

Forestry

.....leader in excellence

Fall 2013**In this issue:**

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**Newsletter Designer • Coordinator:
Tracey Sherman**

**Newsletter Editing:
Kathryn Hollandsworth**

**Please send information
for future issues to
Tracey@vt.edu**

Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation

Cheatham Hall, Room 324, Virginia Tech
310 West Campus Drive, Blacksburg, VA 24061
540/231-5483 • Fax 540/231-3698 • <http://www.frec.vt.edu/>

Dr. Quinn Thomas Joins FREC

Quinn Thomas joined FREC in August from the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, CO, where he was a post-doc in the Terrestrial Sciences Section of the Climate and Global Dynamics Division. His research focuses on carbon, nitrogen, and energy dynamics in forest ecosystems using statistical, ecosystem, and Earth System models. His extensive use of large datasets and models that require state-of-the-art computational resources is aligned with expertise required for the new Environmental Informatics major. Quinn will be teaching courses in ecosystem-climate interactions and forest ecosystem modeling. His past and current projects ask: How does atmos-

pheric nitrogen pollution alter tree growth, tree mortality, and carbon storage across the U.S.? What happens to the mortality rate of tropical rain forest trees that grow taller than the surrounding trees? How does the nitrogen cycle control the terrestrial carbon cycle? How do we best integrate data, particularly remote sensing, with ecosystem models to improve model predictions? How does forest management alter regional climate?

Quinn received his A.B. in Environmental Biology from Dartmouth College, his M.S. in Natural Resources from the University of New Hampshire, and his Ph.D. in Ecosystem Ecology from Cornell University.

Dr. Kelly Cobourne Joins FREC

Kelly Cobourne is a natural resource economist with research interests in the areas of water resource policy and law, applied econometrics, bio-economic modeling, and invasive species management. Her current research projects address the questions: How does surface water-groundwater hydrology affect decisions about water use? What role do water rights institutions play in encouraging (or discouraging) adaptation to climate change? How are decisions made about controlling invasive species and pests with chemical versus cultural methods, and what are the environmental implications? She uses both data-driven econometric approaches and dynamic programming models to answer these questions.

Kelly's teaching responsibilities include an undergraduate course in water policy, law, and economics, and a graduate course in natural resource economics.

She received her Ph.D. in Agricultural and Resource Economics from the University of California, Davis; an M.S. in Resource Economics from the University of Maine; and a B.A. in Economics from the University of Virginia.

From The Department Head

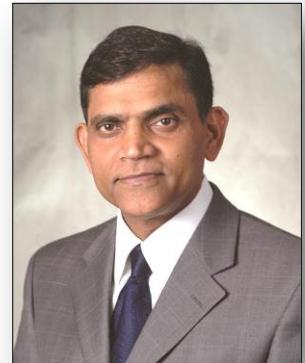
Dear colleagues, alumni, friends, and supporters:

The fall issue of our newsletter is always special to me because it provides the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation with an opportunity to wish you and your families a very happy holiday season and a happy new year. Thanks to our dedicated staff and faculty and committed students, we had a successful fall semester! As we are about to enter into 2014, allow me to reflect on what we have accomplished and plans on the horizon.

Our strategy of positioning ourselves for emerging opportunities by maintaining our core programs has been serving us well. With support and advice from Dean Winstorfer, Advisory Board members, alumni, and friends, and through partnerships with the Department of Horticulture, Department of Biological Sciences, Virginia Water Resources Research Center, and Virginia Cooperative Extension, we were able to add 7 new faculty members (including the on-going search for an Assistant Professor in Ecohydrological Modeling and Informatics) during the past 5 years. This year alone, Dr. Alycia Crall as the Master Naturalist Program Coordinator, Dr. Quinn Thomas as an Assistant Professor in Ecosystem Modeling, and Dr. Kelly Cobourn as an Assistant Professor in Water Resources Policy and Economics have joined us. Just last week, with support from our Dean and the Director of Virginia Cooperative Extension, we were able to elevate Dr. Scott Barrett from an Extension Associate to a tenure-track Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist in Forest Operations and Biomass Utilization. This will significantly enhance our capabilities to serve the needs of forestland owners and forest industry in the Commonwealth of Virginia and beyond. After serving the department, college, and Virginia since 1981, Dr. Shep Zedaker is retiring this month. While we cannot “replace Shep,” we will initiate a search in January 2014 to hire an Assistant Professor in the areas of forest ecology, health, and fire.

Our strategy of building on our strengths and excellence to expand our programs is also working well. Our undergraduate enrollment is up, and our graduate program is expanding. You will note from this issue that many of our faculty, staff, and students have received very prestigious and competitive awards for their outstanding performance. There is a lot more to be done to move FREC forward to a next level. We have laid out a path forward in our Strategic Plan 2014-20, and your continued help and guidance is needed to undertake that journey!

Once again, on behalf of FREC, I will take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very happy holiday season and new year!!



Dr. Janaki Alavalapati
Professor and Head
Forest Resources and
Environmental
Conservation

New FREC Futures Intern Update



John Hayworth

Leaving an impressive legacy, Kyle Dingus passed his work on to our new FREC Futures Intern, **John Haworth**, in August 2013. A VT graduate in Environmental Resource Management, John's experiences and interests involve media and content marketing based on themes of natural resources. Notable achievements have been visits to 20 high schools and two community colleges, three on-campus events, and leading an interpretive nature hike along Mountain Lake for an environmental summer camp. Additionally, John attended the Virginia Association of Science Teachers (VAST) conference and continues FREC's involvement in Virginia Tech's partnership with the Achievable Dream Academy, located in Newport News. John also designed an undergraduate course catalogue, interactive email flier, environmental informatics webpage, and redesigned the FREC Career book. He assisted with enhancements to FREC's social media presence, including publishing over 250

new photos of FREC programs. The Futures Intern is planning to increase visits to high schools and community colleges and improve media content generation and electronic marketing, along with reaching out to current students, alumni, and faculty. If you have any ideas or questions you would like to discuss, feel free to contact John any time at jph2008@vt.edu.

Welcome New Faculty and Staff

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Evan Brooks

Evan B. Brooks joined the department in June 2013 as a Postdoctoral Research Associate in remote sensing. His current research foci include regional modeling of loblolly pine growth and yield, regional land surface change detection and monitoring, and developing multitemporal analysis tools for use by researchers. His interests include the above as well as working with big data, programming, and communicating climate change issues.

Evan received his B.A. degrees in Physics and Mathematics in 2004 and his M.A. in Mathematics in 2007 from the University of North Texas, an M.S. degree in Statistics from Virginia Tech in 2010, and Ph.D. in Forestry from Virginia Tech in Spring 2013. He resides in rural West Virginia with his wife, two daughters, and many pets, where he enjoys building additions to his house and his renewable energy system.



Kathleen Guillozet

Kathleen H. Guillozet is a Postdoctoral Fellow working with Mike Sorice, Chris Anderson, graduate student Anna Santo, and other collaborators on a research project looking at Human Perceptions and Socio-Ecological Thresholds for Ecosystem Restoration in Tierra del Fuego. The project website url is <http://ecolink.frec.vt.edu/>.

Kathleen is based in Ushuaia, Argentina, and is contributing to the portion of the project that looks at carbon dynamics in riparian forests and at policy implications of ecosystem service valuation approaches. She is interested in socio-ecological research, forest-based livelihoods, riparian forest management, ecosystem services, and associated markets. Kathleen obtained her Ph.D. from the College of Forestry at Oregon State in 2011.



Matthew Sumnall

Matthew Sumnall joined the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation as a Postdoctoral Research Associate in remote sensing. Matt is working with Tom Fox, Randy Wynne, and Val Thomas on Lidar applications in forestry. His specific research deals with use of Lidar to separate overstory trees from understory vegetation in loblolly pine plantations. The goal is to develop more accurate methods to determine leaf area of both the overstory pines and the understory vegetation. The work is supported by the Forest Productivity Cooperative.

Matt is from the UK and earned his B.S. in Geographic Information Science from the University of Portsmouth, his M.Sc. in Remote Sensing and Spatial Analysis from the University of Southampton, and his Ph.D. in Remote Sensing from Bournemouth University.



Katie Trozzo

Katie Trozzo joined the Department in August 2013 as an Extension Project Associate in Human Dimensions. Her interests include agroforestry adoption, outreach prioritization, and landowner network development and capacity building. Her current work aims to jumpstart agroforestry practices in the Chesapeake Bay region of Virginia by prioritizing subwatersheds to initiate landowner networks and extension programs that support the use of riparian buffer and silvopasture practices.

Katie obtained her B.S. in Environmental Technology from NC State and graduated with a M.S. in the Human Dimensions of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation in May 2012. In her free time she enjoys cooking, fermenting vegetables, wild foraging, hiking, and playing ultimate Frisbee.

Society of American Foresters Silviculture Instructors Hosted



Dave Smith discusses hardwood regeneration on Jefferson National Forest

Each year silviculture instructors from the forestry schools in the United States meet prior to the Society of American Foresters (SAF) National Convention for a field tour to view silvicultural practices in various regions of the country. The Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation hosted the silviculture instructors tour this year. Over 40 faculty and graduate students from forestry programs across the United States attended.

The field tour started at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg and ended at the SAF National Convention in Charleston. Along the way, stops were made to view hardwood and pine stands on the Jefferson National Forest in the Ridge and Valley; the Reynolds Homestead Research Center, Jordan Timberlands and Uwharrie National Forest in the Piedmont; the NC Sandhills Game Lands and the USFS Southeast Tree Research and Education Center in the Sandhills; and Forest Investment Associates timberland and the Frances Beidler Forest in the Coastal Plain. In each region, forest ownership objectives of the different organizations including USFS, TIMO's, state agencies, and NGOs were discussed, along with the silvicultural practices implemented to accomplish these diverse landowner objectives. The work of a large number of FREC faculty, staff, and graduate students made the tour a success.

Jeff Marion Visits China; Collaborates on Forest Park Planning and Management



Photo taken in Yanuoda Forest Park, Hainan Island

FREC Adjunct Professor **Jeff Marion**, a scientist with the USGS Biological Resources Division, was sponsored by the Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF) to visit China and collaborate with their scientists on forest park planning and management. Specifically, they will develop methodologies to assess forest park resources and plan for sustainable recreation opportunities. Marion spent time in Beijing at the CAF institute, visiting forest parks, and sightseeing at the Forbidden City and Great Wall. He also traveled to the tropical island of Hainan off the southern coast of China to visit forest parks and consult with scientists and park managers. In 2014 he will help plan a U.S. tour of national parks and forests for visiting CAF scientists, including hosting a visit to Virginia Tech and FREC.

Students Get a Glimpse of the "Real World"

Carolyn Copenheaver's Forest Ecology and Silvics class had Professional Week in October. As part of the week's activities, students joined forestry professionals for supper at the Farmhouse Restaurant in Christiansburg to practice their formal table manners (offer to the left and pass to the right...) and professional communication skills. The students had the opportunity to select a supper with Dennis Anderson (Virginia Department of Forestry), David Smith (Professor Emeritus at Virginia Tech), Mike Hincher (The Forest Landgroup), or Easton Loving (MWV). All four of our guests provided the students with interview and career advice and let them see a glimpse of the "real world" they will work in after graduation.

Faculty Receive New Grants in Urban Forestry

Susan Day and **Eric Wiseman** received a grant from the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council to conduct a 3-year study on current conditions and future needs of the urban forestry profession. The project, entitled Urban Forestry 2020, includes partnerships with faculty at the University of Maryland, West Virginia University, and Virginia State University. The project will focus on the urban forestry profession in the mid-Atlantic region with the intent to develop research-based recommendations that can be transferred to other regions of the U.S.

Wiseman also received a grant from the Virginia Dept. of Forestry to investigate urban tree waste utilization in Virginia. His co-investigators are Chad Bolding and John Munsell. They will be conducting surveys to better understand the volume and fate of tree waste generated in urban localities and identify the perceptions of municipalities and tree care service providers about waste utilization. The intent of this research is to provide baseline data for the development of outreach and technical assistance programs to increase business opportunities for utilization and promote sustainable utilization practices.

Eric Wiseman named coordinator of Virginia Big Tree Program

Eric Wiseman has been named coordinator of the Virginia Big Tree Program. The program, which began as a 4-H and Future Farmers of America project in 1970, aims to increase the care and appreciation of trees and has a database of the top ten largest trees of each species in the state. Citizens participate by searching for and nominating trees for inclusion in the database and by helping to re-measure trees every 10 years. The Virginia Urban Forest Council, known as Trees Virginia, augments the volunteer effort by funding a summer internship position for a Virginia Tech forestry student to record measurements and take photographs of trees around the state. The National Big Tree Program releases an updated register of the country's largest trees biannually. Virginia currently has 64 big trees in the national register, placing the state in fourth place.



Dr. Eric Wiseman



Dr. Jeff Kirwan

Wiseman takes the reins from Professor Emeritus and Extension Specialist Jeffrey Kirwan, who served as coordinator of the Virginia Big Tree Program for the past 10 years. Kirwan's work led him to develop the Remarkable Trees of Virginia and Washington, D.C. Project and to co-author "Remarkable Trees of Virginia." That project, which Kirwan will continue to lead, seeks to recognize trees for their beauty, history, age, or community significance.

Architecture Students Develop Concepts for the Fishburn Forest



One of the concepts for a conference/classroom center at the Fishburn Forest

Professor Michael Ermann of the Virginia Tech School of Architecture and Design worked with a sophomore class of Architecture majors on a project aimed at developing concepts for a conference and classroom facility on the Fishburn Forest. The class of 26 students hiked up to the top of Price's Mountain in September to discuss goals for a building on the school forest and to assess the proposed site. Over the next two months the students developed sketches and physical models of building concepts that would fulfill functional requirements while fitting appropriately into a forested area dedicated to teaching, research, and conservation of forest resources. Students presented their concepts to the entire class in November, after which a selected group of their models were displayed in Cheatham Hall for review and comment.

FREC Collaborates with NASA and ESA



Katie Correll

This fall, FREC was involved in collaboration with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the European Space Agency (ESA) to support NASA's prototype lidar-hyperspectral-thermal instrument, G-LiHT. This included two field campaigns in North Carolina to sample foliar N isotopes, macronutrients, chlorophyll, LAI, and a number of other inventory-type measurements.

The first FREC field campaign was led by Ph.D. students **Katie Correll** and **Beth Stein** in support of their doctoral research with faculty **Val Thomas** and **Brian Strahm**. The second post-government shutdown campaign was led by **Matthew Sumnall** and Beth Stein. This effort supported the Ph.D. work of Beth Stein and forest structural research of Sumnall, with FREC faculty **Tom Fox**, Val Thomas, and **Randy Wynne**.

Virginia Tech Hosts Workshop for Forestry Professionals from India

India faces numerous challenges in planning to meet the needs of a growing population with a restricted resource base. One of the critical needs is to improve the ability to create and apply forecasting models and tools to develop projections of forest conditions. The Ministry of Environment and Forests of the Government of India, with support from USAID and the US Forest Service International Programs Office, sent ten professionals from government agencies and academic institutions to attend a workshop at Virginia Tech. The weeklong workshop, hosted by the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation, introduced attendees to an array of approaches for modeling and forecasting of forest resources. **Janaki Alavalapati** and **Steve Prisley** collaborated with the US Forest Service to put together a program that brought together scientists from the Indian Forest Service, Forest Survey of India, and Indian Institute of Forest Management to share the state of the science of forest futures forecasting and modeling. The professional foresters and administrators returned to India after identifying specific steps to take that will improve India's ability to forecast and plan for a vibrant and sustainable forest sector.



Forestry professionals from India visit portions of the Thomas Jefferson- George Washington National Forest as part of a Forest Futures Forecasting and Modeling Workshop hosted by FREC.

Forest Modeling Research Cooperative Annual Meeting Held



The 35th Annual Meeting of the Forest Modeling Research Cooperative (FMRC), hosted by Resource Management Services, was held in the Georgetown, SC area December 4-5. A one-day field trip took about 30 participants to see silvicultural activities in loblolly pine plantations that are among the most productive in the southern U.S. Stops on the field tour included research studies that focused on the effects of planting different types of genetic material and the impacts on growth of mid-rotation fertilization, thinning, and their interaction. During the indoor session on the second day, FREC personnel **Harold Burkhart** and **Ralph Amateis** summarized collaborative efforts with other scientists and institutions and progress on growth and yield model and decision support software development and testing. FREC graduate students **Nabin Gyawali** and **Ram Thapa** presented research results from their Ph.D.

dissertation work that focused on modeling response to silvicultural treatments and mortality and survival in loblolly pine plantations. The mission of the FMRC is to develop tree growth and stand development models that advance the science of forest modeling and provide land managers with decision support capabilities needed to practice economically viable and environmentally sustainable forest management.

SPOTLIGHT Faculty-Staff-Students

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Amy Brunner Recognized as Scholar of the Week



Dr. Amy Brunner

The Office of the Vice President for Research recognized **Amy Brunner** as the Scholar of the Week during the week of August 12-16, on their website. The goals of the Scholar of the Week are to recognize individuals while also telling people about research and scholarly activities at the university. Recognition is based on research and/or scholarship.

Brunner's research team uses oligonucleotide microarrays to comprehensively characterize the expression of the popular genome during tree development and response to environmental stimuli. She is also part of a

team researching the genomics of wood for biofuels production. With her colleagues, Brunner is identifying the key interactions among hundreds of proteins associated with wood formation in true poplars, which include species commonly known as aspens and cottonwoods, forming the basis for the creation of transgenic poplar plants.

She received her master's degree in molecular biology from Vanderbilt University and her doctorate in forest science and genetics from Oregon State University.

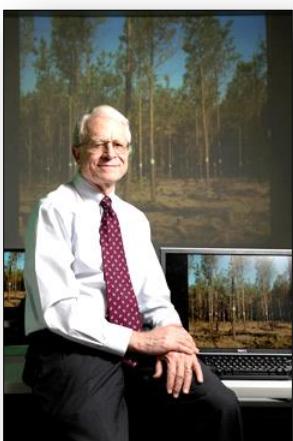
Dana Beegle Awarded Fellowship

Dana Beegle, a first-year M.S. student working with **John Munsell** in the Human Dimensions program, was awarded the George E. and Hester B. Aker Fellowship for spring 2014. This fellowship totals \$34,200 and is given to a Virginia Tech graduate student of notable academic merit. Dana is studying farmer use and adaptation of agroforestry practices in the mid-Atlantic and the role of permaculture in agroforestry design.



Dana Beegle

Harold Burkhart Named Forest champion of the Year



Dr. Harold Burkhart

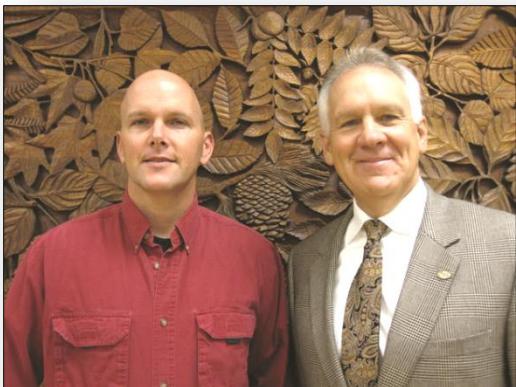
Harold Burkhart, University Distinguished Professor and the Thomas M. Brooks Professor of Forestry, was named Forest Champion of the Year by the Forest Landowners Association. The honor is bestowed upon individuals who have made a significant contribution to the private forest landowner community through research, legislative, or regulatory efforts at the local or national level.

Burkhart is considered by many forest scientists to be the father of forest biometrics, which explores the theory and applications of quantitative models of forest stands. His principal path-breaking achievement is the development of a comprehensive, integrated set of forest yield forecasting models for stands subjected to a wide variety of management treatments. His contributions to the advancement of forest growth are unprecedented, and he has led the way in developing new methodology for tree and stand modeling and in elucidating the complex mathematical relationships between models of differing levels.

Another recent achievement of Burkhart was being named Virginia's Outstanding Scientist of 2013.

SPOTLIGHT Faculty-Staff-Students *(continued)*

David Mitchem Recognized with the CNRE Annual Deans' Award



David Mitchem received the Dean's Award at the College of Natural Resources and Environment's state of the college meeting held Tuesday, August 20.

The Dean's Award is given annually to a staff employee in the College in recognition of exemplary performance and service to the Department, College, and the University.

David Mitchem and CNRE
Dean Paul Winstorfer

Jay Raymond Wins 2013 International Plant Nutrition Institute Scholar Award



Jay Raymond

Jay Raymond was awarded one of the 2013 International Plant Nutrition Institute Scholar Awards for 2013. He received his award from the president of the International Plant Nutrition Institute in October at the Soil Science Society of America Annual Meeting in Tampa, FL.

In total, 26 graduate students were named to receive the IPNI Scholar Award in 2013, with the most widespread geographic distribution ever for the award. Funding for the scholar award program is provided through support of IPNI member companies, primary producers of nitrogen, phosphate, potash, and other fertilizers.

Jay is pursuing his Ph.D. in Natural Resources and Environment majoring in Forestry, and his research work focuses on gaining a better understanding of the dynamics of applied N fertilizer through loblolly pine plantations to provide forest managers an improved knowledge on nutrient stewardship in these systems. His career goals and objectives include research emphasizing the importance of soil nutrition in relation to the productivity of forest agro-ecosystems.

J. Michael Kelly receives the Sergei A. Wilde Distinguished Lectureship on Forest Soils



Dr. J. Michael Kelly

J. Michael Kelly, Dean Emeritus of the College of Natural Resources and Environment, received the 2013 Sergei A. Wilde Distinguished Lectureship on Forest Soils from the Soil Science Society of America. Dr. Kelly presented his lecture entitled "Application of Minimalist Mechanistic Nutrient Uptake Models to Woody Plants: Have We Learned Anything Useful? " at the International Meeting of the Soil Science Society of America in Tampa, Florida, in November.

The Sergei A. Wilde Distinguished Lectureship on Forest Soils was established by the Forest, Range, and Wildland Soils Division of the Soil Science Society of America as a memorial to S.A. Wilde to honor his leadership role in the evolution of forest soil science in the 20th century

Thomas R. Fox receives Society of American Forester's Barrington Moore Award



Dr. Thomas Fox

Thomas Fox, professor of forest soils and silviculture, received the Society of American Foresters' Barrington Moore Award in Biological Science, which recognizes outstanding achievement in biological research leading to the advancement of forestry.

The award is named in honor of Barrington Moore, a prominent member of the first generation of professional foresters in the United States, who joined the society in 1911. Moore served on several committees, including the Committee on Forest Policy, which prepared the first truly comprehensive statement of forest policy ever attempted by the society.

Fox's research focuses on silviculture, forest soils and fertilization, tree nutrition, and the environmental sustainability of intensive forest management. His research

and leadership efforts led to the development of precision-based silviculture prescriptions widely used across the approximately 32 million acres of pine plantations in the southeastern United States. Much of his work concentrates on meeting the needs of the forest industry in the United States and Latin America.

He is also the lead principal investigator for a \$3.4 million portion of a \$20 million grant from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture to study the effects of climate change on southern pine forests; co-directs the Forest Productivity Cooperative, a research partnership among Virginia Tech, North Carolina State University, and dozens of forest industry firms in the United States and South America; and is the director for the Center for Advanced Forestry Systems, a National Science Foundation Industry/University Cooperative Research Center that bridges top forestry research programs with industry members to solve complex, industry-wide problems.

Team of Faculty and Students Wins Casey Trees Master Plan Design Competition

Fifty interdisciplinary university teams from across the country were invited to submit proposals for a master plan for the Casey Tree Farm, and four finalist teams presented their designs earlier this summer for the farm's more than one square mile of forest and farmland. The jury unanimously selected Virginia Tech's proposal.

Casey Trees is a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit organization, established in 2002, committed to restoring, enhancing, and protecting the tree canopy of the nation's capital. To support this effort, the organization maintains the Casey Tree Farm, with a nursery housing more than 10,000 trees located on 730 acres of forests and fields bordered by the Shenandoah River in Clarke County.

In their master plan design, Virginia Tech's team blended expertise, new technology, and practical knowledge with innovative approaches to design. The team's proposal placed a heavy emphasis on research, production technology, and whole farm management, including sustainable methods of nursery tree production. The plan also incorporated sustainable approaches to food production and the renovation of the historic architecture on the property.

FREC team members included faculty **Eric Wiseman** and **John Munsell** and graduate student **Taylor Chakurda**.

Student and Student Club Information

Virginia Tech Forestry Club Had a Busy Fall Semester!

The Virginia Tech Forestry Club has had a great fall semester. They have increased their membership with 12 new members joining the club. As in the past, they cut, split, and sold large amounts of firewood all across the New River Valley and plan to continue to sell more as cold winter weather sets in. They have also been selling firewood to Turner Place dining hall to help supply their wood-fired pizza restaurant. They have been able to work with the U.S. Forest Service to do a crop tree release and also salvage some dead trees that were damaged by gypsy moth on the Jefferson National Forest. They participated in the Pulaski County Elementary Ag Day, where some of the members taught children about forestry and natural resources. The club competed in two timbersports competitions this fall; one hosted



by West Virginia University in Twin Falls State Park, WV, and the other hosted by NC State in Raleigh, NC. The club will host the Southern Forestry Conclave, a collegiate timbersports competition among all forestry schools in the Southeastern U.S., on March 13-15, 2014.

Xi Sigma Pi



Xi Sigma Pi, The National Forestry Honor Society, inducted a new class of students on November 6, welcoming 20 members to the society. The initiates participated in service projects on 3 separate days across campus, doing a Stadium Woods cleanup on the first 2 days and a Duck Pond cleanup on the last day. We are very proud to have the new members join our ranks, and hope to add more next semester. We also will offer tutoring to undergraduates in CNRE courses next semester. Advertisements and information will be provided in the hallways of Cheatham next semester.



VT Society of American Foresters

The Virginia Tech Student Chapter of the Society of American Foresters has had a great start to the first half of the 2013-2014 school year. We were able to send 10 students to the SAF National Convention in Charleston where students were able to network with industry professionals. The students were also able to attend workshops and professional presentations at the convention. We also attended the fall meeting of the local Blue Ridge SAF chapter. At this meeting, we saw a chipping operation in the Blue Ridge Mountains and went on a tour of the operation headed by a forester from Turman Lumber. Also at the meeting, we networked with some local forestry professionals and saw a biomass harvesting presentation by **Scott Barrett**. The VTSAF student chapter is looking forward to having a great spring semester and attending the Appalachian SAF meeting in Williamsburg in April 2014.

Welcome New Graduate Students!

- Ahlsweide, Benjamin M.S.
- Beegle, Dana M.S.
- Carbaugh, Eric M.S.
- Cockram, Andrew M.F.
- Furrow, Cory M.S.
- Hanzelka, Nathan M.S.
- Ketcham, Cene M.S.
- Kruger, Steven Ph.D.
- McElligott, Kristin Ph.D.
- Oliphant, Adam M.S.
- Rivers, Brett M.S.
- Schons, Stella Ph.D.
- Shelton, Kelli M.S.
- Skeith, Laura Ph.D.
- Timpano, Anthony Ph.D.
- Walker, Catriona M.F.

Congratulations 2013 Graduates!

Summer 2013

- Barrett, Scott Ph.D.
- Boehme, Elizabeth M.S.
- Chen, Yujuan Ph.D.
- Jia, Xiaoyan Ph.D.
- Lorentz, Laura M.S.
- Montecinos, Percy M.F.
- Moore, Elizabeth M.S.

Fall 2013

- Gyawali, Nabin Ph.D.
- Krenz, Robert (Trip) Ph.D.
- Lang, AJ M.F.
- McDonald, Kelly M.S.
- Nichols, Lara M.S.
- Ramsdell, Paxton M.S.
- Thapa, Ram Ph.D.

In Memoriam: Colleen Carlson



Colleen Carlson

Colleen Carlson, a research associate in FREC, died Sunday, June 30, at LewisGale Hospital Montgomery in Blacksburg, Va. She suffered a severe asthma attack on June 22, and collapsed into a coma, according to her family. Colleen lived in Christiansburg with her husband Ross Allan and son Daniel. Their roots are in South Africa, where her mother and sister live.

Carlson, who worked in the field of forestry and biometry for more than 22 years in the United States, New Zealand, and South Africa, was most recently on the Forest Productivity Cooperative team in the department of FREC. She studied the manipulation of cuttings to improve their rooting and was an expert in the methodologies of trial-based research and data analysis. She was the lead author of 13 journal articles and a co-author of eight, and contributed to numerous other research articles.

Colleen received her B.S. and M.S. degrees from South Africa's University of the Witwatersrand in 1988, 1990, and 1992, and a diploma in datametrics from the University of South Africa in 1998. Her research interests included the manipulation and optimization of growth and time quality in tree plantation systems, with emphasis on nutritional influences.

"Her laughter could always be heard before she entered the room," her husband said. "She was generous with her time, knowledge, and especially her love. Rest in peace, Col, you are loved."

Alumni Corner



For more information about the *Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation* please contact:
Ms. Sue Snow
313 Cheatham Hall
Mail Code 0324
Blacksburg, VA 24061
540-231-5483
suesnow@vt.edu
<http://www.frec.vt.edu/>

George Eberling Selected as the new Maryland Western Regional Forester

George Eberling (B.S. Forestry, 1987) has been selected as the new Maryland Western Regional Forester. Before graduating in 1987, he was a firefighter during the summer of 1996 with the USFS Prineville Interagency Hotshot Crew, based in Prineville, OR. Following his graduation, he successfully completed several short-term assignments with Virginia Tech (working on the Gypsy Moth Research Program and the Southern Pine Research Spacing Study), and the U.S. Forest Service, Blacksburg Ranger District (gypsy moth trapping program).

Following these assignments, George began his initial employment with the Maryland Forest Service in 1989, serving as the first forester to be assigned to the Monocacy Special Rivers Forestry Project. In this position, he provided watershed-based forestry assistance to private landowners within the Monocacy Watershed, with an emphasis on establishing riparian forested buffers. In 1993, George's duties were expanded to include oversight for the Monocacy Special Rivers Forestry Project as well as taking on oversight responsibilities for the Washington County Project area within the Frederick/Washington County Project. While George has continued to serve the agency in this role since 1993, he also assumed additional duties during this time period, serving as the Western Regional representative to the Agency GIS Team, SMART/WebDET Team, Stewardship Plan Writer Team, and Standardized Stewardship Mapping Team. Additionally, George served as Acting Western Regional Forester and/or Acting Frederick/Washington County Project Manager on a recurring basis in the absence of these leadership team members. Most recently, George was recognized for his superior work accomplishments by receiving recognition as the Forest Service Forester of the Year for 2013.

The Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation is happy to announce that we now have Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/vtfrec>) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/VTFREC>) pages. If you are a part of these social networks, look us up!

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