

Forest Resources Alumni Group News

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

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From the Editor

We have maintained contact with our alumni via periodic email messages, but the last "formal" newsletter of the Forest Resources Alumni Group was published in October 2017. **Mike Messina '79** and his wife Suzy did yeoman's work in sorting through and preparing a backlog of newsletter items. They finished their work back in May 2020 and I have been planning to add the final touches and distribute it ever since. The newsletter is finally ready! I regret if I failed to include news that someone sent to me for publication. I can make additions and corrections to the online copy, so let me know. Thank you for your patience! – *Ellen Rom '86g (phone 814-863-0362 or email exr2@psu.edu)*

President's Message



At this stage of my life and career, I am honored and excited to be your president of the Penn State Forest Resources Alumni Group! Without question the issues we are facing in society makes this a challenge for us, but not so different from what other organizations are facing as well. As usual, we have a talented and caring board of directors representing a range of Penn State graduating classes. We are committed, with your participation and assistance, to moving this organization forward and improving upon past activities. Despite the constraints we are facing, there is a lot we can do.

After graduating from Villanova University in 1971, I was an undergraduate Forest Science major in the mid-1970s at Penn State, and subsequently went on to achieve a master's and Ph.D. degree. I have been a Professor of Forestry at Mississippi State University for over 25 years now. Through my journey, I have always valued my education and the friends and peers I interacted with at Penn State. It really set the stage for the rest of my life.

During our last virtual board meeting in spring 2020, the board, while realizing we have been losing touch with our alumni, decided to make a concerted effort to renew our communications with alumni. Former department head, Dr. Mike Messina, graciously worked on this newsletter. Others on the board are working to put together an online presence for the board and the alumni. Most promising is an ongoing effort to utilize LinkedIn for this effort.

In light of our ongoing and developing efforts, we are certainly looking forward to your inputs on all our activities. The fall schedule of events is very much up-in-the-air so to speak. Once activities or events are scheduled or cancelled, we will try to get the word out. We already know that the SAF National Convention, the AFS Annual Meeting, and the TWS Annual Conference are all proceeding as virtual events, thereby making the best of a bad situation. On the board, we also need to make changes to keep the spirit and enthusiasm alive until we can get back close to normal. My hunch is that it will never be the same, but we can change and make the best of it, and in some instances make some positive changes.

I hope you'll help keep the alumni group going by donating to either the RESOURCES newsletter or the ESM Student Support and Alumni Relations Fund (or both!). Since we don't charge dues for membership in the alumni group, we rely on contributions to support our activities including the publication and distribution of this newsletter. Also, keep in mind that you can make contributions to the ESM Student Support and Alumni Relations Fund help to fund student travel to professional meetings, alumni receptions at those meetings, student registration at the annual alumni banquet, class field trips, the department's Career Fair, and other activities that foster student/alumni and department/alumni relations. While most of these events are on hold, we want to be ready to pick up where we left off.

Thanks for your continued support! I look forward to hearing from you and hopefully seeing you at the spring banquet in 2021.

Steve Grado

662-325-2792 (office); scg4@mswstate.edu

1992 Ph.D., Major: Forest Resources; Minor: Operations Research
1984 M.S., Dual Major: Forest Resources and Operations Research
1979 B.S., Major: Forest Science

Interview with the Interim Department Head



Q: Mike Messina retired in June 2019. What is the status of the search for a new department head?

David Eissenstat (DE): Dr. Messina was a great contributor to the department's success and overall collegiality. He is sorely missed. We have just finished interviewing three strong candidates for the department head position. Dean Roush is now collecting comments from all who interacted with the candidates to help him decide to whom an offer will be made. We hope to hear an announcement from the Dean on the new head in the coming weeks.

Q: You have been serving as interim department head since July 1, 2019. Are there any insights or experiences from this past year in that role that you want to share with alumni?

DE: This has been quite an interesting 15 months or so for me. I have gained new appreciation for the diverse roles our faculty, students, and staff play in the department and their many accomplishments. My position prior to becoming head was primarily research with some teaching, primarily of graduate students. The past year has been a wonderful experience learning about everyone who makes our department successful in research, teaching, and Extension.

Q: What are some of the challenges related to teaching, research, and/or Extension that have been prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic and how is the department adjusting?

DE: Where to begin?! The biggest challenge has been the large uncertainty in whether the virus is going to rapidly spread within the campus community and force the University to go entirely remote again this fall as we did this past spring. Other challenges include teaching indoor and outdoor laboratories in person while maintaining safe distances, getting students to field sites, and going through the numerous layers of approvals for faculty and students conducting research. Beyond these work issues, faculty and graduate students with young children have been further challenged in maintaining some level of productivity while taking care of and home-schooling their children. Our reality has changed significantly with the pandemic. The department has been very adept at conducting work remotely, whether it is research, teaching or extension. Classes and workshops are often done by Zoom, and technology support for these activities by the college and University has generally been excellent.

Q: Other than a new department head, what are some developments anticipated for 2020-2021? For example, are there any other faculty searches underway?

DE: We have three faculty searches currently underway: the Maurice K. Goddard Endowed Chair in Forestry and Environmental Resource Conservation, The Joseph E. Ibberson Chair in Forest Resource Management, and a Restoration Geneticist Faculty Position. The Goddard Chair is a 50% research, 25% teaching and 25% Extension (outreach) position that will be filled at the level of assistant, associate, or full professor. The Ibberson Chair in Forest Resource Management is a 50% research, 40% teaching, 10% Extension position that will be filled at the assistant professor level. The Restoration Geneticist is a 75% research, 15% teaching, and 10% administration position and will be filled at the assistant or associate professor level. The successful candidate for this geneticist position will also be evaluated for appointments as Director of the Schatz Center for Tree Molecular Genetics and as Ibberson Chair in Silviculture. Interviews of candidates will be conducted remotely in late September and early October (Goddard), mid- to late October (Ibberson Forest Resource Management), and November (Restoration Geneticist). Lastly, we expect to begin a search for an aquatic ecologist in spring 2021, to be filled by fall 2021.

2018, 2019, and 2020 Outstanding Alumni

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

Biosketches of all of our Outstanding Alumni are available [online](#), as are nomination forms.

Nominations are due annually by September 30, **although this year the nomination deadline has been extended to October 31, 2020.**

Unfortunately, we were unable to honor our 2020 Outstanding Alumni in person and we do not have a group photo to share. Our April 2020 banquet was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Pictured here at our April 2019 banquet, are, left to right, **Mike Messina** '79, head, Department of Ecosystem Science and Management; 2019 Outstanding Recent Alumna **Emily H. Thomas** '07a, '09, '11g; 2019 Outstanding Alumni **Tina J. Terrell** '87; **David W. Trimpey** '81; and **William E. Sharpe** '66, '68g; and Forest Resources Alumni Group Vice President **Steve Grado** '79, '84g, '92g. Not pictured is Outstanding Alum **Scot J. Williamson** '79 who was unable to attend.



Pictured here at our April 2018 banquet, are, left to right, Forest Resources Alumni Group President **Dave Gustafson** '00, our 2018 Outstanding Alumni **William M. Healy** '64 and '67g, **Howard G. Wurzbacher, Jr.** '79; Outstanding Recent Alumna **Devin A. Demario** '13g; **Steven A. Williams** '86g, **John E. McDonald** '93g, and **Mike Messina** '79, head, Department of Ecosystem Science and Management.

Student News

- **Shaina Walker** received the 2019 Forest Technology Award from Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences. Shaina earned the A.S. degree in Forest Technology in May 2019. **Levi Canon** received the 2018 Forest Technology Program Award. Levi completed earned the A.S. degree in Forest Technology in spring 2018.
- **Eli DePaulis** was featured in the Sept. 2019 [PA Environment Digest Blog](#) where he shared his experience as an intern at the Forest Heritage & Discovery Center in Franklin County. Eli completed the Wildlife Technology program at Penn State Dubois in May 2020 and is currently enrolled in the Forest Ecosystem Management baccalaureate degree program at University Park.
- **Danielle Bear** was awarded the 2018 P.F. English Memorial Award from the Northeast Section of the Wildlife Society. This award goes to an outstanding undergraduate senior of Wildlife Biology or Wildlife Management in the Northeast. Danielle graduated spring 2018 with a B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science.
- In July 2019, **Mara Cloutier** and **Sarah Isbell** received [Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Education and Workforce Development fellowships](#) from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Mara is a Ph.D. candidate in Soil Science with dual enrollment in Biogeochemistry and Sarah is a Ph.D. candidate in Ecology.
- **Josh Hersl** received the [2017 Student Leadership Award from the Allegheny Society of American Foresters](#). Josh graduated in spring 2018 with a B.S. in Forest Ecosystem Management. He completed the Forest Technology program at Mont Alto in fall 2017. **Sky Templeton** received the [2018 Student Leadership Award from the Allegheny Society of American Foresters](#). Sky graduated in spring 2019 with a B.S. in Forest Ecosystem Management. **Sean Freidhof** received the [2019 Student Leadership Award from the Allegheny Society of American Foresters](#). Sean completed the B.S. degree program in Forest Ecosystem Management in spring 2020.
- **Lane Z. Naugle** received a [2018 Erickson Discovery Grant](#) from the Office of Undergraduate Education. Lane completed the B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science in spring 2019.
- In his junior and senior years, **Josh Rittenhouse** [conducted undergraduate research](#) with Laura Leites, associate research professor of quantitative forest ecology; Kelly Derham, a former doctoral student, and Scott Miller, district forester with the state's Bureau of Forestry. Josh co-authored an [article](#) in the *Journal of Forestry* titled "Insights on the Use of Decision-Support Tools to Sustain Forest Ecosystems from a Case Study in Pennsylvania, USA."
- In April 2019 **Garrett Evans** and **Hunter Kauffman** won second and third place, respectively, in the Physical Sciences category at the 2019 Undergraduate Exhibition. Garrett presented his work with Dr. Laura Leites on "Evaluating adaptation to climate in *Acer rubrum* populations to understand responses to climate change." Hunter presented his work with Dr. Julian Avery on "Effects of Anthropogenic Noise on Nesting Time and Fledging Success of Songbirds." Garrett completed the B.S.

in Forest Ecosystem Management in spring 2020 and Hunter completed the B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science in spring 2019.

- **Lane Naugle** received the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Conservation Scholarship in 2018. Lane completed the B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science in spring 2019.
- **Anthony Musselman** was awarded the Shikar-Safari Club International Foundation Scholarship in 2018. Tony completed the B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science in spring 2019.
- **Grady Zuiderveen** was [selected to represent Penn State](#) at the fifth annual Catalyzing Advocacy for Science and Engineering Workshop in Washington, D.C. in March 2018. Grady earned a Ph.D. in Forest Resources in 2019.
- **Sky Templeton** was [awarded a Society of American Foresters Diversity Scholarship](#) for the 2017 national convention in Albuquerque. Sky graduated in spring 2019 with a B.S. in Forest Ecosystem Management.
- **Sky Templeton** won first place and **Jessica Clark** won second place in the [College of Agricultural Sciences' 2019 diversity essay contest](#). Sky graduated in spring 2019 with a B.S. in Forest Ecosystem Management and Jess completed the B.S. in Forest Ecosystem Management in spring 2020.
- The **Orpha Kelly Rapp and Jesse Rossiter Rapp '15 Prize for Academic Excellence** is given each spring to the senior with the highest grade-point average. Elizabeth Rapp Tukey (now deceased) endowed the award in 1992 in memory of her father Jesse Rossiter Rapp (Class of 1915) and her mother Orpha Kelly Rapp. The award is a cash prize. Students graduating in spring, summer, and fall of a given year are considered. Recent recipients:
 - 2018 – **Clayton Frey**, graduated spring 2018 with a B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science
 - 2019 – **Edward Hegemann**, graduated in spring 2019 with a B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science
 - 2020 – **Makayla Whaling**, plans to graduate in fall 2020 with a B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science
- The **John L. George Student Conservation Award** honors an undergraduate Wildlife and Fisheries Science (WFS) student who best exemplifies the spirit of Dr. John L. George, who was the driving force behind the establishment of the WFS major at Penn State. He was known for his perseverance, dedication, and involvement in conservation service, and his remarkable teaching skills. The recipient of the George Award is selected annually by the WFS faculty. Recent recipients:
 - 2018 – **Benjamin Kline**, completed B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science in spring 2019
 - 2019 – **Hunter Kauffman**, completed B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science in spring 2019
 - 2020 – **Richard Novak**, completed B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science in spring 2020 and currently enrolled in M.S. degree program in Ecology

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

2018 – **Josh Hersl**, completed B.S. in Forest Ecosystem Management in spring 2018 and the A.S. in Forest Technology in fall 2017

2019 – **Hunter Kauffman**, completed B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science in spring 2019

2020 – **Sean Freidhof**, completed B.S. in Forest Ecosystem Management in spring 2020
- Each spring, our undergraduate students are asked to nominate individuals for the **Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Assistant Award**. A committee of student representatives selects the recipients after reviewing feedback from the student body. The awardees in recent years have been:

2017 – **Kelly Derham**, then a Ph.D. candidate in Ecology

2018 – **David Ensminger**, completed the Ph.D. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science in spring 2019

2019 – **Nathaniel Scott Parkhill**, M.S. candidate in Wildlife and Fisheries Science

2020 – **Cathryn Pugh**, M.S. candidate in Forest Resources
- The Roger M. Latham Memorial Graduate Award**, created in 1981, memorializes Dr. Roger M. Latham (1914-1979), who devoted his career to promoting conservation and management of renewable natural resources. Latham was well known as an author and the outdoor editor at the Pittsburgh Press, a lecturer, a photographer, a naturalist, a teacher, and a resource conservationist. The Latham Award is given annually in late fall to an outstanding full-time graduate student advised by a Wildlife and Fisheries Science faculty member. The recipients in recent years have been:

2017 – **Courtney Davis** and **Danielle Williams** shared in winning the 2017 Latham Award. Courtney earned a Ph.D. in Ecology in summer 2020; she also earned an M.S. in Ecology in summer 2015. Danielle earned an M.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science in summer 2018.

2018 – **Carli Dinsmore**, earned an M.S. in Ecology in December 2019. Carli is also a graduate of the Wildlife Technology associate degree program (2006) and the Wildlife and Fisheries Science baccalaureate degree program (2017).

2019 – **Danielle Massie** and **Sara Mueller** shared in winning the 2019 award. Danielle completed the M.S. program in Wildlife and Fisheries Science in spring 2020. Sara is a Ph.D. candidate in Wildlife and Fisheries Science; she completed the M.S. in WFS in 2017 and the B.S. in WFS in 2014.
- In March 2020, **Zachary Sanders**, Ph.D. candidate in Soil Science, was awarded a [Shenk and Harrington scholarship](#) from the College of Agricultural Sciences.

- In summer 2020, graduate students **Taylor Blackman** (Ph.D. candidate in Forest Resources) and **Bill Ryan** (M.S. candidate in Soils) participated in the Penn State Student Veterans community service project to raise funds and gather photos to provide digital picture frames to the Hollidaysburg Veterans Home.

Faculty and Staff News

- **Dr. Julian Avery** received the 2017 Paul R. and Joan M. Shellenberger Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching.
- **Dr. Larry Nielsen**, former Director of Penn State's School of Forest Resources, [retired](#) at the end of 2017 as a professor at North Carolina State University's College of Natural Resources.
- **Dr. Jason Kaye**, professor of soil biogeochemistry, received the [2017 Alex and Jessie C. Black Award for Excellence in Research](#).
- **Dr. Melissa Kreye** joined our faculty in January 2018 as an assistant professor of forest resources management. Her appointment is 75% Extension and 25% research. Dr. Kreye's expertise is in forest policy, forest economics, and the social and economic values associated with private forests, wildlife, and water resources.
- **Dr. Tyler Wagner** was awarded the 2017 CRU Scientific Excellence Award for excellence in furthering the mission of the Cooperative Research Units Program.
- **Sr. Tyler Wagner** received the 2018 Edward D. Bellis Award that recognizes faculty members in the Intercollege Graduate Degree Programs in Ecology for outstanding contribution and dedication to educating and training graduate students in the program.
- **William H. "Bill" Arnold**, retired forest supervisor, Stone Valley Experimental Forest, [died](#) February 8, 2018
- **Dr. Beth Boyer** was awarded the [2018 Witherspoon Lecture Award](#) by the American Geophysical Union.
- **Dr. Rick Day** retired in March 2018 as associate professor of soil science and director of PAOneStop.
- **Dr. Michael Sheriff**, assistant professor of mammalogy and conservation ecology, left Penn State in June 2018.
- **Dr. David Miller** was promoted with tenure to associate professor, wildlife population ecology, effective July 1, 2018.

- Penn State announced fixed-term faculty promotions effective July 1, 2018. Promoted were **Sanford Smith** to teaching professor; **Laura Leites** to associate research professor; and **Craig Houghton** and **Ellen Rom** to assistant teaching professor.
- **Dr. Jesse Kreye** joined our faculty in July 2018 as an assistant research professor of fire and natural resources management with a 50% Extension and 50% research position. Dr. Kreye's expertise involves fire ecology and fire behavior and effects.
- **Dr. Allyson Muth**, formerly Forest Stewardship Program Associate, was hired into a faculty position in August 2018 as assistant research professor of Private Forests Management and Interim Director of the Center for Private Forests (75% Extension and 25% research).
- **Dr. Charles P. "Hoagy" Schaadt** [died](#) on August 16, 2018.
- **Jennifer Weld** joined our faculty as assistant research professor and director of PAOneStop in December 2018. She has a 25% teaching, 25% Extension, and 50% research position.
- **Cal DuBrock** was named a Fellow in The Wildlife Society in 2018.
- **Cal DuBrock** retired from the Maurice K. Goddard Chair in Forestry and Environmental Resource Conservation in December 2018.
- **Dr. Bill Sharpe**, professor emeritus of forest hydrology, published a book in 2018 titled [Up and Downs: Recollections of a Vietnam Helicopter Pilot](#).
- **Dr. Margaret Brittingham** was honored with [PennFuture's Woman of Lifetime Achievement in Conservation Award](#) in April 2019.
- In April 2019 **Shannon White** received a Penn State Alumni Association Dissertation Award, Distinguished Doctoral Scholar Medal, recognizing her for her research on the conservation significance of genotypic and phenotypic variation in populations of coldwater fish influenced by climate change. Shannon completed the Ph.D. program in Ecology in summer 2019.
- **Dr. Beth Brantley** [left the Mont Alto Forest Technology program](#) to join Bartlett Tree Experts as a plant pathologist at the end of the spring 2019. **Dr. Kimberly Bohn**, former Extension Forestry Educator based in McKean County was hired as assistant teaching professor at Mont Alto effective fall 2019.
- **Dr. Mike Messina**, department head, retired in June 2019.
- **Dr. Beth Boyer** was promoted to professor effective July 1, 2019.

- **Dr. Marc Abrams** was honored with a [Lifetime Achievement Award](#) at the 6th Fire in Eastern Oak Forests Conference in July 2019.
- **Dr. Julian Avery** was named a [Harbaugh Faculty Scholar](#) in August 2019.
- **Dr. Hangsheng “Henry” Lin** [died](#) on September 26, 2019.
- **Dr. Victoria Anne Braithwaite-Read** [died](#) on September 30, 2019.
- In fall 2019, **Asia Murphy** received the Intercollege Graduate Student Outreach Achievement Award, which recognizes outstanding research achievements of graduate students that bring their research to the community. Asia is a Ph.D. candidate in Ecology.
- **Dr. Daniel Johnson** joined our faculty in October 2019 as assistant teaching professor of soil science with a 100% teaching appointment. Daniel teaches introductory soil science courses (resident education and online) and labs. Daniel adds teaching expertise to our existing strengths in soil physics, biogeochemistry, microbiology, and pedology applied across forest, turfgrass, and agricultural ecosystems.
- **Ken Swisher**, retired forestry professor at Penn State Mont Alto, [died](#) November 20, 2019.
- **Dr. Dean E. Arnold**, retired adjunct faculty member, Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, [died](#) December 8, 2019.
- **Mary Jo Schillings** moved from administrative support assistant (hired in December 2018) to department head assistant in December 2019.
- **Dr. Rick Stehouwer** retired in December 2019.
- **Dr. Gerald L. Storm**, retired adjunct faculty member, Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, [died](#) January 16, 2020.
- **Dr. Frances Buderman** joined our faculty in January 2020 as assistant professor of quantitative wildlife ecology. Dr. Buderman’s position is 50% teaching and 50% research. She will teach Mammalogy and Mammalogy Lab, an additional undergraduate course that addresses current program needs, and a graduate course in her expertise. Her research areas of expertise include Bayesian statistics, hierarchical modeling, applied statistics, movement ecology, demography, and terrestrial wildlife ecology.
- **Dr. Estelle Couradeau** joined our faculty in January 2020, as assistant professor of soils and environmental microbiology. Dr. Couradeau’s position is apportioned as 75% research and 25% teaching. She will teach graduate and undergraduate courses, and her research will focus on

understanding soil microbiological communities and tuning their functioning towards beneficial services such as enhanced soil carbon storage.

- **Laurie Sparks** was hired as a financial assistant in February 2020.
- In March 2020, **Dana Grove** left her administrative position in our Undergraduate Programs Office and was hired as a financial assistant in our department.
- **Dr. Tyler Groh** joined our faculty in April 2020 as assistant research professor and watershed management extension specialist (75% Extension and 25% research). His areas of expertise include watershed management, water quality, nitrogen cycling, biogeochemistry, conservation practices, and soil-water interactions.
- **Joe Harding** was hired into a faculty position as assistant teaching professor in April 2020. He continues his responsibilities as Director of Forestlands.
- **Dr. Jason Keagy** joined our faculty in July 2020 as assistant research professor of wildlife behavioral ecology (75% research and 25% teaching). He will teach two courses, Wildlife Behavior and Animal Welfare.
- **Dr. MaryAnn Bruns** was promoted to professor of soil microbiology effective July 1, 2020.
- Nontenure-line promotions effective July 1, 2020 included **Dr. Eric Burkhart** to associate teaching professor, **Keely Roen** to associate teaching professor of wildlife technology at Penn State DuBois, and **Dr. Julian Avery** to associate research professor.
- In July 2020 **Dr. Victoria Braithwaite** was memorialized with a new ecology research award.
- Each spring, our undergraduate students are asked to nominate individuals for the **Outstanding Undergraduate Advising Award** and the **Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award**. A committee of student representatives selects the recipients after reviewing feedback from the student body.
 - Advising Award recipients:
 - 2018 = **Mike Powell**, senior research technologist
 - 2019 = **Dr. Julian Avery**, assistant research professor, wildlife ecology and conservation
 - 2020 = **Mike Powell**, senior research technologist
 - Teaching Award recipients:
 - 2018 = **Dr. Julian Avery**, assistant research professor, wildlife ecology and conservation
 - 2019 = **Dr. Julian Avery**, assistant research professor, wildlife ecology and conservation
 - 2020 = **Dr. Eric Zenner**, associate professor of silviculture

In Memoriam

The name is linked to an online obituary, if available.

1940s

- [Robert C. Early](#) died November 8, 2018 (B.S. Forestry 1948; M.S. Forestry 1949)
- [Dr. Harry Robert Krear](#) died December 16, 2017 (B.S. Forestry 1949)

1950s

- [Walter R. "Richard" Rossman](#) died May 7, 2019 (B.S. Forestry 1950)
- [William H. "Bill" Arnold](#) died February 8, 2018 (B.S. Forestry 1952)
- [Carl "Skip" Purcell Rebele](#) died December 25, 2018 (B.S. Forestry 1952)
- [Lawrence "Larry" Cupka](#) died October 23, 2019 (B.S. Forestry 1954)
- [Frederick A. Umholtz](#) died June 28, 2020 (B.S. Forestry 1954)
- [Robert "Bob" H. Bommer, Jr.](#) died December 4, 2019 (B.S. Forestry 1956)
- [Patrick M. Lantz](#) died May 30, 2019 (B.S. Forestry 1956)
- [Edward Lawrence "Elk" Klein](#) died in October 2018 (B.S. Forestry 1958; M.S. Forestry 1961)
- [LTC Richard Frederick "Dick" Kost](#) died May 10, 2019 (B.S. Forestry 1958)
- [Dr. Nelson S. Loftus, Jr.](#) died November 23, 2018 (B.S. Forestry 1958; M.S. Forestry 1962)
- [Robert "Bob" E. Slagle](#) died October 13, 2019 (B.S. Forestry 1958)
- [James "Jim" R. Spaid](#) died September 7, 2019 (B.S. Forestry 1958)
- [Wilbur Earl Wolf Jr.](#) died January 4, 2019 (B.S. Forestry 1959)

1960s

- [Wendell Reed "Ray" Alcorn](#) died March 12, 2020 (B.S. Forestry 1961)
- [Walter "Walt" N. Peechatka](#) died October 19, 2019 (B.S. Forestry 1961)
- [William "Bill" M. Durdan](#) died October 5, 2018 (B.S. Forestry 1962; M.S. Forestry 1964)
- [Dr. Stanley Paul Pennypacker](#) died December 7, 2019 (B.S. Forestry 1963; M.S. Forestry 1964)
- [Herman D. "Skip" Knoble](#) died in late 2019 (B.S. Forestry 1964; M.S. Forestry 1968)
- [Leslie "Les" Wayne Johnson](#) died March 9, 2019 (B.S. Forest Science 1966)
- [Gregory "Greg" Michael Schrum](#); died March 31, 2018 (B.S. Forestry Technology 1967; M.S. Forest Resources 1969)
- [Lawrence Joseph Swandic](#) died September 7, 2019 (B.S. Forest Technology 1969 and M.S. Forest Resources 1972)

1970s

- [Marlin J. "Jack" Tressler Jr.](#) died October 1, 2017 (Forest Science 1971)
- [Warren Peter "Pete" Stanton](#) died February 19, 2018 (B.S. Forest Science 1974)
- [Andrew "Andy" Mitchell Chapura Jr.](#) died October 22, 2017 (B.S. Forest Science 1975)
- [Dr. Timothy G. Pierson](#) died July 12, 2019; (B.S. Forest Science 1977)

1980s

- [Thomas S. Hardisky](#) died April 28, 2018 (B.S. Wildlife Science 1982)
- [Robin Scott Dunn](#) died June 18, 2018 (B.S. Forest Science 1985)

1990s

- [Dr. Luise Kalberkamp Davis](#) died February 17, 2018 (Ph.D. Wildlife and Fisheries Science 1995)

2000s

- [Robert “Robbie” Lee Withington](#) died March 20, 2018 (A.S. Forest Technology 2006; B.S. Forest Science 2008)
- [Tyler Wakefield](#) died July 9, 2020 (A.S. Forest Technology 2011; B.S. Forest Science 2013)
- [Nic ‘Nicole’ Aileen Capps](#) died May 9, 2020 (enrolled in B.S. Wildlife and Fisheries Science program)

Alumni News

1950s

- **John “Jack” Storer** (B.S. Forestry 1950) was [honored with Penn State’s Distinguished Alumni Award](#) in 2019.
- The **Class of 1958** celebrated its 60th reunion at Mont Alto and endowed [The Penn State Mont Alto Forestry Class of 1958 Open Doors Scholarship](#). They gathered again in June 2019 to celebrate their 61st reunion.



Members of the Class of 1958 who attended their 61st reunion in June 2019 gathered for a group photo. They are, left to right: Carol Strauss, Chuck Strauss, Roger O’Dell, Irene Hobaugh, Richard Hunter, Dorothy Hunter, Bobbi Shain, Lou Shain, Gisela Peace, Ralph Peace, George Siehl, Joe Frank (looking away), Maurice Hobaugh, Jack Zimmerman, Ralph Heilig.

IMAGE: Penn State

1960s

- **Walter “Walt” N. Peechatka** (B.S. Forestry 1961) received that 2017 Joseph Trimble Rothrock Award for Forest Conservation at the Pennsylvania Forestry Association annual meeting in October 2017.
- **William “Bill” Sharpe** (B.S. Forest Technology 1966 and M.S. Forestry 1968) shared this photo of **Rex Melton’s** marker that is in place at the Mont Alto Veterans memorial. Rex Melton’s autobiography is available [online](#). Anyone interested in purchasing a printed copy should please contact Ralph Heilig '58 at reheilig@comcast.net.



1970s

- **Dr. Richard Guldin** (B.S. Forest Science 1970) has been selected as the winner of the [2020 Sir William Schlich Memorial Award](#). The award will be presented at the Society of American Forester’s (SAF) National Convention in October 2020. The Schlich Award is oldest award given by SAF to a member of the forestry profession in the United States; the inaugural Schlich award was given to President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1935.
- **Mark Webb** (B.S. Forest Science 1973) was [awarded the Presidential Field Forester Award](#) by the Society of American Foresters at their annual national convention in Albuquerque in 2017.
- **Dan Devlin** (B.S. Forest Science 1975; M.S. Wildlife Management 1979) [retired](#) on March 31, 2018, as State Forester and Director of the PA Bureau of Forestry to end a four-decade career in state service.
- **Mel Lewis** (A.S. Forest Technology 1975) and **Marc Lewis** (B.S. Forest Science 1978) received the [2019 Rothrock Conservationist of the Year Award](#) at the Pennsylvania Forestry Association’s annual symposium on Sep. 27, 2019.

- **David Legerton** (B.S. Forest Science 1976) wrote in October 2017, “Retired from Orange County Public Schools in Orlando, FL, as a Biology and Earth/Space Science teacher. Previously retired as a naval flight officer with the U.S. Navy flying the P3C Orion Patrol Aircraft. Moved to a small town near Pensacola, FL, to give pecan farming a try!”
- **Dr. Mike Messina** (B.S. Forest Science 1979) [retired](#) on June 30, 2019, as Head of the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management and former Director of the School of Forest Resources.

1980s

- **Martin Melville** (B.S. Forest Science 1980) [competed](#) at the 2019 Masters of Musical Whistling Fest in California.
- **Steve Koehn** (B.S. Forest Science 1983) was named a Fellow of the Society of American Foresters and was honored by the Allegheny Society at their annual meeting in Clarion in September 2017. Koehn was also [honored with the John Shannon Current Achievement Award for Partnerships](#) by the National Association of State Foresters (NASF) at the 2017 annual meeting in Sept 2017 NASF annual in Charleston, WV.
- **Dave Parsonage** (B.S. Forest Science 1986; M.S. Forest Resources 1989) will serve a [three-year term on the American Society of Testing and Materials International Board of Directors](#) beginning in January 2019.
- **Tina Terrell** (B.S. Forest Science 1987) was named the Associate Deputy Chief in the National Forest System Deputy Area, Washington Office effective August 2019 and she also [received an award](#) at 24th Annual Women of Color STEM Conference in Detroit in October 2019.

1990s

- **Laurie Kashuba Smith** (B.S. Forest Science 1992) was named a Fellow of the Society of American Foresters by the Kentucky-Tennessee Society in 2019.
- **Andrew Egan** (Ph.D. Forest Resources 1993), former chancellor for Penn State Greater Allegheny in McKeesport, PA, was [selected to take the role of vice president for academic affairs and head of campus at the University of Maine at Machias](#) effective August 2018.
- **Matt Keefer** (B.S. Forest Science 1996; M.S. Forest Resources 2001) was [honored as the “Forest Champion with the Greatest on the Ground Impact”](#) by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and the U.S. Forest Service.
- **Matt Boyer** (B.S. Wildlife and Fisheries Science 1998), science program supervisor for Montana’s Fish, Wildlife & Parks Region 1 [was named the Fisheries Professional of the Year](#) by the Montana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society for 2019.

- **James “Jim” Hyland** (B.S. Forest Science 1998) was [appointed manager of the Tioga State Forest District](#) by the PA DCNR.
- **Rachel Reyna** (M.Agr. Forest Resources 1998) received the [2018 Natural Resource Education Champion Award](#) from the Association of Natural Resource Professionals. She also received the [inaugural Myra Lloyd Dock Award](#) recognizing women in conservation at the 2019 PFA annual symposium.
- **Jason Hall** (B.S. Forest Science 1999 and A.S. Forest Technology 1996) was [named District Forester](#) at Buchanan State Forest District on June 26, 2018.
- **Dr. Andra Johnson** (M.S. Forest Resources 1999, Ph.D. Forest Resources 2002) was [named associate director of Penn State Extension](#), effective July 1, 2020.

2000s

- **Shaun Doran** (B.S. Forest Science 2006), **Stephen Melman** (B.S. Forest Science and B.S. Wildlife and Fisheries Science 1999), **Christopher Layaou** (B.S. Forest Science 2008), **Michael Becker** (B.S. Forest Science 1992), **Eric Fritzinger** (B.S. Forest Science 2005) and **Matthew Reed** (B.S. Forest Science 2007) were featured in the July/August 2019 issue of *Penn Stater* in an article (“Stepping into Smoke”) about wildland fire fighting.
- **Russell “Russ” Gibbs** (B.S. Forest Science 2008) was recognized as the 2017 Outstanding Tree Farm Inspector for Pennsylvania at the Pennsylvania Forestry Association’s annual meeting in Seven Springs.
- **Carrie Gilbert** (M.S. Forest Resources 2009) was named forest supervisor of the Wayne National Forest on June 28, 2019.
- **Samantha Pedder** (B.S. Wildlife and Fisheries Science 2011) [won](#) the Mark J. Reeff Award on Sept. 30, 2019, at the 109th annual meeting of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.
- **John Jacob Gilliland** (B.S. Wildlife and Fisheries Science 2014) is one of 400 people [certified in the “Triple Crown” of hiking](#).
- **James “Jimmy” Oswald** (B.S. Wildlife and Fisheries Science 2014) is a [big-game hunting guide](#) at Flat Top Wilderness Guides.
- **Frances Alvare** (B.S. Forest Ecosystem Management 2017) was voted onto Penn State Alumni Council, the Penn State Alumni Association’s governing board, effective July 2020.

Board of Directors Nominations

We are seeking candidates for election to the Forest Resources Alumni Group Board of Directors. Please contact Ellen Rom (814-863-0362 or exr2@psu.edu) **by December 18, 2020**, if you are interested in running for election.

Contribute News

Do you have news for inclusion in a future issue or our alumni newsletter? Submit news [online](#), or mail to Ellen Rom, 114 Forest Resources Building, University Park, PA 16802.

Support our Alumni Group

[Donations](#) to support our Alumni Group's communications and engagement activities are welcome. In you prefer to write a check, please make it payable to "Penn State" and write "Forest Resources Alumni Group" on the memo line. Mail the check to Ellen Rom, 114 Forest Resources Building, University Park, PA 16802. Thank you!

Calendar

- **Tuesday, September 29** – Ag Sciences Virtual Career Day at the Bryce Jordan Center, University Park, PA. 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Details and a link to exhibitor registration are available [here](#).
- [Ag Alumni Virtual Lounge Virtual Events](#) – Happy hours with Dean Rick Roush, 5-6 p.m. on **October 8, November 12, and December 10**
- **Thursday, October 15** – Forest Resources Alumni Group board of directors meeting via Zoom
- **November 18-21** – Virtual Ag Live Alumni and Friends Tailgate. Join the College of Agricultural Sciences Alumni Society for its [first-ever virtual Ag Live Tailgate Celebration](#).