



FOREST ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT NEWS

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

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News from the Chair

The past year has been a busy one. It seems that social organizations, including forestry departments, are no different from ecological systems in that they are seldom static for very long. We are constantly experiencing change, some of which can even be painful in the short run. On the positive side, for the first time since I became chair, we have almost a full complement of faculty. The most recent addition, Dr. Volker Radeloff, is profiled in this edition. He is joined by his wife, Dr. Anna Pidgeon, who holds an Assistant Scientist position with the department. She brings expertise in the area of landscape and wildlife ecology with a focus on the relationship between habitat and habitat change for birds. On a sadder note, we lost a key support person when Pauline Miller left the department earlier this month (see Department News).

We do not anticipate any major change in faculty in the next several years, but during the period 2005-2010 more than one-third of the faculty will be eligible to retire. These will be exciting times because they will provide an opportunity to recruit faculty with new expertise and to move the department in new directions. Faculty and staff are currently reviewing and updating the department's staffing plan and discussing what those new directions might be. Universities must stay at the forefront of science if they are to remain socially relevant, but change comes so quickly nowadays that it's not easy staying out in front of it; e.g., witness the emergence of the new field of landscape ecology within just the past few years.

Another area of change relates to space needs. Some of you will recall what a relief it was to move out of the Stock Pavilion into the new wing in Russell Labs. With our growing programs, we are now back occupying the first and most of the second floors of the Stock Pavilion. The rooms there are bright with lots of windows, but the lack of climate control isn't good for computers or people and the leaky roof provides for occasional "rustic" experiences. It's not just the quantity of space that is limiting, though. Russell Labs is not all that old, but some of the space simply isn't useful for modern science any more. Room 110 is probably the best example of this problem. It was once a wet lab, then was converted into a dry lab, and now serves as Professor David Mladenoff's landscape ecology computer lab. The tables are all at the wrong height, however, and the lighting and heating and cooling capacities aren't designed to handle lots of people with computers and peripherals. After years of "making do," we will soon begin remodeling Room 110, but even with some help from the college, we will probably fall short of the funding required to complete the job and will need to proceed in stages. Despite these limitations, however, our faculty remain very productive and Professor Mladenoff was just named a Romnes Award recipient (see Faculty Bulletin). Competition on the Madison campus is fierce for this award and David deserves credit for developing such a strong research program in the face of limited resources.

Our instructional and research programs continue to change as well to maintain relevancy and prepare students to be tomorrow's leaders. The major research and education issues in public land management today; e.g., ecosystem

management, wildland fire management, and recreational use conflicts, derive from differences in human values and behavior rather than lack of biological or ecological knowledge. This is the realm of what we call "Social Forestry," and interest in this area has been growing among graduate students.

At the undergraduate level, enrollment in the Recreation Resources Management major continues to increase rapidly, while the Forest Science major shows steady or slightly declining numbers. Virtually all state and federal agencies are projecting massive exits from their ranks as the baby boomer generation retires within the next few years, so the job market should be strong. We are currently in the midst of discussions about changes in the curriculum to ensure that our graduates are well prepared for the challenges that will face tomorrow's resource managers.

Please stay in touch with us and be sure to drop in for a visit if you are in town. It is always delightful see you again and to learn about your accomplishments. - *Jeff Stier*

In this issue

Student news	2
A year in Bolivia	2
Pauline Miller makes job change	3
Faculty Bulletin	3
Volker Radeloff joins faculty. . .	4
Guries picnic photos	5
Xmas tree sale	5



Alumni Update

Dr. Ching-Rong Lin received the Research Award of the National Science Council, Taiwan, R.O.C. for her research on growth modeling of uneven-aged loblolly pine. She received her Ph.D. in 1995 under the direction of Professor Joseph Buongiorno. Lin is currently an Assistant Professor at Ming-Chuan University in the Republic of China.

We had an email from **Brian Beisel** (B.S.-'81) recently. He's now customer service manager at Land Between the Lakes in Golden Pond, KY. Having an office "on Golden Pond" sure sounds like a forester's dream job!!

Emeritus Professor **Gene Wengert** (Ph.D.-'75) has been keeping busy with his bicycling. Last fall he completed a trip to the mouth of the Mississippi River. He has now biked across the U.S. both east-west and north-south!

Lost and Hope to Find

We have lost touch with the alumni below and would like to learn their whereabouts. If you know where they can be located, please send us their addresses.

Robert J. Manwell-B.S. '73
 John A. Tyburski-B.S. '74; M.S. '76
 Gary E. Passow-B.S. '74
 Gary R. Lawton-B.S. '75
 Nancy L. Hafer-B.S. '76
 Stephen M. Jackson-B.S. '79
 Michael Barrett-B.S. '80
 Steven P. Bissen-B.S. '87
 Philip L. Polzer-B.S. '87
 James Munger-B.S. '88
 Joseph M. Wassenberg-B.S. '93
 Tod Tyler-B.S. '96
 Toby Nicastro-B.S. '98
 Thinley Namgyel-B.S. '99

Student News

Congratulations to the following new Xi Sigma Pi initiates: **Professor Scott Bowe**, graduate students **Terry Bush, Erica Howard, Ben and Lisa Schulte**, undergraduate students **Michael Amman, Jeff Powers, Joseph Schwartz and Michael Weston**.

We have the following quote from undergraduate **Jedd Ungrodt** on his decision to spend his final (Fall, 2000) semester studying at the University of Northern British Columbia where he was also able to play collegiate soccer as a member of the UNBC team. Says Ungrodt, "This is the best decision I have ever made, to come here. It was getting a little boring back in the land of cheese."

A year in Bolivia

by Sam Frazier

During my junior year as an international forestry major, I fulfilled my international experience requirement by working in Bolivia. All students working towards a B.S.-International Agriculture

and Natural Resources degree are required to complete an international experience. Bolivia is a completely landlocked country in the heart of South America. The topography ranges from the Andes mountain plains to the Amazon basin lowlands. As one can imagine, forestry does not play a major role in the mountainous regions, but timber production and forest management practices are crucial elements of the lowland economy.

I originally started working for Robinson Lumber Company the summer before my sophomore year. I worked on a 75,000 acre private timber concession owned and managed by the company. Robinson Lumber's goal was to log, saw and eventually export mahogany to the United States. In addition to the concession, the company owned a mill that was located on the exterior of the timber property.

The workforce was broken down into two groups. The first group consisted of mill workers. When the mill was running at full capacity, it required two twenty-man shifts. The second group was the logging crew. Within our concession there were three fifteen-man logging crews. Their objective was to build bridges and logging roads and haul logs to the mill. All workers were Bolivian and none spoke any English.

My main responsibility was to

The photo below shows, Brick and Gail Woodward (center) of Woodward Timber Group with two mill workers. They are standing in front of mahogany logs at the Monte Grande mill near of Trinidad, Bolivia.





translate directions into Spanish for the head logger. Initially, my Spanish grammar was pretty good but I lacked sufficient technical vocabulary and a full understanding of Spanish expressions, which is very important in business negotiations. However, after four months my Spanish improved ten-fold.

Although I had completed my international academic requirement with the first four-month experience, I felt that a longer experience was needed. So I decided to return to Bolivia for the entire cutting season, about nine months.

During these nine months I continued to be a translator, but I also became much more involved with the operational aspects of the company. Between logging seasons Robinson Lumber decided to use more experienced, outside loggers to harvest the concession. The concession was managed by Woodward Timber Group, which is based in the Mount Hood region of Oregon.

The presence of new management was mutually beneficial. I offered personal reflections on cultural differences between the management and workers and provided a blueprint of the concession to the new management. In return, I was taught how to log. For nine months I followed the production chain from standing trees to sawn lumber. I am by no means ready to run my own logging operation, but I gained knowledge that cannot be taught in any classroom.

The biggest challenges involved understanding new logging regulations and developing a cultural bond with the Bolivian workforce.

In conclusion, our biggest hurdles in running a successful logging operation did not directly involve logging itself. The biggest problems were understanding new logging regulations and developing a cultural bond between the Bolivian workforce and American management.

To say that these nine months were the best nine months of my life would be misleading. There were hardships associated with being one of only a handful of Americans and living in the jungle. However, the knowledge that I gained and the mental outlook that I now possess made the trials of my Bolivian jungle experience worthwhile.

Department News

Pauline Miller takes job in business school



On February 2, Pauline Miller (*nee* Meudt) took a position in the School of Business after more than 28 years of service with the department. Pauline started

as a Typist in 1972, shortly after the undergraduate program was started, and became the department's program administrator in 1996.

At a going-away party attended by faculty, staff and students, she observed that she had been with the department longer than any current faculty or staff, and knew where all the department's skeletons were buried!

Skeletons aside, after her many years of service, Pauline had become the department's institutional memory and she will be missed greatly. We wish her every success in her new position.

If you wish to drop Pauline a note, she can be reached at: School of Business, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1253 Grainger Hall, 975 University Avenue, Madison, WI 53706-1323. E-mail: <pmiller@bus.wisc.edu>.

Upcoming Workshop: Marketing Forest Products in the Lake States, June 7-8

The Lake States Lumber Association in cooperation with UW-Extension will be conducting a workshop on forest products marketing in the Lake States. The workshop is designed to introduce the basics of marketing to new employees and update current employees to the changing forest products industry.

The two-day workshop will be held in Stevens Point on June 7-8, 2001. The program will focus on the basic principles of marketing and sales in the forest products industry in the Lake States region. Course instructors include Dr. Scott Bowe, Assistant Professor and Wood Products Specialist at the UW-Madison, and Dr. Robert Smith, Associate Professor and Extension Specialist in Forest Products Marketing at Virginia Tech.

For registration materials or additional information, please contact:

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Faculty Bulletin

The UW-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences presented **Professor Raymond Guries** with the 2000 Agricultural Research Station Recognition Award for Service for his "high level of service and support to the Agricultural Research Stations."

Professor David Mladenoff has been named a recipient of the UW-Madison Romnes Award. The Romnes



Award recognizes exceptional research efforts as evidenced by the high quality, significance and productivity of the individual's research program. Professor Mladenoff's research is directed at improving understanding of human influences on managed forest ecosystems. It focuses on large scales, in the new area of forest landscape ecology. His work is viewed as containing some of the best studies of the relationships of human land use and natural processes driving forest landscape change using new spatial analysis tools such as geographic information systems and computer simulation models. David's position represents a partnership between the University and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, with both agencies providing salary support.

Professor Donald R. Field was presented the Lifetime Achievement Award for his "initiation and visionary leadership" of the biennial International Symposium on Society and Resource Management (ISSRM). The award was presented to him at Bellingham, WA, in June during the 9th ISSRM.

Volker Radeloff joins the faculty

In July 2000 my wife, Anna Pidgeon, and I returned to Madison from our wedding in Germany and honeymoon in Norway to start putting down roots by looking for a house. We were excited to settle down in the city that we had grown to like in recent years.

Born and raised in Germany, forests and forestry were always close to my heart. My hometown is Trier, located near Germany's Western Border in the Mosel valley. Within a half hour drive, extensive forests can be reached both North and South of town. Given that all German forests are open to the public, regardless of their ownership, my family spent many weekends among the beech, oak and spruce stands. All of it is managed, most of it even-aged, but with

*Anna Pidgeon
and Volker
Radeloff are
proud parents
of daughter,
Else, born in
November
2000.*



rotation cycles that approach 400 years in the case of veneer oak.

When I was a teen, I became an active boy scout. We hiked and camped (illegally) on weekends in the forests close to home, and traveled in summer to wildernesses in Alaska, Norway, Karelia, Lake Baikal, the Carpathians and Kirgistan. My love for the forests back home did not diminish, but clearly there were other forests out there, more dramatic in gestalt and equally fascinating.

My alma mater is the University of Trier, where I studied physical geography and remote sensing. In my senior thesis (the "Diplomarbeit"), I used satellite imagery to classify forest types in Luxemburg. And in the evenings and on weekends, I hunted (legally) for roe deer, red deer, and wild boar. Some of my fondest memories include winter nights when a full moon would cast its silver light on the snow-covered forest floor and the dark shadows of a dozen boars emerged among the thick beech trunks. Managed forests they may be, but there is still so much more to them than just timber.

Once graduated, I felt there was more learning to be had, and a stipend from the German Academic Exchange Service (the "DAAD") permitted me to obtain my MS

in Geographical Information Systems from Edinburgh University. What a splendid city, what a fine country, and what a great school – especially its "Water of Life Society," a student club devoted to exploring (discovering? plying?) the secrets of Scottish single malts. My life has never been the same.

By the end of my time in Edinburgh, the Internet was sufficiently developed to permit online job searches and I came across a listing for a research assistantship by Professor David Mladenoff, Department of Forestry, University of Wisconsin – Madison. Sending an email was easy enough, and to my delight a response came quickly. However, I still remember running into the Geography department's library, grabbing an atlas and searching for this city, Madison, that I had never heard of before. On the evening of October 16-1995, my plane approached Madison, and the drumlin fields east of town were spectacular in the golden rays of the setting sun. A good omen for what was to become a great time in my life.

In my doctoral work, I examined patterns of disturbance processes in the northwest Wisconsin Pine Barrens. Disturbance pattern can be an important frame of reference for ecosystem



management. My research looked at how fire, insect defoliation and forest harvesting interact, and how they shaped the landscape both before European settlement and today. Foresters at the county, state, and federal levels, as well as in the timber industry, are cooperating in the Pine Barrens to develop a landscape level management approach. Knowledge of the pre-settlement conditions is crucial for them to identify management scenarios that achieve both commodity production as well as creating the open habitat that makes the Pine Barrens region so special.

As many of you know, leaving Madison can be hard. It was an easy decision to stay a little bit longer once I was offered a postdoc from David Mladenoff. And this decision was made even easier by the fact that my wife-to-be, Anna, needed a few more years to finish her Ph.D. in the Department of Wildlife Ecology, just upstairs.

Soon after the start of my postdoc, the Department started the search to fill the forest biometry position. I tossed my hat in the ring, and given that I am featured here, you can guess the outcome. Life as a professor started in earnest in September 2000 when I stood for the first time in front of "my" class. What a wonderful group of students it was! Teaching certainly took much more time and effort than I ever expected, but it was truly rewarding, and time well spent. Building a strong research program will be the next step. My first graduate students started this January and my research lab is being remodeled. The changes in forested landscapes both in space and time will be the recurring theme of my work including natural changes, changes caused by disturbances, forest fragmentation, global change, and the effects of these changes on forest ecosystems. And besides continuing work in Wisconsin, I plan to do research in Eastern Europe and Siberia in the forests that impressed me so much and about which western science knows so little.

In Germany there is a saying "Aller guten Dinge sind drei" (All good things come in threes). The year 2000 was certainly a good year, getting married, landing a great job, and witnessing the birth of our daughter Else at the end of November! Words cannot describe all the joy she gives us. I am writing these lines at five o'clock on a Saturday morning, awake since her last feeding. Other than her occasional grunts and coos, everything is quiet in our little two-bedroom apartment at Eagle Heights. We haven't found a house yet, but that will come in time. Madison has already become home for me and my family. What more could I ask for?

Picnic Photos

Each fall faculty, staff and students eagerly look forward to the annual pig or lamb roast that Ray and Ces Guries host at their farmette in Oregon, WI. The top photo shows Ray (w/cap) and Emeritus Professor Jeff Martin turning the lamb on the spit at the fall, 2000 event. The bottom photo shows three generations of the department's forestry extension faculty. They are current Professor Mark Rickenbach (left), Emeritus Professors Jeff Martin (center) and Gordon Cunningham (right).

Forestry Club Reports on Christmas Tree Sale

On December 1, 2, and 3 of 2000, the UW-Madison Forestry Club held its annual Christmas Tree Sale at the Stock Pavilion on Linden Drive. Approximately 550 trees and 75 wreaths were put up for sale on Friday night, and by Sunday afternoon only about 40 trees remained. The trees were cut and sold to the club by Tate's Trees located in Waushara County. Members of the club (forestry and recreation resources undergrads, grads, and professors) rotated shifts throughout the weekend selling and loading trees and wreaths onto the cars and trucks of tree buying customers. On Monday morning when the business was





all done, Mr. Tate was kind enough to buy all the leftover trees back from the club, leaving the club with an empty Stock Pavilion and several pairs of resin coated gloves.

Proceeds from the annual sale help to subsidize several club and forestry undergraduate activities. The two main activities are a class trip during Spring Break and a summer field camp which takes place every other year. The Spring Break trip gives students the opportunity to travel down South to explore and learn about forest ecosystems and forest practices along the Mississippi River valley. The forestry field camp is a practicum held at Kemp Natural Resource Station near Woodruff, Wisconsin. It teaches students many of the technical skills necessary in forestry and how those skills can be applied in forest management. - *Joseph W. Schwartz*

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