



FOREST ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT NEWS

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

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Department News

USDA Reviews Department Programs

All departments on the UW-Madison campus must undergo periodic review. Within the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, the reviewing agency is typically the USDA Cooperative States Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES). The review team visited the department the first week of April. Review team members consisted of team leader Dr. Catalino Blanche (CSREES), and Professors Hannah Cortner (Northern Arizona University), Alan Ek (University of Minnesota), James Johnson (Virginia Tech) and Robert Tesky (University of Georgia). The review was comprehensive, focusing on the full range of teaching, research and extension programs the department conducts. Team members met with students, faculty, staff, alumni and stakeholders. The team's report, which is expected shortly, will be used in providing guidance for the department's role in the campus and college strategic plans.

Prof. Nancy Langston was awarded a Vilas Associates Award from the Graduate School. She also received the American Council of Learned Societies sabbatical fellowship. The awards will support Prof. Langston's sabbatical from July 2002 to August 2003. During her sabbatical leave she will prepare a new course on Forest History and research two projects. One project will study the links between ecosystem health and

environment health. The other project will focus on a history of adaptive ecosystem management. Prof. Langston's sabbatical will take her to New Zealand, Italy, Alaska and Sweden.

Tom Steele, Assistant Scientist, received two awards this year – the CALS Research Station Award and the CALS Academic Staff Award for Excellence in Service.

Tim Burger, Associate Researcher, was inducted into the Gamma Sigma Delta honorary society in April.

John Kotar, Senior Scientist, was elected to serve a three-year term for the Society of American Foresters (SAF) Council. He will represent Voting District V (Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and North Dakota). The Council provides leadership and direction to SAF.

The Department has lost a friend and colleague with the death of **Eugene B. Smalley** on March 25. He was 75 years old. Smalley was an emeritus professor of Forestry and Plant Pathology. He became internationally known for his work on Dutch Elm disease. Smalley was also an authority on mycotoxins, including the effects of aflatoxins and other fungal toxins on livestock and human health. Memorials may be made to the Ridges Sanctuary near Bailey's Harbor in Door County or to Olbrich Botanical Gardens in Madison.

Two new courses planned

Wisconsin's Once and Future Forests

Profs. Nancy Langston and Ray Guries are teaming up to teach a new summer course – Wisconsin's Once and Future Forests (Forest 375). The course will examine the impact of historical and ecological factors that have shaped Wisconsin's forests. Through readings, discussions, guest speakers, student projects and a four-day field trip, the class will explore some of the controversies surrounding forest resource use and sustainability. "Our goal is to provide students with insights into the dynamic and often factious nature of human interactions with forests," say the instructors. The class is full. However, if you would like more information, contact Nancy Langston (nelangst@facstaff.wisc.edu) or Ray Guries (rpguries@facstaff.wisc.edu).

Biomaterials and Medicinals from the Forest

A new fall course, Biomaterials and Medicinals from the Forest (Forest 201), will introduce students to the

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wide range of products obtained from the forest. The one-credit course, taught by Prof. Raymond Young, will cover such topics as plants as part of indigenous cultures; important medicinal plants from the forest; ritualistic and psychoactive drug plants; flavors, fragrances and essential oils from the forest, as well as other topics. The course is designed to accommodate students of all levels and disciplines. For more information, contact Raymond Young (ryoung@facstaff.wisc.edu).

Topic of Social Forestry Seminar Announced

Mark Rickenbach and Peter Bloch, will co-teach a one-credit graduate seminar (Forest 875) this fall that will focus on the interactions between people and natural resources. Individuals from the department and across campus are invited to participate and share their domestic and international research and experiences dealing with people and natural resources. The instructors say the seminar will provide a friendly forum for students to discuss their projects. For more information, contact Mark Rickenbach (mgrickenbach@facstaff.wisc.edu) or Peter Bloch (pcbloch@facstaff.wisc.edu).

Student News

Congratulations to undergraduate students **Briana Frank** and **Patrick Culbert** for being awarded Holstrum Environmental Scholarships. Patrick will be working with Prof. Volker

Radloff as his faculty advisor and Briana with Prof. Ray Guries.

Kate Wiperman, a senior in Recreation Resources Management (and Botany), received an Outstanding Senior Award this spring. Congratulations, Kate!

Congratulations to the students recently inducted into Gamma Sigma Delta, the honorary society of agriculture. Undergraduates include: **Tricia Burgoyne, Patrick Culbert, Jeff Powers, Brian Schwingle and Kate Wiperman**. Graduate student inductees include: **Michelle Steen-Adams, Ron Raunekar, Alexia Sabor and Andrew Stoltman**.

Chuankuan Wang, Ph.D. student working with Prof. Tom Gower, recently presented a poster at the American Geophysical Union meeting in San Francisco. Chuankuan's poster was titled "Environmental Controls on CO₂ Flux from Black Spruce Coarse Woody Debris." A Vilas grant and supporting funds from Prof. Gower's NSF grant made the trip possible.



R. Savannah, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Announcements

Great Lakes Forest Alliance, Inc. to hold annual summit

The Great Lakes Forest Alliance, Inc. will hold its first annual Sustainable Forest Management Summit June 17-19, 2002, at the Regency Suites Hotel and Convention Center in Green Bay, Wisconsin. The summit's theme is "Science in Policy and Practice: Sharing Successful Regional and Local Initiatives." The summit is billed as a place where professionals, practitioners, researchers and community members can share information about forest management issues and trends. For more information, contact Wendy Hinrichs Sanders, Great Lakes Forest Alliance, tel. 715-634-2006 or by e-mail at <forestls@lsfa.org>.

Updated sample timber sale contract now available

A new Sample Timber Sale Contract is available. The Department of Forest Ecology and Management, in collaboration with the Department of Natural Resources and the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association, recently completed a major update of the Sample Timber Sale Contract. The contract will be useful to both timber buyers and sellers. A new Forestry Fact (No. 94) explains contract language and specifics. Sample Timber Sale Contract and Forestry Fact No. 94 can be downloaded over the internet <<http://forest.wisc.edu/extension/publications/94.pdf>>. The contract can also be obtained from the Forest Ecology and Management Department (tel. 608 262-9975).



Two in department complete AIDS bike trek

Two people in the Dept. of Forest Ecology and Management participated in the Heartland AIDS Ride this past summer. Graduate student **Amy Sloane** and Research Program Manager **Ted Sickley** both bicycled the 535 mile route from St. Paul through Wisconsin to Chicago. The purpose of the trip was to raise money for AIDS service organizations in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois and to raise awareness about AIDS as a continuing problem in society. Ted says that the troop of 1500 riders supported by 400 volunteer crew members raised nearly \$6 million.

Reports Ted: It was a remarkable experience, one I don't think I could have done alone. The first two days were really hot and humid, and days 2-4 were each over 100 miles of riding. But the group's enthusiasm and the mutual encouragement of so many riders, along with a great reason for riding, terrific logistical support from the ride organizers, and emotional support from the communities through which we rode together made it possible. It was a pretty diverse group of people, including high school students, grandparents, professionals, mothers, HIV-positive riders, family members and friends of people who have died of AIDS. All riders had their own personal motivation for doing the ride, their own story. And it was great to see so much of the back roads of Wisconsin from the relatively leisurely perspective of a bike seat.

The "Spring Trip" Tradition Continues

Continuing a tradition begun by Professor Ray Guries, two vans full of UW-Madison students left campus on March 23 and headed south for "Spring Trip." Officially known as the National Forest Management Practicum, the 9-day voyage was designed to give forestry and non-forestry majors a sample of what real-life, hands-on forest management and resource utilization is like. The trip, which was planned and executed by Profs. Eric Kruger and Scott Bowe, coincided with the UW's Spring Break period.

The students visited sites in southern Illinois, Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida. They were even able to wriggle their toes in the waters of the Gulf of Mexico for a couple of hours before heading back north to Madison.

The trip's objectives were to 1) provide an introduction to a variety of new ecosystems outside of the Lake States, 2) allow students to consider forest ecosystem management in the context of a different culture with a value system somewhat different from the Lake States, and 3) provide students daily contact with professional resource managers to discuss what they do and why.

Stops along the way included: The Felsenthal National Wildlife Refuge in southeastern Arkansas, managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Many students commented that this stop was interesting because the emphasis was on wildlife management and forest management was secondary. Also in Arkansas, the group toured Plum Creek Lands and a Georgia-Pacific
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This year's "Spring Trip" crew lines up for a group photo during their first stop at Cache River State Natural Area in southern Illinois. Kneeling in the front row (l to r) are: Steve Hubbard, Prof. Eric Kruger and Theran Stautz. Standing, first row: Tricia Burgoyne, Emily Duerr, Katie McMahan, Kate Noelke, Mike Ederer, Guy Smith and Jeff Powers. Standing in second row: Jeff Buenger, Steve Wangen, Bill Emmett (behind Wangen), Erik Hoven, Patrick Culbert, Adam Makda, Matt Hansen, Katie Wellnitz and Ben Lembrich. Prof. Scott Bowe is taking the photo.





plywood mill. Many students remarked that they had never seen an intensively managed industrial forest or a plywood mill. Others said it was interesting to see how the harvested timber was processed into the end product.

At Delta National Forest in Mississippi the students toured bottomland hardwood ecosystems on land managed by the USFS. One student mentioned that this stop was a good example of the depressed economic condition of the region.

Another commented that the beaver and snake stories were good (you'll have to ask about those). Another student felt that this stop reinforced the concept that management decisions are complex, given all of the variables encountered – economy, hunting traditions, lack of law enforcement resources, etc.

Other stops included Anderson-Tully Co. near Vicksburg, Mississippi, where the students toured a hardwood bluff forest and learned how it is managed; T.R. Miller Mill Co. near

Brewton, Alabama, to tour a polemill; and Cedar Creek Land Co., also near Brewton, where they were able to see first-hand how longleaf pine is grown and managed. The group's last stop was at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida for a demonstration of a longleaf pine ecosystem restoration project. Said one student, "I had no idea that military bases had forest management aspects." At Eglin the students were treated to a prescribed burn demonstration that was quite impressive.

And at last came those precious few hours to unwind at the beautiful white sandy beach along the Florida panhandle before making the long drive back to Madison.



Students viewed the mechanics of pine being harvested at Eglin Air Force Base in the Florida panhandle.



Foresters at Eglin Air Force Base conducted a controlled burn to demonstrate restoration of a longleaf pine ecosystem. Many students commented that it was an "awesome" sight.



A tale of two races

John Kotar, senior scientist in the department, skied his 29th consecutive American Birkebeiner cross country ski race in February. This 52 kilometer (32 miles) race is the largest North American race in terms of number of participants (3,400 this year). It borrows its name and format from a much older race in Norway. The Norwegian 58 kilometer (36 miles) race commemorates an historic event, a flight on skis by two legendary Viking warriors carrying the infant future king Haakon Haakonson to safety during a civil war in the year 1206. The Norwegian race celebrated its 65th running this year. There were over 9,000 finishers and John was one of them. This was

a long anticipated and unforgettable experience for John. He sums it up with this statement: "It is a thrill to be sharing the tracks with some of

the world's best cross country skiers, and to experience a people that not only conquered winter but also learned to enjoy it."

John takes a breather while scouting the route of the Norwegian Birkebeiner race near Lillehammer, Norway.



Forest Ecology and Management Capital Fund

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

I/we would like to donate: ___ \$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$75 ___ \$100 ___ Other _____
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