



FOREST ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT NEWS

A Newsletter for Department of Forest Ecology and Management Staff, Students and Alumni

Vol. 10, No. 1

March 2007

News from the Chair

For the past several months, we have been discussing with the Wildlife Ecology faculty the possibility that our departments might merge to form a single, larger and more diverse department. These discussions were crystallized in a planning document that is now before our college administration. It appears likely that beginning July 1, 2007, there will be a new Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology, but more work (and meetings) remain before this is a reality.

Why merge? That's the question that many ask, and the simple answer is that small departments such as Wildlife Ecology are under increased pressure from many quarters, but especially instruction. It has become increasingly difficult to offer the breadth of courses required for both undergraduate instruction and graduate training. Faculty are not replaced immediately upon retirement, so there is often a lag period during which courses may not be taught. Additional issues, including the university's state budget, the potential efficiencies to be gained from streamlining services and staff, and others, all contribute to this intended merger.

Will it be successful? We believe that our faculties share many research, instruction, and outreach interests that will be strengthened via merger. A larger and more diverse faculty will lead to new opportunities for research collaborations and new courses at the

upper levels of instruction. But both departments hold firm to the belief that retaining their undergraduate majors is vital to their future. Our college administration is supportive of the proposed merger, as are our colleagues in the state and region. No one is expecting that the process will be perfectly smooth, but our faculty and staff are committed to maintaining the excellence required to prosper on a campus that highly values the research and education that happens here. We hope that our alumni will also be supportive as we open a new page in our history.

There are several items of note in this newsletter, not the least of which is the announcement of Jeff Stier's retirement in January of 2007. Jeff and his wife, Sandy, were feted at a recent dinner and look forward to remaining (mostly) in Madison.

There are a few new faces here as well. Mr. Doug Wilder is the new leader of the National Park Service's GIS unit here in the department. Doug joins us here after several years in Fairbanks, Alaska. Ms. Karyn Schroeder joins us as the new financial specialist, having worked most recently in Texas. And Dr. James Turner (Ph.D. 2004) has returned for several months to collaborate with Prof. Buongiorno on some research. James is also teaching FOREST 652.

There is an assortment of other news items that I hope will assure you that we are continuing to expand our research, instruction and outreach horizons. If your travels take you to Madison, please stop by and say hello – we'd love to see you. — *Ray Guries*

Alumni Update

Cara Nelson (M.S. 1997) will soon be leaving the University of Washington to accept a position as Assistant Professor of Restoration Ecology, College of Forestry and Conservation at the University of Montana in Missoula. The appointment begins with the 2007-08 academic year. Cara's e-mail address will be changing soon, but is currently crnelson@u.washington.edu.

We heard from **Sherry Holcomb**, who was a Research Specialist working with Prof. Volker Radeloff until this past August when she moved to Cleveland to pursue a Ph.D. in musicology at Case Western Reserve University. Sherry's primary research interest is 17th century music and her primary "instrument" is voice

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Alumni Update, continued from page 1 (soprano). Sherry says she is having a great time in her new role as graduate student, but admits that she misses Madison. You can contact Sherry at petite_renarde@hotmail.com.

Max Ashwill (B.S. 2001) is a master's degree candidate in the Graduate Program of International Affairs at The New School University in New York City. Max's research centers on the relationship between international conflict and development. In addition to his normal research and studies, Max is vice president of Latin America Forum and is starting a new position with The International Center for Transitional Justice. Max's email address is: greatestspirit@hotmail.com

Jason Ludden (B.S. 2002) is working on a masters degree in writing and teaching at Oregon State University, but he is putting his forest science background to practical use. At the time he contacted us he was writing an article on the increasing population of red maple in Wisconsin's forests. Jason's email is: luddenj@onid.orst.edu

Kathy Gonzalez (M.S. 2003) is back in Madison. She is working in a position at Troy Gardens on Madison's east side. Kathy's email is: kagonzalez_mx@yahoo.com

Emilie Grossmann (Ph.D. 2006) is a post doctoral researcher in the Forest Science Department at Oregon State University. She and others at OSU and the USFS are building a map of vegetation types across western Oregon. Emilie says the map is built using statistical models that predict vegetation types from environmental factors such as slope, elevation, and

climate. The models are built from an extensive plot database that includes vegetation plots on both public and private land throughout the region. Emilie's e-mail address is: Emilie.Grossmann@oregonstate.edu

Brian Schwingle (B.S. 2002) recently accepted a position with Oregon State University as an extension forestry instructor. He's based in the city of Roseburg in southern Oregon. Brian's email: bwschwingle@yahoo.com

Dan Mrotek (B.S. 2003) recently completed a 10-month program with EarthCorps in Seattle. He reports that while working with the group he did many exciting things, including urban environmental restoration, preserving pristine lands, teaching environmental education to elementary school students, coordinating volunteer environmental events, and working with people from around the globe. Dan's e-mail: dmrotek8076@hotmail.com

Congratulations to **Lynne Heasley** (Ph.D. 2000) who was recently promoted to Associate Professor in the Department of History at Western Michigan University (WMU). Lynne teaches courses in History and Environmental Studies at WMU. Her research focuses on the ways in which humans have shaped and been shaped by their environments. She also examines the changes cultural groups have undergone in their ideas about the non-human world. She recently published a book based on her Ph.D. research titled *A Thousand Pieces of Paradise: Landscape and Property in the Kickapoo Valley*, UW Press, 2005. Her next book project is an environmental history of the Peace Corps. Lynne's email is: lynne.heasley@wmich.edu

Student News

The Forestry and Recreation Resources Club has had a busy first half of the school year. In late October five students piled into a van and headed to Pittsburgh for the national Society of American Foresters (SAF) meeting. Highlights of the meeting include a keynote speech by Dr. Wangar Maathai and technical sessions on such topics as deer browse issues and new technologies being used in the field. There were also many exhibits with information on various companies and organizations.

There were two special events for SAF students. The first was an ice breaker where students from various schools worked on their networking skills and began to get acquainted. The second event was a career fair at which organizations and companies could advertise their jobs. Some, like the U.S. Forest Service, even conducted on-the-spot interviews. It was interesting to see the possibilities for professional life in the public and private sectors.

The Club had another successful Christmas tree sale the first weekend in December. Profs. Guries and Bowe helped us orchestrate the event. The weather was poor on the first day of the sale and things started slow. But as the weather improved, the action increased. Customers were in a good mood when they came in and an even better mood when they left with their "perfect" trees. All trees were sold, including the "Charlie Brown" trees.

Many students recently spent two full weekends participating in "Red Card" classes. The classes teach wildland fire fighting safety procedures and protocols. With their Red Card (and pending passage of a physical) they are qualified to fight wildfires and assist with prescribed burns. — *Joe Stubbendick*



Faculty/Staff News

Professor Jeff Stier retires

Prof. Jeff Stier retired in January 2007 after 29 years of distinguished service to



Prof. Jeff Stier

the Dept. of Forest Ecology and Management, the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS), and the UW-Madison. During his tenure in the department, Prof. Stier made substantial contributions to

teaching, research, and public service and helped prepare numerous students for careers in forestry, state government, and academia.

Prof. Stier's educational background includes B.S. and M.S. degrees in forestry and forest economics, respectively, from the University of Michigan. He then spent two years working as a wildlife economist for the Dept. of Wildlife, Fisheries and National Parks in the Republic of Zambia before returning to the U.S. to earn M.S. (1976) and Ph.D. (1978) degrees in agricultural economics at the UW-Madison.

He began his faculty career in the department in 1978 as an assistant professor with a specialization in forest economics and management. Five years later he was promoted to associate professor with tenure and to professor in 1992. He served two terms as associate chair of the department, 1992-1998 and again from 2002-2004. And he served as chair from 1998-2002.

Prof. Stier's research program has focused on state and regional forestry

issues with emphases on analyses of the economic efficiency of timber industries, timber demand and supply analysis, the role of forest resources in economic development, and the effects of institutional factors on forest management and policy. His examination of trends and wood flows in the Lake States region helped identify potential areas of market expansion, including a pine pole industry, which is now flourishing in Wisconsin.

Prof. Stier's significant contributions to teaching were exhibited in many ways. He created new courses to meet professional skill demands, such as *Renewable Resources Policy* and *Introduction to Computing in Natural Resources*. He developed a specialized course on forest taxation that he offered in the evenings to accommodate working professionals. When CALS adopted the requirement for a capstone experience for all majors, Prof. Stier created the department's current capstone course, *Integrated Resource Management*, in which students have regularly excelled in regional competitions. And most recently he created a new service course — *Canada-U.S. Comparative Environmental Policy*. His teaching and advising skills have been recognized by CALS with both an Outstanding Advisor Award and the John J. Jung Excellence in Teaching Award.

Prof. Stier has made numerous contributions to UW-Extension and outreach, so much so that a former dean offered him a formal Extension appointment. He has testified as an expert witness and in 2004 Governor Doyle appointed him to the Wisconsin Forestry Council where he currently serves as the Council's Secretary. Prof. Stier has been active in the Society of American Foresters and has served on the editorial board of the journal *Land Economics* since 1986.

We wish Prof. Stier all the best as he enters a new phase of his life, but we hope to continue to see him in the halls of Russell Labs.

Welcome back!

We welcome James Turner who has returned to the department this



James Turner

semester as a visiting lecturer. James earned his Ph.D. in Forestry in 2004 under the guidance of Prof. Joseph Buongiorno. James is teaching "Decision

Methods for Natural Resource Managers" this semester. He is also working with Professor Buongiorno using the Global Forest Products Model to examine New Zealand forest product trade issues. James is on leave from his position as a forest economist at Scion (the New Zealand Forest Research Institute). Joining James in Madison for the semester are his wife, Pavla, and their 7-month-old son, Noah.

Cunninghams celebrate a milestone

Congratulations to Emeritus Professor Gordon Cunningham and his wife, Vera, who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on March 4th with a lunch and reception at Oakwood Village. Many old friends and family members were on hand to offer congratulations.

Following completion of his Ph.D. at Michigan, Prof. Cunningham was appointed an Extension Forester at UW-Madison in June of 1963 and continued in that position until he retired as a Professor of Forestry in 1983.



Meet the department's new financial specialist

Karyn Schroeder has accepted the challenge of making sure department payments are processed properly. She was chosen to fill the Financial Specialist II position vacated by Sandy Fowler, who has taken a position in CALS' Research Division. Karyn is responsible for processing Travel Expense Reports (TERs), payments to non-employees or individuals (PIRs), and editing Pro-card statements.



Karyn Schroeder

Karyn grew up in Whitehall, Wisconsin, located about halfway between La Crosse and Eau Claire, and attended college in La Crosse. Her professional background includes experience as a teller for a credit union in Whitehall, payroll specialist for a company in Eau Claire, accounts payable specialist for URS Corporation in Austin, Texas, and, most recently, accounts payable specialist for Firstmark Credit Union in San Antonio. Karyn decided a change of latitude was in order so she could be closer to her family, including her 5-month-old nephew.

In addition to activities with family, Karyn says she loves sports (both playing and watching), reading, and cooking. She and her cat, Slugger, now live in Madison.

Doug Wilder joins NPS Midwest Region GIS Unit

Doug Wilder is the new coordinator of the National Park Service's Midwest



Doug Wilder

Region GIS Technical Support Center. He is responsible for coordinating support for GIS activities in the 55 park units located in the NPS Midwest Region. Doug replaces

former coordinator Peter Budde, who has taken an NPS position in Colorado. For the past two years Forest Ecology and Management has served as the administrative home for the Center, located in a remodeled suite of offices in the Stock Pavilion.

During his tenure here Doug hopes to build a centralized GIS infrastructure for the region's park units, provide exciting GIS project opportunities for UW students, and support on-going UW research with a GIS component that has an impact on the parks.

Doug has extensive GIS experience. The past four and a half years he worked in Fairbanks, Alaska, as a data manager for a long-term ecological monitoring program set up in Denali, Yukon-Charley Rivers, and Wrangell-St. Elias park units. From 1995 to 2002 Doug worked in Florida as a GIS analyst for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission. His GIS experience includes modeling, analysis, and processing of natural resource and facility (chiefly marine) spatial data, including image processing. He has also worked on custom GIS development for oil spill response and remote field data collection.

Doug's educational background includes a B.S. in Geology from the University of Florida and a M.S. in Marine Science from the University of S. Florida. Doug says the park service recognizes the advantages of locating the GIS center on the UW-Madison campus and is committed to maintaining and building a collaborative relationship with Forest Ecology and Management and other UW departments.

Doug and his wife, Yvonne, have three daughters, ages five, three and three months (born Dec. 15). In his free time he enjoys tight rope walking, glass blowing, high-performance aerobatic flying, fringe theater, reverse repelling, and playing the Theremin.

For those of you who may want more information about the GIS Technical Support Center or are interested in joining Doug for a Theremin jam session, Doug's e-mail address is: <Doug_Wilder@nps.gov>.

Prof. Mladenoff in the news

Madison's *Capital Times* newspaper ran a front-page feature on the impact of climate change on Wisconsin's evergreen trees based on Prof. David Mladenoff's research. The Dec. 29, 2006 article, titled "Nevergreens? State's signature trees could be lost to climate change," quoted Prof. Mladenoff and reported the results of his research that applied predicted changes in climate to a forest change model. The model suggests that in the future some species, such as balsam fir, white birch, red pine and aspen, would no longer thrive in Wisconsin as temperatures rise and more frequent droughts occur.



Department News

Kemp Natural Resources Station receives Connor Award

The Forest History Association of Wisconsin (FHAW) has recognized Kemp Natural Resources Station for its contribution to forestry education. The Connor Award is given in appreciation and recognition of organizations supporting the mission of the FHAW. The FHAW is dedicated to educating the citizens of Wisconsin on the history and importance of forests. Kemp Station contributes to the goals of this mission through support for the work of academic and agency researchers with its facilities and services such as lodging, laboratory space, high speed Internet access, and equipment. In addition, Kemp's outreach program includes public education sessions and a semi-annual newsletter sharing information related to current forestry-related research. Kemp hosts a number of field courses in which natural resource professionals of the future are trained. Finally, the new Mead Residence Hall was furnished in part to honor the history of forestry in Wisconsin, with old logging camp photos and tools. The award was presented at the 31st annual meeting of FHAW in September and is now proudly displayed at Kemp Station.

To learn more about the history of forestry in Wisconsin, visit the Camp Five Museum in Laona, Wisconsin. Once a logging camp, visitors can ride a steam train, visit a blacksmith's shop, go on a forest tour, and explore the museum and nature center. For more information, visit www.camp5museum.org or call 800-774-3414.

New publication "follows the paper trail"

Professor Tom Gower is co-author of a report titled "Following the Paper Trail, The Impact of Magazine and



Dimensional Lumber Production on Greenhouse Gas Emissions: A Case Study," published by the Heinz Center for Science, Economics and the Environment.

The publication summarizes the carbon life-cycle analysis for production of paper products and do-it-yourself lumber products for several companies including Canfor, The Home Depot, Stora Enso North America, and Time Inc. The study quantifies the amount of greenhouse emissions used to produce, for example, Time magazine. Professor Gower and his fellow researchers measured direct and indirect carbon and greenhouse gas emissions produced during harvest, transportation of raw materials, manufacture, transportation of finished products, recovery and recycling of products, and disposal of waste.

Advertisers and consumers are becoming more concerned about sustainable development. If companies can show they are working to reduce their impact on greenhouse emissions, it could return profits in the form of increased sales of wood products and advertising in printed publications.

A copy of "Following the Paper Trail" can be obtained from: The H. John Heinz III Center for Science, Economics and the Environment, 1001 Pennsylvania Ave. NW Suite 735 South, Washington DC 20004; E-mail: info@heinzctr.org.

Grant supports research on the impact of forest parcelization

Mark Rickenbach and Tom Steele will continue their efforts to understand the effects of parcelization on forests thanks to a recent grant from the National Research Initiative of the USDA Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (grant #2006-01456). Their interdisciplinary project seeks to understand the implications of forest parcelization on forest owners and their ability to manage their land for financial and ecological benefit. Given that private forest owners own over half the state's forests, their research has implications for the continued viability of the wood products sector and the ecological integrity and sustainability of the larger landscape. In this combined research and extension project, they will define and categorize small-, medium-, and large-scale forest ownerships through an analysis of data. They also will model the intentions and behaviors of forest owners in completing forestry practices; and they will design, deliver, and evaluate a targeted, "just-in-time" extension program to increase the likelihood that owners will complete prescribed forestry practices. The researchers also will develop and disseminate policy and forest practice recommendations that reduce the negative effects of scale on owners of small- and medium-scale forest parcels within the region. Central to their project is the belief that no single group or interest can overcome the challenges presented by parcelization. Conservation will require a concerted collective effort that spans field forestry, forest policy, and land use.



Forestry alum may be next world tree climbing champ

by Lori Wendricks

In July Joe House (B.S. 1995) could become Tree Climbing Champion of the World...Universe, really, since there aren't any other tree climbing competitions in the galaxy to our knowledge. As champion of the Wisconsin Tree Climbing competition that took place in West Bend this past summer, he will represent Wisconsin at the International Tree Climbing Competition in Honolulu, July 27-28.

"It's not a lumberjack thing!" says Joe, who has done commercial tree work professionally for Stephenson Tree Care of Madison for the past six years. The competition consists of five events, scored with points by judges, and by time. The "Foot Lock" (ascent of 50 feet of rope with no ascending



one," says Joe. The last two events are scored by judges based on time completed, safety factors, and innovative practices. "Work Climb" requires the climber to visit four stations in the canopy where tasks are completed and remove oneself from the tree safely. "Aerial Rescue" involves finding, rigging, and removing an "injured" dummy from the tree. The four highest scorers compete in a final round called the Master's Challenge, which is a lot like the Work Climb. After five years of competing, and two years of disqualifications due to dropped limbs or equipment from the tree (apparently safety includes protecting the judges heads), Joe participated in his third Masters Challenge to win and qualify for the upcoming world championship competition.

device and one's own feet) and the "Belayed Speed Climb" (40-60 feet up) are timed, with the fastest person scoring the highest number of points. The "Throw Bag" event involves tossing a small lead bag on a string into certain areas of a tree as one would to place ropes before a climb. Points are earned depending on the specific area of the tree in which the ropes are set. "It's a lot like shooting pool, that

the other climbers with different companies throughout Wisconsin every year, and to foster a culture of safety and education at our own," says Joe. Check the International Society of Arboreculture (ISA) website in August 2007 to see how Joe did. This year's state competition will be Aug. 18, possibly in Madison. Check the Wisconsin Arborist Association's web site (waa-isa.org) for details.

Lori Wendricks is a freelance writer and local physician who also happens to be married to Joe.

Thank you to our 2006 donors

We take this opportunity to thank all those folks who made a donation to the Department of Forest Ecology and Management during 2006. We appreciate your support and interest in our department, programs, and students. The funds are sometimes tagged for a specific use by the donor. Other donations support scholarships, educational activities, student attendance at professional meetings, and special development projects. Thank you to all of our 2006 donors listed below.

- Bonnie Jane Adelman
- Thomas Albrecht
- Terrence Bush
- Connor Foundation
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- Martin Schuettpelez
- Arthur Sibbach
- Jeff and Jennifer Sorenson
- John Stephenson
- Jeff and Sandra Stier
- Alan Tatzel
- Steve Zieroth



Study examines effects of housing development on birds

In the United States, housing density has substantially increased in and adjacent to forests. Associate Scientist Anna Pidgeon is involved in several related studies to identify the effects of housing density and human populations on birds. A national project in collaboration with the U.S. Forest Service revealed an influence of housing density or residential landcover in 85% of models predicting the number of bird species occurring in a landscape. Moreover, in each decade since 1970, the influence of housing on forest birds has increased in regions with both densely and sparsely settled rural areas.



Pictured above is an Eastern Phoebe nest that was monitored as part of the Baraboo Hills nesting study.

Much closer to home, Dr. Pidgeon is working with graduate student Adrian Lesak on a study in the Baraboo Hills supported by McIntire Stennis funds, The Nature Conservancy, and the Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources. One goal of the study is to uncover effects of housing on forest bird reproductive success. Lesak is monitoring nest success as well as the presence of nest predators like raccoons,

opossums, and chipmunks at plots in deep forest areas of the Baraboo Hills (0.001 houses/acre on average) and will compare these with data from plots in higher housing density areas (0.14 houses/acre on average). The fate of 193 nests, from 30 bird species, has been monitored over two breeding seasons, and 2007 will be the last year of data collection.

Forest Ecology and Management Capital Fund

We invite you to join us in our efforts to establish a capital fund. Proceeds will be used to support student travel to professional meetings, help cover the costs of the summer field camp and the southern trip and to renovate work space in Russell Labs.

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If paying by check, please make your gift payable to UW Foundation Forestry Fund, University of Wisconsin Foundation, 1848 University Avenue, P.O. Box 8860, Madison, WI 53708-8860



Alumni Update

We'd like to hear what's new with you, your family, career, etc. Please complete and return the form below to: Department of Forest Ecology and Management, 1630 Linden Drive, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI 53706. Or e-mail the information to <rpguries@wisc.edu>.

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