



# FOREST AND WILDLIFE ECOLOGY NEWS



A Newsletter for Dept. of Forest and Wildlife Ecology Staff, Students and Alumni

Vol. 12, No. 2

September 2009

## News from the Chair

We hope you enjoy this first newsletter of the 2009-10 academic year. It provides news from your alumni, student, staff and faculty peers, a peek into some recent department activities and achievements, and it highlights big milestones in the department's life history (e.g., promotions or retirement of valued faculty members; see pg. 5 for details).

In addition to the usual fall teaching, much of the department also is engaged in important work off campus. For example, about a dozen members of the Forest and Wildlife Ecology Department have joined with peers in state and federal agencies in a major effort to understand, predict and possibly mitigate the likely impacts of climate change on landscapes and wildlife. You can tune in to this interesting effort by visiting the web address of the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (<http://www.wicci.wisc.edu/>), and by watching for reports and publications in the coming year (we'll alert you). In the coming year we will highlight other examples of our contributions in natural resource conservation and management.

Please keep sending your news and comments that we can share with our community. These are tough times and your support – yes, including to the Forest and Wildlife Ecology Fund (see page 7) – is always important to us.

— *Bill Karasov, Chair*

## Alumni Update

### The 2000s

**Jennifer (Martin) Stoffel** (M.S. 2005 and Ph.D. 2008 Forestry) is an Assistant Professor of Biology at Upper Iowa University (UIU) in Fayette, IA in the Division of Science and Mathematics. UIU is a private liberal arts university with about 1,000 students on its residential campus (where Jennifer is teaching) and over 6,000 students when including its satellite and online centers. Jennifer's primary responsibilities are teaching, advising, service, and committee work. She continues to collaborate on projects with the Gower and Mladenoff labs here in Forest and Wildlife Ecology. This summer she has focused on preparing and submitting manuscripts for publication based on her dissertation research. ([stoffelj@uiu.edu](mailto:stoffelj@uiu.edu))

**Joe Huck** (B.S. Forest Science 2007) is a Pre-Sale Forester at the Dixie National Forest in Escalante, Utah.

He is considered a Career Intern with the US Forest Service, which means he has a one-year probationary period followed by two years of an extensive training schedule. Joe figures he will have plenty to do in his free time, too, with two national parks, two national monuments, a national recreation area, and a few state parks practically in his backyard. ([jlhuck@uwalumni.com](mailto:jlhuck@uwalumni.com))

**Kristin Maharg** (B.S. Wildlife Ecology 2006) is employed by the Colorado Foundation for Water Education where she coordinates statewide water resources education programs. After completing her undergraduate degree, Kristin instructed a Field Natural History course at the UW Arboretum and completed her M.S. in Water Resources Management at the Nelson Institute on campus. ([KristinMaharg@gmail.com](mailto:KristinMaharg@gmail.com))

**Jason Vroman** (B.S. Recreation 2006) has taken a full-time permanent position as a Colorado State Park Ranger  
*continues on page 2*

### FOREST AND WILDLIFE

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*continued from page 1*

stationed at Boyd Lake State Park. His primary responsibility is to educate park visitors on how to prevent the spread of nuisance species such as zebra mussels. Jason says he previously worked many seasonal positions at various locations in Colorado, but continued to network the entire time until he was eventually offered his current position. (vromanorama@gmail.com)

**Shaunna Chase** (B.S. Recreation Resources and Soil Science 2005) began a permanent position in November 2008 with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as a soil scientist in the Rhinelander Major Land Resource Area (MLRA) Soil Survey Office. She is looking forward to combining her educational background in soil science and recreation resources management to educate professionals and the general public on how to use soil information and various soil digital products available (see <http://soils.usda.gov>). (shaunna.chase@wi.usda.gov)

**Jason Ludden** (B.S. Forest Science 2003) finished his Master of Fine Arts in creative writing at Oregon State University in June of 2008. He took an instructor position at University of Nevada, Reno in the fall teaching introductory composition, fiction workshops, advanced non-fiction, and literature classes. This summer he is trying to finish a novel as well as teach summer school. Jason says UNR's English Department is known for its Literature and the Environment program and adds that two famous environmentalists from Wisconsin—Muir and Leopold—are popular there. (jludden@unr.edu)

*continues on page 3*



## Wildlife Summer Camp at Kemp Station

Another cohort of Wildlife Ecology students have memories of their days at Wildlife Summer Camp at Kemp Station near Woodruff, WI. Eighteen students; five faculty and staff; and many agency, tribal and UW guest presenters attended Camp May 17-31. Summer Camp is a grueling dawn to dark program of fieldwork, tours, demonstrations, lectures, data and report work, but in the end a gratifying experience for all involved. Among their many activities, students conducted daily field surveys and an Eco-Trek field day for 100 middle school students. They net trapped fish, birds, and other wildlife, even a live bear in a culvert trap.

*Photos by Emily Lind*





## Student News

### Daniel Yelle paper receives award from FPS

Forestry Ph.D. candidate Daniel Yelle was awarded second place in the 2009 Forest Products Society (FPS) Wood Award Competition for his paper titled "Investigating the reactivity of pMDI with wood cell walls using high-resolution solution-state NMR spectroscopy." "The Wood Award is the most prestigious FPS award in the area of graduate research in wood and wood products," says FPS Executive Vice President Stefan Bergmann. Daniel's advisor is Prof. John Ralph.

### Jordan Muss awarded WI Space Grant Fellowship

Forestry Ph.D. candidate Jordan Muss received a NASA-funded Wisconsin Space Grant Consortium Graduate Fellowship for the 2009-2010 academic year. Jordan will use the award to further his research project titled "Measurement of Three-Dimensional Canopy Structure Using Discrete Lidar Data." CALS also awarded Jordan the Aldo Leopold (Green Tree Garden Club) Scholarship. Jordan's research is set in the Bayfield Peninsula in northern Wisconsin. He hopes to develop ecological models to simulate how changes to forest cover and structure affect snowmelt-derived streamflows. Prof. David Mladenoff is Jordan's academic advisor.

### Congratulations to these M.S. and Ph.D. recipients

The following students received their degrees in December 2008:

- Elizabeth Berkley**, M.S. Wildlife Ecology
- Karl Malcolm**, M.S. Wildlife Ecology
- Luke Saunders**, M.S. Forestry

### Alumni and friends invited to reunion in Monterey, CA

The Dept. of Forest and Wildlife Ecology will host a reception for Department alumni and friends in conjunction with the Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society in Monterey, California, September 21-24. The reception will be held Tuesday afternoon, Sept. 22, from 4:30 to 7:00 pm at the Monterey Bay Park, just a short walk from the convention site. Walk north along the recreational trail from Fisherman's Wharf, past the commercial wharf to the park picnic/barbeque area on Del Monte Ave. between the bay and Lake Estero. Look for the balloons or signs. If you will be attending the conference, or are just in the area, please join us for beverages, appetizers, a beautiful setting, and a chance to reconnect with friends. If you have any questions, contact Scott Craven at: [srcraven@wisc.edu](mailto:srcraven@wisc.edu) or 608-263-6325.

**Sarah Mittlefehldt**, Ph.D. Forestry and Environment and Resources

Degrees received in May 2009:

- Jacob Dyer**, M.S. Forestry
- David MacFarland**, Ph.D. Wildlife Ecology.

Degrees received in August 2009:

- Corey Halpin**, M.S. Forestry
- Megan Jones**, M.S. Wildlife Ecology
- Emilie Travis**, M.S. Wildlife Ecology
- Ryan Walrath**, M.S. Wildlife Ecology
- Dylan Dillaway**, Ph.D. Forestry
- Jacob Hanson**, Ph.D. Forestry
- Todd Hawbaker**, Ph.D. Forestry
- Gregorio Gavier Pizarro**, Ph.D. Forestry
- Veronique St-Louis**, Ph.D. Forestry
- Mary Sisock**, Ph.D. Forestry
- Peter Wolter**, Ph.D. Forestry
- Daniel Yelle**, Ph.D. Forestry

*continued from page 2*

#### The 1990s

**Julie Rodenberg** (B.S. Forest Science 1998) is working on her Ph.D. in Forestry at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand. She invites any alumni visiting the area to get in touch. ([julie.rodenberg@gmail.com](mailto:julie.rodenberg@gmail.com))

**Alan Mason** (M.S. Forestry 1997) is a Fuels Management Specialist with the Medford (Oregon) District BLM. He has been in this position since 1998 and says he enjoys his work, which includes conducting prescribed burns on 10,000-15,000 acres a year in his district. ([Alan\\_Mason@or.blm.gov](mailto:Alan_Mason@or.blm.gov))

*In the photo below Alan Mason ignites unburned islands of vegetation on an 8,000 acre controlled burn in his district in southwest Oregon.*



**Jeff Knetter** (B.S. 1997, M.S. 2001 in Wildlife Ecology) is the Upland Game and Waterfowl Staff Biologist for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. He is responsible for the statewide development and coordination of the upland game and waterfowl programs for the State of Idaho. Jeff is also the state's technical representative on the Pacific Flyway Study Committee that makes decisions that impact the entire Flyway. ([jeff.knetter@idfg.idaho.gov](mailto:jeff.knetter@idfg.idaho.gov))

**Matt Becket** (B.S. Wildlife Ecology 1996) completed his Ph.D. in May 2009 in the Department of Ecology at Montana State University. His research focused on wolf-ungulate dynamics in

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Greater Yellowstone. In April he accepted a position as Project Manager/CEO for African Wild Dog Conservation Trust in Zambia. He explains that this is a wild dog research and conservation project that will soon transition to the Zambian Carnivore Project as they expand their research scope into large carnivores in general and their prey. (matt@awdczambia.org or mattbecker50@hotmail.com)

In October 2006 **Darrel Covell** (M.S. Wildlife Ecology 1992) took the position of Extension Program Leader for Forestry and Wildlife at the University of New Hampshire. In January 2009 he was appointed Interim Extension Program Leader for Sea Grant Extension, Water Resources and Communities. Darrell says he has reconnected with another alumnus, **Erik Chapman** (M.S. Wildlife Ecology 1999), who moved to Durham, NH last year as a post-doc at the University of New Hampshire after completing his Ph.D. at Old Dominion University. Darrell's email is darrel.covell@unh.edu

**Dale A. Dressel** (B.S. Wildlife Ecology 1990) currently lives in northwestern Wisconsin and is a self-employed exotic aquatic plant specialist. His business focuses on using herbicides to treat exotic plant species on lakes and wetlands. (ddressel@centurytel.net)

**The 1970s**

**Nancy Herbert** (M.S. Wildlife Ecology 1977) lives in North Carolina and is Assistant Director for Research with the US Forest Service, Southern Research Station...but not for much longer! Nancy says she plans to retire in January 2010. She says it's been a great career but it is time for other pursuits. (stollherbert@mindspring.com)

**Gunnar Gundersen** spent a good deal of time in the Dept. of Forest Ecology and Management during his years at the UW (1975-1979). He officially received his degree in Economics in 1979 but

*continues on page 5*



*Amy Jahnke (far right) poses with fellow Wisconsinites attending the Ligna convention in Hannover, Germany. Also pictured (l to r) are Terry Mace, WI DNR; Steve Hubbard, F&WE graduate student; and Scott Bowe, Professor in F&WE.*

## ‘Forest Science degree can take you places you never imagined’

*by Amy Jahnke*

The wood products industry is fascinating, but I never thought this is where I would find my niche in the world. I came to UW-Madison thinking that I wanted to be a forester and help manage public land. After graduating in 2004 (B.S. Forest Science), I received a Danzer Fellowship sponsored by the Danzer Group, the world's largest producer of hardwood veneer, to work and study in Germany for a year. After an amazing year abroad learning all about veneer production, I decided I should try being a forester and spent two years with the Michigan DNR in Gladwin, MI. I learned a lot, but realized that my vocational passion is farther down the wood products supply chain.

Currently, I am a graduate student in the Department of Wood Science and Forest Products at Virginia Tech. This summer my research has taken me to the Salzburg University of Applied Sciences in Kuchl, Austria, to collect data for my dissertation on innovation strategies of firms in the hardwood veneer industry.

The first two weeks of my trip were spent attending wood industry trade shows in Germany with Prof. Scott Bowe (F&WE, UW-Madison), Steve Hubbard (F&WE, UW-Madison graduate student), and Terry Mace (Wisconsin DNR). We visited “interzum,” the world's largest trade fair for suppliers of the furniture and interiors industry, in Cologne, and “Ligna,” the world fair for the forestry and wood industries, in Hannover. We saw some of the newest innovations in the wood products industry at these two fairs.

Then I joined a group of students studying Wood Technology at the Salzburg University of Applied Sciences in Kuchl, Austria, on an industry tour of companies in Germany, Switzerland, Italy and Austria. We had visited sawmills and

*Wood products continues on page 7*



## Faculty/Staff News

### Norwegians honor Buongiorno



Joseph Buongiorno received an Honorary Doctor degree from the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (UMB) at Ås, Norway in May 2009. The award ceremony

was part of UMB's 150th anniversary celebration with the King of Norway in attendance. Professor Buongiorno was selected for his "contributions towards decision modeling, economic forecasting, international trade, and development planning related to sustainable management of forests."

### Bloch retired in July



Peter Bloch, Faculty Associate and Senior Scientist in the Dept. of Forest and Wildlife Ecology retired from the UW-Madison in July. Peter joined the department in 1999.

He held prior positions in UW-Madison's Dept. of Economics and the Land Tenure Center. He received his undergraduate education at Harvard College, earned his Master's degree from Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and his Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley. His professional interests revolve around land tenure issues and natural resources management, especially in developing countries. He taught Agroforestry, Communities and Forests, and courses related to conflicts over natural resources. His recent research has focused on property rights

and land markets. In retirement Peter plans to continue professional work in the field by consulting with international organizations and assisting his current graduate students with finishing their degrees. He has also begun preparing for a new career. He is in the midst of a J.D. program at Concord Law School. He says, however, he will always make time to be with his new granddaughter.

### Drake promoted with tenure



David Drake was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in April 2009. Professor Drake is an Extension Wildlife Specialist whose work focuses on wildlife damage management, urban wildlife management and youth education. He has developed an innovative program for incorporating wildlife-friendly habitat into new home developments through native landscaping, environmental corridors, and open space. He currently is working to restore the greater prairie chicken in Wisconsin and has developed research projects on the emerging problem of wildlife mortality associated with cell phone towers, wind turbines and other tall landscape structures.

### Stanosz collaborates with Quebec researchers

Prof. Glen Stanosz spent this summer as a guest and invited researcher at the Center for Forest Studies, Laval University in Quebec, Canada. With his host, Louis Bernier, Prof. Stanosz conducted studies on the poplar leafspot and canker pathogen *Septoria musiva*. He also visited with provincial and federal forest scientists and toured nursery facilities and commercial hybrid poplar plantations areas.

*continued from page 4*

Prof. Joseph Buongiorno was his advisor. During a trip to Norway to receive an award, Prof. Buongiorno had the pleasure of visiting with Gunnar and learned he is serving as a Representative for Hedmark County in the Norwegian Parliament (Storting). (gunnar.gundersen@stortinget.no)

**Daniel Bach** (B.S. Wildlife Ecology 1975) spent 22 years in the U.S. Navy as a Naval Aviator flying A-6E and P-3C aircraft. After he retired as a Commander (O-5), he worked 10 years at American Girl as a Unix Systems Administrator. He says that even though his employment has not been directly related to his degree, he's still glad he majored in Wildlife Ecology. "I think I enjoy and understand the environment much more as a result," says Daniel. (dnjbach@yahoo.com)

**Joe Kresse** (B.S. Forest Science 1973) reports he is "retired and enjoying the environs of La Grande, Oregon," located in the northeastern corner of the state. When we heard from him in May he had just returned from a 5-week road trip that took him through California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas and Arkansas. Joe volunteers on the Union County Planning Commission, La Grande Landscaping and Forestry Commission and is a car host on the Eagle Cap Excursion Train, a seasonal scenic train that travels along the Grande Ronde and Wallowa Rivers. (kressej@gmail.com)

**Michael Wagner** (B.S. Forest Science 1972) continues his nearly 30-year tenure at Northern Arizona (NAU) in a new position: Coordinator of International Forestry in the School of Forestry. In that role he manages the undergraduate international forestry focus area, NAU/Southern Cross University Exchange, a series of international field courses including one to Ghana this summer, and the Peace Corps Masters International Program in Forestry. Last fall Michael received the

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William von Schlich SF National Award for International Forestry.  
(Mike.Wagner@nau.edu)

**Bill Hasse** (B.S. Forestry 1971; M.S. Forest Biometrics 1977) is Senior Forester with Verso Paper and lives in Iron Mountain, MI. From 1980 to 2004 he managed industry owned lands for Champion International Corp. and International Paper (IP), mainly in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. He says when the lands were sold by IP and separated from the mills he began working for the successor company, which owns four coated publishing paper mills. He currently works on buying timber sales as part of a fiber supply group. "I am in the woods nearly every day and still enjoy it a great deal," says Bill. "I am now older than many of the trees we harvest!" (bhasse@chartermi.net)

**Milt Friend** (Ph.D. Wildlife Ecology 1971) has retired and is an Emeritus Scientist, USGS National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC). He lives in Fitchburg, WI and continues to volunteer at NWHC and lectures at the UW as an adjunct professor. Among his many other activities, Milt says he enjoys photography, fishing and playing baseball. (friend2@charter.net)

### In Memorium

**Heath Van Handel** (B.S. Wildlife Ecology 1996) died in an airplane accident on April 8, 2009. Heath was piloting a Cessna 337, twin-engine aircraft leased by WI DNR. He was responding to a wildfire in the Town of Cary in Wood County, Wis. Heath was a WI DNR air attack pilot whose duties included observing wildfires and relaying information about the fire to fire fighters on the ground. Heath was married to Jenny and had two sons, Matt and Brett.

## New Publications

**F**orest and Wildlife Ecology faculty, staff, and students have published a number of articles so far this year.

Below is a sample of those published works:

Incidence of *Venturia* shoot blight in aspen varies with tree chemistry and genotype, by L.M. Holeski, A. Vogelzang, G. Stanosz, and R.L.

Lindroth. *Biochemical Systematics and Ecology* 37:139-145.

Site-related influences on cone-borne inoculum and asymptomatic persistence of *Diplodi* shoot blight fungi on or in mature red pines, by I.E. Munck, D.R. Smith, T. Sickley, G.R. Stanosz. *Forest Ecology and Management* 257:812-819.

The Changing Social Landscape in the Midwest: A Boon for Forestry and Bust for Oak? by T. Knoop, L. Schulte, N.

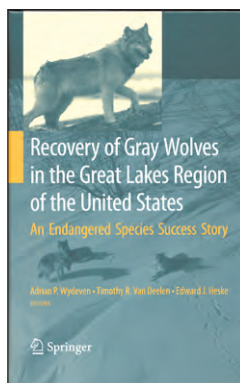
Grudens-Schuck, and M. Rickenbach. *Journal of Forestry* 107(5):260-266.

Human impacts on regional avian diversity and abundance, by C.A. Lepczyk, C.H. Flather, V.C. Radeloff, A.M. Pidgeon, R.B. Hammer, and J. Liu. *Conservation Biology* 22(2):405-416.

Historical forest baselines reveal potential for continued carbon sequestration, by J.M. Rhemtulla, D.J. Mladenoff and M.K. Clayton. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 106: 6082-6087.

The MFL and Local Property Tax Revenues for Townships: An Exploratory Study of Shifting Enrollments, by M. Rickenbach and L. Saunders. UWEX Cooperative Extension Service Publ. GWQ52 & WI Dept. of Natural Resources PUB-FR-432 2009.

Patterns of hybridization and introgression between invasive *Ulmus pumila* (Ulmaceae) and native *U. rubra* by Juan E. Zalapa, Johanne Brunet, and Raymond P. Guries. *American Journal of Botany* 96(6):1116-1128



### New book available on Gray Wolf recovery

*Recovery of Gray Wolves in the Great Lakes Region of the United States: An Endangered Species Success Story*, edited by Prof. Timothy Van Deelen and others, was published earlier this year. The book traces wolf recovery in the Great Lakes region from diverse perspectives ranging from ecology, management and policy to the cultural, social and historical significance of wolves. Besides co-editing the book, Prof. Van Deelen was involved in writing several of the book's

chapters. Other Forest and Wildlife Ecology staff also contributed chapters to the book. Prof. David Mladenoff, Sarah Pratt, and Ted Sickely contributed a chapter on changes in habitat occupied by wolves. Adjunct Associate Prof. Curt Meine wrote a chapter on the history of wolf research and conservation in the upper Great Lakes. The hardcover, 350-page book is published by Springer.



*Wood products continued from page 4*

Prof. Joseph Buongiorno is a forest economist but in his leisure time he enjoys working with wood to create beautiful furniture. That is how the department came to possess the bench (below) made from pine, hemlock and fir. The bench is located in the hallway outside the computer lab on the first floor of Russell Labs. Enjoying a relaxing chat with Prof. Buongiorno (on the left) is Prof. Eric Kruger.

vener manufacturer in the past, so the purpose of this trip was to gain an understanding of the importance of wood to other industry segments. We visited non-traditional wood products manufacturers, like furniture designers, green home builders, violin makers, and butcher block makers.

The remainder of my summer has been spent preparing for and visiting companies, trade associations and government officials in Germany, Belgium, and Austria. Not only do I have the opportunity to do a lot of networking and see beautiful parts of Europe, but I get to visit companies to learn about how their businesses work.

As the summer winds down and I prepare to return to the U.S. for the fall semester, I can step back and appreciate that the moral of this story is that the versatility of a forest science degree can take you places you never imagined. I think a lot of students overlook the opportunities available to use their degrees in the wood products industry. I attribute my success to being open to new opportunities and getting some great advice from my professors at UW-Madison and Bob Smith, my current adviser at Virginia Tech.



### Forest and Wildlife Ecology Fund

We invite you to join us in our efforts to provide support for important department priorities. 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.

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

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If paying by check, please make your gift payable to UW Foundation Forest and Wildlife Ecology 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 and Wildlife Ecology, 1630 Linden Drive, UW-Madison, Madison, WI 53706. Or e-mail the information to <rpguries@wisc.edu>.

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

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

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

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

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

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