

# 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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Karlee Nack, age 11, checking a trail camera on her family's property in Columbia County, WI.

## COVER STORY

### **Engaging the Next Generation: Let's Get Kids Outside!**

By Jamie Nack

Imagine my delight, when my daughters (9 and 11) complained about not being able to go outside during the polar vortex back in February. School had been cancelled due to the extreme cold and we were “stuck” at home and inside. My husband and I have made it a high priority to connect our children to the natural world, something that has served both of us well and led us to our careers in wildlife ecology & management. Early childhood experiences outdoors cemented our interests in natural resources and developed our conservation mindset. It is our hope, that repeated outdoor exposure, will do the same for our children.

Aside from our personal motivations, there is a wealth of research and literature describing a growing concern among parents, educators, and mental and physical health professionals throughout the country about the disconnection of today's children from the natural world. “Nature Deficit Disorder” is a condition identified by author Richard Louv in his book “Last Child in the Woods” and has been linked to troubling child-

*Engaging the Next Generation continues on page 10*

## CHAIR'S CORNER



All good things... It has been a busy semester. We completed a remodel of our computer learning laboratory, Associate Professors Zach Peery and Anna Pidgeon were promoted to Full Professor, and Assistant Professors Sarah Hart and

Daniel Preston wrapped up their first year in the department. Professor Tim Van Deelen, Associate Professor Jon Pauli, Outreach Specialist Jamie Nack, and Russell Labs Building Manager John Wipperfurth were all recognized with College awards for their exceptional contributions. Our alums and friends have also been extremely generous. The computer lab remodel was only possible through the support of the Ranney Family. In addition, we received new pledges and donations to advance graduate education and our undergraduate field camps and experiences.

At the same time, the end of the semester and the academic year, like spring, brings changes and new beginnings. Our graduates—6 Wildlife Ecology and 17 Forest Science—begin their professional lives. Professor David Mladenoff retired after a distinguished career contributing to the foundations of landscape ecology. The CALS redesign process will see the department rethink how we deliver our undergraduate programs, reflect the diversity of the broader society, and create new initiatives to support student outcomes and research excellence.

Lastly, change will also come to the Chair's office. Earlier this month, I was selected to serve as the next CALS Senior Associate Dean. In that role, I will assist Dean Kate in matters pertaining to leadership, management and strategic direction of the college, among other things. It is an exciting challenge that I am looking forward to. The next Chair of F&WE will be Professor Eric Kruger, tree physiologist and gifted teacher. Eric is committed to the department, respected by his peers, and will do an excellent job as Chair.

*Mark*



**Forest and Wildlife Ecology**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



## ALUMNI updates

**Jeff Knetter (B.S. Wildlife '97, M.S. Wildlife '01)** is the Upland Game & Migratory Game Bird Coordinator for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game at the Headquarters Office in Boise, ID.



*Knetter, in July 2018, banding lesser snow geese on Banks Island in the Northwest Territories.*

**Gabby Zaldumbide (B.S. Wildlife, '18)** is currently in the Master of Environmental Management program at Western Colorado University in Gunnison, CO. For her master's project she will write and implement a forest monitoring plan with a strong wildlife component for a US Forest Service environmental assessment and timber sale in Taylor Park, CO. On the side, she is



*Zaldumbide, turkey hunting in 2019.*

an intern for the Hunting, Trapping, and Conservation Working Group of The Wildlife Society where she coordinates Trapping Matters Workshops around the country. She is also an up-and-coming Colorado Chapter Leader for Backcountry Hunters and Anglers.

In February 2019, Gov. Tony Evers appointed **Fred Clark (M.S. Forest Sci '92)** to the

WI Natural Resources Board. The intent of the Board is to set policy for the DNR and exercise authority in accordance with governing statutes. Clark is a forester, conservationist, and former state legislator. Among his many credentials, he has served as a Senior Forester for the



*Fred Clark*

WI-DNR and an ecologist for the WI Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. Clark was appointed by both Govs. Doyle and Walker to the WI Council on Forestry, serving 2004-14. And from 2009-15 he was a Democratic representative in the state Assembly. Also an avid outdoorsman, he enjoys hunting, sawmilling, maple sugaring, and boating. Clark's term on the board expires May 1, 2025.

**Cuauhtémoc Sáenz-Romero (Ph.D. Forest Ecology and Management '98)** currently works at the Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolás de Hidalgo, located in Morelia, Michoacán, México. As a forest geneticist, he researches a broad range of topics. Presently, he and his team are trying to shift an entire mountain forest upwards in elevation over 1,000 feet, in part, to help conserve critical monarch butterfly habitat that is now at risk due to climate change. Sáenz-Romero has received widespread recognition in both scientific literature and popular press. To read more about his research, check out his profile on research gate!

[https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Cuauhtemoc\\_Saenz-Romero](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Cuauhtemoc_Saenz-Romero)



*Saenz-Romero displaying a fir tree, part of the forest he is moving up the mountainside. Photo credit: Aglaen Carvajal (Nat'l Wildlife Federation).*



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## ***The Ranney Family Computer Learning Center***

On April 11, 2019, the Department of Forest & Wildlife Ecology held a dedication ceremony to celebrate the completion of the newly renovated computer lab in Russell Laboratories. The renovation was made possible by a generous donation from Richard and Lorraine Ranney and the tireless efforts of the renovation team. The event was well-attended, with the Dean of CALS, Kate VandenBosch, the Chair of F&WE, Mark Rickenbach, and daughter of Richard and Lorraine, Mary Richards, delivering poignant words about the donors, as well as acknowledging the many individuals on the IT, planning, design, and construction crews.

### *Background on Richard Ranney*

Richard Ranney was born in 1918 in Prineville, Oregon and lived in a lumber camp in Oregon until moving to Menomonie, Wisconsin. He attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison and graduated with a degree in agricultural engineering in the 1930s. While a student in CALS, Richard became interested in forest restoration – especially after listening to Aldo Leopold's lectures in soil conservation courses.

Richard married Lorraine in 1943, and together they raised five daughters: Joan, Mary, Susan, Karen, and Ellen. In 1952, Richard and Lorraine purchased a 55-acre parcel of land near Arena, WI.

Their holdings would eventually increase to 110 acres. The Ranneys were excellent stewards of the land, and in 1992, decided to donate their property to the Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology in memory of Richard's brother, Donald Ranney, who sadly passed away in 1936 while he was a student here at the UW.

The intent of the land donation was to facilitate teaching and research on the property. In a letter to the department, Lorraine wrote: "We feel pleased students will use it to learn about forest and wildlife management." In another letter to the department, Richard wrote: "My wife and I, as well as our children,



*Richard Ranney at his property near Arena, WI, ca. 1980, where he enjoyed many outdoor activities, including cross-country skiing.*

feel that the University has contributed in many ways to our life and well-being. This gift is small compared to many that the University receives, but we hope it can be an inspiration for other "middle class" alumni to make similar contributions." For many years, students visited the property as part of classes, but as the curriculum changed, so did the use of the property. Because the department could no longer use the property as an outdoor classroom and teaching lab, the family

authorized selling the land as an alternative way to extend the Ranney stewardship legacy. F&WE used the proceeds of that sale to fund the renovation of the teaching/computer room, now called The Ranney Family Computer Learning Center.

The department is deeply grateful to the Ranneys for their generosity and vision in making their parcel of land into a forest and later sharing that gift with us. 🐾



*From left: Dean of CALS Kate VandenBosch, Chair of F&WE Mark Rickenbach, and daughters of Richard and Lorraine Ranney, Mary Richards and Joan Westgard, displaying plaque with the inscription: The Ranney Family Computer Learning Center.*

## DEPARTMENT *news*

### EDUARDO SANTANA INDUCTED INTO JALISCO SOCIETY OF GEOGRAPHY AND STATISTICS

Professor Eduardo Santana was inducted into the Society of Geography and Statistics of the State of Jalisco, a branch of the Mexican Society of Geography and Statistics. Created in 1833, this is the third oldest scientific society in the world. Dr. Santana is a PhD alum of F&WE and an adjunct professor in the department, co-teaching “Conservation in Mexico” with Faculty Associate Jim Berkelman (see page 7). He is also the General Coordinator of the Museum of Environmental Sciences of the University Center (CCU) of the University of



*Eduardo Santana at induction ceremony for the Society of Geography and Statistics of the State of Jalisco on April 9th, 2019.*

Guadalajara. Dr. Santana studies how global transformations, such as climate change and loss of biodiversity, are impacting the planet and Mexican societies in particular.

### FACULTY AND STAFF RECOGNIZED AT CALS AWARDS CEREMONY

Four faculty and staff members received awards at the 2019 CALS Award Ceremony on May 1st. **John Wipperfurth**, Supervisor/Building Manager of Russell Laboratories, was presented with the University Staff Recognition Award. **Jamie Nack**, Extension Senior Wildlife Outreach Specialist and Instructor, received the Academic Staff Award for Excellence in Leadership. **Jon Pauli**, Associate Professor, was presented with the Pound Research Award, an award given to an outstanding, early-career scientist to promote continued excellence in research. **Tim Van Deelen** was honored with the Robert G. F. and Hazel T. Spitze Land Grant Faculty Award for Excellence. This award is bestowed upon faculty who exemplify the Land Grant philosophy through combined excellence in research, teaching, and outreach.



*Staff and faculty award recipients were presented with plaques by the Dean of CALS, Kate VandenBosch, at a ceremony on May 1, 2019. Pictured here with Dean VandenBosch (counter-clock-wise from top left): John Wipperfurth, Jamie Nack, Jon Pauli, and Tim Van Deelen.*

### *Professor David Mladenoff retires*

Nearly 50 years after he first came to UW-Madison, Professor David Mladenoff retired at the end of May. David's ties to UW-Madison date back to 1969, when he started here as an undergraduate student. He completed his B.A. in Anthropology/Psychology in 1973 and a few years later he returned to campus as a Forest Ecology graduate student, receiving his M.S. in 1979. He then spent several years with The Nature Conservancy in Washington State before returning to UW-Madison to complete his Ph.D. in forest ecology in 1985. Following this, David served as the Western US Region Scientist with The Nature Conservancy in California and then as a Research Associate at the University of Minnesota.



David Mladenoff

In 1994, UW-Madison welcomed David again – this time as a faculty member in F&WE. Since that time, he has become an internationally recognized researcher procuring nearly \$24 million dollars in grant money, amassing over 155 scholarly publications, and delivering numerous presentations at professional meetings across the world. In addition, he developed LANDIS, a forest ecosystem computer model designed to simulate forest landscapes on varying spatial and temporal scales. This tool is among the most highly respected and utilized forest landscape simulation models in the discipline of forest ecology.

David has also distinguished himself as an exemplary teacher and mentor. The courses he taught on campus include his long-standing Landscape Ecology and Historical Ecology classes, as well

*Mladenoff Retires continues on page 9*



## PIDGEON AND PEERY PROMOTED TO FULL PROFESSORS

The department recently recognized Professors **Anna Pidgeon** and **Zach Peery** for demonstrating outstanding quality, productivity, and scholarly impact, as well as displaying commitments to teaching and service, by promoting both to full professor.

Professor Pidgeon earned her PhD in Wildlife Ecology from F&WE in 2000 and then served as an Associate Scientist in the department until she was promoted to Assistant Professor in 2008.



Anna Pidgeon

Currently, Prof. Pigeon is the co-PI of the Spatial Analysis for Conservation and Sustainability (SILVIS) Lab, studying the habitat needs of vertebrate species and the conservation challenges posed by human-induced habitat change. Her courses include Ornithology, Birds of Wisconsin, and Terrestrial Vertebrates.

Professor Peery was awarded his PhD in 2004 from UC-Berkeley and then completed postdocs at Moss Landing Marine Laboratories and the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, UC-Berkeley.

He joined F&WE in 2008, and specializes in ecological, genetic, and population modeling approaches to the con-



Zach Peery

servation of endangered wildlife. Peery's courses include Wildlife Conservation Genetics, Population Viability Analysis, and Extinction of Species.

## ***Emeritus Professor Scott Craven inducted into Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame***

Congratulations to Emeritus Professor Scott Craven for being inducted into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame on April 13, 2019. Craven is an ambassador for Wisconsin's wildlife, with a gift for sharing his knowledge and enthusiasm about Wisconsin's natural resources. As a popular UW-Madison Wildlife Professor, he reached hundreds of thousands through his UW-Extension presentations, publications and programs on wildlife, natural resources and the land ethic.

He also found a niche in public education through public radio and other prominent media outlets. As a gifted speaker, he has a unique way of captivating his audience with facts, stories and humor.

Scott has provided service and leadership to hundreds of agencies and organizations, and to thousands of private home and land owners, through his selfless contributions of time and effort. As a leader in Wildlife Damage Management, he has helped educate the public on how to attract wildlife and how to thoughtfully deal with nuisance wildlife and wildlife damage.

Craven was born in Manchester, New Hampshire in 1948. After receiving his BS degree in Zoology in 1970, he taught high school biology for two years. His time in Wisconsin started in 1972 as a graduate student at UW-Madison in the Department of Wildlife Ecology. Finding a niche, his association with UW-Madison has continued for more than 40 years as a Professor, UW-Extension Wildlife and 4-H Specialist, and Dept Chair.

He was an advisor and mentor to hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students through classes, internships



Professor Emeritus Scott Craven

and independent study projects. He also advanced Youth Education in Wisconsin through his 4-H leadership efforts and his Hunter Education and Shooting Sports programs.

Scott Craven has been one of the most influential UW-Extension Specialists and conservation educators in Wisconsin in the last half century. Since his retirement he has

continued to be a committed conservationist and prolific ambassador for wildlife through lecturing and writing, leading field trips, serving on advisory committees and non-profit organization boards, and his regular guest appearances on public radio.

*"Scott Craven is an ambassador for Wisconsin's wildlife, with a gift for sharing his knowledge and enthusiasm for Wisconsin's natural resources. Scott's legacy is in the number of people he has introduced to the 'wonderful world of wildlife.' ...With his historical knowledge, nearly four decades of experience, a well-developed network of colleagues, Scott is the quintessential wildlife figure in Wisconsin."*

*— Dr Scott Hygnstrom, Dr David Drake and Jamie Nack*

This article was adapted from a monograph prepared by the WI Conservation Hall of Fame. Read the full story at: <https://wchf.org/scott-craven/>.

## STUDENT *news*

### GRAD STUDENT AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

**Evan Wilson** and **Amy Shipley** were awarded the McCabe Keith Award, which supports Wildlife grad students. Evan is investigating the relationship between climate change, species loss, and trophic interactions in winter-adapted species. Amy is using radio telemetry to track ruffed grouse to assess how the rapidly changing winter environment is influencing this species.

**Gavin Jones** received the Best Dissertation Award, based on both the intellectual merit and broader impacts of his dissertation. Gavin's dissertation, "Fire, forest restoration, and spotted owl conservation in the Sierra Nevada, CA," focused on how forest management and restoration actions that reduce the potential for severe fire are likely to benefit both spotted owls and forest ecosystems in a changing climate.

**Phil Manlick** won the Best Student Talk Award at the 2019 Wisconsin Ecology Spring Symposium. His presentation was titled, "Stable isotopes reveal limited Eltonian niche conservatism across carnivore populations."



Auna Kaufmann-Schwartz

### WILDLIFE ECOLOGY UNDERGRAD NAMED UW STUDENT EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

The UW hosted a campus-wide Student-Employee of the Year competition for the first time this year. Students were nominated by their supervisors, and the top three winners received scholarships. F&WE congratulates **Auna Kaufmann-Schwartz** for being the 2nd place winner of the award. Auna, an assistant ranger at the UW Arboretum, graduated in May and plans to become a field technician for the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies in Wyoming.

### SLOTH RESEARCH FEATURED IN THE NEW YORK TIMES

A research article by **Mario Garcés-Restrepo (Ph.D. Wildlife '18)**, co-authored by **Professors Zach Peery and Jon Pauli**, was featured in the Jan. 22, 2019, Science section of *The New York Times*. The research article, published Jan. 16, 2019, in *The Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, is titled, "The demography of a resource specialist in the tropics: *Cecropia* trees and the fitness of three-toed sloths." In the article, the authors describe how their multi-year study in Costa Rica incorporated demography (e.g., reproductive output and adult survival rates), genetics, and space-use data to uniquely quantify the role of a key resource, specifically *Cecropia* trees, on three-toed sloths. This is the first study to directly demonstrate that three-toed sloths have greater reproductive success and survival rates in areas with higher densities of *Cecropia* trees. Therefore, conservation measures that target this key resource will likely increase the population viability of sloths. *The New York Times* article can be found at: <https://nyti.ms/2S5C7tS> and the original research article can be found at: <https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/pdf/10.1098/rspb.2018.2206>.



Baby three-toed sloth in Costa Rica.  
PHOTO CREDIT: ZACH PEERY

### 2019 SPRING & SUMMER F&WE GRADUATES

Congratulations to the 2019 Spring and Summer graduating students who are joining the F&WE alumni ranks:

#### *Spring*

##### *Baccalaureate Degrees*

Rachel Day (Forest, BS)  
Noah Fredel (Forest, BS)  
Shea Rettler (Forest, BS)  
Isaac Barber (Wildlife, BS)  
Lena Carlson (Wildlife, BS)

Derek Blaken (Wildlife, BS)  
Galen Cotting (Wildlife, BS)  
Riley Aschenbrenner (Forest, BS)  
Sean Stevenson Fischer (Forest, BS)  
Carley Suemnicht (Forest, BS)  
Olivia Ann Graves (Wildlife, BS)  
Auna Kaufmann-Schwartz (Wildlife, BS)  
Megan Marie Kruse (Wildlife, BS)  
Karissa Lange (Wildlife, BS)  
Hunter James Nikolai (Wildlife, BS)  
Brianna Ohm (Wildlife, BS)  
Joshua James Phillips (Wildlife, BS)  
Nicole Florence Pietrunti (Wildlife, BS)  
Nadia Swanson (Wildlife, BS)  
Lauren Mychal Umamo (Wildlife, BS)  
Rylann Elysabeth Williams (Wildlife, BS)

##### *Graduate Degrees*

Rachel Barker (Wildlife MS, Spring)  
Lucas Olson (Wildlife MS, Spring)  
Brendan Hobart (Wildlife MS, Spring)

#### *Summer*

##### *Baccalaureate Degrees*

Michal Michiels (Wildlife, BS)  
Rachel Leigh Weidner (Wildlife, BS)

##### *Graduate Degrees*

Isabel Rojas-Viada (Forest, PhD)  
Gavin Jones (Wildlife, PhD)  
Philip Manlick (Wildlife, PhD)  
Ashley Olah (Wildlife, MS)  
Maia Pershe (Wildlife, MS)

We wish them all the best in their future pursuits!



## 2019 WILDLIFE ECOLOGY STUDY ABROAD COURSE IN MEXICO DRAWS LARGEST STUDENT ENROLLMENT TO DATE

In Jan. 2019, twenty UW-Madison and four University of Guadalajara students participated in the 2-week biennial “Conservation in Mexico” course. This year was the ninth iteration of the course since it was first offered in 2003, and had the largest number of participants yet. The course is co-led by F&WE instructor **Jim Berkelman** and University of Guadalajara professor (and F&WE alum) **Eduardo Santana**.



Students and instructors of the 2019 “Conservation in Mexico” course at the Sierra de Manantlán Biosphere Reserve in Mexico.



**Kymi Draeger** (center; Forest Ph.D. ‘18), along with **Brian Zweifel** (left; Forest B.S. ‘13) and **Jessica Schultz** (right; Forest B.S. ‘16), displaying their bountiful collection of edible fungi in the Kemp Station dining room.

## FOR THE LOVE OF FUNGI

**Kymi Draeger** (Forest Ph.D. ‘18) is among the F&WE graduate students to recently finish their degrees. Kymi’s dissertation title was, “Assessment of forest biomass management practices through fungal community sampling: Wood-inhabiting fruiting body surveys and DNA-based analyses of wood stakes in a western conifer forest of North America.”

## RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT: *Historical vegetation in Wisconsin’s tension zone*



Monika Shea conducting fieldwork in Wisconsin.

Monika Shea, Forestry PhD Candidate and member of Dr. David Mladenoff’s lab group, studies historical vegetation in Wisconsin. Her focus is on the Tension Zone region. The Tension Zone is the ecological transition zone between Wisconsin’s two forest provinces—the northern mixed conifer-hardwood forest (“the Northwoods”) and southern broadleaf forest—spanning across the center of the state. Using witness tree records from the mid-1800s Public Land Survey, Monika and her collaborators (Dr. Mladenoff, Dr. Murray Clayton, Stephen Berg, and Hayden Elza) are mapping the pre-Euro-American settlement location of the Tension Zone. They are also examining species-environment relationships to help shed light on which factors in addition to climate are important for explaining why the Tension Zone is located where it is. Together, the results of this research will help inform climate change vulnerability assessments for Wisconsin’s forests. The research will also provide a baseline against which to measure past and future changes in forest species composition and patterns in the Tension Zone region. Monika recently received a travel award from the Forests journal and will be using the funds to give a presentation on her work at the North American Forest Ecology Workshop in June 2019.



## CLUB updates

### ***Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society***

BY MEGAN KRUSE

The UW-Madison Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society has had a busy Spring semester! We ended our fall semester with our Annual Wild Game Dinner, where we served a variety of foods, like bear meat tacos, venison stew, and elk Swedish meatballs. More recently, we hosted a book sale, where we sold plenty of ecologically themed books. This semester, we also had a radio telemetry workshop with Sarah Garza, who taught students about the importance of radio telemetry and how to locate radio-collared animals. We are currently trying to set up a second part to this workshop. We also hosted a graduate student panel that answered our members' questions about what being a graduate student is like and how to get into graduate school. A



*TWS Book Sale. Clockwise from upper left: Blake Cwynar, Alex Mathers, Mace Drumright, and Shelby Weidenkopf.*

couple of our officers also gave a presentation about our local wildlife at a nearby elementary school.

In partnership with the Henry Vilas zoo, we had a joint crafting event with the Undergraduate Zoological Society and the UW Society of Conservation Biology, where students created ornaments to benefit soala conservation. These ornaments made use of poachers traps that had been recovered from Vietnam. In April, we had our first birding trip at Picnic Point and we will be having several more before the end of the semester at various places across campus.

We are also starting up our Wisconsin DNR Frog and Toad surveys, which will continue into the summer. Additionally, one of our members, Ethan Plumier, has been leading weekly trips to monitor eagle nests for a citizen science project.

We are happy to announce that we elected our new officers this April. We are looking forward to an eventful end of the semester and another successful year in the 2019-2020 school year! Later this Spring, we will be facing the UW Forestry Club in our annual kickball game. After that, we will be hosting another Snap-a-thon



*TWS Bald Eagle Nest Monitoring. From left: Ethan Plumier and Patrick Prah.*

event, where students will compete to identify wildlife in camera trap photos with Snapshot Wisconsin. We are additionally taking a group of students



*Newly elected officers. From left: Bennett Dirksmeyer (Treasurer), Ethan Plumier (Outreach Coordinator), Blake Cwynar (Secretary), Shelby Weidenkopf (President), Mace Drumright (Vice President).*

to a Wisconsin DNR CWD station to learn more about chronic wasting disease and how to extract lymph nodes in order to test deer for this disease. We will also be having a highway clean-up event in May. In May, TWS will also set-up a booth at the Allen Centennial Gardens Family Day event.



## Forestry Club

BY HALEY KNIGHT

The Forestry Club had an eventful and fun-filled spring semester. We started the semester with a tour of the Forest Products Lab, located just off campus. We had a great time seeing the wood products testing facilities and cutting-edge wood products technology. We also got to see the Nanocellulose Pilot Plant. The Plant is a \$1.6 billion-dollar facility which engages in research to create wood nanocellulose products at scale. It can be used to make fibers as strong as Kevlar, rope as strong and soft as nylon, and clear, plastic-like materials that can be used to take the place of disposable packaging.

The Club was also grateful to have the opportunity to have two chainsaw safety training events. Level one and two were offered in March and April, and six of the club members were certified for both. The club is happy to have offered an experience that the core forestry classes don't provide.

In April, the Club also visited the Wilson State Nursery in Boscobel, WI. Here the DNR grows many of the seedlings for the state and landowners. They breed dozens of native species and produce

over a million seedlings each year. The cold, weeds, poor drainage, insects, fungi, and birds are all unpredictable and can destroy a row of seedlings. We learned that they use propane cannons which make a loud gun sound to scare away birds like Blue jays.

The Club once again had an outdoor learning event with New Century Elementary School. After some unexpected sleet and rescheduling, the 4th and 5th graders were able to visit the Lakeshore Nature Preserve and learn about ecology. We hope to continue this tradition of learning and fun into the fall semester.

The Club's final meeting of the semester was held at Vilas Park. We met the Wildlife society for a cookout and fiercely-competitive game of kickball. Everyone had a great time eating, laughing, and enjoying the sunshine.

The club wishes all of its seniors a hearty congratulations (Shea Rettler, Sean Fischer, Riley Aschenbrenner, Carley Suemnicht, Noah Fredel, and Rachel Day) and welcomes all the new club officers: Josh Coady, Travis Schmitt, Ben Sellers, Emma Froelich, and Alex Horvath.



An end of the day photo of Forestry Club members after level one chainsaw safety in March.

## MLADENOFF RETIRES (CONT'D)

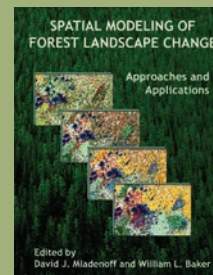
as numerous others. In addition, he has advised at least 25 graduate students (16 Ph.D. and 9 M.S.) through the completion of their degrees, mentored over 20 post-doctoral researchers, and served on countless graduate student committees. Equally important, David has made invaluable contributions to building and strengthening F&WE. For example, he served as a PhD and postdoc advisor to Volker Radeloff, who is now a full professor in F&WE. David also chaired the search committee that brought Phil Townsend, also now a full professor, to F&WE.

Beyond these many accomplishments, David has also received a long list of honors and awards, including the UW Kellett faculty award, the Distinguished Landscape Ecologist Award, Beers-Bascom Professor in Conservation, Romnes Faculty Award, Pound Research Award, and many more.

As an emeritus professor, David plans to carry on some of his long-term research projects and continue to advise his two current graduate students. He is looking forward to spending more time up north and traveling to Italy - to visit forests in the Alps and Apennines and to collaborate with his Italian research colleagues.

David likes to say that he came to UW-Madison from Hurley, WI - a town of fewer than 2,000 people in Northern Wisconsin - and never wanted to leave. We look forward to his continued presence in the department and wish him all the best in his retirement.

Professor Mladenoff co-edited the book, "Spatial Modeling of Forest Landscape Change: Approaches and Applications," which outlines the forest landscape simulation model he developed in the 1990's, a model widely used by forest landscape ecologists.





## 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.*

## ENGAGING THE NEXT GENERATION (CONT'D)

hood trends such as the rise in obesity, attention disorders and depression.

Letting kids play and explore in the natural world has proven psychological and cognitive benefits. When “we” were kids, our parents told us to go outside and play and didn’t expect us back until dinner time or dark. Today’s children often find their amusements, their adventures, in computer games and television. It’s no wonder children can grow up without knowing much at all about the natural world or its gifts. However, in some cases, they may even develop a fear of nature.

There are many benefits to children who spend time in nature and the outdoors, including reduced stress, an increase in curiosity, creativity and problem-solving abilities, and improved physical and emotional health.

The following is a list of ideas not only get kids outside, but to engage them in YOUR family property. Many of the ideas are wildlife-centric, of course!

- Every time your children and/or grandchildren visit, keep a list of the wildlife species you observe during their stay. How many different species of birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians can you observe by sight, sound or animal sign? This simple activity has been a favorite tradition for my kids when they visit their grandparents.
- Encourage exploration and curiosity: turn over rocks and logs looking for invertebrates, salamanders, etc.; follow a set of animal tracks along a muddy riverbank; monitor a bird nest every few days to observe the process; or clean out last year’s bluebird and wood duck houses together and see what may have used it. My kids especially enjoy the excitement of catching a



From left, Taylor and Karlee Nack holding American toads on their family's property in Columbia County, WI. PHOTO CREDIT: JAMIE NACK



- few deer mice when we clean out bluebird houses every spring!
- Go on a scavenger hunt: create a list of items ahead of time to look for and send the kids out to take photos of the items when they find them.
  - Go Geocaching: an outdoor recreational activity, in which participants use a GPS unit or smart phone to hide and seek containers, called “geocaches” or “caches”. Download the geocaching app at: [geocaching.com](http://geocaching.com) and head to the nearest natural area to start your search.
  - Set-up a trail camera and check the media card when the children come for a visit. Scout the property with them and let them decide where to put it next.
  - Have each of your children or grandchildren select a location for a photo station; a place where they take a photo periodically throughout the year to capture Wisconsin’s changing seasons
  - Give them a journal or sketchbook for them to record their observations. Journaling can be a great way for kids to decompress from their busy days and where better to do it than in nature. A nature journal is whatever you want it to be. Journaling includes elements of creative and descriptive writing, observation skills, art, and science. For children, it can be an excuse to go outside, to be alone, to expand artistic and writing skills, and to find the calm and the peace that quiet time in nature can promote.
  - Participate in a citizen-science project together, such as the Wisconsin Frog & Toad survey (<http://wiatri.net/Inventory/FrogToadSurvey/>) or Cornell Lab of Ornithology’s Project Feeder Watch (<https://feederwatch.org/>).
  - Embrace technology and let them show you how to use phone apps for bird identification (e.g. iBird Pro, Peterson Field Guide), plant identification (e.g. Leaf Snap), animal tracks (e.g. My Nature Tracks), viewing the night sky (e.g. Sky Map) and more.
  - Build a couple of track stations on your property to document some of the more elusive, wide-ranging animals in the area. Clear a 1-meter square area of all vegetation using a shovel. Then add 5 gallons of fine, uniformly colored sand mixed with one cup of mineral oil. Masonry sand works well. Mineral oil helps to keep the sand moist and allows for a clear track print. Then, in the center of the station, place a large rock. The rock serves as a curiosity item for passing animals but is also where you can place a teaspoon of lure. Try using a trapping lure that targets species like fox and coyote, bobcat, beaver, or an all-purpose lure. You can find lures, urines and baits at outdoor sporting goods stores or you can order them online from a trapping supplier. Then check your track station every morning or when you feel like it, to see who’s been visiting. Use a cat litter scoop or a sifter to reset the track station. Pairing a track station with a trail camera is a great way to confirm the identity of the visitor. You can also make plaster casts of the tracks for a souvenir (<https://www.bear-tracker.com/plastertracks.html>).

With summer finally upon us, now is the perfect time to get kids outdoors! 🐾

*This story was adapted from an article written by Jamie Nack on the UW-Extension site titled, “Caring for your Woodland,” available at: <https://woodland-info.org/>.*

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## Forest and Wildlife Ecology

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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*In loving memory of  
**Margaret Ann “Maggie” Stewart**  
(B.S. Wildlife, 2014)  
October 28, 1991 - June 10, 2019*

**PILEATED WOODPECKER AT KEMP STATION, MAY 2019**  
PHOTO CREDIT: MICHAEL P. KING