This fall has been a unique time in our nation’s history. In many instances, if not most, it isn’t until we look back later with a perspective gained by the passage of time that we realize when the critical turning points in history occurred. But that certainly wasn’t the case on September 11. There could be little doubt that we were watching history in the making that Tuesday.

The terrorist attacks produced great suffering and tragedy, but they have also generated some incredibly positive examples and lessons. And some of those lessons just might apply to us in the natural resources area. The past decade or two have been marked by what some social commentators have termed the “decline in civility” in American politics. I agree with this characterization and believe that it has permeated politics at all levels. It is reflected in “no holds barred” and “winner take all” attitudes towards policy making and campaigning, in the lack of serious and thoughtful debate on major issues, and in the demise of the concept of a “loyal opposition.” It seems to have become easier (and far more effective) to try to destroy an opponent by impugning their reputation or motives than to convince others of the superiority of one’s own ideas and positions. Unfortunately, some of these same trends have shown up in the natural resource arena.

How many times have you heard the conflict between those who advocate resource management and those who campaign for total protection of forests described as a “war,” and how many times have you heard environmentalists described as the “enemy?” What has been the tone of the discourse swirling around the Forest Service’s roadless initiative or the new Forest Service planning rules? Have the discussions relating to the 2000 fire season generated more heat than light? Recent events have reminded us that our basic value system as Americans calls on us to tolerate differences of opinion and to guarantee people the right to open and respectful debate. Is that what we have been doing? I am in no way calling for appeasement on serious policy issues, but I think that it is possible to engage in vigorous debate without injecting such a negative personal side to the discussion. Then again, maybe I am just too naive! Time will tell.

Please note the proposed alumni event described in the next item and send us your feedback. If this is something you’d like to participate in, we will be happy to plan it and make it a regular event. - Jeff Stier

Campus Reunion Planned
Is coming to Madison next fall for a Badger football game an attractive idea? Each fall the Wisconsin Agricultural and Life Sciences Alumni Association (WALSAA) hosts a pre-game luncheon. The event is complete with music and food: steak and brat sandwiches, sweet corn, etc., including dessert, and beverages (milk, coffee and the ever popular, beer). The Department would like to organize an event for alumni and their families to return to the campus for an update and visit, to be followed by the pre-game fire-up luncheon and then the game. There is even a parking ramp right behind Russell Labs. If you think you’d like to participate in such an event, please let us know by dropping a line to Jeff Stier at the Department address (see back page) or by sending an email to <forecol@calshp.cals.wisc.edu>. If there is enough interest, we’d like to make this an annual event!
Midwest Capstone Report competition with their management plan for the Cross Plains Ice Age Reserve just west of Madison, WI. The Ice Age Reserve is a 125 acre property that is situated at the end of a terminal moraine. The variable topography and soils have created a diverse range of forest conditions within a relatively small area. All four students were seniors majoring in Forest Science when they completed the report while taking the Integrated Resource Management course taught by Prof. Jeff Stier last fall. The reports were evaluated on the basis of quality of writing, ease of comprehension by the educated layperson, technical rigor, and sense of land stewardship. The team split the $500 award. Wisconsin sponsors of the awards program were (then) Georgia-Pacific Corporation and Steigerwaldt Land Services.

Brooke Ivener (B.S.-2000) reported last spring that she was working as an EPA Intern in Texas. She wrote the Final Rule approving revisions to the Texas State Implementation Plan and was excited to see her work published in the Federal Register. Little did she expect her to take the policy course that she'd need to use some of that knowledge within the first year out of school!

Sandy Fowler

I started here at the end of November in 1999 as a PA1 and worked my way up to a Financial Specialist 1 title after Joni Brown and Pauline Miller transferred to other positions. I take care of the department's reqs, travel, and soon will be passing the timetable and graduate student torch to Nancy Nehring. My husband's name is Kenton. We have been married for almost five years. This past June we had our first child, Lily. She is such a lover and I love being a parent.

For hobbies I like to draw and sew. I also enjoy playing fast and slow pitch softball, basketball and golf. I've been a volunteer basketball and softball coach for a total of 10 years or more. I couldn't coach (or play) softball this year because I was 8 months pregnant. I couldn't golf either.

Nancy Nehring

Thanks to all of the FEM staff for your friendliness and support since I started working in the department as a PA1 in July. I’ve enjoyed meeting the people in the department and have gotten most faces matched up with the correct name. As the receptionist, I answer a lot of questions or direct people to the right source. I’m learning how to be the FEM timetable representative, the undergraduate and graduate coordinator, the mail person, along with numerous other office responsibilities. Prior to joining the FEM staff I was a junior accountant for a private business. My husband, Frank, and I live in the village of Cambria (between Beaver Dam and Portage) and I commute to work each day with three other women. Our son, Nic, is a Paper Science major at UW-Stevens Point and plays football there as well. Our daughter, Jessica, is a pre-pharmacy student here at the UW-Madison and plays trumpet in the UW marching band. So our Saturdays are busy watching football games and band performances. I also enjoy reading, gardening, photography and early morning swims. If we haven’t already met, stop by the front office and introduce yourself!

Marilyn McDole

I joined the department in March 2001 as Department Administrator. I fill my days working on human resource issues, payroll and benefits administration, department and grant budget preparation and monitoring, facilities issues, department key administration, faculty promotional preparation, and special reports as required. From 1988-2001, I worked at...
I'm originally from Minnesota (born and raised), attended the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph, Minn. and obtained my B.A. in Natural Science in 1995. After college I worked at a "random" job until a friend of mine suggested I come work at West Publishing and learn about computers! I landed a job at West and was trained there to provide telephone support to Westlaw customers for their software and hardware. In June of 1998 I moved to Omaha, Nebraska (to be near my fiancé, who was in medical school at Creighton University) and got a job doing systems support and network administration for Omnium Worldwide. Chris and I were married June 24, 2000, and he graduated from medical school in May 2001. We then moved to Madison where he is doing his residency at the UW Hospital. It was "our" first choice for a residency spot, so we are extremely excited and happy to be here! I have earned computer certifications in A+, Network+, and MCP (Microsoft Certified Professionals) over the past year and plan to obtain my MCSE as well.

Leah Altman

David Stevens

My current position is that of Tree Improvement Research Specialist. I work jointly with Ray Guries and the Wisconsin DNR Forestry Department. I will be responsible for coordinating a conifer breeding program that includes controlled pollinations, seed collection and processing, and raising progeny for subsequent field testing in central and northern Wisconsin. I will also be working on field selection and cloning of superior candidate red oak and black walnut trees for future use in clone bank/seed orchard establishment. Other duties include data collection, management of progeny/provenance tests, seed collection for the DNR nursery program, and greenhouse management of seedlings and grafts. I began my new position at the end of August. Prior to starting with FEM, I was the greenhouse manager for Agracetus, an agricultural research company in Middleton, Wis., where I worked for the past seven years. I have a B.S. degree in Horticulture from Virginia Tech and a M.S. in Horticulture from UW-Madison. With my wife, Jane, I also own and operate a certified organic farm in the Baraboo Bluffs near North Freedom, Wis., where we produce a wide variety of herbs and vegetables. My wife runs a farm-based, value-added business, Natures Acres, that produces a line of natural herbal body care products that are sold throughout the U.S. We have a 14-year-old son named Forrest and a 3-year-old daughter named Savanna. I enjoy a wide range of music, gardening and canning (salsa is my specialty), home brewing, and hunting.

Welcome visiting faculty member Natalia Vlasova

Natalia Vlasova is spending the academic year 2001-02 in FEM on a Junior Faculty Development Program fellowship funded through the U.S. Department of State. The principal purpose of the fellowship is to improve her ability to teach courses in her home institution. Natalia hopes to accomplish this by taking relevant courses that use a variety of approaches to teaching. She will also be continuing work on her PhD dissertation. Her departmental mentor is Peter Bloch, and she is also supported logistically by Steven Duke of the UW Center for Russia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia. She would like to introduce herself with the following paragraphs.

I was born in Yoshkar-Ola, the capital of the Republic of Mari El in the Volga Region of Russia, and have lived there ever since. My mother is a doctor in a laboratory at the hospital of the Republic of Mari El. My father is a senior lecturer in the Computers Systems Department of Mari State Technical University. In 1979 I began to study at the secondary school N8 in Yoshkar-Ola. When I was a schoolgirl I enjoyed English, Botany, Computer Science and Russian Literature.

In 1990 I passed the entrance exams for Mari Polytechnical Institute (MPI) and became a student at the Forestry and Ecology Faculty. At the same time I was a student of Courses on Interpreters at the MPI. I graduated from MPI in 1995 with the degree of engineer in park and garden design and management.

In 1997 I became a post-graduate student at Mari State Technical University (MSTU). MSTU is the largest...
establishment of higher education in the Republic of Mari El. When founded in 1932, it was represented by two faculties and 400 students. Now there are over 9,000 students in 8 faculties, including Forestry and Ecology, Forest Engineering (the two oldest at the University), Mechanical Engineering, Construction Engineering, Economics, and Radio. The academic staff numbers over 600 lecturers, many of whom have PhDs. The students have every opportunity for successful studies. MTSU possesses excellent training facilities: auditoriums, laboratories, workshops and a computing center. The students have a very rich library and three reading-halls at their disposal. It is worth mentioning that all the students are involved in research work in the student design bureau and the student research society. Those who study well usually get grants. After graduating, they may continue their study in the Postgraduate Department at the MSTU in different specialties.

Practically all students who are not from Yoshkar-Ola can live in the Hostels of University. Every student can join some amateur art group or club and go out for sports. During summer vacation they can spend a fortnight in a camp on the bank of Yalchik Lake and have a good time there.

From 1996 to the present I’ve been working as a tutor (equivalent to teaching assistant) in the Department of Forest Inventory and Management at MSTU. I teach courses on Forest Park Management, Methods of Mathematical Modelling in Biology and in Forestry, and also co-teach courses on Forest Management, Forest Inventory, and Automatic Systems in Forestry.

My PhD research work concerns Global Climate Change. The title of my thesis is the Phytomass of the Low Level of Pine Stands and Carbon Sequestration in the Mari El Republic. I have already collected some valuable data for my research work. I work under the guidance of my supervisor, Pyotr A. Sokolov. He is a well-known scientist in the field of Forest Inventory and Management. At present I am working on the analysis of my experimental data. I also have a few publications concerning my research work.

Last April Chancellor John Wiley presented Professor Ray Guries with a highly prestigious UW-Madison Chancellor's Award for Teaching Excellence. Ray also holds both a CALS teaching award and an advising award, and two years ago he received the Society of American Foresters' Schenck Award for excellence in teaching. This recognition is well-deserved and we sincerely congratulate Ray, who has devoted countless hours to the welfare of undergraduate and graduate students, both inside and outside the classroom.

Professor Donald Field received the Benton H. Box Award at Clemson University during the 2001 George B. Hartzog, Jr. Environmental Awards Program this past spring. Don received the award “for sustained achievement in research that has provided a sound basis for development and utilization of our nation’s natural environments.” Don’s research interests and background focus on rural demography, the rural community, social ecology and natural resource systems, particularly parks and protected areas.

Semester in Chile yields insights into Chilean culture
by Brian Schwingle
Senior, Forest Science

During the UW’s spring 2001 semester I studied in Valdivia, Chile, at La Universidad Austral de Chile. Valdivia, at 40° south latitude, is located 520 miles south of Santiago. The climate in Valdivia is, in a word, rainy. Therefore, I traveled as much as I could throughout Chile, yet I still got to experience 23 straight days of rain. It is geographically and culturally a beautiful country. The Andes are always in view to the east, and the Pacific is always crashing on the western coast. The people are extremely giving and friendly. Chile at its widest point is a mere 150 miles. However, the length of the country is equivalent to the distance from Seattle, Washington to Miami, Florida. Obviously, Chile boasts a wide variety of climates due to the great change in latitude. The driest and wettest places on Earth are found in this South American country. The Andes also play a major role in the climate, rising 23,000 ft. within 100 miles in some areas.

To tell the truth, I did not go to Chile to study. I went to learn how to communicate in Spanish, to experience a different culture, and to travel. As soon as I arrived in early February, I traveled to the southern tip of Chile on the Straits of Magellan. There I hiked for seven days in what some call the most popular national park in the southern hemisphere, Torres del Paine. Throughout February, I continued this pattern of hiking in Chile’s national parks. Chile has at least 14 national parks and many more national preserves. These are run by CONAF, which is Chile’s version of the U.S. Forest Service. Their national parks are usually accessible by public transportation but much less developed than our national parks.

I arrived in Valdivia at the beginning of March to start classes. I lived in the house of Juan Anzieta, who studied in Madison under the forestry department during the spring 2001 semester. Without doubt, living with a family exposed me to Chile’s language and culture better than if I had lived with other students or by myself. I selected four classes at the university for the semester. I was disappointed because classes were canceled many times due to student protests or lack of attendance by the students. Although I found some
Chilean students to be serious about their subjects, the majority took their studies more lightly than students at UW-Madison. However, there is always positive in a situation, so lack of academic stimulation gave me adequate time to dedicate to the exciting Chilean nightlife.

Throughout my academic South American life, I found plenty of time to explore other regions. I visited more Chilean national parks, Argentinean national parks, the metropolitan area of Santiago, the desert northern section of Chile, and southern Peru. Traveling in Chile is accessible, safe, and economical. Not once did I feel threatened by people or nature. Chile’s bus system is like a dense spider web. Every little pueblo and city is connected many times daily to other cities via several bus companies. For example, I often took a 12-hour overnight bus ride from Valdivia to Santiago for only $6.50. Double that price, and one could take a bus with bed-seats and meals included.

Traveling also taught me other people's views about the United States. Despite the fact many Chileans are not thrilled about the United States’ involvement in General Pinochet’s military takeover in 1973, they are tolerant of us, which is more than I can say of many people farther north in South America. In light of the events that occurred in NYC and Washington DC on September 11, 2001, many of my friends in Chile have sent much appreciated emails telling me they mourned the deaths as if they were deaths of their own compatriots. Certainly, being in Chile made me more aware of who I am and where I came from.

Discussion about the U.S. seemed to be an everyday occurrence. Some discussions were positive and some were negative. These discussions made me more aware of how I think, how Americans think, and how the Chilean way of thinking is often different than ours. Without getting into further discussion on this topic, I will simply state that when I returned to the U.S., I felt very grateful for my country. We are so privileged to be U.S. citizens, and I would not trade that right for any home in any other country. Richness is opportunity, and opportunity is what we have in the United States.

Overall, my six-month stay in Chile was an awesome experience. My worst time there was saying goodbye to my friends and getting on the plane. I cannot say enough about the kindness my friends, family, and acquaintances showed me there. I recommend Chile for studying abroad or traveling for a visit because it is safe, easy and spectacular to travel in, and learning the Spanish language is priceless. If anyone has any questions/comments regarding Chile or is interested in learning more of my adventures there, feel free to contact me: Brian Schwingle <bwschwingle@students.wisc.edu>.

**Interning in the Rocky Mountains**

by Angela Jacobs

Senior, Recreation Resources Management

In March of 2001 I sent my application to the Student Conservation Association (SCA) with the hope that I would be selected for one of the many nationwide internship positions. I was encouraged by my advisor and also by my private tutor, who had been a volunteer with the agency, to pursue a placement with SCA. I had chosen four jobs that were of interest to me. Every other week I’d call to check on their progress of reviewing the applications.

It wasn’t until June that I received word about a position with the Forest Service in the Pike’s Peak District of Colorado. At that point I set the following objectives: 1) to learn with my supervisor about the leadership skills and personal management skills that are used by a person in that position, 2) to learn more about myself and my abilities through my daily responsibilities, and 3) to learn about the relationship between
the agency I would be working with and the surrounding local community.

The Forest Service provided housing in Woodland Park, Colorado, 30 minutes north of Colorado Springs. I was working with Recreational Planning out of Pueblo and I and four other interns were to assist with the National Recreation Use Surveys. The surveys are very important to the Forest Service because the data is collected nationally and analyzed so that the agency has information for Congress about how many people recreate in the different regions. This information helps the smaller districts, such as the Pike and San Isabel, get more funding for upkeep of forest roads and other facilities. My weekly duties included traveling to the survey site, conducting the surveys, and setting up a 24-hour traffic counter. Some of the survey sites were two to three hours from my bunkhouse, so I often camped at a nearby campsite for the night. When I was not doing surveys, I worked with a few specialists from the district, such as the landscape architect and the forest patrol officer. I also assisted the operations crew in road obliteration and revegetation.

‘I also leaned about the local community and its relationship with the Forest Service. It was here that I learned of the different attitudes the public has towards the Forest Service.’

I gained most of my information from other employees of the Forest Service and from recreational visitors to the National Forest. I was surprised to learn that in this district in particular, there was a rift between the recreation department and the fire department. With the fire in Bandolier National Monument last year, the government gave the fire departments a lot of hiring power and extra funds. Through the area at the time of the survey to get either to work or to their homes. Specific complaints were wide ranging but were about the Forest Service in general. For example, one man asked me, “Why do I have to pay a fee for the day-use sites that are in my county when I pay for it with my taxes?” In talking with another seasonal worker who had lived in the area for a while, I realized that these complaints typically came from people who were from the area for generations and didn’t like all the out of state people coming to vacation in what they considered their back yard. Complaints also came from the visitors as well, but varied slightly. For example, one mom asked me, “Why can’t the Forest Service keep up its roads or pave them?” This group of recreators included a lot of families and campers at developed campsites.

In contrast, the other kind of comments I received were suggestions on how to improve the existing facilities, new facilities that would add to visitor safety, and how to keep the number of people down that went into the wilderness area by not improving the roads and not adding more trail markers. These comments came from recreators who got out of their cars and hiked into the wilderness for extended stays or from people who used the trails on a daily basis. In my opinion, it seems that the people who use the forestland on a regular basis or have frequented it over the recent years see the Forest Service for what it is,

‘A lot of people seemed unaware that the Forest Service is not directly associated with the National Park Service. If I were employed with the Forest Service in a visitor relation position, clarifying this would be one of my goals.’
an agency that manages the land and prevents its misuse. A lot of people seemed unaware that the Forest Service is not directly associated with the National Park Service. If I were employed with the Forest Service in a visitor relation position, clarifying this would be one of my goals. I also would want to target the different groups of users and help educate them on forest ethics, which would explain why the Forest Service roads aren’t paved and possibly alleviate other misconceptions about the agency.

Because of the way my work schedule was set up, I learned a lot about my abilities and about myself this summer. I often worked alone, conducting and setting up the surveys by myself. When I had to stay overnight, I usually camped alone as well. This helped me to gain confidence in my abilities. At the beginning of the summer, I was unsure whether I could fulfill my internship agreement with the agency. But after I acclimated to my surroundings and started relying more on myself, I found that I was very capable of getting the job done alone.

I have gained a lot of experience and knowledge about how the Forest Service works and how differently each district can be run. I plan to use this knowledge in my courses. With first hand knowledge of the Forest Service and the Student Conservation Association, I have the ability to add to class discussion, answer other students’ questions about the two agencies, and make a more confident choice regarding my future employment.

I plan to use the near future to learn more about the differences among other government agencies and their missions towards the environment. Next summer I hope to find employment with another agency. This will lead to more training and on-the-job experience.

**New Publications**

**Jingjing Liang**, Ph.D. graduate student in Forest Ecology and Management, has published his research paper titled “Study on the Desertification of Ecotone Lands” in *Journal (Natural Science) of Peking University*. For more details on the publication, visit the web at:
http://www.pku.edu.cn/academic/xb/2001/_01e416.html

**Professor Craig Lorimer** was invited to write an article for a special issue of *Wildlife Society Bulletin*. The article, titled “Historical and ecological roles of disturbance in eastern North American forests: 9,000 years of change,” appears in Vol. 29, No. 2, published in the Summer of 2001. Interest in the topic stems from the recognition that many bird species that rely on young, even-aged forest habitat are declining to “dangerously low levels.” For example, 74 of 126 neotropical migrant songbirds are dependent on young forest habitat and are scarce or absent in mature and old-growth stands. Eleven early successional bird species in the East are endangered or threatened and 22 others have declining populations and are on a “watch list.” Declines in rates of forest harvesting have been aggravating these trends, says Craig.

Craig was asked to prepare an article that focuses on what is known about disturbance frequency in eastern North American forests prior to European settlement. This will help establish “natural” or “baseline” conditions for the amount of young forest habitat. In his article, Craig summarizes evidence on disturbance frequency for the major forest types in the past 9,000 years, focusing especially on evidence from the 15th to 19th centuries.

A major conclusion is that catastrophic disturbances were common in all parts of the eastern U.S., but young forest habitat was much more common in oak and pine forests of the central and southern U.S. than in the northern hardwoods of the Lake States and Northeast. Much of the young forest habitat in oak and pine regions was caused by frequent fires, many probably set by Native Americans to improve game habitat and as an aid in hunting and travel.

**Just for fun**

Occasionally, a student takes a somewhat unconventional approach to an assignment. The following excerpts were from a paper on point sampling methods submitted by undergraduate Ben Lembrich in the Forest Biometry course last year. “The Speigel Relascope, of all instruments used in point sampling, is at once the most handy and problematic. Because it was invented by Walter Bitterlich, the father of point sampling, satisfaction can be taken in knowing that
you are point sampling the way it was meant to be done, and that Walter is regarding you from above with an approving, yet suspicious and critical gaze. It is an extremely versatile tool… Some insist that it can be used to start a fire, purify water and recharge a dead battery.

“The last point sampling method discussed here employs the use of an arm and an American penny…. The owner of the stand, while watching you deftly measure his stand with the penny, will make several assumptions about your mental abilities. First and foremost, you must be an intellectual giant, able to comprehend difficult matters at a glance. This impression is made more striking if you talk through the mathematical premise behind the penny method under your breath, suggesting to the onlooker that this is on-the-spot, off-the-cuff genius.”

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