



FOREST AND WILDLIFE ECOLOGY NEWS



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

Vol. 11, No. 1

March 2008

News from the Chair

We have been very pleased to receive notes of support and encouragement from numerous alumni and friends in response to the news of our recent merger. It is gratifying to know that so many of you support the efforts and hard work needed to build on past successes and expand our instruction, research and outreach programs.

During the past several months we have screened and interviewed a number of very qualified candidates for the “conservation biology/wildlife ecology” and “resource policy and conservation” positions in the department. I am very pleased to announce that these positions are now filled, and you can read inside about the two new assistant professors, Zach Peery and Adena Rissman, who will join us later this year. Needless to say, we are looking forward to the new ideas and energy that Adena and Zach will bring to the department.

A number of faculty and graduate students have received new awards and honors, continuing the tradition of excellence that has been a hallmark of the forestry and wildlife programs for many years. The accomplishments of our students are especially exciting to note in this newsletter as their research takes shape and they receive the recognition they rightly deserve.

The undergraduates have also been busy – the biennial course focusing on natural resources in southwest Mexico was a great success this year. New friends were made, new ideas were shared and 16 students returned with a sense of achievement and lots of knowledge. The Forestry Club was also busy with another successful Christmas Tree sale. This marks the 30th consecutive year of tree sales that have helped fund numerous educational and professional opportunities for students.

We trust that our alumni and friends will continue to be supportive of our programs and students. We have heard from many of you in recent months but would like to hear from all of you. My invitation remains that you stop by and visit on your next trip to Madison. — *Ray Guries, Chair*

Alumni Update

The 2000s

Matthew Loyas (B.S. Recreation 2007) is pursuing a Masters degree in sustainable community development and land use planning at UW-River Falls. He also volunteers teaching hunter safety courses to children and adults.
(matthew.loyas@uwrf.edu)

Kay Kromm (B.S. Forest Science 2006) is Pest Survey Coordinator with the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. (kay.kromm@nebraska.gov)

Matthew Meyer (B.S. Wildlife Ecology 2006) is at Texas Tech University working on a Ph.D. in environmental toxicology. He says his research is going well and extends his appreciation to the Karasov lab for giving him an opportunity to participate in undergraduate research. (matt.meyer@tiehh.ttu.edu)

Guy D. Smith (B.S. Recreation 2003) was promoted from Trails Coordinator to Deputy Regional Manager at the Milwaukee County Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Culture. Guy says he looks forward to an exciting future for the merged department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology. (gsmith@milwcnty.com)

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Alumni News continued from page 1

Laura (Canny) Sass (B.S. Wildlife Ecology 2002) is currently working out of Springfield, IL as Stream Habitat Ecologist for the Illinois Natural History Survey. Following her graduation from the UW-Madison she worked for the WI DNR in various wildlife and fisheries technician jobs. Then she obtained a M.S. at UW-Stevens Point in Fisheries, completing her degree in 2006. She is married to Greg Sass, also a UW-Madison alum who got his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Fisheries from the UW-Madison Limnology Department. (Laura.Canny@Illinois.gov)

Kimberlee (Detert) Benton (B.S. Wildlife Ecology 2001) recently received a Master of Applied Sciences in Environmental Policy and Management with a concentration in GIS from the University of Denver via their distance/on-line program. She is employed with the WI DNR as Assistant Migratory Game Bird Ecologist. (kimberleebenton@gmail.com)

Mitch Bergeson (M.S. Wildlife Ecology 2001) is the U.S. Geological Survey project leader for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wetlands Database and the Status and Trends Projects in Madison, Wis. (bergeson@usgs.gov)

Mike Amman (B.S. Forest Science 2001) says life is good in the northwoods, where he is a forester with the Bayfield County (Wis.) Forestry Dept. He's been taking advantage of some fine winter conditions to train for the American Birkibeiner competition. And he's enjoying married life since tying the knot in August 2007 with his wife Amy who works for the U.S. Forest Service on the Ottawa National Forest. (mamman@bayfieldcounty.org)

Michael Weston (B.S. Forest Science 2001) was awarded the 2007 Service Forester of the Year Award at the Florida Forestry Association's annual meeting. The award recognizes the outstanding effort of a Cooperative Forestry Assistance Forester within the Florida Division of Forestry. Michael is CFA Senior Forester, Caloosahatchee Forestry Center, Florida Division of Forestry. When we heard from Mike in November, his agency was recruiting workers, so get in touch with him if you are interested in employment in Florida. (westonm@doacs.state.fl.us)

The '90s

Brenda Wasielewski (B.S. Forest Science 1998) says she has landed her dream job as a Fire Management Officer with the Colorado State Forest Service. She worked hard to achieve this goal—working 12 years of grunt labor and exerting much time and effort in earning her M.S. degree from Colorado State University in the fall of 2007. (Brenda.Wasielewski@ColoState.edu)

James Edward Miller (B.S. Wildlife Ecology 1996) is starting his tenth year working for the Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies. He is currently serving as student services coordinator. (jemiller@wisc.edu)

Tara (Edblom) Bergeson (B.S. 1995, and M.S. 2001 Wildlife Ecology) works for WI DNR as Wildlife Action Plan Implementation Coordinator. She is a graduate of WI DNR's Leadership Academy (class of 2005-06). (tara.bergeson@wisconsin.gov)

Congratulations to **Joe House** (B.S. Forest Science 1995) who took first place at the Wisconsin Arborist Association's tree climbing contest in August 2007. He will compete in the international contest in St. Louis this summer. In July 2007 Joe also com-

peted in the international contest held in Hawaii, where he placed sixth. Joe gets lots of practice while on the job with Stephenson Tree Care, Madison, Wis. (lhouse2112@charter.net)

Jeff Brink (B.S. Forest Science 1995) is senior city forester and a certified arborist with the Chicago Department of Transportation. He reports that last year his department installed 2,870 (2.5-3.5 inch) new trees throughout the city of Chicago. On a more personal level, Jeff reports that he got married in September 2006 on a beach on Kauai. His wife, Lubka, is also a forestry major who received her degree from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. (jbrink@cityofchicago.org)

Ellen Heilhecker (B.S. Wildlife Ecology 1994) began working on the Mexican wolf reintroduction project in January 2007. Her official position is Mexican Wolf Biologist with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. (elleheilhecker@yahoo.com)

George I. Mantanis (Ph.D. Forestry 1994) is a professor in the Dept. of Wood and Furniture Design and Technology at the Technological Education Institute of Larissa, Karditsa, Greece. His general research interests include the physical and chemical properties of wood, wood adhesion and glued wood products, and recycling of waste wood and wood based panels. (mantanis@teilar.gr)

The '80s

Erin Muths (B.S. Wildlife Ecology 1986) is a Zoologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, Fort Collins Science Center. Erin says that after she completed her undergraduate degree at UW-Madison she went to Kansas State University and the University of Queensland to complete masters and Ph.D. degrees. (erin_muths@usgs.gov)



William P. Kuvlesky, Jr. (M.S. Wildlife Ecology 1982) became Assistant Dean on Aug. 1, 2007, at the College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Human Sciences, Texas A&M University-Kingsville. He also has a 25% research appointment with the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute. (william.kuvlesky@tamuk.edu)

David J. Ostby (B.S. Forest Science 1981) is Regional Manager at Osmose Railroad Services, Inc., where he has been employed for the past 24 years and is currently living in Madison, Wis. He holds three U.S. patents in the field of wood preservation (timber railroad ties). He is married to Tera, also a UW graduate and has a son in kindergarten who David says is a big Badger fan. (dostby@osmose.com)

The '70s

Thomas K. Shaw (B.S. Forest Science 1976) is the Senior Technical Advisor for Microfinance for Catholic Relief Services in Baltimore, MD. He has held this position since May of 2007. (tkshaw@ameritech.net)

James R. March (Ph.D. Wildlife Ecology 1976) retired from WI DNR after 31 years of service. In 2004 he moved to LaCrosse where he says he enjoys hunting, fishing, and bird watching on the "awesome" Upper Mississippi River and doing activities with his grandchildren. (jamesmarch@centurytel.net)

John Wilson (B.S. Forest Science 1976) is District Silviculturist for the U.S. Forest Service. He is responsible for writing all of the prescriptions for the management of the forested stands on the Eagle River-Florence Ranger District, which encompasses about 315,000 acres of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. John says he is nearing retirement after 31 years of service as a forester. (uptrees@hotmail.com)

Ted Pyrek (M.S. Forestry 1974) retired in August 2007 from his position as Area Forester with the WI DNR after over 33 years of service. Ted says he intends to stay busy in retirement doing some traveling, cycling, spending time with his grandchildren and volunteering with the



Photo above shows volunteer tree planters affiliated with the River Turasha Upper Catchment Conservation Group.

Kenya study abroad leaves lasting impression

by Matthew Piscopo <piscopo@wisc.edu>

To get to Kenya, I traveled nine time zones into the future. When I arrived in the rural mountain town of Njabini, I realized that I had traveled back in time. The economy was largely subsistence and the electricity grid was still miles away. But the lack of luxuries made the basic elements of life more enjoyable. Njabini has responsibility for the country's largest water catchment. Local volunteers are committed to reforesting riparian zones and steep slopes to protect the catchment's water quality. The contributions Kenyans extend towards alleviating social and environmental ills are impressive. I learned a lot from local conservationists, and hopefully my even-aged management models transcended the language barrier. The ethnic tensions and poverty ailments that led to collapse after the latest election have made the re-entry to American life difficult. My admiration grows as I recall the individual conversations I've had with wonderfully optimistic and dedicated people, people who continually endure and prosper under hardships of a nature foreign to us. *NOTE: Matt is a Forest Science/Recreation major who spent September to December 2007 in Kenya participating in a study abroad program.*

City of Horicon's urban forestry program. (quercus409@yahoo.com)

Robert Manwell (B.S. Forest Science 1973) is Senior Public Affairs Manager for the WI DNR's Land and Forestry Divisions. He also obtained a M.S. in Agricultural Journalism from the UW-Madison in 1994. (Robert.manwell@wisconsin.gov)

Harry Libby (M.S. Wildlife Ecology 1972) is City Forester for the City of Middleton, Wis. He retired from WI DNR in 2002 after serving 30 years in

wildlife management and administration. (jflhlj@yahoo.com)

The '60s

Charles W. Lemke (M.S. Wildlife Ecology 1960) reports that he retired in 1986 and lives in Fort Atkinson, Wis. but remains busy converting about 3 acres of land to tall grass prairie and hunting turkey, deer and small game. He is an active member of Friends of Rose Lake and supports other environmental causes where he can. (chwlemke@sbcglobal.net)



Student News

Mittlefehldt receives awards

Sara Mittlefehldt has received the Caroline Thorn Kissel Environmental Studies Scholarship from the Garden Club of America. She also was awarded the Hal K. Rothman Dissertation Fellowship from the American Society for Environmental History and a Vilas Travel Fellowship from the UW-Madison. Sara is living in Charlottesville, Virginia, and writing her dissertation on the social and environmental history of the Appalachian Trail. In the past year Sara has written chapters for two books due out this spring: *Along Wisconsin's Ice Age Trail*, published by the UW Press and *Grassroots Social Action: Lessons in People Power Movements*, published by Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc. To balance the work portion of her life, Sara says she and her husband have formed a bluegrass band called the Ginny Pigdogs and are enjoying a thriving music scene in Charlottesville.

Hubbard presents at Swiss conference

In August of 2007 graduate research assistant and Ph.D. student Steve Hubbard traveled to Zurich, Switzerland to attend the 3rd International Conference on Life Cycle Management. The three-day conference included nearly 500 participants from around the world and focused on the theme of life-cycle thinking—from analysis to implementation. Steve presented a talk at the conference entitled “Solid hardwood flooring in the United States: Inventory and sustainable building implications.” The talk featured preliminary results of part of Steve’s current research that chronicles the impacts of manufacturing



Participants in this year’s trip to Mexico gather in front of the sign for the Las Joyas Research Station in the Sierra de Manantlán Biosphere Reserve.

Students get first-hand look at resource management in Mexico

In January 16 wildlife ecology students and their faculty coordinators, James Berkelman (F&WE) and Eduardo Santana Castellon (University of Guadalajara and UW faculty affiliate) left the bone-chilling cold of Wisconsin for Mexico as participants in the Dept. of Forest and Wildlife Ecology’s course titled “Natural Resource Management and Conservation in Western Mexico.” The course was developed in cooperation with the Manantlán Institute of Ecology and Conservation of Biodiversity (IMECBIO) of the South Coast Campus of the University of Guadalajara, México, to provide an international experience to advanced undergraduates and beginning graduate students. The IMECBIO is an academic institution that has developed an intensive extension program in Mexico for which the institution, its partners and its professors have been recognized with numerous awards, including the Partners in Flight Leadership and Stewardship Awards. The course incorporates social and ecological analysis of natural resource management in a region of Mexico known for its ecological richness as well as its stark socio-economic contrasts. The main topics explored are social forestry, watershed and coastal zone management, and techniques for wildlife research along montane forest successional gradients. The course is offered every other year through the CALS International Program Office. — Eduardo Santana Castellon

solid hardwood flooring in the eastern US. Says Steve, “The opportunity to attend a conference of such a large scope was wonderful and the talk was well received. It’s amazing to see what is being done around the world in the

discipline of life cycle research. With the growing awareness of green built systems and designs for the environment, it’s really an exciting time to be conducting research focused on resource and manufacturing efficiency.”



Faculty/Staff News

Two new faculty members hired

We'd like to introduce two new soon-to-be faculty members in the Dept. of



Zach Peery

Forest and Wildlife Ecology. Zach Peery will come aboard in December of 2008 and Adena Rissman will join us in January 2009.

Dr. Peery is currently a post-doctoral researcher at Moss

Landing Marine Laboratories and the University of California, Berkeley where he is conducting research on threatened bird species. He obtained his Ph.D. in Environmental Science, Policy, and Management at the University of California, Berkeley in 2004, his M.S. in Wildlife Biology at Humboldt State University, and a B.S. in Ecology, Behavior, and Evolution at University of California, San Diego.

Ms. Rissman is expecting to complete her Ph.D. this summer in Environmental



Adena Rissman

Science, Policy and Management at the University of California at Berkeley. Her research interests include conservation effectiveness; forest and rangelands policy; ecosystem man-

agement; public and private land conservation, particularly conservation easements; protected area planning; conservation biology; and biological monitoring. Ms. Rissman earned her B.A. from the University of Texas at Austin.

Welcome to both Zach and Adena. We look forward to your arrival.



Forestry Club racks up another successful tree sale

In the photo above, members of the Forestry Club assist patrons buying a Christmas tree. The club sold Fraser fir, balsam fir and white pine Christmas trees and wreaths during its 30th annual sale at the Stock Pavilion the first weekend in December 2007. Alyson Nowakowski, club president, says the club had one of its most successful sales, thanks in large part to the high percentage of repeat customers from the campus community. Proceeds from the sale help fund student field trips and conference attendance, summer camp, spring trip, scholarships and workshop expenses.

Photo: Jeff Miller

Allison joins FWE as adjunct professor

The Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology welcomes Dr. R. Bruce



R. Bruce Allison

Allison, who was recently appointed assistant adjunct professor for a three-year term. Dr. Allison is an alum of the department, obtaining his M.S. in Forestry in 1982.

He completed a Ph.D. in Land Resources in 1992.

Dr. Allison plans to develop and teach an undergraduate course that will focus on identifying and managing "hazard trees." He has extensive experience in this area through his consulting firm, Allison Tree Care, Inc. Dr. Allison is also involved in research activities related to hazard tree diagnosis, principally with scientists at the USDA Forest Products Lab.



Jacques appointed adjunct professor

The department extends a welcome to Dr. Christopher Jacques who was



Christopher Jacques

recently appointed assistant adjunct professor in the department. Dr. Jacques is a research scientist with the WI DNR and will work primarily with graduate students conducting fieldwork on

white-tailed deer. He will also assist with undergraduate instruction on topics that relate to his areas of expertise.

Penn State honors Professor Field

Prof. Donald Field was inducted into the Henry P. Armsby Society, an honor society for alumni of Penn State University's College of Agricultural Sciences. Prof. Field was selected for the honor based on his "significant research in social ecology, particularly sociological issues affecting natural resource systems." He received his Ph.D. in rural sociology and demography from Penn State in 1968.

French elect Professor Buongiorno to Academy of Agriculture

The French Academy of Agriculture has elected Prof. Joseph Buongiorno as a Foreign Member. The appointment will be confirmed in June 2008 with a decree of the President of the Republic. The Academy has 60 foreign members and was originally founded in 1761 by King Louis XIV as the Societe d'Agriculture de la Generalite de Paris. Prof. Buongiorno was elected to the Section Bois et Forets. He will serve as a conduit for communicating research and other developments in the U.S. to the French Academy of Agriculture.

Professor Mladenoff connects science and art

Prof. David Mladenoff was a key participant in a recent exhibit that combined science and art. The exhibit, *Paradise Lost? Climate Change in the North Woods: An Environmental Art Exhibition*, was on display at Olbrich Botanical Gardens in Madison Jan. 12-Feb. 8. The innovative exhibit combined the works of 20 artists with complementing scientific facts related to how global warming may affect Wisconsin's North Woods. Prof. Mladenoff worked with the artists, educators, and the exhibit coordinators to ensure everyone understood the complexity of the impacts of climate change on forest ecosystems. He also gave a presentation at the exhibit's opening reception on Jan. 12. For more information about the exhibit, visit

<http://www.wisc.edu/cbe/K12/paradis-elost.html>



Artist jd slack painted *Saving our Spruce!* (pictured above) for the *Paradise Lost* exhibit. In her artist's statement Ms. slack says that she was devastated by the thought that the spruce would not survive in Wisconsin if the climate continues to warm and created this painting depicting support for the spruce.

Prof. Bowe is shown in the Kretz Lumber dimension production facility where high-end hardwood parts, panels, and mouldings are produced for cabinet, furniture, and other value-added industries.



Prof. Bowe takes research leave to learn from the source

Professor Scott Bowe is in the middle of a one-year research leave from his position as Associate Professor and Wood Products Extension Specialist in the Dept. of Forest and Wildlife Ecology. He is spending his time working closely with Kretz Lumber Co. in Antigo, Wis., to learn first-hand about the challenges of operating a wood products company—the manufacture of wood products, marketing the product, and pinpointing the industry's research needs. Kretz Lumber is unique in that it is the only Wisconsin lumber company that is employee owned. Prof. Bowe is documenting this process to produce a manual for others interested in forming their own employee owned lumber companies. His time spent working with the industry will also allow him to fine-tune his courses, making them more relevant for students preparing for the job market.



Thank you to our donors!

The Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology was fortunate in 2007 to receive a number of generous donations. We thank each of you for your contribution and for your interest and support of our department, programs, and students. These donations support scholarships, educational activities, student attendance at professional meetings, and special development projects. A big THANK YOU to each of you.

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Forest and Wildlife Ecology Fund

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Alumni Update

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