



FOREST ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT NEWS

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

Vol. 7, No. 1

May 2004

News from the Chair

Despite what many see as a national pessimism regarding some aspects of American life, interest in the enjoyment and use of forests remains strong. I am reminded of this almost daily when I speak with students, other professional resource managers, and the general public. To be sure, our reliance on forests as a source of relaxation, clean water, economic benefits, and psychological well-being may shift over time, but public interest in ensuring the continued existence of forests has not diminished.

It would be great to report that the profession of forestry is also enjoying unprecedented public support, but this is not necessarily the case. In some circles, foresters – and the profession of forestry – are still held in high regard, and forestry remains a “dream job” for many desk-bound urbanites. But forestry as a career choice has declined during the past decade as students pursue seemingly more lucrative careers or follow other paths. A recent report on national trends reveals that enrollment in forestry programs has declined by some 30% during the past 7-8 years. Wildlife ecology, forest hydrology, wood technology, soil science, and related majors are all in decline to a greater or lesser degree. Only recreation and tourism and “environmental sciences” programs have seen even modest growth during the past decade.

What does that suggest about the future of forestry and forest management?

Rationalizations abound to account for these enrollment declines (or cycles?), but one thing seems clear – too few students view the potential rewards of a forestry career as sufficient to balance the costs of this education against the prospect that other careers will be more satisfying. Are the demands out of line with the rewards that come from being a forester? Which demands or rewards? If this is a matter of market place forces, then future demand for foresters could reverse this trend. But if the issue is a matter of prestige and a sense that foresters are not the “guys wearing white hats,” then a different remedy must be sought to make forestry a satisfying career choice.

This issue is central to our efforts to prepare foresters for careers requiring not only technical competence but also requiring individuals who are well-educated in other areas, such as science and public affairs. It is becoming more important with each passing year that foresters are literate beyond the technical demands of the profession. Educating the “complete forester” is a daunting task given today’s trend to increased specialization and pressure not to extend the length of degree programs. So we continue to impress on today’s students that “lifelong learning” is not jargon but a personal philosophy if forestry is to remain a satisfying profession to future generations of foresters. We are currently reviewing our mission, our curriculum, and our resources as we develop a long-range plan for forestry education at Wisconsin. I’ll be telling you more – and seeking your advice – about this plan in the near future. – *Ray Guries*

Alumni Update

For the past year **Mike Amman** (BS 2001) has worked as a Forester for the 170,000 acre Bayfield County Forest in northern Wisconsin. His job responsibilities include updating the county forest inventory and establishing timber sales. He was the Assistant Forest and Park Administrator for the Burnett County Forest before taking his current position. Mike says he feels fortunate to have landed great jobs right out of school. He then adds that his “excellent forestry education” and valuable summer work experience might have had something to do with it. You can contact Mike at: mamman@bayfieldcounty.org

In his “Happy New Year” message, **Masatoshi Endo** (MS 1987) says he is enjoying a hectic but satisfying life in China. He is employed by Guangxi Oji Plantation Forest Co. His company’s tree plantation was two years old in November 2003. He reports that their best tree reached 11 meters in 19 months
continues on page 2

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growing in relatively poor soil conditions. The plantation provides some badly needed jobs to local workers. Masatoshi also says they are working with local communities and donating funds to local schools. You can contact Masatoshi at: forester@nn.gx.cninfo.net

Mark Lennon (MS 1983) has found a niche in marketing recycled goods. He and partner Dana Draper run the Institution Recycling Network in Concord, New Hampshire. For clients such as universities and hospitals, Mark's company matches material for recycling with buyers. With his network of buyers and sellers, he is able to obtain the best market price for recyclables or the least expensive means of disposal for items not recyclable. Recycled items they handle range from the usual bottles and cardboard to electronic equipment and even Astroturf. They are about to open their own warehouse where they will shred confidential documents. Mark's e-mail address is: mLennon@IR-Network.com

Todd Schara (BS 1980) is enjoying a long and happy relationship both with his employer of 23 years – Bartlett Tree Experts – and with his wife of 25 years. Todd is an Arborist Representative with Bartlett and lives in Wildwood, Illinois. He and his wife plan to celebrate their anniversary with a trip to St. Martin this spring. Congratulations Todd! Todd's e-mail address is: tschara@bartlett.com

Swift Corwin (BS 1981) checked in from his home in Peterborough, New Hampshire. He says he's been a consulting forester for the past 20 years. With his longevity in the area he says he has worked on the second and third timber sales on some parcels. He also has discovered great folks on the industry side. Just to keep life interesting he's chairing the conservation commission that oversees natural resource and land use concerns in the town. His family includes wife Beth, a 17-year-old son, and two daughters aged 12 and 15. You can reach Swift at: swift@corwin.mv.com

Kari Bisbee O'Connell (PhD 2001) says she is enjoying her new job and

locale. In October 2003 she became Director of H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest in Blue River, Oregon. She works out of the Department of Forest Science at Oregon State University in Corvallis. Kari says it's great to be working in an area with both the coast and the mountains so close by. Kari's e-mail is: kari.oconnell@oregonstate.edu

When **Bruce Richter** (MS 1983) says that life is never dull, he's referring to both his job and his home life. He keeps very busy with his Anchorage-based job as Program Manager for the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center-Northwest. He just

completed a project testing winter tires for law enforcement vehicles. Then for a week he played host to a group of Russian law enforcement and fire fighting personnel from St. Petersburg National Fire Academy. On the home front he has a new baby boy, John Alexander, born Dec. 29, 2003. He also has three other children: Johanna, 9; Christine, 7; and Katherine, 3 and a very busy wife, Elizabeth. Bruce suggests anyone on the job market check out his parent company's (Chenega Technology Services Corporation) web site: www.ctsc.net. You can contact Bruce via e-mail at: bruce.richter@ctsc.net

continues on page 3

2003-2004 Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to the following Forest Ecology and Management students who received scholarships during the 2003-2004 academic year.

Meghan Butler	Fr.	Esther I. Ihlenfeldt Memorial Scholarship
Alicia Butz	Sr.	Irving W. Gerhardt Scholarship
Patrick Culbert	Jr.	Helen Miller Forestry Scholarship
Monica DeWild	Fr.	Walter H. Ebling Scholarship
John Gritt	Jr.	Rbt. Hendricks Memorial/Hardwood Manufacturers Association Scholarship
Sarah Herzberg	Jr.	Earle D. Lyon Memorial Scholarship and Esther I. Ihlenfeldt Memorial Scholarship
Keith Kelley	Sr.	Irving W. Gerhardt Scholarship
Rachel Kronenberg	Sr.	Rbt. Hendricks Memorial/Hardwood Manufacturers Association Scholarship
Emma Radomski	Sr.	Irving W. Gerhardt Scholarship
Kaitlin Schott	Fr.	Henry Steenbock Academic Merit Award
Joseph Schwantes	Sr.	David N. Conner Scholarship and Irving W. Gerhardt Scholarship
Carlos Tejada	Sr.	Rbt. Hendricks Memorial/Harwood Manufacturers Association Scholarship
James Turner	Grad	John N. McGovern Family Scholarship
Aaron Wunnicke	Sr.	David N. Connor Scholarship and Vicky Lee Hirsh Academic Merit Award
Sarah Zenner	Sr.	Vicky Lee Hirsh Endowment for Conservation Scholarship



We also heard from **Thomas Shaw** (BS 1976) who is serving as the Microfinance Manager of the Ariana Financial Service Group based in Kabul City, Afghanistan. Tom says his work involves a broad knowledge of all financial systems and a lot of mentoring. His focus is building a locally managed and fully sustainable financial institution within three years. Prior to taking the position in Afghanistan, Tom spent 27 years in Africa, initially doing forestry work then redirecting his talents toward cooperative development and microfinance. Tom's e-mail address is: tkshaw72@yahoo.com

Student News

Congratulations to **Kris Tiles** (MS Dec. 2003), who reports that she has landed a job as Basin Educator for UW-Extension in Park Falls, Wis. She will provide area landowners with educational programs related to forest and water resources in northwest Wisconsin. Kris's e-mail is: katiles@wisc.edu

Congratulations to our December grads

A number of FE&M students received their degrees this past December. Congratulations to you and hope you find the perfect job.

BS in Forest Science:

Jeffrey Buenger and Katie McMahan

BS in Recreation Resources Management:

Amanda Mills, Daniel Mrotek, Sarah Repp, Julia Watson, and Sarah Zenner

MS - Forestry

Kathryn Gonzalez, Todd Hawbaker, Steve Hubbard, Andrew Stoltman, Emily Sturgess, and Kris Tiles

Forestry Club has a busy schedule of events

by Maggie Grosenick

It has been a busy couple of months for the Forestry Club! The 2003 Christmas tree sale was our 27th annual sale, more than 20 of which have been held inside the Stock Pavilion. Our tree sales have changed over the years from a selection of primarily Scotch pine to almost entirely Fraser and Balsam Fir. This year we sold about 450 trees as well as 75 wreaths. Our sale this year was a very successful one, bringing in a net profit of \$7000. The sale began Friday morning and all of our trees were sold by Saturday evening! Most of the money earned goes to subsidize the spring trip, summer camp, various student workshops that are held throughout the year, and helps support student attendance at the state and national Society of American Foresters conventions.

In January, the club organized a level one FISTA chainsaw safety and training workshop, and level two of the same workshop is scheduled for the end of March. Also, we have been volunteering with the Campus Natural Areas program doing some inventory work on Picnic Point for them over the past few semesters. We will be doing this once again in the beginning of April.

To promote our department, the club will be displaying booths and providing infor-

mation at the CALS Competitive Edge for incoming high school seniors on March 27th, as well as for the CALS Day for Kids at the Stock Pavilion on April 29th.

We extended an invitation to the students from the UW-Stevens Point Forestry Club to come to Madison and tour the Forest Products Lab and then spend some time with our Club members at dinner and the UW Men's Hockey game. A dozen UWSP students came down on Friday, March 5th, and we had a lot of fun getting to know them and learning about their department.

Lastly, in February Gary Lawton (BS 1975), the acting District Ranger on the Craig Ranger District of the Tongass NF, gave a talk titled "A Second Look at the Tongass National Forest," and afterwards held a discussion session for students about employment opportunities on the Tongass.



Students who participated in the chainsaw safety and training workshop in March had an opportunity to apply in the forest what they learned in the classroom.



Department News

Welcome Diane



When you enter the department's main office, the first person you encounter will likely be Diane Walton. Diane began working in FE&M in November

2003 as an LTE. She now has a permanent PA2 position with duties that include serving as receptionist, timetable "guru," graduate and undergraduate student coordinator, as well as handling other duties to keep the department running smoothly.

Diane was born and grew up in Chicago, attended college and worked in Kansas City and also sampled California living during her 13-year residence in Los Angeles. Her previous jobs include medical receptionist/appointment clerk, security guard, hospitality specialist, and bartending instructor.

Diane says she's a "fun-natured sprite" who appreciates and enjoys making gemstone jewelry and likes hiking, bowling, reading novels, and contemporary jazz. She has an 8-year-old Min-Pin dog named Tyrone that she describes as being very protective of his master.

Compton in Beijing to discuss ways to better serve China's rural population

Prof. Lin Compton recently returned from China where he was taking part in a one-week conference/workshop in

Social forestry expert J. Lin Compton retires

Professor J. Lin Compton retired from the Dept. of Forest Ecology and Management in January 2004. When asked about his post-retirement activities, you get the feeling that he hasn't retired at all! His list of projects he'd like to stay involved with over the next several



years include work in China (one project on upland ecosystems and another on agricultural college development); Thailand (course on cognitive ethnoscience methods for studying the indigenous knowledge of watershed management of the Karen ethnic minority and a second project with the Karen on reforestation; the Philippines (Trustee of the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction and oversee its social laboratory work); India (the Indian Institute of Plantation Management on extension education for food safety); and West Africa

(transfer northern Thailand indigenous knowledge of the organization and management of communal irrigation systems to Kassack North, Senegal).

There are a few things on Prof. Compton's agenda that hint of relaxation . . . like spending time at a cabin on the north shore of Lake Superior; travel-

ing with his wife, Carol, to select spots in the U.S. and Europe; mastering his digital camera and camcorder; spending more time with family; working on his house; and involvement with church and community projects.

Then there are several doctoral candidates that he is advising, but will probably finish by the end of the year. It sounds like retirement will be an awful lot like work, but without the committee meetings and many forms and reports to complete. We wish you all the best in the coming years.

Beijing. Staff from several Chinese agricultural universities met with representatives from U.S. land grant universities and nongovernmental organizations. Their sessions focused on how to best create relevant and effective research and extension programs for China's 900 million rural people.

Prof. Compton's presentation addressed the information and communication needs unique to China's farmers living in upland ecosystems where there are 50 distinctly different cultural and language groups. A major theme of his presentation dealt with ways to close the gap between scientist-derived information and information based on local, indigenous experience.

Forest growth model for Wisconsin and Michigan now available



Prof. Joseph Buongiorno and current and former graduate students have added another program and accompanying publication to their list of forest

growth simulation and management aids. The most recent program – *NorthPro: A Spreadsheet Program for the Management of Uneven-aged*

continues on page 5



Northern Hardwood Stands – was developed in collaboration with USDA Forest Service by Prof. Buongiorno, current PhD student Jingjing Liang, and former graduate students Audra Kolbe (MS 1998) and Benedict Schulte (MS 1997). The Microsoft Excel add in program simulates the growth and management of uneven-aged forests. It gives ecological data regarding the effect of management, such as stand structure and tree diversity, as well as information on productivity and economics, such as production per acre per year, returns and costs, and net present values. NorthPro deals with the maple-birch forest type in Wisconsin and Michigan. Earlier programs that are also available include: *SouthPro* for mixed loblolly pine-hardwood stands in the south central U.S. and *WestPro* which simulates the growth of uneven-aged Douglas fir stands in the Pacific Northwest.

The programs use growth models based on extensive permanent Forest Inventory and Analysis plot data. Stands of trees are described by the number of trees per unit area by major species group and for up to 19 diameter classes. The programs allow managers to predict the development of a stand by year and for many decades from a specific initial state.

Users can choose management regimes by specifying the interval between harvests (cutting cycle) and the target distribution for the trees remaining after harvest. A target distribution can be specified by basal area, maximum diameter, and q ratio (BDq), or any other desired distribution.

Tabulated and graphic results show diameter distribution over time, basal area, volumes, income, net present value, and indices of tree size diversity and tree species diversity.

You can download the program, documentation, and applications, as well as other products from Prof. Buongiorno's lab at the web site: <<http://www.forest-model.com/>>. For more information, contact Prof. Buongiorno at <jbuongio@wisc.edu> or Jingjing Liang at <jliang2@wisc.edu>.

New course takes students to Samoa

The department offered a new course on "Polynesian Cultural Use of Plants for Materials, Food and Medicinals" (Forestry 321) this past winter break, December 27-January 18. Prof. Ray Young organized the course and 16 students enrolled. There was a stop-over in Honolulu for some visits to local botanical gardens, museums and lectures by faculty from the University of Hawaii. A small glitch in the program – a cyclone in Samoa – occurred at this point. "With sustained winds of 200 mph we feared that there would be no island left to visit," says Prof. Young! Fortunately, Samoa did not take a direct hit, but another South Pacific island country, Niue, was totally wiped out.

The group arrived in Samoa after a four-day delay to see many trees down but most buildings intact. Their accommodations on the beach were not damaged, although they operated by candlelight for a few days until the power was restored. The program generally included lectures in the morning followed by site visits in the afternoon. For example, lectures were provided on Polynesian Herbal Medicine in the morning with a visit to a native healer at her facility in the afternoon. Prof. Young reports he had to strongly discourage the students from getting a tattoo from the native artist after their adornment lectures (the word tattoo is from the Polynesian word tatau). The black tattoo dye from candlenut ash is applied to the skin by tapping a sharpened pig bone.

They spent one whole day on Polynesian foods, first purchasing things like breadfruit, taro, *taamu*, Tahitian chestnuts, Otaheite apples, pineapples and mangos from the local outdoor market (coconuts were collected from trees in the yard). With the help of some local Samoans they prepared all the food Samoan style in a traditional *umu* pit. This involved husking, peeling and wrapping of the food items that were then placed on hot fired stones; the food was then covered with large leaves of banana, breadfruit and papaya to steam cook. The students

continues on page 6

A portion of the class focused on Polynesian foods. With help from local Samoans, students prepared a meal featuring native foods. In the photo to the right the food is covered with giant taro leaves for cooking in a traditional "umu" oven.



A highlight of the trip was participating in a traditional Kava ceremony in the remote mountain village of Uafato. The photo to the left shows the passing of the Kava bowl during the ceremony.



Samoa trip, continued from page 5
were amazed at the amount of labor involved in the food preparation; try husking a coconut by hand!

A highlight of the trip was participation in a traditional Kava ceremony in a remote mountain village on the island of Upolu in Samoa. This is an ancient Polynesian tradition afforded to visitors. Since this was the first University group to visit the village, they received special treatment. Welcoming speeches were followed by mixing and passing of the kava bowl, in order of status, to the participants. The whole group gives one clap as the bowl is passed to each individual by the Samoan leader. The beverage is mildly psychoactive and creates a mellow, congenial atmosphere. At the end Prof. Young was presented with the traditional gift of two large, dried kava plants. Says Prof. Young, "In summary, even though we faced a cyclone, the weather for the remaining time was excellent and the students, my wife, and I all came away with a deep understanding and respect for the Samoan people, their usage of plants, and their culture."

New study: seeing cooperation on the landscape

Beginning this summer, Prof. Mark Rickenbach will lead an investigation into the opportunities and challenges for cross-boundary cooperation among woodland owners in Wisconsin and Iowa. The study asks three questions: 1) Given the diverse management objectives of woodland owners, is cross-boundary cooperation feasible? 2) What are the economic and ecological impacts of such cooperation? and 3) What policy mechanisms would need to be in place for cooperation to occur?

In helping to develop policy options, the study relies on the "Forest Visualization for Management and Planning" software developed by Profs. David Mladenoff and Volker Radeloff. In discussions about policy and management, study participants will be able to see how the landscape changes under different management scenarios.

Kotar one of three to ski in all 31 Birkie races

FE&M has a sports celebrity in its midst. John Kotar, Senior Scientist in the department, is one of just three people to have skied in all 31 American Birkebeiner races, affectionately known as the Birkie. The race is held in February in northern Wisconsin following a 51 km route that begins at Telemark Resort in Cable and ends on Hayward's main street. John skis classical style, which is a bit slower than the skating style. Yet John reports that his time this year – about 5 hours – was about the same as his first race. He hints that equipment and training have helped him maintain his race time.



The first Birkie had just 32 competitors. This year's race included just over 4,000. The American Birkebeiner is modeled after a 58

km Norwegian race that crosses the mountains between Lillehammer and Rena, Norway. The Norwegian race commemorates the bravery of 13th century skiers who saved the life of infant Håkon Håkonson, heir to the throne, from invaders during civil war by carrying him over the mountains on their backs.

With a cabin just a few minutes away from Telemark Resort, John and his family have many opportunities for cross country skiing. John's wife, Nina, just completed her 16th Birkie this year. Their daughter, Katie, who is 6 years old, just skied in her 4th Barnebirkie, a shortened race for skiers age 3-12. We wish you all good luck in the 32nd Birkie in 2005!

Professor Lisa Schulte, recent PhD graduate and now at Iowa State University, is co-principal investigator on the study. Other collaborators include researchers with the USDA Forest Service and staff with the WDNR Division of Forestry. Funding for the project is through the UW's McIntire-Stennis program and the USDA Forest Service North Central Research Station.

For more information on this study, contact Mark (608/262-0134 or mgrickenbach@wisc.edu).

New graduate student travel fund established

Thanks to the generosity of Dr. Daniel Schmoltdt (Ph.D. 1987), we have a new endowed Graduate Student Travel Fund to support the attendance of our graduate students at professional meetings and conferences. As a former student, Dan understands the multiple values that come from attending professional meetings and conferences. Funds for graduate student travel have been difficult to find, with many benefactors preferring to target specific research activities or

continues on page 7



"bricks and mortar" construction for their gifts. And many agencies and organizations restrict travel funds to faculty use, thereby precluding student attendance at most meetings. We are doubly pleased that Dan Schmoldt has provided the beginning point for a fund that is sure to grow. He has not only identified an important but previously unfunded need, he has also established a gift that will pay large dividends to tomorrow's leaders for generations to come. If you wish to add to this fund, please visit the last page of this newsletter for more information on University gifting.

Wacky Forestry Definitions

- Dressed lumber** - Trees that still have their bark on
- Lycopodium** - Like a lectern
- Parasites** - When you're talking about two places, not just one

Thank you for your donations!

We take this opportunity to thank those who made a donation to the Department of Forest Ecology and Management in 2003. Your donations support a range of department activities, including undergraduate scholarships and educational activities, targeted research, and special development projects. We recognize and appreciate your generosity and continuing interest in our programs here in Madison, especially during difficult budget times.

Advisor Charitable Gift	Ronald and Maureen	Todd Schara
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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 Grad 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: _____

Please return the above form to:
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Inside this issue . . .

- News from our alumni . . . page 1
- Scholarship recipients . . . page 2
- Forestry Club activities . . . page 3
- Compton retires page 4
- Students travel to Samoa . . . page 5
- Kotar is Birkie celeb page 6

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