



# FOREST ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT NEWS

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

Volume 8, Number 2

June 2005

## News from the Chair

The semester is ended and 12 new Forest Science and Recreation Resources Management students are now officially “alumni,” much to the delight of their parents and the IRS. Four graduate students also completed degree requirements this spring. Our congratulations and best wishes go to all of them.

Several awards are noted in this newsletter, including a campus

Classified Employee Recognition Award to Sandy Fowler, a national teaching award to Tom Lillesand, and a Leopold Fellowship to Volker Radeloff. Other scholarships, fellowships and awards are testimony to the hard work and success of our students, staff, and faculty.

The recent hiring of Prof. Philip Townsend has reversed a recent trend of faculty retirements. We welcome Phil and his family to Madison, and we promise more info soon on his research and its relevance to Wisconsin.

Also note the successful “work-learn” experience completed by a

group of students at the Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area in March. This was a first-time activity, but the response from all quarters was so enthusiastic that we plan to do this again next spring.

As always, I encourage your comments and questions concerning the department, our students, and our programs. If you plan to visit Madison, be sure to stop by to say hello. If you can, alert me that you are coming. I would love to take time to show you around and tell you about the changes since your departure, whether two years ago or 20. - *Ray Guries*

## Alumni Update

Kudos to **Andrew Plantinga** (M.S. 1988), who was granted tenure in 2004 in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at Oregon State University. Andrew has been at OSU since 2001. He reports that his first Ph.D. student at OSU, David J. Lewis, has accepted a position at UW-Madison’s Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics. Andrew and David have been working on a project examining forest fragmentation in the southeastern U.S. and its implications for interior-forest birds. Andrew’s e-mail is: [plantinga@oregonstate.edu](mailto:plantinga@oregonstate.edu).

**Tom Albrecht** (B.S. 1976) has found a good match in both his job and his locale. Tom has spent 28 years and

counting with the WI DNR in Shawano. His work involves assisting private land owners in managing their forests as well as managing 16,000 acres of state forest land. He lives on the Red River, a cold water trout stream that offers great fishing and kayaking. Contact Tom at: [thomas.albrecht@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:thomas.albrecht@dnr.state.wi.us).

After completing an apprenticeship at Land Between the Lakes in Kentucky and Tennessee, **Guy Smith** (B.S. 2003) says it’s nice to be back in Wisconsin. Since July 2004, Guy has been working for the Milwaukee County Park System as a Trails Coordinator. His work includes extending the 106-mile Oak Leaf Trail, writing grants, and working in partnership with several non-profit organizations and government agencies. He also co-supervises a crew that maintains and builds nature trails, removes invasive species, and plants native species.

Guy’s e-mail address is: [gsmith@milwcnty.com](mailto:gsmith@milwcnty.com).

Congratulations to **Alberto Vargas** (Ph.D. 1998). He was recently appointed Associate Director of the Latin American, Caribbean and Iberian Studies Program at the UW-Madison. “Alberto’s excellent academic credentials in the field of

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Forestry and Land Resources are going to be instrumental in strengthening our relationship with departments and academic programs beyond the Humanities and the Social Sciences,” says LACIS Director Guido Podesta. In addition to his administrative responsibilities, Alberto will teach two courses and will advise graduate students in the program. Alberto’s e-mail is: avar-gasp@wisc.edu.

## Student News

### Congratulations to our Spring graduates

#### **B.S. degrees:**

**Forest Science:** Joseph Schwantes, Aaron Wunnicke, Rachel Kronenberg, Robert Murphy, Steven Reinhardt, and Brian Milligan

#### **Recreation Resources Management:**

Talia Sheldon-Desjardins, Keith Kelley, Marc Dembinsky, Julie Schwenn, Tyler Laudon, and Darren Bartosz

#### **M.S. degrees**

Charlotte Gonzalez-Abraham. Thesis: *Building density and landscape patterns in Northern Wisconsin, USA: an interaction of human legacies and the environment*

Lisa Thomas. Thesis: *Sustaining volunteer involvement in ecological restoration*

#### **Ph.D. degrees:**

Sudeep Samanta. Thesis: *Bayesian analysis of a conceptual transpiration model with a comparison of canopy conductance sub-models*

Mo Zhou. Thesis: *Managing resources for multiple purposes under risk: Markov models for southern loblolly pine-hardwood forests*



### Brave souls take the plunge for a worthy cause

A number of folks in the Department of Forest Ecology and Management plunged into the icy February water of Lake Monona in support of the Special Olympic’s Polar Bear Plunge. “Plungers” obtained pledges from those less brave. Funds raised at the event support activities for individuals with intellectual disabilities. FE&M staff and students shown above are (l to r): Shawn Serbin, Dustin Bronson, Nick Povak, Ben Bond-Lamberty, Ingrid Van Herk, Mike Zellers (honorary member of the department), Ron Raunikaar, and Sandy Fowler.

### Rhemtulla receives grant/presents poster

Jeanine Rhemtulla was awarded a NASA-MSU Professional Enhancement Award that supported her attendance at the 2005 Annual Symposium of the U.S. Regional Association of the International Association for Landscape Ecology. She presented a poster titled “Effects of land-use on regional forest carbon storage in Wisconsin, 1850-1996” at the Symposium in Syracuse, New York, in March. The awards are supported by NASA and Michigan State University. Jeanine says she received great feedback on her work at the symposium and met many former UW-Madison graduate students who worked with Professor Mladenoff. Jeanine is a Ph.D. student working with Professor Mladenoff.

### Hawbaker receives CALS Scholarship

Congratulations to Todd Hawbaker, the 2005-06 recipient of the CALS Green Tree Garden Club Scholarship. In addition to the his scholarship award news, Todd gave a presentation at the Madison Ecology Group’s (MEG) Spring Symposium in April. His talk was titled “Changes in the Road Network, Relationships with Housing Development, and the Effects on Landscape Patterns in Northern Wisconsin: 1937-1999. Todd says the spring and fall MEG symposia provide a great environment for meeting other students and faculty doing cutting edge ecological research on campus and are “must see” events for serious ecologists on campus. Todd is a Ph.D. student working with Professor Radeloff.



## Xi Sigma Pi initiates new members and elects officers

The Alpha Nu Chapter of Xi Sigma Pi initiated a number of new members at its meeting on April 21. Xi Sigma Pi (XSP) is the national forestry honor society. The society's objectives are to "secure and maintain a high standard of scholarship in forest resources management education, to work for the improvement of the forest resources management profession, and to promote a fraternal spirit among those engaged in activities related to the forest resources." New members include:

### Undergraduates:

Cody Didier, Matthew Duffy, John Gritt, Margaret Grosenick, Keith Kelley, Matthew Kimmler, Rachel Kronenberg, Joseph Lennart, Steven Neary, Joseph Schwantes, Kristin Shy, Kevin Tita, Aaron Wunnicke.

### Graduate Students:

Jacob Hanson, Todd Hawbaker, Adrian Lesak, Ruhong Li, Nicole Malandri, Jeanine Rhemtulla, Sudeep Samanta, Lisa Thomas, Timothy Wertin, Molly White, Sijia Zhang.

### Faculty:

Eric Kruger, David Mladenoff, Volker Radeloff.

XSP Officers elected at the meeting to serve in 2005-06 are:

**Forester:** Cody Didier

**Associate Forester:** Margaret Grosenick

**Secretary/Fiscal Agent:** Nicole Malandri

**Ranger:** Adrian Lesak

## Meet our new graduate students

**Jane Foster** (jrfoster@wisc.edu) is beginning her Ph.D. program with Prof. David Mladenoff working on a NASA funded project studying insect defoliators in the northern parts of Wisconsin and Minnesota as well as the central Appalachians. The project will combine

## Wunnicke presents talk at the Undergraduate Symposium 2005

Forest Science undergraduate student Aaron Wunnicke presented a talk at the Undergraduate Symposium 2005 at Memorial Union in April. His talk was titled "The Effect of Housing Growth on Ovenbird Habitat and Populations from 1970 to 2000." The Symposium showcases efforts of undergraduate students who complete a guided research project. Wunnicke says it was a good experience. He graduated in May and will then travel to Amsterdam and Berlin to participate in an Urban Ecology training course. After that he says he would like to land a job working on a research project in Latin America. He extends his appreciation to the faculty and staff in FE&M for their guidance and support over the past four years . . . and a special thank you to Diane Walton.



*Aaron Wunnicke, above, says presenting at the Undergraduate Symposium was a positive experience.*

broad scale satellite monitoring of insect defoliation with the LANDIS landscape simulation model. The modeling component of the project will involve further development of a biological disturbance agent module as well as incorporation of defoliation maps into the modeling framework from MODIS satellite data. Jane says they hope to better understand the effects of large and varied defoliation events on carbon cycling at the landscape scale. Before arriving in Madison, Jane spent several years in the Appalachians of Western Maryland doing research on forest composition mapping from field and satellite data. In her free time she hopes to play some soccer and ultimate frisbee, windsurf, or make some pottery.

**Adrian Lesak** (lesak@wisc.edu) is a Ph.D. student in the SILVIS lab of Prof. Volker Radeloff studying the effects of housing growth on forest songbird populations in the Baraboo Hills and across Wisconsin. Growing up in Greenfield,

WI, Adrian says he spent countless hours birding and exploring the pockets of undeveloped land in his neighborhood; sometimes at the expense of schoolwork and many a punctually-delivered newspaper. He pursued a B.S. in Zoology and Biological Aspects of Conservation at the University of Wisconsin. Following graduation, he worked as a biological technician in Washington for the Wenatchee National Forest and Forestry Sciences Laboratory doing threatened and endangered wildlife species surveys and assisting with bird research for the Fire-Fire Surrogate study. Adrian says that this work inspired him to attend graduate school at Alabama A&M University to study the response of bird communities to varying silvicultural treatments in the forests of the Cumberland Plateau. In his free time Adrian likes to get out birding, dream about his own garden, and enjoy a good laugh with friends, preferably over a fire.



## Students get first-hand experience at managing a National Recreational Area

by Shaunna Chase, Talia Sheldon-Desjardins, and Sarah Unz

During spring break in March, a group of recreation resources management students traveled to Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area (LBL) for a work/learn experience. At LBL, we participated in numerous activities, including fire management, wildlife management, federal budgeting 101, environmental education, off-highway vehicle trail maintenance, and campground management. Working directly with the professionals in each area enabled us to get a behind-the-scenes view of how a national recreation area operates.

Each day began with an enthusiastic wake up yell from our advisor, Professor Don Field, bellowing “daylight in the swamp!” Prof. Field



Students put the final touches on a trail maintenance project during their stay at Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area.

and Brian Biesel, UW-Madison alumnus and LBL Customer Service Manager, fearlessly led us throughout the trip. Brian briefed us every morning about that day’s events. With that knowledge we were able to

go out into the field and practice the techniques learned in the morning briefing. The topic one morning concerned how LBL uses environmental education to promote conservation. We soon learned that all of the activities we participated in at LBL were centered on environmental education. A national recreation area like LBL must communicate its management practices effectively with the public. Environmental education is the best tool to do this because managers must be able to garner public support for the conservation practices they choose to perform. This experience has given us valuable experience, insights, and contacts to use in our future as recreation resource managers. “From the feedback I’ve received, the students were very impressed with both the amount and quality of time the LBL staff spent with them,” says Prof. Field. He’s already making plans for a repeat visit in 2006.

Students who participated in the 2005 trip to Land Between the Lakes include (l to r): Greg Jaeger, Shaunna Chase, Cory Wiltgen, Sarah Unz, April Countyman, Tim Vetter, Talia Sheldon, Mark Ruiz, Darren Bartosz, and Professor Don Field.





## Faculty/Staff News

### Buongiorno invited to lecture in France

Professor Joseph Buongiorno will give two invited lectures in France at the end of May. He will present his first lecture, titled "Risk, Ecological Diversity, and Economics of Southern US Forests," at the French Academy of Agriculture in Paris. He will then travel to Nancy to present an invited lecture at the Forest Economics Laboratory of the National Forestry School. That lecture is titled "Modeling and Forecasting International Wood Supply, Forest Stock, and Forest Area Changes."

### Bloch and Radeloff receive collaborative grant

Professors Peter Bloch and Volker Radeloff are part of an interdisciplinary team awarded a CGES collaborative grant for 2005-2007. CGES, the Center for German and European Studies, is a joint UW-Madison, University of Minn.-Twin Cities initiative supported by the German Marshall Fund. The team will develop a research program, a graduate seminar, and an international workshop titled "Paper Landscapes and Lived Landscapes: Cadastral Systems, Agricultural Restructuring, and European Union Expansion." The seminar and workshop will be organized jointly by the UW-Madison group and a group at the UM-TC led by Prof. Francis Harvey (Geography). Other UW-Madison faculty include Stephen Ventura (Soil Science and Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies) and Robert Kaiser (Geography).

### Langston takes on leadership role for American Society for Environmental History

In April 2005, Professor Nancy Langston was elected to be Vice President of the American Society for Environmental History (ASEH). In taking on that role, she also commits to serving as President in 2007. According to its web site, the ASEH "seeks understanding of the human experience of the environment from the perspectives of history, liberal arts, and sciences. The Society encourages cross-disciplinary dialogue on every aspect of the present and past relationship of humankind to the natural world."

### Lillesand honored with teaching award

Professor Thomas Lillesand has received the 2005 SAIC/Estes Memorial Teaching Award honoring his 30 years of excellence in teaching remote sensing, mentoring graduate students, and being lead author of a widely used remote sensing textbook. The award, given by the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS), recognizes an individual's achievement in the promotion of remote sensing and GIS technology and applications through his/her educational efforts. Professor Lillesand received the award at the annual meeting of the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing held in Baltimore, Maryland, in March.

### Bloch will spearhead study in Kyrgyz Republic

Professor Peter Bloch is the principal investigator and team leader for a newly funded 18-month study of the impacts of land reform in the Kyrgyz Republic. The study will assess the land reform process as it has played out over the past 15

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### Fowler honored with award

Sandy Fowler, the department's financial specialist, recently received the 2005 Classified Employee Recognition Award. She is one of five people selected from a group of 50 nominations from across the UW-Madison campus. The award is based on several criteria, including job performance, promoting a positive image of the department, leadership abilities, and community service. Sandy was officially honored at an awards ceremony at Chancellor Wiley's home in April. She is also entitled to attend an employee development program of her choice and received a cash award.



*Chancellor Wiley presents Sandy with her Classified Employee Recognition Award during a recent reception at his home. Sandy was one of five award recipients from the UW-Madison.*



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years to determine its contribution to democratic and market transitions in the country. Professor Bloch also hopes the study will prove useful for future policy and development assistance strategies in the agrarian sector in other countries of the former Soviet Union. The Asian Development Bank is funding the study.

### **Mladenoff receives Distinguished Service Award**

Professor David Mladenoff received the Distinguished Service Award from the U.S. Regional Association of the International Association for Landscape Ecology (US-IALE). The award was presented to him at the organizations's annual conference in

March at Syracuse University in New York. The award is reserved for individuals who have made exceptional contributions to US-IALE in terms of time, energy, and dedication to advance the organization's mission. The recognition was granted in particular for his service as editor-in-chief of the journal *Landscape Ecology* for the past five years.

### **Connor family donates new maple floor for Great Hall**

Thanks to the generosity of WD Flooring and the Connor family, Great Hall in Memorial Union has a spanking new maple floor. WD Flooring president, Peter Connor, is a 1995 UW-Madison graduate who also took courses in FE&M. In fact,

the Connor family's connection to the UW goes back to Peter's uncle, grandfather, and father, all alumni of the UW-Madison. Peter's great aunt, Helen Connor Laird, also graduated from the UW in 1919 and was the university's first female regent. The Connors donated 6,000 sq. ft. of maple flooring for the project. On behalf of all of us who enjoy events in Great Hall, THANK YOU!

### **Welcome Philip Townsend, our new faculty member**

We will soon see a new face in the halls of Russell Labs. Professor Philip Townsend will join the Forest Ecology and Management faculty in August 2005. Professor Townsend brings with him a wealth of expertise in the fields of landscape ecology, remote sensing, GIS, watershed hydrology and hydrologic/terrain modeling, forest insect dynamics, vegetation dynamics, spatial analysis, and quantitative methods. He leaves his current position as an associate professor at the Appalachian Laboratory of the University of Maryland's Center for Environmental Science.

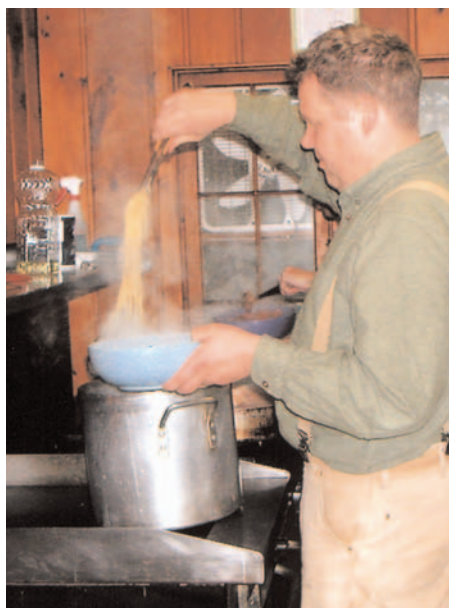
Professor Townsend received his undergraduate education at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville and completed his Ph.D. at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill in 1997. Prior to his position at Maryland, he was on the faculty in the Department of Geography at Texas A&M.

Professor Townsend's family includes his wife, Emily, and their three children. We look forward to showing Professor Townsend and his family what a great city Madison is . . . but maybe we'll leave out the part about Wisconsin winters.

### **Radeloff awarded 2005 Aldo Leopold Leadership Fellowship**

**P**rofessor Volker Radeloff is one of 20 academic scientists nationwide to receive the Aldo Leopold Leadership Fellowship. This summer Radeloff will participate in an intensive communication and leadership training program designed to enhance his ability to communicate complex scientific information to non-scientific audiences, especially policy makers, the media, business leaders, and the public. The Aldo Leopold Leadership Program is based at the Stanford Institute for the Environment. Radeloff's research focuses on causes, patterns, and consequences of landscape change, especially the effects of housing development, on forests and biodiversity in the U.S. He is also interested in land cover and wildlife habitat in Eastern Europe.

*Professor Radeloff demonstrates his prowess with pasta to the delight of cold and hungry students.*



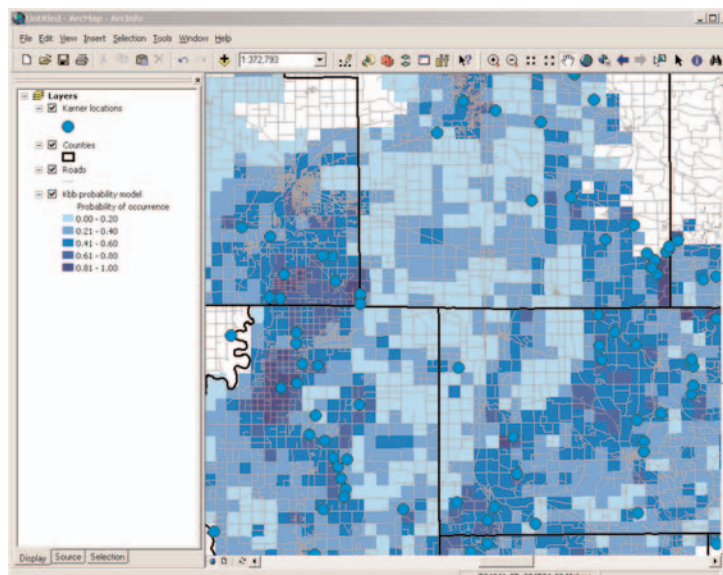


## New project will streamline process of endangered species habitat mapping

Prof. David Mladenoff was awarded a research grant from the UW-Madison Graduate School's Technology Transfer Grants Program. The grant will help fund a project titled "Tools for Industrial Compliance with the US Endangered Species Act: Mapping Endangered Species Habitat." Prof. Mladenoff and Research Program Manager Ted Sickley plan to combine GIS (computer mapping) and statistical modeling methods to identify likely habitat of the Karner blue butterfly (Kbb), a federally listed endangered species that occurs in central and northwestern Wisconsin, as well as several other states. This information will

*The graphic to the right shows an example of how potential Karner blue butterfly habitat could be mapped for use by industries.*

then be provided as digital maps to industries such as timber and utility companies that manage land in this region and are required to modify their activities in and near areas where the Kbb is likely to reside. The completed project could save each company thousands of dollars normally spent on field



surveys by allowing them to target their surveys to those areas most likely to contain Kbb habitat. The same approach can be expanded for use with other species.

### 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 a range of research and instruction activities, help cover the costs of the summer field camp and the southern trip, and to upgrade research space in Russell Labs.

I/we would like to donate: \_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$75 \_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 (please specify amount)

I/we would like to pledge \$\_\_\_\_\_ each year for \_\_\_\_\_ years.

I/we would like to donate \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Graduate Student Travel Fund.

Please charge my gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to my (please circle): Mastercard    Visa    American Express

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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 or e-mail the information to <rpjuries@wisc.edu>.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree and Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel No. \_\_\_\_\_ Fax No. \_\_\_\_\_


Current employer and position: \_\_\_\_\_

News to share: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please return the above form to:  
Department of Forest Ecology and Management  
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