



# FOREST AND WILDLIFE ECOLOGY NEWS



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

Vol. 12, No. 3

December 2009

## News from the Chair

We made this holiday season's newsletter a priority so we can share news (both sad and happy) along with reminders of things we all cherish.

- The sad news is that our dear colleague and former chair Professor Ron Giese passed away October 18. Part of our tribute to Ron appears on page 2; more will come in a memorial resolution that will be presented in the University Senate (watch for announcement).

- Professor Joseph Buongiorno is retiring (page 3), but knowing that Joe plans to continue his involvement in the Department assuages that sting.

- Professor and former chair Ray Guries was also thinking of retirement, but in a happy surprise (at least for us!) was invited to take a special position in the College administration (page 2).

At first glance, these hallmarks of passing time lead to concern about the future. Yet it's important to remember the legacy of our senior faculty whose leadership set the stage for our department's continuing success. Also heartening is the impressive caliber and achievements of our students, including many of you. In this newsletter we introduce some of our newest students (pages 6-7). We wish them success and hope they will share our pride in the department. As you know well, that

pride stems from participation in an academic enterprise that transcends our personal life stories in both time and impact on the world. We very much appreciate your help in sustaining it, and we wish you the happiest of holiday seasons!

## Alumni Update

### The 1990s

**Heather M. Rueth** (B.S. Forestry 1994) is an Associate Professor in the Biology Department at Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, MI. She joined the faculty in the fall of 2003 and teaches courses on Terrestrial Ecosystem Ecology, Natural Resource Management Policy, Environmental Pollution, and Introduction to Resource Systems. After graduating from UW-Madison she worked two years at the Institute of Ecosystem Studies in New York then earned a Ph.D. in Ecology from Colorado State University. She also did a post-doc at the Ecosystems Center of the Marine Biological Laboratory in Massachusetts. (ruethh@gvsu.edu)

**Susan Kedzie** (B.S. Wildlife Ecology 1993) is the Invasive Species Program Coordinator for the Leech Lake Division of Resource Management in Minnesota. Susan says she enjoys her work with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. And her 6 1/2 year old daughter enjoys fishing on the Minnesota lakes. (susank@lldrm.org)

### The 1980s

**Michael Huebschmann** (B.S. Forest Science 1984, M.S. Forestry 1986, Ph.D. Ag Econ OK State 2000) operates a consulting firm, Huebschmann & Associates LLC out of Meridian, Idaho. He began the business after his position was eliminated from Boise Cascade in a downsizing effort in 2004. His clients span the continent and include private firms, ENGOs and state agencies. Mike is also a partner in Delphi Advisors, a partnership between Huebschmann & Associates LLC and Straight Arrow Consulting, Inc. Mike and his colleagues provide expertise in a number of areas relating to forest economics and management. (MikeH@Huebschmann-Associates.com)

**Jan Johnson** (B.S. Forest Science 1983) is Remote Sensing Specialist with the USDA Forest Service's Remote Sensing Applications Center in Salt Lake City, Utah. Over the summer he conducted some coordination work for an Alaska mapping effort followed by

*continues on page 2*

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*continued from page 1*

an assignment of national infrared coordinator for the two Forest Service IR aircraft based in Ogden. (jvjohnson@fs.fed.us)

### The 1970s

**Dan Schuller** (B.S. Recreation Resources Management 1978) just completed his first year as the Director of the Wisconsin State Parks. A career employee of WI DNR, Dan started as a Park Ranger in 1979. After serving 29 years with the Land Management Program, he returned to the Parks Program last year as the Director. (Daniel.Schuller@wisconsin.gov)

**Thomas L. Noland** (M.S. Forestry 1977) moved to Canada in 1991 to accept a position as research scientist at the Ontario Forest Research Institute in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. His current research interests include a remote sensing project in partnership with York University using hyperspectral imagery and high intensity lidar to inventory tree species and measure canopy chlorophyll as a way to estimate forest health. He is also conducting research on the longevity of red oak acorns in storage and another on the sustainable harvest of Canada yew in Ontario. Tom is treasurer of the Canadian Institute of Forestry Central Ontario Section and helped organized a joint meeting with the Michigan SAF in March 2009. (tom.noland@ontario.ca)

**Sharon (Mikol) Ritter** (B.S. Wildlife Ecology 1976, M.S. Wildlife Ecology 1979) lives and works in western Montana and recently made a career move. After a career with Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and the USDA Forest Service, Sherry reports she is now happily working in the private sector for The Biomimicry Institute (<http://www.biomimicryinstitute.org>), and the Biomimicry Guild (<http://www.biomimicryguild.com>). Sherry and her husband, Dan, have two sons, Torrey and Dylan, in their early twenties. (S287ritter@mac.com)

## Department News

### Guries takes appointment in CALS administration

On Nov. 9, 2009, Professor Ray Guries took on the position of Interim Vice Dean and Associate Dean for Research in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS) Deans Office. In his new role Prof. Guries will represent the college in the absence of the Dean and Director as well as lead the college's research enterprise and manage the Research Division of CALS. The position's previous tenant, Irwin Goldman, is serving as Interim Dean of CALS while Molly Jahn takes a one-year leave to serve as deputy undersecretary of research, education and economics at the USDA.

### Former chair Ron Giese passes away at age 75

Emeritus Professor Ronald Giese died on Oct. 18, 2009, at his home in Middleton, Wis. after a brief illness. Prof. Giese was recruited to UW-Madison from Purdue University in 1975 to serve as chair of the Department of Forestry (later merged with Wildlife Ecology).



*Prof. Ronald Giese*

His 23-year longevity as chair, the longest-serving chair in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, is a testament to his excellent administrative skills. He built the department into a national leader in forestry education and research and leaves a legacy of faculty that he recruited, mentored and watched develop into respected educators and scientists.

During his university tenure he published over 100 articles, largely pertaining to modeling and quantitative ecology of forest insects. The American Association for the Advancement of Science recognized his scientific credentials and status by electing him Fellow. At the national level Prof. Giese was appointed to successive terms on the Forestry Research Advisory Council by Secretaries of Agriculture Block, Lyng and Madigan. He was also appointed Program Manager for the USDA Competitive Research Grants Office and later was appointed to the National Research Initiative Advisory Council.

On the UW-Madison campus Prof. Giese served on the Biological Sciences Divisional Committee, Public Functions Committee, University Senate, and the Graduate School Faculties for Integrated Pest Management and Recreation Resources. His leadership resulted in the construction of the Aldo Leopold addition to Russell Laboratories and the Gordon R. Connor Center of Excellence for Forestry Research. The fruits of Prof. Giese's efforts are reflected even today in the productivity of the faculty and their numerous college, campus and national awards for teaching, research and service. He retired from the UW-Madison in 1998. He is survived by his wife, Maureen, sons Ronald and Gregory, and three grandchildren.

Prof. Giese's family has established a memorial graduate student scholarship fund at the UW Foundation. If you would like to contribute to the fund, please make checks payable to UW Foundation and indicate the the donation is for the "Dr. Ronald Giese Graduate Student Memorial Award in Forestry." Contributions may be sent to the address below.

University of Wisconsin Foundation  
US Bank Lockbox  
PO Box 78807  
Milwaukee WI 53278



## Faculty/Staff News

### Professor Joseph Buongiorno enters retirement



I was born on a small farm in Golfech, a small village in the south of France. My parents had emigrated there from Italy in the 1930s. Little would they have thought that their son would become the Class of 1933 Bascom Professor at the University of Wisconsin. If I have accomplished anything, I owe much of it to my parents, teachers, and colleagues in France and in America.

In France I had marvelous tutors, from the small elementary school in Valence d'Agen in the 1950s, when everything seemed possible, to the Lycée Pierre de Fermat in Toulouse where I did my baccalauréat, to the Ecole Supérieure du Bois in Paris where I became an engineer in 1967. Throughout these years I received generous scholarships from the French government, without which I could never have continued my studies.

Then, it was the big jump to America, at the College of Forestry at Syracuse where Professor William A. Duerr had offered me a Research Assistantship to do my Master's degree. It paid exactly \$50 a week, but what a wonderful opportunity! Duerr was the first to teach me the marvels of mathematical modeling. I was hooked, and although I had thought to remain in the States a few months only, I went to Berkeley to continue to study with Professor Denis Teeguarden and to obtain my Ph.D. in Forest Economics in the early 1970s. This was before returning to Europe for my first job as an economist and statistician in the Department of Forestry at the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) in Rome, where I had extraordinary colleagues and mentors in the persons of Dr. Stan Pringle and Mr. Alf Leslie.

I ended up crossing the Atlantic one more time to start a career in teaching and research at the Department of Forestry at the



*Can you find Joseph Buongiorno in this class photo taken in the in Valence d'Agen, France in the 1950s? That's young Joseph third from the left on the first row. Says, Buongiorno, "The teacher, Madame Terrié, was the very best tutor I ever had."*

University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dean Stephen Smith, who hired me in 1975 without an interview, surprised me on my first day by expressing his wish, over a coffee at Rennebohm's, that this would be my definitive career move. I never thought of it in those terms, but here I am, still in Madison after 34 years!

These have been great years. The University of Wisconsin, and my Department in particular, have given me a privileged setting to teach and do research. Here, I have had wonderful colleagues and numerous graduate and undergraduate students who made me proud by their own accomplishments. I was able to continue exciting international work with the FAO, the World Bank, and several European institutions. This work has been well rewarded. I am especially proud to hold the Class of 1993 Bascom and the John N. McGovern Professorships, honorary doctorates from Norway and Sweden, and membership in the French Academy of Agriculture and the International Academy of Wood Science.

In the future, I wish to continue as an Emeritus Professor to study Forest Economics and Management at my own leisurely pace. I have also promised my wife, Angela, that I shall finish that boat in the basement and take it out sailing. — *Professor Joseph Buongiorno*

### Vaughan honored by peers in Costa Rica

Christopher Vaughan, Adjunct Professor of the Dept. of Forest and Wildlife Ecology was honored at the 25th Anniversary ceremony of the International Institute for Wildlife Conservation and Management (ICOMVIS) for his role in founding the

organization. He also served as its director, professor, researcher and thesis advisor. The ceremony was held Oct. 14, 2009, in Costa Rica.

### Knoot awarded CHANS fellowship

Tricia Knoot, Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Dept. of Forest and

Wildlife Ecology was awarded the CHANS Fellowship under the NSF-supported program—"International Network of Research on Coupled Human and Natural Systems (CHANS-Net)." The fellowship provides funds for Dr. Knoot to attend the CHANS-Net annual meeting held in conjunction with the Association of American Geographers April 14-18, 2010, in Washington, D.C.





# Field research provides view of China’s rural culture

by Jodi Brandt

I recently returned from three months in the Chinese Himalayas, where I perform research as part of an NSF IGERT program here at UW-Madison. I am a PhD student working with Dr. Volker Radeloff, and I study land use/land cover change in Northwest Yunnan province, a “biodiversity hotspot.” Unlike the China we read about in newspapers and magazines – densely-populated and developed – my study area is a rural, mountainous region at the southern border of Tibet.

In the past 30 years, this region has been subject to many forces of land cover change acting at multiple scales, including traditional Tibetan land use practices, economic development,

*I spend much time getting lost (literally) in vast stretches of high mountain forests. . . and sipping yak butter tea in . . . alpine herder huts.*

national environmental protection policies and global climate change. I will use satellite imagery to quantify the effects of this diverse array of driving forces at the regional scale.

My research will also address how land cover change affects biodiversity. For example, the most evident change in NW Yunnan has been the decimation of the highly-diverse natural forest ecosystems by intensive logging.



Photo above shows recently logged timber in a Tibetan village at the base of the Meili Snow Sacred Mountain range in NW Yunnan, China. PhD student Jodi Brandt will return to China in the spring to collect data on the impact of intensive logging on songbird abundance and diversity.

To understand how this deforestation has influenced biodiversity at the local scale, next spring I will return to perform a breeding bird survey. I will measure and compare songbird abundance and diversity in Tibetan sacred forest patches (where natural forests have been protected) versus the surrounding secondary forests.

By necessity, I’m learning a great deal about Chinese language and culture. However, much of my time in the field is spent in a Tibetan environ-

ment. I typically stay in the homes of rural Tibetan families, whose language, dress, food, and religion are distinctly different from the rest of China. And far from immersed in masses of people, I spend much time getting lost (literally) in vast stretches of high mountain forests, drinking crystal clear water out of rushing mountain streams, and sipping yak butter tea in dark and tiny Tibetan alpine herder huts.



Photo by Lauren Burbank

David Helmer  
Jeff Storr

Craig Toime

Zack  
Paul M...  
Card Williams

Card Williams

Mary M...  
Cecilia

Cecilia

Paul...

Sam...

Bill Karason

Bill Karason

Joseph Bongiorno  
Christie B...  
Adena Rissman

Scott Lutz

John Cary

Jim Berkelman

Anna...

Jamie Rack  
S.T. Corner

Cindy Jenkins

Laurie Ballentine

Michael D. Samuel

Jeff Caven

# Season's Greetings!

From all of us in the Department of  
Forest and Wildlife Ecology

David...

Scott Bove

Eric Kruger

Neil...

Paul...

Paul...





## Student News

### Welcome new graduate students

This fall we welcome nine new masters and PhD students into the department. They bring with them a wide range of research interests and backgrounds. Below each student has prepared a brief bio sketch so you can learn a bit about each of them.



**Matthias Baumann**  
(mbaumann3@wisc.edu)  
I started this fall as a PhD degree candidate working with Prof. Mutlu Ozdogan as my advisor. In my research I am interested in how

humans have impacted Russian temperate forests after the fall of the Iron Curtain in 1990 and how these forests will develop in the future. Spatially explicit analyses using remote sensing, GIS, and statistical models form the methodical backbone of my work. I am also looking for ways to link my work to other disciplines to put it into a larger context. I received my Diploma in Geography with minors in Meteorology and Geomatics at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin in August 2009. Outside of work, sports are my first fascination besides reading and spending time with my friends and my family. Triathlons are my first choice of sport both participating and watching, but I've already had my first football and hockey experiences here on campus! I have also been introduced to American style cooking, including steak and eggs for breakfast.



**James Burnham**  
(burnham@wisc.edu)  
I am a PhD candidate in the SILIVIS lab working with Prof. Anna Pidgeon. The central goal of my research is to develop spatially explicit models that predict waterbird use at Poyang Lake in

that predict waterbird use at Poyang Lake in

southeastern China and use these models to develop conservation tools for the critically endangered Siberian Crane. I received my Master's degree under Dr. Bill Karasov through the UW-Madison's Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies in December of 2007 and I have been working with the nearby International Crane Foundation on their work at Poyang Lake since 2003. I was a Peace Corps volunteer in Mongolia from 2000-2002 where I worked with national park staff performing Snow Leopard surveys as well as teaching environmental education at the school of my rural community. In 1999, I received my BA in Biology with a Minor in Chinese language and history from Denison University in Granville, Ohio. I enjoy activities that get me outside, particularly backpacking and running or biking. Born and raised in Decatur, Georgia, I often miss good fried chicken and sweet tea, but have really come to appreciate a nice Friday night fish fry and fried cheese curds.



**Kelly Crosset** (crosset@wisc.edu). I am a Master's student working with Prof. Mark Rickenbach. My research involves individual and group landowner decision making and analyzing

the effectiveness of social networks. I graduated in May 2009 from Juniata College in Huntingdon, PA with a BA in Environmental Science and Policy and a minor in Anthropology. I've lived most of my life in York, PA as well as Baltimore, MD and just moved to Madison this past August. My past research and work experiences involve many subjects ranging from water quality and AMD to surveillance and mitigation of illegal dumping to educational programs for children.



**Huan Gu**  
(ghu6@wisc.edu)  
I am a PhD candidate working with Prof. Phil Townsend. My research interest is mapping ecological patterns of forest using multi-source

remote sensing imagery. I received my Bachelor degree in Geographic Information

Systems from China University of Geosciences in 2007, and got my Masters degree in Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing from Wuhan University in 2009. Though this is my first time outside my home country of China, I like Madison very much including its nice people, colorful fall, beautiful lakes and delicious food. In my spare time, hiking and camping are my favorite activities. I also look forward to skiing during my first winter in Madison.



**Christina Locke**  
(clocke@wisc.edu). I am a PhD student working with Prof. Adena Rissman. Currently, we are compiling data on forested lands in Wisconsin in order to

understand changes in conservation strategies over time. I graduated from UW-Eau Claire in 2007 with a BS in Biology and a minor in Environmental Science. After college, I worked for the Environmental Science department at UC-Berkeley researching pollinator communities in the agricultural landscapes of California's Central Valley. Since making my triumphant return to the Midwest in August, I have been enjoying all those Wisconsin things that I missed in California--frozen custard, fried cheese, and seasons, to name a few. I am an avid runner and all-weather outdoor enthusiast.



**Scott Peckham**  
(sdpeckha@wisc.edu). I am a PhD degree candidate working with Prof. Tom Gower. My research involves modeling the carbon cycle and potential impacts of traditional and biomass harvesting in upper

Midwest forests. I received a BS in Electrical and Computer Engineering and a MS in Environmental Monitoring from UW-Madison. While I am a new graduate student, I am not new to the department. I have been a researcher in the Gower lab since June 2005. My other interests include hunting, fishing, and pretty much everything outdoors.

*Profiles continue on page 7*



Student profiles continued from page 6



**Chris Pollentier** (pollentier@wisc.edu). I am a Master's degree candidate working with Prof. Scott Lutz. My research involves investigating the relation between landscape features and the

survival and productivity of wild turkey hens in Wisconsin. I received my BS in Biology - Environmental Science Concentration from the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse in May 2005. I then proceeded to work an array of tech positions for the USGS and WI DNR where I helped performed various studies on Common Loons, Blue-winged Teal, and other fowl. My wife, Brittany, and I are both Wisconsinites, and while we have travelled for both work and pleasure across the country and beyond the borders, we are always eager to return home to friends and family. And besides, where else can you get a good old Wisconsin brat!



**Jennifer Stenglein** (jstenglein@wisc.edu). I am a PhD candidate in Wildlife Ecology and am working with Prof. Tim Van Deelen. My research focuses on the survival of radio-collared wolves in

Wisconsin over the last 30 years. The main goals of the project are to assess what is affecting survival, with a specific emphasis on habitat, and how different harvest scenarios affect population viability. I received a BS from Grove City College, PA, and a MS from the University of Idaho where I was working on a noninvasive genetic sampling monitoring program for wolves. It is great to be in Madison and I especially enjoy the bike trails and great food.

**Kelly Wendland**

(kwendland@wisc.edu). I am a PhD candidate working with Profs. Volker Radeloff and Mutlu Ozdogan. I am working on a project in Eastern Europe on forest cover change



after the collapse of the Soviet Union. My interests are in understanding how institutions and policies shaped natural resource outcomes during this transition. I received a MA in Applied Economics from UW-Madison last spring. I also hold a MS in Natural Resources Management and a BS in Biology. Prior to moving to Madison I worked for Conservation International in Washington, DC and served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Togo. When I am not working, I enjoy traveling, being outdoors, and playing tennis.

## Get your Forestry Gear for the Holidays!

The Forestry Club has new embroidered sweatshirts, stocking hats, and baseball caps available with a University of Wisconsin Forestry logo. If you would like to order an item, please contact Scott Bowe at sbowe@wisc.edu or 608-265-5849. Show your support for your alma mater. Proceeds from the sale support student educational opportunities within the Department. Cash or checks payable to **Forestry Club**.

Item	Price
Grey knit winter hats	\$14
Green knit winter hats	\$14
Black knit winter hats (red border)	\$14
Black knit winter hats (grey border)	\$14
Camo baseball caps	\$20
Olive green baseball caps (old logo)	\$ 5
Crew neck sweatshirts (navy blue, charcoal grey)	\$23
Hooded sweatshirts (navy blue, charcoal grey)	\$25



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### **We enjoy hearing from you!**

We'd like to hear what's new with you, your career, family, etc. Drop us a note and include your name, degree and year, and any news you'd like to share with us. Please send your email to Mary Miron at:

**<mjmiron@wisc.edu>**

or drop a hard copy in the mail to the return address above.

### **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 \_\_\_\_\_  
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