



January 2018

**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 2018.

Below, in alphabetical order, are brief biosketches of candidates running for election to the board. Degrees listed are those earned in the School of Forest Resources/Department of Ecosystem Science and Management. Candidates noted with an asterisk () 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.

*Vote for no more than four candidates. **Ballots must be received by Monday, February 19, 2018.***

Brian D. Lee (2005g FORR)

My doctoral research in the School of Forest Resources - Center for Watershed Stewardship focused on the form and function of Pennsylvania community watershed organizations and their capacity-building efforts in watershed management. In 2009, I was recognized as Teaching Fellow by the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture. In 2014, I was internationally recognized for my service-learning teaching by the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture. In addition, my formal education consists of a B.S. of Landscape Architecture from the Penn State, a Master of Regional Planning and a Master of Liberal Arts (Landscape Ecology) from the University of Pennsylvania. I have also worked at Andropogon Associates and the University of Pennsylvania.

I apply geospatially based analyses and visualization to community decision-making processes for land use planning primarily at the watershed/landscape scale in my research and my teaching. I am the Landscape Architecture Director of Undergraduate Studies and have been responsible for teaching/managing a variety of courses at the University of Kentucky – College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. My geospatial applications courses are cross-listed with the Natural Resources and Environmental Science program and enroll students

from Forestry, Earth and Environmental Sciences, Biosystems Engineering, Plant and Soil Science, Public Health, and Anthropology.

My research efforts have focused on Elk Landscape Suitability Modeling, Targeting Reforestation in Appalachia, Predicting Urbanization in Central Kentucky, Characterizing Kentucky's Large Forest Blocks and Interior Forests over Time, Watershed Characterization Utilizing Landscape Scale Indicators, and Housing Price Differences in Central Kentucky.

In 2017, I co-edited *Water in Kentucky: Natural History, Communities, and Conservation*, which was published by the University Press of Kentucky. I also co-authored a paper published in *Ecology Letters* and was appointed Editor of *Landscape Journal*.

I live with my wife Cynthia and our two daughters, Sophia and Fiona, in Lexington, Kentucky. We enjoy traveling, hiking, gardening, and cooking together as well as caring for our two Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs, Olivia and Soufflé. I am in pursuit of creating the most perfect pizza.

Samantha J. Pedder (2011 WFS) *

I graduated from Penn State in 2011 with a bachelor's degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Science, Wildlife Option. I have an MNR from Utah State University and will complete my MBA from Georgia Southern University in May 2018. I have worked for the Pennsylvania Game Commission, the National Shooting Sports Foundation and, now the Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports. I am very interested in the future style of management of our natural resources, as well as the people who make that work happen. When not working or studying, I spend my time outdoors hunting, fishing, shooting and more.

Chad M. Stewart (2000 WFS) *

I completed my B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science in 2000 after starting at the Mont Alto campus. Upon graduation, I moved to Illinois to conduct research on white-tailed deer at the University of Illinois, where I received my M.S. in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences. Since I've completed my schooling, I've worked for the Smithsonian's Conservation Biology Institute, working mostly with white-tailed deer, but also working internationally in China and Malaysia on wildlife and forestry related topics. I have spent the past 8 years working in Indiana as the deer biologist with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. I am currently the Michigan Department of Natural Resources deer, elk, and moose management specialist, serving in that capacity for the past 3 years after serving as deer biologist for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources for 8 years.

I am a Certified Wildlife Biologist with The Wildlife Society, and have served as adjunct professor at Ball State University, President of the Indiana Chapter of The Wildlife Society, and on the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Fish and Wildlife Health Committee.

I have authored or co-authored 10 peer-reviewed publications, and have received recognition from the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife, and the Indiana Chapter of the Shikar Safari Club as their Biologist of the Year.

I am married with two children and enjoy hunting, softball, basketball, and of course watching Penn State football.

Charles H. Strauss (1958 FOR)

My Penn State career began at the Mont Alto campus in the fall of 1954. Our collective freshmen year was unique but, no doubt, similar to preceding classes. We were aptly introduced to forestry and allied sciences by a well-qualified team of faculty, enjoyed the food and lodging at our campus, and roamed the nearby mountain retreats on weekends. Too soon we were off to University Park, as we continued with an even more select group of faculty. There is a special blend of friendships within our class, witness the series of reunions enjoyed since our '58 graduation.

That fall, I headed to Michigan State in pursuit of a master's degree in wood products marketing. And I convinced my Penn State sweetheart, Carol Eibelheuser, to join me via our December '58 wedding (this year marks our 60th Anniversary). Our son, Jim, was born in East Lansing a few months before my 1960 graduation. And then our "family of three" headed to San Francisco for my professional post with the California Redwood Association.

The following year, I was contacted about a new Penn State faculty post in Wood Products Extension. I interviewed and was accepted, and thus began my 48-year career with the School. My basic role was to identify and solve manufacturing and marketing problems in our resident industries, having the added technical support of our Wood Products faculty. We maintained an emphasis on lumber drying, which led to the return of the Keystone Kiln Drying Association.

As Carol and I settled into State College, we built the first phase of our new home, appropriately clad in natural redwood. We designed added space for our second son, Brian (1962) and our daughter, Lynne (1965).

Upon joining the faculty, our director, Dr. Peter Fletcher, advised me to set my sights on a Ph.D. This started my regimen of faculty work during the day, dinner at home, and a return to the office for evening studies. One course per semester, but it all worked out, with the completion of a second master's in economics, followed by my doctorate in resource economics (1974).

My focus on economics resulted in an invite to join the resident faculty, with responsibilities for teaching forest economics and forest inventory measurements. Later on, I was part of the team-taught forest management course offered by Dress, Turner and Strauss. Anyone remember the Purdue Management Game?

Teaching and advising were great pursuits. There were even added opportunities as faculty adviser to the Forestry Society, Xi Sigma Pi, The Sylvan, and Tau Phi Delta. The society's out-of-town field

meets involved long bus rides, field events judging, and limited sleep. But fun! And somewhere along the way there was added student/faculty involvement in the Phi Psi 500!

Faculty promotions at Penn State require a serious dedication to research. These endeavors paralleled my graduate studies and included economic modeling of public recreation systems, analysis of woody biomass energy production, economic and logistical designs of white-water boating, and the economic impact of Pennsylvania recreation programs and of PA's wood products industry. Results of these projects were published in over 100 refereed papers and another 100 conference proceedings. Support for this 30-year series of projects required outside grants amounting to \$4.2 M.

In 2001, I was asked by the dean to serve as interim director of the School and in 2002, was appointed director. With a capable executive committee, we oversaw the design and construction of the new Forest Resources Building (2002 – 2006), the hiring of 12 new faculty members, and celebration of the School's 100th Anniversary (2007). Allied with these efforts was maintaining close contact with our alumni and stakeholders on all matters central to our School's agenda. Their support was imperative to the success of our new building and professional programs.

Following my 2008 retirement, Carol and I continued with ties to our friends and family. For me, there was a continuation of hunting and fishing trips, allied involvement in photography, and gardening (many, many tulip and daffodil bulbs are planted each fall). I've also pursued new responsibilities with Mont Alto's Advisory Committee, their Arboretum Committee, and their Development Subcommittee. And, thanks to Ralph Heilig, the catalytic leader of our Class, Carol and I have enjoyed a great series of reunion events each year.

Jason K. Wenrich (2000 FORSC)

I graduated in 2000 from the School of Forest Resources with a B.S. in Forest Science, Forest Management Option. For the past 18 years I have been working as a consulting forester in the private sector. Since 2005 I have been employed by Forecon, Inc., which is a multi-faceted natural resources consulting company with offices in New York, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. My career with Forecon, Inc. began in Oak Hill, West Virginia, as an office manager and staff forester. Forecon, Inc. opened an office in 2012 near State College, Pennsylvania, which I am currently managing. One of my primary roles is coordinating projects like forest inventories and timber sales throughout the Northeast for state agencies, timber investment management organizations, large land holding companies, high net worth individuals, and private landowners. In addition to directing our operations in West Virginia, I am responsible for business development across all our offices. My professional organizations include Society of American Foresters, Association of Consulting Foresters, West Virginia Forestry Association, Pennsylvania Forest Products Association, and Pennsylvania Forestry Association. I live in Julian, Pennsylvania with my wife Jenny (ANBIO '01) and three children.