

Spring 2016

FOCUS

THE MAGAZINE OF OSU COLLEGE OF FORESTRY

Oregon State
UNIVERSITY

Burning questions, as
fire season approaches

Dean's Column



This issue of *Focus on Forestry* marks a transition of sorts for our College as it is the final one produced in Peavy Hall, the place we have called home since 1972. As I reminisce, it is impossible to not think about the significant accomplishments alumni, students, faculty, and staff have made over the years as a result of passing through its halls. Peavy helped build generations of graduates devoted to improving our working forest landscapes who have paved the way for future students to do the same.

The Oregon Forest Science Complex, which includes the “new” Peavy Hall, will be the home for the College beginning in Spring 2018, and would not be possible without the support of our dedicated alumni and partners. We are designing the complex to meet the needs of future forestry students, to encourage them to work collaboratively to find innovative solutions, to proactively seek work experience and learning opportunities, and to showcase the possibilities that await them after their time at Oregon State is done. It will be a building that honors the

legacy of Moreland Hall and Peavy Hall before it, and I look forward to sharing the final design and construction progress in future issues.

Although we are excited construction of the Oregon Forest Science Complex is about to begin, we remain focused on conducting meaningful research, providing impactful education programs and opportunities for students, and managing landscapes that will enhance people’s lives and improve the health of our lands, businesses, rural communities and vital ecosystems. In this issue, we share some of the stories that illustrate how we interact with working forest landscapes on a daily basis.

With the start of another fire season drawing closer, Oregon State researchers are looking at new ways to tackle this complex forest management issue. One of those is John Bailey, associate professor in silviculture, who discusses fire prevention, fire history, and the challenges facing us ahead in this issue.

Our students and faculty continue to work to improve the quality of the wood products our communities use nearly every day. Led by Chris Knowles, assistant professor of forest products marketing, Oregon State teamed with Taylor Guitars to provide workshops for guitar manufacturers and suppliers to learn about forestry, wood, wood products, and best practices derived from scientific data. As a guitar aficionado myself, I know I appreciate their efforts!

As the College of Forestry prepares for a new building in Corvallis, expansion of the OSU-Cascades campus in Bend continues, where forestry faculty are leading important research efforts. In this issue we highlight Ron Reuter, associate professor of natural resources, who leads a number of important research topics to the region, including soil, juniper mitigation on rangelands, and wetland systems in the high desert.

Finally, I continue to be awestruck by the incredible stories and accomplishments of our alumni. Marcia Vasquez-Sandoval, who graduated with a doctorate in wood science and engineering from Oregon State, shares her amazing story as she has returned to her home country of Chile to teach the next generation of forestry professionals.

I hope you take the opportunity to read through our latest issue to learn more about our work, people, and accomplishments. Please feel free to contact me at any time, as I am always excited to hear from our alumni and friends.

All the best to you and yours from your forestry family here at Oregon State!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas Maness". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

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Contents

Changing Our Views of Fire: In the aftermath of the
2015 fire season, John Bailey discusses the fire
prevention fallacy, fire history, and what lies ahead 2

Lead Guitars: Workshops strike a chord with musical
instrument manufacturers and tonewood suppliers 5

He Digs His Research: Ron Reuter is often knee deep
in his work—which covers a lot of ground, from soils
to water to juniper in central Oregon and beyond 8

PhD with a Purpose: Marcia Vasquez-Sandoval
returns from Chile for a second graduate degree 10

Forestry Regeneration: It's the end of an era, as
we say goodbye, for now, to Peavy Hall 12



Cover photo: research
prescribed burn to
control invasive plants
in McDonald-Dunn
Forest, by Taylor Fjeran,
MS 2014, FERF.

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Changing Our Views of Fire

In the aftermath of the 2015 fire season, John Bailey discusses the fire prevention fallacy, fire history, and what lies ahead

by Bryan Bernart

Last fall, as a particularly vicious fire season came to close in the American West, John Bailey (Associate Professor, FER) sat down to discuss his views on the intersection of wildfire, ecology, and policy. Below are excerpts from our conversation.

It's late October now and fire season is drawing to a close. If you could describe Oregon's 2015 fire season in three words, what would they be?

“On the trajectory.”

Interesting. What does that mean?

Collectively, we've had this sense that wildfire seasons are getting worse. When I say “worse,” that's from the societal perspective —quantitatively, we can measure the severity of fire seasons in different ways, like when they start and when they end, or total the acreage burned. Fire seasons have been getting more severe for a number of years due to droughts,



increasing accumulation of fuels and other factors. My sense is that the changing climate is increasing fire season length and severity. All of this to say that “on the trajectory” means 2015 fits into the pattern of more and more wildfire—you better get used to it. There's only going to be more.



(Clockwise from top left page) John Bailey and students conducting a research prescribed burn to control invasives in McDonald-Dunn Forest (by Taylor Fjeran, MS 2014, FERM); Bailey in a research plot one year after herbicide application and burning; and fire danger sign against a backdrop of dry underbrush in late fall in the Cascades (by Bryan Bernart).

What kinds of things indicate that a fire season is likely to be severe?

The weather conditions, certainly. The way we measure it, the 99th percentile represents the best possible conditions for a fire to start and spread based on factors like temperature and wind speed. Twenty years ago, a 99th percentile day was more like an 95th percentile day is right now. We're also having many more multi-day periods of hot weather, which dries the fuels out as well as contributes to the wind patterns.

Since the year 2000, Oregon has experienced three of the seven largest fires in the state's history, including the Biscuit fire, which consumed over 500,000 acres. How has the State of Oregon coped with increasing fire during this period?

Most often, with fire suppression. The state calls in resources from other states, from the federal government, and even from other countries. They're responsible for fires on their own state lands, but also on private lands, both small private and industrial private, and while the state has a limited budget to deal with fire, the federal government has an open checkbook and the policy latitude to not have to suppress

every fire, every time. In reality, that's still what they do in probably 99% of instances.

Is fire suppression a bad thing?

No, because we still don't want fire everywhere all the time. Personally, though, I would like land managers to have a little more latitude to do prescribed burning, because a lot of what we suppress is happening under ideal prescribed burning conditions—the fuel moisture levels and weather conditions are right, and the fire would do some fuels reduction and ecological good. They're the exact conditions that I, as a silviculturist, would prescribe in order to reduce fuel levels, recycle nutrients, and modify the plant community. Instead, we put those fires out. Sometimes, even when we do have a prescription ready and on the shelf, we'll put out a fire and then, days or weeks later, go out and restart that same fire with drip torches [*following the prescription*]. Of course by then, we've already used the resources to suppress it, first.

Isn't failing to follow prescriptions we already have a missed opportunity?

It's our current mindset, and like I said, we do this even when conditions are favorable



Staff from the Oregon Department of Forestry patrol the fire line after a research burn in McDonald-Dunn Forest (by Taylor Fjeran, MS 2014, FERMI)

to slow-spreading, surface fire. For me to go out and light a prescribed fire appropriately requires some expertise, associated training and certification, liability insurance, staff and budget, a burn plan with modeling outputs, and air quality clearance—that last one is very difficult to obtain these days. So we often cannot do it. Later on in the season, when we're already stretched thin, we struggle to contain the bigger fires, and then those become more expensive and severe.

Are you saying that if we, as a state, were more thoughtful about how we dealt with fires at the start of the season, especially those that happen to fit within a given prescription, that we'd be making it easier for ourselves at the end of the year when there are fewer resources?

Yes, and I'm going to give you an example of what I'm talking about. Here's a scenario: There's a natural ignition from a lightning strike. We look at it and see that we already have a prescription to burn those 5,000 acres, so we examine the conditions, and we see that they're conducive to our prescribed burn. We're then able to go out, light a boundary, and

get that prescription done, actively burning it over the next day. That kind of burn costs \$50 per acre instead of \$1,000 an acre when it later burns because we couldn't stop it from doing so, and had to call in airplanes and set up camps to feed hundreds of firefighters.

Is it possible for us to start doing more prescribed burns?

Right now, suppression and prescription activities compete for the same resources—staff and time and money. We even raid the fire prevention and fuels treatment budgets to pay for suppression, but suppression is more expensive, and so over a period of years, this compounds the problem as our fuels surplus grows. Unfortunately, suppression is commonly understood as the “priority.”

Have we always suppressed fire in the West?

No—that is, if you looked at what was happening prior to about 150 years ago. Historically, the Willamette Valley was smoky every summer. It burned regularly, and the Bend/Sisters region even more so. Fire has been an important part, even a keystone process, in the evolution of our plant and animal systems in the forest. From an ecological perspective, it's been a mistake for us to suppress as much as we have.

The thing is, as much as we suppress, it's still going to burn. The evidence is already here: Right now we have an immense backlog of fuels, and even with more firefighting resources, even with more people on the ground, we haven't been able to stop them from burning. We need to be approaching this with the idea that ignitions are inevitable and can do “good” under a wide range of conditions, and we really do have choices about what we do once they happen.

2016 Starker Lecture Series — Burning Questions: People, Forests, and Fire

Over the past several years, the number and severity of wildfires in Oregon have increased. This trend is expected to continue as the Pacific Northwest becomes increasingly vulnerable to the effects of a changing climate including, decreased snowpack, higher temperatures and drought, and declining forest health. These environmental changes increase the risk of catastrophic wildfire impacting communities living in the wildland-urban interface. Wildfire was once considered to be a risk only for people living in rural areas; however it is quickly

becoming a reality for urban neighborhoods. Recent fires in Corvallis and Portland illustrate the need for rural and urban communities alike to adapt to the changing conditions of their environment in which they live.

This year's Starker Lectures, now available online, offer individuals, neighborhoods, and communities useful information and strategies for living in a changing environment. Links to the video archive, along with more information about the series, are here: <http://starkerlectures.forestry.oregonstate.edu>.



Lead Guitars

Workshops strike a chord with musical instrument manufacturers and tonewood suppliers

by Bryan Bernart

The choice of *tonewood*—woods with tonal, or musical, properties—used in stringed instruments can affect the sound and quality of the music. According to Pacific Rim Tonewoods, a Washington company located in the North Cascades, “tonewood is more than lumber: it’s wood carefully chosen for specific properties, milled to precise specifications and expertly treated so that the instruments built from this wood will look good, sound good, and endure.”

For guitarists in particular, who often perform solo or in smaller ensembles, having just the right instrument can be important for developing a distinctive sound. Guitars can be made from many different types of tonewood; some popular choices are alder, maple, rosewood, and ash. The choice of wood lends different traits not only to a guitar’s sound and appearance, but also to the way it feels and even smells. Depending on the quality and scarcity of the raw materials involved in production, the tonewood also influences a guitar’s price—whether under \$100 or well over \$1000. Regardless of the cost, however, guitars (and other instruments) often become priceless to their owners for a whole host of reasons. Some

even name them: Willie Nelson’s 1969 Martin N20 is called *Trigger*, after Roy Roger’s famous horse.

Both musicians and guitar makers, traditionally known as *luthiers*, often care about the genesis of their instruments—when they were made, where they were made, which wood was used in manufacture, and, increasingly, the sustainability of that wood. A desire to learn more about the latter prompted a representative from Taylor Guitars to introduce himself to Chris Knowles (WSE), at a conference several years ago. Taylor



Maple log from Pacific Rim Tonewoods, ready for use at Taylor Guitars (courtesy of Taylor Guitars).



Workshop participants at the OSU College of Forestry, with the Richardson Hall marquetry panels in the background (courtesy of Michael Dickinson, Martin Guitar, www.martinguitar.com).

Guitars is one of the major names in the guitar industry. Black Sabbath, Iron and Wine, and Jewel (not to mention Taylor Swift—no relation) have all played Taylor guitars on stage, and the company has produced quality instruments for more than four decades.

“I was in Washington, DC talking at a meeting for the Forest Legality Alliance when Charlie Redden, from Taylor Guitars, offered to take me to dinner so he could learn more about the possibility of earning a forestry degree,” says Knowles, who is an assistant professor of forest products marketing and the assistant director of the OSU Oregon Wood Innovation Center (OWIC).

As the two talked, Redden shared more about his motivation and goals. As it turns out, working for a major guitar company is “a bit like being under a microscope,” as Redden explained to Knowles. “They try so hard to ensure that their wood is ethically and legally sourced, and they also acknowledge that if they ever made a mistake in that respect, the public fallout would

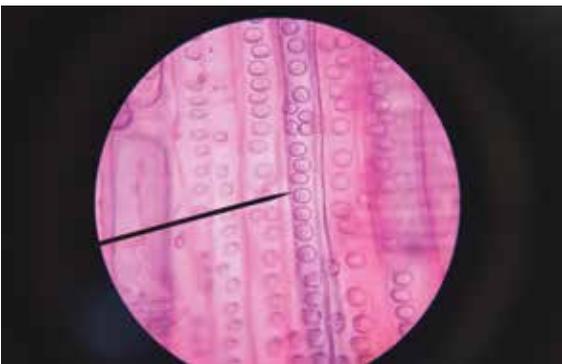
be calamitous,” Knowles says. “Their customers really care. People don’t want to play a guitar that contributed to the deforestation of a rainforest.”

Redden had hoped to study forestry in order to further his own knowledge of wood, as well as to contribute toward his company’s interest in forestry and its emphasis on sustainability—which was recognized by the US State Department in 2014, when Taylor Guitars was honored with the Award for Corporate Excellence for its commitment to responsible ebony-harvesting practices. Having seen firsthand the harsh realities of deforestation, Taylor has worked to improve the tonewood

industry, as well as to engage customers about sustainable harvesting. “It’s made our customers more consciously aware of the work that goes into being a compliant, fair, and highly ethical guitar builder,” Redden says.

As the Director of Supply Chain at Taylor Guitars, however, Redden is ultimately responsible for everything the company purchases, which means he’s constantly on the road. It quickly became clear it would not be practical for Redden to enroll at OSU. So, what to do? “I told him that we offer specialized education and outreach opportunities all the time, and that I thought we could do something to fit his needs that didn’t require going back to college, which was infeasible for him,” says Knowles.

Together, the duo put together a set of intensive workshops, not only for Redden, but for other manufacturers as well. Along with Taylor Guitars, attendees included representatives from another industry giant, C.F. Martin & Co. (Martin Guitar), and Pacific Rim Tonewoods, which supplies wood for guitar soundboards. Held at OSU and at Mississippi State University, the workshops covered a breadth of knowledge



From micro to macro: workshop participants had a chance to examine the cellular structure of tonewoods in the lab at MSU and to learn about silviculture, forest ecology, and operations in the field at OSU. (Left) radial view of Sitka spruce used in guitar soundboards; (right) Nick Colesanti from Martin Guitar measures the DBH of a tree in McDonald-Dunn Forest (courtesy of Eric Warner, Pacific Rim Tonewoods, <http://pacificrimtonewoods.com>).



Steps in the guitar making process (courtesy of Taylor Guitars, www.taylorguitars.com/).

about forestry, wood, and wood products. For the Corvallis iteration, Knowles and other OSU faculty, including John Bliss (FES), Kevin Boston (FERM), and John Sessions (FERM) lectured on topics ranging from “Wood and Civilization” to “Silviculture Basics” and “Forest Management and Wildlife.”



At MSU, participants got into more of the nitty-gritty, learning about wood anatomy and global trade in renewable materials, among other topics. Michael Dickinson, the Exotic and Sustainable Wood Buyer at Martin Guitar, who attended both workshops, says that he found MSU’s portion on the cellular structure of wood, and what happens to it during drying, to be the most interesting. “We’ve been in the guitar business for over 180 years, and many of our processes were based on knowledge passed down from generation to generation,” he says. “We now have the scientific data to back up what we are doing.”



Eric Warner, General Manager of Pacific Rim Tonewoods, agrees. “It was great to dig into the wood anatomy side of these workshops. At PRT we process the raw material a certain way to provide the best soundboard we possibly can. When you look at the cellular structure of wood it all starts to make sense why we do what we do.”



The workshops have also helped enhance communications. “Learning the basics of forestry management has helped us communicate and understand the work of our producer partners in the forest,” Redden says. “We now know more about the methods they use and are able to speak and understand their language.”

While there are no plans for an encore of the workshops, Knowles and Redden are working on condensing the workshop materials into a format that can reach wider audiences. “We’d like to make it so that others working in the field can benefit from this effort, too,” adds Knowles.



And that’s good news that should resonate with guitar makers, forest products suppliers—and current and future guitar pickers alike.



He Digs His Research

Ron Reuter is often knee deep in his work—which covers a lot of ground, from soils to water to juniper in central Oregon and beyond

by Bryan Bernart

You might say that as a child growing up in central New Jersey, surrounded by farmland, Ron Reuter (FES) got his first exposure to soils from watching his parents tend their garden. “Nothing beats Jersey tomatoes and corn,” he says. “My mom actually FedExed me a box of them once while I was working on my master’s in Idaho.”

Reuter dreamed of being a pilot, but took to the earth instead of the sky. “I applied and got into the ROTC, but couldn’t get a full ride scholarship, so I played soccer, instead, and had a great time,” he says. Studying at Penn State,

he eventually settled on environmental resource management after stints in both aerospace and civil engineering. After college, Reuter worked on the eastern shore of Maryland “putting bio-solids on farm fields” before landing an assistantship at the University of Idaho. He completed a master’s studying how water moves through landscapes in the Palouse, then a PhD at the University of Minnesota studying upland and wetland continuums in the landscape. While by this point, he’d lived in many different regions of the country, Reuter always knew he wanted to end up in the West—and in 2003, he did.

Now, as an associate professor of natural resources at OSU Cascades, Reuter's passion for research covers lots of ground. His varied interests and general inquisitiveness have led him to study everything from juniper mitigation on rangelands to wetland systems in the high desert. Water use (a topic that's central to eastern Oregon land management policy) is impacted by what's happening in the ground. "Because we have such porous rock, rain and snow work their way down into the ground water, which is how the Deschutes is recharged, Reuter says. "As long as the quantity of precipitation is basically the same, that system does all right. However, our reservoirs are surface driven, and are now, especially during El Niño years, relying on recharge later and later in the season from snowpack melt." He notes that the watermaster is particularly concerned with filling the reservoir up to capacity to cover water releases. "The snow pack last year was non-existent. This of course creates problems," he says.

Much of Reuter's research is on soils, which he terms "an overlooked system." However, the soils of eastern Oregon's Upper Deschutes Basin "are honestly a little boring," Reuter explains. "They're heavily influenced by the eruption of Mt. Mazama, which was only 7,000 years ago, and so we see a lot of volcanic ash deposition and not a lot of soil development or diversity in the region. Over the last few years, I began actively seeking out places where more complex soils systems and problems existed and where I could apply more of my knowledge." Reuter first found opportunities to work internationally in Canada, where he went for two weeks on an International Canadian Studies Fellowship, and shortly thereafter in Abu Dhabi, where he presented a project on vernal pools. "It got me thinking that I really could go and do some soils work in other countries."

Later, he and colleagues in Corvallis attended a Global Learning in Communities workshop, where they learned about developing elements of internationalization or globalization into their courses. On a trip to Costa Rica, he discovered a fascinating landscape, full of challenging problems, including deforestation and fractured habitats. Subsequently, he designed a hybrid course, Current Issues in Natural Resources (FES365), around a group trip there, taking place at the end of the term in which it's offered.

"This year went really well," he says. "We had 11 students and traveled from the Caribbean side, where we looked at banana plantations, all the way to Monteverde, which is at the cloud forest level and close to the coffee belt, as well as many places in between."



At one point, while checking out restored forests on reclaimed pastures, he and the students dug a soil pit and found almost a meter of rich, dark soil. Their guide then offered to take them to a similarly fertile site nearby. Characteristically, Reuter declined. "I said, 'show me a place with poor productivity,' and sure enough, up the slope, we encountered light brown soil followed by clay, six inches down, which is obviously something that we should address," he says. "I'm interested in challenges."



Ronald Reuter, Associate Professor of Natural Resources (FES), (left) in a soil pit on a restored pasture in Monteverde, Costa Rica (left) and (top) at OSU Cascades (by Bryan Bernart); and with a friendly walking stick insect at the Tamarindo RAMSAR Mangrove in Playa Grande, Costa Rica (by Lisa Seales).



PhD with a Purpose

Marcia Vasquez-Sandoval returns from Chile for a second graduate degree

by *Bryan Bernart*

For Marcia Vasquez-Sandoval, involvement in the wood products industry is kind of a family tradition. Her father worked in the pulp and paper industry, and growing up in Concepción, Chile, her family hosted students from Honduras who were studying wood engineering. As a young student, she completed her bachelor's degree at the University of Bío-Bío, renowned for its commitment to preparing professionals to enter the wood products industry for over 50 years. "When I was in high school, I didn't know what I wanted to study," she explains. "At that time, my understanding revolved around the idea that wood produced paper. Of course, when I got to college and learned more about its different properties, it was completely fascinating to me."

Her first year at Bío-Bío was also the first year of its rigorous new program revolving around civil engineering in the forest industry. "At the end of our first year, we had to decide whether we would continue on to become wood engineers, which meant completing a four-year program, or civil engineers, which was a six-year program, and I chose the latter."

Her decision, taking a risk, and a longer path through school, paid off. When the University of Talca was looking for professional faculty, Vasquez-Sandoval was hired, amid heavy competition. As happy as she was in her new faculty role, Vasquez-Sandoval had always planned to continue her education. She received a Fulbright-LASPAU to enter the OSU Forest Products master's program in the mid-1990s. When she arrived, Vasquez-Sandoval immediately fell in love with Corvallis. "It's a very safe place, and such a green place," she says. "It reminds me of somewhere that we go in Chile called Pucón, which is actually a vacation town."

When she left OSU and returned to Chile after earning her MS degree in 1997, Vasquez-Sandoval did not expect to be back to complete another degree eighteen years later. "Once I had my master's, initially, I thought 'this is enough,'" she says, in her characteristically soft voice. "My perspective was that I had a degree that I could use to work through my entire professional life."

While that is certainly true for some, it was not the case for Vasquez-Sandoval. In Chile, she

explains, policy heavily encourages scientists to also earn their doctorates—in fact without one, it's impossible to apply for a research grant. Because she yearned to pioneer new research, Vasquez-Sandoval had to earn her PhD. In the late 2000s, she made up her mind to return to the College of Forestry to study poplar, which she'd always been keen on. "The first time I applied for the scholarship that would let me come back to OSU, I didn't get it," she says. No stranger to beating the odds, she applied again the next year. "There was actually an age limit on it the first time. The second time, they lifted the limit, and I got in."

However, between applying for the scholarship the first time and applying for and receiving it the second time, tragedy struck. Vasquez-Sandoval's teenage son, Rodrigo, who was born in Corvallis in 1996, passed away suddenly in 2010. "Rodrigo was always interested in environmental issues—he was a Boy Scout, and he explored everything related to nature," she says. Typical of teenagers, Rodrigo was sometimes critical of her, saying that her work, in forest products, was damaging the environment. "I told him that, no, we were working to conserve it," she says, then pauses for a moment. "My research is in some ways an extension of him ... of his love of the outdoors."

Vasquez-Sandoval returned to OSU with the support of the Advanced Human Capital of CONICYT-Government of Chile scholarship. Her doctoral research at OSU, under the direction of Professor Michael Milota (WSE), explored how some species of poplar are capable of growing in even highly contaminated soils. "Poplar is very adaptable, and can do things that other trees cannot. It can even grow using water taken from wastewater treatment plants and landfill leachate," she says. "In the future, given climate change, water will be an even more precious resource. It's advantageous for us if we can use water that no one wants for other purposes."

Vasquez-Sandoval completed her doctorate in Wood Science and Engineering on life-cycle assessment of poplar biomass production in the spring of 2015. After graduation, she and her younger son, Pablo, returned to Chile, where she continues to teach, as part of the Departamento de Gestion Forestal Ambiental Facultad de Ciencias Forestales Universidad de Talca-Chile.

"When you suffer a loss, you either go down... or you change your life," she says. "In some ways, I changed mine—because afterward, I created an opportunity for myself where I could teach young professionals new, environmentally friendly ideas."



Her son, Pablo, who is now nearly college-aged, is already planning to come back to the United States. "He wants to be a video game designer," she says. "I told him that he should make a career that doesn't feel like work, because that's the way I feel. I love what I do, and all of the challenges. Every day is exciting and different."

"Life Cycle Assessment of Biomass for Generation of Energy: Case Studies of Poplar Management in the Pacific Northwest of the U.S.A.," by Marcia Vasquez-Sandoval, is available online at <http://hdl.handle.net/1957/56471>.



Photos (clockwise from left page) Marcia Vasquez-Sandoval at OSU (by Bryan Bernart) and during a poplar field trip in September 2013 (by Conrad Tull); Vasquez-Sandoval's sons, Rodrigo (left) and Pablo, on Chiloe Island, in 2009. The island in the archipelago off the coast of Chile is home to a UNESCO World Heritage site known for its centuries-old wooden ecclesiastical architecture.



Forestry Regeneration

It's the end of an era, as we say goodbye, for now, to Peavy Hall

by Bryan Bernart



For nearly 100 years, forestry students roamed the halls of first Moreland and later Peavy, with the hopes of leaving the university to make a positive impact in their respective fields. Through the years, the two buildings produced over 8,300 forestry alumni and countless memories. In July of 2016, however, “old” Peavy Hall will be demolished to make way for a brand new forestry building, bringing its useful lifespan to a close.

The original forestry building, Moreland Hall, was constructed on the corner of 26th Street and Jefferson Way in 1917. A handsome brick building three stories tall, with over 25,000 square feet of space, it was the home of the School of Forestry

for more than half a century. However, by the 1960s, the program had begun to outgrow its old digs. Facing a burgeoning generation of baby boomers, planning began for a new building that would carry the school into the next millennium.

A headline from the January 1969 *Oregon State Forester* (the precursor to *Focus*) reads “School Celebrates Centennial With New Building.” Architects Hamlin, Martin, and Schultz, of Eugene, Oregon, designed Peavy Hall on an original budget of \$2,365,000 with plans that called for (notably) 16 “railroad carloads” of lumber and 8 of plywood. When the project went over due to what the *Forester* calls “spiraling inflation in the building industry,” Mr. and Mrs. L.L. Stewart





(above) Peavy Courtyard through a fish-eye lens, taken ahead of the Peavy Hall dedication ceremony held on Fernhopper Day, February 19, 1972 (photo from the Oregon State Forester). Contemporary photos of Peavy taken in October 2015 by Bryan Bernart.

gifted the school with the funds to complete construction of Peavy Hall.

The dedication ceremony for the new building, intended as “an outstanding example of attractive design in wood and a credit to the forestry profession,” was held on Fernhopper Day, February 19th, 1972. Peavy Hall is, of course, named for George W. Peavy, who became the first-ever dean of the School of Forestry in 1913 and later served as both the president of Oregon State College and the mayor of Corvallis.

In photos taken prior to the dedication, perhaps most striking are the tiny seedlings surrounding the brand-new courtyard, with



its freshly painted railings gleaming in the sun. Forty-four years later, those railings are starting to antique, peppered with spots, dings, and a little rust. The courtyard vegetation and the landscape around the building have aged too, but in a way familiar to foresters: the trees now tower above Peavy’s copper-trimmed roofline. Fittingly, wood from trees that cannot be saved during construction of the new building will be incorporated into the new building as walls, furniture, and other components.

Construction will begin on the new Peavy Hall in July 2016. Look for more details in the fall 2016 *Focus* and follow the construction process at www.forestry.oregonstate.edu.



College of Forestry News and Awards

CoF Outstanding Alumni Awards



Rich Winger

Rich Winger received a Bachelor of Science in Forest Engineering from Oregon State University in 1979 and a Master's in Business Administration from Dartmouth College in 1986. Rich began his career with Weyerhaeuser as a business analyst in Federal Way in 1986. Winger was appointed Vice President of Western Timberlands for Weyerhaeuser in 2005 after a career that included positions such as the Director of Marketing, Director of Operations, and Timberland Manager. In 2008

his responsibility was expanded to include Canadian Timberlands. In 2014, he led consolidation and re-organization of many of the Timberlands support functions. Winger has continued his relationship with the College of Forestry, serving on the Forestry Education Council, supporting the Student Logging Crew in replacing their worn out log skidder, and supporting activities such as forestry field tours, providing Weyerhaeuser staff for guest lectures, and hiring our students. Winger retired earlier this year to Bend, Oregon in 2015, where he is now "living the dream."



Milan Vatovec

Dr. Milan Vatovec graduated from Oregon State University with his PhD in Wood Science/Civil Engineering in 1995. He is a Senior Principal at Simpson, Gumpertz & Heger Inc. and serves as Head of Structural Engineering Practice at the firm's New York office. In his 19 years at SGH, he has been involved with numerous design, investigation, forensic analysis, repair and rehabilitation, and research projects. He has worked on more than 400 different projects involving evaluation and structural design

for repair or modification of various existing wood, concrete, and steel structures in the United States. Dr. Vatovec is a contributing member of the Wood Committee at ASCE/SEI and of the ACI Committee 440 on Fiber Reinforced Polymer Reinforcement. He is actively involved in the concrete-repair industry and has helped develop the document "Guide for the Design and Construction of Externally Bonded FRP Systems for Strengthening of Concrete Structures." Dr. Vatovec has written and presented extensively in the United States, including an award-winning paper on the topic of structural evaluation and concrete strengthening of an existing garage. As an adjunct professor, Dr. Vatovec currently teaches two graduate-level classes at Manhattan College: a structural renovation, repair and rehabilitation class and a wood structures design class.



Alejandro Velázquez

Dr. Alejandro Velázquez received his BSc degree in 1978 from the University Autónoma Chapingo, the oldest school of forestry in México, his Master of Science from Colegio de Postgraduados in 1984, and his PhD in Forest Science from Oregon State University in 1990. He is a full professor in the Department of Forest Sciences at the Colegio de Postgraduados and part-time professor at the University of Chapingo. He currently serves as Director of the Forestry Program, Director for Research and

Development, Administrative Director of the Colegio, and Director of the Institute of Natural Resources. He has authored and co-authored more than 81 scientific papers in national and international journals and is on the editorial councils of several Mexican journals. He is a member of the National Academy of Forest Science, serving as president from 2003 to 2009. He also is founding member and president of The Mexican Society of Forest Resources. He has been elected as a fellow of the Mexican Engineer Academy, the Honor Society of Forestry, and the Honor Society of Agriculture. He was awarded the "José Antonio Alzate" prize in 1998 by the government of Mexico State, which recognized his "outstanding contributions to forestry and forest sciences in the central part of Mexico."

Allyn Ford recognized with OSUAA Honorary Alumni Award

Every year, the OSU Alumni Association (OSUAA) honors someone who is not an OSU graduate, but who has distinguished himself or herself through tremendous service to the University. Allyn Ford has been named this year's recipient of the OSUAA Joan Ann Austin Honorary Alumni Award, which recognizes those who have contributed greatly to OSU and the Alumni Association. Ford was nominated by Dean Thomas Maness of the College of Forestry, where he has become an advocate for the Oregon Forest Science Complex and a member of the Forestry Board of Visitors. The award will be conferred at a ceremony in late April at the CH2M Hill Alumni Center.

Steve Tesch receives National SAF Award

Steve Tesch was honored with the Carl Alwin Schenck Award by the Society of American Foresters (SAF) at the national convention in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the field of forestry education. After receiving his PhD in 1981, Tesch worked to develop and implement the Forestry Intensified Research (FIR) Program. He began teaching forest measurements and advanced silviculture at OSU in 1992 and was later recognized with the Aufderheide Award for Teaching Excellence. In 1996, he became the department head of Forest Engineering, where he developed an advisory committee of employers and alums to help maintain a curriculum that met employer needs as the profession evolved. He also assisted the dean's office with SAF and ABET accreditation site visits in 2008 and 2011 and encouraged OSU's engagement in discussions about broadening SAF accreditation to include natural resources programs and others associated with terrestrial ecosystems. Since 2013, Tesch has been the director of research for the College. Beyond helping guide more than \$20 million in research expenditures each year, he helps young faculty get off to a strong start in research, encourages the involvement of undergraduates in research, and works to expand research and international opportunities for graduate students.

Jim Rivers named Fellow of American Ornithologists' Union

At the 133rd stated meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) in Norman, Oklahoma, the society welcomed 15 new Fellows, including FES assistant professor James Rivers. Fellows are selected by their peers for their outstanding contributions to the field of ornithology, the advancement of scientific understanding of birds, and the promotion of a rigorous scientific basis for their conservation. AOU was founded in 1883 out of concern for bird conservation and interest in developing the field of ornithology in North America. Early efforts led to formation of the National Audubon Society and the Biological Survey (now the US Fish and Wildlife Service). Today, AOU is the largest ornithological society in the Western Hemisphere and one of the oldest organizations in the world devoted to the scientific study and conservation of birds.



Soil Science Society Honors Jim Boyle

Jim Boyle, Professor Emeritus (FERM) was designated the Sergei A. Wilde Distinguished Lecturer by Soil Science Society of America colleagues for the annual meetings in November. Boyle, a 50-year member, is a Fellow of the Soil Science Society. He has researched forest soil-environment interactions related to sustaining forest productivity. Recently, along with Jeff Hatten (FERM) and colleagues from Denmark and the University of Washington, he co-authored "Carbon storage and nutrient mobilization from soil minerals by deep roots and rhizospheres" in press for the international journal *Forest Ecology and Management*.

Randi Shaw receives OSU's Frances Dancy Hooks Award

Randi Shaw (FES) was honored with the OSU Frances Dancy Hooks Award at the MLK Peace Breakfast in January. The award, presented by OSU President Ed Ray, recognizes students, staff, or faculty for their leadership abilities related to diversity. Shaw is the co-founder of the Diverse Perspectives in Forestry Group, an informal forum open to students, faculty, and staff, for learning about, discussing, and supporting efforts for diverse viewpoints in the College and beyond. The group recently created a video featuring 26 people in the College discussing topics in diversity, online at www.youtube.com/watch?v=FRnTDrn2vNm.

