



Michigan State **F o r e s t e r**

NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

FALL 2011



The Chittenden Forestry Cabin (see p. 15). Michigan State University Archives and Historical Collections



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Note from the Editor

Welcome to the 2011 edition of the *Michigan State Forester*. You probably are wondering what has taken so long. The last edition of the *Forester* was published electronically during late summer 2009. The ensuing two-plus years have been—to say the least—quite eventful for the Department of Forestry (see the article on p. 3). In short, the department almost went down, the victim of a dean's misguided attempt to restructure the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. But we survived! **Special thanks** to many of you who wrote, called, or personally spoke in support of the continuation of the Department of Forestry at MSU. That support was very instrumental in achieving a positive outcome for the department.

I was called out of retirement to take on the job of acting chair of the department during this troubled period, so I was busy with other matters and could not take on

another edition of the *Forester*. Besides, things were just too unsettled. Hence the hiatus. But now the crisis is over, and I have gone back to being a retired person. Thus, I can resume my old job as editor of the *Forester*.

I would like to recognize the contributors to this edition of the *Forester*. **Jim Kielbaso** (M.S. '65, Ph.D. '68) provided photos of the graduating seniors (p. 10). The able and cheerful assistance of front-office staff member **Juli Kerr** always is much appreciated. **Carol Graysmith** provided technical assistance. Thanks also to *everyone* who provided copy or photos for this issue.

I'll end the same way I always do. I hope what you read is enjoyable and informative. And please...

KEEP IN TOUCH!

Don Dickmann



Remembering a Professor of Wood Science



Professor **Alan Sliker**, long-time Department of Forestry faculty member and master of all things wood, died in East Lansing on August 22, 2010 at age 83. Al was born on June 7, 1927 in Cleveland, Ohio. After graduating from high school in 1945, he was drafted into the Army. Because of his high IQ scores, he was trained as a cryptanalyst in the Army Security

Agency. He served overseas in Frankfurt, Germany.

After the Army, Al enrolled at Duke University, where he received a B.S. in 1951 and Master of Forestry in 1952, with a specialization in wood technology. After a short stint at the Forest Products Laboratory, he enrolled in the Ph.D. program at SUNY College of Forestry, where he met his wife to be, **Shirley Brocker**. After completing his course work at SUNY, he took in 1955 a job as Assistant Instructor in the Forest Products Department at MSU, where he completed his Ph.D. dissertation. By 1973 he had risen to the rank of Professor. Al taught courses and conducted research in physical and mechanical properties of wood, wood identification, and structural uses of wood. He retired in 1991.

Following retirement, Al attended auctions, book and postcard shows, volunteered, visited his children and grand children, and traveled about the world. He is survived by his wife, two children, and several grandchildren.

Professor **Otto Suchsland**, Al's long time colleague and friend, penned this remembrance for his memorial service, which was held at University United Methodist Church on Saturday, September 11, 2010:

"I met Alan when I came to East Lansing to join the Forest Products Department at Michigan State University in 1957. He and I shared an office for a while and became friends. The Forest Products Department was a busy place at that time, teaming with students. Its program included Packaging and Residential Construction. Al did a lot of teaching. He was very good at it. He also was an expert in wood identification. I have never met a better one. You would give him a piece of wood, he would look at it with a hand lens, which he always had in his pocket, then he would say: "I think this is yellow birch." He would never say, "This is yellow birch!" But when he said that he thought it was this or that, then you could rest assured that he was 100 percent right, every time. That was Al: unassuming, competent.

Later, we had adjoining offices. He was always there, always available, always helpful, a great colleague. Sometimes, in the summer, we would get together with some graduate students and go fishing and canoeing in northern Michigan, Wisconsin or Manitoba. Every time I rode with Al in a canoe, we capsized...every time."

Al's wife Shirley would like to dedicate a tree on campus in his memory. Donations can be sent to:

Alan Sliker Memorial Tree

c/o **Kate Powers**

CANR Development Office, 408 Agriculture Hall
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824

Back from the Brink!

During the past two years the Department of Forestry at MSU passed through the most precarious period in its history. The saga began in 2009 when **Jeff Armstrong**, Dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR), initiated a process for restructuring the entire college. MSU's Provost, **Kim Wilcox**, stated that the administrative structure of CANR was unsustainable in light of university priorities and declining budgets. Thus, Dean Armstrong was charged with implementing a new structure. The dean's initial proposal called for the elimination of the Department of Forestry, with forestry becoming a "program" within the college. Under this proposal, all forestry faculty would have been assigned to other departments inside or outside CANR, and the forestry curriculum would have become free-standing within the college.

Not surprising, the dean's model was not embraced by the forestry faculty. Some of them became quite angry and frustrated with the dean. They felt that a forestry program without a departmental home would be unworkable and probably lead to the eventual elimination of forestry as a degree-granting program at MSU. Alumni supporters of forestry also were upset; many voiced their concern to the dean and other university administrators. At the end of January 2010, the situation came to a head. **Dan Keathley**, long-standing Chair of Forestry, announced he would resign, and a search for an acting chair began. In the ensuing months several faculty petitioned to move to another department. The department was in turmoil. Morale was low. Emeritus Professor **Don Dickmann** was asked by the faculty to step in as acting chair, which he did on May 1.

Meanwhile, the provost also expressed some reservation about the dean's proposed restructuring. He said that the faculty of each unit could propose their own vision for how they could be configured in the final restructuring plan. During the summer and early fall of 2010 individual units in the college submitted "white paper" vision statements to the dean and to the College Advisory Council (CAC) for review and recommendation. The Department of Forestry white paper outlined a strategic vision for the future of forestry at MSU, and proposed the formation of a large natural resource department that would offer degrees in forestry, fisheries, wildlife, and recreation and tourism. This paper was well-received by the CAC and others in the college, but Dean Armstrong was not moved to reconsider. The faculty and the dean were at loggerheads.

Then, on the morning of December 15, 2010, the impasse was broken in surprising fashion. At a special meeting of the CANR administrative group, Dean Armstrong announced that he had accepted the position of President of California Polytechnic State University, San

Luis Obispo. His restructuring plan immediately became null and void. Suddenly there was hope for forestry. The provost quickly appointed Associate Director of AgBioResearch (formerly the Agricultural Experiment Station) **Doug Buhler** interim dean. He also appointed a task force from among the CANR administrative group to formulate a new strategic plan for the college. The report of the task force was published in early February 2011. It was very comprehensive, thoughtful, and forward-thinking, and the provost accepted it. Among many other things, the report endorsed the forestry proposal for an integrated MSU Department of Natural Resources. Discussions began to implement this proposal.

But the drama was not over. At the end of March a majority of the faculty of the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife (FW) sent a letter to the CAC flatly refusing to go along with the concept of a natural resource department. They insisted on continuing as a separate department. A few weeks later this opinion was formally endorsed by the FW department. Interim Dean Buhler agreed to accept the status quo in the natural resource area at MSU. Thus, the proposal of an integrated natural resource department, borne under duress, was finished and Forestry could continue as a stand-alone department. However, Dean Buhler emphasized that the department would have to "reinvent itself" by reenergizing its teaching, research, and outreach functions.

Don Dickmann stepped down as acting chair on June 30, 2011, and Professor **Rich Kobe** took over as chair. Since Dean Buhler's reprieve, the Department of Forestry has been busy evaluating and revamping its core mission of teaching, research, and outreach. These efforts are on-going. The department has a 109-year tradition of excellence to maintain, and building on that tradition continues to be its prime motivation.



Chairperson's Perspective



Dear Alumni and Friends,

These are exciting times for forestry as a profession, as well as for our academic department at MSU. Two major issues are putting forestry into its well-deserved limelight. First, there is a major role for forestry in sequestering carbon out of the

atmosphere and into forest ecosystems and products. Second, renewable energy from woody biomass is crucial to our country's energy sustainability and independence. Both of these limelight issues provide important opportunities for our department.

Faculty and students at the Department of Forestry continue to wrestle with these and other issues in the classroom, laboratory, and field because of new leadership in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Before I agreed to stand as candidate for Chair, I had an essential conversation with **Interim Dean Buhler** about the future of Forestry at MSU. He stated very clearly that the College and University want a strong Department of Forestry and will be investing in it.

After two difficult years, where elimination of the Forestry Department seemed likely, we are delighted to be looking ahead. Despite some of the most severe budget cuts that CANR have ever experienced, we are moving forward on several fronts:

- We have begun development of a Professional MS Program in Forestry. With increasing importance of forestry-related issues on a global basis, there will be a strong demand for forestry education among professionals from many career tracks. We are envisioning a core set of forestry courses, with specializations (e.g., Carbon Science and Policy, Woody Biomass Production for Renewable Fuels).

- We have initiated a comprehensive review of our undergraduate curriculum with a view towards

integrating cutting edge methods (e.g., integration of remotely sensed images with on-the-ground field measurements to improve forest inventory). Notably, many of our faculty are contributing cutting edge research to these areas and are eager to integrate research and teaching missions.

- We have begun discussions on developing an internship program for our undergraduates. We envision that many internship opportunities could be provided by our impressive network of distinguished MSU Forestry Alumni.

- With a view towards improving our communications and student recruitment, we also have created the position of Director of Technology and Communications (Dr. **Andrew Finley**).

- With respect to Technology and Communications, we are re-designing our web page to make it more dynamic and easier to keep up to date. We also are building a video display for placement in the front lobby across from the polar bear that will be used to highlight our department's achievements and as an aid in recruiting undergraduate students.

- We will be celebrating the International Year of Forests by initiating "A Walk in the Woods" series, where our faculty and grads lead walks that are coupled with a research presentation. This program will be part of local outreach and also will reach alumni groups throughout Michigan and the world, in conjunction with faculty and graduate students travel to research sites.

- We are examining and streamlining all of our procedures and business practices so that we can operate more efficiently and within our reduced budget.

Despite the tough economic times, morale is high and our department is excited about our future. We look forward to your continued support and contribution of ideas as we build that future together.

My best wishes,
Rich Kobe
Chair & Professor



Message from the FAA President

Dear Fellow Foresters:

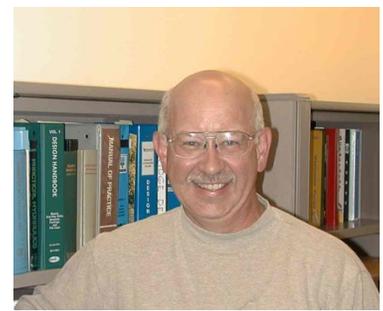
Wow! Since the last issue of the *Michigan State Forester* there has been a huge amount of change, speculation and uncertainty relative to the future of forestry at MSU (see p. 3). I want to applaud you, the Forestry Alumni, as well as the faculty and staff of the Forestry Department for your dedication and resolve throughout this upheaval. The bottom line is that the Forestry Department remains a separate department. But we're not "out of the woods," just yet. The economic downturn across the United States hit Michigan exceptionally hard, and the resultant belt-tightening will affect operations and the organizational structure in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR) at MSU.

When the crisis first started, your Forestry Alumni Association (FAA) officers authorized the notification of ALL forestry alumni by post-card, which alerted the recipient to the situation and directed them to the Alumni Section of the MSU Forestry web-page (www.for.msu.edu). It soon became apparent that the CANR Dean was attempting to restrict what FAA would be allowed to post on the Department of Forestry's web site. Because of that uneasy situation, the www.msuforestry.org web site was created to provide Forestry Alumni and friends of MSU Forestry with information on the most recent happenings in a forum separate from university control. I want to thank all of the members of FAA who took the time to voice their opinion and send letters to leaders at MSU. I have received lots of letters and phone calls from FAA members around the WORLD!

The new web site still exists and it has generally served us well, but there needs to be a concerted effort to properly and actively manage the site, post up-dated material, and, perhaps, incorporate interactive capabilities. I would like to know what YOU, the members of FAA think, and how this site can be organized to help you. If it has out-lived its usefulness, we could return to the Alumni section on the Department of Forestry web site. **IN ADDITION**, if there is a FAA alum who is so inclined to be an "internet guru" for our association, please feel free to contact me at: willig27@aol.com, and we'll see that you have the opportunity to serve!

Department Chair **Dr. Richard Kobe** met with FAA officers and members during the FAA Annual Meeting. I believe he has the enthusiasm and desire to see the MSU Department of Forestry continue to prosper, but much remains much to be completed and economic constraints continue. Dr. Kobe indicated that one important aspect of assuring that Forestry remains a separate department is increased student numbers. YOU can help in this regard by acting as an "Ambassador for

MSU Forestry," through your family and community ties. Meanwhile, your FAA officers will continue to work to be the voice of Forestry Alumni through interactions with the MSU President, Provost, College Deans, Department Chairs, Trustees, and anyone else who will listen.



On October 2, 2011 we held our FAA Annual Meeting. A total of 47 alumni and guests were treated to a catered "tailgate" luncheon and fellowship celebrating 109 years of MSU Forestry. (Did you know that the Department of Forestry at MSU is the longest, continuous degree-offering department in the nation?) A raffle was conducted and everyone in attendance received a Spartan prize. After the meeting the group attended the Spartan-Central Michigan football game. All alumni and family are invited to this extravaganza. We have not yet picked a date for the 2012 Annual Meeting, but we'll post the information on all associated web sites.

Each year, in addition to the Annual Meeting, FAA provides an Alumni Senior Award and \$200 scholarship to the outstanding senior student. This year the award was presented to Forestry Senior **Alyson Pierce**. FAA also hosts a Senior Luncheon for all graduating seniors at the University Club to recognize their achievement (see p.10).

I would like to thank Dr. **Daniel Keathley** for his efforts as the longest serving Chair in MSU Department of Forestry history and commend him for his willingness to lead. I also thank Dr. **Donald Dickmann** for his willingness to guide the Department through rough waters during his tenure as Acting Chair, as well as his editorship of the *Michigan State Forester*.

Thank you for your time and continued cooperative spirit. FAA depends on your ideas, your willingness to get involved, and your desire to help others embark on a career in forestry that is individually rewarding and promotes the world-wide utilization of forests—whether in rural or urban areas—so as to make the world a better place in which to live.

Enjoy the newsletter!

Best wishes,
Bill Schmidt



Alumni News



Outstanding Alumnus

Mike Moore (B.S. '61) has received the 2011 *Outstanding Alumnus Award* by the MSU College of Agriculture & Natural Resources. The award was presented at the ANR Luncheon on March 8. Pictured with him above are MSU President **Lou Anna Simon** (left) and ANR Interim Dean **Doug Buhler** (right). Mike spent 37 years with the Michigan DNR and retired as director of that agency. He also co-authored the definitive history of the DNR, published by MSU Press. He has been staunch supporter of the Department of Forestry and MSU, as well as being active in SAF and conservation affairs. He is an elected Fellow of SAF. Mike served his country in the U.S. Navy, retiring after 27 year's service as a Captain in the Naval Reserve.

Larry Baker (B.S. '77, M.S. '81), an Ag and Natural Resource Instructor at Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College in northern Wisconsin, recently sent in this advice: "Hello all Baby Boomer Forestry Folks! Some of you are retired and some of you are thinking about retirement. If you have pulled the plug or are thinking about it, please take a moment and think what you are going to do after retirement. One option is to... remember the good times you had in college and the good times that you had at work before retirement. Then, if you want, you could share some of this knowledge with future and current natural resource students. With fewer people interested in the great outdoors, maybe we can change their minds. Also tell them about the fine intuition of higher learning at East Lansing."

Barry Bollenbacher (B.S. '75) has worked in Region One of the US Forest Service since 1975 and has been Regional Silviculturist in Missoula, Montana for the last 20 years. During that time period there has been an ever-increasing amount of bark beetle and wildfire disturbance in the northern Rocky Mountains and in the west in

general. This disturbance magnitude seems to be linked to the Pacific Decadal Oscillation and climate warming. He feels that these changes will require management in context with disturbance as a developing paradigm. He plans to work another five years or so.

James Caswell (B.S. '67) joined the Northwest Natural Resource Group in August of 2009, a consulting firm that offers practical solutions to complex natural resource issues. Prior to joining NNRG, Jim was the 16th Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), serving in that position from August 2007 to January 2009. Jim also served as Administrator of the Idaho Office of Species Conservation, as well as 33 years in various positions within BLM, Bonneville Power Administration, and US Forest Service, 12 of those years as forest supervisor on the Clearwater and Targhee National Forests. He also was deputy forest supervisor on the Boise National Forest and acting deputy regional forester in Missoula, Montana. He is a Vietnam veteran. He and his wife Susan have been married 44 years and have three grown children and four grandchildren.

Sam Chansler (B.S. '84) still works as a forester for Consumers Energy in the west Michigan area. His son is now in his senior year at MSU majoring in plant biology.

Tim Chick (M.S. '91) still teaches utility vegetation management at Paul Smith's College, while also doing the speaking circuit. He loves living in the Adirondack Mountains in upstate New York. He ran into MSU Forestry alumnus **Joe Zeleznik** (Ph.D. '01), who is Extension Forester at North Dakota State University, at a conference in St. Paul, Minnesota last winter.

Wayne Gaskins (B.S. '47, M.S. '48) joined the newly created Department of Forestry at Auburn University after graduation, then went on to SUNY Syracuse for doctorate work. From there he moved to Oregon with the Bureau of Land Management. In 1956, he was asked to go to Medellin, Colombia, as Michigan State's forestry representative in the US Agency for International



ONLY YOU...

Yes, only you can tell us **where you are and what you've been doing** since graduation. The Alumni News column of the *Forester* is only as informative as **you** make it. So please send us a note (our contact information is on the last page) and tell us about yourself and your career.

Development's program to start a new forestry school. After a tentative start, the *Instituto Forestal* has been growing successfully ever since. After returning from Colombia, he worked for the Western Forest Industries Association from 1959 until his retirement in 1992. He lives in Bend, Oregon. Wayne's "*Spartan Saga*" can be found at (<http://spartansagas.msu.edu/view/1579/>).

Christopher Gibbons (B.S. '03) opened American Green Consulting Group, LLC, on September 2 in Shelburne, Vermont. His group provides consulting services for the wood products industry nationwide, especially related to chain of custody certification (FSC predominantly, but also SFI, and ISO), with a special focus on FSC Group Chain of Custody Certification, which is designed for small businesses. He's always on the lookout for other consultants who are available to work under the American Green Consulting Group umbrella (chris@americangreenconsulting.com)

Tom Hoffman (B.S. '76) spent 10 years with the US Forest Service in Minnesota, Wyoming, Alaska, and the Eldorado National Forest in California. In 1978 he moved to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, inspecting logging operations for compliance with California's very restrictive logging regulations. He moved to fire prevention and law enforcement in 2002. He retired in 2009 as Chief of Fire Prevention, Law Enforcement and Arson/Bomb and now works as a consultant to the California Department of Public Health on emergency preparedness. Tom lives in Orangevale, California with wife Wendy and enjoys woodworking as a hobby.

Paul Hynes (B.S. '56) and his wife Mary continue to really enjoy six months at their home in Sugar Springs (Gladwin, Michigan) and six months in Scottsdale, Arizona. He has many fond memories of his classmates and professors, especially summer camp at Dunbar Forest. He would love to share old stories—fact and fiction—with anyone so inclined (paulandmaryh@yahoo.com).

Lloyd Irland (B.S. '67) co-authored *Wildlands and Woodlands: A Vision for the New England Landscape*, which was published by Harvard University Press in May 2010. The report, which provides a scientific rationale for protecting 70% of New England in forest over the next 50 years, is a significant model for regional land conservation. Co-written by 20 leading ecologists and historians, the report was released to a regional audience of 150 scientists, conservation professionals, state agency leaders, educators, the media, and many others at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. The event's keynote speaker, Theodore Roosevelt IV, called the report the best document he has seen in a long time.

Nancy Jaehn (B.S. '64) remembers enjoying donuts and coffee in the old Forestry Cabin, and she recently

requested a picture of the cabin. She currently lives in Dimondale, Michigan.

Todd Johnson (B.S. '99) was promoted to the procurement manager role at Weyerhaeuser's OSB Mill in Grayling, Michigan. He has been with the company for over 10 years.

Craig Kasmer (B.S. '96) has been the Park Interpreter at Hartwick Pines State Park north of Grayling, Michigan since 2002. He encourages fellow alumni to consider stopping in for a visit to the Michigan Forest Visitor at Hartwick Pines when traveling the I-75 corridor this fall, winter or whenever. The Visitor Center is open year 'round and the cross-country ski trails are groomed weekly (pending snow conditions). Feel free to email/call Craig to set up guided tours, check weather conditions or just to say hi (kasmerc@michigan.gov, 989 348 2537).

John Kemppainen (B.S. '06) works as Village Forester for Wilmette, Illinois, where he had his three-year anniversary this past August. He lives in Chicago with wife Venessa, four daughters, two cats and six chickens. They spend most of their vacation time in the UP hiking around the Porcupine Mountains and lounging about in the Houghton/Hancock area.

Adrienne (Lusk) Keller (B.S. '77) retired 15 months ago from a 32-year career with the US Forest Service. She is enjoying the six Saturdays and one Sunday every week! She helps her husband out in his leather shop in St. Anthony, Idaho and enjoys an occasional ride on the back of a horse or a Harley motorcycle. She says: "If any alumni are travelling through eastern Idaho, look us up in St. Anthony! We're just 72 miles south of the west entrance to Yellowstone N.P. off Highway 20."

Tricia Mitchell (B.S. '07) recently accepted a position as a Forester with the Michigan DNR in Indian River. She began her new job in January 2011. She previously served a brief stint with Oregon Department of Forestry.

Mark Pawlicki (B.S. '74) worked in field forestry positions in Washington State and northern California after graduation, followed by six years in Washington, D.C. with the National Forest Products Association. He then moved back west, first to Oregon, then in 1990 to California where he worked for Simpson Timber Company in Sacramento and later with Sierra Pacific Industries in Redding. He currently is Director of Corporate Affairs and Sustainability for SPI and handles the firm's state and federal government affairs, public affairs, and forest sustainability programs. His wife, Emma, is an attorney with an environmental law practice.

Ventis Plume (B.S. '59) has 35 years of federal service with the US Forest Service in Idaho and Bureau of

Indian Affairs in Washington State. He also served as Chief Appraiser with Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and US Corps of Engineers. He then served five years as staff appraiser for the Alaska DNR. He retired in 2002 and resides in Anchorage, Alaska. He wrote and edited *Insula—a Latvian Memoir*, a volume of stories about Latvian refugees in WW II, published in 2005 with his brother John (MSU '65).

Bob Rubitschun (B.S. '76) pursued a graduate degree in Forest Products at Oregon State University and has lived in Oregon ever since. He worked in the forest products trade for 17 years until the northern spotted owl redefined the Northwest timber industry, then switched to the software industry and has worked for the SAS Institute for 16 years. His focus at SAS is software solution implementations in the manufacturing industry. He gets back to Michigan every year to visit family and friends and had a delightful visit with MSU faculty two years ago. He has three grown daughters. Contact him at bob.rubitschun@sas.com.

Russell D. Smith (B.S. '60) would like to hear from forestry classmates from that time. Russ has lived in Alaska 35 years, retiring from the US Forest Service, Region 10, in 1985. He spends winters on Maui with wife Donna. Their four children also live in Alaska. Mailing address 2100 Loussac Dr., Anchorage, AK 99517, email donnasmith@gci.net.

Bob Stoddard (B.S. '82) thanks **Mike Smalligan** (M.S. '07), who currently works at MSU's Global Observatory for Ecosystem Services, for helping him write a Forestry Stewardship Plan. He says it was great to revive those lost skills learned up at Tustin (Kettunen Center) during spring camp. He and his wife are expecting their first

grandchild and they look forward to that phase of their life. Bob hopes the rest of the class of '82 is doing well.

Tori (Strebe) Irving (B.S. '07) is a Forester for the Michigan DNR, working in the Shingleton Management Unit at the Wyman Nursery. She lives in Manistique, Michigan with husband Paul, who works for MSU at the Forest Biomass Innovation Center near Escanaba, and their beautiful, two-year-old daughter, Adeline.

Obituaries

Vic Horvath (B.S. '42, M.S. '47) passed away on September 29, 2011 at age 90. A member of the WWII "Greatest Generation," he was holder of the Bronze Star. Vic worked the majority of his career with the DNR in southern Michigan. He served as the Treasurer of DNR-DEQ Retirees Association from 1981 to 1997 and as Secretary of the MSU Forestry Alumni Association for many years. After Vic retired in 1984, he helped older workers find employment. Vic was a first-class citizen always willing to help out his country, his university, his colleagues, and those in need. (From Mike Moore)

Col. **Alfred Pleasonton** (Ph.D. '64) died on March 22, 2011 in Elizabethtown, Kentucky, where he and his wife had relocated after Hurricane Katrina. He was 85. He spent most of his professional career in research with the US Forest Service Southern Forest Experiment Station in New Orleans, Louisiana, where he met his wife Allie. He always spoke fondly about the good times spent with his classmates, those featured on the 50-year anniversary invitation.

NOTE: Contact information for an alumnus was given only if they specifically requested it.



MSU Forester at Work at Ground Zero

In August 2010, 17 **swamp white oak** trees were transported to Ground Zero and planted, the first of over 400 trees that grace the World Trade Center site in memorial of the 9/11 attacks. The oak trees ring a cobblestone plaza surrounding two pools built at the site. The trees come from Washington D.C., New York, and Pennsylvania, to symbolize the three places where the high-jacked planes hit. **Scott Jamieson** (M.S. '85) is vice president of Bartlett Tree Experts, who raised the ground zero trees for five years in a New Jersey nursery and will care for them for at least two years. Scott says: "The trees will bring life to the memorial where there was just death. They will comfort a lot of people." For more on Scott's work see <http://dailyherald.com/article/20110907/news/709079912/>.

Joining the oaks is a **Callery pear**—the "survivor tree." Scorched and battered by the 9/11 attacks, it was still alive. After being transplanted to a Bronx nursery and intensively cared for, the now healthy tree was returned to Ground Zero in December 2010. How fitting that the memorial features the everlasting beauty of trees!

Forestry Field Studies

The department's FOR 420 Forestry Field Studies course continues to provide students with memorable in-the-woods experiences of forestry in action. Professor **Dave MacFarlane**, who directed this year's camp, submitted this report:

Field Studies 2011 was a *tour-de-force*, taking MSU forestry students outside the confines of the ivory tower and into Michigan's forests. This two-week intensive course provided a wide-range of hands-on experiences in professional forestry across the state of Michigan. This year an underlying theme was to visit, explore, and understand the potential management of the forest communities listed in Don Dickmann's book *Michigan Forest Communities*.



The course kicked off with an early morning trip to see the remaining majesty of old-growth *Northern Dry-Mesic Pine Forests* at Hartwick Pines State Park, including a visit to the Logging Museum, and a frank discussion of the future of the diminishing old-growth pines. The next stop, after provisioning, was a trip to our first base camp in the Pigeon River Country (PRC) State Forest. Students stayed in the historic red pine log "staff house," built by the Civilian Conservation Corps, which overlooks a bend in the Pigeon River. The cabin has wooden bunks, running water, well and septic and electricity, with 1970's-era kitchen appliances and an old 1950's-era furnace. Its best feature is a huge fieldstone fireplace, complete with elk head. The PRC is one of the most historically rich and treasured tracts of public forest land in Michigan; here the historic compromise leading to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund took place. The forest features natural sinkhole lakes, abundant wildlife, diverse forest ecosystem types, and well-managed timber stocks. Students can see the results of past management, watch silviculture in action, and maybe scoop up some morel mushrooms or catch a glimpse of elk while putting in measurement plots. Students spent a day with Gaylord-based consultant **Gerry Lambert**, who showed them the ropes of going out on their own and making a difference in forestry on a privately-owned parcel at a time.

Before heading over the Mackinac Bridge to the next destination in the U.P., students spent a day exploring a diversity of forests in Wilderness State Park, one of the few places students can see "true" *Boreal (spruce-fir) forests*, as well as *Dune Forest – Swale Complexes*. The U.P. base camp was at MSU-owned Dunbar Forest in Barbeau, MI. With the help of Forestry / AgBioResearch staffers **Ray Miller** (Ph.D. '84) and **Kile Zuidema**, students explored a variety of experimental forests and plots, including Neebish Island and its ongoing silvicultural operations. The logistics and controversies associated with conducting a timber harvest on a small island provided quite a lesson. From the base camp at Dunbar, students visited Tahquamenon Falls State Park, where the devastation of Beech Bark Disease was clearly evident. Students learned about challenges and successes in forest management at the Seney National Wildlife Refuge with the help of staff forest scientist **Greg Corace**, including managing for diverse and fire-resilient forest structures in *Northern Dry Pine Forests*. Students also gave back to the refuge by planting trees.

For the final phase of the course, students were based at Kellogg Biological Station. From there they conducted an oak seedling regeneration inventory and a residual oak timber stock inventory in *Southern Dry Deciduous (dry oak) Forests* at the MSU Lux Arbor Reserve. This exercise followed up on a management plan implemented by the 2009 Field Studies class. Students also got a tour of restoration of a rare *Southern Oak Barren* at the nearby Fort Custer military base, led by forest fire ecologist **Michele Richards**. Winding up, students helped mark and inventory the biomass stocks of several old, diseased conifer plantations at the Lux Arbor Reserve, which were slated for removal. With help from **Greg Kowalewski** (B.S. '73, Manager, W.K. Kellogg Forest), MSU Professor **Mike Walters**, and professional foresters **Randy Kuipers** (B.S. '77) and **Matt Langeler**, students got hands-on training in forest biomass assessment and timber marking. The trees marked by the students will be harvested and sent to the MSU power plant as part of an effort to reduce coal consumption by using biologically renewable fuels. So, MSU Forestry students were leading the way in the campaign to "Be Spartan Green!"



Recent Department of Forestry Graduates

SUMMER & FALL 2009

B.S.

Andrew Mueller
Ryan Shamion
Jerry Stillwagon

M.S.

Shih-Ying Chen
Mwelwa Malunga
Megan Matonis
Michael Stone

Ph.D

Qing Xiang

SPRING 2010

B.S.

Allison Esper
Jennifer Gradisher
Brett Kuipers
Lisa Parker
Ben Stein

Ph.D.

Tom Baribault

SUMMER & FALL 2010

B.S.

Jacob Bournay
Ben Daly
Rebekah Mullen
Anthony Regan
Charlie Vankalker
James Wieferich

M.S.

Ellen Holste
Charlsie Sederlund

Ph.D

Shan Jin
Paligwende Nikiema
Charles Wade

SPRING 2011

B.S.

Jamie Berlin
Richard Cole
Alyson Pierce
Margaret Studer
Lily Zahor

M.S.

Lee Mueller



Three students attended the Fall 2010 FAA lunch for graduating seniors. Left to right: **Tony Regan, Rebekah Mullen, Ben Daly**



The Spring 2011 FAA lunch for graduating seniors. Left to right standing: **John Anton**, FAA Secretary; **Richard Cole**; **Margaret Studer**; **Alyson Pierce**; **Jamie Berlin**; **Lily Zahor**; **Don Dickmann**, Acting Forestry Chair; **Jim Kielbaso**, FAA Treasurer. Kneeling: **Bill Schmidt**, FAA President; **Juli Kerr**, Forestry Front Office Staff.



Noteworthy Visitors to Campus

On August 3rd of this year, **Chair Rich Kobe** and Professors **Larry Leefers** and **Don Dickmann** hosted a noteworthy visit to campus. The department had been contacted earlier by **Noelle Toumey Reetz**, great granddaughter of **James William Toumey**, the namesake of MSU's Toumey Woods. She, husband Nathan, and daughter Maggie would be visiting Michigan from their home in Atlanta, GA and wanted a tour of the woodlot named after her great grandfather. We were delighted to comply. It was a pleasant day, mosquitoes were non-existent, and we all had a great time exploring the woods and talking forestry, ecology, and wildflowers. Noelle was thrilled with the opportunity to link with her family heritage.

Toumey Woods is a 24-acre, old-growth, beech-maple forest. It was placed on the National Park Service Register of Natural Landmarks in 1976. James W. Toumey, an 1889 (B.S.) and 1893 (M.S.) graduate of Michigan Agricultural College (now MSU), was one of the founding fathers of U.S. forestry. He served for 12 years as Dean of the Yale School of Forestry. His distinguished career ended in 1932 when he died at age 67.

Student Scholarship Winners

Because of the generosity of Department of Forestry alumni and others, many deserving forestry students who maintain at least a 3.0 GPA receive cash awards.

The following awards and scholarships were given to Department of Forestry students at the Agriculture and Natural Resources Honors Banquet on March 18, 2011.

STUDENT NAME	VALUE (\$)	AWARD
Scott Shooltz	5000	Budres Foundation
Margaret Studer	1000	Budres Foundation
Lily Zahor	1000	Budres Foundation
Alyson Pierce	200	Alumni Association Senior
Jamie Berlin	1900	Carl O. Basel
Jamie Berlin	1500	Terrill D. Stevens
Lily Zahor	1400	James Graham Helmbrecht
Jamie Berlin	500	Forestry Faculty Senior
Jamie Berlin	4400	Leavengood Scholarship
Ryan Simon	1000	Leavengood Scholarship
Ryan Simon	1500	Theron E. Daw
Molly Rooney	1100	Theron E. Daw
Scott Shooltz	600	Theron E. Daw
Lily Zahor	600	Theron E. Daw
Alyson Pierce	600	Theron E. Daw
Molly Rooney	2100	Herbert S. Humphrey
Scott Shooltz	500	Herbert S. Humphrey
Lily Zahor	1600	Herbert S. Humphrey
Margaret Studer	600	Herbert S. Humphrey
Alyson Pierce	2200	Herbert S. Humphrey
Sam Clark	1200	Herbert S. Humphrey
Molly Rooney	1500	Clare & Myrtle Hendee
Lily Zahor	400	Clare & Myrtle Hendee
Margaret Studer	400	Clare & Myrtle Hendee
Alyson Pierce	300	Clare & Myrtle Hendee
Sam Clark	300	Clare & Myrtle Hendee
Margaret Studer	2000	Karl H. Lukens
Sam Clark	500	Karl H. Lukens
Lily Zahor	350	Chapman Foundation
Margaret Studer	350	Chapman Foundation
Max Mokijewski	460	Karl Dressel

Faculty/Staff Notes

Faculty members **Larry Leefers** (M.S. '78, Ph.D. '81) and **David Skole** led the organization of an important international forestry conference, which was held at MSU's Kellogg Center October 23-25, 2011. Featured conference speakers included distinguished MSU alumni from throughout the world, including **Cara Boucher** (B.S. '79), **Gem Castillo** (Philippines, Ph.D. '01), **Marko Katila** (Finland, Ph.D. '88), **Salleh Mohd. Nor** (Malaysia, M.S. '74, Ph.D. '77), **Albert Mwangi** (Tunisia, M.S. '86, Ph.D. '93), **Putera Parthama** (Indonesia, M.S. '90, Ph.D. '95), and **Boen Purnama** (Indonesia, M.S. '85, Ph.D. '90). Over 100 people attended the conference. The complete conference program, speaker bios, and abstracts of presentations can be found at www.for.msu.edu/goes/index.html.

Sustainable Forests & Economic Development: Domestic & Global Challenges

A Conference held at Michigan State University Celebrating
United Nations International Year of Forests

Hosted By:
Greater Lansing Area United Nations Association
MSU Department of Forestry
MSU International Studies & Programs
MSU College of Agriculture & Natural Resources



Department of Forestry Faculty (as of May 2011): **Don Dickmann** (Acting Chair), **Larry Leefers**, **Maureen McDonough**, **Dennis Propst**, **Mike Walters**, **David Rothstein**, **Dave MacFarlane**, **David Skole**, **Runsheng Yin**, **Karen Potter-Witter**. Missing are **Sophan Chhin**, **Bryan Epperson**, **Andy Finley**, **Rich Kobe**, **Pascal Nzokou**. The event that brought them together was the Senior Picnic at Lake Lansing Park North.

Runsheng Yin is author of the book *An Integrated Assessment of China's Ecological Restoration Programs*. The book integrates and systematically assesses China's ecological restoration programs; covers a range of topics from land use change, carbon/erosion dynamics to income/employment effects; links natural and human processes; and uses datasets derived from multiple sources and scales and innovative modeling techniques.

Rich Kobe recently returned from a year sabbatical at the University of Cambridge in England. He collaborated with Dr. **David Coomes** on a field project that is examining whether tree seedlings use stored photosynthate to take up nutrients during the dormant season. While in Cambridge, Kobe also presented a plenary address to the British Ecological Society's meeting focused on Forests and Global Change. Upon his return to MSU, Rich immediately took over as Chair of the Department of Forestry.



Three MSU faculty in the photo above recently traveled to Panama to begin developing a plan for capacity building in forestry, carbon science, and policy. We expect Panamanians to enroll in our Department's forthcoming professional MS program in forestry. Pictured left to right are **Kenneth Fearon** (Panama Environment Agency, Forestry Department), **Dave MacFarlane**, **William Muntean** (Deputy Economic Counselor, US Embassy - Panama), Chair **Rich Kobe**, and **Dave Skole**.

Fei Pan recently joined the Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering as an Assistant Professor. He will teach forest harvesting to forestry undergraduates, a course recently missing from our curriculum. His areas of expertise are computer modeling of mechanized woody biomass harvesting systems, economics of woody biomass supply-chain, innovative biomass harvesting equipment design, and evaluation of net energy contribution in harvesting and transporting woody biomass. Fei may eventually have a joint appointment with the Department of Forestry.

Emeritus Professor **James Kielbaso** (M.S. '65, Ph.D. '68) attended the May 30-31 UN FAO International Workshop "Developing Guidelines for Decision and Policy Makers; Trees and Forests for Healthy Cities" with **Charles (Chuck) Wade** (Ph.D. '10) in Glasgow, Scotland. They were on a four-person team that presented "The USA Experience and Practice in Promoting Urban and Periurban Forestry." Kielbaso also has been recently appointed to the newly formed American Forests Science Advisory Board.



Dr. **Dilek Yildiz** (left), a visiting Assistant Professor from Suleyman Demirel University in Turkey, is conducting a comparative study of the cold stress physiology of several Turkish red pine (*Pinus brutia*) provenances compared to American red pine (*Pinus resinosa*). Assisting is Turkish student **Ayşe Deligoz** (right). Dr. Yildiz is working with faculty member **Pascal Nzokou** (Ph.D. '04).

Kellogg Experimental Forest

Resident Forester **Greg Kowalewski** (B.S. '73) is pleased that students in Forestry Field Studies are assisting the Kellogg Forest crew in the management of MSU forest properties. The 2011 class inventoried conifer stands at MSU's Lux Arbor Reserve. They also inventoried and marked the leaf trees in a 40-acre area to be whole-tree harvested for chips to burn as a alternative fuel in a coal-fired boiler at the MSU Power Plant. The 2010 class tallied

storm damage at Russ Forest that has since been salvaged – over 100M bd.ft. Also at Russ the students inventoried a 10-acre woodlot, wrote management plans and marked the trees to be harvested. The 54M bd. ft.—principally beech and hard maple—sold for \$35,000. Greg expects expect excellent maple regeneration. The 2009 class worked at Lux Arbor Reserve, inventoried the 30-acre hardwood woodlot, wrote a management plan, and marked trees to be cut. Harvest in this oak-hickory stand was light and consisted of salvage and improvement due to soft oak markets. Gaps were established in which oak trees were planted, with a portion of the trees given protection with a Deer Buster fence.

The Forest Harvesting class taught by **Fei Pan** visited the Lux Arbor site in October to observe the whole-tree chipping operation. They also watched the unloading at the MSU Power Plant and discussed the logistics of dealing with chips, which seems to be a problem at the plant.

The Tree Research Center

Farm manager **Randy Klevickas** and research manager **Paul Bloese** at the Tree Research Center (TRC) have 62 years of combined service at MSU. **Randy** is working to incorporate more hands-on student learning activities at the TRC and increase outreach support to stakeholders. The TRC hosted Professor **Fei Pan's** forest harvesting class for the first time during fall semester to teach chain saw safety and operation. The Forestry Club is assisting on several TRC projects for club fund raising this year and also continue their annual Shindig, homecoming float, and maple syrup activities.

Paul oversees TRC greenhouse operations and continues management of numerous field studies throughout the state. Nine new plantations went in this past spring, including silver maple bio-fuel tests (**Dan Keathley**), 10 acre willow / poplar bio-fuel trial at Albion (**Ray Miller**, Ph.D. '84), and a Beech Bark Disease Seed Orchard in cooperation with the Michigan DNR and US Forest Service. New Christmas trees projects include Paul's grafted conifer plantations and a fir cone production study with **Pascal Nzokou**.

Other research activity focuses on bio-fuel / carbon sequestration (**Ray Miller**, **Dave MacFarlane**), emerald ash borer (**Deb McCullough**), genetics (**Paul Bloese**, **Dan Keathley**), woodland ecology (**Mike Walters**, **Rich Kobe**), and Christmas trees (**Pascal Nzokou**, **Paul Bloese**). **Bert Cregg** continues work here on hardwood nursery stock practices and **Terese Polan** and **Bob Haack** of the US Forest Service are studying ash borer and other beetles at the Sandhill Research Area.

If you are in the East Lansing area, Randy and Paul invite you to stop by for a visit. Or visit the TRC web page at http://www.for.msu.edu/pages/research/tree_research.html

Study Abroad

The Study Abroad Program at Michigan State University is dedicated to providing MSU students, as well as students from other colleges and universities, with high quality international academic opportunities that allow them to develop knowledge and skills needed to become productive and successful members of the global community. The Department of Forestry currently offers two study abroad courses.

Carbon, Climate and Livelihoods in Tropical Agroforestry Systems May 16 to June 11, 2011 EARTH University, Costa Rica

Under the tutelage of Professor **David Skole**, students obtained basic knowledge of climate change science and the role of tropical agroforestry systems in the global carbon cycle, one of the key areas of climate change research. They learned practical methods and protocols for carbon measurement and reporting in carbon projects that are acceptable to the carbon financial markets. They gained an appreciation of how carbon value chains on farms in developing countries can be twinned with natural product value chains from agro-forestry to raise incomes and improve both environmental conditions and livelihoods. EARTH University is a modern private university focused on sustainable agriculture and forestry in tropical environments.



Canada-US Comparative Natural Resource Policy August 7-19, 2011 Ontario, Canada & northern Michigan

Associate Professor **Larry Leefers** led students in an exploration of similarities and differences between natural resource policies in Canada and the United States. Southern Ontario and Michigan are regions where natural resources are similar but policies have evolved differently. Using on-site visits and discussions with resource professionals, students were educated about the contrasting political, social, economic, and resource environments. Readings and videos reinforced these experiences. The main policy foci were parks and outdoor recreation, forests, minerals, and wildlife. Federal, First Nations/Tribal and provincial/state policies were explored. The itinerary included visits to provincial and national parks, wildlife areas, a game preserve, state and national forests, and agency offices.



You Can Be a Recruiter for Your Department

The vitality and continued existence of the Department of Forestry at MSU depends in part on an adequate student enrollment. We do not want to go the way of several large universities where the B.S. degree in forestry has been discontinued or departments eliminated because of low student numbers. This fall semester we have just 45 undergraduate, 14 Masters, and 13 Ph.D. students. The spring semester 2012 enrollments will not be substantially different. The department nearly was eliminated due to low student enrollments, so students have to continue to come to us to study. **You can help.**

We encourage you to be recruiters for your department and promoters of forestry as a professional career. In your family, among friends, at your church, in the local schools, at a scout meeting—wherever—you can be an effective voice for your department and the profession. Better still, take some kids into the woods and give them a forestry “pep talk.” Or bring your grandchildren to **Grandparents University (www.grandparents.msu.edu/)** to learn about MSU and forestry. Use your imagination; there are lots of ways to be a recruiter...we’re counting on you!

We are 109 years old and want the tradition to continue!

Remembering the Cabin

Many of our alumni have fond memories of the Chittenden Forestry Cabin, which stood among pine, larch, and oak trees on the south side of the Red Cedar River near where Wells Hall now stands. Originally conceived in 1931 by forestry students, the cabin was built over several years. Tamarack logs were cut in a swamp near Bath. The Southern Cypress Manufacturers' Association contributed the shingles, and the porch floor came from the California Redwood Association. The interior floor was hard maple with birch inlays. The spectacular stone fireplace was built by a mason of the Works Progress Administration. The pine-tree facsimile hinges for the main door were specially cast by a Munising foundry owned by the family of two students.

The Cabin was used by the Forestry Club and other campus organizations for meetings, social events, and meals. Rental fees provided revenue for the Forestry Club. The cabin served the university from the 1930's until it was summarily demolished in the summer of 1965 to make way for the new Wells Hall, which today houses the Departments of Mathematics and Statistics.

Under the leadership of **Mike Moore** (B.S. '61), the department is working with the Development Office of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources to raise the funds necessary to cast and erect a Michigan Historical Marker to commemorate the cabin. Several other historic sites on campus—such as the Band Shell—have been so recognized. The plaque has been approved, with an anticipated total cost of about \$6,000. Any additional funds raised will be used by the Department of Forestry to support maintenance and upgrades at the log staff house at the Pigeon River Country State Forest, where MSU students stay during their spring field camp.

Contributions are now being accepted and can be sent to the address below. Use **Appeal Code 01203**.

Kate Powers

CANR Development, 408 Agriculture Hall
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824.



The rustic interior of the Chittenden Forestry Cabin. Michigan State University Archives and Historical Collections



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