

# FOREST AND WILDLIFE ECOLOGY NEWS

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

Vol. 16, No. 1 Spring 2013

### **News from** the Chair

We always try to highlight the myriad of activities and successes of our alumni, fac-



Bill Karasov

ulty, staff and students. As the following examples illustrate, I found myself linking those in this newsletter to some of the things we learned this year in our selfstudy of the past 10 years of the department's activities.

1) In our comparisons with other natural resource programs at 42 peer institutions, we ranked in the top 5% in number of research grants and percent of faculty with grants. Be sure to check out some of this year's new funded research projects involving seven current faculty members (see pgs. 1 and 6). 2) We ranked in the top 11% in total research articles and in the top 5% in articles per author. Be sure to check out the recent publications by emeriti (pg. 6). The funding and publication numbers reflect the terrific initiative, motivation, success and productivity of this and the most recent generations of faculty, staff and students, which continue a tradition set by previous generations (see Hall of Fame Inductees, pg. 6). The opportunities we can offer our current students, and their success (see the awards -pgs. 3, 5) builds on this. Thanks to all of you, including donors (pg. 7). We build together! Thanks to Mary Miron, our editor, for another great year of newsletters. — Bill Karasov, Chair

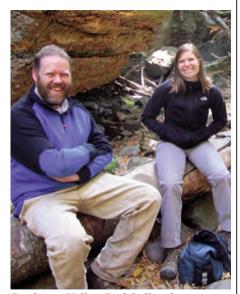
<sup>1</sup>The rankings were done by Academic Analytics, a for-profit company that provides universities and departments with objective data comparing like institutions in the U.S. - http://www.academicanalytics.com

## 'Yo-Yo Ma': a new approach to training the next generation of conservation scientists

by Shelley Schmidt and Sarah Carter

aculty in Forest and Wildlife Ecology, and across the UW-Madison campus, have set a lofty goal - to revolutionize how students are trained and collaboration occurs, and, in the process, push our understanding of novel ecosystems. "We are heading into a strange new world in which current conservation paradigms and management rules may no longer apply," says Professor Volker Radeloff, principal investigator of the National Science Foundation grant recently received by UW-Madison. "Graduate training needs to prepare the next generation of conservation scientists to understand these new environments."

The grant, *Novel ecosystems*, rapid change, and no-analog conditions: the future of biodiversity conservation in human-dominated landscapes, is part of the National Science Foundation Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) program.



Professor Volker Radeloff and geography graduate student Emily Atkinson (an IGERT trainee) on a recent IGERT hiking trip.

Twenty faculty members are associated with the project, including four from Forest and Wildlife Ecology: Volker Radeloff, Adena Rissman, Anna Pidgeon and Tim VanDeelen. Research fields are diverse, ranging from economics to entomology, genetics to geography. Research locations span the globe. Research questions are fundamental to better

understanding the future and our role in it: What are the drivers and future patterns of novel environments? How will species, communities, people and the environment be affected by and adapt to these conditions? How can conservation and management succeed given these changes?

The goal of the NSF IGERT program is to establish innovative new models for graduate education and training that foster collaborative, interdisciplinary research. The model for student training on UW-Madison's IGERT is Yo-Yo Ma, an unrivaled virtuoso, yet also a brilliant ensem-IGERT continues on page 2

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Editor/design: Mary Miron



### **Alumni Update**

Matthew Loyas (B.S. Recreation 2007) reports that after nearly five years as a Water Resource Technician with Capitol Region Watershed District he has taken a position with the Metropolitan Council in St. Paul, MN. In his new position Matt operates a network of automatic water quality monitor stations that provide information about the quality of the Minnesota, Mississippi and Vermillion Rivers and the effectiveness of wastewater treatment efforts. Email: mjloyas@uwalumni.com

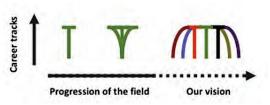
Rebecca Hoffman Gray (B.S. Forest Science and Entomology 2002, M.S. Entomology 2006) moved to a new position in January 2013 as the Forest Health Team Leader with the Wisconsin DNR. She spent the previous seven years at the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection in the Emerald Ash Borer Program. In her new position she will supervise the statewide team of entomologists, plant pathologists, and invasive species specialists. Her office is located in Fitchburg, Wis. Email: Rebecca.Gray@Wisconsin.gov

**Chris Napp** (B.S. Forest Science 1983) is now the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) team leader for the Southwest Jemez Mountains Restoration Project. The EIS will cover forest restoration activities on 110,000 acres within the Santa Fe National Forest and the Valles Caldera National Preserve. The project includes Ponderosa Pine and mixed conifer restoration as well as management activities involving watershed, fisheries, endangered species and invasive plants. Chris notes that this is the seventh EIS he has been involved with, but only the second as team leader, in his 28-year career as a forester and planner with the US Forest Service. Email: cnapp@fs.fed.us

Alumni Update continues on page 3

IGERT, continued from page 1 ble performer with musicians from the Silk Road to Appalachia to the Boston Philharmonic who is forever building bridges and charting new territories. The approach: to create a "community of practice" comprised of committed members and centered on common goals and activities.

In these initial stages, the task at hand is to create the community of practice. To kick off this effort, Tim Van Deelen, Anna Pidgeon and Shelley Schmidt organized a five-day "Wisconsin Idea" road trip to introduce students from across campus to northern Wisconsin, its changing land use and climate conditions, and the people and organizations working to manage and conserve its landscape amidst these changes. Throughout the year, there are a range of IGERT events for students and faculty to meet, learn together, and build community: monthly "Conservation Salons" which provide a casual and interactive forum for interdisciplinary research on novel ecosystems, formal seminars on proposal writing and conservation ethics, interdisciplinary lab meetings to provide feedback on student research projects in their early stages, and fun social



Training in conservation started with a strong focus on depth in ecology and little breadth. It became more interdisciplinary, in that ecologists now draw upon other disciplinary skill sets. Our vision is to broaden the base, and train students to truly collaborate towards a common goal.

events like birding breakfasts, afternoon hikes, and weekend ski trips.

The IGERT grant will also fund two years of dissertator training for selected graduate students. Sarah Carter and Jennifer Stenglein in F&WE are among the five initial trainees selected last fall. Another round of trainees will be selected this spring. Students and faculty alike are excited about the grant, and new IGERT collaborations are already developing. With so many great minds coming together to advance conservation science, there will undoubtedly be exciting results! For more information, please see: www.conservationigert.com

## **Research Capsule**

### Mutlu Ozdogan Matthew Garcia

#### Question

Do clear-cut harvest plots lead to weather modification?

#### **Project**

With support from USDA Hatch formula funds we are investigating the effects of clear-cutting forest harvest on local boundary layer processes using a highly skilled regional climate model.

## ula funds ear-cutting er nal

#### **Findings**

In northern Wisconsin altered surface roughness and winter albedo affect near-surface winds and temperatures, indicating that harvested areas can disrupt the passage of a winter cold front over a harvested region.







#### **Student News**

## Congratulations to these award recipients

Wildlife Ecology Ph.D. students Sarah Carter and Jennifer Stenglein were awarded a two-year Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) on the new Conservation Biology in Novel Ecosystems grant of which Professor Volker Radeloff is the Principal Investigator and a number of other UW-Madison faculty are Co-PI's. (See related story on page 1.)

Sarah Carter received a NASA-MSU professional enhancement award to attend the 2013 U.S. Regional Association for the International Association for Landscape Ecology in Austin, Texas in April. Carter presented a poster titled "Bridging the Planning-Implementation Gap: Do Conservation Plans Influence the Pattern of Subsequent Land Acquisitions?"

The North Central Chapter of The Wildlife Society has named **Jennifer Stenglein** the 2012 Outstanding Graduate Student. Stenglein is studying the population dynamics of wolves in Wisconsin and has recently been advising the Wisconsin DNR on the potential population-level effects of wolf hunting. The award was announced at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference Dec. 10, 2012, in Wichita, Kansas.

Sophomore **Logan Wells** received the Wisconsin Agricultural and Life Sciences Alumni Association (WALSAA) Outstanding Sophomore Award. Logan received \$2,000 to be used toward his 2013-14 tuition expenses. He was honored at an award ceremony at in April.

Graduate students in the Department of
Forest and Wildlife Ecology made quite a
showing at the annual meeting of the
Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society
held in Wisconsin Dells in March.
Undergraduate Josh Seibel won the society's Outstanding Wildlife Student Award
and Camille Warbington won the Best
Paper by a Graduate Student Award. In addiStudent News continues on page 4

#### Alumni Update, continued from page 2



Alumnus Terry Droessler (standing) meets with forestry students and staff during a recent visit to campus.

Terry Droessler (B.S. Forest Science 1981, M.S. Forestry 1994) began a four-year term on the CALS Board of Visitors in April. The 25-member board meets twice a year. Members are selected to provide an external perspective and link between CALS and the member's area of expertise. Terry operates a consulting business, Forest Analytics LLC, in Monmouth, Oregon. While on campus in April Terry took time to meet with students and staff over a pizza lunch to describe the work he does and offer a couple of tips to students on the job market. Email: forestanalytic@hughes.net

# There is a lot of interest in Wisconsin's state animal — the Badger

In March M.S. graduate student Jimmy Doyle presented his research on badgers at the annual meeting of the Blue Mounds Area Project (http://www.bluemounds.org/) in Mount Horeb, Wis. About 55 people attended the talk.



The FWE display at UW Colleges Day was a popular attraction. The event was held at the State Capitol in April. Extension Wildlife Outreach Specialist Jamie Nack was on hand to answer questions from curious youths and adults alike.





Dick Taber

Emeritus Professor Don Field and his wife Nan plotted a trip to North Carolina so they could include a visit with **Dick Taber,** Emeritus Professor from the University of

Washington. Taber earned his M.S. in Wildlife Biology at UW-Madison in 1949 under the tutelage of Aldo Leopold in the last years of his life. Leopold died in April of 1948. The Fields report that Taber, now age 92, is as quick witted and intellectually sharp as ever and was a joy to visit.



Student News, continued from page 3 tion, below are the graduate students who made presentations and the titles of their

Jenna Carlson: Diet analysis of the American Martin

James Doyle: Home range size and habitat selection of American Badgers in southwest Wisconsin

Philip Manlick: Assessing Wisconsin's American Marten reintroductions through noninvasive and genetic techniques John Pokallus: Winter warming, predators, and population regulation: Porcupines (Erethizon dorsatum) in Northern Wisconsin as a case study

Sean Sultaire: Changes in snowshoe hare occupancy along a geographic range boundary

Rebecca Kirby: Contributions of humanderived foods to black bear diets in Northern Wisconsin

Camille Warbington: Cause-specific mortality of neonatal white-tailed deer **Andrew Norton:** Preliminary survival rates for adult white-tailed deer in Wisconsin Jennifer Stenglein: Modeling the population-level effect of Wisconsin's proposed wolf harvest

Post-doc associate Michael Guttery also presented a talk titled Evaluating Wisconsin's grassland bird conservation area model.

#### Welcome new grad student **Alex Brito**

Alex Brito joined the department this spring to begin work on his M.S. in Forestry. Alex did his undergraduate work at the UW-Madison, majoring in Zoology and Environmental Studies. He will be working with Professor Phil Townsend using remote sensing techniques to explore insect habits, diversity, and overall abundance as they relate to forest ecosystem functioning.



Smokey the Bear (aka forestry student Ricky Keller) was a big hit at the 2012 Forestry field day for first grade students held at Picnic Point. The Forestry Club plans to repeat the event this vear.

## **Forestry Club News**

by Hillary Grabner

he UW-Madison Forestry Club has about 30 student members who share a common interest in forestry and the outdoors. The majority of our members are undergraduates in forest science here at the UW-Madison, but students of all backgrounds are welcome to join. During the school year we meet the first Wednesday of every month in Russell Labs. At the meetings we often discuss current forestry issues, plan community outreach events, and listen to presentations from guest speakers. Our club also gives its members the opportunity to improve their resumes and make connections with future employers by providing partial funding for forestry-related expenses such as student SAF (Society of American Foresters) membership fees, certification courses, and educational field trips.

Planned this spring are a tour of the Menominee Reservation forests with UW-Stevens Point, and our annual kickball game—Forestry vs. Wildlife! Additionally, a few of our members will be participating in an out of town chainsaw certification course.

In May, the Forestry Club will host an outreach event designed to educate local first graders about forestry concepts. We had a similar event last year (complete with a guest appearance by Smokey Bear) that was met with great enthusiasm from club members, parents, teachers, and the first grade students, and we hope to have similar success again this spring! This event takes place in the outdoors, so it will be rescheduled for a later date in the event of inclement or rainy weather. If you would like to get involved with this event or other club activities, please contact the Forestry Club president, Liz Wood (at erwood2@wisc.edu). For more information, visit our web site: http://labs.russell.wisc.edu/forestryclub/.

Officer elections were held at the April 3 meeting. Congratulations to Sadie Brown, Clint Gilman, and Stacey Cooper who were elected to serve as next year's President, Vice President, and Secretary, respectively!



### **Department News**

## Gower named director of new BioHouse

Professor Tom Gower will be the faculty director for the BioHouse residential learning community when it opens in the fall of 2014. The residents of BioHouse will work, play, study and explore opportunities in biology together. Planned are biology-themed social activities and a one-credit seminar course that aims to help students appreciate the interdisciplinary nature of cutting-edge bioscience research, expose them to career opportunities, and help them chart their learning path.

## FWE experts weigh in on Blanding's turtle

Assistant Professor Zach Peery and Ph.D. candidate Brendan Reid are providing expert advice to WI DNR regarding the agency's proposal to remove Blanding's turtles from the state's endangered species list. Removing the turtle would make it easier for developers to move ahead with projects. Developers currently must document steps they will take to minimize impact on the turtles when found at the site to be developed. However, Peery and Reid's research shows the animal does not have a healthy and reproducing population and recommend the turtle remain on the endangered list. The WI DNR has indicated it will take the research data into consideration and review the proposed delisting.

#### More bad news for bats

The organism that causes deadly white-nose syndrome in bats persists in caves long after it has killed the bats in those caves and can survive in soil for months and even years. That finding was recently published in *Applied and Environmental Microbiology*, with Forest and Wildlife Ecology research associate Jeff Lorch the lead author. The disease has killed millions of bats since first detected in 2006. White-nose syndrome has not yet been detected in Wisconsin.

# **News from the Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society**

by Holly Hovanec

hat a busy school year for UW TWS! The department's very own Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society involves students in natural resource conservation-related activities and exposes them to professional opportunities. We have a couple of exciting announcements. Congratulations to our president, Josh Seibel, who



The Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society's Game Dinner fundraiser was a huge success. Over 100 people attended the event which was held in December.

was awarded the Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society Outstanding Student Award at the state chapter meeting in early March. This award is given to students possessing "scholarship, leadership, and prospect for accomplishment in the wildlife profession." Also, our Game Dinner Fundraiser held in December was a huge success. The tasty, homemade dishes were served to well over 100 people. We sincerely thank all who donated meat, time, and energy to make the event so enjoyable and beneficial for our future!

Our meetings are held every other Monday at 5:45pm. Featured speakers at meetings this semester have included Jeff Lorch speaking about wildlife disease, grad student Andrew Norton describing his DNR deer monitoring project, and grad student Camille Warbington talking about her neonatal fawn work. We had a graduate school advising panel consisting of Jon Pauli, Jamie Nack, Ryan Sword, and Jen Stenglein. And we look forward to learning about plant pathology and Wisconsin avian biology at future meetings from Professor Glen Stanosz and Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative coordinator Andy Paulios.

This past October, five members from the Student Chapter traveled to Portland, OR for the Wildlife Society's National Conference. They represented the UW while networking, meeting peers, gathering information on how to further improve the Chapter, and entertaining non-Midwesterners with our Wisconsin accents. Our team contended in the annual Quiz Bowl tournament, reaching the second round of competition. We thank Scott Craven for serving as our coach!

We have been busy in the field this year. Twice this semester we assisted with the DNR's Deer Monitoring project in Shiocton, WI and hope to participate at least once more. Also planned are numerous prairie burns in the Madison area, helping with science education nights at local schools, cleaning up our section of Adopted Highway, saving salamanders during breeding movements, and a herping trip to Kettle Moraine State Forest.

The Student Chapter is participating in the Great Wisconsin Birdathon fundraiser this May. Our team, the "Badger Birders," is currently seeking pledges for the event. If you would like to support the Badger Birders or would like more information about the Great Wisconsin Birdathon, please contact Josh Seibel (jseibel@wisc.edu), or Holly Hovanec (hovanec@wisc.edu).

To reflect upon our experiences and accomplishments we will hold our Year-End cookout at Picnic Point in May. Good food, fun people, and beautiful scenery sound like a great way to wrap up another successful year at UW! If you would like to become involved with our chapter or have questions, please contact us at wildlifesociety.uw@gmail.com, or check out our website: http://labs.russell.wisc.edu/tws/.





#### NSF grant funds sloth research in Costa Rica



Two Forest and Wildlife Ecology Assistant Professors, Jonathan Pauli and Zach Peery, along with a collaborator at Groningen University in The Nether-

lands, were awarded a three-year grant to continue their research on sloths in Costa Rica. The National Science Foundation grant will enable the researchers to use nextgeneration-sequencing technologies and Bayesian statistical methods to understand the potential benefits of shade-grown agricultural systems to two-toed and three-toed sloths.

#### Leopold's journals shed light on climate change

Phenological records kept by Aldo Leopold, his family and his students from 1935-45 and by Nina Leopold Bradley, Stan Temple and Aldo Leopold Foundation staff from 1977-2012 are featured in a new research paper in the online journal PLoS ONE. Temple is Professor Emeritus in FWE and Senior Fellow with the Aldo Leopold Foundation. By combining these records from Wisconsin with similar records from Massachusetts initiated by Henry David Thoreau from 1852-58, the study was able to analyze the most extensive set of phenological records in the U.S. The study reached three important conclusions: 1) Flowering dates have advanced since the times of Leopold and Thoreau. 2) Advances in flowering dates are directly related to warmer spring temperatures associated with human-caused climate change. 3) Flowering dates in the record-breaking warm spring of 2012 could have been predicted from the historical relationship between flowering and temperature. The article, which Temple co-authored, is available at http://dx.plos.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0053

788.

#### **Wisconsin Conservation Hall** of Fame inductees

The Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame (WCHF) has announced its 2013 inductees-Nina Leopold Bradley, John Curtis, and David Engleson. The contributions of these three individuals to resource management was recognized at a ceremony on April 20. In 2012 two brothers with ties to UW-Madison — Richard and Robert Hunt — were inducted into the Hall of Fame. Both received their B.S. and M.S. degrees at UW-Madison. Richard's commitment to wildlife conservation led to the development of one of the finest wetland and waterfowl conservation programs in the country. Robert's expertise with wild trout has made a significant impact on fisheries policies. Previous Hall of Fame inductees with ties to the department include Aldo Leopold, Robert Ellarson, Robert McCabe, Joseph Hickey, Fran and Fred Hamerstrom, Laurence Jahn, and Buzz Besadny. The WCHF is located in Stevens Point.

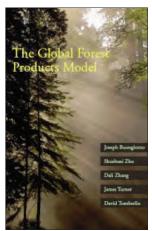
#### **Extinction is forever,' right?**

Well, that may not be true in the near future as biotechnology is nearing the point at which it may be feasible to resurrect an extinct species from recovered DNA, a process dubbed de-extinction by proponents (http://www.nationalgeographic.com/deextin ction/). It won't be dinosaurs as in Jurassic Park, says Professor Emeritus Stan Temple, but more recently extinct species for which good quality DNA might be available. Temple has been part of an interdisciplinary team of scientists assessing the genetic, ecological, ethical and legal implications of this emerging technology. He was recently a speaker at a National Geographic Societyhosted TED talk event on de-extinction. TED (Technologoy, Entertainment, Design) is a nonprofit organization that facilitates the exchange of bold ideas. (You may view the talks at http://longnow.org/revive/tedxdeextinction/.) De-extinction was also the cover story of the April 2013 issue of National Geographic Magazine. Do you think this is a good idea, and if so, which species do you think might be a good candidates for resurrection? Temple would like to hear your views (satemple@wisc.edu).

### **Nesting success along trails** under study

The Baraboo News Republic recently featured Ph.D. candidate Max Henschell's research on the impact trail width has on song bird nesting success. Narrow, curvy trails are built to minimize erosion. They also allow less sunlight to reach plants along the trail and plants grow more sparsely. Wider trails often built from old logging roads allow more sunlight to reach the trail, which promotes denser vegetation growth. Songbirds prefer dense vegetation for nesting and Henschell hypothesizes that songbird predators learn to concentrate their hunting efforts in these areas of dense vegetation along wide trails. Henschell, working under the guidance of Assistant Professor Anna Pidgeon, will test his theory over the next several summers when he and volunteers will monitor songbird nests in the Baraboo Hills. The results of the study may change the way trails are constructed.

#### **Global Forest Products** Model update available



The Global Forest Products Model (GFPM) is a dynamic economic equilibrium model used to predict production, consumption, trade, and price of major forest products in world markets. For each of 180 countries, the

GFPM projects the forest area and stock, as well as the production, consumption, trade and prices of 14 commodty groups covering fuelwood, industrial roundwood, sawnwood, panels, and paper and paperboard. The book, published in 2003 with Professor Emeritus Joseph Buongiorno lead author, documents the methods, data, and computer softwware of the model. The updated 2013 manuals are available free of charge for academic research. For details, visit: http://labs.russell.wisc.edu/buongiorno/welc ome/gfpm/



### Sincere thanks to our donors

The Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology was fortunate to receive a number of generous donations in the past year. We thank each of you for your contribution and continuing interest in our department, programs, and students. Following is a list of those who contributed in 2012.

Thomas and Mary Albrecht Bruce and Helen Ambuel Timothy Beyer Terrence Bush Robert Cochrane Connor Foundation Ronald and Katharine Cook Sarah Cordova Patrick and Harriett Culbert Kristi Dubois Dan Emmett Foresetry Club-SAF Todd Fuller Maureen Giese J. Keith and Janice Gilless Richard and Masami Glines Samuel Grossberg James and Karen Hale Andrew Hancock Amanda Harford David Heidel Steven Hoffman

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#### Forest and Wildlife Ecology Fund

We invite you to join us in our efforts to provide support for important department priorities. Donations to the Forest and Wildlife Ecology Fund are used to support various activities such as student travel to professional meetings, help cover the costs of the summer field camp, and host special lecturers.
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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.

# Check out these links for more news of interest



"Remembering Aldo Leopold, Visionary Conservationist and Writer" that aired on NPR March 10, 2013.

http://www.npr.org/2013/03/10/173949498/



"In the eastern U.S., spring flowers keep pace with warming climate."

http://news.cals.wisc.edu/environment/-2013/01/17/in-the-eastern-u-s-spring-flowers-keep-pace-with-warming-climate/



"As climate warms, bark beetle march on high-elevation forests"

http://www.news.wisc.edu/21388



"Understanding climate change with help from Thoreau"

http://www.npr.org/2013/01/17/169636357/



"UW Day at the Capitol showcases research, innovation"

http://news.cals.wisc.edu/communities/-2013/04/07/uw-day-at-the-capitol-showcases-research-innovation/



"Badger study sheds light on Wisconsin's elusive state animal"

http://news.cals.wisc.edu/environment/-2013/03/25/a-badger-study-sheds-light-on-the-elusive-animal-behind-the-mascot/



"Jamie Nack: Great Wisconsin Birdathon kicks off in May"

http://news.cals.wisc.edu/departments/podcals/-2013/04/26/nack-birdathon-kicks-off-in-may-audio/



"Five things everyone should know about Wisconsin's tension zone" http://news.cals.wisc.edu/departments/highlight-s/2013/02/11/five-things-everyone-should-know-about-wisconsins-tension-zone/



"Logan Wells," forestry major http://news.cals.wisc.edu/departments/calsfaces/students/2013/04/23/logan-wells/