

FOREST & WILDLIFE ECOLOGY *news*

A Publication for Students, Alumni, Faculty, Staff, and Friends of the University of Wisconsin-Madison
Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology

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Here's to Our Alumni!

Forest & Wildlife Ecology alumni submitted an overwhelming number of responses to a recent call for updates

BY KARIE CHERWIN

What do you do when you have an overwhelming number of alumni answer a call for updates? Well, you feature alumni as the cover story in the department newsletter of course!

Alumni are a vital part of our department, and we are genuinely interested in knowing where their lives lead after they graduate. We recently sent a request to alumni asking them to send us updates. The stories they sent show the wide range of paths an alumnus of the Department of Forest & Wildlife Ecology can take. From Wisconsin to Italy, and countless places in between, our alumni are making an impact in the world.

Thank you to all who submitted updates. Please continue sending these in. You can also share your updates and connect with friends from the department on our Facebook page: @ForestandWildlifeEcologyatUWMadison.

Spanning 55 years, the alumni stories in this issue are from Forest and Wildlife graduates as recent as this past Spring and as far back as 1962. Now, here are some of the many stories that we received

CHAIR'S CORNER



As we wrap up the Fall Semester and 2018, we are pleased to share with you glimpses into the lives of our alums. It is inspiring to me where

life takes our students, what they achieve, and to know that we've played some role in that. These stories reinforce what I've seen and heard when spending time with colleagues nationally, UW-Madison graduates are strong, motivated professionals who make a difference.

In addition to recognitions and updates (2 new faculty and 5 graduating seniors!), I must note the special award to Ray Guries (see p. 3). Earlier this fall he was inducted into the Wisconsin Forestry Hall of Fame. It is a well-deserved honor for someone who touched so many lives, including my own. Ray has been a mentor to me, and someone I could count on for thoughtful advice and encouragement. I have learned a lot from him and am glad to have him as a friend.

We also note the passing of Don Field (see p. 5). Like Ray, Don was passionate about our students and providing opportunities for their success. His legacy will continue through the scholarship fund he and his wife established for undergraduates.

Lastly and on behalf of all of us in the Department, I wish you the very best for the holiday season, and that you find time to spend it joyously among friends and family.

Mark



Forest and Wildlife Ecology
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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ALUMNI stories

Thomas Yuill (M.S. Wildlife 1962, Ph.D. 1964, and F&WE Emeritus Professor) participated in the UW-MSN - University of Guadalajara (UG), Mexico, interaction by putting on a 10-day workshop on research project planning and management for the grad students at the UG's University Center for the South Coast.

Tom Larson (B.S. Wildlife 1971, M.S. 1974) retired in 2014 after 37 years with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. He went on to write his first book, *Hyena's Tree*, a fiction novel taking place in West Africa, based upon his own wild-life encounters while working on a Peace Corps/United Nations national park development project. He is currently working on a sequel to *Hyena's Tree*.



Joe Kresse (B.S. Forest 1973; pictured on front page) has been enjoying his retirement since 2007 and has a variety of interests. For example, this fall he embarked on a bicycle tour along the Moselle River in France. He is also a car collector, with a 1931 Ford Model A Victoria and a 2001 BMW roadster. In addition, he serves on the Union County Planning Commission and the Oregon Recreational Trails Board. He wishes all the current students the best in their upcoming careers.

Dan Higgins (B.S. Forest 1975) and his wife, Dianne, sold their house last July and are currently full-time RV'ing.

James March (Ph.D. Wildlife 1976) continues to enjoy his retirement on the Mississippi in La Crosse, WI. In addition to hunting and fishing, he keeps

busy with volunteer work. He serves on The Wildlife Society's Don Rusch Memorial Game Bird Scholarship Committee, where he's been impressed by the quality of applicants and their projects. He is a member of the La Crosse County Deer Advisory Council, representing urban interests. He also mentors youth as a member of the Coulee Chapter of KAMO (Kids and Mentors Outdoors) by introducing them to waterfowl hunting, and he is KAMO's representative on the La Crosse County Conservation Alliance. In his spare time, he continues to assist the local DNR Mississippi River biologist with summer goose banding.

Jeffery Treu (B.S. Forest 1978; pictured on front page) and his wife recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. After retiring from We Energies, he now enjoys consulting. He feels his fulfilling career in Utility forestry allowed him to develop rewarding relationships with municipal arborists, state officials, private businesses, and nonprofits working on cooperative projects and partnership opportunities. Serving on the WI Arborist Association Board, and as an SAF officer, and WI Urban Forestry Council were also all great opportunities that presented themselves. In retirement he continues to serve on the WI Urban Forestry Council. He also volunteers at Hartman Creek State Park and with the American Red Cross (responding to local needs and for statewide and national emergencies). He enjoys time with family, children, and grandchildren as much as possible with many outdoor activities year-round.



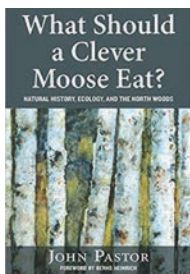
Tim Young (B.S. 1979, M.S. Forest 1983) was presented with the UW CALS 2018 Distinguished Alumni Award at the CALS Honorary Recognition Banquet in October – an award that recognizes lifetime achievement and service. He has been a faculty member at the University of Tennessee since 1998 where he has established himself as a leading expert in quantitative analysis, intelligent manufacturing, and statistical process control in the forest industries. To read a full description, visit www.cals.wisc.edu/honorary/.

Richard Taplin (B.S. Forest 1978) recently gave a talk at the regional SAF chapter on forest restoration and the results of his 25 years of forest restoration and ecosystem management in a park setting. He is retiring from the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation at the end of the year. He has nearly 30 years of service with the park system, with the last 10 years as park manager at Ponderosa State Park in McCall, Idaho. Before this, he was with the US Forest Service in Northern California (7 years), and the WI Conservation Corps (5 years). Thus, with over 42 years of work in public service, he will begin his new career working for himself at his retirement home in Roseburg, Oregon. He welcomes alumni to stop by his place so he can share some of his home brewed beers or ciders.

Jon Brondson (B.S. Wildlife 1980) worked as a wildlife research LTE at the Sandhill Wildlife Area in 1981 and then became a state conservation warden in 1982, stationed in Black River Falls, WI. He enjoys hunting trips to the western states with other retired wardens, wildlife biologists, and pointing dogs, and he occasionally contributes short stories to books published by Ugly Dog Hunting. He became a Snapshot Wisconsin volunteer and found he has way more bears on his property than he was aware of!

John Pastor (Ph.D. Forest 1980) retired as Professor of Biology at the University of MN – Duluth but remains active in his research as Emeritus Pro-

fessor. Two years ago, he published a book of essays about the natural history of the North Woods titled *What Should a Clever Moose Eat?* He is currently working on a book about the natural and human history of white pine.



John Brazner (B.S. Wildlife 1981) got his M.S. in Syracuse, New York, in 1983, and then worked at a federal USEPA Research Lab on Lake Superior in Duluth, MN for about 20 years minus a 3-year detour back to Madison to get his Ph.D. in Limnology. On a research sabbatical in Nova Scotia in 2002 he met and fell in love with a woman from Halifax. After marrying, they settled in Nova Scotia where John became a wetland biologist for the Dept. of Lands and Forestry. His work revolves around wetlands, including breeding bird surveys in forested wetlands or adjacent upland forests and a large bog restoration project on an island off the southern tip of Nova Scotia to conserve the globally rare Eastern mountain avens. He lives on a 20-ha farm along the Bay of Fundy near Black Rock, Nova Scotia.

J. Keith Gilless (M.S. Forest 1982, Ph.D. 1983) stepped down as dean of UC Berkeley's College of Natural Resources after eleven years and returned to his full-time faculty position as a professor of forest economics. In recognition of his outstanding dedication to service, Gilless was recognized by the UC Berkeley Academic Senate (<https://academic-senate.berkeley.edu/awards/bfsa>). In addition, he currently serves as the chair of the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Vicotria Jessi Zirbel (B.S. Wildlife 1987; pictured on front page) is loving life in Rib Mountain, WI, where she enjoys gardening, managing the wildlife that like her property, and spending time outdoors with her Siberian Huskies.

Brian Kloeppe (B.S. Forest 1989, Ph.D. 1998) serves as Dean of the Graduate School and Sponsored Research at Western Carolina University where he has been a Professor in the Department of Geosciences and Natural Resources since 2008. Previously, he was Site Director of the Coweeta Long Term Ecological Research Program at Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory in Otto, NC. He enjoyed a road trip to Cape Breton, Nova Scotia in July 2018 with his son, Brock, to celebrate Brock's high school graduation where they visited Tom and Sarah Steele, both alumni of the department, in their retirement location.



Dr. Brian Kloeppe

Nancy Christel (B.S. Wildlife 1996; pictured on front page) recently received two awards, DNR Wildlife Biologist of the Year and the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA) Biologist of the Year.

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PROFESSOR EMERITUS RAY GURIES INDUCTED INTO WISCONSIN FORESTRY HALL OF FAME



Emeritus Professor **Ray Guries** was inducted into the Wisconsin Forestry Hall of Fame during a ceremony at the WI Society of American Foresters (SAF) annual meeting on Sept. 12, 2018. The WI Forestry Hall of Fame was founded in 1984 by a group of public and private forestry organizations to recognize individuals

who have contributed significantly to the practice and progress of forestry in WI. The honor recognizes Guries' substantial contributions to the forestry profession over the course of his career.

Guries' Forestry Hall of Fame induction plaque features the following statement: *Professor Ray Guries made substantial contributions to the forestry profession through his teaching, student advising, and research. Ray's expertise in forest genetics and tree breeding helped guide the Wisconsin Forest Tree Improvement Program for many years. Many of Ray's former students went on to become leaders in forest conservation and management, thereby perpetuating his legacy as a mentor and a scholar.*

Guries advised hundreds of undergraduate students, 35 master's students, 13 doctoral candidates, and served on the mentoring committees of 200 graduate students. Many of the students whose minds and hearts he touched went on to pursue careers in forestry.

One of Guries' former students, **Gail Smith (B.S. Forest 1981)**, composed a poem about him:

Ode to Ray Guries

*To find a better Professor, I had no worries,
I signed up for Silviculture with non-other than Ray Guries.
A man's man, and a scholar it is clear,
But for a female student, he always leant an ear.
From professional advice to relationships, too,
There's not much this Renaissance man can't do.
Tall and lanky, with a Jimmy Stewart kind of drawl,
His quick wit and stories were enjoyed by all.
Approachable, supportive and a champion of his students,
Listening and learning from Ray was always prudent.
So Congratulations, Ray, on your induction into the
Wisconsin Forestry Hall of Fame,
And know that your students will always remember your
contributions and name.
As we get older, I know this to be real,
You don't always remember what people say, or what they
do – but how they made you feel.*

DEPARTMENT *news*

DAVE HELMERS AWARDED ACADEMIC STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT

Congratulations to **Dave Helmers**, a GIS and Research Specialist in the Spatial Analysis for Conservation and Sustainability (SILVIS) Lab, for receiving an academic staff professional develop-

ment grant to attend the Esri Users Conference. Esri GIS and spatial analysis software is vital to the SILVIS lab and the department, so the benefit of Helmer's experience is far-reaching.



Dave Helmers

ZUCKERBERG RECEIVES DATA SCIENCE INITIATIVE FUNDING

Dr. **Ben Zuckerberg** was chosen among a highly competitive pool of applicants to receive funding from the UW—Madison Data Science Initiative. His project, "Advancing the study of climate change vulnerability through data science," incorporates data from eBird, an online program that allows volunteers to enter bird observations from anywhere in the world, along with data on weather and climate to assess the distributions of bird species across the United



Dr. Ben Zuckerberg

States. This project will advance the use of high-volume data sets and at the same time improve predictions on the vulnerability of bird species to future climate change.

F&WE Welcomes Two New Faculty Members

The Department of Forest & Wildlife Ecology is pleased to welcome two new faculty members. Assistant Professor Sarah Hart and Assistant Professor Daniel Preston joined the department in August 2018.

Dr. **Sarah Hart** received her Ph.D. from the University of CO – Boulder in 2014. After this, she was a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Saskatchewan and then an Assistant Professor at Washington State University. Dr. Hart specializes in forestry and disturbance ecology. Her current research is aimed at understanding how climate change impacts forest resiliency to disturbance. In Spring 2019 she will teach Silviculture. In her spare time, she enjoys playing soccer, a good cup of coffee, and walking her dog Rogue. Dr. Hart says she is excited about exploring the diverse forests of Wisconsin and eating lots of cheese.



Dr. Sarah Hart

Dr. **Dan Preston** received his Ph.D. from the University of CO – Boulder in 2015 and then became a post-doctoral scholar at Oregon State University. Dr. Preston specializes in freshwater ecology, and is particularly interested in links between environmental change, species interactions, and ecosystem functions. In Spring 2019 he will teach Freshwater Conservation. In his spare time, he enjoys outdoor activities including fishing, boating, skiing, and hiking. He also enjoys board games, especially Scrabble. Dr. Preston is excited to meet new colleagues at UW and to explore Wisconsin.



Dr. Daniel Preston

CALS Global sponsors Van Deelen as delegate to Botswana

In August, CALS Global sponsored Dr. **Tim Van Deelen** to participate in a UW delegation to Botswana, led by the Nelson Institute. Others in the delegation were Teri Allendorf (Forest & Wildlife Ecology), Richard Keller (UW International Division), Don Waller (Botany), Nathan Schulfer (The Nelson Institute), and Anthony Carroll (External Advisory Board, UW's International Division). The Government of Botswana approached UW's International Division in December 2017 seeking assistance on issues of higher education and the environment and UW's delegation traveled to Botswana to follow up on previous discussions and to learn more about possible academic and research collaborations with partners in Botswana, including the Ministry of Environment, Tourism, and Wildlife, the three public universities, the Okavango Research Institute (ORI), and multiple NGOs, such as the Wilderness Wildlife Trust.





Forest and Wildlife Ecology

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Mission

Provide basic and applied research, instruction, and outreach that advance conservation and management of ecosystems.

Vision

We will excel in the creation and sharing of knowledge.

We will be diverse and inclusive.

Core Values

We promote a culture in which we strive for excellence.

We support and promote each other in our collective mission.

Everyone is welcomed, respected, valued, and encouraged to participate.

In Memoriam

Professor Emeritus **Donald R. Field** passed away on April 7th, 2018 at the age of 78. His research and teaching career spanned more than 40 years during which time he founded an interdisciplinary field of study on society and natural resources focused on the social policy and management of parks and protected areas. His work took him to many parts of North America, but his career concluded where it began, in Wisconsin.

Don Field earned B.S. (1963) and M.S. (1965) degrees in Rural Sociology at UW-Madison before completing a Ph.D. in Rural Sociology and Demography at Penn State University in 1968.

Field returned to Wisconsin in 1988 as Associate Dean of CALS and Director of the School of Natural Resources. In 1998, he joined the Departments of Forestry and Rural Sociology to conduct research and teaching in these disciplines. Field retired as Professor Emeritus in 2011.

Field's research focused on the relationships among people, parks, natural resources, and rural communities. He studied social-biophysical systems in Alaska and along the Pacific Northwest coast, resource dependent communities in the Midwest and West, and agricultural-wildlife problems in the Midwest. His career interests formed the basis of his instructional program and many students benefitted enormously from Don's wisdom and guidance as they prepared to enter careers in academia, natural resource management, public service or other professions.

Don was a beloved mentor for many students and scholars. He was a prolific photographer and traveled extensively with his wife, Nan Field, who developed children's education resources on wildlife and nature. He will be dearly missed. Many are following the footsteps of his intellectual trails and taking them in new directions.

Thank you to the numerous donors who contributed to the Donald and Nancy Field Natural Resources Scholarship Fund. These donations are very much appreciated and will help in honoring Don Field's legacy.

Thank you to the Donald Field Memorial Resolution Committee, including Ray Guries, Thomas Heberlein, and Adena Rissman for contributing content for this memorial.



*Professor Emeritus Donald R. Field
March 9, 1940 - April 7, 2018*

Forestry Club Celebrates 45th Annual Christmas Tree Sale

The Forestry Club set another record at their 45th Annual Christmas Tree Sale by selling 445 trees and 150 wreaths. With their efforts, the club helped place trees in the homes of many alumni and friends of the club, including a 9-foot Fraser Fir on display at the Chancellor's residence at Olin House. This year's sale was held Nov 30 thru Dec 2.

Members of the Forestry Club help customers load Christmas trees onto their vehicles in the UW-Madison Stock Pavilion. Photo by: Craig Johnston



STUDENT news

DECEMBER 2018 GRADUATING SENIORS

Congratulations to the five undergraduates who will join the ranks of the F&WE alumni this December. Two Forest Science majors, **Matthew Robers** and **Zhixing Xu**, and three Wildlife Ecology majors, **Taylor Paige Fletcher**, **Margot Lescrenier**, and **Moriah Marwitz**, will graduate on December 16, 2018. The department wishes them all the best in their future pursuits.

WRAY AND SHIPLEY RECEIVE 2018 TERRY AMUNDSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Amy Wray and **Amy Shipley** received the 2018 Terry Amundson Memorial Scholarship, which is awarded to 1-2 Wildlife or Veterinary Science graduate students who exhibit exceptional scholastic aptitude, and who conduct research on wildlife ecology or disease. The \$1,000 awards are presented at the Ruffed Grouse Society Banquet.

Amy Wray published an important paper in the *Journal of Mammalogy* on the consumption of mosquitoes by bats. She also made significant contributions to a paper that describes a novel and more powerful molecular approach to screening the diets of insectivorous species, a paper that is currently in press at *Molecular Ecology Resources*.

Amy Shipley leads a multi-year project using radio telemetry to track the survival and behavior of ruffed grouse at Sandhill Wildlife Area. Her research focuses on how a rapidly changing winter environment, and the chronic loss of snow cover, effects the behavior and demographics of this winter-adapted bird. To enhance the project Amy designed a passive trapping technique for capturing ruffed grouse in the wild, radio tagged dozens of birds, deployed microclimate sensors, and initiated a rigorous radio telemetry study.

Forestry Field Camp at Kemp Natural Resources Station

Students and faculty enjoy another rewarding field camp experience



Top left: Field camp students, Alden Laev and Shea Rettler, preparing tree cores to determine ages and growth rates of trees in their stands. Center: Barred owl. Top right: Professor Eric Kruger demonstrating tree identification techniques to students. Bottom right: Field camp student, Josie Mayhew, standing in a stream near Sweeney Lake to measure the height of a tree. Bottom left: Field camp students, Haley Knight, and Philip Krahn, measuring soil characteristics and tree regeneration in their stand. Photos by Dr. Volker Radeloff.

Kemp Field Camp experience exposes students to a wide array of subjects, including plant identification, GPS & GIS techniques, forest soils, wildlife identification and survey methods, forest habitat classification, timber cruising, and basic field skills. Through a series of integrated exercises, they learn first hand about forest ecosystem structure, function, processes, and services. Field Camp also provides students with opportunities to work closely with faculty as well as industry professionals in a beautiful north woods setting.

XU CHOSEN AS DAVID N. CONNOR FORESTRY INTERN

Zhixing Xu was selected from a group of highly qualified applicants to be the 2018 David N. Connor Memorial Scholarship Forestry Intern.

BEST WILDLIFE DISSERTATION AWARD GOES TO LATIMER

Dr. **Chris Latimer** received the "Best Wildlife Dissertation Award", based on both the intellectual merit and the broader impacts of his dissertation.

Chris's dissertation, titled "Weather and land cover interact to create thermal refuges for wintering birds inhabiting human-modified landscapes," aimed at understanding how landscape patterns interact with climate variables to influence wintering bird demographics. Chris's research suggests that behavioral and physiological traits should be incorporated in species distribution models when assessing vulnerability to future anthropogenic change. Chris, currently a Postdoc at The Nature Conservancy in CO, received \$750 for this award.

Winter research study investigates camouflage mismatch in snowshoe hares



Snowshoe hare in the Sandhill Wildlife Area, near Babcock, WI.
Photo by Evan Wilson.

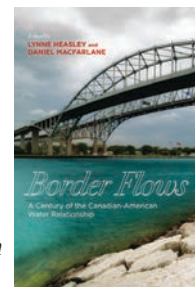
Evan Wilson, Wildlife PhD Candidate, has spent the last four winters collecting data at the Sandhill Wildlife Area near Babcock, WI to better understand the relationship between climate change, species loss and trophic interactions. Focusing on a group of winter-adapted species: snowshoe hare, porcupine, ruffed grouse and their shared terrestrial predators (coyote, bobcat & fisher), Evan and his collaborators are investigating the mechanisms driving population declines of snowshoe hare, and how this decline affects demographic rates through the lens of predator-prey interactions. Evan and his collaborators: Amy Shipley, Benjamin Zuckerberg, Zach Peery and Jon Pauli, recently published an article in *Conservation Letters* entitled "An experimental translocation identifies habitat features that buffer camouflage mismatch in snowshoe hares", showing that while snowshoe hare survival is negatively impacted by the effects of climate change availability of large patches of young aspen and alder habitats can lessen these negative effects.

David Flaspohler (Ph.D. Wildlife 1998) just reached 20 years in his position at Michigan Technological University, and he was recently appointed Director of Undergraduate Programs. In addition, he received a Fellowship from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to support a sabbatical in Christchurch, New Zealand. There, he will be working on questions related to agricultural sustainability and biodiversity conservation.

Chris Williams (M.S. Wildlife 1996, Ph.D. 2001) is starting his 14th year as a professor of Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware. He heads the Waterfowl and Upland Gamebird Program where to date he has supported 60 graduate and undergraduate researchers interested in waterfowl and gamebirds. During the 2018-19 school year, Chris has been elected to be the President of the University of Delaware Faculty Senate and thus has traded his waders in for a suit.



Lynne Heasley (Ph.D. Forest 2000) is a professor in the Institute of the Environment and Sustainability at Western Michigan University, where she teaches interdisciplinary courses in environmental and sustainability studies and in the environmental humanities. Her research and writing centers on the Great Lakes, and she recently co-edited *Border Flows: A Century of the Canadian-American Water Relationship*.



Chadwick Rittenhouse (B.S. Wildlife 2000) received the Donald M. Kinsman Award for Excellence in Teaching, the highest teaching award in the College of Agricultural, Health and Natural Resources at the University of Connecticut, for his efforts to develop and teach online courses for graduate students. In August 2018 he was promoted to Director of the Sustainable Environmental Planning and Management online graduate certificate program, and Director of the online Master of Energy and Environmental Management program at UConn.

Penny Hillier (B.S. Wildlife 2000) has been a stay-at-home mom for the past 12 years. In the past four years, she has volunteered at Moody Gardens Aquarium in Galveston, TX, helping with activities such as diving, feeding, and cleaning for the fish department and penguins. In 2017 she moved to Iowa and began volunteering at the National Mississippi River Aquarium and Niabi Zoo, working with the primates. She spent the past two summers in Cancun, raising money and awareness to tag whale sharks, and she helped on the production

Alumni stories *continued*

Jim Miller (B.S. Wildlife 1996) recently completed his 20th year with the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, and his 15th year in his current role as a student services coordinator. He enjoys participating in one of his favorite pastimes – fishing – in his new Alumacraft fishing boat.



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CLUB *updates*

Forestry Club

BY HALEY KNIGHT

The fall of 2018 came with many opportunities for forestry club students. The first was attending the Kretz Forestry Field Day in Antigo, WI. The club had a table where kids and adults could test their forestry knowledge through the game bingo. There was also a timbersports competition where club members, Sean Fischer and Noah Fredel, used a crosscut but not fast enough to beat the other team.

The big event of the semester was the National Society of American Foresters Conference in Portland, OR. A group of 11 forestry club members flew to Portland where they networked with other foresters in the nation. They took the opportunity to get their resumes reviewed, interviewed by Weyerhaeuser, and discussed job opportunities with the variety of employers attending. The students also took time to sightsee from visiting the Columbia River to visiting Mount Saint Helens. Next year the conference will be in Louisville, KY and the



Club members visiting the windy Columbia River while in Oregon for Society of American Foresters Conference. Back row left to right: Riley Aschenbrenner, Rachel Kirchner, Noah Fredel, Sean Fischer, Zhixing Xu, Matt Robers. Front row: Shea Rettler, Alex Rosenflanz.

club hopes to bring back the W for the quiz bowl.

The club had another outdoor learning event with 4th and 5th graders from New Century Elementary School. One of the activities included discussing

the difference between deciduous and evergreen trees. After the discussion, the kids ran off into the Lakeshore preserve to collect leaves for their leaf collections. Forestry club members also taught the kids how to identify trees using tree identification guides.

The next big event for the club is the Christmas Tree Sale. The club always looks forward to getting in the Christmas spirit by filling the Stock Pavilion with over 600 trees and helping load trees on top of cars. Each year the sale has been successful, with the proceeds going to help fund events like the SAF Conference and chainsaw certification classes.

The club officers are currently planning events for the Spring which will include fire and chainsaw certification.



Emma Froelich, a forestry student, showing the students from New Century Elementary School how to use a tree identification guide.

Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society

BY HALEY KNIGHT

The UW-Madison Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society has been off to a great start this semester! In early October, the officer team traveled to Cleveland for the annual National TWS Conference. We had the opportunity to listen to many interesting talks about wildlife research, management, and human-wildlife interactions. We also participated in the annual quiz bowl, where we made it to the third round of competition and even beat the returning champions, the University of Georgia. This conference is always a great way for TWS members to network with other students, other TWS chapters, and wildlife professionals.

Back in Wisconsin, our chapter has been busy with plenty of events. Some of our members recently traveled to the Linwood Springs Research Station where we observed the process of Saw-whet Owl banding. Researchers showed us how to mist-net for birds, how to properly band the birds and take their measurements, and even how to age the birds using feather molting patterns. Our members then got to hold a few owls and take photos with them. Saw-whet Owls are notorious for their calm demeanor while in the hand. Some TWS members also went to the Leopold Center in Baraboo recently to view the Sandhill Crane Migration. Dr. Stan Temple explained the migration habits of Sandhill Cranes, as well as Whooping Cranes. We sat in a blind and watched as several thousand Sandhill Cranes flew down to the Wisconsin River to spend the night. Spending the night in the river in large groups provides cranes with protection from predators. Many TWS members have also been volunteering with the UW Urban Canid Project. Each morning, a few students accompany Dr. David Drake and his graduate student, Sarah Garza, as they check their traps for



Saw-whet owl held by a member of the University of Wisconsin - Madison Student Chapter of the The Wildlife Society.

coyotes and foxes.

TWS is also looking forward to its annual Game Dinner, which will be held on December 7th at 7:00 pm at the First Congregational Church. This is our only fundraiser and it helps us to fund our many events and our travel to the annual TWS conference; we ask for a \$5 donation at the door.

The University of Wisconsin - Madison Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society group photo at the saw-whet owl banding event



Alumni stories *continued*

crew for National Geographic Explorer who was filming an episode about whale shark tagging.

Marco Piazza (M.S. Forest 2000; pictured on front page) left the USA shortly after graduating and returned to Italy. Since 2007 he has worked for the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. His work primarily focuses on supporting developing countries to establish the National Forest Inventory (NFI), an area that has grown exponentially in the past few years due to the challenges of climate change, and thanks to international mechanisms such as REDD+. He frequently has the opportunity to pursue work missions abroad, including to Africa and Southeast Asia. He lives in Rome with his wife and two children. He hopes to visit Madison again since this city and University are so dear to him.

Michael Weston (B.S. Forest 2001) has worked for the Florida Service since 2004 and is currently serving as their Forestry Resource Administrator in southwest FL. He supervises a team of foresters, park rangers, forest rangers, and biologist who manage over 105,000 acres of state forest land outside of Naples, FL and Labelle, FL, along with a robust urban forestry program centered along the coastal areas of southwest FL. His group currently has the largest wetland restoration project in the world,

located in the Picayune Strand State Forest, which will eventually restore over 55,000 acres of degraded forest land to more natural conditions. Within the last year, he rode out Category 3 Hurricane Irma in the Lee County Emergency Operations Center, and six months later he was in command of an 18,000-acre wildfire caused by lightning. In addition, he's excited to be working on a few projects involving longleaf pine restoration, south Florida slash pine management, and natural resource education at local schools.

Sam Nitz (B.S. Forest 2004) recently left EMILY's List as their Deputy Director for Independent Expenditures and Targeting/Analytics Director. After some travel to Southeast Asia and some time off, he started his own political consulting firm focusing on paid media strategy, data management, and analytics in the progressive and non-profit space--Asgard Strategies & Analytics. He works predominantly with progressive organizations & non-profits in managing their paid media programs and data in electoral and advocacy work. His love for data and population statistics came from studying forestry! In addition, last summer he spent a week in the Middle East with other LGBTQ+ consultants, activists, and leaders learning about the conflicts there as well as the work being done by LGBTQ+ NGOs to help those communities – work that is especially important for individuals living in communities where they are not accepted.

Nick Povak (M.S. Forest 2005) obtained his Ph.D. at the University of Washington in 2012 and is currently a Postdoc researcher with the US Forest Service where he works on a variety of projects related to modeling biophysical drivers of wildfire severity using machine learning and using fire simulation modeling to determine the role of fire suppression policies on vegetation patterns prior to large wildfires in the West. His wife **Erin Povak (Prendergast) (B.S. Forest 2006)** received her M.S. at Seattle University in 2014 and is now the Director of Stormwater Programs at ECOSSE, an environmental nonprofit where she manages over 15 programs aimed at preventing and reducing stormwater pollution in Puget Sound. They met in Eric Kruger's Tree Physiology class in 2003 and now live in Seattle with their two-year-old son, Malcolm.

John Gritt (B.S. Forest 2005) has been running Sunset Forestry LLC since 2011 and specializes in Managed Forest Law (MFL) properties. His work area is a large portion of southern Wisconsin, which offers a diverse range of forest types. He loves his line of work as well as the interactions he has with private landowners. Being his own boss has allowed him the opportunity to a part-time stay-at-home dad for his two children, Jameson and Vivian. He and his wife, Brooke, enjoy living close to Madison so they can still root for Bucky!

Ashley Gramza (B.S. Wildlife 2008; pictured on front page) started a new position as the first Human Dimensions Specialist for the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission in Little Rock. In this position she'll be working to develop a Human Dimensions program in their Research, Evaluation, and Compliance Division by conducting and coordinating conservation social science research across the state. Prior to this position she served as the National Bird Conservation Social Science Coordinator at Virginia Tech.



Jill Gorges (B.S. Wildlife 2015; pictured here and on front page) became passionate about sea turtles during her time studying abroad in Cairns, Australia. After graduating from UW Madison, she was involved in sea turtle nesting projects in Costa Rica and Florida before moving to Georgia. Over the past year, she has worked at the Georgia Sea Turtle Center through the Americorps program, educating the public about sea turtles, rehabilitation, and sea turtle medicine.

David Carter (B.S. Forest 2010) just started as the assistant professor of silviculture at Virginia Tech. He credits his time at UW-Madison for getting him started in research. After graduating from UW-Madison, he worked at The Morton Arboretum in Lisle, IL, for three years. He then went on to get his M.S. at the University of Maine and Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota.

Masami Glines (B.S. Wildlife 2012) got interested in zoonotic diseases from the F&WE Diseases of Wildlife class and went on to pursue a public health career. He got a M.P.H. at UW-Madison, and is currently a Population Health Fellow at Public Health Madison and Dane County (PHMDC), and Centro Hispano. Masami is interested in promoting the One Health idea. Recently, Masami assisted in the Dane County flooding relief efforts by delivering well water samples to the WI State Laboratory of Hygiene from PHMDC.

Matt Meis (B.S. Wildlife 2014) worked as a field tech in Namibia for a PhD student, and did summer stints at Mount Rainier NP and Denali NP. Matt took the skills he learned in the backcountry in Africa and National Parks and combined them with this passion for photography. He now leads photography workshops around the US – this year alone he led workshops in Alaska, Glacier NP, Zion NP, Bryce Canyon NP, and Yosemite NP – as well as abroad.

Natalie Hunt (Ph.D. Forest 2014) started a Teaching Assistant Professor position at the University of Minnesota in the Department of Bio-products & Biosystems Engineering. In this role, she will teach courses such as Sustainability of Food Systems, Natural Resources Consumption and Sustainability, and the sustainable systems management capstone course. In addition, she will continue to conduct research that assesses how water and air quality affects cropping systems in the Upper Midwest.

Jason Gundlach (B.S. Wildlife 2015) recently began a M.S. project at the University of Nevada-Reno. He is studying a mule deer herd that resides in the Toiyabe Range of central Nevada. His project will assess the impact of single leaf pinyon and Utah juniper removal on mule deer winter range, adult survival, and resource selection of adult females.

Grace Sowaske (B.S. Wildlife 2016) is currently a research assistant at the University of Florida's Tropical Aquaculture lab. She is also pursuing a M.S. project involving the development of marine ornamental larval rearing protocols, currently working with *Melanurus* and Yellow wrasse species, as well as with flame hawkfish.

Madilyn Williams (B.S. Wildlife 2018) started working at the Wildlife in Need Center, a wildlife rehabilitation center in Oconomowoc, WI as the education coordinator. In this position she takes care of 14 non-releasable animals, including a Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, American Kestrel, Ornate Box Turtle, and a Bullsnake. She also takes these animals to schools, senior centers, and other venues to talk about their stories and wildlife in general with the public.



Madilyn Williams showing Evie, an Eastern Foxsnake, to children at a Muskego Public Library education program.

Many thanks to all the alumni who shared their stories! 🐾

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Forest and Wildlife Ecology

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Boathouse at Kemp Natural Resources Station.

PHOTO BY SCOTT BOWE