

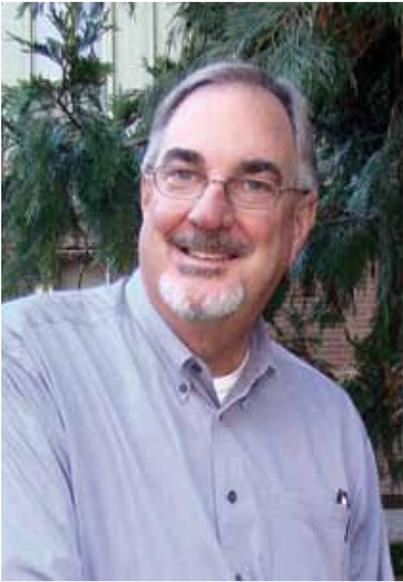
FOCUS

SPRING 2010

THE MAGAZINE OF OSU COLLEGE OF FORESTRY



Oregon State
UNIVERSITY



Dean's Column

The end of another academic year is at hand. Both faculty and students are looking forward to time away from the classroom. Faculty will be able to devote more energy to their families and research interests. Students will engage in a variety of activities, and many will be working summer jobs in forestry and natural resources. The good news for the graduating class is that hiring of our students into degree-related positions is showing an increase over 2009. We hope this is a leading indicator of renewing strength in the forest-related economic sector.

2010 is likely to be another transitional year for the College. OSU has spent the winter and spring working on many of the same challenges that Forestry did a couple of years ago when we reorganized. A growing student population, flat or shrinking state support, too many administrative units, and low enrollment courses/majors are among the issues being examined. One outcome has been organizing colleges into divisions that align with OSU's overall strategic plan. Forestry, Agriculture, and Oceanic/Atmospheric Science are now in the Earth Systems Science Division. This alignment is intended to foster multi-disciplinary research initiatives and streamline course offerings through shared curriculum. Faculty and administrators have spent months on the "how and what" of such changes. Many ideas and plans have been submitted to the University's Strategic Alignment and Budget Reductions Committee for review, with eventual recommendations to the Provost and President.

Our three departments are each moving forward with plans to modify course requirements for our different degrees, re-focus learning objectives, and end low-enrollment courses. This is all being done carefully, and with much discussion with industry and agency employers. Our primary goal remains to graduate the most capable and job-ready students in the West, if not the whole country. Right behind this goal is to maintain or grow our research capacity. Stay tuned—this is all a work in progress.

Sincerely,

Hal Salwasser

FOCUS

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On the cover: Stephanie Root, (NR, '09) with “George,” a participant in a study on desert tortoise movements in Joshua Tree National Park. Root is preparing to change George’s transmitter. Photo credit: Kristen Lalumiere.



Coaching “Team Innovation”

by Bryan Bernart

If innovation is a team sport, then Scott Leavengood and Chris Knowles may be considered coaches—not only for the students they mentor in the department of Wood Science and Engineering (WSE), but for builders, business owners, wood products manufacturers, and the general public. Leavengood is an associate professor in WSE and director of the Oregon Wood Innovation Center, known as OWIC. OWIC’s general goal is to be the link between Oregon’s wood products industry and innovation-related resources, especially those that come from the university level. “We connect people, ideas, and resources,” he says. “We also try to serve as the front door for the Wood Science and Engineering department here on campus. Our main function is outreach.”

Knowles, an assistant professor of forest products marketing in WSE, is currently researching green building, and his overall goal is to help keep the Oregon wood products

industry competitive on a national as well as global level. He approaches green building not from the standpoint of structures, but from one that addresses the challenges that wood faces in that arena. “I want to show that wood is an acceptable material in green building,” says Knowles. “One of the things we found is that designers in the state really like wood, as a material, but right now, there are a lot of challenges that prevent them from using it as frequently as they’d like to. With innovations in technology, we can overcome some of these challenges. That’s what OWIC is all about.”

In addition to their research and outreach, Knowles and Leavengood serve as mentors and advisors to undergraduate and graduate students in the College of Forestry—and the students themselves are a key part of the pair’s research team and OWIC. The students work with Leavengood and Knowles to complete contract projects for industry. Leavengood served as

technical advisor for undergraduate student Steve Ashley's senior project. Steve explored barriers and opportunities to expanding the market for western juniper wood products. Matt Peterson, former graduate student in wood science, says that this type of experience with OWIC helped him to develop and hone skills that he originally learned in his coursework. "Scott has been very helpful in teaching us how to approach and manage open-ended projects in a way that standard coursework rarely provides," he explains. "I feel confident about entering the job market because I have experience in applying my wood science knowledge to solve problems across the forest products industry."

Leavengood is currently mentoring two graduate students: RD Mosier, an OSU alumnus (WST) who spent several years working in industry before returning to pursue a master's degree, is exploring customer relationship management and how it affects innovation. Kennedy Sichamba, who recently joined the master's program after earning his bachelor's degree in wood science from Copperbelt University in Zambia, is investigating essential oils from western juniper.

Knowles is advising two students, Natalie Macias ('08) and Ashlee Tibbets ('09), who were WST majors as undergrads and are now in the master's program in WSE. Macias's project is to identify potential market applications for a newly developed enhanced wood product. She has finished the first stage of her research, where she did personal interviews with professionals in the forest products industry, and is currently engaged in the second stage where she is interviewing professionals in the building design and construction industries. Besides serving as her graduate advisor, Knowles also advised Macias on her senior project, where she examined the effect of wood source, forest certification, and price on architects' perceptions of wood flooring.

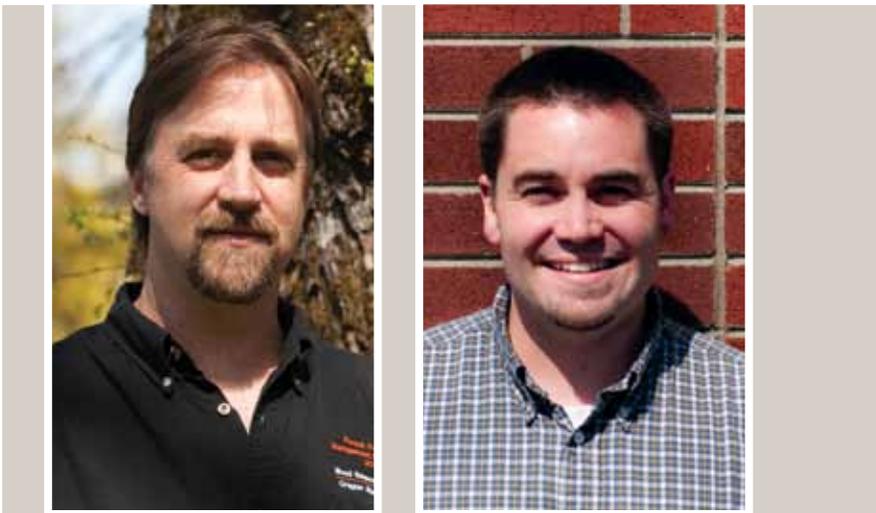
Tibbets, a graduate student in wood science, is examining the impact of recent amendments to the Lacey Act to the U.S. forest products industry. She worked



What and Who is OWIC?

The Oregon Wood Innovation Center (OWIC) was established in December 2005 with a mission of improving the competitiveness of Oregon's wood products industry by fostering innovation in products, processes, and business systems.

OWIC serves as the link between research and the needs and opportunities of Oregon's forest industry. OWIC is housed in the College of Forestry at OSU. All faculty in the Department of Wood Science & Engineering at Oregon State University are involved in the activities of the Center. <http://owic.oregonstate.edu/>



Scott Leavengood (left) and Chris Knowles. Photos on pages 2 and 3 by Ben Krause.



Steve Ashley (WST, '10) is working with OWIC to explore juniper utilization opportunities as part of his senior project in wood science and technology. Photo credit: Donna Barnes.

with Leavengood and Knowles on an OWIC project to update the information in the web-based Oregon Forest Industry Directory. “Scott is a great motivator, and he’s very flexible with schedules and conflicts,” she notes. “Chris is incredibly helpful, and takes care of all of us students. We’re lucky to have them both here at OSU!”

Both Macias and Tibetts will be spending the summer in Australia replicating a research project that Knowles conducted in Oregon, which examines how building design and construction professionals view structural wood products. They will present the preliminary results of this work at the 2010 IUFRO World Congress in Seoul, South Korea in August 2010.

Leavengood’s path to the College of Forestry began at a community college in the south suburbs of Chicago. In an environmental science class, a lecture on wood technology caught his attention. “At the time, I was working in a place that was similar to Home Depot, and so I was dealing with wood all day long but didn’t know anything about it,” he explains. “The lecturer was talking about forests and how trees develop, and I started thinking ‘this is really interesting.’ Up until that point, I didn’t realize that I could have a career in forestry and wood products.”

He sought out schools with forestry programs and transferred to Colorado State, where he eventually volunteered with the Student Conservation Association—an organization his community college instructor had mentioned in the environmental science class. After graduating from Colorado State, Leavengood came to OSU to pursue a master’s degree in forest products, and eventually wrote his thesis on machine vision for wood products manufacturing.

Knowles knew he was interested in forestry when he was still in high school. Growing up in east Texas, he learned to hunt and camp at an early age. When the time came to pick a university, Knowles chose Stephen F. Austin State University because it offered a program in forest management, his chosen field.

“As I finished up my undergraduate degree, I realized that I probably wasn’t interested in going straight into a career in forest management,” he explains. “At the time, there weren’t many job opportunities, and so I decided instead to pursue a master’s degree in forestry at my alma mater.” While he was pursuing his degree, he became interested in wood technology, and went on to study wood properties of finger-jointed southern pine, the eventual subject of his thesis.

However, after completing his degree, Knowles found himself at another crossroads; he could either enter the forest products industry, better educated and with a greater chance of beginning a promising career in his field, or further his education. He again chose to go back to school. He explains, “My master’s advisor did his graduate work at OSU, and when it came time for me to leave SFA, he really pushed me toward Oregon State. I looked at several different schools and really enjoyed what I found here.” He completed his PhD in wood science in 2007.

As part of their work with WSE and OWIC, Knowles and Leavengood regularly engage in Extension projects that often involve communicating new ideas to wood products companies. “A few years ago, we had a workshop on formaldehyde emissions in forest products that drew 120 people from all over North America,” notes Leavengood. “There’s a large audience for this kind of information, especially when it involves hot topics that affect much of the industry.”

Leavengood believes that the key to staying competitive in the wood products industry lies in greater attention to product and business systems innovation. “We study how to reduce cost and automate processes, as well as make sure we’re using the latest and greatest technologies,” he says. “Product innovation is developing products that generate buzz with the building community. We also study the field of business systems innovation, which is the way that these businesses interact with customers, and includes the use of internet technology as well as managerial innovations.”



Ashlee Tibbets (WST, '09; MS, WSE). Photo credit: Danielle White (WST).

OWIC stays involved with the forest industry by maintaining an online database of over 1,600 wood products companies. The system catalogues each entity by keeping track of what tree species they work with and what processes they perform. “Our ultimate goal is to be able to point to our database and say, ‘Go here. You’ll find everything you’re looking for,’” Leavengood explains. “If we can help get information to companies more efficiently, there’s a huge opportunity to open up markets that don’t currently exist. All of this will help advance Oregon’s wood products industry.”



Slice of western juniper. Photo credit: Steve Ashley.



Temesgen Hailemariam measuring upper stem diameter. All photos by Ben Krause.

Cultivating Talent

by Bryan Bernart

Temesgen Hailemariam began his journey to Oregon State from halfway around the world—as a young man in Ethiopia, watching his father work as a surveyor. “It was always inspirational to see what he was doing and what he was accomplishing,” says Temesgen, an associate professor of forest biometrics and measurements in the Department of Forest Engineering, Resources and Management (FERM).

Temesgen knew that he wanted to work in natural resources, so he chose an educational path that would lead to a career in forestry—through the biological sciences and mathematics. He earned his bachelor’s degree in plant science from Alemaya University of Agriculture in Alemaya, Ethiopia and his master’s and doctoral degrees in forest biometrics from Lakehead University in Ontario, and the University of British Columbia, in Vancouver, Canada, respectively. He joined the OSU College of Forestry faculty in 2003. “Teaching and conducting research at a premier forestry institution has been one of my lifetime professional goals,” he says. “My position at OSU has provided me with this opportunity, and has also enabled me to be part of the College that addresses the pressing needs of forest managers, policy makers, and society.”



Donald Gagliasso and Jacob Strunk preparing to take core samples.



Core sample.

Temesgen's current work stretches across three major research themes: handling missing data and developing imputation techniques to assess and analyze forest resources; developing sampling and statistical methods to estimate status, change, and trends; and using emerging technologies to characterize and quantify stand structure and site productivity to improve inference and mapping accuracy, while informing the debate on sustainable forest management and climate change. His research group, which includes a number of graduate students, is working on dynamic forest inventory and monitoring, and mapping projects. Master's students Zane Haxton and Theresa Marquardt are conducting research to quantify stand structure and establish accurate sampling methods in riparian zones. Jacob Strunk and Michael Goerndt, PhD students in forest measurement and biometrics, and Donald Gagliasso, a master's student, are using light detection and ranging (LIDAR) technology at research sites along the Kenai Peninsula in Alaska, at the College's McDonald-Dunn forest in western Oregon, and in the Malheur National Forest in eastern Oregon.

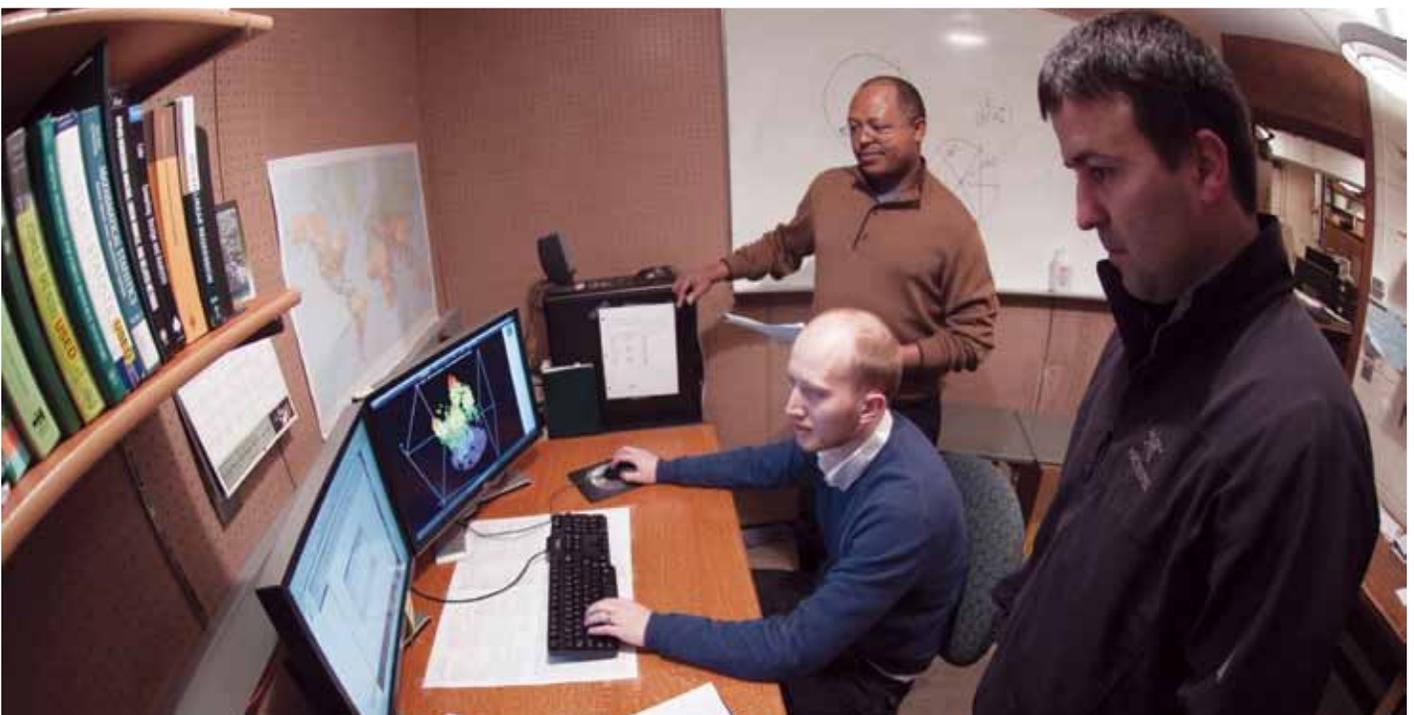
LIDAR works similarly to radar in that it sends out waves of electromagnetic energy that bounce off an object, but where radar uses radio waves, LIDAR uses light waves. The reflection from the object is recorded by a sensor in order to develop 3-D surface measurements. LIDAR technology is commonly used to create digital elevation models. In the last 10 years, LIDAR has become a useful tool in forest inventory and monitoring. LIDAR can help researchers to estimate forest biomass, quantify stand structure, identify stands that require

particular kinds of treatments, and study ecological attributes. LIDAR is particularly valuable for measuring forests in remote areas where more traditional sampling methods are impractical. "One of the difficulties in forest inventory and monitoring in Alaska, for example, is that the region constitutes a massive land-base, but has only limited access," says Temesgen. "With LIDAR and other remote sensing tools, we can survey a forest from a great distance and accurately quantify its structure."

Temesgen encourages his students to work with one another through biweekly lab meetings where the graduate students come together to discuss their work and engage in a collaborative process. "I appreciate the opportunity to interact with my colleagues and possibly come up with a different approach to a common problem," Gagliasso explains.

Working with students has always been especially important to Temesgen, whose commitment was honored when he received the Julie Kliewer Mentor Award in 2008. The annual award, given by students of the forestry honor society Xi Sigma Pi, recognizes individuals who go out of their way to foster exceptional mentoring relationships with students. "Temesgen's assistance and guidance during my time as his graduate student has been a great and thoroughly enjoyable experience for me," says Bianca Eskelson, a former student and current research associate. "He treats us as part of his family—he takes an interest in our academic as well as personal well-being. He supports us wherever he can, and his door is always open."

Examining tree height profile using LIDAR analysis.



Finding Forestry—and helping others do the same

by Bryan Bernart



Photo by Ben Krause.

Although Jim Kiser discovered his passion for forestry as a young man in southern California, he felt that it was impractical to pursue a forestry career at the time because his options to do so were very limited. Instead of chasing his dream job, Kiser attended school for architecture, graduated in two years, and moved on with his life. Shortly thereafter, he had a run-in with a friend that changed his perspective. “My best friend got married, had children, bought an RV, and got in debt up to his ears,” Kiser explains. “I watched him and thought, ‘This is insane! Life moves so fast, and I should be doing the first thing I want to do, instead of settling for less.’”

Kiser went north, earned a bachelor’s degree in forest management at Humboldt State University, and then began working for the Forest Service in Gold Beach, Oregon. Eventually, he was ready for new challenges, so he came to Oregon State for graduate school. After earning his master’s in forest management, Kiser began work at Weyerhaeuser in 1992. There, he discovered what would later become the focal point of his later research. “My research interest is in understanding the growth and yield of trees that have been

damaged during commercial harvesting,” Kiser explains. “While I was in the industry, I was able to observe a number of stands for about five years, and I started asking a lot of questions about how these damaged trees were responding. It was interesting to me that no one seemed to know. At the time, there wasn’t even much about it in the literature.”

Kiser returned to OSU in 1997 to pursue a PhD, designing a project to study the impact of commercial thinning on residual Douglas-fir stands. Damaged trees are often vulnerable to fungal infections, but Kiser found that even compromised Douglas-fir trees grew remarkably well, and fungal decay was relatively non-existent in the short term. In the future, he would like to expand his commercial thinning research to include yellow cedar, western hemlock, and ponderosa pine.

Kiser presently spends much of his time working with undergraduates in the College of Forestry. As the head undergraduate advisor for the Department of Forest Engineering, Resources and Management, he routinely provides counseling to the students who are looking for guidance, or even just someone to talk to. “There’s a

common misconception that advising is just telling people what classes to take, but the truth is that a lot of students have real personal issues going on in their lives, and have to deal with a lot that falls outside of their school careers,” Kiser explains. “When I’m working with a student, we don’t look at the clock. We go until the problem is resolved, because that’s the right thing to do.” At other times, students come to Kiser just to share stories about their recent successes, which is something he enjoys. “It makes me really proud of the College and of the students when I get to listen to what they’ve accomplished,” he says.

Over the last few years, Kiser has mentored many students, but Jesse Narog, a senior in forest engineering, stands out. “Jesse is a Marine reservist and the father of two very young children. Between training and active duty, he’s had to move his family multiple times, including three times back to Oregon so he could resume his program at OSU,” says Kiser. In between, Narog continued his education by picking up classes at local community colleges. Kiser continued as his advisor via email or phone in order to ensure that Narog got into the classes he needed for his degree. Once, last summer, Narog called Kiser for advice. “We were discussing his

schedule, and I ask ‘what’s that noise in the background?’” Kiser recalls. “He tells me, ‘oh, well, I’m on a satellite phone from Iraq right now.’ Hearing that was pretty stunning. I have so much respect for his service to his country, and that he’s doing it while he’s with us here in the College—where, by the way, he manages to stay on the Dean’s List.”

Narog credits Kiser for helping him navigate the complexities of the educational system while juggling the demands of his very busy life. “Jim has been a tremendous help in my college career, helping advise me on what classes to take at Oregon State University as well as community colleges in Washington State,” he says. “When you’re working out of state or out of the country it always seems like you’re up against a wall when it comes to finding classes that fit a specific field. Jim is always the one I call when I’m up against the wall—he’s my inside man to the administrative chaos of the educational system.”

Kiser’s advising philosophy is simple. “I do for the students what I wish my advisors had done for me,” he says. “When students are sitting here, asking me for help, I remind myself why I’m doing this: I want to be in their corner academically, and in every other way. That’s really my job, and I’m proud of it.”

Jesse Narog (FE) with his wife, Mariah, and children Corrin (2-1/2 years old) and Constance (7months old).





Valuing Recreation and the Environment

by Bryan Bernart

Randy Rosenberger, associate professor of forest ecosystems and society, considers himself first and foremost an environmental economist, although he came to Oregon State after first pursuing several other avenues. “Not only do I not have a direct background in forestry, but I have two philosophy degrees! I admit that’s a little unusual for most people working in the College of Forestry.”

He began at Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania as a pre-veterinary science and biology major after serving as a public health and veterinary technician in the U.S. Air Force after graduating from high school. He strongly considered becoming a veterinarian until he realized how expensive it would be, at which point he decided to continue in biology. Shortly thereafter, he became a philosophy major. “I always liked classical literature when I was younger, and I took a couple of philosophy classes in college and really enjoyed them,” Rosenberger explains. “I was reading some old classics, like Charles Dickens and Mark Twain, and eventually entered a philosophy of literature course, where they discussed the traditional meanings of old fairytales like Red Riding Hood and Snow White. Eventually, they touched on the idea that forest imagery in literature tends to evoke “evil” and represents a fear of the unknown. I think I’ve always carried an interest in that subject with me, to study how people interact with the environment.”

After receiving his BA (summa cum laude), Rosenberger attended Colorado State University and obtained a master’s degree in applied ethics with a focus on environmental ethics,

which asks about the value(s) of nature. During his MA, he also investigated sustainable agriculture and the ethical principles behind it, and eventually entered a PhD program at CSU before arriving at Oregon State. “I wanted to apply the skills I had already learned in a practical way, so I continued on in environmental economics,” he continues, “I wanted to study how we use our resources, and how we assess those resources using a suite of tools called ‘non-market valuation.’ My current work has taken off from there.”

Rosenberger’s studies at the College of Forestry are mostly focused on meta-analysis, which is a way of analyzing evidence from different studies, beginning with codifying them in a database. “Following that, we run statistical analyses on it, which then enables us to sort through different studies based on their particular traits,” he says. “For instance, we could look only at forested areas where treatments, sample sizes, and species were of a certain variety, and then use that information to better inform future research, or even inform policies when funding dollars are insufficient to conduct original research.” An extension of his work in meta-analysis, he is investigating the socio-cultural context of conducting research and how this context affects what is being researched, and how and where it is being published. “When we look at a body of literature on published research, it is telling us a story, but not necessarily the whole story. We want to find out where and what the rest of the story is”, he says. Examples of ‘untold’ parts of stories include controversies about the safety of some prescription



drugs, and even concerns about some of the evidence for climate change. His current research involves the creation of a recreation values database. Rosenberger's research group searched for all published documents for Canada and the United States on outdoor, nature-based recreation, finding over 300 studies and close to 3,000 estimates on outdoor activities, such as whitewater rafting, backcountry camping, wildlife viewing—"nearly everything you can think of," Rosenberger says. "In organizing these data, we take stock of our knowledge. If we know which activities are popular in which places, and for what cost to a participant, we can better understand how people will use parks, and can better plan to make those activities possible. Meta-analysis enables us to learn from past research and apply it across a wide scope."

A number of graduate students are involved with Rosenberger's research projects, including Margaret Hamilton (MS, public policy) and Arvin Vista (PhD candidate, applied economics). Both Hamilton and Vista appreciate Rosenberger's accessibility, as well as his mentoring style. "Randy keeps me responsible for my work," says Vista. "He always makes sure

he has time to meet with students." Perhaps apropos for his area of expertise, Rosenberger "manages by walking around," Hamilton notes. "We've had some of our most important meetings on the sidewalk because we happened to be walking through the same place at the same time!" His other students include Caitlin Moehrke (forest social science) and Lauren Bell (applied economics), a master's student and a PhD candidate, respectively.

In the future, Rosenberger sees himself continuing to pursue work on recreation and the multiple benefits people and society derive from it. "When I first got to Oregon State, I'd never been to Oregon before," he explains, "When I arrived in Corvallis, my first impression was great. It's a quiet, clean place to live. We have sidewalks, access to parks, and bike trails here—but not every other place in the country is so lucky, and my research delves further into that idea. I want to look at the health benefits associated with recreation." In his own life, he's happy to be a member of this community, riding his bike to work, rain or shine. "I'm glad to be here. OSU is a wonderful place to live and work."



Living Well, Living Sustainably

by Bryan Bernart

Viviane Simon-Brown, Extension specialist and professor in the Forest Ecosystems and Society department, had a disappointing first experience with the College of Forestry when she inquired about entering the program as a young woman: “I walked over to Peavy Hall to meet my advisor, who promptly declared that the only reason a ‘gal’ would go into forestry was to get a ‘guy.’ Surprisingly to those who know me now, I didn’t argue. I just said, ‘OK, I’ll do biology’ instead. At the end of the year, I transferred back to Portland State. That perspective

seems backwards to us now, but you know, I have to laugh—because I did marry a forester!”

Raised by a father who was a logger and a crop duster, Simon-Brown grew up with interests in both the outdoors and airplanes. Originally from the Portland area, she attended Portland State University and obtained a double bachelor’s degree, which acted as an umbrella for her eclectic interests in French, animal biology, and natural history. She later earned an Executive Master’s in Public Administration at Lewis and Clark College before getting recruited into the community resource education (CRE) program at OSU.

“We created the Oregon Center for Community Leadership in Bend,” she explains. “We worked with communities on social justice and natural resource issues all over the state. Those were heady times. When OSU Extension restructured, I eventually ended up in Forestry. It felt like coming home.”

Despite her family history, Simon-Brown didn’t always know that she wanted to be a forester. Her path to the College didn’t lead her through the traditional channels, but rather first into careers with the Oregon Museum of Science & Industry (OMSI) in Portland, outdoor schools, the USDA Forest Service, the High Desert Museum, and Central Oregon Community College in Bend before she arrived at Oregon State.

“I think that having work experience in environmental education, volunteer management, working in the field, and working in another language all make me a stronger person for what I do now in Forestry Extension,” she says. Her current studies center on sustainability education; Simon-Brown is the sustainable living specialist for OSU Extension, being the first specialist with that title in the United States. She explains, “At OSU, we are very good at training people to professionally manage natural resources. Sustainable living education is about managing ourselves to be more thoughtful consumers of those resources.”

Her day-to-day work involves examining value and belief systems that people hold, and studying how these systems affect their decisions. “I used to think that doing this meant that I would be simply teaching people about turning down water heaters, but it’s really so much more than that,” Simon-Brown says. “My overall focus is in ‘ethics-based education.’ That field involves helping people make choices that align with their specific values.”

The same perspective guides Simon-Brown in mentoring graduate students at the College of Forestry and in OSU’s environmental sciences program. “Her knowledge and passion for all things sustainable inspired me to examine my own assumptions of what constitutes ‘green,’” says Abby Metzger, who is currently pursuing her master’s degree. “Viviane is one of those rare professionals who excels at outreach, teaching, and advising. To work with her has been incredible.”

Former student Melanie Stidham agrees. Stidham earned her master’s in forest resources in 2008, with an emphasis in natural resource policy and law. She spent the last year traveling in Micronesia, Indonesia, and Bangladesh working in mangroves and teaching in workshops on forest-related climate change policy, and is currently working in Hawaii as a research contractor. “Viviane really allowed me to find my own way at OSU, something that I will be forever grateful for,” she explains. “When I started my master’s program, all I knew is that I wanted it to center on the sustainability of natural resources. I must have run at least a hundred ideas by her—each of which she patiently listened to and helped me evaluate—before I settled on

converting forest biomass to energy. If I hadn't had that flexibility at the start, I would not have ended up working on bioenergy, a topic in which I am now quite passionate about and hope to continue working in. Viviane was a great mentor and friend to me, and always will be."

Simon-Brown now directs the National Network for Sustainable Living Education (NNSLE), a group of over 80 Extension professionals, all working on sustainability issues. Simon-Brown's focus is on helping people to better pursue their own goals. "Because each person values different things, this process of asking what's most important to them may yield any number of results," she explains. "For one person, who is worried about energy costs, it may mean trying harder to save power at home. For another, who is concerned about the future of the environment, it could mean teaching his or her teenagers about being responsible consumers. For someone else, it could be about reconnecting with the natural world."



Above: Melanie Stidham at the Hawaii Volcano Observatory, where she volunteers several days a week. She is shown during a geological expedition to map the active surface flow currently occurring at Kalapana. Photo credit: Daniel Donato (PhD, FS, '08). Below: Viviane Simon-Brown balances work and fun by traveling with her canoe on top of her car just in case a lake calls to her along the way.



Perfect Match - From the virtual classroom to a dream job with endangered species

by Caryn Davis



Stephanie Root's very first visit to Oregon State University campus in June 2009 was for a special occasion—her own graduation. Fortunately, the real-life meeting between Root and her online alma mater went well. "I was really impressed with what I saw," she says. "It made me extra proud to be graduating from Oregon State!"

During a walking tour of OSU with her husband and parents, Root also happened to get a personal welcome from none other than OSU President Ed Ray. The group had just noticed a parking space with "President" written on it, when President Ray himself arrived. "My dad asked him if he was the president," Root recalls. "When he said yes, I told him I was a distance student and we chatted for a few minutes. He congratulated me and welcomed me to OSU. I thought it was pretty neat!"

Root joined the College of Forestry as a distance natural resources student in fall 2007, after attending several other colleges. With her husband serving as a captain in the Marine Corps, Root has lived in Virginia, Florida, Hawaii, and now Twentynine Palms, California. "Living in different parts of the country had opened my eyes to the need for resource management and I wanted to help in some way," says Root, who grew up in Paradise, in the forested foothills of the Sierra Nevada. "The distance education program in Natural Resources seemed like a great fit for me because of all that moving around—and I've always felt that Oregon State is a superior university and it is well known for its excellent forestry programs."

Nearly 400 students are currently working toward their natural resources degrees through the College of Forestry, including about 250 who are enrolled via OSU's Extended Campus (Ecampus). The NR program at OSU is favorably regarded by internship programs and by the National Park Service, Root notes. Although she wasn't sure exactly what she wanted to do after earning her degree, she secured an internship working with wildlife through the Student Conservation Association ("SCA") at Joshua Tree National Park in May of 2009, just before graduation. Root highly recommends the SCA internship program for others wanting to work in natural resources with the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and other federal or state agencies. "Most of the people I work with at the park began their careers as interns through SCA," she says. "I loved it so much that I decided to pursue a career in wildlife management and, more specifically, endangered wildlife species."

As an SCA in the Wildlife Division, Root worked on a wide variety of projects involving different species, although her primary focus was the federally threatened desert tortoise. Root's group tracked tortoise movements in the park by using radio telemetry and analyzing that data in ArcGIS. They also created "bite count" monitoring for tortoises to study their food preferences and how they relate to invasive plant species. "The project started this spring, and from what we have been observing, they really like native annuals like desert dandelions as well as non-native grasses," Root says. Along with what's on the menu for desert tortoises, Root also learned something else: "Since I use GIS every day, I should have taken the GIS course at OSU," she laughs.

Her work in the park also included surveying and monitoring the nesting activities of raptors such as the red-tailed hawk and golden eagle in areas popular with rock climbers, and recommending climbing route closures if necessary. Root also surveyed mines for bats, conducted point-count surveys for ravens, and assessed human visitor impacts at water sources frequented by bighorn sheep. Finally, she worked on vegetation projects in the park, including species surveys, soil compaction and crust analysis, and plant propagation in the Center for Arid Lands Nursery. The internship ended in March, but Root was "emergency hired" as a wildlife biological technician ranger with the National Park Service at Joshua Tree National Park through May 2010.

Root has accepted an internship (again through SCA) as a wildlife specialist with the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station resources department at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, beginning in June. She and a colleague will be the first SCA interns to work at GTMO, where they will conduct population surveys on hutias, boas, manatees, and iguanas (among others), and recommend revisions to current policies regarding wildlife. "I am really happy I chose natural resources as a major because the coursework is the perfect blend of science and policy, which has helped me in my career," Root says. "The program has helped me immensely, not just through the education, but through professional development."

She also has kind words for her academic advisor in the Natural Resources Program, whom she met for the first time in person at a reception before Commencement. "Marge Victor, my advisor, was instrumental to me completing my degree," Root says. "She helped me pick the right courses that suited my interests and made my time at Oregon State go by smoothly. I really appreciate all the help and guidance she gave me in helping me to attain my goals."



Opposite page: Stephanie Root on duty as an NPS Ranger in 49 Palms Canyon in Joshua Tree National Park. On this day, she was checking out a kestrel nest and looking at visitor impacts at the Oasis (the palms in the background) affecting bighorn sheep. Photo credit: Jeremiah Root. This page: (top) Root with "Sallie Mae Sue," a desert tortoise; and Root measuring a tortoise's maximum carapace length. Photo credits: Kristen Lalumiere.

The Natural Resources Program is an interdisciplinary program supported by the Colleges of Forestry, Agricultural Sciences, Liberal Arts, and Science. The NR Program's home is the Department of Forest Ecosystems and Society in the College of Forestry. Our distance education students hail from throughout the U.S. and from several other countries. To learn more about the Natural Resources Program, see <http://naturalresources.oregonstate.edu/>



Successful College of Forestry graduate students—Congratulations!

Wen Bai, PhD in Wood Science and Chemical Engineering

“New Application of Crystalline Cellulose in Rubber Composites”

Joshua Clark, PhD in Forest Engineering

“Forest Biomass Estimation with Hemispherical Photography for Multiple Forest Types and Various Atmospheric Conditions”

Michael E. Goerndt, PhD in Forest Resources

“Comparison and Analysis of Small Area Estimation Methods for Improving Estimates of Selected Forest Attributes”

Jim Kiser, PhD in Forest Science

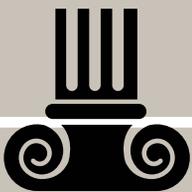
“Photogrammetric Uses of a New-generation Analytical Stereoplotter in Forestry”

Günter Georg Rolf Modzel, PhD in Wood Science

“Computed Tomography Analysis of Wood-Adhesive Bonds”

Carlos Sierra, PhD in Forest Science

“Environmental Variability and System Heterogeneity in Terrestrial Biogeochemical Modeling”



Nicholas Som, PhD in Forest Science

“Spatial Autocorrelation and Patches: And a (River) Headwater Stream Runs Through It”

Terry Craig, MF in Forest Resources

“Silviculture Prescriptions for Ponderosa Pine and Mixed Conifer Forest in Central Oregon”

Heidi Goracke, MS in Forest Resources

“Temporal Effects of Vegetation Control on Growth and Wood Quality of Conifers in a Western Oregon Plantation”

Ning Guo, MS in Wood Science

“Hygro-Mechanical Response of Clear Softwood Specimens to Compression under Cyclic Climate”

Xiaou Han, MS in Wood Science

“Corporate Social Responsibility and Its Implementation: A Study of Companies in the Global Forest Sector”

Erin Heim, MS in Forest Resources

“Development of University Based Education in Ecological Issues in Park Management”

Theresa Marquardt, MS in Forest Resources

“Examination of the Accuracy and Suitability of Selected Sampling Methods to Quantify Selected Stand Attributes within Riparian Zones”

Kenneth Grant Martin, MS in Wood Science and Structural Engineering

“Evaluation of System Effects and Structural Load Paths in a Wood-Framed Structure”

Brianna E. Patterson, MS in Forest Resources

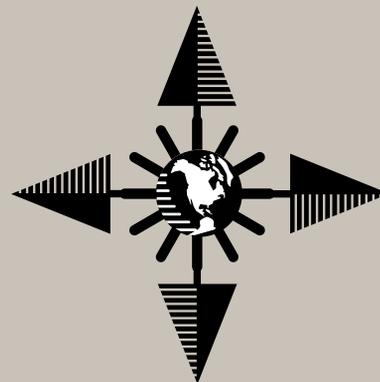
“Initial Development and Implementation of the Oregon Coast Master Naturalist Program”

Matthew Glen Peterson, MS in Wood Science

“The Potential of Using Log Biometrics to Track Sawmill Flow”

Gabriela Valeria Villavicencio Valdez, MS in Wood Science

“Opportunities and Limitations for Community Forest Enterprises: Case of TIP Muebles, Oaxaca, Mexico”



Horton Research Grant goes to Cody Hale

Cody Hale, FERM PhD student in water resources science has won this year’s Horton Research Grant from the American Geophysical Union. This award is for the best PhD proposal in hydrology and carries with it a \$10,000 prize. His proposal was titled “Beyond the Paired-Catchment Approach: Isotope tracing to illuminate stocks, flows, residence time and scaling”. Cody was presented with the award at the AGU Fall Meeting in San Francisco in December. Cody is supervised by Jeffrey McDonnell. This once again demonstrates the student excellence within the OSU Water Resources graduate program and the College of Forestry. Congrats Cody!

Winning Streak Milestone

The College of Forestry celebrated a 10-year winning streak in the Food Drive competition by surpassing all competitors and breaking last year's record for donations to Linn-Benton Food Share. The College of Forestry led all units for the 10th year in a row, bringing home both the Top Banana and the Pot of Gold awards. Total cash collected via soup lunches, the dessert competition, silent auctions, book sales, direct deposits, the extremely popular quilt auction, an original art auction, and direct deposits was \$10,960.49, plus 56 pounds of actual food—making a grand total of 54,858 pounds of food! And, although it will not count toward the competition, the effort continues with a spring firewood cutting party in May. Congrats and thanks to all those who contribute their time, hard work, creativity, and money toward helping to feed our Linn-Benton neighbors during the annual Food Drive and throughout the year.

2009 Dean's Awards

The College of Forestry proudly congratulates the following recipients of the 2009 Dean's Award for Outstanding Achievement: Barbara Bond (FES), for Research/Scholarship; Travis Woolley (FERM), for Faculty Research Assistant; Christopher Jackson, for Support Staff; Mike Bondi and John Panches, for Extended/Continuing Education; Paul Doescher (FES) and Teralyn Vandetta (Forestry Computing Resources), for Service; David Zahler (Forestry Media Center), for International Forestry; and Mark Needham (FES), for Advising/Mentoring.

Puettmann named to Edmund Hayes Professorship

Klaus J. Puettmann, professor in Forest Ecosystems & Management, was named the Edmund Hayes Professor in Silviculture Alternatives as of January 1, 2010. The Hayes Professorship in Silviculture Alternatives was established to honor Edmund Hayes, an early pioneer in the forest industry who became a top executive at Weyerhaeuser and an advocate for reforestation. The professorship supports efforts to restore and manage forests, and may eventually lead to new forestry practices. Congratulations, Klaus!

Two OSAF Awards to COF faculty

Two members of the College of Forestry were honored with awards at the Oregon Society of American Foresters 2010 Annual Meeting, held in April. Keith Jayawickrama (FES), director of the Northwest Tree Improvement Cooperative received the Researcher Award, which is presented in recognition of outstanding achievement in any branch of science leading to advancement in either the science or practice of forestry. Mike Newton, Emeritus Professor (FERM), received the Lifetime Achievement Award, which is presented in recognition of lifetime contribution to the Society of American Foresters and lifetime achievement in the forestry profession by a member of the Oregon society. Congratulations, Mike and Keith!

OSAF Awards

Two members of the College of Forestry, as well as one student and one alumna were honored with awards at the Oregon Society of American Foresters 2010 Annual Meeting, held in April. Congrats to all!

Keith Jayawickrama (FES), director of the Northwest Tree Improvement Cooperative received the Researcher Award, which is presented in recognition of outstanding achievement in any branch of science leading to advancement in either the science or practice of forestry. Mike Newton, Emeritus Professor (FERM), received the Lifetime Achievement Award, which is presented in recognition of lifetime contribution to the Society of American Foresters and lifetime achievement in the forestry profession by a member of the Oregon society.

Julie (Maulding) Woodward (BS in FM and Business, MS, Summa cum laude, NR Education and Extension) received the Forester of the year Award. Woodward is the manager of the Oregon Forest Resource Institute Rediscovery Forest at The Oregon Garden. She was cited for her effective work with "hundreds of teachers and thousands of students" in Oregon. She is also the OSAF Education Chair.

Brad Hamel (FM major) was cited for involvement in student chapter activities and for leading the OSU student team that won the National Quiz Bowl at the SAF meeting in Orlando, FL.

Calling all Forest Engineering alumni from the Class of '49: George E. Lipp and G. Robert Lecklider would like to hear from you! Email them at: gellipp@ozemail.com.au.

Bucking the Odds

Generous forestry friends and alumni come through for students

by Caryn Davis



Heidi Leib (Junior, NR) with the new yarder. Photo credit: Jeff Wimer.

It's September 25, 2008. A bus full of visitors wearing Beaver orange and black pulls into a spot by the side of the road. The doors open and the crowd spills out into the cool and cloudy afternoon, anxious to see the Oregon State University team in action. The sound of a chainsaw fills the air—a real chainsaw, not the recording that blasts through the speakers at Reser Stadium in Corvallis. The location is McDonald-Dunn Forest and the visitors are here for a demonstration by the OSU Student Logging Training Program crew.

The visitors don orange hard hats and gather expectantly along the road above the logging operation or work their way gingerly through the tangle of brush and red clumps of Jory clay to get a better view. Down the slope, the students spring into action, setting chokers and scrambling into the clear. The go-ahead signal blasts and the turn of logs swings up into the air toward the landing, where Claire Rogan (junior, FE/CE) is putting the new log loader through its paces. The log loader, which replaced an aging skidder being used to move logs, was a gift provided by Triad Machinery of Portland and Link-Belt Forestry Equipment in 2007. It is on an annual replacement rotation, meaning that the students always have the advantage of using state-of-the-art equipment. Among the visitors this year is a representative from Link-Belt, who has flown out from headquarters in Lexington, Kentucky, for the occasion.

The first logs have been bucked into segments, marked, and stacked. All eyes look upward as the student engineer prepares to send the carriage down the cable for another turn. The yarder engine rumbles, the carriage moves a few feet, jerks convulsively ... and stops. The engineer works the throttles, and the carriage starts, but stops again suddenly, setting the chokers dancing in the air. After a moment, the students launch into a familiar routine. Out comes the toolkit. The carriage is carefully lowered to where the waiting crew can reach it. Someone gets to work with a wrench while the rest hold the carriage steady. The visitors look on with interest, the other students, with anxiety. Soon enough, the operation resumes. The well-aged Koller yarder, already in use when these students' parents were in college, wheezes to life. A second load of logs comes up and is cleared. The carriage starts back down the cable ... and once again, it comes to a halt.

This time, Jeff Wimer, instructor and manager of the Student Logging Training Program, steps forward to lend a hand with repairs, as do a couple of the visitors—who, truth be told, appear to relish the opportunity. Once more, the machinery is fixed and the demonstration continues to its conclusion. The students have performed admirably under trying circumstances. The visitors wish them well, doff their orange

hardhats, and board the bus. They're headed back to campus to watch another group of students perform admirably—the OSU football team, who soon will upset the number-one ranked USC Trojans, 27-21. All in all, it is a very good day.

Afterward, however, Wimer, Steve Tesch (now the Executive Associate Dean for the College of Forestry), and Zak Hansen (now the CoF representative at the OSU Foundation) meet to discuss the equipment situation. Every year the student program provides demonstrations to over 200 individuals from industry, government, and education. “We were losing up to an hour a day, due to breakdowns on the yarder,” Wimer recalls. “It was taking away from teaching and the quality of demonstration we provide.”

Eventually, the group develops a two-part plan that will not only address the problem with the yarder, but will provide for maintenance of all of the equipment: first, they will try to raise \$100,000 in outright cash to purchase a yarder and a carriage. Second, they will attempt to raise \$500,000 to be put in an endowment fund, which will spin off about \$22,000 each year to pay for repairs and the eventual replacement of machinery. It's an ambitious goal, especially during the economic downturn.

Now, less than two years later, a group is gathered once more in Mac-Dunn Forest for a demonstration by the student crew—and the unveiling of the new “Powered by Orange” Koller yarder! How did this come about? “A group of dedicated alumni and friends came together to make this happen on behalf of the students of the College of Forestry,” Hansen says.

The first to pledge to the newly developed “Equipment Campaign” was the Associated Oregon Loggers, with a challenge donation of as much as \$125,000. This pledge was intended to get other industry and landowners involved with the program, giving them the opportunity to double their

donations. From there, commitments came in from a large group of donors: Marvin and Marcia Coats, the Oregon Logging Conference, Pac Fibre, Nygaard Logging, Miller Timber Services, Joel and Carol Olson, Oregon Cutting Systems/ Blount, Larry Christensen, Fred Greene, Allan Bankus, Max Merlich, and William “Bill” Penny. Says Wimer, “It is wonderful how the industry and various individuals have stepped up and been so generous during these hard economic times.”

In addition to monetary pledges, alums and friends of the program donated time, labor, and other non-monetary gifts in kind. Wimer soon found the yarder he wanted

for the program: a Koller 501 owned by CoF alumnus David Montgomery (FM, '69). Montgomery sold the yarder to the program for a deep discount. Another alum, Lee Miller (FE, '80), the Koller distributor in North America, offered to refurbish the yarder with donated parts from Koller Manufacturing. After this was completed, a third alum, Eric Thompson (FM, '86), owner of General Trailer, provided supplies and labor to repaint the yarder. The only caveat that Eric had was “that the yarder be painted orange and black!” Another donor added, “This is a wonderful program that truly benefits our great industry.”

The most immediate impact, however, has been on the members of the student crew. “I was fortunate to have been a part of the program while all of this change was taking place,” says Luke Durkee, a senior in Forest Engineering. “I was here with the old skidder decking logs and the old yarder fixing breakdowns. The new equipment has made a complete change to the program. It has greatly increased student interest in the program, and will provide a more realistic logging experience for the many demonstrations we give.”

Furthermore, another piece of equipment has joined the fleet, thanks to Papé Group and John Deere: a brand new 648H Skidder for use by the student crew. This machine will be replaced on an annual basis so that the crew will be able to have the experience of operating state-of-the-art equipment. “We were very grateful to work with a group of OSU alumni within the Papé Company to make this gift possible,” says Hansen. “Now, although we have raised the funds needed for the yarder and carriage and acquired the use of other equipment, we are still working hard to fundraise for the endowment so that this initial financial foundation of the program may be sustained.”

Members of the Student Logging Training program, Jeff Wimer, and an OSU alum work on the carriage of the old Koller yarder during a breakdown, September 2008. Photo credit: Caryn Davis.





Seated on top of the wheel of the new skidder is Lucas Durkee, a senior in FE graduating shortly. L-R: Andrew Arvin, junior FECE, Justin Thomas, senior FECE, and Tom Lord, freshman FECE. Photo credit: Jeff Wimer.

Student Logging Training Program, Oregon State University

At the OSU College of Forestry, we take pride in providing students with hands-on learning experiences that help prepare them as the forestry workforce of the future—the Student Logging Training Program is a tremendous example of how this mission is realized. Through this program, students learn first-hand about active logging operations. This program also supports research and continuing education in forest engineering and public education.

The College is seeking financial support to assure the program’s viability for future generations.

Program Highlights

Educating future forestry professionals: Some forest engineering and management graduates work directly in the logging industry as contractors, while others work for companies or agencies to design and administer operations conducted by contractors. To help prepare for these careers, student crew members participate in all aspects of a safe, economical, and environmentally responsible logging operation, including unit layout and design, the felling, yarding, and trucking operations, and log merchandising. The experience also provides part-time and summer employment that helps finance their education.

Broadening understanding of logging practices: Approximately a dozen students are selected for the Student Logging Training Program each year, but the program benefits virtually all College of Forestry students through hands-on demonstrations hosted by the crew in both introductory and advanced courses. The capacity to demonstrate an active logging operation close to campus is a significant competitive advantage for our educational programs. The crew also serves as an ambassador for logging in its interactions with hundreds of people outside the university each year who observe their work, including high school students and parents, professionals enrolled in continuing education programs, international visitors, and other public groups.

Support for forest engineering research: The trained student crew and their equipment provide capacity for faculty and cooperators to conduct research projects with goals such as improved workforce safety and crew productivity.

Opportunities

Securing the future: Investments are invited to establish a \$500,000 equipment replacement endowment to provide dependable funding for functional and safe equipment into the future.

Support from forestry companies, contractors, equipment dealers, alumni, and friends is crucial to the continued success of the Student Logging Training Program. The College can accept some in-kind gifts of equipment as well as direct donations of cash or securities.

For more information, please contact Zak Hansen, Associate Director of Development, College of Forestry, 541-737-4016, Zak.Hansen@oregonstate.edu.



New yarder with the new log loader on site in McDonald-Dunn Forest. Photo credit: Talia Filipek (NR).

Seventy Years of Green

The past and future of the Keep Oregon Green Association

The Tillamook Burns of 1933 and 1939 were the roots of the Keep Oregon Green Association (KOG) started in July 1940 by Oregon's State Forester Nels Rogers, John B. Woods, Edmund Hayes, and others. In 1941, Governor Charles Sprague appointed 65 influential people who were willing to lend their names to the cause as the "General Committee." An individual from each county was appointed as "County Chairman" and he appointed a local committee to work with him. Letters soliciting funds were sent to individual and companies in the lumber or related industries. Contributions from \$1 to \$500 were received, and these funds were the main support of the program—the other being the State Board of Forestry that provided office space and secretarial help.

In 1942, Richard Kuehner, an Extension Agent from Lane County, was hired as the executive secretary and housed in the State Forestry Building in Salem. Many will remember the Oregon Green Guard initiated by Mr. Kuehner through which over 71,000 Oregon youths earned merit badges and other awards. Paul M. Dunn, Dean of the OSU School of Forestry from 1942 to 1955, served on the Board of Trustees and as Chairman of the Executive Committee of Keep Oregon Green. Walter F. McCulloch, his successor as Dean, also served as a member of the association board.

In 1948, retired Mt. Hood District Ranger Albert Wiesendanger was hired and very successfully maintained enthusiastic support of KOG for 32 years. Wiesendanger was the personification of Mr. KOG. After his death, a Wiesendanger scholarship for Oregon youth was created. In 2005, Ryan Beyer, a forest management major at OSU, received a Wiesendanger scholarship in the amount of \$1,500. In 2006, Tyler Nay, now a senior in forest engineering at OSU, received a total of \$5,100.

KOG in the 21st Century

Presently, the Keep Oregon Green Association receives one cent/acre from forestland owners whose lands are protected by the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF). These landowners are the mainstay of the Association. In addition, cooperative agreements with ODF and federal wildfire agencies, as well as grants, and partnerships provide the basic revenue for KOG's awareness and education campaigns

The 36 members of the Board of Trustees are typically timber landowners or fire managers, many of whom are OSU alumni. The Board, chaired by Dan Fink of Longview timber, governs the Association; its day-to-day operations are directed by President/CEO, Mary Ellen Holly. Hal Salwasser, Dean of the OSU College of Forestry, is a past member of the Board; Steve Fitzgerald, professor in the Forest Engineering, Resources &

Management department and Extension Forester (Deschutes Country) is currently a member.

While the population of Oregon has increased dramatically over the past 10 years, the numbers of human-caused fires have not risen commensurately. Fire and population statistics reveal that human-caused wildfires and acres are actually decreasing within Oregon. Additional information can be viewed at www.keeporegongreen.org

KOG Ranger Program

KOG's website offers a parent-involved, kid-friendly, interactive program that helps kids appreciate the value of Oregon's forests, discover the many human-caused wildfires that threaten them, and learn to prevent those wildfires. After completion, kids are rewarded with a t-shirt and a Certificate of Completion. Many schools around the state have fully participated.



Awareness and Education

Campaigns using billboards, TV, radio, and printed material raise the awareness of Oregon's wildfire problems. Displays and one-on-one interaction with the public at the State Fair, school conferences, tree schools, etc., provide much needed education on wildfire prevention. Messages target those who cause the most wildfires and those who live in the wildland/urban interface. Children are very receptive to the message "Prevent wildfires - Save animals' homes."

KOG is the only statewide non-profit association that provides this type of awareness and education to our residents. We continue to stress individual responsibility for the prevention of human-caused wildfires in order to protect Oregon's forests.

Note: In the previous issue of Focus, we used the "Keep Oregon Green" logo to illustrate an article without realizing that the logo and words are licensed material. The Keep Oregon Green Association has graciously allowed us to correct our mistake by including this article, which provides a history of the organization and notes its long ties to the College of Forestry. Many thanks to Mary Ellen Holly of KOG for her understanding and for providing this information.



Focus

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In Memoriam

Dan Allan Graham

June 2, 1929 - Feb. 26, 2010

Dan Allan Graham of Pleasant Hill, Oregon, died Feb. 26 of injuries sustained in a snow skiing accident. He was 80.

Graham was born June 2, 1929, in Eugene to Frank and Mildred Schwyhart Graham. He married Marilyn Burris on March 22, 1952, in Salem. Graham graduated from Pleasant Hill High School in 1947 and from Oregon State University College of Forestry Engineering in 1951. He served in the U.S. Coast Guard from 1951 to 1953. He worked as a lumberman at Hills Creek Lumber Company in Jasper.

Survivors include his wife; two daughters, Jean Graham-Jones of New York City and Mary Graham-Baker of Dallas, Texas; two sons, Thomas of Reno, Nev., and Douglas of West Linn; a sister, Anne Graham-Schneider of Oregon City; a brother, Robert of Bend; and three grandchildren.

Remembrances may be made to the Dan A. Graham Scholarship in Forest Engineering or the Jonathan Casey Baseball Scholarship Endowment Fund through the Oregon State University Foundation in Corvallis.

Glen Wesley "Wes" Lematta

April 29, 1926 - December 24, 2009

Wes Lematta died Christmas Eve at age 82 of complications of cancer.

Lematta grew up in Clark County, the son of second-generation Finns. He attended school there but never went beyond eighth grade. Despite a lack of formal education, his vision and innate business sense helped him to build a successful company.

Lematta was a pioneer of the commercial heavy-lift helicopter business. After serving in the infantry in World War II, he used his GI Bill educational benefits to learn to fly helicopters, then an emerging technology. The family business was formed when Lematta convinced his brother, Ed, to sell his gas station in order to finance their first helicopter. Eventually, two other Lematta brothers joined in Columbia Helicopters. As helicopters grew in size and capacity, Lematta saw how they could be used to do other jobs besides transport people. Together with a southern Oregon company, Columbia pioneered the use of helicopters to remove logs from roadless forests in 1969.

In the company's early days, Wes Lematta did much of the flying. In one notable incident, Lematta made a series of daring rescues in Coos Bay, saving 15 sailors clinging to parts of a sinking ship. In later years, he gave up flying to run the company.

The Lematta family business, Aurora, Oregon-based Columbia Helicopters, employs more than 600 people worldwide. As the helicopter business grew in magnitude, so did their charity. In 2008, the Lemattas were named Philanthropists of the Year by the Community Foundation, a Vancouver-based charitable organization.

The countless recipients of their generosity include the OSU College of Forestry, where the Lemattas endowed a professorship in Forest Engineering, as well as Providence Cancer Center in Portland, the "I Have a Dream" program, the Humane Society for Southwest Washington, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Southwest Washington, and many other groups. Wes Lematta is survived by his wife Nancy, daughters Marci Walsh and Betsy Lematta, and a son, Bart Lematta.