

FOREST ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT NEWS

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

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September, 1999

News from the Chair

It hardly seems like a year has elapsed since I became chair of the department. I thought that I had a pretty good idea of what being chair involved, but the learning curve is pretty steep the first year. Fortunately, former chair Ron Giese hasn't yet gotten to the point of kicking me out of his office on those occasions when I go to him for advice!

I haven't been the only one going through a learning experience, though. It was just a bit more than a year ago that Dr. Elton Aberle joined us as Dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, and there are several new faces among his associate deans.

Speaking of new faces, we hope to have some in the coming year. It is an exciting time but also a busy one. We are currently looking for someone in the area of Extension Forest Management, and will soon begin the search process to fill the Extension Wood Products and the Forest Biometry positions. The hiring of new faculty is one of the most important decisions a department can make because it helps set the direction we take for many years to come. If you know of someone you think would be a good candidate for any of these three positions, please encourage him or her to apply or contact me for further information.

One advantage that I have gained as chair is the ability to see more completely the nature of our programs and people. I am impressed with the quality of the students and faculty. I hope that you will take the time to read about them in the remainder of the newsletter.

A few weeks ago, a member of the department's first graduating class stopped

by to say hello. I really enjoyed visiting with him and appreciated his taking the time. If your travels bring you to Madison, please do stop in and visit. And if you are attending the Society of American Foresters (SAF) meeting in Portland, Sept. 11-15, don't miss our alumni reception. - *Jeff Stier*

Alumni Update

Alumni Reception at the SAF Meeting in Portland

The department will be hosting its second annual alumni reception Sunday night, September 12, at the Society of American Foresters (SAF) national meeting in Portland, OR. You are invited to stop by and partake of the food and libations while receiving an update on departmental activities, meeting old friends and reminiscing about "the good old days." We would like to make this an annual event so you can count on it when you are able to attend a national SAF meeting.

Student News

FEM has talented runners in its ranks

Students don't spend all of their time studying; some manage to take time out for a refreshing bit of exercise. Consider, for example, graduate students Lisa Schulte and Alejandro Muñoz. On Saturday, May 8, they ran in the Ultra-

Marathon National Championship at the Ice Age Park near Whitewater, WI. Lisa ran 50 km. (31 miles) of forest trail and finished second in her category with a time of 5 hours, 36 minutes. Alejandro ran 80 km. (50 miles) and finished seventh in his category, recording a time of 7 hours and 58 minutes. Rumor has it that they did rest on Sunday!

UW-Madison team earns Midwest Capstone Report Award

Many U.S. forestry schools now have senior capstone courses that involve team projects. Capstone courses require students to integrate knowledge from courses throughout the curriculum and to synthesize their knowledge in order to solve a complex land or resource management problem. In 1997 Professors Jeff Stier and alumnus Blair Orr (MI Tech) initiated the Upper Midwest Capstone Report Awards as a way to introduce some friendly competition among the schools and recognize those teams that did a superior job with their projects. Iowa State University, Michigan State University, Michigan Technological University, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison

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each submit their top two capstone reports to a panel of seven judges who represent the forest industry firms that sponsor the awards, state and federal forestry agencies and the universities. The reports are evaluated on the basis of quality of writing, ease of comprehension by the educated layperson, technical rigor and sense of land stewardship.

The 1998-99 UW-Madison team of Benji Brye, Jessica Lengling, Etsuko Nonaka and Josh Scherer placed second in the competition and divided the \$250 prize. They developed a management plan for a 457-acre property in Dane County owned by Swamplovers, Inc. The four corporate shareholders had different interests, so the team had to struggle with trying to provide a balanced management plan and also determine how to improve the degraded woodland that characterized some of the property.

Funding for the 1998-99 awards was provided by Lake Superior Land, Calumet MI; Menominee Tribal Enterprises, Neopit, WI; Tenneco Packaging Company, Tomahawk, WI; and the Department of Forest Ecology and Management, UW-Madison.

FEM takes the crow

In May the Forestry Club took on the Wildlife Ecology Club in a friendly game of softball. The competition got seriously competitive pretty quickly! We won't reveal the details of the final score to protect the reputations of the losers, but we can tell you that the Forestry Club won handily. The winning team is shown in the photo below, along with the traveling trophy supplied by the Wildlife Club – a well-camouflaged mounted crow perched on a stump!

Travel troubles

On July 25 a group of Professor David Mladenoff's graduate students left Madison in the department's minivan for Snowmass Village, Colorado, to attend the Fifth World Congress of the International Association of Landscape Ecology. In Iowa the vehicle gave them reason to question whether they would make it to Colorado, or at least in time to attend the meeting. Fortunately, they were able to replace a failing fuel filter and complete the trip. The meeting was a great success.

The story doesn't end there, however. Upon arriving back in Madison, one of the students took the van through the car wash and it stalled again. This time it required a new fuel pump. The good news is that they made it back to Madison before the fuel pump failed; the bad news is that replacing a fuel pump is not a trivial repair. Thank goodness the department has a new minivan on order!

Faculty Bulletin

Guries to receive Schenck Teaching Award

The Society of American Foresters (SAF) will present Professor Ray Guries with the Schenck Teaching Award at the national awards assembly Monday morning, September 13, at the SAF annual meeting in Portland, OR. Department Chair Jeff Stier reported that the impetus for nominating Ray came from a group of former students who contacted the department and asked if there was something they could do to recognize Ray for all he has done for students. While Ray has taught a number of courses in the curriculum over the years, quite a few of his interactions with students have occurred outside the classroom; e. g., on firewood cutting projects at the Dells, during the annual Christmas tree sale, at summer camp, on the spring trip, or at one of the many barbecues at the "Guries Farm." The Schenck Award is a fitting recognition of Ray's many efforts to educate the total student, both inside and outside the classroom. He joins Professor Joseph Buongiorno who was SAF's very first Schenck Award winner.

Forestry club students below celebrate their victory over the Wildlife Ecology Club. Pictured left to right: 1st row-Cindy Karsten, Brooke Ivener, Kris Tiles, John Stephenson, Alan Kirshbaum, Sunday Burkart and Karl Welch. 2nd row-Theran Statz, Jedd Ungrodt, Benji Brye and Anne Husa.





Three FEM faculty honored with CALS awards

The College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS) presented Professor Eric Kruger with the 1999 Jung Excellence in Teaching Award at the Gamma Sigma Delta (GSD) spring banquet. GSD is the honorary agricultural fraternity. Professor David Mladenoff received the Pound Research Award for his work in landscape ecology and Professor Ken Raffa (Entomology and Forest Ecology and Management) received the Spitze Land Grant Award. Congratulations to all three.

John Bruce takes position with World Bank

Professor John Bruce will be leaving the department temporarily at the end of August. He is taking a half-time appointment with the World Bank and will be stationed in Washington, D.C. He will also retain a half-time appointment with the UW Land Tenure Center. John's area of expertise is natural resource law and tenure. Coincidentally, on July 1 Dr. Peter Bloch joined the department in a half-time capacity. Peter's area is natural resource development.

Meet Professor Scott Mackay



My primary area of research is watershed hydrology, which means I am interested in the structure, function, and dynamics of watershed systems. By structure I mean the morphology of the watershed, its

hydrologic flow pathways, soils, and vegetation. By function I refer to the interactions between flow pathways, soils, and growing vegetation, and dynamics refers to the long-term changes in watershed structure or function that

result from land use and land cover changes. Much of our understanding of these aspects of watersheds comes from field studies conducted in relatively small areas, but many important applications of watershed hydrology address very large areas. The emerging fields of Geographic Information Science and Remote Sensing are helping to bridge this gap, as are developments in computer simulation modeling. There remains much to be learned about how to integrate careful experimental work to computer models of whole watersheds, and how to manage computer models so that they can be carefully evaluated before being used to help answer natural resource questions. Within this context my research has two primary themes. The first is development and validation of models of hydrological processes over large areas. This work is directed primarily at improving our understanding of watershed systems. The second focus area of my research is the management of large, integrated simulation models, which is directed more at improving our understanding of how to represent and manage hydrological information. This interplay of earth sciences with computer sciences began early in my undergraduate training.

I was born in Toronto, Ontario, Canada and grew up in a rural area northwest of Toronto. I spent many summers outdoors in central Ontario, a scenic region with a high density of lakes and mixed forest on the Canadian Shield. Here I learned to appreciate natural systems and the effects of human activities on them. I did my undergraduate and graduate studies at the University of Toronto. My undergraduate training was primarily in Geomorphology and Climatology, which I combined with Computer Science. My Master's thesis combined geomorphology and artificial intelligence to automate the identification of glacial features on digital terrain data. This work demonstrated the importance of spatial reasoning in computer representations of natural systems. It also convinced me of the inherent limitations of computer models.

My Doctoral work focused on problems of representation and modeling of long-term water fluxes in large, forested watersheds. This work was funded by the Canadian Government through the Natural Science and Engineering Research Council scholarship program, and a highly competitive Tri-Council EcoResearch Doctoral Fellowship. I completed my dissertation in 1997. Results from this work and subsequent research at UW-Madison have been published in a number of peer-reviewed hydrology and computer sciences journals.

My research program at UW-Madison now has five graduate students, one of whom has recently graduated, and one postdoctoral researcher. My projects include regionalization of long-term water balance in forested watersheds, aggregation effects in nonpoint source pollution models, and long-term water flux changes in northern Wisconsin. These projects are or have been funded by the UW Graduate School, McIntire-Stennis, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and a recently awarded NASA Land Surface Hydrology program research grant. In my first year at UW-Madison I was awarded a NASA Centers of Excellence in Remote Sensing to construct a unique network-based computer "superlab" for geo-spatial research and instruction. This has resulted in a significant boost in computer network performance within Forest Ecology and Management, the Environmental Remote Sensing Center, Soil Science and several other natural resources related computing centers on campus. It has also significantly improved the geo-spatial computing resources at UW-Madison.

I regularly teach three courses in GIS, remote sensing, and hydrology. My Regional Hydrology course introduces students to the hydrologic cycle with an emphasis on forested environments at a regional extent. I teach an advanced course in Geographic Information Science, which covers theoretical aspects of information technology applied to geo-spatial problems. Finally, I teach a



course in remote sensing visual interpretation, which combines the art and science of aerial photographic and digital image interpretation with state-of-the-art technology.

Wengert pedals coast to coast

Emeritus Professor Gene Wengert found something a little different to do in his retirement. He reports that on his 56th birthday, in preparation for his retirement, he purchased a new bicycle. A test run down the Mississippi River (St. Paul to St. Louis in 9 days) in September, 1998 convinced him that he was ready for a really BIG trip – coast to coast, across the USA – in 1999. This is a dream that he had been nurturing since 1974.

On June 6, he and 60 other riders, including many who were older than Gene, dipped their rear wheel in the Pacific Ocean and took off from San Francisco. Fifty-two days and 3,791 miles later, he arrived in Portsmouth, NH where he dipped his front wheel in the Atlantic Ocean. Although there were moments with second thoughts early in the trip, Gene is thrilled and proud at having made the trip. He states that the ride was FANTASTIC and describes it this way:

The route started at the beach just under the Golden Gate Bridge. We proceeded toward Sacramento, through the placer gold mining areas, up Mount Rose (the highest year-round pass in the Sierra's), across Donner Pass and into

Reno. Then across the dry country following the old wagon trail through Nevada's desert, across the Salt Flats, and into Salt Lake City (11 days and 812 miles) for a day of rest. Then across Southern Colorado, past Royal Gorge, and over the Rockies at 11,312 foot high Monarch Pass, into Pueblo, CO for another rest day. Next, eastern Colorado, then Kansas (where one "Scenic Overlook" was a view of a huge cattle feed lot; odoriferous!), past

the halfway point in the middle of Kansas, and finally into St. Joseph, MO (after 29 days) for the 4th of July and another rest day. After some rolling hills in Missouri with lots of trees instead of wheat fields, we crossed into flat Illinois and Indiana, went past corn fields with 8-foot high corn on July 11 and millions of bean fields, and into Indianapolis (38th day and almost 3/4 of the way!) resting again. The route angled up into NE Ohio past more farming country; one day we had about 1000 hills to climb! Finally the cool breezes off of Lake Erie welcomed us to Erie, PA (day 43) for our final rest day. Then up into New York, past vineyards, museums, Woodstock II, over the Berkshires (2nd biggest climbing day), into beautiful wooded northern Massachusetts, and finally to the Atlantic

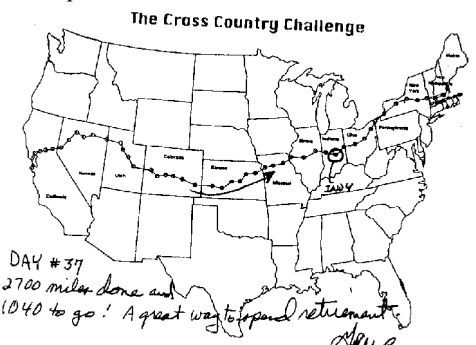
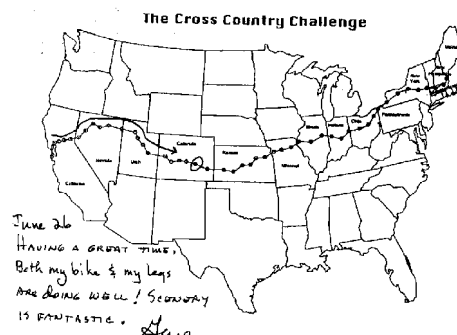
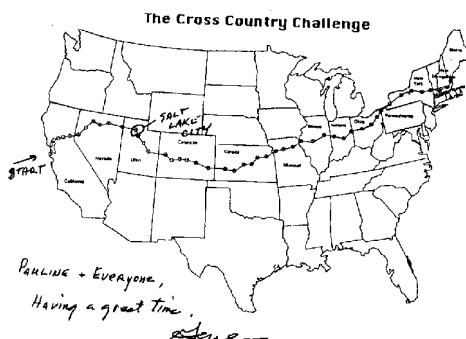


Gene Wengert takes a breather after climbing 11,312 ft. Monarch Pass in the Rocky Mountains.

Ocean in Portsmouth, NH and the ceremonial wheel dipping. Gene explains that the experience of seeing, smelling, touching, and hearing the USA from a bicycle seat was fantastic. Physically, it was easier than he expected and he was able to finish each day by 3 p.m. or earlier. Mentally, the idea of getting up at 5 a.m. and sitting on a little piece of leather and cranking at 85 rpm's for five or six hours was hard to adjust to, but the fellow bikers, local citizens, history, sights, smells, and sounds easily kept him going.

For those of you who might be thinking about duplicating Gene's experience, here are a few descriptive statistics: They had no rain the entire route and only five days were cloudy. The hottest temperature was 95 F, but

The series of postcard maps below plot the progress of Gene Wengert's coast to coast bicycle trip this summer.





mostly the high temperatures were in the 70s and 80s. Surprisingly, headwinds (east to west) predominated. Gene's bike performed perfectly and required no repairs, although he did have five flats (one in NV and four in NY) and wore out one rear tire. He averaged 13.8 mph and 81 miles per day. One memorable day he covered 100 miles in 5 hours and 38 minutes! He calculates that his peddles went around 1,397,400 times! His peak speed was 47 mph coming down Monarch Pass in Colorado; he could have gone faster but he caught up to some cars. The most climbing he did in one day was 8,590 feet; the total climb was 129,030 feet. The photo on the previous page shows Gene at Monarch Pass in the Continental Divide. Gene reports that, contrary to popular myth, it wasn't all downhill from there!

Department News

Interest grows for Recreation Resources Management major

For years the department offered a major in Recreation Resources Management (RRM). The Departments of Landscape Architecture and Continuing and Vocational Education also offered the major. The curriculum and career orientation of each department's major had a different emphasis. Several years ago, the departments stopped admitting students into the major in order to take a comprehensive look at what it should be. The Department of Forest Ecology and Management revitalized the curriculum and focused it into one major that emphasizes natural resource-based recreation management. In the fall of 1998 four students entered the new major and by spring enrollment had grown to 14. Numbers for this fall weren't known when the newsletter went to press, but

the revised major seems to be attracting students. Job prospects appear to be good, the RRM curriculum nicely complements that for the Forest Science major, and some students complete both majors to get a richer education and further enhance their employment opportunities.

Patrick Moore Delivers the 1999 Hamilton Roddis Memorial Lecture

In May, Dr. Patrick Moore of Vancouver, British Columbia, traveled to Wisconsin to give the eighth Hamilton Roddis Memorial Lecture. Actually, he presented the lecture twice: once in Rhinelander and once in Madison. Dr. Moore's lecture was entitled "Pacific Spirit-The Forest Reborn," which also happens to be the title of his popular book on forestry in the Pacific Northwest. Dr. Moore is a controversial speaker in the forestry field, and he has his critics, but he provided some thought-provoking comments and discussion. Some of the most interesting exchanges came during a radio broadcast when callers questioned and challenged him.

If you would like a copy of Dr.

Moore's lecture, please contact the department and we will mail one to you. The Roddis Lectures are supported by the Hamilton Roddis Foundation, which honors Mr. Roddis, a prominent Wisconsin forestry entrepreneur.

We'd like to hear from you

We'd like to encourage you to drop us a note with news you would like us to include in the FEM newsletter. This includes what alumni are doing since getting their degrees, announcements that the department faculty and staff would be interested in, notices of upcoming meetings, and suggestions for newsletter topics. This information can be sent to: Jeff Stier, Forest Ecology and Management, 1630 Linden Drive, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI 53706. Or send an e-mail to:

jcstier@facstaff.wisc.edu

On the lighter side

Not looking forward to all the hype that goes with a national election? There is at least one up side – some

candidates provide some pretty good comedy. Consider the following quotes from famous politicians that fall into the category of "Things better left unsaid!"

"The president has kept all of the promises he intended to keep." - Clinton aide George Stephanopolous speaking on "Larry King Live"

"The Internet is a great way to get on

Pictured with Hamilton-Roddis speaker Dr. Patrick Moore (center) are Dr. Elton Eberle (CALs Dean) on Moore's left and Jeff Stier (FEM Chair) on his right.





the Net.” - *Republican candidate Bob Dole*

“Outside of the killings, Washington has one of the lowest crime rates in the country.” - *Mayor Marion Barry, Washington, D.C.*

“I haven’t committed a crime. What I did was fail to comply with the law.” - *David Dinkins, New York City Mayor, answering accusations that he failed to pay his taxes.*

“I was recently on a tour of Latin America and the only regret I have was that I didn’t study Latin harder in school so I could converse with those people.” - *Former U.S. Vice-President Dan Quayle*

“Things are more like they are now than they ever were before.” - *Former U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower.*

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