

MINNESOTA Forest Scene



Spring 2009 — Issue 2

Leading the way with education, research and outreach

Welcome to the Forest Scene Second Edition

The first edition of the student produced annual for the department was the 1921 *Gopher Peavey*. I know the *Forest Scene* has a way to go to match that run, but it feels great to connect a second time. This past year has been one of important progress in the areas of undergraduate recruiting efforts, enhancing instruction, and research in new areas.



To help our students with the rising cost of education, **the Department has been able to provide scholarship awards to all newly admitted students and two thirds of the continuing undergraduates this past year,**

with the College and University adding significantly to these awards. My special thanks to our generous donors and the Scholarship Committee led by Professor Charlie Blinn.

Our faculty also set a new record for itself with the number of scientific journal articles published in the past year. More important than the number is that the knowledge produced is being extended to individuals and organizations who will put it to good use.

The faculty has also been expanding into new areas, including the front and center subject of renewable energy. Assistant Professor Dennis Becker, F.B. Hubachek, Sr., Chair and Regents Professor Peter Reich, and Research Associate Dean Current have led faculty teams in developing much needed information on woody biomass supplies statewide, best harvesting practices, and carbon flows, including sequestration. You can learn more about these topics and others in Staff Papers on our website www.forestry.umn.edu by following the publications link.

Thank you for your continued support, and enjoy the second edition of the *Forest Scene*!

Alan Ek
Professor & Head, Forest Resources

100 Years at the Cloquet Forestry Center

In 1909, William Howard Taft became the 27th president of the United States, construction began on the Titanic, and the first US airplane sold commercially for \$5,000. Also in 1909, the Cloquet Forestry Center of the University of Minnesota was established. This summer, from July 20-25, 2009, the Center will hold a weeklong celebration of its Centennial anniversary.

With its 100 year history, the Cloquet Forestry Center is the longest continuously operating forestry field station of its kind in the United States. Over these years, the Center has been a site for research, education, and outreach. Collegiate instruction began with the first field class in the fall of 1912, and additional field training courses were transferred to Cloquet in 1927 and 2003.



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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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Research at the Center began in 1911, making it the second oldest experimental forest operated by a University in the United States. Early research focused on how to grow tree seedlings for artificially regenerating wild lands. Today's



research provides long-term and controlled studies that benefit Minnesota's 16.3 million acres of public and private forest land, and incorporates fields such as ecology, forest management, silviculture, policy, economics, wildlife, recreation and watershed management, genetics, entomology, pathology, measurements, and harvesting and utilization.

Ron Severs, Director of Operations and Senior Scientist at the Center,

attributes the Center's success to support from both the University as well as from the public. He also notes,

"The Cloquet Center's success as a research facility is directly related to the world class quality of the University researchers who come to the center to conduct experiments."



The Center is not stopping at 100 and will continue its mission of education, research, and outreach. Severs says, "I believe that in the future, the Cloquet Forestry Center will become even more valuable to the University and the state as social and commodity demands on our natural resources increase."



The Cloquet Center Celebration

The celebration of the Center's 100 year anniversary will take place this summer from **July 20-25, 2009**. The week will include an open house, kids' activities, opportunities to learn about current research, workshops, class reunions, and a final celebration on the last day, Saturday, July 25.

Everyone is invited to attend on the last day, Saturday July 25!" Severs says, "Anyone that has an interest in the management of natural resources will find attending the centennial celebration an informative and worthwhile experience."

More information about the Cloquet Forestry Center or its centennial celebration is available online at cfc.cfans.umn.edu

On the Trail to Common Goals

Recreational trail users are a wide and varied group. They enjoy different activities, on different trails, for different reasons, and have different expectations of what they would like to get from their trail experiences. But recreational trail users all share a common goal to get outside and have a good time!

One of a Kind Study

This spring, results from a study conducted by the University of Minnesota in collaboration with the Minnesota Recreational Trail Users Association (MRTUA) and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will provide unique information to make this common goal more attainable. A study of ten trail user groups (all terrain vehicle riding, mountain and non-mountain biking, cross-country skiing, 4x4 off road driving, horseback riding, inline skating, off-highway motorcycling, snowmobiling, running/jogging outdoors, and walking/hiking outdoors) will provide information on both the economic impact of these groups as well as gaining information on trail user experiences across the state of Minnesota.

Ingrid Schneider, professor in the Department of Forest Resources and director of the Tourism Center, says,

“This is a very ambitious project that has never been pursued in this state or any other that we are aware of – for good reason, because it is very complex.”

The study is unique because it simultaneously surveyed all the groups MRTUA represents to yield results from the same year with the same methodology on a statewide scale.

Fit for Use

Information gained on the experiences of trail users will increase understanding of what trail related conflicts are occurring, how people are responding, as well as their travel patterns. “There are significant opportunities for recreation managers and planners to understand why or why not our diversified population is participating in these outdoor activities,” Schneider says.

From this study, MRTUA will be better able to advocate for the trail users they represent, and the Minnesota DNR will be able to more effectively manage trails to minimize conflicts between users. Both the DNR and MRTUA will benefit from understanding the economic impact of the breadth of trail users. Groups such as county and regional park systems can apply the information toward more effective planning and management of their trails as well.

“We are working really hard with MRTUA to present the information in ways that are accessible, usable, and understandable,”

says Schneider. “All sorts of recreation planners and the legislature can certainly use this as they think about future facilities or trail attributes.”



Beyond explicit uses for the results of this recreational trail user study, such a wide scale and inclusive project will likely have unforeseen impacts. Professor Schneider adds, “There is so much stereotyping or bias that people have about a particular activity. Hopefully this will bring them to some sort of common ground.”

Learn more with the University’s Tourism Center at www.tourism.umn.edu

Student Spotlight



Emma Schultz, is the type of student who can succeed at anything she sets her mind to. Previously a theater major, Schultz is a soon to be graduate of the Forest Resources major in the Conservation and Ecosystem Management track with a minor in French. Her success in school is all the more noteworthy because of her steady involvement in numerous activities, club efforts, and community engagement.

Schultz first started studying at the University of Minnesota-Duluth in the Bachelor of Fine Arts Theater program. She then transferred to the University's theater program in the Twin Cities but soon decided that was not for her. After printing out information on a variety of majors, she put her options on the floor and chose one. "I can't say I'd ever heard of forestry before. I didn't really know it existed," she says.

Lack of previous knowledge has not held her back, though. Schultz has maintained an impressive classroom record while also serving as the president of the Forestry Club, treasurer of the Society of American Foresters chapter on campus, the assistant forester of the forestry honors society, Xi Sigma Pi, along with other activities.

After summer, Schultz will be moving across country to pursue a graduate degree at the University of Maine. "I will have a split assistantship. I get to TA for the silviculture course in the fall and then research in the spring and summer," says Schultz. "I finally had a door open to me. I finally achieved something that I wanted to get; the opportunity to keep studying with faculty who are highly regarded within the scientific community."

When asked what she will miss most after graduation, Schultz said, "I will miss the close-knit community that welcomed me from the moment I became a part of it. I've appreciated that most of all."

Where Are They Now?

Karl Mueller, a 2005 graduate with a B.S. in Urban and Community Forestry and a Forest Resource minor, is now working as an arborist for the City of St. Paul, Department of Parks and Recreation. Mueller had hoped for such a position throughout college, and after seasonal work, an internship as a tree inspector and work with a private tree company, Mueller got a call from St. Paul with an open position which he gladly accepted.



One of Mueller's favorite memories of campus is giving his statistics professor some basketball pointers on the court. "I don't know if it helped my grade, but it gave me a different perspective of student/professor relations, understanding that as individuals we excel in different areas. He was a good statistics instructor but needed help on the basketball court."

Mueller's advice to current and future students is to "develop good communication skills. You can get straight A's and have an impressive resume, but if you have difficulty communicating with others, all of that knowledge is squandered."

In personal news, Karl and his wife, Anna, have been married for almost four years and are now proud parents of 8-month old Evelyn Maureen.

ALUMNI NEWS

Matthew Pelkki — (MS, 1988; PhD, 1992) is currently a professor at the University of Arkansas at Monticello and holds the George Clippert Endowed Chair of Forest Economics, Management, and Policy. He was recently honored as the Arkansas Forestry Association's "Communicator of the Year."

Nadine Lehrer — (PhD, 2008) has been working since May 2008 as a post-doc at the Washington State University Tree Fruit Research and Extension Center in Wenatchee, WA on a project of pesticide reduction in apple orchards.

Tom Mainwaring — (BS, 1966) retired from the Forest Service in January 2009 with 38 years of federal service. He currently works as a contractor for the Forest Service half time doing sales and marketing for the TEAMS Enterprise unit. "What an adventure," he says.



Ron Lanner — (PhD, 1968) retired in 1995 after teaching at Utah State University. Over the years he has taught, done research, and written half a dozen popular books on trees; the latest of which is "The Bristlecone Book — A Natural History of the World's Oldest Trees".

Tony Cheng — (MS, 1993) is now a professor in the Department of Forest, Rangeland, & Watershed Stewardship and director of the Colorado Forest Restoration Institute at Colorado State University.

Troy Holcomb — (BS, 2008) started with the MNDNR Division of Forestry in September as a Forester. He has spent most of his time since then cruising timber, working on reinventory, and enjoying being in the woods!

Kilgore Chairs Council for Conservation

- Last November, Minnesota voters passed the amendment which created the Outdoor Heritage Fund and put dedicated funding toward the restoration, protection, and enhancement of wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife. The Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council will be in charge of making recommendation so the state legislature for how this funding will be used.

- The department is proud to have **Associate Professor Mike Kilgore** as chair of the 12-member legislative-citizens council that will have a significant role in shaping conservation and natural resource management in Minnesota.

- "I feel honored," said Kilgore of his appointment to the council and election as chair. "We all have a lot of things that we can pick and choose to do in our areas of teaching, research, and service as faculty. In the area of service, this is one of the highest priority things that I can think of in service to the state of Minnesota."

- An expert in the field of natural resource economics and policy, Kilgore will apply his knowledge and experience to provide an effective and fair process with science as the main driver for conservation. "I think it's exactly the role that a University faculty member can play. We are advocates for good information and science," says Kilgore. "My goal is to get this process out on the right foot and moving down the track in the right direction"



Epic Forests and World Travels

Since 1945, a mural depicting the "Epic of Minnesota's Great Forests" has caught the eye of all who walk by it in Green Hall. This mural spans ten feet high and forty-five feet long and was painted by **Hazel Stoeckler** as her thesis project for her Master of Arts here at the University.

The mural captures the history of Minnesota forests, from the legend of Paul Bunyan and Babe the blue ox to the beginnings of the USDA Forest Service. Stoeckler explored mural art with a summer of study in Mexico and gathered images from

a summer of sketching and painting in Minnesota's north woods. These experiences compiled with extensive research formed her idea for the mural.

Stoeckler, who is an associate professor emeriti from Design at the University of Minnesota, has recently published a book titled *Porthole Views of the World*. The book is a compilation of postcard-sized watercolors that Hazel kept as a visual diary during her sixty plus years of traveling the globe.

The watercolors are accompanied by poems from Elizabeth Weber that bring further depth to the images. The book gives glimpses into locations around the world such as Dakar in West Africa, Easter Island, Elephant Island in the Antarctic, and closer to home on Lake Superior in Minnesota.



College of Food, Agricultural
and Natural Resource Sciences

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We want to hear from you!

Please send news, stories or comments
that you would like to share to:

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Upcoming Events

- **Spring Trunk Show: Art of the Tree**
- **Kevin Oshima Bonsai Display.**
Both shows run April 10 – May 3, 2009
The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum
Free with general admission.
Visit www.arboretum.umn.edu for more information.
- **Spring Plants in the Big Woods**
May 16, 2009, 9 a.m. to noon
Nerstrand Big Woods State Park, Northfield
\$10/\$8 museum members; registration is required.
Visit www.bellmuseum.org for more information.
- **Cloquet Forestry Center Centennial Celebration**
July 20 – 25, 2009
Cloquet, Minnesota
The weeklong celebration culminates at the CFANS Alumni & Friends Day on Saturday, July 25, 2009.
Visit cfc.cfans.umn.edu for more information.