

Candidates for Election to the School of Forest Resources Alumni Group Board of Directors

The School of Forest Resources Alumni Group Board of Directors includes 12 at-large members who are elected to serve a three-year term and who may serve a second consecutive term if re-elected. The terms of four at-large members expire in spring 2011.

Below are brief biosketches, in alphabetical order, of six candidates running for election to the board. Incumbents are noted with an asterisk (). Vote for no more than four candidates. Vote online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NN3PK6Z> or print the ballot and mail it to Ellen Manno, 114 Forest Resources Bldg., University Park, PA 16802.*

Ballots must be received by March 25, 2011.

Rachel R. Billingham (1998g FOR R)

“I received my M.Agr. degree, which is a combination of forestry and communications, from Penn State in 1998. I also received a B.S. in Forest Management from LSU in 1996. I have worked for the PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry since 2001 and am currently chief of Rural and Community Forestry, which houses Private Forestland Stewardship, Urban and Community Forestry, watershed/riparian programs, and the Forest Legacy program. It also assists with “Clean & Green,” an open space tax incentive program, and the Federal Highlands Conservation Act. Prior to working with the Bureau, I was self-employed with half of my business consisting of database programming, and the other half consisting of conducting forestry education workshops with home school co-ops.

“I am a Certified Forester and a Certified Arborist and am an active member of the Society of American Foresters, currently serving in a variety of positions: the Allegheny SAF chair-elect, a co-chair of the Human Dimensions Working Group, a member of the National Communications Committee, and a member of the Keystone Chapter’s Executive Committee. I am also a member of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association and currently serve as the Urban Forestry representative to the Board of Directors.

“On the personal side, I love to travel and have been to all 50 states and 7 other countries. I am an avid reader and crafter (mostly beadwork and sewing) and I also do quite a bit of singing.”

R. Alexander Day (1967 FOR T) *

“I graduated from Penn State School of Forest Resources with a B.S in 1967. I spent two years as a Peace Corps forester in the Dominican Republic followed by three years in the U.S. Army. In 1971, I began a 36+-year career with Pennsylvania DCNR, Bureau of Forestry, in various field locations with the last 18 years serving as forest nursery operations manager with headquarters near Potters Mills, Centre County, PA. I have been an active member of Society of American Foresters since 1972. I am a member of The American Chestnut Foundation and completed a two-year term as president of the Pennsylvania Chapter in December 2010. I am a board member of the Pennsylvania Forest Fire Museum Association, and am a life member (with my wife) of the Penn State Alumni Association. My wife Sandy and I are parents of two and grandparents to four grandchildren.”

Derald J. Hay (2003 FORSC, 2007g FOR R and J.D.)

“I completed a B.S. in Forest Science in 2003, and was the first student to complete a joint M.S. in Forest Resources and J.D. from Penn State Dickinson School of Law in 2007. I am an attorney with Fox Rothschild LLP, a 400-lawyer law firm based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. My legal practice primarily consists of providing advice to help businesses develop management programs to ensure compliance with the current and evolving environmental regulations.

“As a member of the Society of American Foresters Committee on Accreditation, I have stayed close to my forestry roots. I am developing relationships with forest land managers and forest owners in providing legal advice and support using his unique legal and forestry background to create innovative solutions to land management issues. My experience has put me in a position to evaluate and respond to cutting-edge legal issues related to natural resources in a rapidly changing regulatory environment.”

Ralph E. Heilig (1958 FOR) *

“I am a native of Delaware County, Pennsylvania, and a 1951 graduate of Ridley Park High School. I was a U.S. Merchant Marine with Sun Oil Co. in 1951, 1953-54, and 1955, and on active duty in the U.S. Navy 1952-53. I was enrolled at Mont Alto in fall 1951 and 1954-55. I graduated from Penn State in 1958 with a B.S. in forestry and began a 41-year career with the Pennsylvania Department of Forests and Waters: Elk State Forest, Emporium (1958-61), Delaware State Forest, Stroudsburg (1961-65), Buchanan State Forest, McConnellsburg, assistant district forester (1965-80), and Rothrock State Forest, Huntingdon, district forester (1980-99).

“I am a life member of the Penn State Alumni Association, the Society of American Foresters, the Pennsylvania Forestry Association, the American Legion, and the Navy League of the United States. I am a volunteer Admissions Officer with the U.S. Naval Academy.”

Thaddeus M. “Thad” Taylor (1997 FORSC) *

“I graduated from Penn State in 1997 with a B.S. in Forest Science and from Texas A&M in 2000 with an MBA. I am an SAF Certified Forester and a vice president with forest products lender, AgChoice Farm Credit. I live in Coudersport, Pennsylvania, with my lovely wife of twelve years, Cynthia, and our three children.

“I am secretary-treasurer of the Pennsylvania Chapter of Society of American Foresters, a Pennsylvania Forest Products Association member, Penn York Lumberman's Club member, and a wrestling coach for the Coudersport High School. I spent six years with International Paper in Texas and Louisiana in timberland and procurement operations before moving back home to raise our children in Pennsylvania.”

Howard G. Wurzbacher, Jr. (FORSC 1979)

“I attended the Penn State main campus from the fall of 1975 through the spring of 1979, graduating with a B.S. in Forest Science. Following graduation, I worked as a seasonal technician for the U. S. Forest Service in northwestern Montana. From 1982 through 1987, I worked as a log scaler, then a procurement forester for Fisher & Young and Endeavor Lumber companies in northwest Pennsylvania. In 1987, I began my employment with the Pennsylvania Game Commission, working as a forest technician, forester, assistant regional forester, and regional forester in the 10-county PGC Northwest Region.

“I am a member of Tau Phi Delta, the Pennsylvania Forestry Association, the Roach/Bauer Forestry Forum Committee, and the Twin Valley Hunting Club. I have been a member of the Society of American Foresters since 1993, and have participated at the chapter, division, and state society levels: Plateau Chapter secretary/treasurer, chair-elect and chair: Pennsylvania Division Chair; and Allegheny SAF Awards Committee chair and Executive Committee. I am a Society of American Foresters Certified Forester.

“My wife Cindy and I live near Titusville, and have two daughters, Ashley and Sarah.”