

# School of Forest Resources

PENNSTATE



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## Undergraduate Recruitment and Scholarships

Universities nationwide have been reporting declining undergraduate enrollments in forestry and related natural resources degree programs. Penn State is no exception. Following a steady increase in enrollment during the early 1990s, the number of undergraduates in the School of Forest Resources has decreased. During the 1999-2000 academic year, total enrollment in the School peaked at 560 students. Current enrollment is 315. All three undergraduate programs—Forest Science, Wildlife and Fisheries Science, and Wood Products—have shared in this decline.

The question on everyone's minds is what is causing the decline. Unfortunately, no one has answers, just hunches. Some think that the current changes in enrollment are part of a "normal" cycle that we have seen in the past. (As an example, a previous enrollment peak at 685 students in the School in 1975 was followed by enrollment declines to 264 students in 1982). Others attribute the decline to the fact that natural resources programs do not appear on the list of "hot" career choices for graduating high school seniors. Others contend that the combined effects of a poor economy and rising college tuition are responsible, while still others blame the common perception that there are no jobs in natural resources.

Whatever the reason(s) for enrollment declines, the School has made a commitment to halt the trend. In 2001 we instituted an aggressive campaign to increase undergraduate enrollment and to attract high-quality students. Gone are the days of waiting for students to come to us. The key focus of our new recruiting strategy is on existing Penn State students who have not yet chosen a major.

In spring 2003, the School hosted an advising workshop and invited all Division of Undergraduate Studies (DUS) advisers at University Park to learn about opportunities in the School of Forest Resources. DUS advisers are responsible for working with the majority of undecided students and can be key advocates for our programs. The School's undergraduate program coordinator, Betty Harper, regularly visits Penn State locations where students may not have access to an adviser with information related to the natural resources fields. In addition, special relationships are maintained with external programs that regularly feed students into the School. One example of those is the Forest Technology program at the Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport.

Along with our efforts that focus on current students, the School is increasing efforts to reach out to prospective students.



*Betty Harper, undergraduate program coordinator, talks with a group of high school students at Ag Progress Days.*

The School's Web page was recently redesigned to be easier to navigate, and includes a section of information for prospective students and their families. Also, new program brochures are currently in the design process and will be available later this year.

However, more important than any marketing materials are face-to-face contacts. School faculty and staff participate in a variety of summer experience programs including the Governor's *continued on next page*

## The Hunter Education Program

"We are finding that fewer students in the natural resource management field hunt today than in the past," says Gary San Julian, professor of wildlife resources. We believe this change may stem from changing demographics, family history, and ethical concerns—and also from a lack of opportunity. We have designed a program to provide that opportunity."

Along with Duane Diefenbach, adjunct assistant professor of wildlife, San Julian has invited university students and faculty in the natural resource management field to learn more about hunting through a five-week program being offered spring semester at University Park. Participants will learn about hunting traditions, ethics, and the role of hunting in modern wildlife management, and they will take the Pennsylvania Game Commission's course on Hunter and Trapper Education. Hunting experience is not necessary; in fact, the program is not open to people with hunting experience.

*continued on page 4*

*A newsletter for our alumni and friends*

School for Agricultural Sciences, the Conservation Leadership School, and the Food and Agricultural Sciences Institute for Academically Talented Minority Students. These hands-on programs can have a lasting and positive impact on prospective students. The School of Forest Resources also had a prominent presence at the 2003 Ag Progress Days Event and was featured at the 2004 Farm Show, January 10-16, in Harrisburg.

Current students and alumni have also shown their commitment to the School by volunteering at events and meeting with interested students and their families. We are establishing an alumni support network by which we can put potential students in contact with a School alumnus in their area for career information.

With the increasing cost of higher education, scholarship dollars are a key part of both recruitment and retention efforts. We are grateful to the many donors who have made possible the 23 scholarships currently available in the School. Ten years ago we were able to offer scholarships that totaled about \$50,000. Our current scholarships permitted us to award nearly \$130,000 for the 2003-04 academic year—a 61% increase from a decade ago!

In recent years, because of increasing scholarship dollars, we have been able to make an award to every School of Forest Resources student who submitted a scholarship application and had a grade point average of 3.0 or higher. Our scholarship awards in the current academic year ranged from \$500 to \$5000 annually, with the top award made possible by the Hartman Trustee Scholarship. (The Hartman Scholarship was mentioned for the first time in the last issue of this newsletter and more details appear on page 12 in this issue, along with a summary of our 2003-04 scholarship recipients).

However, with nearly \$11,000 required annually for tuition (and almost double that amount for non-Pennsylvania residents) and an additional \$9,000 or more for room, board, books, and other expenses, students often have high financial needs. While our \$130,000 in scholarship awards is impressive, it is dwarfed by the total documented need of our 2003-04 scholarship applicants who had a grade point average of 3.0 or higher—\$743,000, and that does not include the needs of students who did not file a federal form for financial assistance! Fortunately the School of Forest Resources is not the only source of financial support for

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

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## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Nothing is constant—not even football!

We are often lulled into a certain complacency by the everyday patterns of our lives. We start each day with the same routine. We pursue the matters before us, be they professional or social, in some constant, systematic approach. We acknowledge the people around us through a standardized set of contacts, messages, and allied conversations. Each day adds to the season and the seasons run into years. Hopefully, the sum total of our efforts is positive. But all too often, we expect this composite of experiences to continue forever. Even in football.

And then some element in our lives is changed. Maybe a losing football season—certainly not in Happy Valley! Perhaps our professional or social framework is altered. Or a good friend or family member is lost. Or the passage of time extracts a certain toll on our own capabilities.

Two questions: Do you ever sit back and recognize the merits of your lifestyle, of your friends and loved ones, and the capabilities you still possess? Perhaps as important, do you ever turn to someone who is special in your life and acknowledge their being there for you? Gather what you have today and give thanks for these blessings.

And are you prepared for the inevitable changes of time? Financial insurance may be one approach. Some of us may have also engaged in certain types of social insurance—investments in your family, or friends, or even your profession. Perhaps you're already investing in the future education of a child or grandchild, or certain elements of the social fabric within your community. Perhaps the School of Forest Resources is in your planning horizon? These matters happened to be on my mind last evening.



Cheers, Chuck

### Undergraduate Recruitment *continued*

our students. They can and do receive scholarships from the college and the university as well as external sources, and often federal and state aid and loans.

We are optimistic about the future. Our current student body may be smaller, but it is not any less active (read about the student chapters of The Wildlife Society and the Society of American Foresters on pages 9-11). Our faculty and staff provide excellent programs (read about our recent accreditation on the next page). And we will have a new, state-of-the-art facility in the near future (read more about it directly below). We have a lot going for us, and we will continue to work hard to make the most of it. 🐾

### Progress Report on the New Building

Our School Building Committee completed its involvement in the planning of all major teaching, outreach, and research within the new building by September 2003. In turn, these ideas and recommendations were put forth by Bower, Lewis, Thrower (BLT) Architects in a complex series of final plans by October. Our working relationship with BLT was a very productive and enlightening experience. Overall, we have an excellent structure that should prove to be both educationally and scientifically functional and architecturally handsome.

Allied with this effort was the continued support and contributions from the Pennsylvania Forest Products Association. Through the combined efforts of Mr. Keith Atherholt, president, Lewis Wood Products Company, and Mr. Paul Lyskava, executive director, PFFPA, our Pennsylvania wood industries will complement the overall design of the new building

with hardwood panels, seating areas, and attending woodwork in the main public areas, auditorium, the atrium, and administrative areas. In addition, laminated beams and ceiling treatments will extend from the entry areas and on into the atrium.

Currently, the University is completing an agreement between our Office of Physical Plant (OPP) and the state's Department of General Services to facilitate having Penn State accept responsibilities for the release of plans for bidding, the award of contracts, and on-site overview of all construction. This should provide certain cost advantages to our project, given that four major structures are being built at one time on this East Sub campus (Forest Resources, Food Science, College of Business, and the parking garage).

The College of Business and parking garage were started in November 2003 as non-state-support structures. We expect our Forest Resources building to be released for bidding by late January/early February. This should permit a review of bids during early March and selection of contractors for construction. Given this time line, we expect "ground breaking" to occur sometime in April, with the building to be ready for occupancy by October 2005.

However, not all of our School's assignments have been completed. Our Building Committee will be re-engaged in January and February on matters dealing with the interior designs of faculty and staff offices. Again, this will be coordinated through OPP and BLT Architects.

And there is still this "little matter" of \$2.5 million of private development for the building. We have gathered over \$3.5 million toward our \$6 million private development target—a commitment that has convinced others that we will reach this goal. Although our College has agreed to cover any immediate shortfall, the School holds the long-term development responsibility. 🐾

## Accreditation News

A joint team from the Society of American Foresters (SAF) and the Society of Wood Science and Technology (SWST) visited Penn State on March 2-5, 2003, to conduct an accreditation review of our Forest Science and our Wood Products undergraduate curricula.

We were notified by SWST in August 2003 that accreditation has been approved for both options (Processing and Manufacturing, and Business and Marketing) in our Wood Products baccalaureate degree program. The accreditation indicates that our program meets “the highest standards for wood science and technology education in the United States and provides Wood Products students with an excellent opportunity to prepare for challenging professional opportunities.”

We also recently received a copy of the SAF team’s October 2003 report, indicating that the SAF Committee on Accreditation continues accreditation of the Forest Biology and Forest Management options, and grants initial accreditation of the Urban Forestry option, leading to the bachelor of science in Forest Science degree. SAF states, “We are pleased to recognize your program’s continued dedication to excellence in forest resources education, and to acknowledge this achievement in the Society’s publications and in contacts with prospective students seeking guidance when selecting qualified programs.”

The accreditation process involves an extensive review of eight areas: (1) program mission, goals, and objectives, (2) curriculum, (3) organization and administration of the program, (4) faculty, (5) students, (6) parent institution support, (7) physical resources and facilities, and (8) research, extension, continuing education, and public service.

Our accreditation(s) will continue for a ten-year period, subject to certain interim review efforts by SAF and SWST. 🐾

## Hunter Education *(continued from page 1)*

Hunting will remain a critical component of wildlife management in the foreseeable future, and natural resource professionals need to understand hunting and hunters. In Pennsylvania, hunting is a long-standing tradition with almost a million participants annually. In order to manage natural resources, professionals need to understand the foundations of hunting and the role it plays in the social fabric of our citizens. The purpose of this program is to expose participants to the history of hunting, the ethics and motivation of hunters, methods of participation, and the role of hunting in society and in wildlife management.

“Last year, when we offered the program for the first time, we had twenty participants and all received their Hunter

Education Certificate,” says San Julian. “The evaluations from the program were good, but we hope to do even better this year. Numerous individuals and organizations have given time and money to make this a success.” The program is completely voluntary and is staffed by natural resources professionals with many years of experience. Participants are charged a \$15 fee, which is refunded upon passing the Pennsylvania Hunter Education exam.

The 2004 program started in January and classes will be held one night a week for five weeks. Once classes are completed, students can attend two weekend events that include a day at the shooting range and a mentored hunting experience. These events are optional and not necessary to complete the course.

If you would like more information about this program, please contact Dr. Gary J. San Julian at [gsjulian@psu.edu](mailto:gsjulian@psu.edu) or 814-863-0401, or Duane R. Diefenbach at [drd11@psu.edu](mailto:drd11@psu.edu) or 814-865-4511. 🐾



*Participants in last year’s Hunter Education course check rifle targets (above) and practice on the skeet range (below) at the Pennsylvania Game Commission Scotia Range.*



# Faculty and Staff Resources

## Yahner Appointed Assistant Director for Outreach



In September 2003, Director Chuck Strauss appointed Richard Yahner, professor of wildlife conservation, as assistant director for outreach—a new administrative position in the School of Forest Resources.

Dr. Yahner's responsibilities now include coordinating all aspects of the School's outreach efforts—including Extension programming, professional development, international programs, alumni relations, advisory board relations, and

fundraising—and maintaining and strengthening educational and research liaisons with all stakeholder audiences. Dr. Yahner also has teaching and research responsibilities; he has been on the faculty since 1981.

Examples of Dr. Yahner's activities in his new role include organizing The Rachel Carson Lecture Series; reviewing outreach activities of various entities within the School, such as those of Cooperative Extension, the Goddard Chair, and the Center for Watershed Stewardship; and expanding our liaison with directors of cooperative extension. From a personal perspective, he has initiated a bimonthly series for the Penn State student newspaper, *The Collegian*, which is broadly titled *Fascinating Wildlife*.

Previously, Dr. Yahner was associate dean of the Graduate School at Penn State, chair of the Intercollege Graduate Degree Program in Ecology at Penn State, and assistant director of research and graduate studies in the School of Forest Resources. He has been involved with research on natural resources in state forestlands and national parks since the mid-1980s. He has taught in the areas of conservation biology, field wildlife techniques, wildlife ecology, wildlife management, wildlife natural history, and professional development. Dr. Yahner has published more than 300 research publications, book chapters, and books on wildlife ecology and conservation biology. His awards include the 1997 Conservation Education Award for the Book Category from The Wildlife Society, the 1997 Ernest Edwards Award for Outstanding Research Paper in *The Wilson Bulletin* from The Wilson Ornithological Society, and the 2000 Edward D. Bellis Award in Ecology as outstanding faculty member in Penn State's Intercollege Graduate Degree Program in Ecology.

Dr. Yahner completed a baccalaureate degree in zoology at Penn State, a master's degree in zoology at the University of Tennessee, and a doctoral degree in biology (ecology focus) at Ohio University. He was a postdoctoral fellow at the National Zoological Park in Washington, DC, and an assistant professor of wildlife at the University of Minnesota before coming to Penn State. 🐾

## USFWS Director Visits Penn State

Dr. Steven A. Williams, director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), visited Penn State this past October. He was honored as one of the College of Agricultural Sciences 2003 Outstanding Alumni and he also presented the 2003 Rachel Carson Lecture.

School of Forest Resources students, staff, and faculty had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Williams and to attend his lecture entitled "The Changing Landscape of Fish and Wildlife Conservation—A National Perspective."

Dr. Williams spoke about the North American model of wildlife conservation in which wildlife is treated as a public resource. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service carries out this model in four ways: (1) providing equitable opportunities for the American public to understand and enjoy wildlife, (2) managing land in ways that convey what Aldo Leopold called a land ethic, (3) working in partnership with other federal and state agencies, tribes, and private landowners, and (4) ensuring that the foundation of the agency's wildlife management is science.

In his role as director, Dr. Williams has emphasized the importance of scientific excellence. He believes that the ever-escalating complexity of natural resource conservation demands scientific information that is rigorous, timely, and relevant. He commented that there is a growing convergence of opportunity, understanding and capability, and that strengthening the scientific foundations for wildlife management is necessary to build stronger support within the American public.

Dr. Williams was born in Bellows Falls, Vermont, and grew up in the rural Northeast. He earned his bachelor's degree in environmental resource management in 1979 and his doctorate in forest resources in 1986, both at Penn State. His master of science degree was from the University of North Dakota at Grand Forks. He is a member of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the Wildlife Society, and other professional and conservation organizations.

On January 30, 2002, Dr. Williams was confirmed by the Senate as director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. On February 21, 2002, he was formally sworn in by Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton. As director, he oversees the operations of the nation's primary wildlife conservation agency with more than 7,500 employees and a 2002 budget of 1.94 billion dollars.

Dr. Williams served previously as secretary of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks from 1995 through 2002. He was deputy executive director of the Pennsylvania Game



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Commission from 1992-1995, assistant director for wildlife for the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife from 1989-1992; and wildlife biologist specializing in research and management for white-tailed deer for the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife from 1985-1989, working on wildlife habitat analysis.

The Rachel Carson Lecture Series is an annual event that brings together distinguished scholars in the human dimensions of natural resources for a series of presentations, discussions, and consultations. The Rachel Carson Lecture was established in 1996 in conjunction with the Rachel Carson Council, which carries on Ms. Carson's work. 🌿

## First Ibberson Forestry Forum

The first Ibberson Forestry Forum, sponsored by the Penn State School of Forest Resources and The Pennsylvania Forestry Association, was held October 30, 2003. The forum was made possible through financial support of the Joseph E. Ibberson Endowment Fund and the Henry Chauncey Endowment Fund. More than 100 people attended, including private forest landowners, industrial foresters, consultants, state agency foresters, and university students and professors.

In the morning session, Will McWilliams from the USDA Forest Service, spoke about "Pennsylvania's Wood Supply and



*Dr. Harry Wiant welcomes attendees at the first Ibberson Forestry Forum.*

Threats to Productivity." Forest inventories have documented that the state's sawtimber volume has quadrupled over the last fifty years, though 18% of landowners never intend to harvest their trees. Threats to productivity include urbanization, regeneration problems caused especially by deer, and invasive plants, insects, and diseases.

The panel discussion followed, including Jack Byerly, Pennsylvania Game Commission; Ray Hicks, Division of Forestry at West Virginia University; Larry Hutchins, forest landowner; Ken Kane, consulting forester; and Blain Puller, Kane Hardwoods. The panelists elaborated on problems of productivity and forest management, and ways to solve them. The deer problem was emphasized, and, interestingly, many

southern states have maintained reasonable deer herds with much longer hunting seasons and the requirements of killing several does before a buck can be taken. Most timber sales are made without involvement of foresters, whose technical expertise could greatly increase productivity of forests and benefits to their owners.

In the afternoon session, Keville Larson, chairman of the board of Larson & McGowin, Inc. spoke about "Protecting Private Property Rights of Forest Landowners." He described privately owned timberlands as the main strength of American forestry, as they yield 59% of the harvested timber while also providing personal and societal benefits. The amount of growth is 47% greater than the timber removals, and both quantity and quality are improving as more landowners adopt best management practices.

A subsequent panel discussion by Marion Deppen, forest landowner; Michael Jacobson, Penn State School of Forest Resources; Marc Lewis, Dwight Lewis Lumber Company; and Robert McColly, consulting forester, stressed the necessity of strong property rights for a vigorous free enterprise system. Unfair property taxes and inheritance taxes were regarded as disincentives to sound, sustainable forest management. Proliferating government regulations at the local and state levels were also seen as a serious problem. Among the recommendations were reforms of tax laws and local ordinances, increasing educational efforts, and collaborating with natural resource agencies.

Attendees were enthusiastic about the program speakers, panels, and discussions, and many expressed interest and ideas for the next Ibberson Forestry Forum. 🌿

## In Memory of Former Director Bill Bramble

William C. "Bill" Bramble, a former director of the School of Forest Resources (1955-1958), died October 4, 2003. He earned a B.S. in Forestry at Penn State in 1929 and a master's degree and Ph.D. at Yale. Bramble was affiliated with the School from 1937 to 1958, first as a research professor and then as director.

Appointed as head of forestry research at Penn State in 1945, he pioneered studies of Virginia pine ecology, coal spoils revegetation, Christmas tree production, and most notably right-of-way vegetation management and ecology as affected by herbicides. The research that he and his colleague, W.R. "Dick" Byrnes, conducted for more than fifty years forever changed the way vegetation managers maintain right-of-ways. He taught several graduate courses and mentored many graduate students, giving them a very broad exposure to research topics and experimental methods. He helped design Ferguson Building in 1937, and served as an officer of the Forestry Alumni Association in 1946. He was professor emeritus and retired head of the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources at Purdue University (1958 -73).

Dr. Bramble was honored in 2001 as one of the first School of Forest Resources Outstanding Alumni. 🌿

## Stout Appointed as Adjunct Professor

Dr. Susan L. Stout, research project leader at the USDA Forest Service Northeast Forest Experiment Station in Warren, Pennsylvania, was appointed as adjunct professor of forest resources in the School of Forest Resources on January 1, 2004.



Adjunct faculty expand our School's overall expertise through formal and informal working relationships with professionals outside the University. When we have ongoing, working ties with a professional in areas of teaching, research, or outreach, we can nominate the professional as an adjunct faculty member. Nominees are reviewed by our School faculty and the dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences. The adjunct title is maintained through an annual review of the adjunct's collaborative work with the School.

Dr. Stout has been research project leader at the Warren unit since 1991, and for ten years prior to that she served as research forester at the same location. She completed a doctorate in silviculture at Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies in 1994, a master's degree in silviculture at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in 1984 (where she is also currently an adjunct faculty member), and a baccalaureate degree in applied mathematics at Radcliffe College in 1972.

In her position as project leader, Dr. Stout coordinates the efforts of the research unit in Warren and its research partnerships. Under her leadership, the unit has incorporated wildlife, herbaceous plants, and biological diversity among the responses studied to develop guidelines for sustainable forestry—thus making a successful transition from the traditional emphasis on timber management to the study of forest ecosystem management. In addition, the unit has expanded an award-winning commitment to technology transfer through annual training sessions and use of the SILVAH computer system. Her personal research includes studies of forest response to uneven-age, two-age, and even-age silviculture; measures of relative density or stocking and their ecological meaning; and studies of deer impact on forest resources.

Dr. Stephen Horsley, of the Warren unit, is already an adjunct faculty member of the School, and collaboration between the Warren unit and Penn State is ongoing. As examples, the annual Allegheny Hardwood Silviculture Training Sessions have been offered by the Forest Service in partnership with Penn State Cooperative Extension for 23 years, and Penn State students are hosted by the professional staff in the Warren unit for one or more field trips annually. Specifically, Dr. Stout has been involved in research and technology transfer efforts with several School faculty including Dr. Kim Steiner, Dr. Jim Finley, Dr. Marc McDill, and Dr. Larry McCormick. She has also served on several graduate committees.

In November 2003, Dr. Stout was elected Fellow in the Society of American Foresters for having rendered outstanding service to forestry and the society. Other recent recognition she has received includes USDA Forest Service merit awards in 2001 and 2002 for participation in strategic planning, technology transfer, and development of alternatives for national forest planning, and a 1997 national award for research contributions to silviculture on national forests.

Dr. Stout's community activities include serving as president of the League of Women Voters of Warren County, and as elder and Sunday School teacher in the North Warren Presbyterian Church.

"Cooperation and collaboration with my colleagues in the School of Forest Resources has always been an important, intellectually enriching, and pleasurable part of my job as a scientist and research project leader" says Dr. Stout. "I look forward to continuing that collaboration as an adjunct faculty member." ❀

## Goddard Forum Coming Up

The 4th Annual Goddard Forum is scheduled for **May 10-12, 2004**, at the Radisson in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania. The theme is "Developing Sustainable Communities: State and Local Practices, Technologies and Policies to Promote Economic Development and Social Equity while Sustaining the Environment."

Scheduled speakers include Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Michael DiBerardinis, Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Katherine McGinty, and Thomas Hylton, author of "Save Our Lands, Save Our Towns: A Plan for Pennsylvania."

Registration materials will be available soon. Additional information is available from Robert B. McKinstry, Jr., Goddard Professor of Forestry and Environmental Resource Management, at 814-865-9390 or [rbbm10@psu.edu](mailto:rbbm10@psu.edu). ❀

## Mensuration Update Shortcourse Available

A "Mensuration Update" two-day shortcourse, designed for foresters interested in saving field time when inventorying small or large timber tracts, is planned for **June 9-10, 2004** in State College. Dr. Harry V. Wiant, Jr., Joseph E. Ibberson Chair in Forest Resources at Penn State and Dr. John R. Brooks, associate professor of forest biometrics at West Virginia University, will present practical information that can easily save a whole day of field time in a usual timber cruise. Details will be presented on optimum plot size and BAF, double sampling, cruising large land holdings, and trespass inventories. Jim McQuaide will provide instruction on using GIS and GPS to accomplish real inventory needs. More details will be available in the near future. If you have questions, contact Michael Powell at 814-863-1113 or [mjp175@psu.edu](mailto:mjp175@psu.edu). ❀

# Student Resources

## Jacob Kubel Receives Heinz Scholar Award

Jacob Kubel was chosen as one of the recipients for the Teresa Heinz Scholars for Environmental Research. Kubel, a master's student in Wildlife and Fisheries Science, is conducting research on the golden-winged warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*), a migratory songbird. His adviser is Dr. Richard Yahner, professor of wildlife conservation.

The Teresa Heinz Scholars for Environmental Research, funded by The Teresa and H. John Heinz III Foundation, provides financial support for doctoral dissertation and master's thesis research that has public policy relevance and increases society's understanding of environmental concerns and proposed solutions.

Increasing forest cover in the eastern United States over the past century has been linked with a simultaneous decline of early successional habitats, particularly in the mid-Atlantic region. Given past and current efforts to suppress natural disturbances (fire, for example), wildlife species that use early successional habitats may become increasingly dependent on anthropogenic habitats (those resulting from the influence of human beings) such as clearcuts and power line rights-of-way.

The golden-winged warbler is a species of conservation concern on a global scale, and is listed on Audubon's WatchList. Kubel's research focuses on golden-winged warbler use of, and reproductive success in, three anthropogenic, early successional habitats located at State Game Lands 176 in central Pennsylvania.

Kubel elaborates, "State Game Lands 176 is regarded by some as a 'hot-spot' in Pennsylvania for golden-winged warblers. My research aims to determine which manmade habitats there might be most valuable to the breeding population. I hope to also increase awareness of the importance of conserving and managing early successional habitats. The public policy relevance of my research is that it may provide information that can aid policy decisions with regard to how we manage public lands for wildlife. For example, preliminary results of my research indicate that timber harvesting and maintenance of power line rights-of-way may benefit golden-winged warblers under some conditions but not others."

According to Kubel, "The golden-winged warbler is not an 'easy' species to work with. The Scholars award has allowed me to hire more assistants and expand the sample sizes in my study. I believe the quality of my research, and the ability to disseminate its findings, will improve as a direct result of the award." 🐾



## Eric Long Receives 2003 Latham Award

Eric S. Long received the 2003 Roger M. Latham Memorial Graduate Award, given annually to an outstanding, full-time graduate student advised by Wildlife and Fisheries Science faculty members in the School of Forest Resources. Long is a Ph.D. candidate in Ecology working with Dr. Duane R. Diefenbach, adjunct assistant professor of wildlife and assistant unit leader of the Pennsylvania Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at Penn State.

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

Long's doctoral research focuses on examining influences of altered harvest practices on the social behavior of white-tailed deer. The project is a cooperative effort between the Pennsylvania Game Commission and the U.S. Geological Survey, Pennsylvania Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at Penn State. Additional collaborators include the Audubon Society and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission initiated the study to answer questions about survival and behavior of bucks in Pennsylvania. This is of particular interest since new antler restrictions were recently passed with the goal of increasing the number of bucks in the state. How many bucks are harvested by hunters and how many survive through the hunting season? How many are killed by collisions with vehicles? Do bucks leave the area in which they were born? If so, when do they leave and where do they go?

Long's study area includes Armstrong County in westcentral Pennsylvania and Centre County in the central part of the state. Deer are captured by a variety of methods and equipped with ear tags and radio-transmitters that facilitate the tracking of their survival and movement. Findings from Long's study and others will contribute to basic ecological theory and will also provide applied benefit for wildlife professionals as they continue to improve management practices.

In addition to documenting his work in the scientific literature, Long has been active in communicating research findings to the public. He explains, "Effective communication of scientific research to the public sector facilitates education of the nonprofessional. In this way, the public can become informed of contemporary natural resource issues and can learn to become effective, grass-roots conservationists. Also, much fish and wildlife research is funded by taxpayer dollars, and the public has a right to know where and how their money is being used."



Long has given presentations to elementary and high school students, and has been an invited speaker at sporting group meetings. He has given interviews for various media outlets, and published preliminary results of his research in the *Pennsylvania Game News* [74(4):21-25, 2003].

In a letter of support for Long's nomination, his adviser Dr. Diefenbach wrote, "Eric has clearly demonstrated leadership skills in successfully directing the fieldwork activities of more than a dozen technicians in two counties, as well as strong research and communication skills. His Ph.D. project, although focusing on dispersal of yearling male white-tailed deer, involves all of the social, biological, and political aspects of the management of a charismatic mega-vertebrate."

Long, a native of Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, completed his master's degree in biology (wildlife ecology) at the University of North Dakota in 2001. That research focused on testing techniques to estimate mountain lion population sizes and examining influences of nonnative, introduced species on mountain lion diets. He earned a B.S. in biology in 1998 at Wheaton College in Illinois. 🐾

## SAF Student Chapter Wins First Place

The Pennsylvania State University SAF Student Chapter won first place in the 2003 Outstanding SAF Student Chapter Award contest! Clemson University SAF Student Chapter placed second and Mississippi State University SAF Student Chapter placed third.

The award was presented at the 2003 SAF National Convention in Buffalo, New York, in October. Twenty members of the chapter and advisers Dr. Harry Wiant, Ibberson Chair in Forest Resources Management, and Mr. Mike Powell, senior research technician, were present for the honors.

The student chapters are evaluated on nine possible areas of accomplishment: membership, service to members, service to SAF, service to the forestry school, involvement with other natural resources organizations, service to the community, outside recognition, chapter management, and any other activities or aspects of the chapter.

When the nomination materials were prepared in Spring 2003, 141 undergraduate students were enrolled in the Forest Science program at Penn State; about 43 percent of these were SAF members and they were quite active during the 2002-03

*continued on next page*

## Summer and Fall 2003 Commencement

### Summer 2003

#### UNDERGRADUATES

##### *Forest Science*

Andrew Brought

##### *Wildlife and Fisheries Science*

Philip Dunning, Brian McHail, Kristy Myers, Melanie Rose

##### *Wood Products*

Jason Kelley, Douglas Kisner

#### GRADUATES

##### *Forest Resources*

April Keener, M.S.; Francis Meza Aguero, M.S.

Melanie Northrup, M.S.; Matthew Scholl, M.S.

##### *Wildlife and Fisheries Science*

Neil Crouch, M.S.; Romeo Spinola, Ph.D.

### Fall 2003

#### UNDERGRADUATES

##### *Forest Science*

Brandon Bridge, Kasey Chaney, Matthew Diskin, Matthew Erb, Craig Little, Doak Marasco, Michael Nelson, Andrew Verbos

##### *Wildlife and Fisheries Science*

Joshua Brown, Cory Fahnstock, Michael Hersch, Patrick Hough, Seth Leslie, Shealyn Marino, Joshua McCormick, Nathan McKelvie, Nathan Ramsey, Seth Rozic, Nicole Totino

##### *Wood Products*

Christopher Hoy, Jonathan Stank

#### GRADUATES

##### *Forest Resources*

Paul Roth, M.S.; Nicole Strong, M.S.; Bryan Black, Ph.D.

##### *Wildlife and Fisheries Science*

Melinda Farr, M.S.; Angela Lambert, M.S.; Emily Lisy, M.S.; Craig Swope, M.S.

##### *Environmental Pollution Control*

Jennifer Ferrando, M EPC

academic year.

The chapter's activities included opportunities for students to participate in various classes and training sessions such as CPR-First Aid, Tree Farm inspection certification, Project Learning Tree certification, fire crew, and logging and sawmill safety. Their involvement with other natural resource organizations included a timber stand improvement project, a tree planting project, and Wildlife Fire Fighter certification with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry; trash pick-up with the Pennsylvania Game Commission; Tree Farm inspection certification with the American Tree Farm System; and participation in the Allegheny National Forest Plan Revision Workshop sponsored by the USDA Forest Service.

Chapter members attended the 2002 SAF National Convention and the annual winter meeting of the Allegheny SAF (where they placed first in the student Quiz Bowl), and worked with the SAF Rothrock Chapter in hosting the annual summer meeting of the Allegheny SAF. They staffed the School's display



*Members of the Penn State SAF Student Chapter pose with their advisers after receiving the 2003 Outstanding SAF Student Chapter Award in Buffalo, New York.*

at various events, planned and hosted the School's annual spring picnic, and worked with other student groups to select the recipient of the Outstanding Faculty Member Award. The chapter also published its own newsletter several times each semester.

The Penn State SAF Student Chapter served the campus community by sponsoring the planting of a memorial tree on campus to honor the personal losses and heroism of alumni in the events of September 11, 2001. They served the local community by cleaning up leaves and moving a piano for the Association of Retarded Citizens (The Arc) of Centre County.

Outside recognition of the chapter came in the form of an article in *The Forestry Source* about the memorial tree planting, articles in *The Allegheny News* about chapter members getting hands-on forestry experience, and an article in the *Centre Daily Times* highlighting the community service award that the chapter received from The Arc of Centre County.

Dr. Wiant has high praise for the chapter; "I have never seen more dedicated and enthusiastic officers and members. It continues to astonish me that they can undertake and complete so many projects in view of the academic loads they carry. If they

carry this dedication into their work, which I am certain they will, our profession is in very good hands."

As reported in our last newsletter, the Penn State SAF Student Chapter also received second place in the 2003 Student Chapter Web site contest. Visit the award-winning site at <http://www.sfr.cas.psu.edu/Students/Clubs/SAF/saf.htm>. ❀

## **Penn State Wildlife Society: Fall 2003 Activities Report**

The Penn State Chapter of The Wildlife Society has been busy this semester with a variety of professional development and service opportunities. In September, three members represented the Penn State chapter at the 2003 Wildlife Society Annual Conference in Burlington, Vermont. They were able to attend workshops and symposia, meet natural resource professionals from across the nation, and enjoy the surrounding Vermont scenery. Members also took a weekend trip to Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in Kempton, Pennsylvania, and traveled to Pennsylvania's elk country in October. Students from The Wildlife Society and the Society of American Foresters experienced a guided tour of the Benezette area given by Dave Messics '87, Northeast Regional Vice President for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. Mr. Messics took students to food plots and state game land areas managed for elk habitat by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), Pennsylvania Game Commission, and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. For many students, this was their first live encounter with elk and they had the opportunity to get up close and personal with several dozen, and also learn about the history and human dimensions issues connected to the state's elk herd.

In October, Wildlife Society members participated in the saw whet owl banding program at Shavers Creek Environmental Center. The same month, students had the chance for professional training in mist net capture and bird handling techniques, provided by School graduate student Adam Rohnke. Members have also begun reestablishing a past Wildlife Society habitat project at Mothersbaugh Swamp in Stone Valley, to provide boxes for cavity-nesting birds, and started a new project helping with the bluebird trail at Rock Springs. Other activities included a workshop at Shavers Creek, where members became certified in the Pennsylvania Songbirds education curriculum for teaching bird conservation to grades K-12. Members have also attended on-campus programs given by Dr. Steve Williams, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service director, and Dr. Rich Yahner, professor of wildlife conservation, who presented fifty years of research on rights-of-way management. Finally, members submitted more than 100 wildlife pictures in a contest for publication in the first annual Wildlife Society Calendar. The 2004 Wildlife Society Calendar features 13 amazing original color photographs, all taken by students, and can still be purchased in 213 Ferguson Building.

This spring semester promises to be equally busy, with plans already formulating for another conservation education workshop at Shavers Creek, plus workshops on GPS technology and



*Penn State Wildlife Society members on the shore of Lake Champlain, near the conference center for the 2003 Wildlife Society Annual Conference in Burlington, Vermont.*

mammal sampling techniques. Service projects will include working with Game Commission and DCNR on a woodcock management project at Bald Eagle State Park, as well as adding wood duck and bluebird boxes to the Mothersbaugh Swamp site. Members will also serve as volunteer educators and contest scorers at the 4-H State Wildlife Field Day held annually at Rock Springs. The club is also planning a spring Wildlife and Fisheries Science Student-Faculty Social and is preparing to update its Web site and begin producing a club newsletter. The semester will culminate with the first annual competition for the PSU Wildlife Society Chapter Leadership Award, which will recognize one student for exemplary service to the club and natural resources community.

Wildlife Society meets every other Tuesday at 6:00pm, with the first spring meeting held on January 20. For more information, visit [www.sfr.cas.psu.edu/tws/index.html](http://www.sfr.cas.psu.edu/tws/index.html) or contact adviser Dr. Duane Diefenbach ([drd11@psu.edu](mailto:drd11@psu.edu)) for meeting times and locations. 🐾

## Forest Technology Students Head West

As reported by Dr. Beth Brantley, forestry instructor, Mont Alto: On Wednesday, October 8, 2003, thirteen Penn State Mont Alto Forest Technology sophomores and I flew to Missoula, Montana, for a long weekend of western forestry. For four of the travelers, it was the first time flying, and for many of the travelers, it was the first time west of Pennsylvania.

Upon arrival, we headed up and over Lolo Pass to the Powell Ranger District on the Clearwater National Forest in Idaho. The folks at Powell hosted a potluck supper for us on the first evening, and the Forest Supervisor welcomed us to the Clearwater National Forest.

We arose bright and early on Thursday (Mountain Standard Time!) for a fantastic day of forestry with the sale administrator at Powell, and with a forester from Plum Creek Timber Company. We visited former and active timber sales, including an operational aerial cable system. The checkerboard land ownership enabled the students to contrast USDA Forest Service and Plum Creek timber

sales, site preparation, and regeneration standards side-by-side. We met with loggers on the Plum Creek sale who explained the challenges of harvesting and selling burned wood, with the fire management officer (FMO) on the Lochsa Ranger District, and the assistant FMO on the Powell Ranger District for information on fire history and job opportunities.

On Friday, we headed north to Glacier National Park, toured the restoration nursery, and were given information on job opportunities at Glacier. The Glacier staff is attempting to eradicate invasive, nonnative species of plants and reestablish the native plant populations. The students learned how seeds were collected, stored, and germinated at the nursery.

We spent Saturday morning at the Apgar visitor center, and learned about the history of Glacier as well as the white pine blister rust eradication program and bears in the park. We traveled up the Going-to-the-Sun Road with a walk on the Trail of the Cedars. The highlight was making it all the way to Logan Pass for a group photo! From Glacier, we headed southeast to Condon, Montana, for an evening at Northwest Connections, an organization specializing in environmental education and research. The wildlife biologist on the Lolo National Forest gave a presentation on lynx and a great discussion on western wildlife followed.

On Sunday morning we arrived at the home of Bud Moore, former district ranger on the Powell Ranger District and author of "The Lochsa Story: Land Ethics in the Bitterroot Mountains." Bud was employed by the Forest Service from 1934 to 1974. We toured his property (which includes a sawmill) and enjoyed his company for the better part of the day. Heading south to the University of Montana's Lubrecht Experimental Forest, we had a discussion with the lead wilderness ranger on the Powell Ranger District, and spent an evening with the dean and a professor from the College of Forestry and Conservation.

The western tour wrapped up on Monday with a stop at the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation in Missoula. It was a wonderful trip for everyone. 🐾



*Forest Technology students from Penn State Mont Alto visit a salvage logging operation on Plum Creek Timber Company land in Idaho.*

## Laurel Haven Endowment Scholarship

Joshua Gruver, graduate student in Forest Resources, Watershed Stewardship option; Amanda Yeager, undergraduate senior in Wildlife and Fisheries Science; and Kathleen Lucot, undergraduate sophomore in Education, have each received a Laurel Haven Endowment Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 for the 2003-04 academic year.

Laurel Haven Endowment Scholarships are awarded to undergraduate or graduate students who have demonstrated commitment to conservation education. Conservation education involves formal and/or nonformal education in the stewardship and management of renewable natural resources. Eligible students must have engaged in conservation education or be currently engaged in conservation education through a community outreach program and enrolled at Penn State. First preference is given to students enrolled in the School of Forest Resources in the College of Agricultural Sciences. Second preference is given to students enrolled in the College of Education with a major in elementary or secondary education. Special consideration is given to those students engaged in conservation education programs at the University's Laurel Haven Conservation Education Center located in the Bald Eagle Valley, a few miles north of State College.

The Laurel Haven Endowment Fund was created as an internship program in 1985 by Harold E. Mitzel and Jane M. Madsen, two former Penn State College of Education faculty members and advocates for forest stewardship education. In 2003 the internship program was converted to a scholarship program that is administered by Penn State's Office of Student Aid. 🐾

## 2003-04 Scholarships and Awards

The College of Agricultural Sciences awarded more than \$1.5 million in scholarships and awards to 675 students for the 2003-04 academic year. This total includes \$128,000 that the School of Forest Resources distributed among 83 students, including four incoming freshmen. Recipients and donors were honored at a banquet on October 21, 2003, at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel in State College.

The **O. Ben Gipple Memorial Scholarship**, created in memory of O. Ben Gipple, a 1915 forestry graduate, by his niece Dr. Marian R. Peifer, was awarded for the first time this academic year and recognized as a "new scholarship" at the banquet. Gipple was the first drum major in 1913 with the Cadet Band, which later became the Blue Band. He served in World War I, and held various positions with the Pennsylvania Game Commission and the former Pennsylvania Department of Forests and Waters. He retired in 1970 as the City Forester of Harrisburg and died in 1971. He was considered one of the Commonwealth's top experts in elm tree disease.

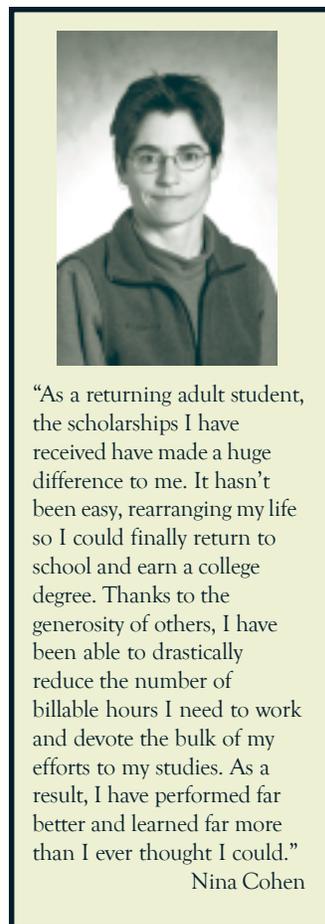
The **Arthur W. and Caroline O. Hartman Trustee Scholarship**, also awarded for the first time this academic year, was made possible by a million-dollar gift from the estate of Caroline O. Hartman, wife of deceased forestry alumnus Arthur W.

Hartman, class of 1913, who was a Pennsylvania native, a World War I machine gun operator, and a USDA Forest Service employee. Arthur died in 1982 at age 90 and Caroline died in 2001 at age 104. The scholarship bearing their names is part of a five-year effort started in 2002 to raise \$100 million in private support for undergraduate scholarships across the University. As part of the Trustee Scholarship Program, Penn State annually matches five percent of the original pledge amount. The matching funds are in addition to the earnings generated by the endowment.

Three of our scholarships were among those recognized at the banquet for reaching a milestone of continuous support: The **Robert T. Billin Memorial Scholarship** has been awarded for 10 years; the **Robert Bliss Scholarship** and the **John and Nancy Steimer Scholarship** have each been awarded for 15 years.

Scholarship and award recipients are chosen by unit scholarship committees as well as by a college-wide committee on the basis of their qualifications and donor-established guidelines. Listed below are the scholarships awarded by the School of Forest Resources and the recipients. The total amount awarded is listed next to the name of the scholarship. The name of the donor representative is listed in italics after each award.

The notation immediately following a student's name is an abbreviation for the student's major (FORSC = Forest Science, W F S = Wildlife and Fisheries Science, W P = Wood Products, 2FORT = Forest Technology, 2WLT = Wildlife Technology).



"As a returning adult student, the scholarships I have received have made a huge difference to me. It hasn't been easy, rearranging my life so I could finally return to school and earn a college degree. Thanks to the generosity of others, I have been able to drastically reduce the number of billable hours I need to work and devote the bulk of my efforts to my studies. As a result, I have performed far better and learned far more than I ever thought I could."

Nina Cohen

*If you wish to make a contribution towards any of these scholarships, or are considering establishing a new scholarship, contact Mr. Mark Sharer, Director of Development, College of Agricultural Sciences, Penn State, 230 Ag Administration Building, University Park, PA 16802; phone (814) 863-1373.*

BARTLETT TREE FOUNDATION, INC.  
GRANT-IN-AID \$2,000  
*Mr. John Signorini*  
**Kevin Riegner**, FORSC,  
Hughesville, PA  
and one other student in the  
College of Agricultural Sciences

ROBERT T. BILLIN MEMORIAL  
SCHOLARSHIP \$16,229  
*School of Forest Resources*  
**Kasey Chaney**, FORSC, Venango,  
PA  
**Matthew Diskin**, FORSC,  
Pittsburgh, PA  
**Joshua Gabert**, W P, Newport, PA  
**Russell Kotecki**, W F S, Scottsdale,  
PA  
**Thomas Lugar**, FORSC, Lancaster,  
PA

*continued*

**Jamie Murphy**, FORSC, Cleona, PA  
**Robert Ormund**, W F S, State College, PA  
**Andrew Weber**, W F S, Pittsburgh, PA  
**Amanda Yeager**, W F S, Sinking Spring, PA

ROBERT BLISS SCHOLARSHIP \$5,163  
*Mrs. Dorothy Bliss*

**Amy Carrozzino**, W F S, Mantua, NJ  
**Nina Cohen**, W F S, State College, PA  
**Nyssa Lewis**, W F S, Gouldsboro, PA  
**Andrew Mishler**, 2FORT, Waynesboro, PA  
**Benjamin Renner**, W F S, Carlisle, PA  
**Jeremy Stempka**, W F S, North East, PA

JAMES CLINTON BURNS SCHOLARSHIP FUND \$1,122  
*School of Forest Resources*  
**Daniel Kennedy**, W F S, Uniontown, PA

MARK PETTY BUSH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP IN WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES SCIENCE \$2,190  
*Mr. and Mrs. Ernest R. Bush*  
**Benjamin Renner**, W F S, Carlisle, PA

DANZER GROUP SCHOLARSHIP IN WOOD PRODUCTS \$2,000  
*Dr. Vijay S. Reddy*  
**Joshua Gabert**, W P, Newport, PA  
**Levi A. Neimond**, W P, Cocolamus, PA

KEITH A. DAVIES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP \$3,068  
*John C. and Esther M. Davies*  
**Erich Doebler**, W P, Muncy Valley, PA  
**Timothy Gruver**, W P, Shippensburg, PA  
**Jonathan Stank**, W P, Winfield, PA

FERGUSON-COPE FORESTRY AWARD \$13,191  
*School of Forest Resources*  
**Heather Adams**, W F S, Danville, PA  
**Walter James, Jr.**, W F S, Coal Township, PA  
**Justin P. Kaskan**, FORSC, Indiana, PA  
**Elif Kaynak**, W F S, Hummelstown, PA  
**Steven Keiper**, FORSC, Sidman, PA  
**Michael Lohr**, W F S, Newtown, PA  
**Kevin Lutz**, W F S, Robesonia, PA  
**David Planinsek**, FORSC, Latrobe, PA  
**Nicholas Scaletta**, FORSC, Johnstown, PA  
**Susan Smith**, W F S, Philadelphia, PA  
**Mark Spangler**, W F S, Aspers, PA  
**Thomas Stahl**, FORSC, Altoona, PA  
**Amanda Yeager**, W F S, Sinking Spring, PA

O. BEN GIPPLE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP IN THE SCHOOL OF FOREST RESOURCES \$1,000  
*Dr. Marian Romberger Peifer*  
**Thomas Lugar**, FORSC, Lancaster, PA

ARTHUR W. AND CAROLINE O. HARTMAN TRUSTEE SCHOLARSHIP \$136,455  
(of which \$10,000 was available to the SFR for awards)  
*Judith C. Kiely*  
**Danielle Aubert**, FORSC, Downingtown, PA  
**Nina Cohen**, W F S, State College, PA  
**Doak Marasco**, FORSC, Altoona, PA  
**Kathy Shaffer**, 2WLT, Wilcox, PA  
**Peter Swiatek**, W F S, Shickshinny, PA

and 58 other students in the  
College of Agricultural Sciences

JELD-WEN FOUNDATION \$2,000  
*Mr. Jerry Pettibone*  
**James Walsh**, W P, Julian, PA

KEYSTONE KILN DRYING ASSOCIATION  
SCHOLARSHIP \$1,000  
*Mr. Sam Richardson*  
**Benjamin Hoover**, W P, Malvern, PA

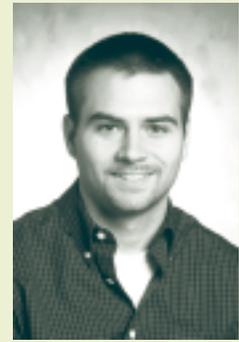
THE ROGER M. LATHAM MEMORIAL  
GRADUATE AWARD FUND \$1,334  
*Mr. C. Dana Chalfant*  
**Eric Long**, ECLGY, Huntingdon, PA

THE CARL I. PETERSON SCHOLARSHIP  
FUND \$3,445  
*School of Forest Resources*  
**Lucas Dalenberg**, FORSC,  
Oakland, NJ  
**Robert Lindemuth**, FORSC,  
Mount Carmel, PA  
**Rebecca Wagner**, W F S,  
Johnstown, PA

ORPHA KELLY RAPP AND JESSE ROSSITER  
RAPP '15 MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP  
FUND \$3,519  
*Mrs. Elizabeth Valeika*  
**Christopher Dahl**, FORSC,  
Muncy, PA  
**David Planinsek**, FORSC, Latrobe,  
PA  
**Thomas Rich**, FORSC, Kane, PA

ORPHA KELLY RAPP AND JESSE ROSSITER  
RAPP '15 PRIZE FOR ACADEMIC  
EXCELLENCE \$3,350  
*Mrs. Elizabeth Valeika*  
**Daniel McGraw**, W P, New  
Kensington, PA

IRVIN C. REIGNER ENDOWMENT \$19,241  
*School of Forest Resources*  
**William Bering**, W F S, Lebanon, PA  
**Nichole Boal**, 2WLT, Morrisdale, PA  
**Donald Bratz**, 2FORT, Mill Creek, PA  
**Jaime Cooney**, W F S, Pittsburgh, PA  
**Cory Deniker**, 2FORT, Sandy Lake, PA  
**Sara Eisenhauer**, W F S, Morrisdale, PA  
**Jeremy Ellenberger**, W F S, Punxsutawney, PA  
**Jonathan Felix**, W F S, Mount Joy, PA  
**Douglas Firely**, W F S, Jamison, PA  
**Levi Gelnett**, FORSC, Middleburg, PA  
**Thomas Gieder**, W F S, Martinsburg, PA  
**Daniel Heggenstaller**, FORSC, Indiana, PA  
**Michael Hersch**, W F S, Macungie, PA  
**Alicia McCormick**, W F S, Jersey Shore, PA



"I am so happy to be given this chance to express my thanks for the scholarship monies I have received. With the high price of tuition today, it is extremely hard to afford a college education. Scholarships have enabled me to support myself without having to work during the academic year; this has allowed me to not only reach my full academic potential, but also partake in numerous extracurricular activities, enhancing my overall experience. I would like to express a special thanks to all donors for making it possible for so many of us to receive college educations. It is very possible that without the scholarships I was awarded, I would not have graduated this past December."

Kasey Chaney

continued on next page

## Scenes from Ag Progress Days 2003

Christopher Moscatiello, W F S, Bordentown, NJ  
 Elissa Olimpi, W F S, Sewickley, PA  
 Seth C. Pattison, FORSC, Titusville, PA  
 Michael W. Pavelko, FORSC, Pottsville, PA  
 Kevin Riegner, FORSC, Hughesville, PA  
 Curtis Sloyer, FORSC, Landisville, PA  
 Chad Vorhees, FORSC, Wellsboro, PA

WILLIAM ALLISON RITCHEY SCHOLARSHIP IN FOREST RESOURCES \$1,359  
 Mrs. Diane Peterson Ritchey  
 Nathan Herring, FORSC, Schuylkill Haven, PA

RUFFED GROUSE SOCIETY ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP IN FOREST RESOURCES \$1,000  
 Mr. Mark Banker  
 Daniel Kennedy, W F S, Uniontown, PA

SCHOOL OF FOREST RESOURCES SCHOLARSHIP \$3,846  
 School of Forest Resources  
 Shawn Miller, W F S, Lykens, PA  
 Joshua Schrecengost, W F S, Dayton, PA

FRANK AND LENORE H. SPEAREY SCHOLARSHIP IN FOREST RESOURCES \$9,164  
 Mr. Jeff Spearey  
 Wade Brown, FORSC, York, PA  
 Charles Coup, FORSC, Milton, PA  
 Andrew Mischler, FORSC, Waynesboro, PA  
 Gregory Sarnoski, FORSC, Mechanicsburg, PA  
 Gary Smith, Jr., FORSC, Monrovia, MD  
 Zachary Wismer, FORSC, Perkasio, PA  
 Abigail Zarichansky, FORSC, Newville, PA

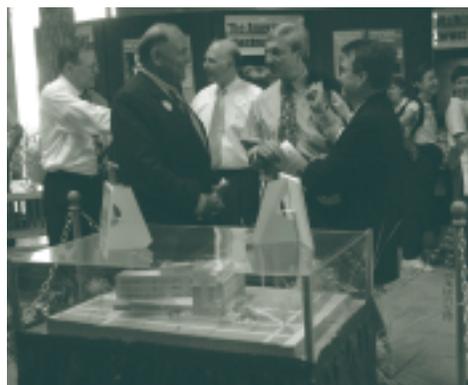
JOAN AND MALCOLM STEHMAN SCHOLARSHIP IN WOOD PRODUCTS \$6,000  
 Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Stehman  
 Joshua Gabert, W P, Newport, PA  
 Levi Neimond, W P, Cocolamus, PA  
 James Walsh, W P, Julian, PA

JOHN AND NANCY STEIMER SCHOLARSHIP \$15,727  
 Mr. and Mrs. John T. Steimer  
 Chad Atwood, FORSC, Warren, PA  
 Nina Cohen, W F S, State College, PA  
 Aaron Garver, FORSC, State College, PA  
 Douglas Langford, FORSC, Latrobe, PA  
 Scott Lyon, 2WLT, Warren, PA  
 Virginia Mengel, W F S, Wellsboro, PA  
 Gregory Sanford, FORSC, Youngsville, PA  
 Zachary Scott, FORSC, Towanda, PA  
 Mary Skinner, 2WLT, DuBois, PA

WILBER W. WARD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND \$5,540  
 School of Forest Resources  
 Douglas Firely, W F S, Jamison, PA  
 Elizabeth Huber, W F S, Nottingham, PA



Above: The College of Agricultural Sciences theme building highlighted some of the School's research and education programs.



Left: Governor Ed Rendell, Penn State President Graham Spanier, and Robert Steele, dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences, talk about the new Forest Resources building, a model of which is in the foreground.



Right: Graduate student Kristin Black helps young visitors with their chestnut leaf DNA extraction experiment at the Schatz Center display.



Left: Two visitors in the Youth Building peek into life-size tree cavities to find wildlife species.

# School Notes

**Dr. Kim C. Steiner**, professor of forest biology, is serving a one-year term as chair-elect of Penn State's Faculty Senate; he will become chair in May 2004. The University Faculty Senate is the representative body of the faculty with authority on all matters that pertain to the educational interests of the University.

Pennsylvania captured second place honors at the 24<sup>th</sup> annual **National 4-H Forestry Invitational** held near Weston, West Virginia, in July 2003. The team competed against 15 other states at the four-day event sponsored by the International Paper Company Foundation and the Cooperative Extension Service. For more information on the National 4-H Forestry Invitational, contact Dr. Robert Hansen at (570) 265-2896, rsh7@psu.edu or Dr. Sanford Smith at (814) 863-0401, sss5@psu.edu.

The School of Forest Resources (SFR) was featured in the College of Agricultural Sciences exhibit building at **Ag Progress Days** in August. With the theme of "Seeing the Forest for the Trees," SFR faculty and staff guided visitors through interactive displays and activities highlighting research and educational programs to benefit the future of our forests. Visitors tested their knowledge of Pennsylvania's "Top Ten Trees"; walked through a "forest" of DNA and became amateur geneticists; used a computer to visualize how management practices will affect woodlots; learned how research may help restore chestnut trees to "Penn's Woods"; and saw how wildlife, fire, pests, and nonnative and invasive species change our forests—for better or worse. (See related photos on previous page).

**Tim Phelps**, senior research technologist, and **Henry Gerhold**, professor of forest genetics, showed attendees at the Pennsylvania Christmas Tree Growers Association genetics demonstration plantations and seed orchards during their August 2003 meeting in State College. **Gerhold** also participated in summer and fall meetings organized by Pennsylvania DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis to make plans for a new urban forestry initiative in southeastern Pennsylvania.

At an August 2003 meeting in State College, **Dr. Bill Elmendorf**, assistant professor of urban and community forestry; **Dr. Henry Gerhold**, professor of forest genetics; and extension urban foresters **Vinnie Cotrone**, **Mark Remcheck**, **Julianne Schieffer**, and **Scott Sjolander** presented accomplishments of the Pennsylvania Urban & Community Forestry Program to a review team organized by the USDA Forest Service. The team praised the program, and will issue a written report soon.

**Dr. Matt Marshall** recently held a postdoctoral position in the School. In August 2003, he accepted a position with the National Park Service and is still housed at University Park in Ferguson Building.

**Dr. Henry Gerhold**, professor of forest genetics, was honored by the Pennsylvania Forestry Association (PFA) at its 117<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in Milford, Pennsylvania, in September 2003. He was awarded the 2003 Dr. Joseph Trimble Rothrock Conservationist

of the Year Award "for over fifty years of service as a university professor, researcher, and shaper of forestry programs. His contributions to forest genetic improvement and his leadership, dedication, and service to municipal tree restoration and urban forestry programs are evident throughout the state." In 1886, Dr. Joseph Trimble Rothrock founded the PFA, the first such organization in America.

**Dr. Michael Jacobson**, assistant professor of forest resources, was elected to the Society of American Foresters' Forest Science and Technology Board for a three-year term, 2003 to 2005. He is also participating in a program entitled Broadening Agricultural and Extension Delivery (BASED), which is funded by GTZ (German bilateral donor agency) to develop a common strategy for the development of agroforestry in South Africa.

SAF student chapter members **Jamie Murphy**, **Chris Dahl**, **Matt Fromm**, and **Kasey Chaney** represented Penn State in the student quiz bowl at the SAF National Convention in Buffalo, New York, in October 2003. Penn State was paired against defending champion Arkansas Monticello in the opening round, and lost the hard-fought battle by only one question. Arkansas went on to win with the quiz bowl for the second year in a row.

**Dr. John Carlson**, associate professor of molecular genetics, gave an invited seminar on the Floral Genome Project at the Western Forest Genetics Association conference in British Columbia in July 2003 and an invited seminar on the genetic analysis of natural regeneration in oaks at the OAK2003 conference in Japan in October 2003. **Carlson** and colleagues from the **Schatz Center for Molecular Genetics** provided displays and a hands-on DNA extraction demonstration at Ag Progress Days in August and at a September football brunch in the Bryce Jordan Center sponsored by the College of Agricultural Sciences. The presentations were very popular at both events. (See related photo on previous page).

In order to help the Rendell Administration identify areas that should be brought to the forefront as priorities in environmental and natural resource conservation, **Robert McKinstry, Jr.**, Maurice K. Goddard Professor of Forestry and Environmental Resources Conservation, consulted with a group of individuals from leading conservation groups, academic institutions, government, private industry, and private law firms. In October 2003, he presented recommendations on environmental and natural resources priorities to the Joint Conservation Committee, a joint House-Senate committee of the Pennsylvania General Assembly.

**John Pletcher**, wood products specialist with Penn State's Pennsylvania Technical Assistance Program (PENNTAP), won a 2003 Outstanding Project of the Year award from the National Association of Management and Technical Assistance Centers (NAMTAC) for helping Nature's Blend Wood Products, a cabinet door manufacturer in Ford City.

Pletcher's project was honored as best in the Technology Transfer category. He used ROMI-RIP software, a rough mill

simulation program developed by the USDA Forest Service, to justify new equipment to increase efficiencies, and he performed a materials balance analysis to identify further opportunities to enhance yields. The new equipment, which was paid off in six months, increased ripping yield by six percent and saved the company \$124,000 the first year in material and labor. The materials balance analysis resulted in further yield savings and new



product lines for an additional \$157,000 a year, for a total annual economic impact of \$281,000. Nature's Blend expects to obtain additional savings as further improvements are made.

**Dr. Sanford "Sandy" Smith**, natural resources and youth extension specialist, is among the faculty who have been conducting programs at the Laurel Haven Conservation Education Center. In October 2003, more than 100 sixth graders from Black

Moshannon School District visited the center to learn about watershed science. The photo shows Dr. Smith teaching participants about how water infiltrates different types of soil in the forest.

**Dr. Smith** also recently received a Gold 2003 Natural Resource Extension Professionals Educational Materials Award for his Sustainable Forestry Teachers Resource Center Web site, <http://sftrc.cas.psu.edu>.

Two of our faculty recently received recognition from their respective professional organizations. **Dr. David DeWalle**, professor of forest hydrology, was recognized as a Fellow Member of the American Water Resources Association (AWRA) at the association's annual meeting in San Diego, California, in November 2003. Fellow Membership in AWRA is reserved for those who have been AWRA members in good standing for at least ten consecutive years, have served at least one year as director or officer of the association or one of its committees, and have an eminent record in some branch of water resources. **Dr. James Finley**, professor of forest resources, was elected Fellow in the Society of American Foresters (SAF) in November 2003. SAF Fellows are professional members who have been identified by their peers as having rendered outstanding service to forestry and the Society. SAF Fellows are elected by the voting members of the state, intrastate, or multistate society from which they are nominated.

**Marlin Druckenmiller**, senior research technologist; **Dr. Wayne Myers**, professor of forest biometrics; and **Dr. Walter Tzilkowski**, associate professor of wildlife science, were among the faculty and staff of the College of Agricultural Sciences recognized in December 2003 for 25 years of service.

**Dr. Duane R. Diefenbach**, adjunct assistant professor of wildlife ecology and assistant unit leader of the Pennsylvania Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, was promoted within the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) following a Research Grade Evaluation. The Research Grade Evaluation process is a periodic review of research scientists conducted within the USGS, and based on a peer evaluation of a scientists' productivity and contributions to the profession. **Diefenbach** advises graduate students and teaches graduate courses in the Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences program. He is also the faculty adviser to the Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

**Dr. Richard Yahner**, professor of wildlife conservation; **Bradley Ross**, research technologist; and **Jacob Kubel**, graduate assistant, have collaborated with the National Park Service (NPS) to conduct a comprehensive inventory program for birds and mammals at Fort Necessity National Battlefield and Friendship Hill National Historic Site in Pennsylvania. The objectives of the inventory project were to obtain a comprehensive inventory of birds and mammals and recommend management objectives for ecological monitoring of birds and mammals at the two sites.

Undergraduate student **Matthew Diskin** served as student marshal for the College of Agricultural Sciences Fall Commencement on December 20, 2003. He was accompanied by his faculty adviser, Dr. Kim Steiner. Matthew graduated with highest distinction in the Forest Science Program.



*Matt Diskin, Forest Science senior and student marshal for fall 2003 commencement, was honored with a Nittany Lion statue presented by, left to right: Dr. Larry McCormick, associate director for academic programs; Dr. Chuck Strauss, director of the School of Forest Resources; and adviser Dr. Kim Steiner, professor of forest biology.*

# Alumni Resources

FORMERLY PUBLISHED AS THE SCHOOL OF FOREST RESOURCES ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

No. 84



## President's Message



Lowell Underhill '56

On this past October 31<sup>st</sup>, I traveled to University Park for a School of Forest Resources (SFR) Advisory Board meeting. The previous weekend, one of our children and his family were visiting for Sunday dinner. This son and his spouse are both Penn Staters. When I mentioned I was headed to Penn State that week, our daughter-in-law commented that the fall colors in the mountains should be beautiful. As I left Clark's Ferry near the confluence of the Juniata and Susquehanna rivers and headed into

the mountains, I was eager to see the glorious fall color display. The hillsides were by and large brown, and many trees had dropped their foliage. After my initial disappointment, I began to notice trees and shrubs in more protected areas that were still displaying their fall glory of reds, yellows, oranges, and greens. As I reflected on the experience, I recalled some guidance from earlier in my life. Beauty and good exist everywhere. Sometimes you just have to look a little harder to find them!

Groundbreaking for the new Forest Resources building will probably be in April 2004 with completion projected 18 months later, around October 2005. At present, no date has been set for the dedication ceremony. We still need to raise about \$2.5 million through donations. We would appreciate your support for this essential project. All gifts are welcome.

We will start offering this biannual newsletter electronically. Please give this medium serious consideration versus a printed copy. Each printed copy we can eliminate will save money that can be directed toward educational programs. (See related article on this page.)

Please also see the article on candidates for election to the SFR Alumni Group Board of Directors on page 19. It is gratifying to see both recent and more experienced alumni standing for election to our board.

Twice each year the College of Ag Sciences Alumni Society (CAAS) sponsors a graduation brunch for the new graduates and their family/friends. Beginning with the brunch held on December 20<sup>th</sup>, the SFR Alumni Group is giving a set of *Woodland Notes* to the SFR graduates who attend as a means of recognizing their accomplishment and introducing them to our group.

Our annual Alumni and Friends Banquet will be held on Friday, April 23, 2004, at the Toftrees Resort complex. We are

most fortunate to have Dr. Graham Spanier, University President, and Dr. Robert Steele, dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences, as our guest speakers. At this gathering, we will honor our four new Outstanding Alumni (see announcement on page 26). As an *ex officio* member of the SFR Alumni Group Awards and Recognition Committee, I was privileged to review the nominations of the four alumni chosen for recognition as Outstanding Alumni. I think it is safe to say that the awardees have each made significant contributions to the profession of forestry, their respective communities, and beyond. Their collective accomplishments, on behalf of our natural world, exemplify the qualities of beauty and good that I made reference to at the beginning of this message. Please plan to join us at the banquet for what should be an enjoyable and memorable evening.

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

## Electronic Newsletter Alternative

The School of Forest Resources Alumni Group board of directors is pleased to present you with the opportunity to receive your RESOURCES newsletter electronically.

As mentioned in Lowell Underhill's last President's Message, publishing and mailing the RESOURCES newsletter to more than 4,500 alumni costs about \$6,000 per issue. Since we publish two issues per year, that's a \$12,000 annual cost!

If you choose to receive your copy of RESOURCES electronically, you will not only help to reduce our publishing and mailing costs, but you will gain the advantages of electronic media. The electronic newsletter will have "live links" that will allow you, for example, to instantly send an e-mail to a classmate or to link to a related article. You will be able to "search" your electronic copy, and forward it to a friend. Ballots in the electronic newsletter will provide a more convenient and timely option for voting. The electronic version will also include a link to a "printer-friendly version" if you want to produce your own hard copy, and the electronic newsletters will be archived on the Web so that you can refer to or search previous issues if you wish.

This issue that you are currently reading will soon be

*continued on next page*

*Ballot enclosed*

available online at <http://www.sfr.cas.psu.edu/Alumni/Newsletters>. Please take the time to look at it and determine if our electronic newsletter meets your needs. If it does, contact our executive director Ellen Manno at [exr2@psu.edu](mailto:exr2@psu.edu) or 814-863-5831 (or check the appropriate box on the Response Form on page 27) and let her know that you no longer want a hard copy mailed to you. E-mail distribution will begin with our Summer 2004 newsletter, scheduled to be published in July.

This is essentially a “trial offer.” The time and effort required to create an electronic newsletter in addition to the published hard copy may not be cost-effective if we do not get enough requests for the electronic version. Also, anyone who prefers to receive a hard copy in regular mail will continue to do so unless we hear from you otherwise. Thanks, in advance, for considering the electronic newsletter alternative.

### School of Forest Resources Alumni Group Board of Directors

#### Elected at-large members (terms expire Spring 2004):

Terry P. Harrison ('77 FORSC)  
Stanley R. Rapp ('52 FOR)  
Benjamin G. Tresselt, Jr. ('63 FOR)  
Gary C. Wakefield ('67 FOR T, '69g W L M)

#### Elected at-large members (terms expire Spring 2005):

Joseph E. Barnard ('60 FOR, '63g FOR)  
J. Theodore Jensen ('50 FOR), *vice president*  
Gregory M. Schrum ('67 FOR T, '69g FOR R)  
Lowell T. Underhill ('56 FOR), *president*

#### Elected at-large members (terms expire Spring 2006):

David J. Babyak ('71 FORSC)  
Nelson S. Loftus ('58 and '62g FOR)  
E.L. “Dick” Shafer ('56 and '57g FOR)  
Mark R. Webb ('73 FORSC)

#### Immediate Past President:

Stanley R. Rapp ('52 FOR)

#### Director, School of Forest Resources (SFR):

Charles H. Strauss ('58 FOR)

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

Leslie N. Firth

#### SFR Faculty Member:

Henry D. Gerhold ('52 FOR and '54g M FOR)

#### Executive Director:

Ellen A. Manno ('86g FOR R)

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

## E-mail Forwarding

One of many benefits of membership in the Penn State Alumni Association (PSAA) is e-mail forwarding. It is a permanent address at the “psualum.com” domain that will forward e-mail messages to any designated e-mail account. This service can be particularly helpful if you choose to receive the electronic version of our newsletter (see related story on previous page).

To activate or edit the e-mail forwarding service, go to <http://psualum.com>. More than 146,00 alumni, parents, students, and friends are PSAA members. For more information on e-mail forwarding or membership in the Penn State Alumni Association, call 1-800-548-LION.

## College of Agricultural Sciences Career Fair

Each fall the College of Agricultural Sciences hosts a career fair during the month of October. The School of Forest Resources would like to see more internship and career opportunities for students in Forest Science, Wildlife and Fisheries Science, and Wood Products at this event. Exhibit space at this fair fills quickly. If you would like your company to receive announcements related to participating in this annual career fair, please contact Kathleen Zimmerman at [klz2@psu.edu](mailto:klz2@psu.edu) or 814-863-4456.

## Recollections of Ferguson Building

As we look forward to our new building, we are also taking the time to reflect on Ferguson Building, the structure that has housed the forestry program since 1940. Do you have any special memories of the building, its surroundings, or some of its unique artifacts?

We would like your help in compiling “recollections of Ferguson Building” that will be published in a future issue of this newsletter. Any details, information, or memories you wish to share are most welcome. Here are a few items to jog your memories:

(1) There were bears and a moosehead in 114/115 Ferguson, donated by an alum who hunted in Alaska. Know anything more about that?

(2) How about the oar that was displayed outside on the north wall of Ferguson Building? It was a relic of the last lumber raft to float down the West Branch of the Susquehanna River. How did it get to the School, and where is it now?

(3) What about the sassafras podium that still stands in the lobby of Ferguson Building today?

Please send any tidbits of Ferguson Building history to Ellen Manno at 201 Ferguson Building, University Park, PA 16802 or [exr2@psu.edu](mailto:exr2@psu.edu). If you are a member of the Penn State Alumni Association, you can log on to My Penn State Portal (<http://psualum.com>), go to the School of Forest Resources Discussion Group, and respond to the same query there.

Thank you for your help!

## Candidates for the SFR Alumni Group Board of Directors

The School of Forest Resources Alumni Group includes twelve at-large members who are elected to a three-year term and who may serve a second consecutive term if re-elected. The terms of four at-large board members expire in spring 2004; therefore, an election ballot is enclosed in this newsletter. Here are brief biosketches, in alphabetical order, of the candidates listed on the ballot. Incumbents are noted with an asterisk (\*). Vote for no more than four candidates. Ballots must be postmarked by March 22, 2004.

### **William D. Harlon III (2002 FORSC)**

"I was raised in rural Juniata County, Pennsylvania, graduated from Juniata High School in 1998, and attended Mont Alto from 1998-2000. I was not enrolled in the two-year program at Mont Alto, but did take forestry classes there. I changed campus locations to University Park and graduated in 2002 with a degree in Forest Science, Forest Management option.

"While at Mont Alto, I was a member of both the Forestry Club and the Timbersports Team (1998-2000). While at University Park, I was a member and chair of the Penn State Society of American Foresters Student Chapter (2000-2002), a member of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association's board of directors, the chair and founder of the newly reinstated Penn State Woodsmen Team, a member of the School's student liaison interview board for selecting both the director and Ibberson Chair, and chair of the selection committee for the School of Forest Resources Outstanding Faculty of the Year Award for 2000-01 and 2001-02. I have been a member of the SAF national chapter since 1999.

"I received numerous scholarships while in college, including the Stuck Foundation Scholarship, College of Ag scholarships, and School of Forest Resources scholarships. I won first place in the dendrology competition at the Tri-State Timbersports competition at Montgomery Community College, North Carolina (2000), was a member of the team that won first place in the SAF student quiz bowl in Hagerstown, Maryland (2002), and won the Association of Consulting Foresters PFIT travel assistantship to their national convention in San Antonio, Texas (2002).

"I'm currently certified as a wildland firefighter and as an American Tree Farm Inspector. I've had two publications, one in the Penn State Mont Alto Tree Species Monographs and the other in the Journal of Forestry.

"My work experience includes volunteering with the Pennsylvania DCNR and The Arboretum at Penn State. I was a procurement assistant for Erik Guiser of Kish Lumber (Belleville, Pennsylvania), an intern with the Pennsylvania DCNR Bureau of Forestry (District 3), an inventory assistant for L.L. Baumunk & Son Lumber and Pallets, a teaching assistant in Dr. Harry Wiant's Forest Policy class, a teaching assistant in Dr. Donovan's history class at Mont Alto, and a forest technician for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at John H. Kerr Dam and Reservoir. I am currently forester for the Corps at Kerr (in Boydton, Virginia), and

sole-proprietor of a hobby consulting business—Dixie Forestry Consulting.

"I reside on a farm in beautiful Palmer Springs, Virginia, with my fiance Melissa, our baby daughter Daisy Mae, and black lab puppy Bonnie."

### **David B. Lezzer (2000 FORSC)**

"I am originally from a small town southwest of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, by the name of Newville. As a youngster, I always had a strong interest in the outdoors and enjoyed hunting, fishing, and camping. My sophomore year in high school, I took a job working at a local Christmas tree farm during the holidays and at that point, my interest in forestry was born.

"After graduation from high school in 1996, I enrolled in the forestry program at West Virginia University. After my first semester there, I decided to transfer to Penn State and continue my forestry studies. While at Penn State, I was involved in the student SAF program as well as Xi Sigma Pi.

"After completing a bachelor's degree in Forest Science in spring 2000, I accepted a log procurement position with a veneer company in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, where I spent roughly two years learning the business. While working in Williamsport, the industry took a serious nose-dive and I decided it was best to cut my losses and move on. From Williamsport, I moved to Jacksonville, Florida, and took a management position with a vegetative management company. My main duties there revolved around being a project supervisor for a nationwide railroad right-of-way contract, which took me throughout the Southeast. Although the job was going well, after a year and a half, I knew I was still a 'Yankee' at heart and wanted to return to the Northeast and reestablish a career in the log procurement/veneer industry.

"In August 2003, I moved back to Pennsylvania and currently reside in Grove City where I am a log buyer for a prominent veneer company which is based out of South Hill, Virginia."

### **Brock G. Sanner (2003 FORSC)**

"I am a recent graduate of the School, receiving a bachelor's degree in Forest Science, Forest Management option, in May 2003. After graduation, I was employed by the U.S. Forest Service in Colorado as a forest technician/timber crew leader and since then I have moved back to Pennsylvania to pursue full-time employment. In my spare time I enjoy all that the outdoors has to offer in the way of hunting and fishing.

"While attending Penn State, I was active in the School's academic and club sport organizations. I worked with my fellow students to re-establish the Penn State Woodsmen Team in 2002-2003 and served as team captain. I was a member of the Penn State Fire Crew and spent two weeks in summer 2002 in Durango, Colorado, fighting fires with the Pennsylvania Specialized Fire Crew. I was also an active member of the Penn State Society of American Foresters Student Chapter and was selected as the School's Outstanding Senior in 2003.

"I am a certified Tree Farm inspector with the American Tree

*continued on next page*

Farm System, a Qualified Timber Cruiser for the U.S. Forest Service, and a certified National Wildland Firefighter.

"My hometown is Spring Mills, Pennsylvania. I am a graduate of Penns Valley High School and the Central Pennsylvania Institute of Science and Technology. In addition to my most recent employment in Colorado, I have worked as farm field laborer, a percolation tester/laborer, and a field forester for the Penn State Forestland Management Office."

**Aura L. Stauffer (1989 W L S and 1995g W F S)**

"I graduated in 1989 with a B.S. in Wildlife Science and a minor in Marine Science. I returned to Penn State and completed an M.S. degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Science in 1995. My graduate work was in wetlands and my adviser was Dr. Rob Brooks.

"My professional work experience began with an internship with the EPA Office of Wetlands in Washington, D.C., and a summer position as a marine biology instructor for the Audubon camp in Maine. For about 6 ½ years, I was an environmental consultant with Gannett Fleming Engineers in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania. I also worked for 3 years as the county inventory coordinator with the Pennsylvania Science Office of The Nature Conservancy. Since December 2002 I have been a wildlife biologist with Pennsylvania DCNR Bureau of Forestry, Ecological Services. My area of interest is nongame species and species of Special Concern.

"My volunteer experience includes serving as an aquarist and exhibit guide at the National Aquarium in Baltimore; I did this for about 2 ½ years, but am no longer an active volunteer. I have been a saw-whet owl bander at the King's Gap State Park banding station for about 4 years, and a Rehabitat-a-Raptor rehabilitator in York County, where I help with educational programs."

**Benjamin G. Tresselt, Jr.\* (1963 FOR)**

"Lifelong Pennsylvanian and graduate of the School of Forestry in 1963 (Class of '62), it has been my privilege to have engaged in a wide variety of forestry activities including multiple land use forest management, sawmill machinery design and operation, logging and lumbering, wood waste utilization, wildlife habitat management, electric utility division forester, forensic investigator, and professional witness in tree matters.

"I have experienced more than 41 years in all phases of forest management: management planning, timber stand improvement, tree planting, gypsy moth suppression, damage appraisals, timber trespass and/or theft, forensic investigator, expert witness.

"I am a member of Society of American Foresters - 40+ years; a Pennsylvania Forest Stewardship Plan writer; a trained and experienced arborist - 36+ years; a diagnostician and company representative with F. A. Bartlett Tree Expert Co. - 22 years and Arborist Enterprises, Inc. - 3 years.

"I am a specialist in urban forestry including diagnosis and prescription, management plans, plant health care, structural tree evaluation, hazard tree determination, construction damage

prevention planning and remediation, forensic investigation, and expert witness.

"I am a Pennsylvania Restricted Use Pesticide Applicator; a member of the International Society of Arboriculture - 32+ years; I.S.A. Certified Arborist No. PD0069; president of the Pennsylvania Urban and Community Forestry Council - 4+ years; and president of the Woodland Owners of the Southern Alleghenies.

"I have served one term as a director on the School of Forest Resources Alumni Group (SFRAG) board and am chair of the Urban Forestry Committee of the SFRAG board."

**Thomas H. Yorke (1964 FOR and 1967g FOR)**

"I am a private consultant and specialize in providing hydrological services to federal, state, and regional agencies and organizations involved in surface-water management issues. I have extensive experience in streamflow monitoring networks, flood hydrology and hydraulics, water quality and sediment monitoring, and streamflow and sedimentation analysis techniques.

"Prior to entering private practice, I was the senior science advisor for surface water and chief of the Office of Surface Water of the U.S. Geological Survey, Water Resources Division. The Office of Surface Water supported a national network of streamflow, reservoir, sediment, and precipitation monitoring stations, and was responsible for assuring the quality of all river stage, water discharge, and sediment data collected by the USGS. I represented the United States in the development and review of national and international standards related to the collection and analysis of surface-water and sediment-transport data. I also administered programs that supported the development of watershed, hydraulic, and statistical models and other technology for effectively managing the nation's water resources.

"During my 35-year career with the USGS, I held management and research positions in Virginia, Florida, Pennsylvania, Missouri, and Maryland. Research positions included projects in suburban Washington, D.C., studying the effects of urban development on streamflow and sediment transport and the effectiveness of sediment controls used during urban construction. I was the leader of the River Quality Assessment of the Schuylkill River in Pennsylvania, which was a forerunner of other national programs to analyze the occurrence, transport, and fate of trace metals and organic substances in major river systems. I also worked with a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service team that was responsible for developing methods and procedures for assessing the impact of water resource development projects on the biota and habitat of rivers and their floodplains.

"I graduated from Penn State with a B.S. degree in Forestry in 1964 and earned an M.S. degree in Forest Hydrology in 1967. I am a member of Xi Sigma Pi, Phi Epsilon Phi, Tau Phi Delta Fraternity, the Nittany Lion Club, and a life member of the Penn State Alumni Association. I am also a member of the American Geophysical Union, American Water Resources Association, and American Institute of Hydrology. My wife Jeannie (PSU '65) and I have two daughters and three grandchildren."

## Brock Marker Dedication

Six men comprised the first graduating class of the State Forestry Academy at Mont Alto in 1906, including the nation's first African American forester, Ralph Elwood Brock. After graduation, Brock worked at the Mont Alto state nursery until 1911 and then had a successful career as a consultant for private and public landscapes and gardens in Philadelphia and New York City.

A Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission marker in Brock's honor was dedicated at Penn State Mont Alto on October 24, 2003. More than 100 people attended the event.

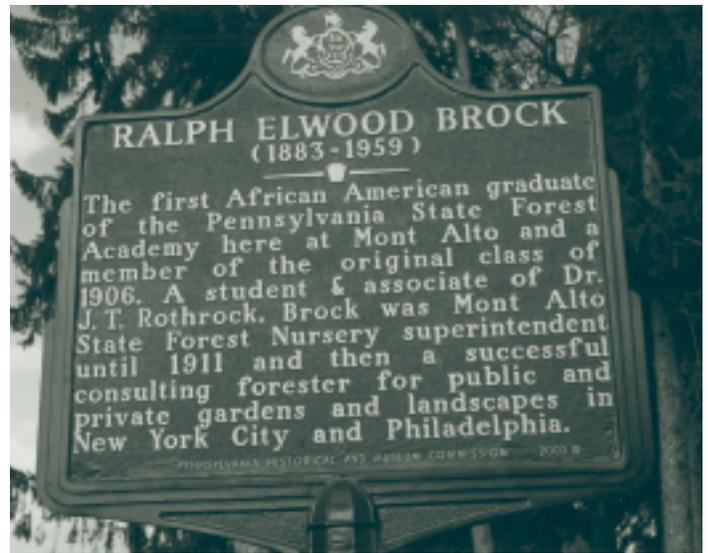
"We are justifiably proud of our staff of more than 200 dedicated foresters in our Bureau of Forestry, but it was pioneers like Mr. Brock and his five classmates who sparked those early landmark efforts that led to national recognition for sound stewardship and an emphasis on renewable resources," said Dr. James Grace, Pennsylvania State Forester. "Professionally, academically, and socially, Mr. Brock was a true path-maker."

State representative Stephen Maitland spoke for the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission. Others who participated in the marker unveiling were Theodore Jackson, president of the Black Student Union at Penn State Mont Alto; Demetrice Evans, graduate student in Wood Products at University Park; Tracey Coulter, graduate student in Forest Resources at University Park, and James Kauffman, forest technician with the Michaux State Forest District.

An article about Ralph E. Brock, written by Ellen Manno, Dr. Kim Steiner, and Alex Day can be found on the Forest History Society's Web site at <http://www.lib.duke.edu/forest/Publications/RalphEBrock%20Fall2002.pdf>.



October 2003 dedication of a Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission (PHMC) marker in honor of Ralph E. Brock '06. Left to right: Dr. David Gnage, Penn State Mont Alto, CEO; Theodore Jackson, undergraduate student in business administration at Mont Alto and president of the Black Student Union at Penn State Mont Alto; Tracey Coulter '03, graduate student in forest resources at University Park who researched and prepared the successful application to PHMC with Alex Day '67; and James Kauffman, forest technician and a grandson of the James Kauffman who was a member of the first graduating class of the Forest Academy.



## Friends of Penn State (FPS) Project

A new digital account system known as Friends of Penn State (FPS) has been developed to help provide a variety of University services to potential students, alumni, and e-commerce customers via the Web.

Already boasting more than 110,000 users, the FPS account management system has been designed by Information Technology Services (ITS) to enable the development of Web-based information resources to serve individuals outside the University in a more efficient, streamlined way. FPS is also part of the University's initiative to create a long-term relationship with the many individuals who use Penn State services such as library technologies, e-stores, World Campus, the Registrar's Office, and Undergraduate Admissions.

According to Steven Kellogg, director of Advanced Information Technologies within ITS, "The shared vision is that a high school student will be able to sign up for one of the summer sports camps as a Friend of Penn State and later use the account to learn whether he or she wants to attend the University. If the same person eventually becomes a Penn State student, the University automatically will convert the FPS account to a Penn State Access Account. Upon the student's graduation, the account will revert to FPS, allowing the individual to take continuing education classes and access a variety of other services."

At this time, anyone who does not have a Penn State Access Account, but who wants to electronically visit World Campus, the e-Golf store, Undergraduate Admissions, the Registrar's Office and many more University Web locations has (or soon will have) the option to acquire the Friends of Penn State status.

Planners also believe the concept of Friends of Penn State will make it easier for the University to develop a seamless information management infrastructure that can be tailored to the specific needs of the FPS community.

To learn more about the Friends of Penn State Project, visit the Web at <http://aset.its.psu.edu/fpsproject>.

# Alumni Notes

## 1930s

**Paul H. Russell, 1930** – “Mr. Paul H. Russell of Decatur, Georgia, since 1964 died October 11, 2003, at age 95. His career in the U.S. Forest Service spanned 38 years from 1934 to 1972. He served eight national forests in the Southeast, and became supervisor of the national forests of South Carolina. To honor his contributions in the field of forestry, a tree was dedicated to him on the Penn State Mont Alto campus. Also, a superior poplar tree was named for him in the Cherokee National Forest.”

## 1940s

**David M. Waite, 1940** – 1046 N. Vinedo Ave., Pasadena, CA 91107-1819. “I am still active with the local Society of American Foresters and have enjoyed several field trips with them this past year. One was to the Lake Arrowhead areas of the San Bernardino National Forest to review all the problems with drought, bark beetles, and no harvesting of timber products. We were there just a month before the large fires in October 2003 and agreed it was ‘a design for disaster.’ Too bad it was so true. I enjoy reading RESOURCES. Thank you for sending it to me.”

**Thomas W. Church, 1946** – Mrs. Polly Church of Willow Street, Pennsylvania, recently informed us that her husband Tom died on September 13, 2003. Mrs. Church wrote, “Tom, also a member of Alpha Zeta, retired from the Northeast Forest Experiment Station of the U.S. Forest Service in 1977. From 1979 to 1995 he had a tree farm and did farm woodlot consulting in southeastern Pennsylvania.”

**Edwin A. Friend, Jr., 1948** – Lake Prince Center, 100 Anna Goode Way Apt. #211, Suffolk, VA 23434-9240.

**Joseph F. Gray, 1948** – 221 Gates Road, Jefferson, ME 04348. “The Penn State-Mont Alto Forestry School’s 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary was quite an event. I will say at the outset, it was well-organized and orchestrated . . . always something going on. I particularly liked the classroom event involving the young students and

historic displays, but a shortage of 1941-42 pictures was evident. The informative guided trip through Michaux Forest was enlightening to see what had transpired during the intervening years. ‘Sunshine’ Shogren did a lively and outstanding job as MC and I’m looking forward to future events at Mont Alto. EXCELSIOR!

But I was considerably dismayed that I was the only representative from the class of 1941-42, the last class before campus closed. There were a couple of chaps from earlier years but most were from post-WWII. I realize we lost many during the war and now we’re into the over-75 bracket! Over the past 60-odd years I had only occasionally passed through the campus and always noted the changes. New buildings and the presence of women! But the ‘space’ was gone!

We extended our trip to University Park and had a guided tour of the present Penn State campus by Carolyn’s roommate, with, of course, a stop at the Creamery. How things have changed! The former spacious lawn in front of the Forestry Building now has a bald cypress and much more since 1948. I guess I have always been the ‘woody type’ and these 25 years in retirement in our white cedar log home here on 12 acres of Maine white pine and hardwood have further conditioned me to the point I will

probably not return to the main campus. Now filled with buildings where grass once grew, the impressive school of 1948 is now but a memory to me.

Development and expansion have taken over the Penn State campus, but I sincerely hope the youth of today will appreciate what they have and where they may learn, enjoy, and have their own fond memories of this modern institution of learning.”

## 1950s

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

**Ted Jensen, 1950** - P.O. Box 332, 323 Summit Avenue, Jenkintown, PA 19046; JTJPOB33219046@aol.com. “For the class of Mont Alto 1946-1947 (Penn State 1950), the Mont Alto centennial reunion in October 2003 was a huge success. We were fortunate to have fourteen classmates, one instructor, and nine guests for a total of twenty-four. A fine turnout for the years that have passed and the ages involved. The group picture below was taken at the barbecue on Friday evening. It is unfortunate that three of our members were not present at the time. They arrived on Saturday.”



*Mont Alto Class of 1946-47, Penn State Class of 1950  
Photo taken at Mont Alto Centennial, October 2003*

*Standing, left to right: Ted Jensen, George Ference, Chuck Dunlap, Dick Kirk, Heinz Heinemann, Bob Meneely, math instructor Harold Jarrett, Russ Hutnik, and Ted Gilbert.  
Seated, left to right: Jim Daley, Hank Van Haelewyn, and Ron Pyle.  
Attended reunion, but not pictured: Ed Geary, Jim Gullborg, and George Stahl.*

**Stephen A. Liscinsky**, 1950 and 1951g - Dr. Liscinsky, 82, of State College, died September 4, 2003, at Holy Spirit Hospital, Camp Hill, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Penn State in 1950 with a bachelor's in forestry, and in 1951 with a master's degree in forestry. He was a wildlife biologist for the state Game Commission for 32 years. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Our Lady of Victory Church, 820 Westerly Parkway, State College, PA 16801 or Knights of Columbus, 850 Stratford Drive, State College, PA 16801.

**Thomas A. Wandrisco**, 1951 - 641 Harvey Avenue, Greensburg, PA 15601-1775; "Seven years cancer free. Doing great. Keeping busy working in my yard; helping friends with theirs. Training a new German Shepherd puppy—first time in twelve years; sometimes I think I'm too old for this. Still involved with the Lions in the community and district. Have only gotten to one or two football games each year for the past several years. Nancy's rheumatoid arthritis has made me chief cook and bottle washer. Still doing chair caning at times and working with antiques when I have time. Many things to do both indoors and out. Still keep an 18- to 20-hour day. Some days it's hard. Went to forestry building when at a football game; all locked up."

**Rodney A. Cobi**, 1954 - 1165 Ingleside Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70806; cobicli@eatel.net. "During the summers of 1951 and 1953, I worked on the Mount Hood National Forest, the first year as a trail crew foreman and later as a fire crew foreman. About 10 or 11 years ago, as Bettye and I were returning to Mill Valley (our home for a while) from a consulting assignment with the Puyallup Nation in the Tacoma area, we stopped by the Bear Springs Ranger Station to say hello to the newer generation of USFS employees. I took them, with Bettye in tow, on a tour of the station grounds, pointing out the changes that had occurred there over the preceding 40 years. Some of the simplicity of the site and picturesque charm of the depression years pealed log architecture has slipped away among the many new structures and expanded 'campus' (sprawl) development pattern. Most of the old structures remain but their rudimentary uses have been upgraded and the exteriors 'modernized.' Of course, the changes undergone by that ranger station pale in comparison to many within the forests in Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia that I had seen over the previous few years. The 6'+ dbh Doug firs, commonplace everywhere fifty years ago, have all but disappeared. I'm glad I was able to experience these forests while they were

still in their semi-pristine state, and before the era of the 'big cut' resulted in such massive transformations. I guess I'm showing my age! I am currently managing partner at the Center for Landscape Interpretation—a land, urban and regional design and planning practice—in Baton Rouge."

**John W. Greth**, 1954 - 119 Leisure Court, Wyomissing, PA 19610.

**Keith D. Horn**, 1955 - 52 Birch Street, Kane, PA 16735. The Society of American Foresters (SAF) has recognized Keith Horn with the Presidential Field Forester Award. Horn has been a member of SAF since 1955, and received his award at the 2003 SAF National Convention held in Buffalo, New York, in October 2003. The fall 2003 issue of the *Allegheny News* reports: "Horn is president of Keith Horn, Inc., a Kane, Pennsylvania-based forestry consulting company established in 1980 that has serviced private, municipal, and industrial landowners for the past 23 years. Credited with encouraging forest regeneration throughout the state of Pennsylvania, Horn helped develop a forest herbicide program with Turner Enterprises, coordinated a consortium of ten private agencies to conduct the state's largest private aerial spray program in Pennsylvania history in 1994, and was the first consulting forester in the state to receive certification from the Forest Stewardship Council. Before becoming a consultant, Horn was a forest supervisor with the Hammermill Paper Company, a position in which he managed all of the company's forest land (165,000 acres) and supervised three field offices.

"Given the regional differences in forestry, an award recipient is selected from each of the eleven SAF voting districts. For all award winners, visit the SAF Web site at <http://www.safnet.org/who/nationalawards/cfm>."

**Thomas A. Breslin**, 1957 - 300 N. Eaton St., Berwick, PA 18603-2600; tomb@pa.net. "Thanks to the publicity and activity related to the Mont Alto reunion, I have been in touch with class of '57 alumni: **Norm Galvin, Tony Marchetti, Ted Seman, Richard Voelker,**

## Bob Bauer Student Award Fund

We are extremely pleased to report that contributions to the Bob Bauer Student Award fund have reached the required goal of \$20,000! The fund was initiated to honor the memory of Robert W. "Bob" Bauer '69 who died in a tragic farming accident on New Year's Eve 2002.

Guidelines for the award, formally titled the "Robert W. Bauer Student Memorial Award in the School of Forest Resources," are being finalized. The purpose of the award shall be to honor and recognize outstanding achievement of an undergraduate student who has completed an associate degree in a forest technician program and has enrolled in the Forest Science baccalaureate degree program at University Park. Recipients of the award shall be selected by the College of Agricultural Sciences Scholarship Committee upon the recommendation of the director of the School of Forest Resources. It is expected that the award will be available for the 2004-05 academic year.

Additional contributions to the Bauer Student Memorial Award fund may be made any time by interested persons or organizations. Contributions are to be made payable to "Penn State" and mailed to Dr. Charles Strauss, Director, School of Forest Resources, 113 Ferguson Building, University Park, PA 16802.

Thank you to all who have made this award possible.

**Joe Janosek**, and **Bob Baldwin** who attended, plus **John Kriz**, **Paul DeBald**, **Harold King**, and **Joe Logan** who could not attend. I can help you get in touch with them if you are interested.”

**Robert A. Schmidt**, 1959 – 12727 Northwest 56 Ave., Gainesville, FL 32653. “Robert A. ‘Bob’ Schmidt joined the faculty of the School of Forest Resources and Conservation, University of Florida, IFAS, September 1, 1967, and has continually served the School ever since, culminating with his retirement December 31, 2002.

Bob is a native of Danville, Pennsylvania, where he was reared and schooled. Summers spent on farms where he explored the woods stimulated his interest

in forestry, which he pursued at Penn State, earning a BS in 1959. He then transferred to the Plant Pathology Department to pursue an M.S. and Ph.D. studying forest pathology. Along the way, he married Louise Diehl, also from Danville, who earned a PhT (Putting Hubbie Through) while they were at Penn State.

Bob Schmidt’s most significant and productive work throughout his career was on fusiform rust. When he joined the faculty as an assistant professor, fusiform rust had been identified as the most severe disease limiting survival and growth of pines being planted to help restore Florida’s depleted forest. Bob brought with him three years of experience gained from working with the USDA Forest Service at New Haven, Connecticut. For 35 years, he has teamed with other faculty and numerous industry and federal and state agency scientists to advance knowledge on the fungal biology, genetic resistance of the host and virulence of the pathogen.

Today, most tree seedlings planted in the South have disease resistance appropriate to their planting site made possible largely by Bob’s research. The work he led to curb fusiform rust disease on southern pines has been calculated to have a benefit cost ratio of 5:1 to 20:1, depending upon the management system involved.

Bob has an impressive woodworking shop and always has challenging projects in progress. He and Louise have several acres of woods around their Gainesville home to keep Bob mindful of the forest. In addition, they have a place in the North Carolina mountains where they can escape the Florida heat. Bob, approved for Professor Emeritus status, will continue the rich and rewarding relationship the School has enjoyed for 35 years.”

**Robert C. Stroh**, 1959 and 1961g - University of Florida, P.O. Box 115703, Gainesville, FL 32611-5703; stroh@ufl.edu. Bob Stroh sent us the news of Bob Schmidt’s (’59) retirement.

#### 1960s

**Thomas J. Paunovich**, 1968 – 2075 Stonybrook Lane, Temperance, MI

48182-9466.

**Richard T. “Rick” Claggett**, 1969 and 1976g – 8 Amaranth Drive, Littleton, CO 80127; Claggett.Richard@epamail.epa.gov. “**Dr. James Lindzey** ‘40 passed away in July. I saw him pretty regularly since he moved out to Wyoming to be near his family near Laramie. He ran a Bed and Breakfast with his wife Katherine until her passing about a year ago. His son Fred is assistant leader at the Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit at the University of Wyoming in Laramie.

I’m still with the Environmental Protection Agency in Denver; 31 years now. I’m chief of the Wetlands and Watersheds Unit and deal much in water quality in a six-state region (Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Montana, North and South Dakota)—some great country.”

#### 1970s

**Kenneth Nichols**, 1970 – 18380 S. Cypress Drive, South Bend, IN 46637-4611; Kenn48@hotmail.com.

**Richard Schwartz**, 1971 – P.O. Box 113, 208 E. Street, Seneca, OR 97873-0113; senecafd@wxcite.com.

**Paul Sligh**, 1976 – 244 Hawthorne Ave., Buffalo, NY 14223-3004; lemko@adelphia.net.

**James H. Powell**, 1972 – 302 Greenhill Road, Willow Grove, PA 19090-2813.

**Lou Neuman**, 1975 – 4025 Deerlande Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32312; Lou.Neuman@dep.state.fl.us. “Went to El Yunque in Puerto Rico this summer. This is the only U.S. tropical rain forest in the U.S. Forest Service System. If you go there, take a tour of the visitor center. In addition to the video presentation (it is presented in English and Spanish), the various ecosystems can be seen. You can walk above the tree canopy in one location. It is a great place to see before you head up the winding mountain road where you can explore the forest.

I also went to Chippas in Mexico. Slash-and-burn techniques are still practiced there. After clearing the rain forest, the people plant crops there. After

## In Memoriam

**Paul H. Russell**, 1930  
died October 11, 2003

**Charles C. Shad**, 1936  
died February 28, 2003

**Michael M. Pochan**, 1937  
died February 21, 2002

**Ridgway V. Sharpless**, 1937  
died August 16, 2002

**Lewis C. Taynton**, 1939  
died December 27, 2002

**James S. Lindzey**, 1940  
died in July 2003

**Thomas W. Church, Jr.**, 1946  
died September 13, 2003

**William G. Haag**, 1949  
died July 19, 2002

**Stephen A. Liscinsky**, 1950, 1951g  
died September 4, 2003

**Calvin A. Webb**, 1950  
died June 30, 2003

**Ronald Z. Whipkey**, 1950  
died March 7, 2003

a few years, the soils become so eroded that the farmers move to another site and start the process over again. Depending on the elevation, I saw slash pine plantations and banana plantations. Many poor people were seen. While U.S. logging practices leave branches behind, people there gather the branches and utilize them. I saw children carrying large piles of wood to be used for heating and cooking fires. There was very little waste.”

**David Niessner**, 1977 - 9 Devonshire Way, Flora, MS 39071-6260. Mr. Niessner visited campus in October 2003 to conduct interviews in the College of Business for International Paper. He is in the Global Sourcing Department of International Paper at the corporate headquarters in Memphis, Tennessee.

**William J. Brooks, Jr.**, 1979 - 5751 Wales Road, Erie, PA 16510-5734; Broo166@cs.com.

**Harry L. Vanderveer**, 1979 - Rt. 2 Box 2404, Alto, TX 75925-9622; hvanderveer@tfs.tamu.edu. “I’m still in the Pineywoods of Deep East Texas working with the Texas Forest Service, an agency of the Texas A&M System. So I guess you could say I’m a transplanted ‘aggie.’ Note the lowercase first letter. A mere employee of TAMU can’t quite claim to be an ‘Aggie,’ but I think I’m representing Penn State Proud down here. I’ve worked in forest nurseries in the southeastern United States since 1982; for forest industries, private reforestation companies, and for the past four years, a state agency. One of my biggest kicks each year is as guest lecturer for fellow Nittany Lion, Dr. **Michael Messina** ’79. Mike’s a professor of silviculture at TAMU and I go to College Station to give his advanced silviculture class an introduction on the basics of design, management, and operations of forest seedling nurseries.”

#### 1980s

**Gregg B. Rishel**, 1980g - 409 Old Post Road, North Attleboro, MA 02760; gregg.rishel@werhmsg.werh.noaa.gov. “I am still a hydrologist with the National Weather Service. Last spring I left my position in the Western Region

Headquarters in Salt Lake City, Utah, for a promotion as the hydrologist in charge of the Northeast River Forecast Center. This is one of thirteen River Forecast Centers of the National Weather Service. We provide hydrologic information and forecasts for all of New England and most of New York state. The office is located in southeastern Massachusetts convenient to both Providence, Rhode Island, and Boston, Massachusetts. I am enjoying the new challenges this position entails and my family and I are happy to be back on the East Coast.”

**V. B. Vojnovich**, 1983 - 14440 Ridge Road, Irwin, PA 15642

**James Szczepaniak**, 1984 - 537 Woodland Drive, Auburn, PA 17922; james.szczepaniak@axa-advisors.com. “I am a certified financial planner and retirement benefits specialist with the Equitable Life Insurance in Allentown, Pennsylvania. I work for one of the retirement plan providers for Penn State, including all the campuses. It’s a dream job when one’s work ties one to the university! I made my first trip to Mont Alto in the fall and I was very curious to see the campus legendary in the School of Forest Resources. I visited Ferguson Building in January, and met Dr. Steiner and proved that I still knew the Latin names for trees that I learned in his class more than twenty years ago.”

**Tom Witmer**, 1984 - 226 W. Rittenhouse Sq. #1408, Philadelphia, PA 19103-5746.

#### 1990s

**Matt Beaver**, 1990 - RR#3 Box 195-6, Selinsgrove, PA 17870-9452; forester@ptd.net.

**Teresa Mackey**, 1991 - 6463 Franklin Lane, Bethlehem, PA 18105.

**Doug Still**, 1996g - 94-01 64<sup>th</sup> Road #5H, Rego Park, NY 11374; slugfest66@hotmail.com. “I am assistant director of street tree planting for the City of New York Department of Parks and Recreation. I currently manage a staff of ten foresters responsible for the coordination and planting of

## SAF Fellows

Among the 53 Society of American Foresters (SAF) members who were elected SAF Fellow in 2003 are alumni **Bruce B. Brenneman** (1960 FOR), **James C. Finley** (1970 FORSC and 1975g FOR R), **Michael G. Messina** (1979 FORSC), and **Walter R. Rossman** (1950 FOR).

Fellows are SAF professional members who have been identified by their peers as having rendered outstanding service to forestry and the Society. SAF Fellows are elected by the voting members of the state, intrastate, or multistate society from which they are nominated.

approximately 10,000 street trees annually in New York City. I was recently elected to the executive board of the Society of Municipal Arborists (SMA) and organized the SMA Municipal Arborists Exchange Program.”

**Ryan Harshbarger**, 1997 - 212 Academy Gardens, Moscow, PA 18444; rh2@adelphia.net. “After working for Interforest Corp. in Shade Gap, Pennsylvania, for the past four years, I am currently employed with RGM hardwoods, Daleville, Pennsylvania, operating a 40-bay bin sorter. I recently got married (June 28, 2003) to my lovely wife Rachel. I would love to hear from former classmates. Drop me a note.”

**Matthew Peters**, 1998 - 5800 Osuna Road NE, Apt. 226, Albuquerque, NM 87109.

#### 2000s

**Stacy (Frank) Gautsch**, 2002g - 118 Louis Lane, Hackettstown, NJ 07840-1838; smgautsch@nac.net. Stacy and her husband Michael are the proud parents of a son, Steven Michael, born October 1, 2003. Stacy is employed at Jersey Central Power and Light out of Boonton, New Jersey, as a utility arborist.”

**William D. Harlon III**, 850 Buggs Island Road, Boydton, VA 23917-4302; dixieforester@yahoo.com.

## Come to our Annual Meeting!

The annual meeting and banquet of the School of Forest Resources Alumni Group will be held Friday, April 23, 2004 at Toftrees Resort in State College.

We will honor four School of Forest Resources 2004 Outstanding Alumni; their profiles and photos will be published in our summer newsletter:

James R. Grace '78g,  
James C. Nelson '52,  
W. R. "Dick" Rossman '50, and  
Alden "Denny" Townsend '64.

The deadline for banquet reservations is April 16, 2004. Banquet is limited to the first 300 registrants.

### Schedule of Events

#### Friday, April 23

2:30 - 5:00 p.m. SFR Alumni Group Board of Directors Meeting  
5:00 p.m. Director's Reception  
6:00 p.m. SFR Alumni and Friends Banquet, and School of Forest Resources 97th Anniversary Celebration  
Guest speakers: **Dr. Graham Spanier** (before dinner) and **Dr. Robert Steele**, dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences (after dinner)  
Outstanding Alumni Awards.

#### Saturday, April 24

Early afternoon Blue-White football game. Free admission.  
Time to be announced.

**Questions?** Contact Ellen Manno, 814-863-5831; exr2@psu.edu.

### Hotel Accommodations

A block of rooms has been reserved at Toftrees Resort. To reserve a room in the block, call and identify yourself as a registrant for the SFR Alumni Banquet. To receive the special group rate (\$99 single or double occupancy, plus applicable taxes), reservations should be made by March 23, 2004. Rooms will be reserved on a space-available basis. It is recommended that all guest rooms be guaranteed for late arrival. Check-in time will begin at 4 p.m., and check-out time is 11 a.m. Call Toftrees Resort at 1-800-252-3551 or 814-234-8000.



Penn State University President Graham B. Spanier oversees one of the nation's largest and most comprehensive universities, with 25,000 employees on 24 campuses, an annual budget of \$2.6 billion, and a physical plant of 1,300 buildings.

Since he was appointed Penn State's 16<sup>th</sup> president in 1995, Dr. Spanier has been

the guiding force behind several historic academic initiatives, including the creation of The Schreyer Honors College, the Penn State World Campus, and the School of Information and Sciences and Technology. He oversaw Penn State's merger with The Dickinson School of Law and Penn State's most recently completed Grand Destiny Campaign, which raised nearly \$1.4 billion.

His "extracurricular activities" include playing racquetball; being a magician and faculty adviser to the Penn State Performing Magicians; performing with Penn State's Musical Theatre students, the marching band, and the glee club; occasionally substituting for the Nittany Lion mascot; playing the washboard with the Deacons of Dixie Land; and hosting "To the Best of My Knowledge," the live, listener-call-in program on Public Television and Radio.

## SFR Alumni Group Annual Meeting Registration

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Class year: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount enclosed for banquet dinner (\$25 per person; special rate for full-time Penn State students is \$12 per student): \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Dinner will feature chicken; there is a vegetarian option, please indicate here the number of vegetarian meals requested: \_\_\_\_\_)

Make checks payable to PENN STATE, write "SFR Alumin Banquet" in the memo portion of the check, and remit to: Ellen Manno, Penn State, School of Forest Resources, 201 Ferguson Building, University Park, PA 16802.

Banquet reservation deadline is April 16. Room reservation deadline at Toftrees Resort is March 23.



**RESPONSE FORM**

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

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

- I have sent a contribution for the SFR Alumni Group in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to Penn State, College of Agricultural Sciences, Development Office, 233 Agricultural Administration University Park, PA 16802. The contribution is made payable to “Penn State” and designated for the School of Forest Resources Alumni Group.
- Take a look at this newsletter online at <http://www.sfr.cas.psu.edu/Alumni/Newsletters> (see related article on page 17). If you would like to receive future issues electronically (and not be mailed a hard copy), please provide your e-mail address above and check this box.
- If you have any tidbits of Ferguson Building history or related memories (see related article on page 18), please send the information to Ellen Manno at 201 Ferguson Building, University Park, PA 16802; [exr2@psu.edu](mailto:exr2@psu.edu). If you are a member of the Penn State Alumni Association, you can log on to My Penn State Portal (<http://psualum.com>), go to the School of Forest Resources Discussion Group, and respond to the same query there.
- I would like the following news to be included in an upcoming newsletter. The next issue will be published in summer 2004. To submit news online, go to <http://www.sfr.cas.psu.edu/Alumni/AlumniNews.htm>.”

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## Calendar of Events

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| March 8-9                          | Improving Secondary Wood Products Industry Profitability Using Specialized Computer Programs (Romi-Rip). University Park, PA. Contact: Michael Powell, 814-863-1113 or <a href="mailto:mjp175@psu.edu">mjp175@psu.edu</a> . |
| March 8-11                         | Hardwood Lumber Grading. University Park, PA.<br>Contact: Michael Powell, 814-863-1113 or <a href="mailto:mjp175@psu.edu">mjp175@psu.edu</a> .  |
| April 12-13                        | Hardwood Log Grading. University Park, PA.<br>Contact: Michael Powell, 814-863-1113 or <a href="mailto:mjp175@psu.edu">mjp175@psu.edu</a> .   |
| April 23                           | School of Forest Resources Alumni and Friends Banquet. Toftrees Resort, State College, PA.<br>Contact: Ellen Manno, 814-863-5831 or <a href="mailto:exr2@psu.edu">exr2@psu.edu</a> .  |
| May 3-6                            | Kiln Drying of Lumber. University Park, PA.<br>Contact: Michael Powell, 814-863-1113 or <a href="mailto:mjp175@psu.edu">mjp175@psu.edu</a> .  |
| May 10-12                          | 4th Annual Goddard Forum. Camp Hill, PA. Theme: Developing Sustainable Communities.<br>Contact: Michael Powell, 814-863-1113 or <a href="mailto:mjp175@psu.edu">mjp175@psu.edu</a> .  |
| May 20                             | Eastern Hardwood Regeneration Institute. Contact: Michael Powell, 814-863-1113 or <a href="mailto:mjp175@psu.edu">mjp175@psu.edu</a> .  |
| May 24-26                          | WoodPro 2004: Hardwood Industries Leadership Conference. The Penn Stater Conference Center, University Park, PA. Contact: Michael Powell, 814-863-1113 or <a href="mailto:mjp175@psu.edu">mjp175@psu.edu</a> .              |
| June 2004                          | Lean Manufacturing Program. University Park, PA.<br>Contact: Michael Powell, 814-863-1113 or <a href="mailto:mjp175@psu.edu">mjp175@psu.edu</a> .   |
| June 9-10                          | Mensuration Update Shortcourse. State College, PA.<br>Contact: Michael Powell, 814-863-1113 or <a href="mailto:mjp175@psu.edu">mjp175@psu.edu</a> .   |
| June 17                            | Applying the Shelterwood Regeneration Method to Mixed Oak Stands. Stone Valley Forest Headquarters, Huntingdon County, PA. Contact: Michael Powell, 814-863-1113 or <a href="mailto:mjp175@psu.edu">mjp175@psu.edu</a> .    |
| June 27 - July 3<br>and July 11-17 | Conservation Leadership School. Stone Valley Recreation Area.<br>Contact: Michael Powell, 814-863-1113 or <a href="mailto:mjp175@psu.edu">mjp175@psu.edu</a> .  |