

FOREST ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT NEWS

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

Vol. 1, No. 1

September, 1998

FIRST WE WERE ELEVEN!

In the summer of 1975, the Forestry Department hired three new professors: Joseph Buongiorno, Ronald Giese and Raymond Young, bringing the faculty to 11. The first class of foresters had already graduated, and there were 80 undergraduates (88% male). The department was virtually bankrupt, understaffed and overcrowded. So much change has unfolded since then that many of you would not recognize your old home-away-from-home or the staff, so let's explore a sample of happenings.

We quickly began to augment disciplines: first a silviculture position was added, then a statistician and ecologist, and more recently, landscape ecology was integrated into the department.

After 14 years of development, the Aldo Leopold addition to Russell Labs was completed in 1990. It is wonderful to have new teaching facilities, offices and laboratories, and especially nice to have everyone under one roof.

Over the past 23 years, we have greatly enlarged our course offerings. This reflects emphases of the faculty and students as well as the importance of contemporary issues. New courses, ranging from Agroforestry to Carbohydrate Chemistry, provide breadth. When further developed, our web site (<http://treebiol.forest.wisc.edu/forestry/home.html>) will display all course descriptions as well as much other information.

We have converted an individual entrepreneurial approach to a practice, which now benefits both professors' specialties and the department. Gift accounts and a University Foundation relationship, which did not exist earlier, now provide greater stability and flexibility to all programs. We are in an era of reduced state funding. We have become a publicly-assisted university (a situation where only 27% of our support derives from Wisconsin tax revenues, a decline from 42% in 1975) and it is essential to develop other funding sources to maintain the department's continuity and integrity.

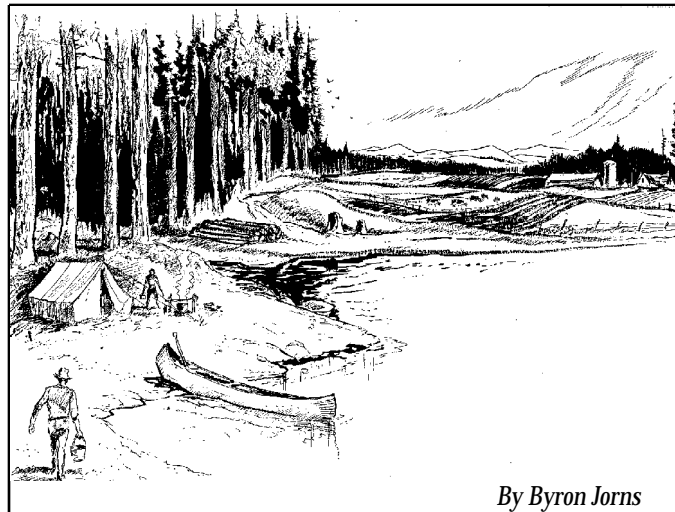
More important than the bricks, tiles and dollars we have built up

practical problems, aid in focusing on local issues, and keeping us in touch with field forestry. We have always taken teaching seriously, but it didn't always get recognized as much as research. Our faculty have garnered eight college, campus and national distinguished teaching/advising awards, which is quite a remarkable record. We are truly pleased with the results and students are the real beneficiaries.

Last year our first graduating class of foresters held its 25th anniversary in Madison—a year late! (in their own words they were always late, so it made sense to delay the celebration). Jack Berbee and Gordy Cunningham attended on behalf of the early faculty. It was a fine event, and it was a reminder of our roots. We are proud of the accomplishments of our alumni.

The Department of Forest Ecology and Management prepares for the new century with a core faculty of 21, including a strongly developed area we call Social Forestry (an attorney, a historian, sociologist, and educational specialists in recreation and indigenous learning systems make up this new faculty group). And the three of us who were new in 1975 constituted the most

senior at the turn of the year—a complete turnover since the first class graduated! We now have 65 undergraduates (44% women). About half of our students are pursuing a resources conservation and management track, which is not accredited. There are over 100



By Byron Jorns

over the years is the wonderful balance that we have achieved among teaching, research and extension. Research has always been our nationally recognized strength, and it has become even stronger in recent years. Outreach is critical and we have developed an outstanding program to help solve

First We Were 11, continued
hard-working, bright and imaginative graduate students associated with our faculty. Those of you who graduated in the early days of the accredited program would find new and refurbished facilities and all new people, but you would still recognize the mission of excellence, rigor, creativity, and *esprit de corps* left us as a legacy by the founding faculty. - *Outgoing Chair, Ron Giese*

A MESSAGE FROM THE INCOMING CHAIR

Thanks to all who have gone before us, and especially Ron Giese, the department is well positioned to move into the next century. We have a new name and a strong complement of faculty and bright and energetic students. Yes, budgets are tight and everyone is expected to do more with less, but that's pretty much the *modus operandi* everywhere today in the business world. We will continue to find ways to support the important instruction, research and outreach functions of the department.

I believe that we need to develop a much stronger relationship with our alumni. You are an important source of support but you can also provide us with valuable positive criticism and ideas. We welcome your suggestions and will be asking some of you to provide your perspectives in a survey to be mailed out later this year. We initiated this newsletter as another means of opening up lines of communication with you. In September we will be hosting the alumni open houses in the department and at the national SAF meeting. We'd love to see you at either or both events.

Future issues of the newsletter will include profiles of individuals to keep you abreast of what the "oldsters" are up to and to introduce new faculty and staff, and short descriptions of one or more current

research projects. We'd also like to include information from you so don't be bashful about sending us news. - *Incoming Chair, Jeff Stier*

DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE – Y'ALL COME

On September 12, from 9:00 - 10:30 a.m., all alumni are invited to an open house in the department as part of the sesquicentennial celebration. Come and renew old acquaintances, meet new faculty, see how the facilities have (or haven't) changed, sit in your old seat in Room 104, and learn a little more about what's going on in the department currently. September 12 is the day of the Wisconsin Agricultural and Life Sciences Alumni Association (WALSAA) Fire-Up so you might also want to wander across the street to the Stock Pavilion and partake of the festivities and food (steaks, brats and beer) there, and maybe even attend the game against Ohio State University (11:30 a.m. start). Tickets for the Fire-Up, which will run from 8:30-11:00 a.m., are available directly from WALSAA (105 Agricultural Hall, 1450 Linden Drive, Madison, WI 53706).

DEPARTMENT NAME CHANGE

You probably noticed that the name of the department is no longer "Forestry." In 1997 faculty and students engaged in a discussion of possible name changes. We settled on Forest Ecology and Management because we think it better reflects the balance we try to achieve between science and application, and between the ecological and social dimensions of forestry. The name is unique among forestry departments and colleges in the country. The name of the undergraduate major (Forest Science) and the graduate degree (Forestry) remain the same.

RON GIESE RETIRES AS CHAIR



Ron Giese and his wife Renie show two of the gifts received at Ron's retirement reception.

On July 4 (is there some symbolism to retiring on Independence Day?) Ron Giese retired as Chair of the department after serving 23 consecutive years in that position. Students, faculty and friends gathered in the Allen Gardens on the ag campus for a reception in Ron's honor on July 1, and presented him with several gifts, including a reproduction of an 1879 print of the campus. Ron is now an emeritus professor in the department and has several projects that he intends to work on in his "golden" years, including a revision and update of the department's history.

ALUMNI RECEPTION AT THE 1998 NATIONAL SAF ANNUAL CONVENTION

The department will be hosting an alumni reception at the national Society of American Foresters (SAF) meeting in Traverse City, Michigan on Sunday evening, September 20. Come and smooze with colleagues and friends, congratulate Prof. Joseph Buongiorno on the award he will be receiving at the convention, get an update on departmental happenings, and enjoy Wisconsin cheese and beverages!

GRAD STUDENTS HONOR RAY GURIES

In February the graduate students presented Professor Ray Guries with a token of their appreciation for his role in bringing the department closer together. Ray has hosted the Annual Spring Picnic at his farm for the last 20 years and a Fall Pig Roast for the last four years. These are joyful events that provide students and faculty a relaxed atmosphere in which to get to know one another better. Ray was presented with a Leatherman utility knife and a framed copy of the companion photo (a familiar, if only slightly exaggerated scene) taken by Professor Jeff Martin. Thanks also to Ces Guries for her generosity in opening her home to throng after throng of foresters.

The graduate students would like to thank Ron Giese, and particularly his wife Renie, for organizing 22 years of Christmas parties, replete with Santa Claus. Thanks also to Eric Kruger for a decade of Wild Turkey Parties (that's the bird, not the drink!). - *Todd Miller, Graduate Student Representative 1997/98*

COLLABORATIVE ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH ON MANAGED AND OLD-GROWTH FORESTS

In recent years, there has been increased public concern regarding the maintenance of biological diversity on public forest lands. To address these concerns, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources initiated a set of integrated ecological studies in 1993 to examine the effects of forest management practices on ecosystem processes, forest habitat structure, and biological diversity. Several scientists in the Department of Forest Ecology and Management have been collaborating on this multidisciplinary, interagency research effort, which also includes investigators from the UW-Madison



A copy of the photo above was given to Ray Guries by the graduate students. The scene shows the "typical" line outside Ray's office.

Departments of Botany, Entomology, Plant Pathology, and Soil Science, the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, Department of Natural and Applied Sciences, the Center for Forest Mycology Research, Forest Products Laboratory, the Milwaukee Public Museum and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. All studies in this project (often labeled "the Old-growth Project") share the same set of research sites in old-growth, managed uneven-aged, and unmanaged second-growth northern hardwood forests located in north-central Wisconsin and western Upper Michigan.

The overall goal of the project is to determine the extent to which current forest management practices are sustaining the species composition, structure, and function of forest ecosystems and to recommend possible refinements that would enhance biological diversity while accommodating economically viable forest production. Research efforts by Department of Forest Ecology and Management faculty members have included investigations of vegetation structure and composition (Dr. Craig G. Lorimer), carbon and nitrogen dynamics (Dr. Stith T. Gower), spatial patterns of understory herbs

(Dr. David J. Mladenoff), remote sensing of key structural and functional characteristics (Drs. S. T. Gower and D. J. Mladenoff), soil nutrients and biogeochemical cycling (Dr. James B. Bockheim, Dept. of Soil Science and FEM), species composition, diversity and spatial patterning of wood-inhabiting fungi (Dr. Glen R. Stanosz, Dept. of Plant Pathology and FEM) and the biodiversity of ground dwelling beetles (Dr. Kenneth F. Raffa, Dept. of Entomology and FEM). Findings from individual studies will eventually be integrated with one another to allow investigators to model the effects of various management practices on different components of these complex forest ecosystems. - *by John Goodburn*

INAUGURAL LEOPOLD LECTURE HELD IN APRIL

The four surviving children of Aldo Leopold were the guest speakers at the first Aldo Leopold Lecture Series in Natural Resources held April 21. The lecture series brings distinguished scholars, eminent scientists, and resource management leaders to the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus to

Leopold Lecture, continued

address current issues relating to sound natural resource stewardship.

Nina Leopold Bradley gave a presentation on "A Sense of Place." Her siblings, Estella Leopold, A. Carl Leopold and Luna Leopold, followed with more informal remarks.

The Department of Wildlife Ecology and the Department of Forest Ecology and Management co-sponsor the lecture series. Speakers are selected by a committee of faculty, students and staff representing both departments. The next lecture is scheduled for this fall. The speaker and date of the lecture will be announced in the near future.

CLASS OF 1971 HAS 25 YEAR + 1 REUNION

The 1971 undergraduate forestry alumni had their 25 + 1 update year reunion on June 27 and 28, 1997. The "1 update year" was necessary because their 10-year reunion was +1 also. Would you say they may be a little slow on the uptake? Seriously,

both reunions went very well and everyone had a good time.

The 25 + 1 was filled with social and informative events. Those attending the reunion stayed at the Friedrich Center on campus. On Friday those who were in town met at the Angelic Brewing Company to get reacquainted and share stories of the past years. Saturday morning was free to wander the campus and State Street to bring back some of the memories from the "good old days." Saturday afternoon there was a welcome reception at the Friedrich Center and a tour of the Forestry Department facilities. Many changes have taken place since 1971! The evening held a dinner and exchange of stories, pictures, slides from the southern trip, and pleasant conversation. After 26 years there was still that easy feeling among friends and the laughter of practical jokes played and good times shared.

Eleven of the seventeen graduates were able to attend the reunion. Fifteen of those seventeen graduates are still actively involved in forestry or a related profession.

Forestry Department staff, past and present, who shared in the

festivities with the graduates were Dr. Gordon Cunningham, Dr. Ted Peterson, Dr. Jack Berbee, and Dr. Jeff Stier. A good time was had by all and we are looking forward to the 40th + 1! - *by Ken Rauscher and Dave Liska*

SUMMER CAMP '98

Although Forestry 655 is officially titled "Forest Resources Practicum," students and faculty alike still refer to the three-week session at Kemp Station as "Summer Camp." This past spring marked a bit of a milestone in Summer Camp history. We had 24 students attend for the second year in a row. With strong enrollments the past few years, Summer Camps '97 and '98 were filled to capacity.

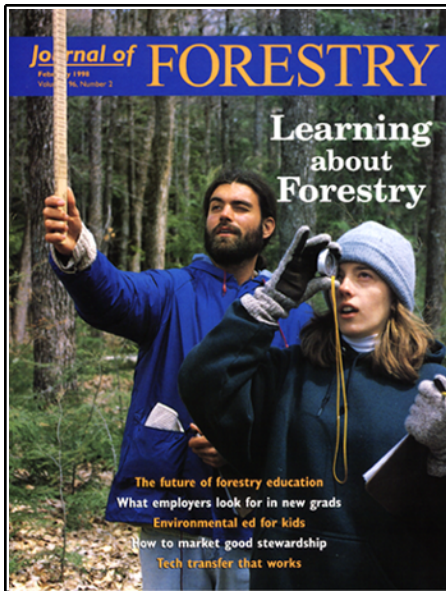
As with all forestry education, the Summer Camp curriculum has evolved over time to keep up with the changing face of resource management. However, we are still holding onto the traditional components. Students learn how to use a compass and cruise timber, but they now learn to use a GPS unit and wrestle with forest policy issues. Incorporating new topics, while retaining the old, required some adjustments in how subjects are presented.

We have worked hard over the past few years to achieve a better integration of the field exercises. A 3 1/2-day module during the second week integrates basic forest ecology, forest soils, habitat classification, pathology, entomology and wildlife on both very rich and very poor sites. Students also prepare detailed forest management plans that encompass all forest resources for a stand that they have inventoried. On the last day, each team presents its plan orally to an audience of fellow students and faculty who are eager to critique the prescription.

For faculty, one of the real rewards of Summer Camp teaching is to see the progress made by students

Alumni present at the reunion: back row (l to r): Craig Steinbrink, Ed Wenger, Gordie Christians, Marty Schuettpelz, Dan Mainwaring, Bill Smithyman; front row (l to r): Tim Krohn, Steve Zieroth, Bill Hasse, Dave Liska, and Ken Rauscher.





Summer camp students made the cover of the February, 1998 issue of Journal of Forestry.

during the three-week period. It is hard to believe that the students presenting such thoughtful forest management plans on the last day in Camp are the same young people who struggled to understand the hand compass on the first!

It is also a real pleasure to have past UW-Madison graduates visit Kemp Station and help us out with teaching and discussing their forestry careers. Former students Tom Hittle, Chad Morgan, Jeff Olsen, Teague Prichard, and John Swartzman are among those who have participated in recent Summer Camps. We certainly appreciate the time and effort they have contributed to educating our future foresters and we invite you to stop by if you are in the area. - *by Jeff Martin*

CALL FOR NEWS

We asked our current students what they would find interesting to read about in an alumni newsletter. They mentioned the usual things you

might expect in a newsletter; e. g., updates on faculty, facilities, curriculum and research. But they also expressed an interest in keeping abreast of events in the lives of their fellow students. So, if you have anything about your professional life that you'd like to share with other former students, please send it in so that we can share it with others. News items should be sent to: **FOREST ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT NEWS**, Department of Forest Ecology and Management, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1630 Linden Drive, Madison, WI 53706.

CHANGES TO OUR FACILITIES

Some of you former graduate students will recall when we occupied part of the Stock Pavilion. When the addition to Russell Labs was completed in 1990, we moved everybody under one roof. However, with the recent increases in faculty and students, we will again be housing people in the Stock Pavilion beginning this fall. Nevertheless, things have changed for the better; the offices have been repainted and wired for access to the internet.

Remember the open grassy area north of Russell Labs and west of Steenbock Library? Well, it isn't there any more! It will soon be a parking ramp.

HOW'S YOUR FORESTRY VOCABULARY?

Prof. Jeff Stier hosts a forestry definition contest each year in which students are asked to come up with humorous interpretations of forestry terms. Here's a brief sampling of some recent entries—feel free to send in any of your own contributions!

Acer rubrum—Latin for "Red Baron"
clinometer—device used to measure the President's public approval rating
dbh—"duh, bout here!"
drupe—bad posture
carrying capacity—about two bags of groceries and a 12-pack of beer
even-aged stand—grade school class picture
leaching—good technique for catching mid-summer walleyes
pole stand—standing while leaching (see leaching above)
succession—leaving college for a real job

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Remember Marian Jacobs, the department's stalwart program assistant? At some time during their tenure, most students got to know Marian. In January of 1996, Marian retired after 44 years of service! She resides in Waterloo, WI.

DEPARTMENT UNDERGOES ACCREDITATION REVIEW

Every ten years the professional accrediting body, the Society of American Foresters, visits programs to conduct a site visit in connection with accreditation of the undergraduate curricula. Our site visit took place last spring. We are happy to report that we received a clean bill of health. The following educational programs leading to the first professional degree in forestry are currently accredited by the SAF: the Industrial Forestry, Public Forestry and BS/MS options in Forest Science leading to the B.S. in Natural Resources; and the Forest Science curriculum leading to the B.S. in International Agriculture and Natural Resources.

DO WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT ADDRESS?

If not, please supply us with the correct address so we can update our files.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Country: _____

Send the above information to:

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Department of Forest Ecology and Management

University of Wisconsin-Madison

1630 Linden Drive

Madison, WI 53706, USA

Department of Forest Ecology and Management
University of Wisconsin-Madison
1630 Linden Drive
Madison, WI 53706-1598