

# CNR NEWS

## Summer 2013

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Editor: Stacey Allen Bannach

### UW-Stevens Point takes on Wildland Fire Science Program

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point College of Natural Resources will become the first institution in the Eastern United States to offer a Wildland Fire Science undergraduate program this fall. The CNR's strong integrated natural resources curriculum and presence of the nationally recognized Fire Crew student organization make it an ideal location.

Masters notes, "This program will prepare students for the complex issues involved in fighting and preventing wild fires, while using fire as a management tool. Graduates will be equipped in the arenas of both fire management and fire ecology. It's not just about going out and digging a ditch and putting out a fire."

Ron Masters, associate professor of wildland fire science, will lead the program. Masters has a background focusing on fire as an ecosystem process and the use of fire in ecosystem restoration maintenance for wildlife and vegetation management. He also brings varied experience with fire behavior modeling and use of prescribed fire in a broad array of ecosystems.

Students will gain a number of skills including practical experience in developing prescribed burn plans, working knowledge of wildland fire policy, suppression, and use; predicting fire behavior; fuels management; fire plans; and fire ecology. Students will also receive basic wildland firefighter certifications and have the opportunity to pursue additional training and certifications to make themselves more competitive in the job market.

Masters will also offer relevant spring break trips allowing students to broaden their awareness of the application and use of prescribed fire in other states and gain experience burning with exceptional practitioners in the field.

To learn more about the wildland fire science program contact Ron Masters at 715-346-3500 or [ron.masters@uwsp.edu](mailto:ron.masters@uwsp.edu).



A UW-Stevens Point Fire Crew student assists with a prescribed burn in Oklahoma.  
*Photo courtesy of Ron Masters*



University of Wisconsin  
**Stevens Point**

## Generosity provides the edge for CNR

*Christine Thomas*



Dean Christine Thomas is trap shooting at the River Wildlife recreation club at The American Club in Kohler, during a jointly sponsored event with CNR and Boone and Crockett Club. Chancellor Patterson, a participant at the event, is in the background.

Many of you have attended, donated, or received the benefits of our annual Scholarship Rendezvous or the Paper Science Foundation Awards Dinner. This year we gave out a record number of scholarships both in dollar amount and in students honored. This generosity helps our students, nearly half of whom are first generation college students, pay for the ever rising cost of going to school and keep those student loans in check.

In another part of this newsletter you will read of the generosity of many who helped us establish our first Boone and Crockett program at UW-Stevens Point. Several of the donors were not in any way associated with Boone and Crockett. Even the members who donated did not ask for any naming recognition in return for their gifts. They were pleased to see that we were launching something historic and important for the future of our students, faculty, and natural resources. This

benefit will be in perpetuity and has the potential to build into something much larger and even more meaningful.

We are also in the process of completing an agreement with a foundation that will provide 40 percent of the funding and help us start a campaign to build three new cabins and a new bath house with all the attendant utilities at the Central Wisconsin Environmental Station. As a result, many more youth will be served at this beautiful haven on Sunset Lake.

These are all examples of the edge that the generosity of our CNR friends and family provides for our students, faculty, and the future of our world. I don't know when the tradition of supporting the great program of the College of Natural Resources at UW-Stevens Point began. I do know Dan Trainer fostered it as he travelled from sports club to sports club across the state to discuss our program and our scholarship needs with the grass roots conservationists in our state. One of my favorite quotes from Dan is, "Let's do something for the students." That was a good idea then and a good idea now.

Thank you for all you have and will do for our program. I very much appreciate your generosity and the edge it brings for the good things we do.

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## Schmeckle Reserve seeks friends

Schmeckle Reserve is developing a membership based friends group aimed at getting the community involved in volunteering, running public educational programs, and advocating for the 280-acre reserve.

For more information contact Megan Espe at [mespe@uwsp.edu](mailto:mespe@uwsp.edu) or 715-346-4992.



Schmeckle Reserve Visitor Center

## Professor collaborates to increase hazelnut production in Wisconsin

Michael Demchik, professor of forestry, is working with UW-Stevens Point students and a team of researchers and growers to develop a stronger hazelnut industry in the Upper Midwest.

Hazelnuts, perennials native to Wisconsin, are rich in protein, unsaturated fat, fiber, vitamin E, magnesium, and B vitamins. They require lower energy inputs to produce, assist in conserving soil, build soil fertility, store carbon, and protect surface and groundwater quality more effectively than annual row crops. The plants also show promise as an oilseed and/or biodiesel crop.

Demchik's research focuses on characterizing the genetic structure and fine tuning micro propagation techniques for commercial production. He has been studying hazelnut plants on research sites in 21 areas in 10 counties throughout Wisconsin. His results will be published this summer.

Demchik's research is supported in part by the Wisconsin Institute for Sustainable Technology's Scholars program, a Wisconsin Consortium grant, and other grant funding sources. You can learn more about the Upper Midwest Hazelnut Development Initiative at <http://midwesthazelnuts.org>.



Michael Demchik, professor of forestry, is working to increase hazelnut production in Wisconsin with UW-Stevens Point students, and researchers, and growers from the Upper Midwest Hazelnut Development Initiative.

## Waldorf-inspired charter school to open at CWES



The Central Wisconsin Environmental Station will be home to the Tomorrow River Community Charter School.  
Photo courtesy of CWES

The Tomorrow River Community Charter School (TRCCS) is opening the first Waldorf-inspired Wisconsin public charter school at the Central Wisconsin Environmental Station (CWES) this fall.

Scott Johnson, CWES director, heard about the possibility of a charter school forming and approached representatives to suggest CWES as a site for the school. TRCCS representatives are excited about the potential CWES holds and are working on finalizing agreements with the environmental station and the Tomorrow River School District.

Johnson stated, "Everything we have worked hard to do here has provided a great opportunity for this school to be successful. They will work with our staff and our university students. They have the opportunity to work in our organic garden and with our chickens. It feels right to have them at this location."

TRCCS will hire a lead teacher and three additional teachers all trained in the Waldorf Education Philosophy. Waldorf Education is based on the philosophy of Rudolf Steiner, focusing on a natural learning pace for each student incorporating aspects of music, art, and the environment. Students will be prepared to become stewards of the earth, graduating with the skills to create and change the world around them. TRCCS is affiliated with the Tomorrow River School District and has to follow public school guidelines from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, but will have freedom over their curriculum.

Sixty-two students are currently enrolled for Fall 2013 in grades pre-kindergarten through grade 6. The school will start with four classrooms and the makeup of those classrooms will be determined by the age ranges of the enrolled students. To learn more about TRCCS visit <http://tomorrowrivercommunityschool.org> or call 715-824-5521 ext. 224.

## Congratulations 2013 CNR award recipients

Outstanding Contributor Award  
*Friends of the CNR*  
*Marv and Sandy Kramer*



Photo courtesy of Marv and Sandy Kramer



Outstanding Contributor Award  
*Staff Member*  
*Sharon Reichert*  
*Administrative Office Specialist*



Outstanding Professional Service Award  
*Randy Champeau*  
*Associate Dean for Outreach and Extension*



Photo courtesy of WDNR

Environmental Leader Award  
*-posthumous-*  
*Jonathan Ela*  
*(Pictured far right)*

Outstanding Alumnus Award  
Tom Sauer - USDA-ARS



Scholarship Award  
Jason Riddle

Assistant Professor of Wildlife Ecology



Photo courtesy of Tom Sauer



Outreach Award  
Dave Mechenich  
CWSE Data Manager  
(Pictured far left)



Excellence in Teaching Award  
Bob Holsman

Associate Professor of Wildlife Ecology



Treehaven Award  
John Birrenkott  
(Pictured far right)

## Student spotlight - Kristen Miller



Kristen Miller and dad Steven Miller (BS Forest Administration '84) at the Seminole Ranch in Florida where the UW-Stevens Point Fire Crew assisted with a prescribed burn.  
Photo courtesy of Kristen Miller.

**Kristen Miller** is a senior majoring in forestry recreation. Born and raised in Northeast Florida just outside of Jacksonville, she followed the CNR's strong reputation and her father's footsteps to UW-Stevens Point.

She has been an active member of the Fire Crew, serving first as the secretary and then, last year, as the crew leader. She was recently elected secretary of the National Student Association for Fire Ecology and has had her basic wildland fire certifications since 2005.

Her favorite memory from her time here was traveling to Portland, Oregon, to represent the university at the International Association of Fire Ecology conference. During the conference, Kristen learned how truly small the wildland fire and forestry communities are and how important it is to maintain a strong reputation.

She is spending her summer working for the U.S. Forest Service as a fire prevention officer in Boise, Idaho. After she graduates in December she would like to pursue a Master's of Science in Forestry with an emphasis in fire science.

## Hansen wins a spot on the U.S. Timbersports relay team



Ben Hansen, pictured at the Midwestern Foresters Conclave, won the national title at the 2013 STIHL Timbersports Series collegiate championship held in Pigeon Forge, Tenn.

Photo courtesy of Mike Bowers

**Ben Hansen**, a forestry management major from Milladore, won the national title at the 2013 STIHL Timbersports Series collegiate championship competition held in Pigeon Forge, Tenn., June 7-9.

Hansen won first place in the single buck competition, second place in the standing chop block, third place in the stock saw competition and third place in the underhand chop, then won the championship by one point. **Adam LaSalle** (BS Forestry Management '09), UW-Stevens Point's other collegiate timbersports champion and a professional lumberjack, coached him during the event.

Hansen will compete with the U.S. Timbersports relay team at the world championships in Stuttgart, Germany, October 24-26. He will also compete as a professional in the 2014 STIHL Timbersports series.

UW-Stevens Point is one of two schools with two student collegiate timbersports champions. The university has also won four Midwest regional timbersports titles through LaSalle (2009), **Andrew Gollnick** (BS Forestry Administration and Utilization '12) (2010), and Hansen (2011 and 2012), and three Midwest Foresters' Conclave team championships.

## Student highlights



Paper Science and Engineering junior Rachel Strelow receives the TAPPI Student of the Year Award. (From left to right: Roger Hagan, president at Port Townsend Paper Corporation; Rachel Strelow, and Larry Montague, president and CEO of TAPPI)  
Photo courtesy of Jodi Hermsen

**Rachel Strelow**, a junior paper science and engineering major, received the national Technical Association for the Pulp and Paper Industry (TAPPI) Student of the Year Award at PaperCon, the TAPPI annual conference, in Atlanta at the beginning of May. **Steven Swan**, a junior paper science and engineering major, won the Robert W. Hagemeyer Scholarship and the Paper and Board Division Scholarship. **Tyler Shimulunas**, a junior paper science and engineering major, received the Engineering Division Scholarship. Steven and Tyler are currently participating in the Trans-Atlantic Degree Program (TAPS) in Germany and will be in Finland this fall.

The third cohort of the **Graduate Fellowship in Residential Environmental Education** began in May at the Conserve School in Land O' Lakes, Wisconsin. The sixteen new master's students will be taking courses at UW-Stevens Point while training in outdoor skills and working with students at Conserve School and Treehaven for the next two years.

Four senior forestry students were chosen as summer interns by the Society of Municipal Arborists. **Thomas Steele**, Spring Green; **Gary Tellefson**, Edgerton; **Michael Zalewski**, Antigo; and **Alex Estelmann**, Madison were among 11 interns chosen from a national competitive pool of 29 applicants. They will spend 10 weeks working with mentor arborists in municipal forestry programs chosen from across the country.



The third cohort of the Graduate Fellowship in Residential Environmental Education kick off their two-year program with a trip to the Porcupine Mountains.  
Photo courtesy of Fran McReynolds

Members of the **UW-Stevens Point Woodland Sports team** successfully defended their championship for the third year in a row at the Midwestern Forester's Conclave in April at Michigan State University. Conclave participants from UW-Stevens Point included seven women and 14 men who competed in crosscut sawing, wood chopping, axe throwing and log rolling as well as academic events such as tree and wood identification and inventory techniques.

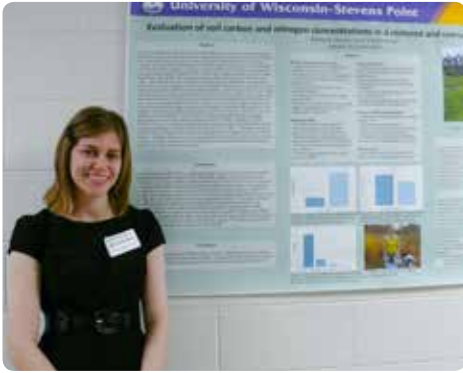


Sarah Etter

**Sarah Etter**, a senior forestry recreation major, received a scholarship from the Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals to attend the 2013 National Outdoor Recreation Conference and IUFRO Conference on Forests for People in Traverse City, Michigan, this past May.

**Anthony Sharp**, natural resources graduate student, had his research featured in the spring edition of the *Central Wisconsin Grassland Conservation Area Partnerships* newsletter. Sharp's study will provide insight into possible ways of improving Central Wisconsin Grassland Conservation Area management. Anthony is currently working in Madison as a social research scientist for the Department of Natural Resources.

## Undergraduate student research symposium



With a record number of students participating, the 14th annual Undergraduate Student Research Symposium took place on April 5. Eighty students showcased their research findings through poster and oral presentations under the watchful eye of faculty, staff, and other community volunteers, who serve as judges during the event. The symposium is planned and organized by a steering committee made up of students with faculty and staff members assisting as needed.

*The following students took highest honors in the oral presentations:*

- **Bryant Kern**, advised by Shelli Dubay - "Environmental variables that influence exposure of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) to parainfluenza 3 virus."
- **Katherine Moratz** and **Kristina Borgstrom**, advised by Shelli Dubay and Jason Riddle - "Abundance and occupancy modeling of eastern gray squirrels (*Sciurus carolinensis*) within Sandhill Wildlife Area in response to stand age."
- **Aaron Pape**, advised by Aaron Thompson - "Methodology to identify priority conservation lands in NE Portage County."

*The following students took highest honors in the poster presentations:*

- **Nigel Golden**, advised by Shelli Dubay and Jason Riddle - "Seroprevalence of *Leptospira interrogans* antibody in white-tailed deer from two sites in Wisconsin."
- **Jacob Gross**, advised by Eric Anderson - "Wisconsin waterfowl species identification utilizing a skull diagnostic probability."
- **Leah McSherry** and **Jen Anton**, advised by Shelli Dubay and Jason Riddle- "Nest box use of southern flying squirrels (*Glaucomys volans*) in relation to tree species and understory stem density."
- **Ryan Rodenkirch** and **Brittany Ruttenberg**, advised by Shelli Dubay and Todd Huspeni- "Prevalence and intensity of ectoparasites on white-tailed deer in two sites in Wisconsin."
- **Allison Willman**, advised by Rob Michitsch - "Effectiveness of the 80-150% hydrology requirements on isolated wetlands in Lake County, Illinois."

Visit [www.uwsp.edu/cnr/StudentSymposium](http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/StudentSymposium) to see all of the 2013 student presenters.



## Alumni updates

### Hoppe named field soil scientist of the year by the National Forest Service

Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest Soil Scientist **Dave Hoppe** (BS Forestry '76) was chosen as the Field Soil Scientist of the Year. The national Forest Service "2012 Rise to the Future" Award recognized Dave for his two decades of outstanding work toward field soil science. Dave traveled to Washington, D.C., in May to receive the award.

The work Dave is being recognized for includes contributing to nationwide soil disturbance monitoring protocols, ecological land classification, and long-term collaboration with the Natural Resources Conservation Service among others. He works tirelessly to integrate soil science into other program areas, and his model work on hundreds of National Environmental Policy Act analyses is used as the regional template. Dave has been a forest service employee for 33 years and is from Butternut, Wisconsin. He resides with his family in Rhinelander, Wis.



Dave Hoppe is presented the 2012 Field Soil Scientist of the Year by the National Forest Service. (Left to right: Butch Blazer, USDA deputy under secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, Anne Zimmermann, Forest Service director of Watersheds, Fish, Wildlife, Air and Rare Plants, Leslie Weldon, Forest Service deputy chief, Dave Hoppe, forest soil scientist, Chequamegon-Nicolet N.F., and Mary Wagner, Forest Service associate chief)

Photo courtesy of Dave Hoppe

**Gary Zimmer** (BS Wildlife '76 and MS Natural Resources '79) was appointed to the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board, a seven-member citizen board that sets policy for the Department of Natural Resources. Zimmer is a senior regional biologist for the Ruffed Grouse Society and has previously worked for the U.S. Forest Service in northern Wisconsin, including 12 years as a district biologist.

**Marla Eddy** (BS Urban Forestry '89) was featured in the May edition of the *Know Your Madisonian* in the *Wisconsin State Journal*. Eddy is the city forester for Madison, Wis., serves on the Dane County tree board and volunteers at the Henry Vilas Zoo.

**Ben Robel** (BS Wildlife Ecology '07) has been in the news recently with his "goats for hire" focused business. In 2008 Robel started Vegetation Solutions, a company that uses goats to remove unwanted vegetation. Their excrement is great fertilizer so many organic focused businesses are utilizing this service. You can learn more about Ben and his business at [www.vegetation-solutions.com/](http://www.vegetation-solutions.com/).

**Nick Broughton** (BS Urban Forestry '03) was promoted to the position of Sales Arborist at The Care of Trees (TCOT). Broughton began his career for TCOT in 2005 in their downtown Chicago office and was promoted to Plant Health Care Coordinator for TCOT's Schiller Park office. In 2006 he became a Certified Arborist and in 2008 he transferred to Barrington as a Plant Health Care Coordinator. Broughton graduated from the Davey Institute of Tree Science this February with the distinction of the Golden Oak Award. He currently lives in Woodstock, Illinois, with his wife, Sylvia, and their three children.



Nick Broughton (middle) received the Golden Oak Award at the Davey Institute of Tree Science from Greg Ina (left), the Davey Institute vice president and general manager and Pat Covey (right), Davey Tree chief operating officer

Photo courtesy of Davey Tree Expert Company

## Alumni updates (con't)

**Ryan Gustafson** (BS Urban Forestry '05) recently received a promotion to the position of AA Sales Representative in the South Minneapolis territory. He and his wife reside in Buffalo, Minn. and are expecting their first child.



Leslie McInenly is the new big game program leader for the Minnesota DNR.  
Photo courtesy of the Star Tribune

**Leslie McInenly** (BS Wildlife '97) was hired as the new big game program leader for the Minnesota DNR this past November. She replaces Lou Cornicelli who was promoted to wildlife research manager. Her primary responsibilities include managing deer, moose, and elk seasons, and working with stakeholders to modify and improve seasons and regulations to address the expectations of a diverse public. McInenly grew up in the St. Croix River Valley and resides with her family in Stillwater.

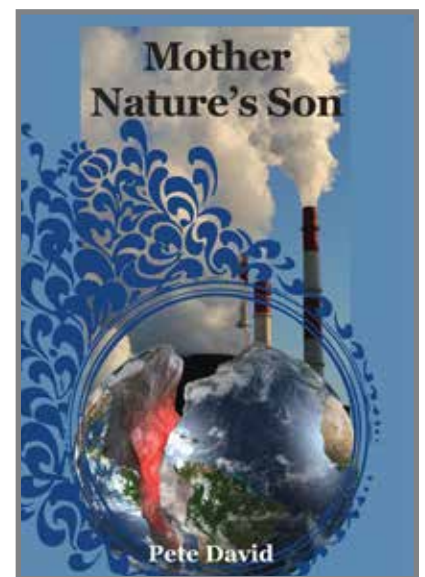
Brothers **Hugh** (BS Resource Management '55) and **Elbridge "Al" Curtis** (BS Conservation Biology '54) participated in a Never Forgotten Honor Flight at Central Wisconsin Airport in Mosinee. The brothers, along with other veterans, flew to Washington D.C., where they visited war and service memorials. Hugh and Al studied at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point when they decided to enlist in the Marine Corps together. Almost 60 years later, Hugh is now teaching with the Wausau School District and managing the Wausau's school forest. Al works with the Merrill Area Public Schools and runs that district's school forest.

**Ryan Caputo** (BS Forestry Management '10) was named the Green County, Wisconsin, Conservation Warden in March. Caputo completed specialized warden training at several locations around Wisconsin the year prior to his appointment. Caputo previously served as a park ranger at Peninsula State Park, a deputy sheriff for Winnebago County, and a deputy warden in Poynette. During his year of advanced warden training, he worked at temporary duty stations in Wood, Brown, Milwaukee, and Price counties.

## Alumnus releases first novel

Alumnus **Pete David** (BS Wildlife '80) released his first novel in December. *Mother Nature's Son*, published by Aberdeen Bay, follows the adventures of a federal wildlife officer, Lee Reynolds who is recruited to work for an eco-terrorist group that executes a major cyber-crime with the intent of redistributing the wealth to help the environment. Lee's clandestine activities complicate his developing relationship with Lucy Douglas, a musician struggling to make a living in the incestuous, fast food music industry.

The story's environmental theme is not surprising, given that David has a bachelor's degree at UW-Stevens Point and an master's degree from Eastern Kentucky University in wildlife biology, and a 20-year career in natural resources working with various state and federal agencies. He incorporated some of his college experiences into the novel. He currently works part time as an environmental consultant in Albuquerque, New Mexico. You can read more about Pete and his first novel at his website [www.petedavidbooks.com](http://www.petedavidbooks.com).



Alumnus Pete David publishes his first book, *Mother Nature's Son*.  
Photo courtesy of Pete David

Share your updates with us at [cnr@uwsp.edu](mailto:cnr@uwsp.edu).

## Alumni updates (con't)

**Jim Buchholz** (BS Wildlife '76) retired after more than 36 years of service to the state of Wisconsin. Buchholz began working for the state in 1972 as a seasonal wildlife management assistant at the Department of Natural Resources' Plymouth Service Center in Sheboygan County. He later worked as park ranger at Hartman Creek State Park in Waupaca County. He was hired as a full-time park ranger in 1977, stationed at the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest located in Vilas and Oneida counties. In 1978 he transferred to Calumet County where he served as the chief ranger at High Cliff State Park. Buchholz was promoted to assistant manager at Devil's Lake State Park in Sauk County in 1979, and was promoted to park superintendent of Wyalusing State Park in Grant County in 1983. In 1986 he accepted the position of natural resource property supervisor to manage Kohler-Andrae and the Harrington Beach State Park Work Unit in Sheboygan and Ozaukee counties.

**Scott Loss** (BS Wildlife '04) made national headlines with his report, *The impact of free-ranging domestic cats on wildlife of the United States*, estimates domestic cats in the United States kill a median of 2.4 billion birds and 12.3 billion mammals a year. These numbers are greater than previous studies and put the domestic cat in a position to be one of the single greatest human-linked threats to wildlife in the nation. Read Loss' report at [www.nature.com/ncomms/journal/v4/n1/abs/ncomms2380.html](http://www.nature.com/ncomms/journal/v4/n1/abs/ncomms2380.html).

**Ryan Koenigs** (BS Water Resources: Fish and Limnology '07) is the new sturgeon biologist for the Winnebago Lakes System, home to the world's largest population of lake sturgeon. Koenigs is the third sturgeon biologist in the past 40 years and the newest appointed biologist in 22 years. He has served as a DNR fisheries management technician in Oshkosh for the last four years.

**Ron Peterson** (MS Natural Resources '79) joined the National Wind as director of Project Permitting in February. Peterson is responsible for overseeing permitting activities for the company's wind projects under development in Minnesota and three other states. He also has a J.D. from the William Mitchell College of Law.



Jim Buchholz, pictured with two of his grandchildren at Harrington Beach State Park, celebrated his retirement after 36 years of service to the State of Wisconsin.

*Photo courtesy of the Buchholz family*



Aaron Schauer, pictured here demonstrating tree climbing skills to high school students, competed at the North America Tree Climbing Championship in April in Newark, New Jersey.

**Aaron Schauer** (BS Urban forestry and forestry management '03) earned a spot to compete at the North American Tree Climbing Championship that was held April 27 and 28 in Newark, New Jersey. Schauer went head to head with 49 other male competitors in the work climb, aerial rescue, throwline, belayed speed climb, and the secured footlock events placing 28th overall. Aaron became interested in tree climbing competitions as a student and went on to compete as a professional after graduating.

## Career Fair



We gathered alumni employers for a group picture at the annual career fair, held on February 21 in the Dreyfus University Center. Watch the CNR website for more information on registering for next year's event scheduled for February 27, 2014.



## Save the date

**Who:** Former and current CWES students, alumni, faculty, and staff

**What:** A welcome back to CWES event that will include a cookout, kayaking, canoeing, tours, updates, and entertainment by Green Tea.

(Meal - \$5 per person or \$15 per family; lodging available on site \$5 per person)

**When:** Saturday, October 5 from 1:30 to 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** Central Wisconsin Environmental Station, Amherst Junction Wis.

RSVP to Sheri 715-346-2704

Visit [www.uwsp.edu/alumni](http://www.uwsp.edu/alumni) for more details

## Faculty, staff, and outreach highlights

More than 700 people attended the spring Candlelight Hike Festival at **Schmeckle Reserve**. The event featured torch lit trails, a campfire program, free crafts and snacks, and hands-on discovery stations. This free community event is held every spring and fall, and each festival has a different theme. The theme for the April 26 hike was "The Wonders of Pollination." The event is made possible by the efforts of more than 50 student volunteers and Schmeckle Reserve student employees.

**Lynn Markham**, UW-Extension shoreland and land use specialist with the Center for Land Use Education, and **Nancy Turyk**, a water resources scientist with the Center for Watershed Science and Education, hosted a community presentation on Saturday, Feb. 23, to discuss changes to the Portage County Shoreland Zoning Ordinance and their potential affect on property, lakes, rivers, fish populations and wildlife. A draft of the changes is posted on the Portage County Zoning website at <http://co.portage.wi.us/planningzoning/new/current-projects>.

**Karyn Biasca**, professor of paper science and engineering, has been named the new Paper Science and Engineering Department Chair after the former chair, **Gerry Ring's**, retired in May.

The National Park Service and the Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals presented Wisconsin the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) Excellence Award on May 23 at the 2013 National Outdoor Recreation Conference in Traverse City, Mich. Primary authors of the Wisconsin SCORP included **Anna Haines**, professor of human dimensions of natural resource management and director of the Center for Land Use Education; David Marcouiller, professor, state extension specialist, and department chair of urban and regional planning at Madison; and Jeffrey Prey, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. You can find the plan on the Wisconsin State Parks website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/planning/scorp>.

**Ron Masters**, associate professor of wildland fire science, had his research, "The importance of shortleaf pine for wildlife and diversity in mixed oak-pine forests and in pine-grassland woodlands", highlighted in the April 2013 Newsletter for the Oak Woodlands and Forests Fire Consortium.



Students in the environmental education and interpretation practicum present a character campfire program at the spring Candlelight Hike Festival at Schmeckle Reserve, dressing up as hummingbirds, bees, and butterflies.  
*Photo courtesy of Schmeckle Reserve*

## Retirements



Aga Razvi, professor of soil and waste resources retired in August.



Gerry Ring, professor of paper science and engineering retired in May.



Stanley Szczytko, professor of fisheries and water resources retired in December.

## Historic agreement signed with Boone and Crockett Club

Faculty mentored wildlife research has taken a large leap forward, thanks to a handful of donors and a new collaborative agreement with the Boone and Crockett Club.

The agreement, inked in March, calls for establishing the Douglas Stephens Boone and Crockett Club Fellowship in Wildlife Conservation at UW-Stevens Point. The fellowship is supported by earnings from a newly created endowment in Foundation and will provide research opportunities for undergraduate students (fellowships). In the future, the fund could eventually support graduate student research (assistantships) or even an endowed professorship to lead a proposed Wisconsin Center for Wildlife Studies.

The goal is to “promote the conservation and management of wildlife, especially big game, and its habitat to preserve and encourage hunting and to maintain the highest ethical standards of fair chase and sportsmanship in North America” while advancing our educational, research and outreach mission.

The agreement is more than ten years in the making, with Dean Christine Thomas leading the effort in nurturing her relationship with Boone and Crockett Club as a professional member since 2002. Paving the way for the agreement were major gifts from Gerald and Helen Stephens of Peoria, Ill. (\$187,000), Bob (BS-Urban Forestry, '82) and Kim Spoerl of Waupaca, Wis. (\$50,000), and the Boone and Crockett Club Foundation (\$62,000). In addition, Dean Thomas committed \$85,000 in matching funds from the Jack & Marian Wilson Fund, an unrestricted endowment that benefits the CNR.

“We are thrilled to formally create this partnership with the Boone and Crockett Club,” said Thomas. “The Club is the oldest – and among the most respected – wildlife conservation organizations in North America. They are very selective in choosing national partners, and UW-Stevens Point is now one of them,” she added. To date the club has established programs at only a few schools, mostly major research institutions: University of Montana, Texas A&M University, Oregon State University, and Michigan State University. In addition to the recent agreement with UW-Stevens Point, new programs are also in development for Colorado State University and Oklahoma State University.

Inaugural fellowships were awarded in summer 2012 to wildlife majors Danielle Berger of Marshfield, Wis., and Tessa Hasbrouck of Petersburg, Alaska. Berger worked with her faculty mentor, wildlife professor Jason Riddle, on research looking at nest success of bobwhite quail in relation to the distance the nest is placed from a woody edge. For her efforts, Berger won the Janice Lee Fenske Memorial Award at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in December. Hasbrouck, mentored by wildlife professor Eric Anderson, worked on a Wisconsin DNR project aiming to assess the



Danielle Berger and Tessa Hasbrouck  
2012 Doug Stephens Boone and Crockett Fellows

density of bobcats in the state. Her specific role in the project was to identify ways to improve the precision and accuracy of population estimates for the animal.



Nathan Francois  
2013 Doug Stephens  
Boone and Crockett Fellow

This summer, the Douglas Stephens Boone and Crockett Fellowship was awarded to Nathan Francois, a wildlife major from Green Bay, Wis. Francois is working with his mentor, Assistant Professor of Wildlife Ecology Jason Riddle, to conduct a statistical data analysis of pheasant observations used to estimate the population of the bird. The study hopes to identify observer errors in this method to eventually improve observations and therefore the population estimates.

“Our ultimate goal is to make history by creating UW-Stevens Point’s first named endowed professor to lead this project,” Thomas explained. “We have raised about \$400,000 in gifts and matches so far, and we believe this goal is now within reach.”

## Highlights of new gifts and support *(Fall 2012-Spring 2013)*

- **Boone and Crockett Club** (Missoula, Mont.) – \$62,300 to launch a formal partnership with the College of Natural Resources and UW-Stevens Point Foundation, and to create the Douglas Stephens Boone and Crockett Club Endowed Fellowship in Wildlife Conservation. The endowment will fund faculty mentored student research projects in wildlife.
- **Dorothy Kopmeier Vallier Foundation** (Milwaukee, Wis.) – \$75,000 to provide support for the Vallier Treehaven Resident Ecologist position at Treehaven, currently held by Kevin Burns. Special thanks to Vallier Foundation board member and longtime benefactor William Kummer.
- **Bob and Kim Spoerl** (Waupaca, Wis.) – \$50,000 to support the Douglas Stephens Boone and Crockett Club Endowed Fellowship in Wildlife Conservation. The endowment will fund faculty mentored student research projects in wildlife. Bob is a 1982 alumnus and a current member of the UW-Stevens Point CNR Advisory Board.
- **James and Joann Bernd** (Waupaca, Wis.) – \$15,000 to support 15 spring 2013 James & Joann Bernd Family Scholarship awards for CNR students participating in the six-week Treehaven Summer Environmental Experience
- **Karen McCulloch** (Fridley, Minn.) – \$25,000 to create the Donald and Eleanor Ansay Memorial Forestry Scholarship Endowment. Karen received bachelor and master's degrees from UW-Stevens Point in 1975 and 1979. Her late brother, Russell Ansay, was a 1975 CNR forestry alumnus.
- **Petenwell Castle Rock Property Owners Association, Inc.** (Adams County, Wis.) – \$15,000 to create the Petenwell Castle Rock Property Owners Association Scholarship endowment to support worthy CNR majors from Juneau, Adams and Wood counties.
- **Gutgsell Family Foundation** (River Forest, Ill.) – \$8,000 to the Gutgsell Environmental Research Fund to support student research under the direction of Kyle Herrman, Assistant Professor of Fisheries and Water Resources.
- **Anonymous Gift** – \$5,000 to the Christine and Stanton Thomas Natural Resources Leader Endowment. The scholarship recognizes students of junior status who demonstrate the potential to assume leadership roles at the state, national and international levels as they mature in their careers.
- **Marv and Sandy Kramer** (Waupaca, Wis.) – \$5,000 to support the 2013 Marv and Sandy Kramer Summer Academic Scholarships for undergraduate students participating in the six-week Treehaven "Summer Camp" field training course.
- **Robert Kelly** (Silver Bay, Minn.) – \$5,000 to establish the Caitlin Kelly Memorial International Scholarship. This scholarship was created in memory of Caitlin Kelly, a former water resources major, to support students participating in the European Environmental Studies Seminar.
- **Veolia Environmental Services/Advanced Disposal** (Wisconsin Rapids, Wis./Chicago, Ill.) – \$10,000 (\$5,000 to provide Advanced Disposal scholarships for five students in spring 2013, and \$5,000 to support the CNR Special Projects Fund).
- **The Wilderness Society** (Washington, D.C.) – \$4,690 to fund the 2013 The Wilderness Society Gaylord Nelson Earth Day Fellowships for CNR graduate students pursuing a master's degree in environmental education.
- **Alice Agnew** (Tomahawk, Wis.) – \$4,000 to the Agnew Leadership Scholarship Endowment to support scholarships to teachers enrolled in courses at Treehaven.
- **Mark Martin and Connie Antonuk** (Rhineland, Wis.) and AXA Foundation – \$4,728 to the Connie J. Antonuk and Mark C. Martin Water Resources Scholarship Endowment.



Bob and Kim Spoerl hunt at the Glenroy Hunting Lodge in Queenstown, New Zealand. They donated \$50,000 to support the Douglas Stephens Boone and Crockett Club Endowed Fellowship in Wildlife Conservation.

*Photo courtesy of Bob and Kim Spoerl*



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# CNR NEWS

## Summer 2013



### Alumni Impact

There are two significant ways you can help us continue to be one of the nation's leading undergraduate natural resources program.

**Make a gift.** With decreasing levels of state support, your financial gift can provide the college with the support it needs to continue to produce the excellent graduates for which we are known. You can give online at [www.uwsp.edu/givenow](http://www.uwsp.edu/givenow). If you would like to mail in a donation, please make checks payable to the "UW-Stevens Point Foundation - CNR" and send to: UW-Stevens Point Foundation, 2100 Main Street, Stevens Point, WI 54481. If you have questions about giving, please contact Steve Menzel at 715-346-2032 or [Steve.Menzel@uwsp.edu](mailto:Steve.Menzel@uwsp.edu).

**Share your story.** We love to hear from our alumni! Hearing what you have been up to since graduation builds pride among our faculty, staff and students; helps us obtain grants and gifts from other sources; and makes a fun addition to our newsletter. Send your story to [cnr@uwsp.edu](mailto:cnr@uwsp.edu).