

# FOREST AND WILDLIFE ECOLOGY NEWS

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

## News from the Chair

As the spring semester comes to close, it has been a good year for the Department. Some notable events include...

- **Twenty Wildlife Ecology and eight Forest Science**

**seniors** are expecting to graduate this spring. This is in addition to the four in each major that graduated in December. At the graduate level, **thirteen MS and PhD students** have or will finish their degrees.

- Associate Professor **Zach Peery** was awarded the Pound Research Award that recognizes outstanding, early-career faculty in the College.
- **Mike Samuel**, Professor and Assistant Unit Leader of the Wisconsin Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, retired at the end of the January; though he plans to join the ranks of active emeritus professors.
- **The Forestry Club** won the intercollegiate 2016 Society of American Foresters Quiz Bowl at the National Convention held here in Madison.
- We received an amazingly generous \$2 million estate gift that will create the Kenneth D. and Ruth M. Skaar Family Fund for Research. These resources will benefit our future forest and wildlife research activities.



Mark Rickenbach



## A Different Kind of Education

**New campus course introduces students to hunting**  
By Lori Barrow

Our students are receiving memorable hands-on experience in hunting awareness and conservation education through a new course, Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow (CLfT). Although a national CLfT program has been around since 2005, the Department, spearheaded by Emeritus Professor Scott Craven and wildlife extension specialist Jamie Nack, adapted the professional development program into the first campus-based course for non-hunting students. Designed to supplement the educational experience of students in natural resource majors, the course introduces novices to hunting in a controlled manner by blending interactive discussions and field exercises.

Although many students consider hunting an integral part of sound wildlife management, and as a wise and prudent use of renewable natural resources, a growing trend reveals an increasing number of natural resource graduates with limited or no exposure to hunting. This means some students graduate from natural resources management programs not knowing how to relate to and communicate effectively with the hunting community.

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## Alumni News

**Carli Morgan** (B.S. Forest Science 2010) will start a Master of Science program this fall in the Sustainable Forest Management program at Oregon State University under the advisement of Dr. Matthew Powers. Her research will focus on the socioeconomic tradeoffs of traditional timber commodity production and alternative silvicultural models in the Northwest coastal range of Oregon.

**Donnie Radcliff** (B.S. Forest Science 2015) is taking part in the Society of American Forester's [Henry Clepper Forest Policy Internship](#) in Washington D.C. This four month internship pairs Radcliff with the SAF Policy Team who lobby for forestry causes and communicate about forest policy issues to SAF members and the general public. The internship is a mix of shadowing team members at congressional hearings and assisting with outreach to state societies and student chapters. "My favorite day of the internship was the Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition Hill Day," said Radcliff. "I tagged along with urban forestry leaders as they met with Congressional staffers to talk about urban forestry programs. At one point I was even explaining to one of (Senator) Marco Rubio's aides how planting trees saves cities money in the long run."

## Department News

### Peery awarded CALS Pound Research Award

Zach Peery, Associate Professor, has won the 2017 CALS Pound Research Award. This award honors outstanding, early-career CALS research scientist and to promote continued excellence in research. With an emphasis on providing pragmatic solutions to challenging endangered wildlife problems, Perry's work incorporates cutting edge ecological, genetic, and population modeling approaches to provide managers and policymakers with information needed to make science-based decisions.

### Raffa receives Hildale Award

**Ken Raffa**, a professor in the Dept. of Entomology and affiliate professor of the Department of F&WE, was given the 2016-2017 Hildale award in the Biological Sciences. The honor, bestowed annually, recognizes UW-Madison faculty for their distinguished contributions to teaching, research and service. Honorees receive recognition at a Faculty Senate meeting and a \$7,500 cash prize. Raffa is a Vilas Distinguished Achievement/Douglas D. Sorenson Professor and is "the preeminent forest entomologist in the world today," says Susan Paskewitz, entomology professor and chair, who authored his nomination letter.

### Rissman shared expertise at Science on Tap-Madison

In honor of World Water Day, Associate Professor Adena Rissman participated in the first-ever Science on Tap-Madison at Ale Asylum Brewery alongside Trina McMahon, professor of bacteriology & environmental engineering. Science on Tap is not your average science talk – forget the lecture and PowerPoint! It's an open forum where the public engages experts in an informal, two-way conversation about the latest science with scientists. Pulling from her work on the [Water Sustainability and Climate](#) project focused on the Yahara Watershed in southern Wisconsin, Rissman discussed how ecosystem services related to freshwater can be sustained as climate, land cover and management, the built environment and human demands change. "Talking about land and water resource management at a brewery? What a great way to spend an evening," noted Rissman.

## Stan Temple explores Aldo Leopold's Legacy

A Senior Fellow with the Aldo Leopold Foundation, Professor Emeritus Stan Temple has been doing some interesting historical research about Aldo Leopold. He has been writing an ongoing series of essays about each of Leopold's 26 graduate students that you can follow on the Leopold Foundation's website (<https://www.aldoleopold.org/blog/blog/leopold-students/>). Stan has also undertaken a multi-year project retracing Aldo Leopold's historic 1928-31 game surveys of 9 states. He has 3 objectives: understanding how those on-the-ground observations of wildlife populations and conservation practices influenced Leopold, understanding how his detailed reports influenced conservation practices in each of the 9 states and nationally, and finally, uncovering some fascinating Leopold stories along the way. One of those stories is about Leopold's "shanty" in Missouri (yes, before he had the famous

"shack" he had his little-known "shanty"). You can read Stan's story about the shanty here (<https://www.aldoleopold.org/post/outlook-magazine/spring-2016/>). After visiting each state Stan plans to write a book about the journey.

## Deer browse research published in *Journal of Ecology*

Autumn Sabo, PhD candidate and faculty associate, and colleagues have published an article in the *Journal of Ecology*. The article is "Deer-mediated changes in environment compound the direct impacts of herbivory on understory plant communities." Focusing on 17 deer exclosures in the temperate hardwood forests of northern Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula (UP), their research explored how deer affect forest plant composition by altering facets of the forest environment such as light availability and the thickness of a particular layer of soil. Sabo, who

conducted the study with Katie Frerker (U.S. Forest Service), Don Waller (UW Botany), and our own Eric Kruger, found evidence that deer effects on the environment have important implications for forest composition.



A sugar maple sapling nipped off by a white-tailed deer. Photo: Autumn Sabo

"Shifts in these environmental factors may result in forest composition changes," notes Sabo. "For example, more tree cover is correlated with more herbs that are spread by animals eating their fruit, including trillium. Higher light levels favor raspberries and ferns, and the thicker soil E horizons correlate with fewer lillies and violets." The results from this study support previous research that suggests regional abundance of many native forb and tree species may be threatened by overabundant deer, and may be useful to inform efforts to conserve forest biodiversity and improve forest restoration techniques.

## A new breed of researchers

Members of a new breed of researchers called winter ecologists, Assistant Professors Jon Pauli and Ben Zuckerberg drew crowds at the popular Science on Tap-Minocqua this winter. Covering some 40% of the Earth's landmasses year in and year out, Pauli and Zuckerberg discussed how snow is critical to animals and plants that live in northern latitudes, as well as those



Leopold walks down the steps of his MO hunting shanty. Photo courtesy Aldo Leopold Foundation Archives



in far southern latitudes, like Patagonia as it ensures their, and our, survival." Compared to other habitats, snow ecosystems have barely been explored," Pauli says. "That's a major oversight, considering how important snow is in the lives of so many species." The small area between the snowpack and the ground, called the subnivium, is a seasonal and sensitive refuge that provides cover for many plants and animals from winter's harsh conditions. "It was a fun and unique experience to chat about the implications of shortening winters on cold-adapted species and communities," Zuckerberg said. "It was awesome connecting with people in a less formal setting, and of course, I appreciated the excellent beer!"

## Student News

### Forest Science student Megs Seeley receives Udall Scholarship

Megs Seely, a senior in Forest Science and Botany and president of The Forestry Club, was named a 2016 Udall Scholar. The honor is given in recognition of leadership, public service and commitment to issues related to the environment or issues in American Indian communities. "The Udall family is large, welcoming, and inspiring," Megs said. Traveling to Tucson, Arizona last August, Megs joined the ranks of Udall Scholars during a week-long conference emphasizing the Udall Foundation's mission--civility, integrity, and



Seeley is among 60 college students nationwide selected for the scholarship. Photo: Jeff Miller

consensus. While there, scholars learned how to negotiate and place themselves in other's shoes through a water rights case study. "Learning to empathize with others has been important for me

in understanding the current political thicket and the perspectives of people I met from around the world in Saudi Arabia. While in Arizona, I met peers who inspired me with their passion and action. I stepped outside the world of research to meet visionaries in politics, architecture, and engineering to name a few. The other 59 scholars are working towards similar goals with different tools, and they inspired me to continue my research while becoming more active in outreach and politics."

### Wildlife Ecology student Mirelle Goetz awarded Irving W. Gerhardt Scholarship

Congrats are in order for Mirelle Goetz, a senior majoring in Wildlife Ecology and a member of the Community of Environmental Scholars Program with the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies.

Mirelle is the recipient of the Irving W. Gerhardt Scholarship and the Meyerhoff Excellence Award for leadership, service, and scholarship. In addition to her studies, she is an Outreach Project Leader and volunteer tracker for the [UW Urban Canid Project](#) led by Associate Professor David Drake and is also a proud member of the UW-Madison Marching Band. Mirelle is inspired to promote a positive relationship between humans and the environment and is passionate about global climate change. After graduating, she hopes to study animal behavior to inform conservation strategies and protect endangered species.

### Graduate students and postdocs acknowledged at national conferences

Wildlife Ecology PhD student Paula Perrig was awarded "Best talk with a Conservation Application" at last year's North American Congress for Conservation Biology's Conference in Madison, WI. Her talk was entitled, "Puma predation subsidizes an obligate scavenger in the high Andes." Working under the direction of Assistant Professor Jonathan Pauli, Paula's work focuses on the foraging habits of the threatened avian scavenger, the iconic Andean condor, in her home country of Argentina. Through



direct observations of condors at feeding sites and inspection of prey remains in condor pellets, her research demonstrated that puma predation on its native camelid prey plays a key



Perrig in the field in her home country of Argentina.

role in the foraging habits of Andean condors. She is now expanding the project by studying condor space use in relation to availability of food resources throughout the landscape. She ultimately hopes to help governmental and non-governmental organizations identify and preserve key areas for the linked conservation of condors, camelids, and pumas along the dry Andes.

Emily Iehl, a Master's student under the advisement of Professor Tim Van Deelen, was recently awarded the "Best Graduate Student Presentation" for the second year in a row at The Wisconsin Chapter of the Wildlife Society's annual joint conference with the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Fisheries Society in Milwaukee, WI. Because hunters represent the largest funding source for most state wildlife conservation agencies, managers have voiced concern over the nationwide declines in

hunter numbers over the past 30+ years. At the conference, Emily described the application of mark-recapture survival analysis, a classic technique for estimating

wildlife population dynamics, to human hunter populations in Wisconsin. She will use this method to model the "survival" rates of license buyers initiated to hunting through the Wisconsin DNR's Learn to Hunt for Food program, which aims to increase the retention rates of novice adult hunters by teaching hunting as a perceptive method of obtaining local, sustainable, and humanely sourced meat.

Two members of Professors Anna Pidgeon and Volker Radeloff's SILVIS lab, postdoctoral fellow He Yin and Catalina Munteanu, were awarded "Best Oral Presentation" at The Global Land Project 3<sup>rd</sup> Open Science Meeting in Beijing, China. He and Catalina's talks were entitled "Land cover change in the Caucasus Mountains after the collapse of the Soviet Union" and "Land-use legacies from a century age affect rates of contemporary land change," respectively.

## Alumni News

Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission veteran biologist **Peter David** (B.S. Wildlife Ecology 1983, M.S. Wildlife Ecology 1986) received the prestigious National Wetland Award for Conservation & Restoration last year at a ceremony in Washington DC. David is considered by many to be one of the country's foremost experts in wild rice ecology (manoomin), a plant with significant ecological and cultural importance in the upper Midwest. "Any accomplishments that I have been recognized for have only been made possible by a tremendous amount of efforts and commitment by a wide range of cooperators - including my wife and three children," David said. "I often say I feel I have been most influenced by my two primary educations: one at the UW - which introduced me to Leopold's land ethic, and one from the Ojibwe for whom I work, whose world view turns out to have great similarity to the land ethic. I have been very fortunate to have both these experiences in my life."



Photo: David accepts the award from John Schmerfeld US FWS, Branch of Habitat Chief. — at [U.S. Botanic Garden](https://www.usbr.gov/botanic/).

***CLfT continued from page 1***

Michael Wheeler, a Masters student studying sandhill cranes with Professor Van Deelen, fits this demographic perfectly. "I didn't grow up with hunting and had limited experience interacting with the hunting community. "I felt like I was going into a career in natural resource management without an emotional or visceral understanding of an important community within conservation, a community that is invested in stewardship and provides lots of state-level funding. Not only did CLfT provide hunter safety training and further my understanding of how impactful hunting is to conservation, I also received credit! What's not to like?"

This is exactly the response Nack and Craven had hoped for.

"We recognized that a lot of our students do not come from hunting backgrounds and lack an understanding of why hunting is important from a biological, cultural, economic and recreational standpoint, or the role that hunting plays in conservation" Nack said. "The most important thing to me is the professional development

opportunity the class provides our students."

Inspired by the popular Wisconsin Student Hunter Program, launched in 1993 by the late Department professor Don Rusch, Craven and WI DNR colleagues Charlie Kilian and Carl Batha, the course is not intended to directly recruit or train students to become hunters. Rather, the course aims to demystify hunting by giving students a deeper understanding of the history and role of hunting in conservation as well as hands-on experience.



Craven showing students how to clean and dress a pheasant in the field. Photo: Tim Eisele

In the classroom, students are guided through a series of roundtable discussions that range from the biological basis of hunting and the role of hunting in wildlife management to the safe handling of firearms and how to field dress game. After passing a written hunter-education exam,

they spend a weekend afternoon at a shooting range learning specific skills like how to safely load and unload a shotgun, sight-in a rifle, or choosing the correct ammunition for your firearm. Donning orange vests and hats, students then have the option to be paired with a dedicated mentor to experience a pheasant hunt.

"I'll never forget that day," says senior Danny Erickson and chapter president of the Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society. "It was exhilarating to walk in the fields, side-by-side with an experienced

mentor and a well-trained dog to flush a bird up in the air...I raised my shotgun, followed the birds flight, and pulled the trigger. In a matter of seconds, I had a bird in my hands. It may not seem like much and gruesome to some, but I appreciate the opportunity to learn alongside a mentor...it was pretty tasty too."

In addition to the opportunity to engage in a hunting experience, the course provides students

with a chance to network with a cadre of dedicated wildlife management professionals and instructors that volunteer their time and expertise to make the course a success. Jed Meunier (B.S. Wildlife Ecology, M.S. Wildlife

Ecology), research scientist for the WI DNR and hunt mentor to the CLfT reflects on why he participates.

“I think exposing burgeoning professionals to hunting in all its parts, the good, the bad, and the ugly, is an incredibly valuable experience regardless of whether or not an individual then chooses to hunt. I have often lamented that many traditional hunter education classes offer very little beyond the safe handling of firearms, which is essential of course, but this seems like a missed opportunity. CLfT helps bridge this gap. I want people to have a sense of the breadth of understanding that comes with hunting, as well as the space to critically evaluate the various components. These components include many wonderful, and sometimes difficult, ethical dilemmas that should not be taken for granted. Thus the CLfT program plays a very important role. It is something I believe in and am willing to work for to help see it succeed.”

For students like Wheeler and Erickson, their positive experience in the program has solidified a lifelong interest in wildlife-related recreation and gained future support for wildlife and resource conservation. “I am forever grateful to all who made CLfT possible and for the opportunity to be a part of Wisconsin’s hunting tradition” notes Erickson. “I hope to use what I learned in order to study wildlife populations and conserve not only game species, but non-game species, habitat, and the interactions between organisms and their environment.”

## Club Updates

### Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society (TWS)

**By Steven Plesh**

The Student Chapter of TWS held its popular Wild Game Dinner back in December. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year (we raised over \$1,000.00!) and supports a fantastic organization that helps undergraduates prepare for a career in wildlife research and management. The event features a silent auction and raffle and a variety of scrumptious dishes prepared with wild game to sample including goose, venison, bear, salmon, elk, and more. A big thank you to all of our donors, local businesses, First Congregational Church, the Department, TWS members, and all that attended and helped to make such a successful fundraiser. We could not have done it without your contributions and hope for your support next fall!

When snow conditions were favorable this past winter, TWS would lead a small group of members on day trips to Babcock, WI to complete carnivore surveys for the Wisconsin DNR’s Volunteer Carnivore Tracking Program. Common wildlife tracks seen were coyote, bobcat, red fox, and gray wolf.

In early March a carload of members traveled to Milwaukee for the annual Wisconsin State Chapter meeting, but this gathering held something special for the UW-Madison crew: the State Student Representative position. Each year, this position rotates between the three colleges in Wisconsin with TWS chapters (Northland, UW-Stevens Point, UW-Madison), and serves as a link between those chapters and the State Chapter. We are excited to announce that Kristina Kennedy is the new Student Representative!

Aldo Leopold Day, a nature-themed rendition of Saturday Science presented by the Discovery Institute, was held on March 4<sup>th</sup>. A few enthusiastic TWS members volunteered to set up a makeshift bird banding arts-and-crafts activity for young children at the event. Other upcoming outreach events include CALS Admitted Students Day, CALS Day for Kids, and Allen Centennial Gardens’ Family Garden Day. We look forward to making all of our outreach events as fun and informative as possible!



## Club Updates

### Forestry Club Update

By John Joutras

The Forestry Club started off the fall with a second successful Apple Butter Festival at Picnic Point in October. With some insider knowledge and a copper kettle from Charles Goehring the club was able to bring this Appalachian tradition alive. Also in October, The Nature Conservancy added six to its list of potential fire volunteers by sponsoring club members to take their Basic Wildland Firefighting certification. The training included online curricula, a timed hike with weighted pack, and one day outside and hands-on with the Conservancy's prescribed fire tools and protocols.

In November Madison was the proud host of the 2016 National Society of American Foresters Convention. The convention is the SAF's premier annual event and an opportunity to explore the latest in forest industry and research. The club put together a display and helped register students to attend the weeklong convention. To cap it off, our quiz bowl team took home the gold in the yearly trivia competition. The 43<sup>rd</sup> annual Christmas tree fundraiser ended 2016 for the club. This year we sold more than 400 combined frasers, balsam firs and white pines over two days. This would not have been possible without the efforts of our student and faculty volunteers – thank you.

Club events this semester include outdoor education with Verona's New Century School. Every month the club is putting together an hour's worth of forestry education for the fifth graders at Picnic Point and teaching forestry topics like tree identification and ecology basics.

### The New Tree Fort

The 2015-16 officer team left the club with a renovated Tree Fort on Russell Labs' first floor. The Tree Fort is the club's small (but cozy) space for



Forestry Club students stir apple butter with community members at Picnic Point. Photo: Elly Voigt

students to socialize, heat up a lunch and study between classes. New additions to the Fort include a fresh coat of green paint, furniture, whiteboard, and a handcrafted table and bench courtesy of past president Logan Wells. A collection of forestry textbooks, club forms, newsletters and microwave are also available in the Fort. Yes, the microwave is free for anyone to use.

## Alumni News

Department alumni **Tom Larson** (B.S. Wildlife Ecology 1971, M.S. Wildlife Ecology 1974) published his debut novel, "Hyena's Tree". While the book is fiction, it incorporates many experiences Larson had while servicing as a Peace Corps volunteer in West Africa after graduating from the UW. There he worked on a park development project in Benin, West Africa living with and studying the wildlife in two national parks. Following a 37 year career with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Larson retired and completed the novel. "My debut novel is shaped by first-hand experiences that ranged from encounters with African buffalo, lions, and crocodiles to Gabon vipers and poachers," said Larson. "My passion for wildlife and knowledge of African history—along with my four decade career in conservation—culminate in a riveting adventure." The novel is now available through the publisher ([http://theaqlc.com/?page\\_id=742&b=20](http://theaqlc.com/?page_id=742&b=20)), as well as through Amazon and Barnes and Noble.



## The demand for paper products in an increasingly digital world.

By Dr. Craig Johnston and Lori Barrow

Before the nineties, virtually all written communication and information exchange centered around paper products. Now, the astonishing growth in Internet use and other digital technologies such as personal computers and mobile phones appear to make paper as obsolete as the typewriter. As our preferences have shifted toward electronic media, how will future rates of Internet use affect the markets for paper based media? In order to get some answers, I recently sat down with Craig Johnston, Assistant Professor of Forest Economics, to discuss his work recently published in the *Journal of Forest Economics*.

**While completing your PhD, much of your work centered on examining economic issues surrounding a greater reliance on energy derived from forests. Can you speak a little more about why you were initially interested in examining the impact of how paper demands have been affected by the Internet?**

I'm really interested in using global outlook studies of the forestry sector to assess different projections of various forest products. Although we continue to observe declining demands for newsprint and printed materials due to increased Internet adoption (percent of population using the Internet), I started noticing that there really weren't a lot of studies that captured this structural shift in global demand for paper products. These structural shifts are inherently something you can't foresee—meaning we don't know when something substantial like that is going to

happen that fundamentally transforms the way a market operates. However, failure to take those shifts into account can likely bias forecasts on global demands for newsprint and printing and writing paper. We know that as countries lean more toward the Internet they are going to lean away from paper products, but what might that look like and can we model it? Because countries are at different levels of Internet adoption, I wanted to forecast the effect of the Internet on the global paper product markets out to 2030.

**Did you have any assumptions going into the study?**

Sure, one assumption relates to the relationship between per capita income and the demand for paper products. Historically, developed countries (i.e. high income) experience higher rates of Internet adoption, as compared to developing countries. Because wealthy countries likely already have a higher rate of internet adoption they are more likely to consume electronic media. Meanwhile, paper product consumption appears to be rapidly increasing in developing countries with lower levels of Internet adoption as a means of facilitating communication. From an economic perspective I kept asking myself if it was logical to assume paper product demand in developing countries would continue on this increasing



Craig Johnston,  
Assistant Professor of  
Forest Economics

trajectory into the future. I think no - and that was one of the motivations for conducting this work.

### **Can you talk a little about how you went about conducting this study?**

Techniques used for this study were really demanding. I used the Global Forest Products Model (GFPM) which was developed by Emeritus Professor Joseph Buongiorno in collaboration with Shushuai Zhu, Dali Zhang, James Turner and David Tomberlin. The GFPM has data and parameters to produce forecasts of forest resources and markets for 180 countries, and 14 forest commodity groups including fuelwood, industrial roundwood, sawnwood, pulp, and newsprint, to name a few. Although this is a simplification, the tool essentially looks at how markets will likely evolve and respond to changes in future demographic or economic stimuli. Here I was able to incorporate timber supply, per capita income, and per capita internet adoption parameters in order to explore the projected effect of the internet on the global paper product market.

### **Were you able to get an answer for your question?**

Yes, in a sentence, global consumption of newsprint, print and writing paper are forecasted to follow a downward trajectory into 2030. Additionally, it appears that faster rates of global internet adoption results in a more rapid movement away from paper based media. Although developing countries may experience a brief increase in demand for paper products, I suspect they are going to reach a plateau and transition away from physical newsprint toward digital media as Internet adoption increases. A lot of this has to do with substitutability, or the ability of electronic media to substitute the traditional print

equivalent. For instance, as long as you have internet access you are likely indifferent to consuming news electronically versus print. You are essentially getting the same content so they are almost perfect substitutes in that regard. However, that is not the same when you look at speciality paper like or packaging material as the internet is not a substitute for packaging. In this instance the internet may actually complement paper products as online shopping relies heavily on paper packaging for shipments. This suggests there may be an opportunity to identify specific niche markets.



Pulpwood. Photo: WIDNR/Flickr

### **So how can the paper product industry put itself in a position where they are still relevant when something like newsprint may no longer be?**

That's a really interesting question, and one I certainly don't have the whole answer to. The purpose of my work is not to make it seem like paper products are becoming obsolete. Rather, I like to think that my work highlights the importance of considering market evolution in long-term global paper product market forecasting so that we might be strategic in terms of not just what types of products to produce, but what export destinations to pursue. We know the nature of existing forest products markets are changing, but how do we foresee those changes in order to be as optimally situated as we can be? That's the big picture question and one my paper tried to get a little closer at. We really need to look to the future, but that's really hard. Using the best data available, we can continue to think strategically about emerging markets and providing our students the appropriate skills and knowledge to be successful.



## News from the Chair

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- We welcomed Ms. **Lori Barrow** (MS Forestry, 2016) as our alumni and donor relations and special events coordinator. She filled the gap created when long-time newsletter and technical editor Ms. **Mary Miron** retired in Fall.

As we look to the summer, the **Wildlife Summer Camp** is expecting twenty-four students at Kemp for this biennial field experience. Our summer camps are seminar experiences in our students' experience, but not the only one. Nearly half the courses we offer have a field component. In some cases, we can take advantage of nearby locations (e.g., Picnic Point, The Arboretum), but often students roam further afar (Kemp, Kickapoo Valley Reserve, etc.).

The university provides some resources for field experiences, but they don't cover the full freight. Gifts and donations from alums and friends allow us to provide a full range of outdoor lab and capstone experiences that are often the most memorable. To ensure these for the future, we've created **The Field Camps & Experiences Fund** at the UW Foundation targeted toward field experiences for students. If you want to help ensure that future students have these opportunities, you can donate at <https://supportuw.org/giveto/fwecolfieldcamps> or use the form on page 12 (check "Field Camps Fund").

## Alumni in the Spotlight

**by Christopher J. Whelan, Avian Ecologist, University of Illinois at Chicago**

While an undergraduate at UW-Madison, I was fortunate to have Dr. Stanley A. Temple as my advisor in Wildlife Ecology. Dr. Temple was a tremendous mentor, and my experience as a Wildlife Ecology major at UW-Madison greatly shaped the trajectory of my professional career. My most influential experience as a wildlifer occurred during the summer of 1979, when I worked as a field assistant to Bruce Ambuel, a MS student working with Stan. The skills in bird and plant identification, and methods of vegetation analysis that I learned from Bruce that summer have served me well over my entire career.



Chris outside the Leopold Shack.

As a student of Stan Temple, I could not help but become further interested in bird conservation and how management, from captive breeding to habitat management, can help promote healthy bird populations and communities. Later, in graduate school at Dartmouth College, I investigated how birds use forest habitat for foraging, with the goal of understanding habitat selection. This work ultimately led to an invitation to contribute a review article on bird ecosystem services for *The Year in Ecology and Conservation Biology* (2008).

Therefore, with Çagan H. Sekercioglu (University of Utah), and Daniel G. Wenny (San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory), I co-edited "Why Birds Matter. Avian Ecological Function and Ecosystem Services" (University of Chicago Press). The book covers the history of "economic ornithology," modern approaches to assessing economics of ecosystem services, bird how ecological functions, including pest control, pollination, seed dispersal, ecosystem engineering and nutrient cycling, contribute ecosystem services that benefit humans. In the book, we argue that conservation of birds can be advocated with our hearts, our minds, and our wallets. *Why Birds Matter* is available at The University of Chicago Press and at Amazon.com.



## Forest and Wildlife Ecology

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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Alumni and friends are an integral part of the Department. If you have an item you would like to share, please drop us a note and include your name, degree and year, and an update of what's new with you, your career or family. Please send your email to Lori Barrow at: [lbarrow@wisc.edu](mailto:lbarrow@wisc.edu) or drop a hard copy in the mail to the return address above.

### Forest and Wildlife Ecology Fund

We invite you to join in our efforts to provide support for important Department priorities. Donations to the below accounts are used to support activities that promote a sense of community in the department, cover costs of the summer field camp and host activities such as special lectures, and support student travel to professional meetings.

I/we would like to donate to: ☐ General FWE Fund ☐ Grad Student Travel Fund ☐ Field Camps Fund

I/we would like to donate: ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other (please specify)

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

Please charge my gift of \$ to my (please circle): Mastercard Visa American Express

Card Number:  -  -  -  Card Expiration Date:

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If paying by check, please make your gift payable to UW Foundation and mail to: University of Wisconsin Foundation, US Bank Lockbox, P.O. Box 78807, Milwaukee, WI 53278

Donations may also be made online at <http://fwe.wisc.edu/alumni>