

FOREST ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT NEWS

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

Volume 9, Number 1

April 2006

News from the Chair

I am very pleased to report that two of our young faculty – Drs. Volker Radeloff and Mark Rickenbach – were both granted tenure and a promotion to Associate Professor beginning July 1, 2006. I congratulate both Volker and Mark on this achievement. This is especially important to the department as we build the next generation of faculty to continue the important teaching, research, and outreach related to forest resources. You can read more about this and other faculty, staff and student achievements inside.

I am also pleased to report that a

long tradition of exposing undergraduates to forest management outside the Lake States continued in 2006 with the biennial “spring trip” led by Scott Bowe and Eric Kruger. This year’s edition enjoyed some excellent weather, congenial hosts, and excellent experiences in Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama and north Florida. The students did get a chance to stick their toes in the Gulf of Mexico. The Recreation Resources Management students also returned to the Land Between the Lakes (KY) for a week of lectures, tours, and plain old hard work. By all accounts, this provided a great first-hand introduction to the management of a large public recreation area. See the group photos inside. More than a few sunburns were noted when the students returned.

Finally, we are looking forward to

the completion of two remodeling projects this summer. The UW Stock Pavilion has been undergoing extensive remodeling and our National Park Service GIS Unit is anxious to take up residence there in the second floor offices that formerly housed generations of graduate students. The lab remodeling for Phil Townsend should also be complete soon to provide space for students, post-docs, and other researchers in remote sensing and landscape ecology. This has involved almost a year of planning, deconstruction, and acquisition of work stations and remodeled space, but it will be worth the wait. Staying up to date with research space and instrumentation continues to be a challenge, but your gifts have played an important role in furthering our mission. Keep up the good work. — *Ray Guries*

Alumni Update

Jessica (Lengling) Anderson (B.S. 1999) took on a new responsibility in December—motherhood. Congratulations to her on the birth of Lukas David. She says it’s been an adjustment, especially considering she also started work toward a Master’s degree in Outdoor Recreation Management at Indiana University. Good luck with both ventures, Jessica! (jessicamaeanderson@hotmail.com)

Melissa (Brunner) DeShong (B.S. 2003) has found her niche teaching nature and Spanish to preschoolers at Kids Express Learning Center in Madison. She also announced that she got married in June 2005. Congratulations, Melissa! (melissabrunner@charter.net)

Carolyn Cromer (M.S. 2003) reports that life is pretty good down in Louisville, KY, where she manages Blackacre State Nature Preserve. The 270-acre preserve consists of woods and meadows on a former farm on the edge of the city and is managed primarily for wildlife habitat. (Blackacref@aol.com)

For the past 18 months **Adam Makda** (B.S. 2002) has divided his time between Nevada and the mountains of South America. From June to December 2004 he worked for the Humbolt-Toiyabie National Forest in Carson City, Nevada, and lived in Lake Tahoe. He was the fuelwood administrator in charge of monitoring firewood cutters and later Christmas tree cutters. In June 2005 he headed to South America where he hiked in the Andes of Peru and Bolivia followed by more travel in Argentina and Chile. He’s hoping to return to Lake Tahoe this spring to work in that region (adammakda@yahoo.com)

Manny Oradei (B.S. 1986) was recently presented the School Forest Award by the Learning, Experiences, and Activities in Forestry (LEAF) Program. Manny is a Wis. DNR liaison forester in Oneida County and was instrumental in the

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development of the Cedric A. Vig Outdoor Classroom. Manny works closely with teachers, administrators, and community members to ensure that the school forests are appropriately managed and students have opportunities to learn about sustainable natural resource management. (oradee@dnr.state.wi.us)

Shaunna Chase (B.S. 2005) is working for SpecPro, Inc., an environmental services company, currently performing remediation and demolition projects at Badger Army Ammunition Plant near Sauk Prairie. (schase@specpro-inc.com)

Student News

Grossmann receives NASA-MSU award

Emilie Grossmann was recently awarded a NASA-MSU Professional Enhancement Award. The award provides \$500 to assist with travel expenses to attend the annual conference of the U.S. Chapter of the International Association for Landscape Ecology in San Diego March 28-April 1, 2006. The award is supported by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and Michigan State University. Emilie is a Ph.D. student working with Prof. David Mladenoff. Her dissertation focuses on the long-term effects of disturbances on landscape dynamics, plant community composition, and soil properties.



Pictured above is a floating market Sarah Unz visited during a break from her study abroad experience in Thailand.

Postcard from Thailand

Sarah Unz, a senior majoring in Recreation Resources Management, says "Sa wat dee Kha!" That means "Hello" in Thai. Sarah is in Thailand participating in a study abroad experience arranged by the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. She attends classes at Thammasat University, which she describes as a vibrant university known for its law and political science faculties that, at times, reminds her of the UW-Madison. It's taken a bit of adjustment to get used to the Thai teaching routine. She says that

classes are taught on "Thai time" — with lectures starting up to 45 minutes late. Says Sarah, "I am enjoying my experience immensely and hope to bring what I have learned back to Wisconsin; namely, patience when you do not understand things, kindness towards strangers (as so much has been shown to me), and how to observe differences but not judge them." Sarah is using every available opportunity to sightsee. On one excursion she participated in a home stay at a village near the floating market pictured above.

Hubbard receives scholarship

The College of Agricultural and Life Sciences has awarded Steven Hubbard the 2006-07 Robert B. Hendricks Memorial/Hardwood Manufacturers Association Scholarship. Steve is pursuing a Ph.D. under the direction of Prof. Scott Bowe. The scholarship will provide financial support for Steve's current research, which focuses on

life-cycle inventory of hardwood flooring as well as process improvement strategies for manufacturers in the eastern U.S. that use hardwoods.

GCA awards fellowship to Burton

The Garden Club of America selected Julia Burton as recipient of their 2006 Fellowship in Ecological

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Restoration. Julia is a Ph.D. student working with Prof. David Mladenoff. The fellowship provides \$8,000 to support her study, titled "Restoration of Old-growth Forest Biodiversity and Ecosystem Function in Second-growth Forests."

Mittlefehldt presents poster at national conference

Sarah Mittlefehldt presented a poster at a joint conference of the American Society for Environmental History and the Forest History Society held in St. Paul March 29-April 1. Sarah's poster, based on her past summer's research, was titled "Understanding Woods and Water: An Environmental History of the Watershed Concept in the Lake Superior Basin." Her current work focuses on the history of Wisconsin's Ice Age Trail. Sarah is a Ph.D. student working with Prof. Nancy Langston.

Wunnicke featured in CALS' Science Report

Aaron Wunnicke, a 2005 Forest Science graduate, was featured in the 2006-07 *Science Report* produced biennially by the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. Aaron was one of several undergraduates included in the article titled, "Preparing for a Lifetime of Change." Aaron's feature is subtitled "Trees and technology" and describes some of the employment and travel activities he participated in to prepare him for the job market. You can access the entire article online at: <http://www.cals.wisc.edu/sciencereport/2006preparingForChange.html>

Congratulations to our December degree recipients

The following people received B.S. degrees:

Darren Bartosz – Rec. Resources Mgmt.
Shaunna Chase – Soil Science and Rec. Resources Mgmt.
Marc Dembinsky – Rec. Resources Mgmt.
Margaret Grosenick – Forest Science
Timothy Haaack – Rec. Resources Mgmt.
Gregory Jaeger – Rec. Resources Mgmt.
Matthew Kimmler – Forest Science
Tyler Laudon – Rec. Resources Mgmt. and Forest Science
Brian Milligan – Forest Science
Robert Murphy – Forest Science
Steven Reinhardt – Forest Science
Joseph Schwantes – Forest Science and Rec. Resources Mgmt.
Julie Schwenn – Rec. Resources Mgmt.
Joseph Scott – Forest Science

Talia Sheldon-Desjardins – Rec. Resources Mgmt.
Kristin Shy – Forest Science

The people below received their M.S. degrees:

Jennifer Martin – M.S. Thesis: *Carbon accumulation, age-height relationships, production efficiency and competition in boreal mixedwood forests*
Advisor: Prof. Tom Gower

Timothy Werten – M.S. Thesis: *Reassessing the limitation imposed by stomatal conductance on photosynthesis in low light*
Advisor: Prof. Eric Kruger

Molly White – M.S. Thesis: *Life-cycle inventories of roundwood production in Wisconsin: inputs into an industrial forest carbon budget*
Advisor: Prof. Tom Gower

FE&M alumni assist with historic harvest

Several of our alumni have worked on a landmark project for the Aldo Leopold Foundation. Back in the mid-1930s, Aldo Leopold purchased an 80-acre farm north of Baraboo. Over the years he and his family planted thousands of trees and other vegetation. After decades of growth those same pines needed thinning so that the remaining trees can thrive. In 2003, Dan Pubanz (B.S. 1985, M.S. 1988), at the time a consulting forester for Clark Forestry, inventoried the trees. Next Clark Forestry, located in Baraboo and owned by Fred Clark (M.S. 1993), prepared a management plan. This past winter about 500 trees were marked for harvest. Another alumnus, Jedd Ungrodt (B.S. 2001), was involved in monitoring the harvest to assure that Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) standards were upheld. Jedd is a certification forester for the Community Forestry Resources Center based in Minneapolis. Trees harvested on the property will be used in the construction of the Aldo Leopold Legacy Center to be built a short distance down the road from "The Shack." Smaller trees will be specially processed into paper to print a special edition of *A Sand County Almanac*.





Department News

Gower project featured in CALS' *Science Report*

Prof. Tom Gower's research project investigating the role of boreal forests in the global carbon cycle was featured in the 2006-07 issue of the CALS' *Science*

Report. The article provides a good overview of what the project hopes to accomplish and also acknowledges the key role played by student and staff workers.

Prof. Gower and his assistants conduct the research in the boreal forests near Thompson, Manitoba. They constructed building chambers around plots of black spruce trees using 25-ft. diameter aluminum frames and laid heating cables in the soil. The air temperature inside the test chambers and the soil beneath is

heated to 5 degrees C. above the temperature in the adjacent control plots. Prof. Gower hopes the project will demonstrate how higher temperatures affect the way the plants consume and release carbon. Plants consume carbon dioxide as part of photosynthesis. They release carbon as they decompose.

Prof. Gower says that early findings bring some expected and unexpected results. The heated plots begin their growth three or four weeks earlier than the control plots, just what they

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Land Between the Lakes site of spring break practicum

By Nicole Malandri

A group of students spent their spring break working and learning at Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area (LBL), located along the Kentucky and Tennessee borders, taking part in a recreation resource management practicum. LBL is currently managed by the U.S. Forest Service. Customer Service Manager Brian Beisel (B.S. 1981) provided a comprehensive review of all aspects concerning the management of a developed recreation area. Each day the students had the opportunity to work with and learn from various staff members of LBL. Topics included: environmental education, customer-based decision-making, fire management, trail management, vegetation management, and cultural resource management. Every morning started in the office with an overview of how each management tool is used

to enhance recreation experiences and opportunities. Then the students were off to work in the field to apply what they had learned and help out on a range of projects. The students helped with various maintenance projects, constructed a fire line and cleared debris around a cultural site, helped to mitigate damage from motorized vehicles, planted trees, and worked on an archaeological survey. The trip provided the students with valuable real world experience dealing with many of the issues of recreation management.

A total of nine undergraduate students, lead by graduate student Nicole Malandri, went on the trip. Along with the hard work, students were able to spend free time hiking, canoeing, and sitting around the campfire. Plus, the favorable weather and home-cooked meals from the camp kitchen staff topped the week off for everyone.



As part of the hands-on portion of the practicum, students built a fire line. They later observed a prescribed burn and how their fire line successfully protected a building.

Highlights of the trip included seeing a prescribed burn and revisiting the fire line that successfully helped to protect a spring house. In addition, important resource issues were discussed, such as what to do with a storm damaged timber stand within a campground, how to balance the demand for motorized recreation with impacts on the resource, and how to overcome limited budgets

and staff. All students felt that the trip was a rewarding experience and helped to focus career interests and goals. A few also expressed an interest in taking advantage of LBL's internship and apprenticeship programs. We hope that the partnership between the department and LBL continues and that many more students will have the opportunity to participate in future trips.



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expected. Surprising were the results showing that the increased growth consumed more carbon than the increased plant decomposition released. This means that the trees used more carbon dioxide than they released, even at the higher temperature.

The *Science Report* article includes photos of two FE&M graduate students—Dustin Bronson and Ingrid Van Herk—at work at the field site this past summer. Dustin is quoted in the article saying, “You either love it or you hate it. I love it.” Ingrid agrees, “I love being in the field because it’s so exciting to see a project like this first-hand. It’s different from learning from a textbook. You can see the progress yourself.” You can access the article (and other feature articles in the report) on-line at <http://www.cals.wisc.edu/sciencereport/index.html>.

The plunge that wasn’t

A group of brave souls in the department volunteered to jump into the frigid waters of Lake Monona in February to raise money for Wisconsin Special Olympics. Dustin Bronson, Julia Burton, Jane Foster, Sandy Fowler, Ben Bond-Lamberty, Alexander Prishchepov, Shawn Serbin and Ingrid Van Herk were all prepared to jump, along with three “honorary” members of the department—Donna Christen, Alex Andino and Mike Zeller. But a below zero wind chill on the scheduled day forced event organizers to cancel the plunge. However, the \$1,200 the group raised in pledges will be used to benefit the Wisconsin Special Olympics program. We didn’t hear anyone complaining about the missed plunge opportunity.



Fourteen students participated in the “Spring Trip” along with Professors Kruger and Bowe (bottom right). The group is posing outside the Solon Dixon Forestry Center in Alabama.

Students experience Southern forestry management practices over spring break

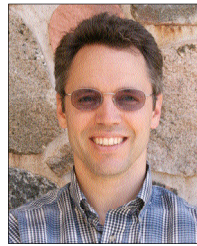
Students enrolled in Forestry 657—National Forest Management Practicum—didn’t spend their spring break lying on the beach. Fourteen students in the class, along with Professors Eric Kruger and Scott Bowe, immersed themselves in the forest management practices of the southern United States. Their route included stops in Illinois, Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, and the Florida panhandle. This year’s class enjoyed excellent weather and the usual southern hospitality.

The real benefit of the course is that students have the opportunity to compare forest management systems in the Lake States with the southern pine and southern hardwood systems in the South. The course includes visits with representatives of the private forest industry and federal agencies, giving students the opportunity see what drives their management objectives. Students also gain an understanding of what it would be like to work for the private and public sectors.



Dr. Brian Sturtevant joins department

We are pleased to add Dr. Brian Sturtevant to the Dept. of Forest Ecology and Management as an Adjunct Professor effective May 1, 2006. Dr. Sturtevant received his Ph.D. in ecology from the University of Maryland at College Park in 2001. He is currently a research ecologist



Prof. Brian Sturtevant

at the U.S. Forest Service's North Central Research Station in Rhinelander where he conducts interdisciplinary, multi-scale research on forest ecosystems and wildlife ecology. Dr. Sturtevant is already engaged in research

projects with several FE&M faculty and students. His background in forest health and federal land management issues complements our strengths in ecological modeling, remote sensing, and silviculture. His proximity to Kemp Natural Resources Station will make interaction with faculty, staff, and students especially convenient. He will prove to be a great contributor to our research and teaching programs.



Yellowstone National Park superintendent Suzanne Lewis (right) is greeted by Nina Leopold Bradley during a visit to the Leopold Shack near Baraboo.

Yellowstone park superintendent delivers this year's "Leopold Lecture"

The number one challenge Yellowstone National Park faces today is the long-term management of its bison herd, Suzanne Lewis told audience members at the Aldo Leopold Lecture in Natural Resources at Union South on April 12. Ms. Lewis is the superintendent at Yellowstone National Park and was this year's invited speaker for the annual Aldo Leopold Lecture Series in Natural Resources co-sponsored by FE&M and Wildlife Ecology. After a review of the park's history and geologic features, Ms. Lewis focused on the complex issue of bison wandering outside park boundaries during winter months in search of food and the potential spread of brucellosis from bison to cattle on adjacent ranches.

Professors Rickenbach and Radeloff promoted

Congratulations to Professors Mark Rickenbach and Volker Radeloff. Both have been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure.



Prof. Mark Rickenbach

Prof. Mark Rickenbach joined the department in 2000 after completing his Ph.D. in Forest Resources at Oregon State University. He possesses a unique combination of natural science and social science interests and skills that allow him to conduct outreach and extension work across several disciplines. Prof. Rickenbach expertly links outreach and extension to research to produce meaningful results. In particular, his recent work on forest parcelization has had an important impact on how forest industries view non-industrial private landowners, who provide the bulk of wood produced in Wisconsin. Prof. Rickenbach's parcelization work has also been useful to the environmental community to help address many negative aspects of forest parcelization.

The bulk of Prof. Rickenbach's time is spent on extension and outreach activities. However, he finds time to participate in team-taught courses and also advises several graduate students. Prof. Rickenbach's web site is: <http://www.forest.wisc.edu/facstaff/rickenbach/>



Prof. Volker Radeloff

Prof. Volker Radeloff also joined the faculty in 2000 following a post-doc fellowship in the department and a Ph.D. in 1998. Prof. Radeloff is an ecologist who uses remote sensing and geospatial technologies in combination with ecological and demographic data to interpret landscape changes and the forces that drive them. His Ph.D. research set in northwestern Wisconsin quantified forest landscape patterns and the role played by fire and insect damage. More recent research has focused on assessing the risk of fire in the wildland-urban interface using remote sensing techniques. In other projects Prof. Radeloff and his colleagues have documented the amount of forest fragmentation in the Great Lakes region, an important concern surrounding the conservation of many birds and mammals.

Prof. Radeloff's teaching includes both undergraduate teaching and graduate mentoring. He provides students with provocative questions and many opportunities for hands-on learning. Prof. Radeloff's web site is: <http://forest.wisc.edu/facstaff/radeloff.html>



A heartfelt thank you to our donors

The Department of Forest Ecology and Management was fortunate in 2005 to receive a number of generous donations. We would like to publicly thank each of you for your contribution and continuing interest in our department, programs, and students. The funds are sometimes tagged for a specific use by the donor. Other donations support undergraduate scholarships and educational activities, student attendance at professional meetings, and special development projects. Below is a listing of contributors.

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Forest Ecology and Management Capital Fund

We invite you to join us in our efforts to establish a capital fund. Proceeds will be used to support a range of research and instruction activities, help cover the costs of the summer field camp and the southern trip, and to upgrade research space in Russell Labs.

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If paying by check, please make your gift payable to UW Foundation Forestry 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 or e-mail the information to <rpjuries@wisc.edu>.

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