



FOREST ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT NEWS

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

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Alumni Update

Dave Liska (B.S.-71; M.S.-72) was presented with the Honorary Member Award by the Wisconsin Arborists Association in January at the annual meeting. The award was given in recognition of Dave's long-term involvement, contributions and professionalism to the organization and the arboriculture industry.

Undergrad Announcements

Congratulations to the following FEM undergraduates who have received scholarships:

Sunday Burkhart - Vicky Lee Hirsh Scholarship

Angela Jacobs - Vicky Lee Hirsh Scholarship

Brooke Ivener - National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc. Scholarship

Cindy Karsten - Carroll D. Besadny Environmental Scholarship

Alan Kirschbaum - David N. Connor Scholarship; Vicky Lee Hirsh Scholarship

Jennifer Knorr - David Lyon Scholarship

Joshua Scherer - Robert Hendricks Scholarship

John Stephenson - David N. Connor Scholarship

Katie Wellnitz - Vicky Lee Hirsh Scholarship

Jedd Ungrodt - Vicky Lee Hirsh Scholarship and Wisconsin Agricultural and Life Sciences Alumni (WALSAA) Outstanding

Sophomore Award. Jedd also received the 1998 Forest History Association of Wisconsin Scholarship. His entry in the competition, "Chequamegon Forest Perspectives," told the history of a piece of property on Lake Superior in Bayfield County that has been in his family for 50 years.

One Undergraduate's View of Off-Campus Learning

by Cindy Karsten

Everyone knows that the University of Wisconsin – Madison is filled with experienced professors from whom we have gained considerable amounts of knowledge. However, in all fairness, I must admit that some of my greatest learning experiences occurred not on campus, but around the world.

When I entered college in 1994, I was undecided about my major. In the spring of my first year I decided to take a course that I knew nothing about but looked interesting. I found myself in Forestry 100. This class is now a mere memory, but it convinced me that I wanted to pursue a degree in Forest Science and I transferred into CALS.

By the fall of 1995 I was feeling very comfortable around the agriculture buildings and one day decided to look into an exchange program. I knew that I needed to attend a school where classes were taught in English and was referred to the exchange program at the University of Zimbabwe. It was a new program at the time. In November I was told that the application was due January 1, and that my classes would start in March. By the end of January, I

knew that I had been accepted, so I bought my ticket and was off to Zimbabwe on March 1st.

In Zimbabwe I took classes in the Faculty of Agriculture and, with the way that the school year is set up there, I had ample time to travel. I went to school for two months, had a month off, went back for 3 months, had another month off and then came back for finals. During my first vacation I traveled north to Tanzania and Zanzibar and during the second break I went to Malawi and traveled around Zimbabwe with my parents. When classes ended in November 1996, I went to South Africa for a month and traveled around the country. I was fortunate to make friends with folks at a safari company that ran trips into Kruger National Park. They hired me to assist the guides and help cook on a few four-day excursions into the park. It was truly a magical experience to see all the wildlife there. My most vivid memory is of a baby zebra taking its first steps. That is just not something that you could experience hanging out around Russell Labs.

When I returned to Zimbabwe in January 1997, I was fortunate to be offered a month long internship with the Forestry Commission of

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Zimbabwe. Most of our work consisted of visiting trial sites of eucalyptus trees to examine how well this Australian tree fared in Zimbabwe's climate. We also worked with groups in the communal areas on agro-forestry projects in an attempt to increase biodiversity on the barren lands that they were given to farm. I would like to return to Zimbabwe when I graduate to see how the trials and projects are progressing. I would even enjoy working there for a few years after I graduate.

I returned to Wisconsin in February 1997 and continued my classes at the UW the following fall. This past summer I decided to take a job as an intern at the newly established Brickett Place Wilderness Information Center in the White Mountain National Forest in Maine and New Hampshire. I can hardly remember having such a wonderful summer. Will, the other intern, and I set up the Brickett Place, a 1830 homestead nestled in the White Mountains, and designed to assist forest users during the summer season. I created displays on "leave no trace practices," tree identification, wilderness areas and forest policies. We were called upon to answer questions about everything from trails to the weather, from parking permits to bathrooms. I spent my free time climbing mountains and familiarizing myself with the area. I highly recommend the White Mountains to anyone who loves mountains you can climb in one day or ranges you can traverse in a few days time. I have been offered the position of project manager for the upcoming summer. It is a great opportunity, but part of me longs to see other parts of the country. I'll just have to wait and see where my next adventure takes me.

I will graduate from the university in December 1999, but have no definite plans after that. I

know that I want to see as much of this country as possible. I have been extremely fortunate with my travels in the past and I can only hope that my luck continues into the future.

Cindy Karsten is a senior in the Forest Science major. She is a Madison native and has worked part-time for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources during her undergraduate tenure.

Grad Student News

Lynne Heasley received the American Association of University Women's American fellowship and the EPA Science to Achieve Results fellowship. Lynne is a dissertator studying with Prof. Ray Guries. She has a minor in History under Prof. William Cronon. Her specialties are environmental history and landscape ecology. As a new mother, Lynne is busy balancing family and research, but she found time to develop and co-teach a new seminar in forest history with Prof. Nancy Langston during the fall, 1998 semester.

Nancy Menning is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Forest Ecology and Management and the Institute for Environmental Studies. As one of our Social Forestry students, her dissertation concerns the association of community, culture and land use. Specifically, her research focuses on religious world views and land management practices of three faith communities—Mormon, Catholic, and Apache Baptist—in the mountains of eastern Arizona. Nancy started her fieldwork in August of 1998 and will be living on site until December 1999. She is supported by two grants: a Ford Foundation

Community Forestry Research Fellowship and an Environmental Protection Agency Science to Achieve Results (STAR) dissertation fellowship.

Faculty Bulletin

Joseph Buongiorno receives Society of American Foresters Award in Forest Science

Joseph Buongiorno was presented with the first Award in Forest Science from the Society of American Foresters (SAF) at the 1998 SAF National Convention in Traverse City, Michigan in September of last year. The award recognizes distinguished individual research in any branch of the quantitative, managerial, and /or social sciences that has resulted in substantial advances in forestry, regardless of the age or seniority of the individual. In announcing the award, the SAF cited Joseph as "...one of the world's premier forest economists." Joe was also the first recipient of SAF's Carl Alwin Schenk Award for Outstanding Achievement in Forestry Education in 1988, and is the only person ever to receive both awards.

Meet Nancy Langston



I'm a forest historian, which means that I examine the shared history of people and their forests, asking how and why forests have changed over time, how people have used and altered the forest, how our perceptions of



forests have evolved, and how societies have struggled to establish policies governing forests. My initial training, however, was as an ecologist rather than a historian. While on a National Science Doctoral Fellowship at the University of Washington, I researched the evolutionary ecology of Carmine bee-eaters nesting along the Zambezi River in Zimbabwe. My experiences in African conservation persuaded me that to understand (and reverse) environmental degradation, we needed to pay much closer attention to human communities. Understanding the historic roots of environmental change became my primary research focus.

My first book, *Forest Dreams, Forest Nightmares: The Paradox of Old Growth in the Inland West* (University of Washington Press, 1995) examines the causes of the forest health crisis on western national forests. *Forest Dreams* won the 1997 Charles Weyerhaeuser Prize for best book on forest and conservation history, and this project led to my election to the Board of Directors of the Forest History Society. The book I am now writing focuses on dilemmas over riparian management. I am examining the ways different cultures have transformed riparian systems in the West, and the ways scientific and cultural ideas of nature have affected those transformations. *Troubled Waters: An Environmental History of Western Riparian Areas* will soon be published by the University of Washington Press.

I am now part of the Social Forestry group in the Department of Forest Ecology and Management, and I have a joint appointment in the Institute for Environmental Studies, where I teach various courses in environmental humanities. (Nancy's photo by Jeff Martin)

Congratulations Professors Jeff Martin and Gene Wengert

The department lost both Extension faculty to retirement within the last few months. **Gene Wengert's** last



day was November 3rd, 1998. He came to the UW in 1992 after serving 16 years at VPI & State University, and replaced Ted Peterson in the forest products extension area. Gene continues to teach his wood products courses this spring semester and to maintain his "Ask the Wood Doctor" column on the WoodWeb site at www.woodweb.com.

Jeff Martin retired on February 3rd of this year. He replaced Gordon Cun-



ningham in the area of forest management extension. Jeff had spent 14 years as a Research Forester with the USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Forest

Experiment Station in Princeton, WV, before being lured to the "flatlands" of Wisconsin. Jeff has developed a real knack for photography over the years (see Jeff's photos in this issue) and will be pursuing that avocation during his "golden years." He reports that he might also be lured back to help with summer camp, especially if the fish are biting up north!

If you wish to send Jeff and Gene a note or card, you can use the department address and we will be sure that they get them. (Jeff's photo used courtesy of Woodland Management)

Compton back from travels to Asia

Professors Lin Compton, Tom Yuill (Director of IES) and Tim Moermond (Zoology, and Chair of IES Conservation Biology and Sustainable Development) traveled to Yunnan, China for two weeks in January. They worked with Chinese and Thai colleagues of the Sustainable Management of Upland Tropical Ecosystems (SAMUTE) Consortium in conducting a field assessment and follow-up program design workshop for a Global Environmental Facility project.

Lin also visited four current advisees doing Ph.D. dissertation field research in Thailand and Laos: 1) Jim Peters (IES/Land Resources), who is studying Karen indigenous knowledge of forestry and natural resource management, 2) Jean Geran (Land Tenure Center/Development Studies), who is studying rural responses to the current economic crisis in Thailand, 3) Kym Leggett (Land Tenure Center/Development Studies), who is studying the role of NGO's in promoting environmental education at the rural village community level, and 4) Sethapan Krajangwongs (IES/Land Resources), who is using Geographic Information Systems databases and ground truthing surveys to study local adaptation to macro infrastructural and economic change in Thung Pha Phoom district of Kanjanaburi Province.

Lin was also able to visit with former UW students Janpanit Surasin (Prof. at Chulalongkorn University), Suchat Kalyawongsa (Asst. Director General of the MOAC Forestry Dept.), and Pierre and Gadsaraporn Walter (Asst. Prof. of Development Education at the Asian Institute of Technology). He reports they are all actively involved in endeavors of considerable significance to Thailand's development.



Forestry Club Tree Sale

The forestry club hosted its 22nd annual Christmas tree sale Dec. 4-6 in the UW Stock Pavilion. Devoted club members managed to sell over 600 balsam fir, Fraser fir, white pine, and Scotch pines. Additional proceeds from the sale of wreaths and Professor Harvey's terrific maple syrup pushed net profits to an all time high.

The club uses the majority of the profits to subsidize students' costs for spring field trip (FEM 657) and summer camp (FEM 655) classes. We've come a long way since the first sale in 1977, when students managed a profit of just over \$100. The one constant has been club advisor Ray Guries, whose careful planning and dedication to the sale has allowed it to grow and become the success it is today. - Jedd Ungrodt

Remember the block of open grass lined with flowering crab apple trees just north of Russell Labs along Observatory Drive? Well, a memory is all it is now. The photo below shows the new parking ramp that replaced the green space this fall. (Photo by Jeff Martin)

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