



FOREST AND WILDLIFE ECOLOGY NEWS



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

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December 2012

News from the Chair

Greetings! Besides our annual holiday "card" (page 3), we're highlighting



Bill Karasov

our new graduate students (page 2). Students truly represent the power of renewal for our programs and our profession. They come to study and work

with faculty, but their energy and fresh ideas help keep the entire enterprise moving forward at the cutting edge. It's a symbiotic relationship, all with the aim of a high purpose – the management and conservation of our valuable natural resources. Our alumni are part of this, through material support of this grand endeavor and because many of you are positioned to help our students find ways to take part professionally during their training and after graduation. Working together we succeed. We very much appreciate your help in sustaining this enterprise, and we wish you the happiest of holiday seasons!- *Bill Karasov, Chair*

Deer and wolves – an update on an old debate

Another Wisconsin gun deer season is in the books and the state's first ever wolf hunting season is in progress. Many are wondering what impact the wolf population and the current wolf hunt might have on the state's deer population. To get reliable numbers on changes in the deer population and predation by wolves and others, Professor Tim Van Deelen is supervising two deer radio-collaring projects and a third study of wolf population dynamics in collaboration with WI DNR. Looking at the available data, Van Deelen says the state's deer population is doing quite nicely, even as wolf numbers have grown. "As near as I can tell from DNR harvest and monitoring data, wolves are not causing a dramatic decrease in the growth rate of the deer population, and whatever level of competition is occurring between wolves and hunters must be trivial," he says. Monitoring by outside sources confirm his conclusion. Per square



mile in harvests of antlered deer, antlerless deer and trophy bucks, Wisconsin is at the top, compared to Michigan, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Illinois and Iowa, according to the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA). The QDMA also lists Wisconsin third in the nation in terms of harvested bucks per square mile in 2010. Taken together, these statistics suggest Wisconsin is a good place to be a deer hunter.

Alumni Update

Jeffery Treu (BS Forest Science 1978) retired in May 2012. He continues to serve on the Wisconsin Urban Forest Council as an at large member and plans to continue his activities promoting the control of invasive vegetation. Email: jmtreu1@hotmail.com

Andy Meier (BS Forest Science 2007) has taken a position at Purdue University as Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment Project Coordinator. Email: meiera@purdue.edu

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Alumni Update, continued from p. 1

James Habeck (BS 1954, MS 1957, PhD 1959 all in Botany) shared a photo of him and a fellow classmate taken in 1955. Jim (on the left) and the unidentified classmate were on a field trip at the Faville Prairie (top photo). Bob McCabe unearthed the photo when he was cleaning his office in 1991 and dropped it in the mail to Jim. The bottom photo is a current photo of Jim, who is now retired from the University of Montana. Email: jphabeck@montana.com



Meet our new graduate students

The Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology welcomes our new Fall 2012 graduate students. They are:

Collin Buntrock, Forestry MS working with Scott Bowe.

Ellen Geisler, Forestry MS working with Adena Rissman.

Katie Jenkins, Forestry PhD working with Glen Stanosz.

Ela Kakde, Forestry and Urban and Regional Planning PhD working with Mark Rickenbach.

Christopher Latimer, Wildlife Ecology PhD working with Ben Zuckerberg.

Philip Manlick, Wildlife Ecology MS working with Jon Pauli.

Diane Mayerfeld, Environment and Resources PhD working with Mark Rickenbach.

Wynne Moss, Wildlife Ecology MS working with Jon Pauli.

Lindsey (Kate) Myers, Forestry MS working with Glen Stanosz.

Paula Perrig, Wildlife Ecology MS working with Jon Pauli.

Eric Ross, Wildlife Ecology MS working with Ben Zuckerberg.

Paul Schilke, Forestry MS working with Anna Pidgeon.

Sean Sultaire, Wildlife Ecology MS working with Ben Zuckerberg and Jon Pauli.

Ana Maria Venegas, Wildlife Ecology MS working with Anna Pidgeon.

Chloe Wardropper, Forestry PhD working with Adena Rissman.

Survey reveals trends in the logging industry



Photo by Kelsey Egelhoff

Wisconsin's logging sector is following the same trend as many other industries: fewer, larger, more mechanized operations. Professor and extension specialist Mark Rickenbach leads a team of researchers who surveyed Wisconsin logging enterprises to try to get a handle on how the industry is changing. Here are a few of the survey's findings:

- Overall production is steady but harvests are more intensive. Average harvest in 2003 was 5,849 cords and in 2012 it was 6,893. Average volume per acre rose from 12 cords to 15 in this time period.

- Wisconsin had 20 percent fewer logging firms in 2010 than in 2003. Among 2011 respondents, 21 percent said they'd be out of business in five years.

- Retaining and attracting new logging firms remains a challenge, but current firms are hiring more workers. Just over half of the state's logging firms have employees, up from a third in 2003. On average, firms employ 2.8 workers, up from 1.7 in 2003.

"Two challenges the industry faced in the last 10 years were an aging workforce and a reduction in the number of people in the logging business," says Rickenbach. "That trend is going to continue; so I think the challenge is: How do you recruit a rural workforce that wants to work in this industry? A big piece of that is mechanization—making the work easier so people aren't necessarily out there running a chainsaw all day."

Check out these podcasts featuring FWE faculty:

Wolf and Deer Hunting Seasons Intertwined, Complicated, featuring Professor Tim Van Deelen:

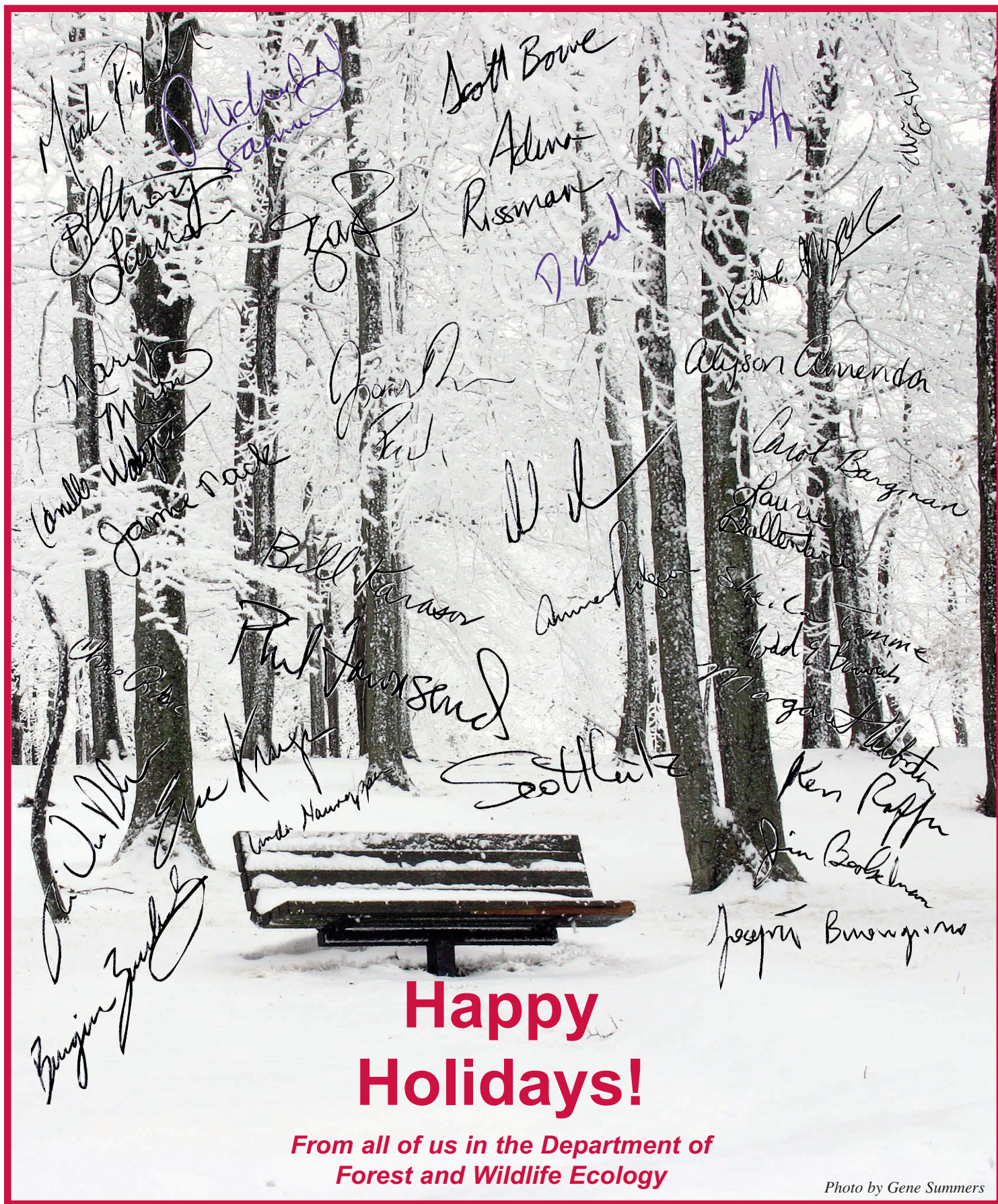
<http://news.cals.wisc.edu/departments/podcasts/2012/11/30/van-deelen-wolf-and-deer-hunting-seasons-intertwined-complicated-audio-2/>

Deer, wolf hunting: Professor shines spotlight of data on a durable debate, featuring Professor Tim Van Deelen:

<http://news.cals.wisc.edu/departments/podcasts/2012/11/29/van-deelen-wolf-and-deer-hunting-seasons-intertwined-complicated-audio/>

State logging more intense, increasingly mechanized, featuring Professor Mark Rickenbach:

<http://news.cals.wisc.edu/departments/podcasts/2012/10/26/state-logging-more-intense-increasingly-mechanized-audio/>



**Happy
Holidays!**

**From all of us in the Department of
Forest and Wildlife Ecology**

Photo by Gene Summers

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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.

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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