



FOREST AND WILDLIFE ECOLOGY NEWS



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

Vol. 11, No. 2

September 2008

News from the Chair

Another school year has started and we've welcomed back the returning students plus a number of new students. Despite the trials and tribulations associated with the start of classes, the training of professional resource managers is at the core of our mission – it is what makes being a faculty member worthwhile. We draw a tremendous surge of energy from the student population, not to mention new ideas and more than a little inspiration.

A number of visitors, post-doctoral research associates and new Ph. D. students also are in residence seeking to learn but also to contribute to the department and the campus. There is a strong international presence here with visitors and students hailing from Brazil, China, France, Israel, Switzerland and several other countries. Opportunities to discuss science but also life, politics, food and many other subjects make for lively lunches and seminars and reinforce the notion of a very small planet. All our visitors have a great deal to contribute.

Several graduate students and faculty have received awards in recent months, helping to maintain our reputation as a leading research program in the college and on campus. We applaud their success and leave it to you to read the details.

On a sad note, we mourn the passing of a friend and benefactor to the department, Mr. Richard Ranney. Together with his wife, Lorraine, the Ranney's gift of the 110-acre Donald Ranney Forest near Arena, WI served as a training ground for a number of students completing internships and for students learning about plantation management in silviculture labs. Dick will be missed but his legacy lives on.
— *Ray Guries, Chair*

Alumni Update

The 2000s

Amanda Harford (B.S. Wildlife Ecology 2004) completed her Masters degree in Environmental Management at Duke University. In June she began working for ENTRIX, Inc. in Houston, TX as a staff scientist.
(agharford@gmail.com)

Theran Stautz (B.S. Forest Science, Recreation Resources Management 2002) is a Wetland Ecologist with NES Ecological Services in Hobart, WI. Theran contacted us earlier in the year looking for several interns to help out with their habitat restoration project over the summer.
(tstautz@releeinc.com)

Katie Wellnitz (B.S. Forest Science 2002) is in the process of switching careers. This summer she returned to school to complete her teaching certification in secondary science and began work on a Masters degree in

Curriculum and Instruction at UW-Milwaukee.
(ktwellnitz@gmail.com)

Erica Howard (M.S. Forestry 2002) is an Assistant Professor in the Humanities and Sciences Department at Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle, WA. She also expects to complete her Ph.D. in Environment and Resources at the UW-Madison in 2008. (eahoward@gmail.com)

Emily Duerr (B.S. 2002 Forest Science) is a Research Technician at Lincoln University in Christchurch, New Zealand. Her work involves investigating patterns and distributions of invasive plants in the Pacific Islands. Emily recently married another FWE alum. She and **Steve Wangen** (B.S. Forest Science 2002) were married in New Zealand in March 2008. Steve is working on his Ph.D. at Lincoln University. His research focuses on the spread of *Hieracium lepidulum*, a problem invasive in New Zealand.
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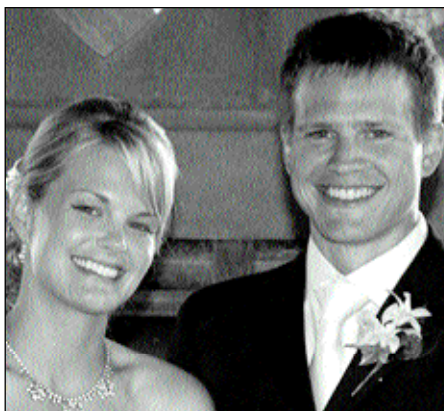
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Zealand. Emily's email is: duerre@lincoln.ac.nz and you can contact Steve at wangens@lincoln.ac.nz



Emily Duerr and Steve Wangen, both department alumni, tied the knot in New Zealand in March 2008.

The '90s

Angela Van Handel (B.S. Wildlife Ecology 1999) is a Certified Veterinary Technician at Community Veterinary Clinic in Milwaukee. (angievh@msn.com)

Tara (Schaefer) Keyser (B.S. Forest Science 1998) is currently a Research Forester with the USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station, Bent Creek Experimental Forest in North Carolina. Her research focuses on regeneration and stand dynamics. Tara earned M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Forest Sciences (silviculture) from Colorado State University following graduation from Wisconsin. She is married and has a one-year-old daughter. (tkeyser@fs.fed.us)

Barbara Martinez (B.S. Wildlife Ecology 1998) is a Ph.D. candidate in Conservation Biology at the University of Minnesota. (mart1152@umn.edu)

Josh Scherer (B.S. Forest Science 1998) successfully defended his dissertation in May 2008 and will begin a one-year internship this fall to com-

plete the requirements for his Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from the UW-Milwaukee. Josh says the basic scientific foundation from his forest science degree served him as well if not better than the psychology and social science backgrounds of many of his doctoral psychology cohorts. Josh says, "The department faculty were extremely positive role models and mentors and probably helped give me the academic self-confidence necessary to take on a doctoral program in a new...field." Josh is married and has a baby daughter. (schererj@uwm.edu)

Paul Perdew (B.S. Forest Science 1992) held several positions in the forestry field before accepting his current position 10 years ago with Pyramid Telephone and Security, a company that installs security/fire alarms, CCTV access and phone systems. He says he still keeps his hand in forestry by helping his dad manage an 80-acre tree farm. Paul is a licensed pilot and in his spare time is building an airplane. He lives in Stoughton, WI, with his wife and two children. (paulperdew@sbcglobal.net)

Jill Marie Larson (M.S. Environmental Toxicology with Prof. Karasov 1991) is a chemistry instructor at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College. After teaching there for 17 years she is taking a study sabbatical in 2008-09 to increase her knowledge of human nutrition with a geriatric emphasis. Jill lives on a small farm near De Pere, WI, with her husband and 5-year-old daughter. (jill.larson@nwtc.edu)

David Cleary (B.S. Wildlife Ecology 1990) manages Associated Underwater Services, Inc. in Seattle, WA. The company is involved in retrofitting dams for better fish passage. David is married and has four children. (decleary@comcast.net)

The '80s

John Morton (B.S. Wildlife Ecology 1980) is the supervisory biologist at Kenai National Wildlife Refuge in Soldotna, Alaska. He has 20 years with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, having worked for several other refuges (Arctic, Yukon Delta and Blackwater) and two Ecological Services offices (Annapolis and Honolulu). Following graduation from the UW-Madison, John went on to complete his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Wildlife Science from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. (john_m_morton@fws.gov)

Lynn Murel, M.D. (B.S. Wildlife Ecology 1980) spent eight years after graduating as a wildlife biologist with the USDA Forest Service before turning to the medical profession. She currently is medical director for UW-Stout Student Health Services. (murell@uwstout.edu)

The 1970s

William Ishmael (B.S. 1979, M.S. 1984 both in Wildlife Ecology) is Area Wildlife Supervisor with Wisconsin DNR. He works on a variety of issues related to deer, including chronic wasting disease, damage to agricultural crops, and population reduction. He also is working to develop new strategies to control invasive plant species. (William.Ishmael@wisconsin.gov)

Elizabeth Lobos, M.D. (B.S. Wildlife Ecology 1978) is a Research Instructor in the Department of Psychiatry at Washington University in St. Louis, MO. (betty_lobos@sbcglobal.net)

Dick Wolkowski (M.S. Forestry 1978) is an Extension Soil Scientist in the Dept. of Soil Science at the UW-Madison, where he has held several positions since 1979. He earned his Ph.D. in Soil Science at the UW in

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1989. His current work focuses on soil and water management, including tillage and crop residue management, soil compaction, precision agriculture, and the land application of municipal and industrial wastes.
(rpwolkow@wisc.edu)

Chris Madson (M.S. Wildlife Ecology 1976) is editor of *Wyoming Wildlife* magazine and a freelance writer and photographer living in Cheyenne, WY. Chris was recently awarded the Outdoor Writers Association of America Excellence in Craft Award at the organization's annual meeting in Bismarck, ND.

Nancy Hafer (B.S. Forest Science 1976) is managing West View Resort in Lac du Flambeau, WI. She recently retired from the USDA Forest Service after working for 25 years as a forester and 5 years as a botanist. You can check the resort out at www.westviewresort.com. (nancy@westviewresort.com)

Kenneth L. Fabel (B.S. Wildlife Ecology 1972) has retired from SNE Enterprises, Inc. in Mosinee, WI, where he was Manufacturing Manager. He still lives in the area (Schofield) and is a County Board Supervisor for Marathon County.
(KFabel@verizon.net)

The 1960s

Jim Evrard (M.S. Wildlife Ecology 1969) retired from the Wisconsin DNR after 30 years with the agency. He is active in a number of wildlife conservation groups as a volunteer and writes a conservation column for a state-wide outdoor newspaper. Jim and his wife, Shirley, live in Grantsburg, WI.
(evrardsc@grantsburgtelcom.net)

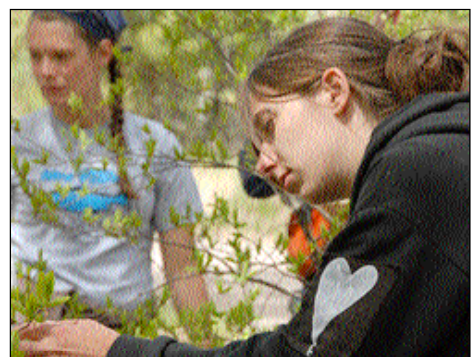
James Zohrer (M.S. Wildlife Ecology 1969) has retired from Iowa DNR after

30 years with the agency. Since retiring he keeps busy writing wildlife grant proposals for the Iowa DNR; authored the Iowa Wildlife Action Plan; and teaches Wildlife Ecology,

General Ecology, and Environmental Science at Simpson College in Iowa. James lives in West Des Moines, IA.
(jzohrer@mchsi.com)

Summer Camp 2008

Summer camp 2008 is now history for the 23 students who participated this year. The Forest Resources Practicum--Forestry Field Camp--is an intensive three-week field course held at the Kemp Natural Resources Station in Woodruff, Wis. Camp is the time when all of the theories and concepts learned in the classroom are put to practice. Below are a few candid snapshots that may bring back fond memories of your days at Forestry Field Camp. *Photos by Volker Radeloff.*





Student News

Sofie Trads awarded intern scholarship

Congratulations to Sofie Trads who was awarded a \$3500 Spitze Public Policy Intern Scholarship to support her summer internship in Washington, DC. Sofie is a senior majoring in Forest Science. She spent her summer interning with Senator Robert Corker (R-TN). Corker works on energy and renewable resource issues.

Ashley Gramza named outstanding senior

Ashley Gramza, a Wildlife Ecology major who graduated in May 2008, was named a CALS Outstanding Senior. In addition to her high level of academic achievement she was active in a number of extra-curricular activities both on and off campus. Ashley was one of eight seniors to receive the CALS award. Following graduation, Ashley worked on a rattlesnake research project in Minnesota over the summer followed by an Americorps position as a private land wildlife specialist in Iowa.

NASA fellowships go to Shawn Serbin and Jane Foster

NASA has awarded **Shawn Serbin** a NASA Earth System Science (ESS) Fellowship for the 2008-09 academic year. Shawn is a Forestry Ph.D. student whose research focuses on quantifying the effects of disturbance on

regional forest carbon cycling. Shawn may apply for an additional two years of support from the ESS fellowship program pending satisfactory progress on his project.

Jane Foster, a Forestry Ph.D. student, was also awarded a NASA ESS Fellowship for the 2008-09 academic year. Jane's project is titled "Forest insect defoliation and carbon dynamics: linking remote sensing with simu-

lation modeling." She also will be eligible for an additional two years of funding from NASA pending satisfactory progress on her project. In addition to the NASA fellowship Jane was awarded the **Thomsen Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowship**, established by the estate of Elsa Thomsen to support outstanding graduate students.

Faculty Feature. . .

Meet our new F&WE faculty member — Zach Peery

Assistant Professor Zach Peery will be joining the department in December of this year. This fall he is in the process of wrapping up his post-doc work at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of



Zach Peery

California, Berkeley and Moss Landing Marine Laboratories. Prof. Peery received a Ph.D. from the Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management at U.C. Berkeley in 2004, a M.S. from Humboldt State University in Wildlife Biology in 1996, and a B.S. from U.C. San Diego in Ecology, Behavior, and Evolution in 1993. His Ph.D. research focused on the ecology and conservation of the Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*), an endangered seabird that, in California, nests exclusively in old-growth redwood forests. His master's research involved studying the demography and old-growth habitat associations of the threatened Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis*). Prof. Peery says his three main research interests are wildlife population biology, molecular ecology, and the biology of seabirds. Much of his research integrates methods and concepts from these fields to study the demographic and environmental factors limiting endangered species. Prof. Peery's teaching interests include wildlife ecology, conservation genetics, and the use of population viability analysis in endangered species conservation.

During his free time, Prof. Peery enjoys surfing, cross-training, and "fumbling around" on the guitar. He says, "I'm excited about being part of the UW community!"



Faculty/Staff News

Buongiorno honored by International Academy

Professor Joseph Buongiorno was elected a Fellow of the International



Prof. Buongiorno

Academy of Wood Science. The Academy is an international non-profit organization that promotes many aspects of wood science on an international level. Candidates are first nominated and then

complete a formal review process before being invited into the Academy.

Buongiorno specializes in decision-making models, economic forecasting, international forestry, and development planning.

Carroll receives CALS Classified Staff Award

Debra Carroll was awarded a CALS Classified Staff Recognition Award at an awards ceremony in April. Debra, a Program Associate in the department, was recognized for "her assistance and professional support to keep projects running smoothly, efficiently and on budget" in addition to her many other positive attributes. Further, Debra's



CALS Dean Molly Jahn presents Debra (left) with her award.

Photo by B-Wolfgang Hoffmann

nominators noted that she is "exceptionally adept at understanding regulatory nuances" and takes care to keep up to date on requirements of the university and federal systems.

Drake and Nack receive Peterson Technology Transfer Award



Prof. Drake



Jamie Nack

Assistant Professor David Drake and Outreach Specialist Jamie Nack, received the 2007 Donald R. Peterson Technology Transfer Award for their Wildlife on the Farm exhibit at the 2007 Wisconsin Farm Technology Days. Drake and Nack's exhibit included a wildlife identification quiz and wildlife specimens for people to see, touch and ask about.

The exhibit also provided information about wildlife-related habitat management practices, recreational opportunities, income potential, and resolution of wildlife damage/nuisance problems in agricultural landscapes. The award recognizes outstanding effectiveness in improving public understanding of new technological advancements; new management tools, processes, or concepts; or contemporary agriculture and natural resources issues via an exhibit at Wisconsin Farm Technology Days.

Pidgeon promoted to Assistant Professor

Congratulations to Anna Pidgeon who was promoted from Associate Scientist to Assistant Professor. Pidgeon earned her Ph.D. in Wildlife Ecology in the department in 2000. Her research has focused on avian ecology, specifically on understanding what contributes to habitat quality and how native bird species respond to changes in habitat. She has collaborated with a variety of agencies and scientists on her research, including



Prof. Pidgeon

the Wisconsin DNR, The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Defense and NASA. As an Assistant Professor, Pidgeon says she looks forward to becoming more involved with undergraduate students as her teaching obligations expand to include Terrestrial Vertebrate Ecology and a new course on understanding wildlife habitat relationships.

Radeloff receives Vilas Associate Award

The UW-Madison Vilas Trustees named Professor Volker Radeloff as a recipient of the Vilas Associate Award. The award recognizes faculty in the Biological Sciences Division and includes flexible research funding for the 2008-09 and 2009-10 fiscal years.



Prof. Radeloff

The award funds may be used to support research travel, book purchases, and supplies relating to research activities. Radeloff says he plans to use the award funds to support his research on land use change and its effects on biodiversity in the former Soviet Union and South America.

Kellett Award goes to Raffa

Adjunct Professor Kenneth Raffa has received the Kellett Mid-Career Award,

given annually by the UW-Madison Graduate School. The award includes \$60,000 in unrestricted research support. Raffa is an entomologist whose research focuses on the population dynamics and ecology of forest insects as well as the application of underlying mechanisms to natural resource challenges. The Kellett Award is supported by the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation.



Prof. Raffa



Townsend selected as Leopold Leadership Fellow

Associate Professor Phil Townsend was awarded a 2008 Leopold Leadership



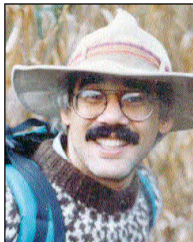
Prof. Townsend

Fellowship. He is one of 19 individuals selected from across North America who will participate in two week-long training sessions designed to help participants deliver scientific information more effectively to journalists, pol-

icymakers, business leaders and the public. The program is based at Stanford University's Woods Institute for the Environment. "The Leopold Leadership Program recognizes rising stars in environmental science who are taking on leadership positions in their fields and within their universities," says Pam Sturmer, managing director of the program. "Our program provides them with the skills and connections to make sure their research is heard and has an impact in the public arena." Townsend's research focuses on structure, composition and functioning of forested ecosystems subject to rapid change.

Santana-Castellon appointed Adjunct Assistant Professor

Eduardo Santana-Castellon has been appointed an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology. Santana-Castellon has a long-running connection to the department and the UW-Madison. He is an alumnus of the UW, obtaining his B.S.



Prof. Santana-Castellon

and M.S. degrees in Wildlife Ecology and his Ph.D. in Zoology/Wildlife Ecology. Santana-Castellon is currently a professor at the University of Guadalajara in Mexico, where his teaching and academic work focuses on three program areas—Agriculture and Natural Resources

Engineering, the Management of Natural Resources, and the City, Territory and Sustainability Program. As an Adjunct Professor he plans to continue his collaboration with the department to offer an international course on management of natural resources in western Mexico as well as explore the possibility of two additional international courses. Sixteen UW-Madison students participated in the course when last offered in January 2008.

Research Capsules

Co-op Wildlife Research Unit has busy year

The U.S. Geological Survey Wisconsin Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit conducted a number of research projects and outreach events in the past year. The Unit's grassland bird research was featured in a *Capital Times* newspaper article in January. In April the unit hosted a field trip to the Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area for the U.S. Chapter of the International Association of Landscape Ecologists. The Unit's wildlife disease program published articles on chronic wasting disease (CWD), avian cholera, and Hawaiian forest birds. The group's research efforts were also noted in local newspaper articles and in the *Wildlife Professional* magazine. Several publications have resulted from interagency collaborative efforts on diseases occurring at the wildlife-domestic animal interface. For information on the projects, visit their web page at <http://forestandwildlifeecology.wisc.edu/coop/wcwru.htm>

Black bear population on the rise

The Department of Natural Resources' past estimates put Wisconsin's black bear population at about 13,000. It turns out that may be a bit low, suggests research

by graduate student David MacFarland and Prof. Tim Van Deelen. After the most comprehensive "mark and recapture" study ever done on bears in the state, the pair now estimate the state's bear population at about 26,000. Most bears still live in the northern third of Wisconsin. However, the number of bear moving south, even as far as Dane and Iowa counties, is growing, says Van Deelen.

Graduate student David MacFarland (below) holds a two-month-old male cub whose mother was being fitted with a tracking collar.



Other News

Alum donates funds for grad student scholarship

In observance of his retirement from Seoul National University, Professor Kyung Joon Lee (M.S. Forestry 1973) has created a scholarship fund with a cash donation of \$10,000 to benefit a forestry graduate student at the UW-Madison. Prof. Lee received a scholarship during his time as a Research Assistant with Prof. Theodore Kozlowski and wanted to

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give the scholarship in appreciation for the support that made it possible for him to attend the UW-Madison. The department greatly appreciates Prof. Lee's generous donation.

Friend of FWE Richard Ranney passes away

A long-time friend of our department, Richard L. Ranney, passed away on May 29, 2008, at the HospiceCare Center in Fitchburg, WI. He was 89 years old. According to his obituary in the *Dunn County News*, Richard loved forests, especially his special piece of land, "the tree farm," near Arena, WI, where he planted thousands of pine trees over the years. The tree farm gave him many hours of solace and provided a retreat from the stresses of life. After transforming the land from a sandy wasteland to a planta-

tion of tall pine trees, he donated it to the UW in memory of his brother who died while a student here. This parcel is now the Donald Ranney Forest and has been used for a variety of teaching and research activities over the years. Richard graduated from the UW-Madison in 1943 with a degree in agricultural engineering. He was the first member of his family to graduate from college. Richard is survived by his wife of 65 years, Lorraine, as well as five daughters and their families.

First recipient completes Connor internship

The first recipient of the David N. Connor Forestry Internship is Josh Burling, a senior majoring in Forest Science. Josh interned over the summer with Nicolet Hardwoods in Laona, WI. The internship support is provided through the generosity of Mary Pierce and the Connor Family. "The internship has been a wonderful

partnership between the department, UW Foundation, and the private sector to enhance a student's education," says Mary Pierce. "It's fun to be on a team where everyone is so enthused."

The internship comes with a \$7,000 stipend. Josh's internship with Nicolet Hardwoods included mentoring on conducting resource inventories, forest certification programs, developing and implementing silvicultural prescriptions, administering timber harvests, scaling forest products and experience in forest products manufacturing. Showing her own enthusiasm for the internship, Ms. Pierce adds, "I like that the internship promotes learning through immersion. The student is immersed in the day-to-day operations.... They are exposed to the importance of managing the forest resource for the long-term. But they also learn about the forest products and economics side of the business."

Forest and Wildlife Ecology Fund

We invite you to join us in our efforts to provide support for important department priorities. 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 _____
(please specify amount)

I/we would like to pledge \$_____ each year for _____ years.

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If paying by check, please make your gift payable to UW Foundation Forest and Wildlife Ecology 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 to: Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology, 1630 Linden Drive, UW-Madison, Madison, WI 53706. Or e-mail the information to <rpгурies@wisc.edu>.

Name: _____

Degree and Date Received: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____ Tel No. _____ Fax No. _____

Current employer and position: _____

News to share: _____

Please send us your email address

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<mjmiron@wisc.edu>

We will continue to mail a paper copy to alumni and friends who prefer this format.

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