



FOREST AND WILDLIFE ECOLOGY NEWS



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

Vol. 13, No. 2

October 2010

News from the Chair

It is so gratifying to read another issue of Forest and Wildlife Ecology News. The many activities and impacts of our alumni, and current faculty members and their trainees (including undergraduate, graduate, postdoctoral) at the state, national, and international level will inspire our dozen newest graduate students, who are introduced in this issue. You will be proud to learn of a late-breaking announcement that underscores these achievements. The National Research Council just released its "Data-Based Assessment of Research-Doctorate Programs in the United States" and our forest ecology program ranked first in the nation among 34 forestry programs! (see: <http://news.cals.wisc.edu/2010/09/30/cals-ph-d-programs-near-top-of-doctoral-class/>). Although there was no analogous ranking of wildlife programs, it is possible to make some comparisons of research activity. For features such as publications and awards per faculty member, our forestry faculty ranked first and the wildlife faculty ranked second among their peer programs around the nation. This recognition is very much based on achievements of current and past faculty and our alumni. We continue to work hard in what are challenging times. Despite University-wide budget cuts and a state-mandated furlough program, our department in the last two years has actually increased our number of undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral trainees, and we did it by increasing the revenue stream from extramural sources (e.g., competitive grants). With your help, everyone pulling together, we will main-

tain and improve programs that provide excellent training and a continuing stream of people, as capable as our alumni, to carry on into the future the important work of management and conservation of natural resources.

Alumni Update

The 2000s

Congratulations to **Margaret (Maggie) Milligan** (formerly Margaret Grosenick) (B.S. Forest Management and Recreation Resources Management 2005) and **Brian Milligan** (B.S. Forest Management 2005) who were married in April of 2008. Up until April of 2010 they both worked for the U.S. Forest Service on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest in Southern Oregon. In April they moved to Salmon, Idaho, where they both work on the Salmon-Challis National Forest. Brian works on the Salmon Heli-Rappel Crew (rappelling out of helicopters onto wildland fires) and Maggie is the Timber Management Assistant for the North Zone of the Salmon-Challis National Forest. Maggie's email is: mmilligan@fs.fed.us and Brian's email is: briangmilligan@yahoo.com

James Turner (Ph.D. Forestry 2004) has taken a new position with AgResearch in Hamilton, New Zealand, as a Resource Economist. James says his new position will give him an opportunity to learn more about the New Zealand Agricultural sector and to work in the same city where he lives. Email: James.Turner@agresearch.co.nz

Guy Smith (B.S. Recreation Resources Management 2003) has been promoted to

Chief of Operations for Milwaukee County Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture. In addition, Guy will receive the National Recreation Park Association's Young Professional of the Year Award at its conference in October in the Twin Cities. Email: guy_d_smith@yahoo.com

Erin Kreutz (B.S. Forest Science 2001) plans to wrap up her Master's degree in Natural and Cultural Resource Management at Central Washington University this winter. Her thesis focuses on the feasibility of Washington State DNR selling carbon credits during a down timber market to support the State Trusts (primarily K-12 education). Erin also works for Natural Resources Conservation Service in Ellensburg, WA. She works with small land timber owners and agricultural producers in Kittitas County, WA. In other big news Erin says she got married last year to a UW-Madison alumnus in Communication. And she nurtures her passion for playing the harp by teaching others to play, some of whom travel 90 minutes to get to their lessons. Email: erin.kreutz@wa.usda.gov

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The 1990s

Dave Lauten (M.S. Wildlife Ecology 1995) and his wife, Kathy Castelein, are working with Snowy Plovers through the Oregon Biodiversity Information Center based at Portland State University. They work out of their home on the south coast of Oregon trying to keep the plover population stable to increasing, a challenging task, reports Dave, due to habitat loss, predation pressure, limited funding, and the impact of global warming. Email: deweysage@verizon.net

The 1970s

Terry Rich (B.S. Wildlife Ecology 1972) has coordinated the bird conservation partnership Partners in Flight (www.PartnersInFlight.org) since 2000. He co-authored the organization’s latest publication, “Saving Our Shared Birds: Partners in Flight Tri-National Vision for Landbird Conservation.” The publication contains a vulnerability assessment and conservation priorities for all 882 native landbird species that regularly breed in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. The publication can be viewed at the Partners in Flight website. Email: terry_rich@fws.gov

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Kemp Station Celebrates a Half Century of Research and Education



Over 140 friends, neighbors and “alums” gathered earlier this summer to celebrate 50 years of natural resources research and teaching at Kemp Station. Folks toured station buildings, went on interpretive nature walks, took pontoon boat rides, and participated in fun and informative outreach programs.

A highlight was having donors Susan Small and Sally Greenleaf join the celebration. It was their generous gift of land and buildings in 1960 that created Kemp Station. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed hearing their childhood reminiscences about what it was like to grow up on Kemp’s Point in the 1920s.

The day had the friendly feel of a family reunion and, in many ways, that’s exactly what it was. For some, this was their first visit in more than 30 years. For all, the anniversary celebration was an opportunity to return to a place that was, and continues to be, a part of their life.



Top photo: Participants enjoyed a boat tour of Tomahawk Lake with narration from Professor Scott Craven (far left). Lower photo: Benefactors Sally Greenleaf (left) and Susan Small sit on the steps of Kemp Lodge. It was their vision and generosity that created Kemp Station 50 years ago.



Student News

Welcome New Graduate Students

The Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology has a number of new graduate students this fall. We welcome each of them to the department. Below is a brief bio sketch provided by each student as a means of introduction.

Patricia Alexandre, Forestry Ph.D.

I am a Forest Engineer (Forester) with a Masters degree from Technical University of Lisbon, Portugal. I earned a Fulbright scholarship and will be doing my Ph.D. studies here with Professor Volker Radeloff. I'm interested in observing the vegetation dynamics after large fires as well as understanding the influence of natural and human disturbances at the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI).

Rachel Arango, Forestry Ph.D.

I currently work at the Forest Products Laboratory on the west end of the UW-Madison campus. After finishing my Masters degree in Entomology, I am beginning a Ph.D. program in the Forest and Wildlife Ecology Department studying antimicrobial properties in the eastern subterranean termite (*Reticulitermes flavipes*) with Professor Ken Raffa. Most of my free time is spent teaching or taking bellydance classes, which unfortunately does not count for a minor!

Sarah Carter, Forestry Ph.D.

I received a B.S. degree from Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon and a M.S. degree from the University of Washington School of Fisheries where I evaluated the potential for sea otters and commercial urchin harvests to impact nearshore benthic communities in the San Juan Islands. This fall, I began a Conservation Planning Ph.D. project working with Professors Volker Radeloff and Anna Pidgeon. I am originally from the West Coast, but have lived in Madison since 1999. For much of that time I have worked as a conservation biologist for the Wisconsin DNR in the Wildlife and Endangered Resources Programs.

Tera Galante, Forestry Ph.D.

I just finished a Masters degree from SUNY ESF in Syracuse, New York, studying ectomycorrhizal ecology. Currently I am in the Mladenoff Lab working in the Flambeau River State Forest assessing the sustainability of woody biofuel harvest and its impacts on the local environment. I look forward to meeting everyone and learning about other research going on in the department. Please feel free to stop by my office in AB9 and say hello.

Andrew Norton, Wildlife Ecology Ph.D.

I received a Wildlife and Fisheries Science B.S. from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities and a M.S. degree from Penn State University, where I evaluated methods used to estimate white-tailed deer abundance. This Fall I will begin a deer population ecology Ph.D. project working with Professor Tim Van Deelen and Dr. Chris Jacques from the

Alumni Update continued from page 2

Tom Albright former Post doctoral fellow in the department accepted an assistant professor position focusing on ecoclimatology in the Geography Department at the University of Nevada, Reno. Tom will be teaching and continuing to research biotic responses to extreme weather and climate change. Although Tom says he and his family will always be Badgers at heart, they are enjoying the friendly people and comfortable climate of Reno. Email: talbright@unr.edu

Alum Ronald Labisky receives the Aldo Leopold Award

Ronald Labisky (M.S. Wildlife Ecology 1956 and Ph.D. Wildlife Ecology 1968)



was awarded The Wildlife Society's highest honor, the Aldo Leopold Award. The award honors distinguished service to wildlife conservation and was

presented at the society's 2009 annual conference in Monterey, California last fall. Labisky is Professor Emeritus in the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation at the University of Florida. He has had an illustrious career on many fronts, including teaching, wildlife research, natural resource conservation, policy formation, and administration. Dr. Labisky's recognition adds to a long list of Leopold Award winners affiliated with the Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology.

New Graduate Students continues on page 4

*New Graduate Students, continued from page 3*

WI DNR. I am originally from South Africa but spent 10 years living in southwestern Minnesota. I look forward to once again living in the Upper Midwest where I can pursue my other interests, which include hunting, fishing, rugby, and football.

Marin Palmer, Forestry M.S.

My name is Marin and I am coming to Madison from Washington State via Peace Corps Paraguay. I am part of the Mladenoff Lab working on a woody biofuels projects. I enjoy biking around Madison, running, gardening, and relaxing by the beautiful lakes.

Carlos Ramirez Reyes, Forestry Ph.D.

I'm interested in landscape change patterns and their influence on habitats and natural resources and working with Professor Volker Radeloff. My free time interests range from living room music listening and reading sessions to hiking and biking when I have the chance. I enjoy learning from other people. Coming from lower latitudes, I spent two years of studies at colder places to acclimate to Madison winters.

Autumn Sabo, Forestry Ph.D.

I am a doctoral student researching how deer influence forest ecosystems under the advisement of Professor Eric Kruger. I received my B.S. in Biology from Pennsylvania State University and my M.S. in Natural Resources from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. Since then I have worked as a botanist for Pennsylvania's Bureau of Forestry, an educator with Wisconsin DNR, and a vegetation specialist for the U.S. Forest Service.

Sarah Traver, Forestry M.S.

I hold a B.A. in English and a M.S. in Creative Writing. I grew up wandering the woods of northeastern Pennsylvania and exploring the mountains of West Virginia, but I most recently hail from Boston where I worked for the Provost at Harvard University. It was during this time that I experienced my first mid-life crisis. With the support (and raised eyebrows) of both loved ones and strangers alike, I decided to pursue a long-time interest in the field of forestry. Enter: UW-Madison's Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology where I am working with Professor Mark Rickenbach.

Tim Wilson, Forestry M.S.

I am from Chicago and did my undergraduate work in Resource Management (A.A.) and Agroecology (B.A.) from Sterling College in northern Vermont. My research there was in Forest ecology of invasive buckthorn (*Rhamnus spp.*) which was undocumented and almost non-invasive at the time. I returned to Chicago to marry my wife, Dana, and manage and develop City Farm, a self-sustaining urban farming model that continues to grow in Chicago. I will be working with Professor Glen Stanosz

Two Undergrads receive Hildale Fellowships

Congratulations to Yushi Oguchi and Krista Lessner, both recipients of a 2010-2011 Hildale Undergraduate Research Fellowship. Each will receive a grant of \$4,000 and will work with Professor Bill Karasov on a research project. Professor Karasov will also receive \$1,000 for each student to offset costs of their research projects. Krista is a senior majoring in Biology and a Certificate in Environmental Studies. She is in the process of finalizing her research project. Yushi Oguchi is a senior majoring in Wildlife Ecology. His research will focus on the role of infectious diseases in the decline of Golden-winged Warblers. Notes Yushi, "I am very grateful to Dr. Karasov and the members of his laboratory for advice and assistance in developing this project. Dr. Scott Lutz and his graduate student, Monica Fowlds, helped me in fieldwork, and Dr. Rachel Vallender with the Canadian Museum of Nature and Laura Stenzler with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology agreed to carry out some of the molecular work for me. It truly is a great privilege to be able to do this project!"

on the pathology and nutritional relationships of *Diploidia sp.* (pine blight) in Red Pine in Central Wisconsin. I'm happy to be back at it and in the woods again.

Camille Warbington, Wildlife Ecology M.S.

I graduated Magna cum Laude with Honors from the University of Georgia in 2001 with a B.S. in Forest Resources. As part of my academic experience I studied at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks and was an exchange student to Iceland. I recently worked on a research project on white-tailed deer fawn mortality for the USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station in Aiken, South Carolina. Here at the UW-Madison I will be working with Professor Tim Van Deelen as my adviser. In my spare time I enjoy participating in sports and live entertainment.

Rebecca Zulueta, Wildlife Ecology and CBSD M.S.

I was born and raised in Tehachapi, California, a small town in the southern Sierra Nevadas. In 2006 I completed my B.S. at the University of California, San Diego where I studied Ecology, Behavior and Evolution. Since graduating I have performed wildlife studies in the Sierra Nevadas, Thailand, and throughout Alaska. While at the UW-Madison I will be working towards a joint M.S. degree in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Biology and Sustainable Development under the guidance of Professor David Drake and Professor Adrian Treves.



Ruffed Grouse Society awards scholarships to two FWE graduate students

The John M. Keener Chapter of the Ruffed Grouse Society awarded \$500 scholarships to Forest and Wildlife Ecology graduate students Sam Meier and Chris Pollentier. Both Sam and Chris are working on their Masters degrees. With guidance from his advisor, Professor Bill Karasov, Sam is studying Attwater's Prairie Chickens, currently one of the most endangered birds in the U.S. His research focuses on two possible factors that may be impeding the bird's success—immune response and digestive organ development. Chris' research focuses on how landscape features influence wild



Jim Shurts (left), president of the John M. Keener Chapter of the Ruffed Grouse Society, presents \$500 scholarships to graduate students Sam Meier (center) and Chris Pollentier (right) at the organization's annual banquet in August. Photo by Brittany Pollentier

turkey hen survival and productivity in Wisconsin. Professor Scott Lutz is Chris' advisor. The Ruffed Grouse Society supports conservation and land management projects that improve conditions for ruffed grouse, American woodcock, and

related species of upland games birds to sustain our sport hunting tradition and outdoor heritage. Their annual banquet and awards ceremony was held at a Fitchburg, Wis. hotel in August.

Faculty News

The Wildlife Society honors Temple

The Wildlife Society selected Stanley Temple, Beers-Bascom Professor Emeritus in Conservation, to receive the Society's Honorary Membership award in recognition of his outstanding lifetime contributions to wildlife conservation in instruction, research, and outreach. He is scheduled to receive the award at The Wildlife Society's annual conference in October.

Mexico honors Adjunct Professor Castellon

Adjunct Professor Eduardo Santana Castellon was awarded the State of Jalisco Environmental Award and was elected Honorary Fellow of CIPAMEX, Mexico's largest and oldest ornithological organization. Professor Castellon also notified us that the Intermunicipal Ayuquila Watershed Project, which was developed jointly with UW-Madison, won the highest Federal Environmental Award (Premio al Merito Ecologico) and the State of Jalisco Environmental Award.

Rickenbach selected to serve on CALS and state committees

Professor Mark Rickenbach was elected to serve on the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Academic Planning Council (APC). This group of eight faculty and two academic staff advise the dean on issues related to strategic planning and development of academic programs as well as other matters. Professor Rickenbach was also appointed to serve on the legislative committee on Managed Forest Law where he can apply his expertise on Wisconsin forest policy and management to issues related to the state's Managed Forest Land Program.

FWE and WI DNR cooperate on study

A multi-million dollar research grant will allow experts at the UW-Madison and WI DNR to investigate the best way to manage Wisconsin's white-tailed deer population. Professors Eric Kruger and Tim Van Deelen will both be involved in the study. Prof. Van Deelen will lead a three-year study on fawn survival to become part of the adult deer herd. He will also conduct a five-year study to more accurately assess buck mortality. Professor Kruger is undertaking a five-year study to understand the ecological impacts of white-tailed deer populations on different types of ecosystems.



UW shares wildlife conservation strategy with China

When many of us think of China, images of high-rises and crowded streets are the first things that come to mind. Several graduate students from F&WE have been fortunate to experience firsthand the other side of China—ruggedly beautiful and wild, with a spectacular array of biological diversity. These experiences are thanks, in part, to the Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) program on the UW-Madison campus. The UW-Madison IGERT program is focused on biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in southwest China.

While traveling to China for his graduate research of Asiatic black bears in Sichuan and Yunnan Provinces, Ph.D. student Karl Malcolm spoke to diverse audiences about wildlife conservation in North America. Discussing sustainable use of wildlife resources with Chinese conservationists makes for interesting conversation because many of them consider consumptive uses like hunting to be incompatible with wildlife conservation. Once the topic is raised, there is great interest in how the two are crucially linked in North America.

In 2008 Karl and his advisor, Professor Tim Van Deelen, hosted Chinese guests at UW-Madison and the Aldo Leopold Foundation for a workshop on the role of hunting in the North American conservation model. F&WE graduate students Matt Lechmaier, Dan Storm, Mike Watt, and Professor Scott Craven also contributed substantially to the program. Due in part to these efforts, Karl was one of two Americans invited to Urumqi, China, from July 6-10, 2010, to participate in a forum focused on the future of regulated hunting in that country. Karl was asked to give a presentation about the role of hunting in wildlife conservation in America.

After two days of meetings in Urumqi, forum participants were taken on a two-day, 1,000-mile field trip in northern Xinjiang Province that had been open to limited hunting in the past. China contains sufficient populations of several species (for example, blue sheep and argali sheep) that would be of great interest to international hunters



Argali sheep exist in sufficient numbers to support a limited, sustainable hunting program. After meetings in Urumqi, Karl Malcolm was taken on a tour of argali sheep habitat in northern Xinjiang Province. Photo by Wang Wei

and support a sustainable hunting program. In contrast to the USA, where hunting licenses are relatively inexpensive, licenses in China for a single male sheep would (based on prices in neighboring Mongolia) sell for as much as \$40,000 (USD). Selling a few, very expensive licenses to international hunters and funneling (at least some of) that money back to local communities could be an effective way of promoting wildlife protection and habitat conservation.

In western China, where human densities are relatively low and hunting programs more feasible, overgrazing of critical grassland habitats by domestic stock is the greatest threat to wildlife conservation. If local pastoralists are given the opportunity to benefit financially by fostering healthier grassland habitats and protecting wildlife, properly managed hunting programs could be a valuable conservation tool.

Project maps forest change in Russia

Russia's forests are under great human pressure and are rapidly changing following the breakdown of the Soviet Union. With the help of a research grant from NASA, Professors Mutlu Ozdogan and Volker Radeloff, along with their graduate students, are investigating the size and pattern of forest change in European Russia using satellite data and econometric models. Ph.D. student Matthias Baumann spent three weeks in Russia this summer gathering validation data for the remote sensing analysis, which reveals major changes fol-

lowing the collapse of Socialism in 1991. Even though widespread wildfires caused by a severe drought and a series of heat waves limited accessibility to several research sites, the fieldwork was a huge success. In his further research, Matthias intends to estimate the effect of selectively logged areas on ecosystem services and plans to develop land management strategies that will ultimately allow a more sustainable use of Russia's forested land. Another Ph.D. student, Kelly Wendland, is investigating the socioeconomic drivers of forest change in Russia.

Photo at right shows Matthias Baumann taking GPS coordinates in Russia.





Are there enough young redwoods to replace the aging trees?

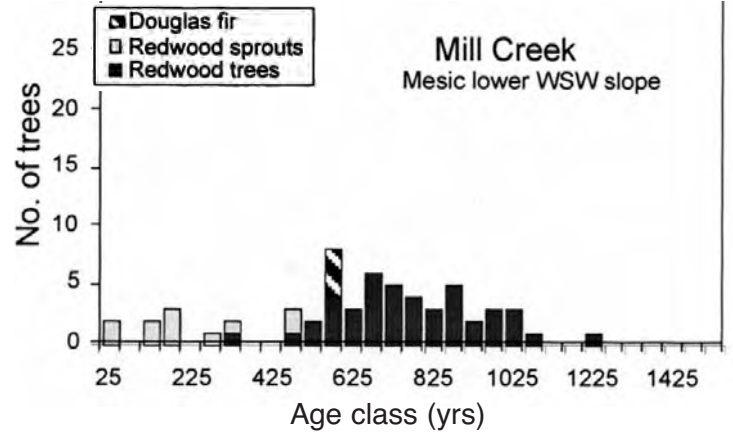
Coast redwood is an ancient species once widely dispersed but now confined to a narrow, foggy coastal strip in California. While much of the remaining old-growth forest is preserved in parks, redwood saplings are uncommon in old-growth stands, and the question of whether the populations are demographically stable has been debated for many years. In 2005, Save-the-Redwoods League asked Professor Craig Lorimer to lead a team of eight forest scientists to do a four-year comprehensive review of redwood population dynamics. The group was able to resolve some controversies. For example, they report strong evidence that fires were frequent in the presettlement era (every 6-26 years on a given site) but most fires were

likely set by native tribes rather than lightning. Fires and other disturbances were generally of low intensity, leading to uneven-aged stands in most areas. However, existing evidence on redwood seedling establishment is too meager to draw firm conclusions and suggested further research to resolve remaining ambiguities. The team published its findings in *Forest Ecology and Management* 258: 1038-1054.

Professor Lorimer notes that the research is likely to have some indirect payoff for forest management in Wisconsin. He and Ph.D. student Corey Halpin are embarking on a new project to develop criteria for evaluating the

sustainability of tree populations under environmental stress using permanent plot data in conjunction with the CANOPY forest model. Sustainability of tree populations is likely to be a pressing issue in coming years due to multiple stressors.

Young redwoods are often sparse or absent in old-growth stands. In this stand in Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, few have become established in the past 400 years.



Forest and Wildlife Ecology Fund

We invite you to join us in our efforts to provide support for important department priorities. Donations to the Forest and Wildlife Ecology will be used to support student travel to professional meetings, help cover the costs of the summer field camp and the southern trip, and to renovate work space in Russell Labs.

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

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We enjoy hearing from you!

We'd like to hear what's new with you, your career, family, etc. Drop us a note and include your name, degree and year, and any news you'd like to share with us. Please send your email to Mary Miron at:
mjmiron@wisc.edu
or drop a hard copy in the mail to the return address above.

View our web video features

Take a moment to view the short video features listed below. They highlight some of the Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology's activities and achievements.

Dr. Phil Townsend uses satellite remote sensing technology to track the spread of bark beetle infestations:
<http://news.cals.wisc.edu/2010/09/09/wildfire-and-pine-beetles-2/>

Dr. Tim Van Deelen tracks the growing bear population in Wisconsin and adjacent states:
http://www.kare11.com/news/investigative/extras/extra_article.aspx?storyid=872132&catid=26

Dr. Bruce Allison helps preserve historic trees:
<http://news.cals.wisc.edu/2010/09/24/tree-doctor-bruce-allison-helps-preserve-campus-historic-trees/>

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