



January 2017

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

The 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 2017.

Below, in alphabetical order, are brief biosketches of candidates running for election to the board. None are incumbents. Write-in candidates are permitted.

Vote online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AlumniBoardElection>, or print the ballot and mail it to Ellen Manno, 114 Forest Resources Bldg., University Park, PA 16802.

Ballots must be received by Monday, February 27, 2017.

Robert T. Caccese (2012 WFS)

I completed my first two undergraduate years at Penn State Hazleton and finished my last two at University Park where I earned my B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science in 2012. While in college, I was involved with the Penn State Chapter of The Wildlife Society, Delta Theta Sigma agricultural fraternity, Penn State Spur Collectors Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, and served as president of the Penn State Archery Club. I was honored as the 2012 Outstanding Senior in the School of Forest Resources and the John L. George Conservation Award recipient. Immediately after college, I attended Penn State's Dickinson School of Law (now Penn State Law) and graduated with a Juris Doctor in May 2015. During law school, I specialized in environmental law and policy, including water law, agricultural law, natural resources law, and the Endangered Species Act. During my law school summers, I interned with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources through the Governor's Office of General Counsel, and in the Bureau of Habitat Management with the Pennsylvania Game Commission, both in Harrisburg, PA.

After graduation, I accepted a position with the Pennsylvania Game Commission in Harrisburg performing hunter education, legal, and policy work for ten months. In July 2016, I accepted a position as a staff attorney at Penn State. Most of my work focuses on water rights, water allocation issues and associated economic impacts, climate influences on the water-

land-energy nexus, and impacts to fisheries. In addition, I study how eastern U.S. water law may be revamped in the future to reflect current supply and use, and stakeholder engagement with the agricultural community regarding water use.

I am a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association (licensed in PA), American Water Resources Association, Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, and National Deer Alliance. Currently, I reside in State College, PA and am an active hunter and fisherman.

Gene F. Odató (1975 FORSC)

I am the former District Forester on the Tuscarora State Forest, PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry, Blain, PA. During my 41-year career, I held several positions in DCNR, DER, and elsewhere, including Chief of Rural and Community Forestry, Fire Protection Specialist, Service/Management Forester, and Conservation District Field Representative. Prior to joining the department I worked as the Lebanon County Conservation District Manager and Forester, and as a forester with the U.S. Forest Service, Army Corps of Engineers, and Gateway Engineers in Pittsburgh.

As a Pennsylvania Forestry Association and SAF member for more than 30 years, I served on several local, state, and national committees including PA State Tree Farm Committee, Sustainable Forestry Initiative State Implementation Committee, PA Urban and Community Forestry Council, PA Forest Stewardship Committee, PA Stream ReLeaf Committee, and Emerald Ash Borer Task Force. I also served as the chairman of the Forestry Workgroup of The Chesapeake Bay Program, the DEP/EPA's Non-Point Source Pollution Task Force Silviculture Committee, and the Chairman of the National Association of State Foresters' Forest Resource Program Leaders (Northeast US).

I served as a DCNR representative and mentor to the youth members of the Governor's Youth Council for Hunting, Fishing, and Conservation since its inception 2000-2010. I am co-chair of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation's Harrisburg Chapter. For several years I administered the RMEF specialty license plate (PA) statewide fund-raising program.

I am an alumni brother of Tau Phi Delta Fraternity, and recently elected Grand National Tau [treasurer]. I am currently the President of the PA Forestry Association and served on the Big Tree, Urban and Education committees for years.

My wife Kathy and I live in Landisburg, PA. I enjoy searching for big trees and pumas, woodworking for wildlife, exercising, hunting, fishing, kayaking, gardening, and creating artisan pizza in our outdoor wood-fired brick oven that my and family and I designed and built. The oven is on a trailer and we enjoy taking it to festivals, parties, wineries, and breweries in central PA.

Thomas A. Young (1976 FORSC)

After graduating from Penn State in 1976 with a B.S. in Forest Science, I worked for Amtrak Railroad in Philadelphia coordinating their railroad right-of-way vegetation management program in the Northeast Corridor. In 1980 I relocated to West Virginia to work in the electric utility industry as a system forester at Allegheny Energy. In that position my duties involved writing contract specifications and quality control standards, budgeting, as well as the oversight of inspection for all phases of utility vegetation management including tree trimming and aerial and ground herbicide applications. I continued to work with Allegheny Energy in Maryland as a staff forester, and then again in West Virginia as a division forester until 1990.

In 1990 I relocated to the Baltimore area to continue work in vegetation management in the electric utility industry with the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company. I held several different staff and district forestry positions with this company and was involved in contract management and contract quality control until my retirement in 2015. These positions enabled me to achieve a wide variety of field and staff experience including chairing numerous technical committees and being a member of ad hoc teams with a variety of responsibilities ranging from in-house contractor training to the deployment of software and hardware for handheld computers for use by company and contractor personnel.

While working I was licensed in West Virginia and Maryland as a Professional Forester. I have served on two town tree commissions in Maryland and as a board member of the Mountain Lake Vegetation Council and the WV Vegetation Management Association. I also enjoyed my duties working on community outreach projects while serving as a member of a county forestry board in Maryland.

Now retired, my wife and I live just a few miles from State College, and I enjoy spending time hiking, reading, and doing photography.