



Branching Out

University of Maine School of Forest Resources Newsletter

Summer 2014

Director's Welcome



Graduation is now a memory and everyone is busy with field season research, enjoying what Maine has to offer in the summer.

The Forestry summer camp received a facelift this year. Dr. Jeffrey Benjamin led 20 students through a three-week experience. By all accounts, the highlight was the week spent at Comstock logging camp – two hours in from Millinocket on

the Golden Road. Thanks are in order to all the companies, faculty, and foresters who donated their time and resources to this important learning activity!

It is with pride that we can share that the University of Maine has defined “Forestry and the Environment” as one of seven signature areas. This recognizes the strengths and importance of the School of Forest Resources in providing trained professionals, conducting relevant research, and disseminating information to everyone with an interest in the Maine Woods.

Speaking of the Maine Woods – many of you will be interested in learning about the book Professor Al White wrote on that subject. Also in the Newsletter is a synopsis of how SFR and Professor Bob Wagner are involved with anticipating the return of spruce budworms – which are rearing their heads again on the borders of Maine.

It has been wonderful to have contact from alumni, including a note and picture from Al Clements, Class of '44, about a visit to the Kenduskeag pine in 1942 (only 72 years ago!) Kenneth Murray, Class of '68, stopped by the SFR office in June during a visit to campus. Pictures and notes about those events and many other items can be found on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/theschoolofforestresources>).

It is with great sadness that I share that Dr. Fred Knight passed away this spring. There has been an outpouring of support for his legacy in the form of donations to the Fred & Jane Knight Forestry Scholarship fund. Dr. Knight made a tremendous impact on the lives of so many people during his leadership here.

In closing, let me quote Frank Sinatra – “It was a very good year.” We are all looking forward to new students and opportunities that will be on our doorstep in the blink of an eye. Hoping every one of you enjoys your opportunities, also.

Sincerely,

Dr. Stephen Shaler
Director & Professor
School of Forest Resources



Distinguished Alum & SFR Awards

The School of Forest Resources is pleased to recognize Richard “Carbo” G. Carbonetti (pictured above) as the 2014 Distinguished Alumnus at the the SFR Awards and Scholarship Luncheon held in April.

Carbo graduated from the University of Maine with a B.S. in Forestry in 1977. After serving as the Student Chapter president and simultaneously achieving his Maine Forester license he became a member of the Forestry Honor Society, Xi Sigma Pi, and served as Forester of the Gamma Chapter at the University of Maine.

Following graduation, Carbo moved to North Troy, VT to begin his forestry career. Since then he has owned a successful forestry consulting firm, served two tenures on the Northern Forest Lands Council, and served as a Vermont Regional Forester. Currently, he serves as Vice-President, Timberland Division at LandVest. During his distinguished forestry career of more than 30 years, he has represented UMaine’s Forestry Program with the highest professional standards. Carbo exemplifies what graduating students from the School of Forest Resources can aspire to achieve in their careers.

The Scholarship Luncheon also included over \$16 million in endowments, 60 named funds, consisted of over \$300,000 in scholarship funds, and impacted more than 70 students.

For more information about our distinguished Alumni please visit our website.

forest.umaine.edu



International Student Focus



Each year, the School of Forest Resources is home to international students.

In 2011, Hongchao Zhan and Yilan Liu made their trip together from Hunan, China. Both were studying tourism in China when they began researching schools where they could study abroad.

Hongchao and Yilan had different reasons for choosing the University of Maine. Hongchao gave several reasons why Maine stood out to him, “Maine is famous for recreation and provides a lot of recreation-related job opportunities after graduation.” The location also made an impression: “Maine is located on the East Coast, this made it very convenient to visit cities and other states and Maine always has the lowest crime rate in the country; it is a great place for international students.”

Yilan had heard about the University of Maine from a friend, Yurui Zhen, from Forest Bioproducts Research Institute. Once Yilan heard about the Parks, Recreation, and Tourism major she knew she wanted to come to Maine.

Both students are heading back to China for the summer. Yilan will be returning to the University of Maine in September to study for her Master’s in Economics. Honchao also plans to return to the United States to continue his education.

In Memoriam

Dr. Fred B. Knight, Class of 1949

Dr. Fred B. Knight served as Dean of the School of Forest Resources for 18 years. He had received a B.S. in Forestry from the University of Maine in 1949. He continued his education, earning a Master’s and Doctorate from Duke University. After graduation he spent 10 years with the Forest Service before returning to act as Dean of the School of Forest Resources at the University of Maine in 1972.

Dr. Knight was an accomplished educator and will be missed.

Spotlight



In December, the School of Forest Resources welcomed Shannon Field as a new member to its administrative team.

Before working for the University of Maine, Shannon was a Campus Administrator and Student Services Advisor for Northeast Technical Institute, where she advised 30-40 students who were completing certifications in Medical Administration, Medical Assisting, Billing & Coding, Phlebotomy, CDL, and HVAC/R.

A Maine native, Shannon is active in the Volunteer ME community, and is empowered by her volunteer efforts as the Komen Maine Affiliate Education Chair and as a Maine Troop Greeter. She is an avid reader, animal lover, and aquaphile.

She earned her B.A. in English from the University of Maine in 2011 and hopes to continue her education in social work and higher education.

Faculty Spotlight



Rob Lillieholm with Dickson Kaelo & Gladys Warigia from the Kenya Wildlife Conservation Association

Professor Rob Lillieholm gave an invited lecture at the University of Nairobi in Kenya on his work in modeling alternative future development scenarios for Nairobi National Park. While in Kenya, Lillieholm met with Deputy Park Warden M. Githinji from the Kenya Wildlife Service and Dickson Kaelo and Gladys Warigia from the Kenya Wildlife Conservation Association.

Using mapping and a concept known as alternative futures modeling, Lillieholm’s research in Kenya will show people at local and regional levels that the land-use decisions they make today could have far-reaching impacts in the future.



MAINE FUTURES COMMUNITY MAPPER

A team lead by graduate student Spencer Meyer has developed and launched the Maine Futures Community Mapper, an online spatial planning tool that allows communities and land trusts to identify areas that are well-suited for development but do not impact regionally significant conservation or natural resources assets.

The website provides users with maps of high-value conservation, economic, and natural resource assets and the potential opportunities and conflicts. This mapping component allows stakeholders to make informed land use decisions that can facilitate both economic development and conservation in Maine.

The project has just launched and is receiving feedback from stakeholders before it is used more widely. In May, Spencer won the President's Research Impact Award and a UMaine Innovation Award for the development and presentation of this project.

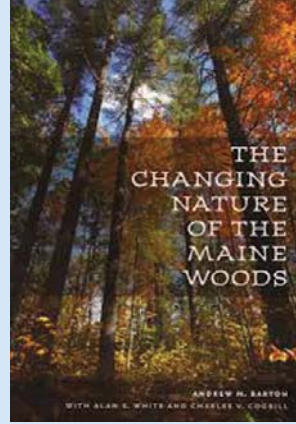
Student Awards

Matthew Scaccia, M.S. Graduate Student in the School of Forest Resources, has been awarded a scholarship by the Society of Outdoor Recreation Professional. Matt was the only person to be awarded this scholarship from a school in New England for this national conference.

Esra Erbas Kiziltas, Ph.D. candidate in the School of Forest Resources, has been awarded one of the most important and prestigious awards in the polymer composites field. She won 3rd place in the 2014 Society of Plastic Engineers-Polymer Modifiers and Additives Division (PMAD) challenge competition.

Alper Kiziltas, a doctoral student in the School of Forest Resources, was named by the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE) the recipient of the 2013–2014 PerkinElmer Graduate Scholarship. The scholarship is dedicated to the promotion and dissemination of information on the science, engineering fundamentals and applications of advanced polymer composite materials.

The Changing Nature of Maine's Woods



Alan White, Professor of Forest Ecology in the School of Forest Resources has co-authored an award-winning book titled *The Changing Nature of the Maine Woods*.

White grew up in the heavily forested mountains of western Maine. His experience there contributed to his fascination with

the history and future of Maine's forests. His personal goal for the book was to make the information interesting to any reader. How did he and the other authors accomplish this? White explains, "We included a lot of stories that were passed down by people who spent time in the forest. We recognized that these personal stories address the broad interest in Maine's woods and make the book accessible to all readers."

White was part of a team that included: Andrew Barton, Professor of Biology at University of Maine at Farmington, and Charles Cogbill, a historical ecologist from Vermont. Working chapter by chapter each author brought their own expertise to the table and compiled a book that can be read as a whole piece or by topic. *The Changing Nature of the Maine Woods* starts 13,000 years ago and takes readers on a journey to the present day and the issues facing Maine's forests in the future.

The book is a surprising mix of poetry, science and history that is accessible to anyone interested in Maine's outdoors. Whether you work or play in Maine's forests this book explains how the woods have become what they are today and gives a glimpse of the future.

The book is currently available online and in bookstores.

To learn more visit the School of Forest Resources website: forest.umaine.edu



Return of The Spruce Budworm

In the 1970s the spruce budworm left more than a scar on the Maine landscape. During the 15-year outbreak that started in 1970, the spruce budworm killed 21 percent of all the fir trees in Maine. A 13-year supply of Maine cordwood equating to more than 20 million cords of spruce and fir were destroyed, severely impacting the Maine economy.

Experts and landowners alike are watching in anticipation to see how this outbreak will compare to the outbreak of the 1970s. This past March, the New England Regional Council on Forest Engineering (NERCOFE) dedicated half a day to spruce budworm workshops, and a record 300

people registered to hear more about the future outbreak.

Dr. Robert Wagner, forestry professor at the University of Maine and the Director of the Cooperative Forestry Research Unit (CFRU), is leading a statewide task force to help Maine prepare for the coming spruce budworm outbreak due to hit Maine in the next 2-3 years.

Wagner explains the strategies being put into place: “The wood loss was dramatic during the 1970s-80s and in response to that devastating outbreak the Cooperative Forestry Research Unit (CFRU) was formed. Now that organization is combining efforts with a experts across the region to increase awareness and prepare for the coming outbreak.” The Spruce Budworm (SBW) Task Force is composed of forestry experts from the Maine Forest Service, Maine Forest Products Council, and the University of Maine. The goal is to develop an assessment, preparation, and response strategy for the coming outbreak, the disaster preparedness plan that will be available for public review this fall. “Spruce budworm outbreaks are a natural 15- to 20-year event that occur every 30-60 years with serious impacts on the spruce-fir forest across northern Maine. Based on the 8 million acre outbreak in Quebec and rising trap counts of SBW moths, we know it’s coming. Communication is critically important and planning is our best preparation,” says Wagner.

Wagner explains current strategies being used in Quebec and how New Brunswick is also beginning to prepare. “New Brunswick is trying a more proactive approach investing 18 million dollars in testing a new early intervention strategy, which includes intense pheromone trapping followed by targeted insecticide treatments to areas of high moth density to hopefully reduce the spread and severity of tree defoliation.” At this time Maine is closely watching what is happening in Quebec and New Brunswick as part of our preparation plans. Only time will tell whether the Canadian approach will reduce the number of budworms seen in Maine.

For more information on the spruce budworm you can visit Robert Wagner’s page on the School of Forest Resources Website: forest.umaine.edu/faculty-staff/directory/robert-g-wagner/