and Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts -- all those things that have become the new normal in how people communicate these days. But we aren't proposing to completely let go of the old ways. If you are interested in continuing to receive your information in print media, please let us know by giving your updated contact information to Ellen Manno (814-863-0362).

All of these things represent some pretty significant changes, and the Forest Resources Alumni Group is proposing to move forward in embracing the change. At our April 2017 board meeting we unanimously approved changing our group's name to **Forest Resources and Ecosystem Science and Management Alumni Group**. We are already graduating students from the new department, and we want to be sure they feel included in our group going forward. But again, in recognition of the foundation of the group, we wanted to keep the "Forest Resources" part of the name intact. We ask the alumni who are receiving this newsletter to return a vote ( <https://www.surveymonkey.com>



([/AlumniGroupNameChange](#)) on this name change, as per the requirements of our Alumni Group constitution.

Other changes have come in recent years as well. This is my 6<sup>th</sup> year on the board, and I have seen many faces come and go, but I am continually impressed at the dedication that each member shows to the projects and ideas that this board has undertaken. Under Steve Fairweather's leadership we instituted the Alumni-Student Mentoring Program. The first year proved to be a learning experience for both the mentors and the students, and I can say I thoroughly enjoyed the experience of being matched up with a bright and motivated young forester. I encourage anyone interested in this program to find out more (<http://ecosystems.psu.edu/alumni/news/2017/more>).

I'd like to continue to build on some of the momentum that this board has enjoyed while Steve was our leader, and to do that we need your engagement. There are many ways to do that. One is by recognizing our Outstanding Alumni. If you know someone who has distinguished themselves and is deserving of recognition, please send us a nomination. Each year these folks are recognized at our April banquet, and for the past two years we have also had guest speakers who gave us some interesting presentations about current issues and developments in conservation. We plan to continue that at next April's banquet.

Things definitely change, but some stay the same...like the great students coming out of Penn State's Department of Ecosystem Science and Management. Our alma mater is still graduating foresters, wildlife biologists, and other natural resource professionals. So I challenge all of my fellow alumni to embrace the change, stay connected, and provide the support to the conservation professionals of tomorrow like our predecessors did for us. The resource will be better off for it.

I hope to see you at our one of our upcoming events.

Dave Gustafson  
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July 2017

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

Summer/Fall 2017, Issue No. 101

**Q: The department was five years old on July 1. How are things progressing?**

**MM:** Quite well. But before I update everyone on our new department, a brief recap of the college's reorganization might be helpful. Readers will recall that a former provost ordered the College of Agricultural Sciences to reorganize into fewer "academic units." Effective July 1, 2012, we went from 11 departments and one school to nine departments. In the process, the School of Forest Resources was renamed the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management by a former dean. Concurrently, the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences was split into crop and soil science groups. The crop faculty teamed with the former Horticulture Department to form the Department of Plant Science, and the soil science group teamed with to form our new department. The reorganization included moving the Wood Products degree program to the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering (ABE) to become part of the BioProducts Option of the new BioRenewable Systems degree. These changes resulted in us losing four of our five Wood Products faculty who migrated to ABE, but we gained nine soil science faculty. One of the Wood Products faculty, Chuck Ray, opted to stay with us, so we still have our hand in "things wood" as well. This now makes us the Penn State center of excellence for teaching, research, and extension in forestry, wildlife, fisheries, soil science, and to some degree, water science and wood science. In other words, we are the go-to place for expertise in the renewable natural resources. I realize that soils may not be considered "renewable", but soils can be managed properly to offer sustainable production in perpetuity. We continue to offer the B.S. degree programs in Forest Ecosystem Management and Wildlife and Fisheries Science at Penn State University Park, and the Forest Technology and Wildlife Technology programs continue, respectively, at Penn State Mont Alto and Penn State DuBois. There is no undergraduate degree in soil science, but students can pursue a degree in Environmental Resource Management with a Soil Science Option. At the graduate level we offer both M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Forest Resources, Soil Science, and Wildlife and Fisheries Science.



Our student organizations remain quite active. Our chapters of the Society of American Foresters and The Wildlife Society participate in nearby projects designed to benefit central Pennsylvania's natural resources. They also represent us at local, state, regional, and national meetings, and we are able to help their travel due to the generosity of our alums. We now have a Soil Judging Team, too, that competes regionally and nationally. Our ESM Graduate Student Organization regularly holds a session for undergraduates interested in attending grad school.

In summary, the growing pains from forming this new department have been virtually non-existent. The two faculty groups brought together by the merger have worked together very well, and were quite pleased to combine forces to address a wide scope of natural resources issues.

**Q: You described how the College changed in 2012, but what remained the same?**

**MM:** The most obvious example of what did not change was our commitment to maintaining our long-time strengths in teaching, research, and outreach to forests and forestry, and wildlife and fisheries science. These programs remain just as strong at the graduate and undergraduate levels as they were in the former School of Forest Resources. In fact, we learned early in 2016 that the Society of American Foresters has renewed accreditation of our Forest Ecosystem Management degree for another ten years. This external review of our program and the subsequent awarding of accreditation indicate that our commitment to an excellent forestry program remains as strong as ever.

Likewise, our Wildlife and Fisheries Science program continues to attract quality graduate and undergraduate students, to supply job-ready graduates to a variety of employers, and to perform world-class research on issues of importance to Pennsylvania and beyond. Our WFS graduates can still achieve certification by The Wildlife Society or the American Fisheries Society. In summary, although under a new name, what has not changed is the way I like to describe our Department: We are real people solving real problems with real science while producing graduates ready to address a wide variety of natural resource issues.

**Q: What have some of the benefits been of this new organization?**

**MM:** The benefits of this new departmental composition became immediately apparent. Not only did we add another natural resource to our list of expertise, but we are a larger department than we would have otherwise been. Becoming larger in a large university is usually a positive move in these days of mergers, similar to conditions in the business world. Plus, our soil science colleagues are now partners, not competitors, for resources in times of economic constraints. There were very tangible benefits as well, not the least of which concerns our forest soils course. Due to retirements of faculty who we could not immediately replace, we found ourselves without an instructor for our forest soils course. One of the soil science faculty, Rick Stehouwer, volunteered to teach the course without even being asked. This enabled us to continue offering specialized education in an area very important to sound forest management.

Other benefits have included the combination of experiences and knowledge of great value to running any academic enterprise. Regardless of enrollment, there is a minimum amount of work, frequently accomplished by committees, to ensure compliance with university rules and government regulations, and the merger allowed our faculty talent pool to grow substantially. Also, the merger combines research, teaching, and Extension talent in a way that allows us to address natural resource issues in a more holistic manner that might not be immediately apparent but is nonetheless greatly beneficial.

An example of faculty collaboration bringing about new developments is the current effort to develop an online Master of Professional Studies (MPS) in Ecosystem Management. Penn State no longer allows specialized non-thesis degrees such as the Master of Forestry, but instead has instituted the MPS. The intention of this degree is to provide mid-career natural resources professionals an opportunity to earn a graduate degree without having to enroll on campus. Students would complete coursework in statistics, environmental GIS, and environmental policy, monitoring, and management. Students would then complete four courses from one of the following specialized tracks: forest management, land management, or watershed management. The specialized tracks would also be available as stand-alone graduate certificate programs. The program would be delivered completely online and allow students to attend full or part-time. This will be our first foray into offering an online degree, and the committee of faculty working on it consists of two Forestry and two Soil Science professors.

#### Q: What are some new developments anticipated for 2017-2018?

**MM:** We expect that graduate and undergraduate enrollments will remain steady through 2017-2018. Our enrollments usually reflect national trends in similar degrees, and although our undergraduate numbers are not nearly as high as those in the past when enrollments, at least in Forestry, were high enough to cause management problems, we have enjoyed sustainable numbers in recent years. And our students are doing very well in securing professional employment. We initiated a student mentoring program in fall 2016 involving alums as mentors. This is strictly voluntary on the part of both alumni and students, and we are currently in the process of evaluating that program's success by surveying both the mentors and the students. Although we had only eight students mentored in 2016, we anticipate increasing participation as the positive effects of this become known.

We saw some faculty changes in the first half of 2017 and expect more in the not-too-distant future. Dr. Bill Elmendorf became the first holder of the Joseph E. Ibberson Endowed Chair in Urban and Community Forestry on May 1, 2017. Dr. Jon Duncan, started on July 1, 2017, as our new hydrologist. Jon was hired from a post-doctoral position at the University of North Carolina. We are in line for College support to hire a soil microbiome faculty member, and will initiate that search in late 2017. Finally, Dr. Jim Finley retired on June 30 after 42 years of service to Penn State. We finished a search for someone to fill the position Jim held, but no decision has been made yet. Jim Finley held the Ibberson Chair in Forest Resources Management, so we will be searching for a new holder of that chair as well. In summary, we anticipate being very busy searching and screening faculty candidates throughout the remainder of 2017 and into 2018.

## Alumni Board Election Results

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In spring 2016, **William Donley** ('78 FORSC) and **Stephen Grado** ('79 FORSC, '84g FOR R, '92g FOR R) were each elected to a first three-year term, and **Derald Hay** ('03 FORSC, '07g FOR R) and **David Lezzer** ('00 FORSC) were each re-elected to a second term. We said farewell and thank you to **Nathan Jobe** ('00 FORSC) who completed three years of service on the board, to **James Snyder** ('98 FORSC) who completed six years of service on the board, and to **Staci Amburgey** who served one year as graduate student representative. We welcomed Warren Reed as the new graduate student representative.

In spring 2017, four new members were elected to a first three-year term: **Robert T. Caccese** ('12 WFS), **Gene F. Odato** ('75 FORSC), **Terry P. Harrison** ('77 FORSC), and **Thomas A. Young** ('76 FORSC). We said farewell and thank you to **Joe Barnard** ('60 FOR, '63g FOR) for three years of service this time around – he had served on the board years ago – and to **Rachel Reyna** ('98g FORSC) and **Howard Wurzbacher** ('79 FORSC) who each served six years on the board. Wurzbacher's service included two years as president and two as immediate past president. **Dave Gustafson** ('00 FORSC) was elected president of the board, and **Samantha Pedder** ('11 WFS) was elected vice president. Caccese will serve as alternate CAAS representative if Gustafson is unable to attend a CAAS board meeting.

A board of directors listing is available online (<http://ecosystems.psu.edu/alumni/about/board>).

## 2016 and 2017 Outstanding Alumni

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Each year the Forest Resources Alumni Group honors up to four Outstanding Alumni and at most one Outstanding Recent Alum at our April banquet. These individuals are recognized for professional achievement, excellence, impact and recognition; service to the profession, to the department, and to the community; and demonstration of high personal and professional standards.

Biosketches (<http://ecosystems.psu.edu/alumni/awards>) of all of our Outstanding Alumni are available online (<http://ecosystems.psu.edu/alumni/awards>) as are nomination forms (<http://ecosystems.psu.edu/alumni/awards>).

Nominations are due annually by September 30.

*Pictured here in April 2016, left to right, are 2016 Outstanding Alumnus **Ken Kane** '82; Forest Resources Alumni Group president **Steve Fairweather** '74 and '82; 2015 Outstanding Alumnus **Rich Guldin** '70 who was unable to attend the 2015 banquet; and **Mike Messina** '79, head, Department of Ecosystem Science and Management. **Bob Slagle** '58 was also recognized as one of our 2016 Outstanding Alumni but he was unable to attend the banquet.*

*Pictured here in April 2017, left to right, are Forest Resources Alumni Group president **Dave Gustafson** '00, 2017 Outstanding Alumni **Gary Alt** '72a and '77g and **Dan Deolin** '75 and '79, 2017 Outstanding Recent Alumna **Megan Davis Reed** '12, 2017 Outstanding Alumni **Larry Niles** '76g and **Wayne MacCallum** '71g, and **Mike Messina** '79, head, Department of Ecosystem Science and Management.*



## Partner Profile - The American Chestnut Foundation, Pennsylvania Chapter

Summer/Fall 2017, Issue No. 101

Do you know that there are American chestnut seed orchards at The Arboretum at Penn State? The orchards are part of The American Chestnut Foundation's (TACF) scientific research and breeding program. TACF, founded in 1983, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to restoring the American chestnut (*Castanea dentata*) to its native forests. Our department's work in chestnut research began one year earlier, in 1982, when, as the School of Forest Resources, we entered into a multi-state chestnut genetics research project with a consortium of other universities.

The American chestnut—which once grew throughout eastern North America and was best known for its fruit and wood—was destroyed in the early 1900s by an introduced fungus first observed in New York City. The blight wounds the trunks and branches, and eventually kills the upper portions of the trees. Tree roots are not affected by the blight; therefore, wild American chestnuts can survive as stump sprouts.

In contrast, the Chinese chestnut is blight-resistant. But for many reasons the Chinese chestnut is not suitable as a “replacement” for our native species in natural forest stands. By crossing an American chestnut tree with a Chinese chestnut tree, a hybrid chestnut strain that carries genes for blight resistance can be created. By repeatedly backcrossing a hybrid with an American chestnut, the end goal is to create a blight-resistant chestnut tree that retains as many American chestnut traits as possible.

On June 24, 2002, a fifth generation of backcrossed trees (B3F2)—in the form of six-inch seedlings—was planted at the Arboretum. The planting coincided with the signing of a memorandum of understanding by representatives of The American Chestnut Foundation, Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences, and The Arboretum at Penn State. Dr. Kim Steiner, professor of forest biology, was the master of ceremonies at the event. Other speakers included Marshal Case, executive director of TACF; Dr. Robert Steele, dean of the College of Ag Sciences; and John Oliver, secretary of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Two key factors in the agreement included creating the chestnut research orchard on ten acres of the Arboretum and hiring staff who would be funded by TACF and housed by Penn State.

Soon after, in January 2003, Sara Fern Fitzsimmons was hired to manage the chestnut breeding program. She had experience with the American chestnut when, as a master's student at Duke University, she was selected through the Stanback Foundation to work as a summer 2000 intern with the TACF Pennsylvania Chapter (PA-TACF).

Fitzsimmons continues to be housed in the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management today and is still funded jointly by TACF and PA-TACF. She oversees the chestnut research program, and serves as a contact for chestnut growers and researchers across a seven-state region throughout the mid-Atlantic and into the Midwest. She is also currently enrolled as a doctoral candidate at Penn State. “I am hopeful that my research and professional work will facilitate long-term conservation and restoration of native tree species at risk from exotic pests and diseases,” she explains.

Two other paid positions that are part of the current partnership are filled by Stephen Hoy, a Penn State Mont Alto Forest Technology graduate, who serves as orchard manager, and Jean Najjar who serves as chapter administrator, managing office operations. Najjar is also a Penn State alum (1985, Plant Science) and she completed a Master of Landscape Architecture degree at the University of Colorado.

In the person of Dr. Kim Steiner, Penn State has been significantly involved in the management and operation of TACF. Steiner served as vice-chair of the board of directors for six years and chairman of the board for three (2013-2015). He has since been confirmed by the board as senior science adviser and a continuing member of the executive committee. During his tenure as chairman, he led a restructuring of the board and the bylaws that took TACF to the “next level” as an organization. Lisa Thomson was hired as president and CEO, and Dr. Jared Westbrook was hired as quantitative and molecular geneticist. Both began working with TACF in January 2015. “A striking fact about the national search to fill these two positions is the quality of applicants that we attracted,” says Steiner. “This is a testament to both the achievements of the TACF staff and volunteers and to the reputation of the program.”

*Arboretum Chestnut Orchard Tour,  
TACF 2015*



Much of the partnership's work is done by volunteers. In May 2016 alone, volunteers planted more than 2,000 chestnut seedlings at the Arboretum. Many of the plants had been prepped in January by volunteers who worked in the greenhouse at the Forest Resources Lab—they filled pots with soil, planted nuts, and labeled seed lots. Volunteers also play a vital role in many other facets of the restoration work. They are ambassadors, representing TACF at community events; educators, giving presentations and sharing the story of the American chestnut with interested groups; and office workers, preparing newsletters for mailing.

Research is a significant component of the American chestnut restoration efforts, and some of that research is made possible by the partnership. In spring 2002, with funding from TACF, Dr. John Carlson, professor of molecular genetics and director of the Schatz Center for Tree Molecular Genetics, began his first project on developing DNA-based methods to compare blight-resistant and blight-susceptible trees in the TACF breeding program.

*DNA Isolation Workshop, TACF 2015*



Subsequently, the Schatz Center played an important role in a large multi-institution project—from 2006 to 2009 and funded by the National Science Foundation—to develop genomics-based tools (<http://www.fagaceae.org>) for breeding American and Chinese chestnut and related tree species, including new genetic maps and candidate genes for blight resistance. These molecular genetics tools and advances in the TACF breeding program led to the Forest Health Initiative (<http://www.foresthealthinitiative.org>) in 2009, supporting several projects aimed at assisting the TACF, including funding for the Carlson lab to completely sequence the Chinese chestnut genome (<https://hardwoodgenomics.org/chinese-chestnut-genome>). That genome was first released to the public in January 2014. The genomics tools are now being incorporated into TACF's breeding program for selecting the best trees—those with the most blight resistance and with the most American chestnut character—when they are still seedlings. This will save a great deal of time and expense and enable a much larger number of progeny to be screened. Without the genomic tools, trees in the breeding program need to be cared for until they are big enough to inoculate and determine resistance—usually five or six years after germination.

Another common goal of TACF and the university is knowledge transfer. Most recently, in fall 2015, the TACF partnered with Penn State Mont Alto's Schatz Tree Genetics Colloquium and the Schatz Center for Tree Molecular Genetics to host a workshop on “Integrating Genomics Tools in American Chestnut Restoration.” Held at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel, October 23-24, the workshop offered participants the opportunity to examine advances in chestnut genetics and genomics

with researchers from around the world, to learn how to extract DNA and use the chestnut genome website, and to tour the highly-resistant American chestnuts in the Arboretum's orchards. In conjunction with the TACF annual meeting, Mayor Elizabeth Goreham proclaimed October 23, 2015 as American Chestnut Day in State College, and Governor Thomas Wolf proclaimed October 24, 2015, as American Chestnut Day in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Chestnut research was also a key component of the first Schatz Tree Genetics Colloquium, held at Penn State Mont Alto in April 2007. Endowed by Louis W. Schatz, a 1934 alumnus of Penn State Mont Alto, the colloquium takes place every two years.



Undergraduate student Ethan Mansfield (right) assists Orchard Manager Stephen Hoy.

The partnership continues to provide internship opportunities, primarily for undergraduate students. Ethan Mansfield worked on a variety of PA-TACF projects for 16 months, and assisted the Schatz Center with its field sites as well. Mansfield completed a B.S. degree in Forest Ecosystem Management (FOREM) in May 2016. He is also a Penn State Mont Alto Forest Technology graduate, spring 2014. "My work with TACF was a rewarding experience," says Mansfield. "My mentor, Steve Hoy, guided me in properly managing the orchard. This included weed control, tree selection, and safe equipment operations. I also learned about insect management, proper planting methods, and safe watering techniques, all of which are integral parts of maintaining a healthy growing stock."

Marlin Graham, a FOREM senior in the Forest Management option, worked with PA-TACF in summer 2016. "Most of the research plots were planted before I started working, and some of the surviving chestnuts were already 15+ years old," noted Graham. "It was encouraging to see blighted trees get so large when it's rare to see anything larger than a sapling in the forest!"

Learn more about the work of TACF at Penn State and elsewhere online (<http://ecosystems.psu.edu/research/chestnut>) . You may also choose to link directly to PA-TACF (<http://www.patacf.org>) , or follow the organization on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/PATACF.org>) .

## Faculty Profile - Richard Stehouwer, Professor of Environmental Soil Science

Summer/Fall 2017, Issue No. 101

Richard "Rick" Stehouwer enjoys teaching—so much so that, by choice, it now accounts for 90% of his responsibilities.

In contrast, he had no formal teaching responsibilities when he came to Penn State, joining the Agronomy faculty in August 1997. He was hired as an extension specialist to address soil environmental issues including restoration of contaminated soils, mine reclamation, and land application of residual and by-product materials as soil amendments. He came with seven years of experience as a research scientist at Ohio State, after having completed his Ph.D. in soil science there in 1990. He earned an M.S. in Agronomy at Cornell in 1981, and between those two degrees he worked in agricultural extension and development in Liberia, West Africa.

*In recent years, Stehouwer has consulted with the National Park Service on the restoration and reclamation of the mined land site that is the Flight 93 National Memorial. Here is shown at the park entrance, and with sampling auger with the new visitor center in the background.*

Stehouwer did not act on his interest in teaching until after he had earned tenure in 2003 and completed a six-month sabbatical in 2004, investigating organic waste collection and recycling systems in Austria and Germany. But his first step was a giant one. He expressed interest in taking on responsibility for SOILS 101, Introductory Soil Science, when his colleague Dr. Daniel Fritton announced his retirement.

It was a giant step because SOILS 101 services 400+ students annually. It is a foundational course—required or recommended for many environmental- and ag-related majors at Penn State, and it is also a "general education" course—fulfilling a natural science requirement for students in many other majors.

When he started teaching SOILS 101 in spring 2007, Stehouwer tested several soils textbooks and settled on *Elements of the Nature and Properties of Soils* by N.C. Brady and R.R. Weil.

"This is a classic soils textbook that has gone through numerous iterations by several distinguished authors over almost a century," explains Stehouwer. "Ray Weil has been the lead author of the most recent editions and teaches Introductory Soil Science at the University of Maryland. When I began teaching SOILS 101, I spent a day with Weil, discussing soil science teaching and observing him in the classroom and teaching lab."

The format of the course Stehouwer inherited was two 50-minute lectures and two lab hours per week. Stehouwer felt that the short lab periods were constraining and resulted in lab exercises that were not as meaningful as they otherwise could be, given more time. He also wanted more time to effectively deliver all the lecture material as well. Additionally, since the lab was required of all enrolled students, seven or eight lab sections needed to be offered each semester.

Upon completing the university's course change process—including required consultation with other departments and units whose students enroll in the course—Stehouwer changed SOILS 101 to a three-credit lecture course in spring 2011, and created SOILS 102, a new one-credit introductory lab course. Not every student is required to take the accompanying lab, but those who do have a more in-depth experience.

Stehouwer teaches SOILS 101 and 102 at University Park in both the fall and spring semesters, with an online, "e-learning" offering of SOILS 101 in fall semesters for Penn State students at other Commonwealth Campuses. He also offers SOILS 101 via World Campus in the spring and summer semesters.

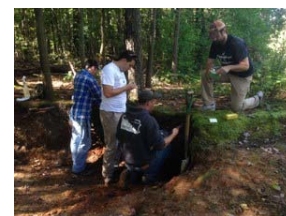
The e-learning and World Campus versions of SOILS 101 actually include five labs. For the first lab, students choose a site, take a soil sample, send it to a lab for analysis, and learn to read the results. The second lab includes digging an 18-24" soil pit and comparing the profile with what they see on a soil series map for the area. The remaining labs focus on water infiltration, land-use decisions, and soil fertility.

"My personal preference is teaching resident students," says Stehouwer. "I think face-to-face instruction is more effective, and it is personally more rewarding. I enjoy meeting and getting to know the students. But I certainly appreciate that not everyone can be on campus, and online learning offers an opportunity they may not otherwise have."

In fall 2013, shortly after the College of Agricultural Sciences' restructuring that resulted in the creation of our current department (from components of the former



School of Forest Resources and the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences), Stehouwer took on responsibility for FOR 475, Forest Soils, which had last been offered in spring 2010. This upper-level course with relatively small enrollment—and almost exclusively forestry students—presented new challenges for Stehouwer, who does not have any professional forestry training.



Students at work in FOR 475, Forest Soils

Students who enroll in FOR 475 have already completed SOILS 101 or its equivalent at another institution, but Stehouwer quickly realized that the students' foundational knowledge needed to be refreshed. Students scored about 50% on an initial assessment—essentially the SOILS 101 final exam—that he administered on the first day of class.

The students' primary interest at the outset of the course, perhaps not surprisingly, is how soil impacts forest management decisions. Stehouwer shifts their focus to first learning about how the soil impacts the type of forest that is in place, and then to exploring the ramifications of forest management on soils—for example, how do fire, harvests, erosion and sedimentation control, and forest regeneration practices impact soils.

Five field labs are an important part of FOR 475. The trips provide opportunities for students to see soil profiles and relate soil characteristics and properties to tree growth and production; to look at erosion and sedimentation provisions on a timber sale; to learn more about water, nutrient, and carbon cycling; and to visit a mining reclamation site re-established with trees.



"An ongoing challenge in the field," says Stehouwer, "is to get the forestry students to look down and not up!"

Stehouwer added SOILS 071, Environmental Sustainability, to his teaching repertoire in spring 2015. SOILS 071 was created by Stehouwer's colleague Jason Kaye in spring 2007 to provide an introduction to environmental sustainability for students with no background in environmental science or soils. It is not required for any major, and it does not serve as a prerequisite for other courses.

"SOILS 071 is a fun course to teach," says Stehouwer. "I can push the students to think about the issues and about how soil science contributes to environmental sustainability. Since the class size is limited to 28, we can have in-class discussions. A smaller class would be even better, but that would mean that even more students who want to take the course would not be able to. The class fills up each time we offer it."

In addition to being a natural science general education course, SOILS 071 is designated as an International Cultures selection. Stehouwer's work abroad in Liberia, Israel, Ecuador, Bolivia, Austria and Germany has given him considerable first-hand experience to share with students as they explore environmental challenges and solutions that cross political and cultural boundaries. About a third of the course addresses international issues and questions.

"Ah ha! moments often come a few years after students have taken one of my courses," explains Stehouwer. "They may be out in their first professional job and confront a soils-related problem, question, or issue. They'll write to me to say something along the lines of '... because I took your course I knew more about the situation than my colleagues, or was able to address the problem, or was able to impress my boss.' This is what makes teaching such a rewarding profession."

## Richard Stehouwer Professor of Environmental Soil Science

**Hometown:** Cadillac, Michigan is where my family settled when I was 12 years old. Before that we lived in a small town in (at that time) a remote part of Nigeria.

### Alma Mater:

Ph.D. Soil Science, Ohio State University, 1990

M.S. Agronomy, Cornell University, 1981

B.S. Biology, Calvin College, 1977

### Areas of Expertise:

Composting and compost utilization

Mined land reclamation

Restoration of degraded soils

Biomass crop production on marginal lands

**Time at Penn State:** 20 years

### Work Abroad:

Agricultural extension and development in Liberia

Saline soil restoration in Israel

Conservation agriculture production systems research in Ecuador and Bolivia

### Current Teaching Responsibilities:

SOILS 071, Environmental Sustainability

SOILS 101, Introductory Soil Science

SOILS 102, Introductory Soil Science Laboratory

SOILS 489, Supervised Experience in College Teaching

FOR 475, Principles of Forest Soils Management

### Favorite book:

Daniel Hillel's book, *Out of the Earth: Civilization and the Life of the Soil*, was published when I was a Post-Doc, a year or two after I finished my Ph.D. and had a profound impact on how I think about, teach about and research soils. Hillel writes powerfully about the history of how mankind's use and misuse of soil and the consequences for numerous civilizations.

### Favorite soil series?

Well, Hazleton is the Pennsylvania State Soil so of course that is a favorite. This soil has formed on acid sandstone parent material, occurs mostly on our ridges and mountains and almost all of it is covered by forest. Another favorite would be the Rubicon where I grew up in Northern Michigan. This is a sandy Spodosol with a really striking profile: a thin dark A horizon, a bleached, almost white E horizon and a rust, orange colored Bs horizon. It is also almost all forested. Probably the most

fascinating soils I've worked on are the volcanic ash derived Andisols in the Andes mountains of Ecuador. These are deep, dark, high organic matter, incredibly friable soils. Absolutely beautiful!

#### How I got interested in soils:

My Master's degree was in Agronomy and focused on small grains production. I took soils courses in that program and was even a soils TA. But I have to say I did not really get "interested" in soils until I was doing agricultural development work in Liberia and realized most of the production problems I was encountering were soils related. Soils were at the root of it all. I decided my Ph.D. would be in Soil Science.

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## News Briefs

Summer/Fall 2017, Issue No. 101

Effective July 1, 2017, **Bill Elmendorf** was promoted to professor, and **Beth Brantley** at Penn State Mont Alto was promoted to senior instructor in forestry.

**Jon Duncan** joined us as assistant professor of hydrology on July 1, 2017. Jon was hired from a post-doctoral position at the University of North Carolina.

**James Finley**, Ibberson Chair of Forest Resources and Director of the Center for Private Forests at Penn State retired on June 30, 2017, after nearly 43 years of service at Penn State.

In May 2017, **Mike Powell** received a College Staff Laureate Award – specifically the Ambassador Award, which honors a staff member who “serves as a proactive liaison to external audiences by building relationships, sharing knowledge, and promoting the unit and the College of Agricultural Sciences.”

**Bill Elmendorf** became the first holder of the Joseph E. Ibberson Endowed Chair in Urban and Community Forestry on May 1, 2017.

**Andrew Morris**, master's student in Soil Science, was one of three Penn State graduate students who were awarded the Distinguished Master's Thesis Award in April 2017. Morris is conducting research that evaluates the impact of cover crop interseeding, specifically as it relates to nitrogen losses. Morris' adviser is **Jason Kaye**.

**Dave Eissenstat** was named a Fellow of the Ecological Society of America in February 2017. He was elected for “major contributions towards understanding belowground processes and interactions among plants, microbes, environmental factors, and agricultural practices.”

**Lillie Langlois** received the 2017 Harold K. Shilling Dean's Graduate Scholarship, the purpose of which is “to provide funding and recognition to outstanding graduate students who course of study is relevant to science, religion, and ethics, or who studies involve critical societal benefits such as improvement of health, environment, or energy.” Langlois is a Ph.D. candidate in Wildlife and Fisheries Science working with **Margaret Brittingham**.

**Weile Chen**, an Ecology Ph.D. student working with Dave Eissenstat, received an Alumni Association Distinguished Doctoral Dissertation Award in spring 2017.

In January 2017, **Bill Elmendorf** and extension urban foresters **Vinnie Cotrone** and **Julianne Schieffer** were among the College of Ag Sciences employees honored for 25 years of service.

In January 2017, **Michael Sheriff** received the Bartholomew Award from the Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology (one of the oldest and most prestigious biological societies in the United States) in recognition of distinguished contributions by a young investigator. Sheriff's research integrates physiology, behavior, and ecology to understand the mechanisms that regulate and limit animal populations.

**Beth Boyer** had a 2016 paper cited among “Top 60 Papers from the First 60 Years of Limnology and Oceanography.”

In spring 2016 FOREM senior **Tim Ackerman** received the Allegheny SAF Student Leadership Award. Tim was also selected to participate in the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences Emerging Leaders Endowment Program.

Forest Resources graduate student **Brian Redder** was a selected participant in the prestigious São Paulo School of Advanced Science on Nitrogen Cycling, Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change sponsored by the International Nitrogen Initiative, University of São Paulo, Brazil in July/August 2016. Redder is advised by **Beth Boyer**.

**Lidiia Iavorivska** received the Outstanding Student Paper Award at the American Geophysical Union meeting in San Francisco, CA, in December 2016. This meeting is the “largest Earth and space science meeting in the world,” with approximately 24,000 attendees in 2016. Iavorivska completed her Ph.D. in Forest Resources in December; **Beth Boyer** was her adviser.

In November 2016, at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center Annual Symposium, **Sara Mueller**, Ph.D. candidate in Wildlife and Fisheries Science won “Best Paper” and **Josh Wisor**, M.S. candidate in Wildlife and Fisheries Science won “Second Best Paper.” Both are advised by **Jay Stauffer**.

In November 2016, **Jim Finley**, **Allyson Muth**, **Leslie Horner**, and associates won a national award at the Society of American Foresters' Convention presented by the National Association of University Forest Resources Programs for their Extension work in forest education. **Finley** was also one of the plenary speakers at SAF's general assembly.

In September 2016, WFS senior **Maggie Rash** was selected as a recipient of the Shikar Safari Club Scholarship in recognition of her accomplishments and abilities, and a pro-hunting viewpoint on wildlife management and land management. Rash graduated in August 2017.

**Li Guo**, a post doc working with **Henry Lin**, won the Best Poster Paper award at the Third International Conference on Hydropedology held at Beijing Normal University in August 2016.

**Jason Kaye** was promoted to professor of soil biogeochemistry effective July 1, 2016.

Financial assistant **Lori Stasko** left the department in May 2016 to accept the position of administrative coordinator for the Department of Plant Science. In July 2016 we hired **Deb Heaster** to fill the vacant position.

In April 2016, **The Penn State Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society** was awarded the Professional Development / Leadership Award by the Ag Student Council.

**Victoria Braithwaite** was elected to Fellow of the Linnean Society of London in 2016.

Forty-two graduate students received awards for their research and creative scholarship in the 31st Annual Graduate Exhibition, held March 18 and 20, 2016, at Penn State University Park. Award winners included **Alison Franklin**, Ph.D. student in soil science and biogeochemistry, who tied for 3rd place in Physical Sciences and Mathematics category for her research poster, “Presence of three antibiotics in wheat plants and groundwater at The Living Filter: a wastewater reuse site.” Franklin's adviser is **Jack Watson**.

In April 2016 graduate student **Abigail Barenblitt** won Best Student Presentation Award at the Pennsylvania Chapter of the Wildlife Society Meeting for her talk, “Influence of forest stand complexity on forest songbird diversity within large tracts of forest in Pennsylvania.” Barenblitt is an M.S. student in Wildlife and Fisheries Science and advised by **Margaret Brittingham**.

**Patrick Drohan** received the USEPA 2015 Scientific and Technological Achievement Award, Honorable Mention, for research on understanding the nature of urban soils and their role in stormwater and sewer management. The award is presented a year after the research it is recognizing.

**Bill Elmendorf's** 2015 Pennsylvania State Comprehensive State Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) received the 2016 National SCORP Award from the National Park Service and Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals. Elmendorf was one of the three Penn State principal investigators on the study.

**Carol Leitzell** died on October 9, 2015 after a brief battle with cancer. She was the administrative assistant in the Renewable Natural Resources Extension Office and Center for Private Forests, and had been employed in the department and former School of Forest Resources since July 2002.

**Lidiia Iavorivska**, Ph.D. student in Forest Resources advised by **Beth Boyer** received a second-place award for best presentation, "Quantifying Rates of Atmospheric Dissolved Organic Carbon Deposition in the Northeastern United States," at the 9<sup>th</sup> international conference on acid rain, Rochester, NY, October 2015.

**Di Wu**, Ph.D. student in integrative biosciences (**John Carlson**, adviser), was awarded a Chateaubriand scholarship from the Embassy of France (Washington, DC) to study high throughput DNA marker techniques with the INRA Forest Genetics group, Bordeaux, France, January 1 - May 31, 2015.

**Bryan Swistock**, senior extension associate, received a Leadership and Service - Education and Outreach Award, North American Lake Management Society, presented at the 2015 North American Lake Management Society Annual Conference, Saratoga Springs, NY.

**Duane Diefenbach**, adjunct professor of wildlife ecology and leader, PA Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit, received the Natural Resource Education Champion Award awarded by Pennsylvania Chapter of Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals in November 2015.

**Tyler Wagner**, adjunct professor of fisheries ecology and assistant unit leader, PA Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit received, along with his Ph.D. student **Tyrell DeWeber** (now a postdoctoral scholar at Oregon State University) the 2015 National Fish Habitat Award for Scientific Achievement in support of Fish Habitat Conservation for work on eastern brook trout. This award recognizes outstanding achievement in the use of science to improve fish habitat conservation.

Forest Ecosystem Management undergraduate student **Jake Kriner**, from DuBois, was awarded the Claude Schickling Memorial Scholarship and the W.G. Turk Jones Scholarship at the 2016 Annual Awards Banquet of the Clearfield County Conservation District.

Eight Penn State faculty members received Fulbright grants for the 2015-16 awards cycle including **Jason Kaye**, associate professor of soil biogeochemistry. His grant addresses "Using Cover Crops to Increase Agroecosystem Resilience to Climate Change" and he will be hosted by the Universidad Politecnica de Madrid, Madrid Spain.

Recent awards from the Association of Natural Resources Extension Professionals (ANREP) include award a 2016 Gold Award to Jennifer Fetter, **Sanford S. Smith**, Kristen Kyler, Deborah Dietrich, **Vincent Cotrone**, Bradley Kunsman, **Bryan Swistock**, Charles Andrew Cole, and Stuart Echols for their publication, *Rain to Drain - Slow the Flow*. A 2016 Silver Award to **Dave Jackson** and **Jim Finley** for their publication on herbicides and forest vegetation management .A 2015 Silver Award for Promotional Materials was awarded to **Allyson Muth**, Peter Smallidge, **Jim Finley**, Gary Goff, and Shorna Allred for *Love the Land? Make a Plan*. And a 2015 Outstanding Team Award went to Nicole Strong, **Allyson Muth**, Tamara Walkingstick, Eli Sagor, and Amanda Subjin for their Women Owning Woodlands Peer Learning.

**Sandy Smith**, extension education natural resources and youth extension specialist, was awarded First Place in Pennsylvania from the Pennsylvania Association of Extension 4-H Agents PAE4-H Excellence in Camping Award Team category. He also received the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents Excellence in Natural Resources - Excellence in Camping Award Team category, 1st Place in the Northeast USA Region.

**Henry Lin**, professor of hydropedology/soil hydrology, received an Outstanding Research Award from the Northeastern Branch of the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and Soil Science Society of America in 2015.

## Student News

Summer/Fall 2017, Issue No. 101

### Carli Dinsmore and Emily Donahue both honored with George Award and Outstanding Senior Award

In both spring 2016 and spring 2017, a Wildlife and Fisheries Science (WFS) senior has received dual honors from the department.

"A future conservation leader" is how David Miller, assistant professor of wildlife population ecology described his advisee **Carli Dinsmore** in spring 2016 when he nominated her for the George Award. "She is a joy to have in the classroom and in my research lab, always going above and beyond to understand why concepts are important and how they can be applied."

Carli completed the A.S. degree in Wildlife Technology at Penn State DuBois in 2006, and then chose to stay home with her children while they were very young. She returned to school in fall 2014 to pursue a B.S. in WFS, Wildlife option. She went on to be one of top undergraduate students, and a member of the Gamma Sigma Delta honor society. Carli graduated in December 2016 and is currently an M.S. candidate in our WFS graduate program.

"My experiences as a mother and as a returning adult student have highlighted for me the vital role that educators play in shaping the next generation of researchers, managers, and teachers," said Carli. "My role as an educator is central to my future ambitions. I hope to foster an interest in, and an appreciation for, all aspects of natural resources conservation."

In spring 2017, Dr. Miller successfully nominated **Emily Donahue** for the George Award. His accolades included, "Emily is the only student I have ever had score a 100% on any of my tests in population dynamics ... The quality of her writing is extremely high. She is a brilliant student ... an energetic contributor ... and commands respect of all the students with whom she interacts."

Emily graduated completed the WFS baccalaureate degree program in spring 2017. She is currently enrolled in an M.S. program at Arkansas State University and studying the winter ecology of the Loggerhead Shrike. "I look forward to eventually earning a Ph.D. and pursuing a lifelong career in avian research. My goal is to become a professor and to inspire the next generation of wildlife biologists," said Emily.

The John L. George Student Conservation Award emphasizes service, professional activity, leadership, and communication.

Examples of Carli's excellence in these areas include serving as a caretaker of the captive raptor population at Shaver's Creek Environmental Center since May 2015, and as an educator to meet the center's outreach goals; working as an interpreter in the Colorado State Park system in summer 2006; volunteering at Greenwood Furnace State Park and the Stone Valley Community Charter School; leading in the classroom and helping other students master the material; and receiving an undergraduate research grant from the College of Ag Sciences to take on her own summer 2016 research project in Dr. Miller's lab.

Examples of Emily's excellence in these areas include serving as a leader for the ORION outdoor orientation experience, which brings incoming freshman together through wilderness experiences prior to starting their first year; volunteering to band birds, maintain trails, and other natural resource causes; serving as a counselor for grade-school students participating in Shaver's Creeks





Outdoor School; coaching the North Pocono School Science Olympiad team working in a remote field camp in Arizona in summer 2016, gaining additional field experience working as a mist-netter and other field duties; and completing an undergraduate research project looking at phenology and weather effects on avian diversity. She presented a poster about her work at the 2017 Sigma Gamma Delta Research Exposition and was awarded 3rd place in animal-related systems category.

The George Award honors an undergraduate WFS student who best exemplifies the spirit of Dr. John L. George, who was the driving force behind the establishment of the WFS major at Penn State. He was known for his perseverance, dedication, and involvement in conservation service, and his remarkable teaching skills. The recipient of the George Award is selected annually by the WFS faculty.

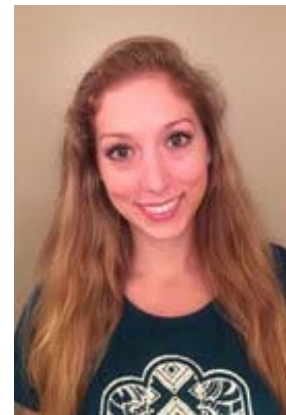
Our department's Outstanding Senior Award is given in recognition for service to the department, academic performance, service to the University and society, and professional promise and experience. Undergraduates and faculty submit nominations either individually or as a group, and the award recipient is selected by a committee of student and faculty volunteers.

### Rapp Prize Awarded to Leah McKay and Hannah Lundin

**Leah McKay**, Wildlife and Fisheries Science senior, received the Orpha Kelly Rapp and Jesse Rossiter Rapp Prize for Academic in 2016. **Hannah Lundin**, Forest Ecosystem Management senior, was the Rapp Prize recipient in 2016. The monetary prize is awarded each spring to the senior with the highest grade point average. Elizabeth Rapp Tukey endowed the award in memory of her father Jesse Rossiter Rapp (Class of 1915) and mother Orpha Kelly Rapp.

Leah began her Penn State education at Penn State DuBois and earned the A.S. in Wildlife Technology in spring 2015. While at Penn State DuBois she was an academic tutor, a Lion Ambassador, and a volunteer bird bander. In summer 2015 she was a forest technician on the Allegheny National Forest. In summer 2016 she was a bat technician for Pittsburgh Wildlife Environmental, in Pittsburgh, PA and for Sanders Environmental in Bellefonte, PA. She enrolled at University Park in fall 2016, and served as our department student marshal at spring 2017 commencement. In summer 2017 she worked as a bat technician for Bat Conservation International.

Hannah graduated in December 2016. In summer 2016 she was an intern with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Forest Resources Division, working on timber sale preparations. In summer 2015, Hannah was an intern with Pennsylvania Game Commission, Southwest Region. Her duties included recording cruise data, marking trees for harvest, assisting with timber sale layout, and conducting seedling regeneration surveys. Hannah began her Penn State career with a spring and a summer semester at the New Kensington campus, after having been enrolled at the Community College of Allegheny County. In fall 2014 Hannah enrolled at Penn State University Park; she was a member of the Penn State Forestry Society.



### Latham Award

The two most recent recipients of the Latham Award are **Shannon White** (selected in 2016) and **Lillie Langlois** (selected in 2015).

White is a Ph.D. candidate in Ecology examining whether certain traits and behaviors may help brook trout populations adapt to habitat pressures including warming climate conditions. White is advised by Dr. Tyler Wagner, adjunct associate professor of fisheries.

Langlois is a Ph.D. candidate in Wildlife and Fisheries Science studying the effects of shale gas infrastructure on forest habitat and bird communities; she is advised by Dr. Margaret Brittingham, professor of wildlife resources.

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

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

#### Shannon White



"The Latham Award emphasizes scientific communication in the form of public education and outreach, and Shannon has excelled at this," says Dr. Wagner. "Shannon uses a variety of outlets including the Internet, television, meetings, presentations, publications, and field demonstrations."

Shannon's research is a collaborative effort among state and federal agencies and universities, and importantly also with the Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association (LCWA). "Shannon's research is an outstanding example of engaging the public to become invested in the scientific process by actively learning about conservation problems, the scientific method, participating in field research (LCWA members routinely assist with field work), and providing critical in-kind support," explains Dr. Wagner.

Shannon has created a website and blog, <http://thetroulook.com/>, designed to provide research updates and answer topical questions in brook trout ecology.

Shannon elaborates, "For example, one section of the website breaks down the scientific literature to explain why brown trout, a nonnative trout species beloved by anglers, threatens the vitality of the native brook trout." The website serves as an educational tool for primary school teachers in several Pennsylvania counties.

Since coming to Penn State in 2014, Shannon has given invited presentations to the Susquehanna and Spring Creek chapters of Trout Unlimited, the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited, the Tyrone Rotary Club, and the Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association. In September 2016 she filmed a full-length segment with WNEP's (ABC 16) *Pennsylvania Outdoor Life*. You will find the link to the segment on her website.

In addition to already co-authoring several peer-reviewed research articles for the scientific community, Shannon has also published "A Race Against the Clock for Brook Trout Conservation" in the *Wildlife Management Institute Outdoor News Bulletin*.

Shannon received several graduate fellowship awards at Penn State in 2014, and in 2015 she was honored as a Graduate Research Fellow by the National Science Foundation.

Shannon completed an M.S. in Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences in 2012 at Virginia Tech, where she was recognized as "Outstanding Master's Student" at both the department and college levels. She completed her baccalaureate work with honors in 2010 as a double major (Environmental Studies and Biology) at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Virginia.

Shannon served as a teaching assistant at Virginia Tech, where she was responsible for an ichthyology laboratory course. After completing her graduate degree, she returned Randolph-Macon College where she provided guest lectures and training in GIS, groundwater sampling, data analysis, and public speaking.

"I am particularly passionate about engaging with young scientists as they try to navigate the road to a career in fisheries and wildlife," says Shannon. "My own career goal is to become a university professor so I can recruit the next generation of scientists and help them develop the skills necessary to solve future natural resource problems."

### Lillie Langlois

"Lillie combines a diverse research background with an interest in policy and public engagement," says Dr. Brittingham. "She has worked internationally, giving her a broader perspective, and she has a strong interest in using her skills and experience to mentor other students. I think all these characteristics exemplify the spirit of the Latham Award."

After completing a B.S. degree in Environmental and Forest Biology at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in 2004, and an M.S. in Environmental Sciences at the University of Rhode Island in 2008, Lillie spent several semesters working with the Max Planck Institute for Ornithology in Bavaria, Germany. Her work with the institute included investigating incubation rhythms and reproductive strategies in sandpipers, which took her to Barrow, Alaska, and investigating the olfactory communication in the New Zealand Robin, which took her to the University of Canterbury, New Zealand. She also spent a semester working at the University of Western Ontario, Canada, on a collaborative project with the University of Rhode Island, and a semester teaching English to adults in multiple language schools in Brno, Czech Republic.



Lillie came to Penn State in January 2012 and has been heavily engaged in outreach efforts related to her research. She has given professional talks and poster presentations as well as a webinar and numerous public seminars on the effects of Marcellus shale gas development on forest fragmentation in north-central Pennsylvania. "Most people are very interested in our results and want to learn more because shale gas development directly and indirectly impacts many lives," says Lillie. "Ultimately my goal is to produce materials geared for the public highlighting findings and recommendations from my dissertation research."

In spring 2012, 2013, and 2014, Lillie was an educator, guest speaker, and/or judge at the 4-H Wildlife and Forestry Educational Field Day, and a teacher of grade-school students at an Arbor Day program at the Penn State Arboretum. In spring 2015 she participated in Penn State's Take our Daughters and Sons to Work day, introducing students and parents to the field of ornithology and how birds are used as environmental indicators. In fall 2015 she served on a Graduate Student Panel to advise Wildlife and Fisheries Science undergraduate students regarding opportunities and expected outcomes of graduate education.

Lillie has served as a teaching assistant and/or guest lecturer in several undergraduate courses including Wildlife and Fisheries Measurements, Ornithology Lecture, Ornithology Laboratory, and Vertebrate Laboratory. She taught a half-day introductory seminar on ArcGIS and professional mapmaking for the Penn State Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society, and has also assisted individual graduate and undergraduate students with GIS-related projects. She serves as newsletter editor for The Pennsylvania Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

"My goal is to work at a small teaching-oriented university where I would have the opportunity to inspire students' appreciation and knowledge of the natural world just as my professors did for me many years ago. One aspect of my teaching philosophy is to encourage students to travel and experience a variety of ecosystems, countries, and cultures. Another aspect is to encourage sustainable lifestyles that promote healthy and green alternatives," states Lillie.

## Department News

Summer/Fall 2017, Issue No. 101

### In Memory of Dr. Richard H. Yahner



On May 14, 2016, a group of **Dr. Rich Yahner's** former graduate students and former colleagues from the School of Forest Resources gathered to dedicate a red oak tree and a plaque in his memory. Rich's son, Rich(ie) Yahner and daughter-in-law also attended. Attendees shared stories, memories, and tales of gratitude. The memorial service was organized by **Dr. Carolyn Mahan**, one of Rich's former grad students who is now a professor at Penn State Altoona. Rich passed away on July 8, 2015, in San Diego, CA.



### Wagner Receives Excellence in Science Award

**Dr. Tyler Wagner**, adjunct professor of fisheries ecology and assistant unit leader, PA Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, was honored for his outstanding research accomplishments and productivity at a spring 2016 meeting of scientists of the Cooperative Research Unit program. The award recognizes the important work he has conducted on eastern brook trout. The following is an excerpt from the statement in support of his award:

"Dr. Wagner has published 22 peer-reviewed manuscripts since January 2014, with 11 of 21 published in the past fiscal year. His work on the conservation and management of eastern brook trout, a species of conservation concern throughout its native range, is the focus of this award.

"Dr. Wagner and his student's work over the past year on eastern brook trout populations and their habitat made a substantial impact on conservation and management activities throughout the species native range in the eastern United States. Products from his modeling work have been used by a variety of conservation and management agencies and by other research groups funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. For example, a regional brook trout species distribution model is being used by (1) the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission to help prioritize streams for the agency's Unassessed Waters Program, (2) The Nature Conservancy to prioritize culverts for removal, as part of the North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative (NAACC; results found here (<http://arcg.is/1F2rPju>)), (3) an Appalachian LCC-funded project titled "Interactive Conservation Planning for the Appalachian LCC", which is funded by the US Fish & Wildlife Service with the goal to coordinate broad-scale conservation effort by prioritizing terrestrial and aquatic areas of conservation interest, and (4) in a North Atlantic LCC Aquatic Habitat Assessment, titled "Chesapeake Bay Watershed Brook Trout Habitat and Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment.

"In addition, Dr. Wagner's work on eastern brook trout resulted in his receiving the 2015 National Fish Habitat Award for Scientific Achievement in support of Fish Habitat Conservation for work eastern brook trout. This award was to recognize outstanding achievement in the use of science to improve fish habitat conservation."



### Govere Receives Diversity Award

**Dr. Ephraim Govere**, director of our department's Soil Research Cluster Lab, is one of three individuals honored with the Dr. William Henson Diversity Achievement Award for 2016.

"He has demonstrated commitment to fostering an environment in which the values of diversity and multiculturalism are understood, developed and promoted," wrote his nominator. "That is shown by the cultural events Govere organizes for his department, the staff he has hired and the university events in which he has been involved."

However, his promotion of diversity goes beyond the college and the university. He has given cultural talks to every elementary school in State College through the Global Connections international speakers program, and he has participated in cultural-diversity panel discussions at Mount Nittany Medical Center to help healthcare providers develop cultural skills to provide care for an increasingly diverse Penn State student, faculty and staff population.

Govere, who teaches AG 160, Introduction to Ethics and Issues in Agriculture, each summer, was an invited speaker for the Eastern Analytical Symposium and Exposition in 2015. His topic was "What is Your Cultural Competence Level as a Laboratory Manager?" Since he gave the presentation, he has been asked to contribute diversity articles by several groups, including the Association of Laboratory Managers.

He also published an academic paper titled "Toward Culturally Competent Scientists: As International Collaboration Becomes Increasingly Common, Researchers Must Work to Limit Their Own Biases and Let Cultural Diversity Enhance Their Work." He was recently approached by the commissioning editor of the *Analytical Scientist* — a publication distributed worldwide — to write a diversity paper addressing cross-cultural competence.



### New Extension Educator

**Dr. Kimberly Bohn** was appointed to the position of Extension Forestry Educator based in McKean County, effective June 20. Kimberly earned her Ph.D. in Forest Resource Management at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, and had been working as an associate professor at the University of Florida for the last several years. She has extensive experience in teaching about silviculture, forest ecology, and natural resources conservation. During her time with the University of Florida, she also did extensive research on forest ecosystem responses following active management and natural disturbances, and the management of invasive species in forest ecosystems.

Kimberly joins a statewide team of professional educators focused on providing diverse forest resources programming and assisting forest landowners and natural resource professionals in gaining knowledge, making decision, and acquiring skills to manage forest resources.

She can be reached at the McKean County Extension Office, 17129 Route 6, Smethport, PA 16749, 814-887-5613, [kkb29@psu.edu](mailto:kkb29@psu.edu).



### New NPS Partner

**Dr. Peter Sharpe** is the regional hydrologist for the Northeast Region of the National Park Service (NPS). His duty station was recently changed from Philadelphia to University Park and his office is now in 423 Forest Resources Building (phone 814-865-7974, e-mail [peter\\_sharpe@nps.gov](mailto:peter_sharpe@nps.gov)).

Pete earned his Ph.D. in Marine, Estuarine, and Environmental Science at the University of Maryland and his M.S. in Environmental Pollution Control at Penn State. He joined the National Park Service in 2010 as the Northeast Regional Natural Resources Condition Assessment Coordinator following his post-doc work with the Institute for Research Technology and Agriculture (IRTA) in Catalonia, Spain.

As the Northeast Regional Hydrologist he now serves 85 inland and coastal parks and park units from southern Virginia to Northern Maine. His scientific expertise falls within the fields of tidal and non-tidal wetland ecology and water resource management. He has more than 15 years of experience in applied wetland science and water resource management ranging from wetland delineations and habitat restoration to surface/ground water monitoring. He regularly collaborates with other aquatic resource specialists within and outside the NPS on topics ranging from nitrogen deposition in coastal marshes to mercury concentrations in fish tissue.

Pete is the son of alumnus and professor emeritus of forest hydrology **Bill Sharpe**.

With Pete's arrival, the National Park Service Cooperative Studies Unit is again fully staffed after the retirements of **John Karish** and **Wayne Millington**. The unit has been based at Penn State since 1974 and includes nine NPS employees with offices in the Forest Resources Building and Buckhout Lab.

## In Memoriam

Summer/Fall 2017, Issue No. 101

- **Alex Kirnak, 1937** – died in August 2015
- **Carl A. Muller, 1938** – died September 20, 2015
- **C. Dana Chalfant, 1941** – died March 8, 2017
- **Richard C. Cook, 1948** – died August 3, 2016
- **Robert H. Rumpf, 1949** – died April 9, 2017
- **Walter F. Gabel, 1950** – died May 11, 2016
- **J. Theodore Jensen, 1950** – died August 7, 2016
- **Thomas E. Peters, 1954** – died October 19, 2016
- **Keith D. Horn, 1955** – died August 11, 2016
- **Paul S. Debold, 1957** – died November 28, 2015
- **David L. Posca, 1957** – died November 2, 2015
- **Vincent B. Balok, 1958** – died November 25, 2015
- **Robert M. Schaeffer, 1958** – died September 23, 2017
- **Richard A. Werner, 1958** – died July 8, 2017
- **Wayne R. Grube, 1959** – died November 22, 2016
- **Ronald J. Dinus, 1961** – died December 1, 2015
- **James E. Pflieger, 1961** – died December 25, 2015
- **Robert J. Bartholomew, 1963** – died December 10, 2015

**Alex W. Kirnak, 1937**, of Beaverton, OR, died in early August 2015, about 10 weeks shy of his 99<sup>th</sup> birthday. Kirnak was honored as one of our Forest Resources Outstanding Alumni in 2006.

**Richard C. Cook, 1948**, of Stuart, FL, died on August 3, 2016. Cook served with the U.S. Army Air Corps 451<sup>st</sup> Bomb Group in Italy during WWII. After completing the forestry degree, Cook did additional graduate work at Syracuse University and Rutgers University where he was acting chairman of the Forestry Department. He was an executive with Johnson and Johnson for 20 years, and then a director with the National Druggists' Association.

**C. Dana Chalfant, 1941**, of Gibsonia, PA, died March 8, 2017. He was a WWII veteran, serving in the Navy from 1942 to 1946 as a captain of a patrol cruiser. Lt. Commander Chalfant received the Bronze Star medal for action at Iwo Jima and Okinawa. Following his service in the Navy, he joined his father's hydraulic machinery business, which he managed for 60 years. He served six years as commissioner with the PA Game Commission, and was a life member of the Penn State Alumni Association.

**Robert H. Rumpf, 1949**, of Carlisle, PA, died April 9, 2017. From PA Forestry Association newsletter, May 2017: After earning a B.S. in Forestry in 1949, Rumpf began his career with the PA Dept. of Forests and Waters, filling several assignments between 1949 and 1953, including a tour in the U.S. Army.

After earning a Master of Forestry degree in Forest Economics at Duke University in 1954, he joined The Glatfelter Pulp Wood Company in Virginia. In 1961, Rumpf returned to PA to open a district office in Carlisle. While there, he expanded the woodland acquisition he expanded the woodland acquisition program and installed scientific forest management on company lands. He also encouraged private landowners to recognize the value of management and harvesting on their forestlands. He served as Area Forester, District Manager, Administrative Assistant, and Vice President and General Manager at the Spring Grove headquarters of the Company. He retired in 1993 with 39 years of service.

Rumpf's service to the profession includes serving as President and Director of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association (PFA), and Chair of PFA's Policy Committee and Forest Industry Committee; he was Chairman of the Pennsylvania Tree Farm Committee, Chairman of the Mid-Atlantic Communications Committee of the American Forest Institute, Chairman of the Forest Resource Committee of the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry, and a member of the National Board of the American Pulpwood Association.

Rumpf was a member of the Penn State's School of Forest Resources (SFR) Advisory Board (1991-1995), a member of the SFR Goddard Chair Committee (1992-2000), and a member of the Penn State Forest Issues Group. He also served on the SFR Alumni Group Board of directors for two three-year terms from 1995 to 2000. He was instrumental in establishing the Distinguished Lecture Series in the School in 1993.

Rumpf's awards include the Joseph T. Rothrock Conservationist of the Year Award in 1996 from the Pennsylvania Forestry Association, the 1993 Maryland Governor's Proclamation for leadership in Maryland Forestry, election as Fellow in the Society of American Foresters in 1993, and SFR Outstanding Alumnus in 2002.

**Walter F. Gabel, 1950**, of Dover, Delaware, died on May 11, 2016. He was a WWII veteran, serving in the U.S. Navy in the Pacific Theatre, 1944 to 1946. After graduating in 1950 with a degree in Forestry, he served 35 years in the Delaware Forestry Department, becoming State Forester in 1977. He often enacted the educational role of Smokey Bear in costumed-character visits to classrooms and Scout troops.

Gabel and his son William visited Penn State in June 2011. Gabel is shown here with Ellen Manno, executive director of the Forest Resources Alumni Group.



**J. Theodore "Ted" Jensen**, 1950, of Jenkintown, PA, died August 7, 2016. During WWII, Jensen enlisted in the Marine Corps at age 17. He was called to active duty after graduation from Germantown Academy in 1943, and served in the Pacific Theater. He was honorably discharged, but remained in the Marine Corps Reserve until 1951. Following military service, Jensen completed the B.S. in Forestry at Penn State in 1950. He was hired as a general foreman in the chemical spray division of the Asplundh Tree Expert Co. before being recalled to active duty by the Marines during the Korean War. He was discharged a second time in 1951 and worked in sales for the United States Plywood Corp., and as a field engineer and project manager for R.G. Werden and Associates in Jenkintown, and then in a position in the sales and servicing of fire trucks with the Campbell Supply Co. in New Jersey. His service to Jenkintown included work as a volunteer fireman, as borough forest chief and fire marshal, and four 4-year terms as mayor. He served on the Forest Resources Alumni Group board of directors for two three-year terms, spring 2002 through spring 2008, and as vice president for two years, spring 2003 through spring 2005.

**Thomas E. Peters**, 1954, of Port Ludlow, WA, died October 19, 2016. After completing the forestry degree in 1954, Ludlow became a pilot in the U.S. Air Force (1955-58). In 1959 he earned an M.S. in Wood Technology from the University of Washington. His career in wood products (1959-1995) spanned several companies: Simpson Timber Co. in Shelton, WA; Pope 7 Talbot in Oakridge, OR; Morrison Knudsen in Boise, ID; and Coe Manufacturing in Tigard, OR. During his career he was awarded 11 patents relating to the production of wood fiberboard.

**Keith D. Horn**, 1955, of Kane, PA, died August 11, 2016. He received a full scholarship to play football at Penn State where he lettered three out of his four years. Keith stayed on as the freshman coach and had the opportunity to work with Coach Paterno for a year after which he completed a two-year tour of Europe in the Air Force as a football coach/player, nearly changing his professional direction to coaching football.

He was the owner of Keith Horn, Inc., and the first consulting forester in the state to receive certification from the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). In 2003, the Society of American Foresters recognized him with its Presidential Field Forester Award. He trained and mentored dozens of young foresters in the art of the Allegheny silviculture. Horn was also an artist of forestry. He painted and sketched the woods that he worked in and shared this artwork with colleagues and clients. He was an initial founder of the Kane Shade Tree Commission.

Horn helped create a forestry scholarship at Penn State, was an active member in the Letterman's Club, and a contributor to Penn State's athletics. He was honored as a Forest Resources Outstanding Alumnus in 2009.

**William C. Paxton**, 1957, of Latrobe, PA, died April 22, 2016. At Penn State he was on the gymnastics team. In 1956 he came in sixth in the NCAA, and was undefeated in dual meets as a Tumbler. After completing the Forestry degree he attended Officers Candidate School in Newport, R.I. and became a Communications Officer in the Navy, attaining the rank of Lieutenant JG. He was stationed out of San Diego serving on the USS Kearsarge in the South Pacific. He was honorably discharged from the Naval Reserves in 1960.

He returned to Penn State and became a Registered Landscape Architect in 1968. His career included working for the U.S. Forest Service in Missoula, MT; the state of Pennsylvania as a Nursery Inspector, and also working for the Westmoreland County Department of Parks and Recreation where he was instrumental in designing and supervising the handicapped accessible fishing decks and walkways at Twin Lakes Park. He became a self-employed Landscape Architect and Forester and was on the faculty at Westmoreland County Community College in the Horticulture Department. He had also taught classes at St. Vincent College and Chatham University. He was a charter member of the Botanical Society of Westmoreland County joining in 1949 and serving as an officer for over 20 years. He was also a member and past chair of the Herb Society of America.

He was the father of Laurel Rush (AGED 1996, and father-in-law of Dale Rush, FORSC 1995).

**David L. Posca**, 1957, of Martinsburg, PA, died November 2, 2015. Posca retired as a supervisor in the fine paper division of Westvaco, with over 50 years of service. He then was self-employed as a consultant in the timber industry. He was a member of the National Guard from 1957 to 1970.

**Vincent Buckley "Buck" Balok**, 1958. U.S. Army veteran and Director of Energy for the state of Nebraska died November 15, 2015.

**Robert M. "Bob" Schaeffer**, 1958, of Kittanning, PA died September 23, 2017. After graduating from college, he was owner and operator of Valray Nurseries, Inc. until he retired in 2005.

**Richard "Skeeter" Werner**, 1958, of Corvallis, Oregon, died July 8, 2017. He earned a B.S. degree in Forestry in 1958 and a B.S. in Zoology and Entomology in 1960, both at Penn State. He went on to earn an M.S. in secondary education from Kutztown State University in 1961, an M.S. in Entomology/Insect Physiology from the University of Maryland in 1966, and a Ph.D. in Entomology/Insect Toxicology from North Carolina State in 1971.

He began his research career at the Alaska Forest Research Institute in Juneau, Alaska, and worked in Fairbanks, Alaska, for 23 of the 37 years that he spent with the USDA Forest Service. His professional positions with the USFS ranged from forester to supervisory research entomologist, to project/team leader.

Among the honors he has received are a Certificate of Merit in 1989 for research following the Exxon Valdez oil spill in Prince William Sound, AK; the USDA National New Perspectives Award in 1993; a Centennial Fellows Award in 2004 from Penn State Mont Alto for scientific contributions to the field of forestry; and for his lifetime accomplishments, he was recognized with the Founders Award from the Western Forest Insect Work Conference at its 2012 annual meeting in British Columbia, Canada. In 2014 he was honored as an Outstanding Alumnus by Penn State's Forest Resources Alumni Group.

**Wayne R. Grube**, 1959, of Hershey, PA, died November 22, 2016. He retired from the United States Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service in 1993 and worked additional years for the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture in Farmland Preservation.

**Ronald J. Dinus**, 1961, of Bellingham, Washington, died December 1, 2015. After earning the B.S. in forestry at Penn State, he earned an M.S. in Forest Science at the University of Washington in 1963 and a Ph.D. in Forest Genetics at Oregon State University in 1968. His achievements included research in forest genetics and biotechnology, cell and tissue culture, physiology of wood formation, and wood, fiber, and pulping properties.

**James E. Pflieger**, 1961, of York, PA, died December 25, 2015. After graduate, he attended Officer Candidate School in Newport, RI, and was commissioned into the U.S. Navy and served until 1965. He remained in the Navy Reserve and retired with the rank of Commander. He was employed by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry and retired in 1999 after 39 years of service.



**Robert J. Bartholomew**, 1963, of Wickenburg, AZ, died December 10, 2015. He worked with the U.S. Forest Service for 30 years on the Umpqua National Forest, Roseburg, OR; the Winema National Forest, Klamath Falls, OR; the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Stevenson, WA; and the Siuslaw National Forest, Waldport and Corvallis, OR, retiring in 1993.

## Alumni News

Summer/Fall 2017, Issue No. 101

**Henry "Hank" Chamberlin**, 1939. Chamberlin, who passed away in October 1998, was inducted in to the Arkansas Agriculture Hall of Fame on March 4, 2016. The late Chamberlin is known as the "Father of Forestry Education" in Arkansas, as he devoted life to the timber and forest industry. After completing his forestry degree at Penn State, he earned a Master of Forestry at Yale University in 1940 and began working at Louisiana State University where he later became head of the forestry program. In 1945, Chamberlin started the forestry department at the University of Arkansas at Monticello (UAM) and retired from UAM in 1980. (Adapted from *Tree Talk*, Arkansas Forestry Association newsletter, March 2016).

**Paul "Sunshine" Shogren**, 1951, Oakland, MD. "I have a project of contacting the 33 surviving members of the Class of 1951. I am on the church council, and a service officer for the Legion. I veggie garden and am active in the Marine Corps League. I am completing my 79<sup>th</sup> year as an active Scouter in Troop 1 of Oakland. I am assisting the various organizations commemorating the WWI centennial – a big deal coming up on November 11."

The **Class of 1958** has been as active as ever with TWO reunions in 2015 (one at Mont Alto in June 2015 and one in Post Falls, ID, in Sept. 2015, hosted by classmate Bill O'Connell), and their 59<sup>th</sup> anniversary reunion at Mont Alto, May 30-June 1, 2017. Here are just a few photos from these events.

*Classmates of '58 in Mont Alto 67th reunion photo, June 2015, Heritage Room, Millstream Café.*

*Seated: Joe Frank, Vernon VanOrder, Ralph Heilig, William McCafferty, George Siehl\**

*Standing: Richard Kost, Henry Hartman, Robert Slagle, Charles Strauss, Charles Rine\*\*, Richard Hunter, Louis Shain, Ralph Peace, Maurice Hobaugh, Roger Odell*



*Post Falls, ID, Sept. 2015*

*Seated: Earl Reinsel - '56, Bill O'Connell - '58, Don Wermingler - '58, Ralph Heilig - '58*

*Standing: Henry Hartman - '58, Joe Frank - '58, Dave Note - '58, Joe Eichert - '63, Ralph Peace - '58, Chuck Strauss - '58.*

*Also attended but missed banquet - Lou Shain - '58*



Those who were able to make the **June 2017** to the Mont Alto campus: Bob Slagle, Henry Hartman, Roger Odell, Bill Durdan ('59); Jim and Doris Durdan, Joe and Toni Frank, Chuck and Carol Strauss, Ralph & Gisela Peace, Dick and Dorothy Hunter, Maurice (Duke or Sarge) and Irene Hobaugh, Lou and Bobbi Shain, Chuck Rine, George and Nancy Siehl, Lena Swartz, Ralph Heilig and Marie Wolson. Activities included lunch (shown here) at the Millstream Café.

The **Class of 1960** held a mini reunion at The Corner Room in State College in September 2015, courtesy of a long-standing friendship between **Vic Standa** '60 and **Ted Onufrak** '79. Standa hired Onufrak for a summer position with the USDA Forest Service in Elk City, ID, back in 1977, when Onufrak was a sophomore forestry student. Standa was from Johnstown, PA, and the two kept in touch throughout the years. In 2015, Standa, who now lives in Philipsburg, MT, requested that Onufrak get him tickets to the Rutgers-Penn State football game. Standa's two sons attended the game – one flew in from Houston and other flew in from Indonesia where he works for a mining company. Standa contacted his classmates, too, and six were able to attend the mini-reunion.



*Seated, left to right: Dan Speace, Joel Hockinson, Linda Hockinson, Maggie Uber, Norm Uber, Jim Detuerck, Stan Johnson, Ruth Ann Johnson, Jim Lacey, Bobbie Speace. Standing: Vic and Carole Standa.*



*Vic ('60) and Carole Standa with Ted Onufrak ('79).*



**Stephen Schoenholtz**, 1979, Blacksburg, VA. From Virginia Tech's *CNRE News*, Winter 2017: "Professor Stephen Schoenholtz has been named president of the National Institutes for Water Resources. Schoenholtz has served as director of the Virginia Water Resources Research Center since 2006 and coordinates Virginia Tech's "Water: Resources, Policy, and Management" degree. The interdisciplinary undergraduate degree, which launched in late 2015, is the first of its kind in the nation."

**Ken Kane**, 1982, Kane, PA. Kane was recently elected to serve a three-year term on our College of Ag Sciences Alumni Society board of directors. And in November 2016, the McKean County Conservation District awarded Ken Kane the annual Conservation Partnership Award at an inaugural awards luncheon in Bradford, PA. The award, which honors an individual for outstanding dedication and commitment to conservation and the well-being of the residents of McKean County, is sponsored by Penn State Extension, McKean County Conservation District, and the Farm Service Agency.

**Douglas Tavella**, 1983g, Effort, PA. Tavella was awarded the Presidential Field Forester Award for District 7 at the SAF National Convention in Madison, WI, in November 2016.

**Matt Beaver**, 1990, Millmont, PA. In March 2016, Beaver became district forester of the PA DCNR's Bald Eagle State Forest District in central Pennsylvania.

**Andrew Egan**, 1993g, McKeesport, PA. Egan was named chancellor and chief academic officer at Penn State Greater Allegheny effective February 15, 2016. In his new

position, Egan will also hold the title of professor of forest resources. Egan began his teaching and research career as an assistant professor at West Virginia University in 1994. Other positions he has held include executive director of the New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute at New Mexico Highlands University, dean of the School of Forestry and Natural Resources at Paul Smith's College in New York, . He has been a tenured professor at the University of Maine (Orono), the Université Laval in Quebec, Canada, and Brandon University in Brandon, Manitoba, where he most recently served as dean of the Faculty of Science and acting associate vice president for research.

**Carrie Gilbert**, 2003 and 2009g, Cudahy, WI. In May 2016, Gilbert was appointed Deputy Forest Supervisor, Allegheny National Forest. She grew up in Selinsgrove, PA. She has worked for both the USDA Forest Service and Pennsylvania's Bureau of Forestry in the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Her most recent position was as the Regional Environmental Coordinator at the U.S. Forest Service's Eastern Regional Office in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

## Alumni-Student Mentoring Program

We are seeking alumni mentors!

The Alumni-Student Mentoring Program offers undergraduate students the opportunity to be matched with alumni to explore the diversity of careers in natural resources, and to examine career choices of particular interest more closely.

Find out more ( <http://ecosystems.psu.edu/alumni/mentoring> ) .

## Board of Directors Nominations

To nominate individuals to serve on our Alumni Group Board of Directors (self-nominations are welcome), please send name(s) to Ellen Manno, 114 Forest Resources Building, University Park, PA 16802; phone 814-863-0362; e-mail [exr2@psu.edu](mailto:exr2@psu.edu).

Thank you.

## Contribute News

Do you have news for inclusion in a future issue of our alumni newsletter?

Submit news online ( <http://ecosystems.psu.edu/alumni/newsletters/contribute> ) or mail to Ellen Manno, 114 Forest Resources Building, University Park, PA 16802.

Please note that we publish our alumni newsletter online, so news submissions will be accessible on the Web.

Thank you.

## Donations to our Alumni Group

Credit card donations are now accepted!

Donate ( [http://www.GiveTo.psu.edu/SFR\\_ESM\\_Alumni](http://www.GiveTo.psu.edu/SFR_ESM_Alumni) ) online to support our Alumni Group. Your contributions support our communications and engagement activities.

If you prefer to write a check, please make it payable to "Penn State" and write "Forest Resources Alumni Group" on the memo line. Mail the check to Ellen Manno, 114 Forest Resources Building, University Park, PA 16802.

Thank you for your contributions!

## Calendar

Oct. 14, 2017	<b>Kids Go Wild</b> ( <a href="http://ecosystems.psu.edu/events/kids-go-wild-5">http://ecosystems.psu.edu/events/kids-go-wild-5</a> ) , hosted by Penn State Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Noon - 4 PM, Forest Resources Building, Penn State University Park. Contact: Hunter Mangel, <a href="mailto:hmr5112@psu.edu">hmr5112@psu.edu</a>
Nov. 16, 2017	<b>Forest Resources Alumni and Friends Reception</b> , SAF National Convention, 6:30 - 8:30 PM. Hyatt Regency Albuquerque. Contact: Ellen Manno, 814-863-0362; <a href="mailto:exr2@psu.edu">exr2@psu.edu</a>
Nov. 18, 2017	<b>Ag Live Alumni and Friends Tailgate</b> ( <a href="http://www.cvent.com/events/ag-live-2017-alumni-tailgate/event-summary-9294223b67f942c49bb3f2c13ec7cde8.aspx">http://www.cvent.com/events/ag-live-2017-alumni-tailgate/event-summary-9294223b67f942c49bb3f2c13ec7cde8.aspx</a> ) , Snider Ag Arena, Penn State University Park, starting 3.5 hours before kickoff.
Feb. 10, 2018	<b>Wild Game Dinner</b> , hosted by Penn State Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Contact Hunter Mangel, <a href="mailto:hmr5112@psu.edu">hmr5112@psu.edu</a>
Feb. 15, 2018	<b>ESM Career Fair</b> . Contact: Ellen Manno, 814-863-0362; <a href="mailto:exr2@psu.edu">exr2@psu.edu</a>
April 7, 2018	<b>Forest Resources Alumni and Friends Banquet</b> , Ramada Conference Center, State College, PA. Contact: Ellen Manno, 814-863-0362; <a href="mailto:exr2@psu.edu">exr2@psu.edu</a>

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**Stay Connected**

This newsletter is published summer/fall and winter/spring each year for alumni and friends of the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management (formerly the School of Forest Resources) at Penn State.

Questions?

Please contact Ellen Manno at [exr2@psu.edu](mailto:exr2@psu.edu).

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