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NATURAL RESOURCE ECOLOGY & MANAGEMENT

A L U M N I N E W S L E T T E R

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

FROM THE INTERIM CHAIR – IN THE THICK OF IT!



Interim Chair Rick Hall in the thick of mid first-season root sprout re-growth of an aspen bioenergy research plantation that was harvested in March, 2008.

Well, how quickly things change. In the last newsletter, I indicated that the Iowa Economy and NREM were in relatively good condition. It is now painfully obvious that we are in the thick of the problems plaguing the U.S. economy. The impacts were delayed, but are now a major concern.

My first concern is for our current and near-future students. How will they, and their parents, handle the ever increasing cost of a college education while dealing with all their personal financial difficulties? If you are in a position to help, please do so by contributing to our scholarship and emergency student assistance funds. You can also make potential students aware of the fact that ISU and NREM offer great value as they develop their careers.

A second concern is how we maintain the faculty and staff numbers we need to best serve students and the rest of society. Our NREM budget for the rest of this fiscal year will need to be trimmed by at least 1.5%. We are prepared to do our part in reducing state expenditures, but cuts of 10% or more that are forecast for the upcoming fiscal year will significantly reduce our capacity to serve our many clients. Critical faculty vacancies that we have cannot be filled in a timely fashion, if at all. We will have trouble maintaining our instruction in the field because of travel costs; classroom supplies will be limited.

However, I know many of you face challenges that are as bad, or worse, than we face. So, our concern is also for you. Let us know what and how you are doing. If you have the opportunity, get together with your former classmates and tell the stories that will lighten your spirits. Enjoy this newsletter that Lacy has so ably produced. Think about what we all can accomplish as we bring our economy and ecosystems back to sustainability.

So, we are in the thick of it and it is hard to see where we go next, but we will measure up to the challenge. We will continue to produce top quality graduates and important natural resource research and outreach results. We're all in this together!

- Rick Hall

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ON THE COVER:

NREM alum John Robinson's new book explores the absence of minorities in natural resource and conservation activities and recommends some possible solutions to this important problem.

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BE A PART OF OUR NEW MEDIA DISPLAY



NREM students are enjoying the new media display in our building. The media display shows all things NREM, including upcoming events, opportunities for students, photos of our students in the field, and success stories from our alumni. The display is not only a great way

to communicate with our current students, but visiting prospective students and their families, as well as passers-by, have been seen checking out what's going on in the life of NREM. We hope you will continue to supply us with job announcements as well as your success stories to be highlighted on our media display.

DEPARTMENTAL STATISTICS FOR FALL 2008

- 267 Animal Ecology undergraduates
- 68 Forestry undergraduates
- 48 Graduate students

It's an exciting time for our students as excellent career opportunities abound. That also means we need to increase our enrollment so there are plenty of ISU NREM students to fill the many positions. Do you have relatives or acquaintances with interests in natural resources? If so, please send them our way. Contact NREM Student Services at (515) 294-6148 or by email at lacyjo@iastate.edu.



Fall Ph.D. grads: From left: Dr. Paul Brown, Dr. Tricia Knoop, Dr. Lisa Schulte Moore (Major Professor for all three Ph.D. graduates), Dr. Ryan Atwell

Fall M.S. grads: From left: Dr. Lisa Schulte Moore, Valerie Hentges, Megan Ernst, Jeanne Spaur, Jaymi LeBrun, Paul Skrade

2008 GRADUATES

NREM congratulates all of its 2008 graduates!

This past spring, 28 Animal Ecology and 12 Forestry students earned their B.S. degrees, and four graduate students earned their M.S. degrees.

This fall, 19 Animal Ecology and three Forestry students earned their B.S. degrees, nine graduate students earned their M.S. degrees, and three students earned their Ph.D. degrees.



Fall 2008 Forestry Camp students outside the dining hall at Lubrecht Forest, MT.

MONTANA CAMP REUNION

ISU Forestry graduates will be meeting at Lubrecht Forest in Montana for a reunion on June 27, 2009. Please contact Dr. Steve Jungst at sejungst@iastate.edu if you are interested, or for more information. Reservations and payment for the reunion are due by April 30, 2009.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT NREM

We at NREM greatly appreciate the generosity of our alumni and friends.

CONTACT THE CHAIR

To discuss the specific area in which you would like your gift to be used, please contact the department chair at (515) 294-1739. The chair can also provide information on how to make your tax-deductible contribution online or by mail.

CONTRIBUTE ONLINE

Visit <http://www.foundation.iastate.edu/gift>

- 1) In the "Allocate your gift" section, check the box that says "Click here to designate your gift to another area on campus."
- 2) List "Natural Resource Ecology & Management" in the "Designation" box.
- 3) Be sure to include any specific area to which you would like to contribute in the "Additional Instructions" box (for example: NREM undergraduate scholarships, equipment, NREM Student Services, etc.). Please contact the chair at (515) 294-1739 to discuss ways to designate your gift to best fit your wishes.



SCHULTZ RECEIVES REGIONAL TEACHING AWARD

Dr. Richard Schultz (Forestry) was honored by the USDA for excellence in teaching this past November. Schultz currently teaches courses in soils, watershed management, and ecology with an emphasis on real-world applications. Schultz earned his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees in Forestry from Iowa State University. He then joined the University of Georgia faculty before returning to ISU in 1979.



Schultz teaching NREM students in the forests of Montana.

ERRINGTON TO BE HONORED AS PART OF SYMPOSIUM

Dr. Paul Errington, naturalist, author, and past zoology professor focusing on fur and game species, was honored by Dr. James Pritchard (NREM) and other university figures at the Symposium on Wildness, Wilderness, and the Creative Imagination. The tribute to Errington was a collaborative effort including members of NREM, the English Department, and other community members. More information on the symposium can be found at http://engl.iastate.edu/event_details/5th-annual-symposium-on-wildness-wilderness-the-creative-imagination-1.ics.

Papers written by Errington have also been made available through the ISU library. For more information on Errington or to locate his papers visit <http://www.lib.iastate.edu/arch/rgrp/13-25-51.html>.

LAKESIDE LAB OBSERVES CENTENNIAL

Iowa Lakeside Lab is observing its centennial in 2009. Special events will be held throughout the summer, including a reunion for current and former faculty, students, staff, and their families on August 1st and 2nd. Lakeside Lab will also host a special exhibition of David Rogers Big Bugs from July 4-October 4. The Big Bugs are larger-than-life sculptures of common insects that have delighted audiences across the United States. For more information, please visit www.lakesidelab.org and click the centennial logo.

KLAAS RECEIVES HERITAGE AWARD

Retired faculty member Dr. Erwin Klaas (Animal Ecology) was chosen as recipient of the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation's Hagie Heritage Award. Klaas received the award as a testament to his extraordinary service and commitment to Iowa's environment. Among many other conservation projects, Klaas led the effort that convinced the citizens of Ames to purchase the former Hallet's Quarry on the north side of Ames and to develop the property into Ada Hayden Park. His success in that effort not only saved a high-quality source of drinking water, but also created a very enjoyable outdoor area for the public.



Klaas, retired NREM faculty member

Below: Thompson teaching a group at an NREM outreach event.



THOMPSON HONORED FOR ACHIEVEMENT IN TEACHING

Dr. Jan Thompson (Forestry) was honored by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs) for her 14 years of teaching achievements. Thompson has played a major role in developing NREM curriculum in addition to teaching nine different courses. As a result of her efforts, Thompson received the Outstanding Achievement in Teaching Award.



Burnett with NREM Learning Community students at the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha, NE.

BURNETT RECOGNIZED FOR WORK WITH LEARNING COMMUNITIES

John Burnett, NREM student services specialist, was honored by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs) for his outstanding work with the NREM learning communities. Burnett initiated and continues to facilitate both the freshman learning community and Transitions, the learning community for transfer students. Both of these programs are made up of students who share common interests and classes, thus enabling relationship-building between peers and faculty. Burnett received the CALs Learning Community Coordination Award as a result of his efforts.

PRITCHARD FEATURED IN IOWA LITERARY PUBLICATION

Dr. James Pritchard's (NREM) essay "Mountain Home, Prairie Home," can be found in the Wapsipinicon Almanac. The almanac is produced in Anamosa, Iowa, on ancient letterpress, and the goal of the publication is to provide a forum for talented local writers. The almanac includes both fiction and reflection on literary, historical, and environmental topics all relating to the Midwest. Pritchard's submission discusses attitudes toward the Midwestern landscape. More information about the Wapsipinicon Almanac can be found at <http://www.wapsialmanac.com/>.

ISU TEAMS WITH IOWA DNR TO IMPROVE FISHING

Dr. Joe Morris (Animal Ecology) is part of a team of ISU and Iowa DNR biologists working to find ways to better manage aquatic vegetation in Iowa lakes. Aquatic plants are a vital component to the functioning of the lake ecosystem as they provide oxygen, food, and cover for fish and other aquatic organisms. However, overpopulation of aquatic plants can cause problems for the ecosystem and for anglers. The team hopes to find ways to control nuisance plant growth and to introduce more beneficial plants to Iowa waters.

NREM graduate student Megan Ernst sampling aquatic vegetation.



Stokke visited China and was invited to partner with nine other foreign experts on a project involving biobased materials.

STOKKE TRIP TO CHINA

Dr. Doug Stokke (Forestry) – Sustainable Materials Science and Technology (SMST) option, traveled to China and South Korea this fall making the first leg of the trip with NREM colleague, Dr. Monlin Kuo. Stokke and Kuo attended the International Association of Wood Products Societies 2008 Symposium on Wood Science and Technology, hosted by Northeast Forestry University (NEFU). Stokke is one of 10 foreign experts from the U.S., Canada, and Japan invited to participate in a "111 Project" at NEFU. 111 Projects are competitive grants from the Chinese Ministry of Education to higher education institutions in China and are intended to foster cooperative research and technical exchange for a period of five years. Stokke will have the opportunity to visit NEFU for up to three months each year for the next five years. The broad area of cooperation for the project is biobased materials, defined as composites derived from wood and non-wood plant fiber, and may include biobased adhesives, polymers, and other biobased products.

Following the adventure in China, Stokke visited South Korea at the invitation of Dr. In Yang (Forestry Ph.D. '02) for whom Dr. Kuo had served as major professor. Dr. Yang arranged a busy schedule with visits to Daegu University, Seoul National University, the Korea Forest Research Institute, and Chungbuk National University. Stokke presented lectures at each institution on topics requested by the hosts: either "Biofuels: A Perspective from the U.S. Midwest" or "The Forest Resource in Iowa." Many thanks to ISU Extension Forester Dr. Jesse Randall for background information on the latter topic. Thanks are also due to Dr. Carter Johnson (Forestry Ph.D. '07) for teaching Stokke's Forestry 485 class during the trip. Last but not least, gratitude is extended to Dr. Han Guangping of NEFU and Dr. Yang, whose grants underwrote all costs of the trip! Stokke thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to meet new professional colleagues and the many bright young students at these institutions. He was extremely and favorably impressed by the people and programs in wood science and biorenewable materials and energy.



Students from our Urban Forestry class at Terrace Hill Mansion. Back row, from left: Troy Bowman, Colby Burhenn; Front row, from left: Jamis Christensen, Elizabeth Childs, Kalpana Bhattacharjee, Emma Cavan, Jay Wiebeke

ISU FORESTRY CLASS DEVELOPS FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR TERRACE HILL

During fall semester 2008, Dr. Thompson's Forestry 475 (Urban Forestry) class was invited to conduct an inventory and assessment of trees on the grounds of Terrace Hill, the State of Iowa governor's residence in Des Moines. The mansion itself, built in the late 1860s, is designated as a National Historic Landmark, thus grounds management is subject to detailed guidelines set forth by the National Park Service for treatment of cultural landscapes. This was a unique challenge that combined students' emerging forestry and horticultural expertise with new learning about the complex issues related to restoration and rehabilitation of historic sites.

Teams of students took part in developing a detailed GIS-based inventory of the nearly 250 trees on the 8-acre site surrounding the mansion. They assessed the condition and measured the diameter of each tree, and also evaluated each tree for potential hazards (risk tree assessment). Students then analyzed the population-level data in order to make recommendations to site staff about one of two focus topics.

One student team focused on examining stand history and current stand composition to inform development of a 20-year tree regeneration plan that would be appropriate for a Victorian-era setting. The other team focused on assessment of tree condition to develop a routine maintenance and scheduling plan that prioritized needed management actions.

Student teams prepared formal presentations for the Terrace Hill Site Committee, arranged by Site Administrator Mr. Brian Browning, in early December. Their reports were very well received, and will be gradually implemented in site management over the next several years.



Terrace Hill Mansion

AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY – ISU STUDENT SUBUNIT

Submitted by Travis Neebling

This year the Subunit changed its major outreach event from a kids' fishing clinic to a large-scale fishing derby on Lake Laverne. Fish were sampled from the lake prior to the event, tagged, and released, giving Subunit members the opportunity to hone their electrofishing and tagging skills. Community members were invited to fish in the derby. Those who caught tagged fish won prizes. The event had a better turnout than past events and was deemed a success.

The Subunit has also been active in its work with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Recently members have assisted with night electrofishing on the Mississippi River and will soon be assisting with electrofishing and gillnetting on local lakes and reservoirs.

The Subunit organized the 2nd Annual Midwest Student Fisheries Colloquium. The first colloquium was held last spring in Lincoln, Nebraska, and this year Iowa State maintained the high standard set by the University of Nebraska. The colloquium was held January 16-17, giving students from throughout the Midwest an opportunity to present research in a low-stress environment, and to network and socialize.

AFS Subunit members sampling fish in Lake Laverne prior to the fishing derby.



Other events planned for this school year include sending members to the Iowa Chapter of the American Fisheries Society annual meeting, an ice fishing tournament, a mid-winter banquet, and a float/fishing/camping trip this spring. For more information on the AFS Student Subunit, visit <http://www.stuorg.iastate.edu/isu-afs/>.



SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS – ISU STUDENT CHAPTER

SAF chapter members practice using Biltmore sticks.

Submitted by Jeff Hartwig

In 2008 the chapter worked on the professional development and networking skills of its student members. In late April, the chapter participated in a networking field day hosted by Dr. Jesse Randall. Iowa professionals from the DNR, Iowa Tree Farm, and private industry attended to network with the students. Activities included log scaling, log milling, cruising techniques using a Biltmore stick, and buffer strip discussion. This event went over very well with the students and resulted in the hiring of one graduating senior member.

Also in April, chapter president Jeff Hartwig attended the National Leadership Academy held by SAF in Potomac, MD. He was one of only five students throughout the nation to attend. The leadership skills he brought back will continue to help the chapter grow.

This fall the chapter was able to raise enough money to send 13 student members to the SAF National Convention held in Reno, NV. As part of the fundraising efforts, the chapter collected cans at home football games. This proved to be a surprisingly enjoyable fundraiser, and chapter members plan to continue this fundraiser in the future.

Our experience at the convention helped us develop networking skills with professionals and other students from across the nation. Students were given opportunities to apply for summer jobs with many governmental and non-governmental agencies. A four-member team of chapter members also competed in the annual student quiz bowl. The alumni dinner held by the NREM department was an important part of the convention for our chapter. Current chapter members were united with many past ISU graduates.

The ISU student chapter of SAF would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of this year's fundraising efforts. Your support allowed us the valuable experience of attending the SAF convention.

“Our experience at the convention helped us develop networking skills with professionals and other students from across the nation. Students were given opportunities to apply for summer jobs with many governmental and non-governmental agencies.”

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR INTERPRETATION – ISU STUDENT CHAPTER

Submitted by Jessica Lancial

This year NAI members planned and participated in Halloween Hikes at Saylorville Lake and with Story County Conservation at McFarland Park. Meeting activities have focused on how to improve interpretation skills, and how to conduct educational programs.

Jason O'Brien (Interim Wildlife Extension Specialist) gave night hike demonstrations, and members enjoyed story-telling around a campfire. A few club members have given wildlife programs at local elementary schools.

This spring we will be preparing for our NAI Regional Conference in South Dakota, a gathering during which NAI chapters from across the Midwest come to meet professionals and participate in workshops.



NAI chapter members in costume for one of their Halloween Hikes.

SOCIETY FOR CONSERVATION BIOLOGY – ISU STUDENT CHAPTER

Submitted by Lindsay Kasuga

This past fall the chapter hosted the 2nd annual Iowa Conservation Symposium. The event consisted of oral presentations by ISU students as well as personnel from state conservation agencies, such as the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Attendees were informed of various conservation programs in Iowa, including the Skunk River Navy, a group in Ames dedicated to cleaning up local rivers, and the Iowa BioBlitz, an event dedicated to documenting Iowa's biodiversity. There was even a presentation on chimpanzee conservation in Rwanda. Students discussed their research, investigating such topics as Iowa's native bees and ticks. The symposium featured a keynote address by Dr. Karen Root of Bowling Green State University. Her talk, entitled “A Multi-species Approach for Large Scale Management in Heterogeneous Landscape,” presented research on using population viability analysis and GIS technology to develop a Multi-species Conservation Value (MVC). This value can then be used to inform specific conservation goals. The event concluded with a poster session.

The symposium was free and open to the public, and was designed to foster cooperation and collaboration across Iowa conservation research and implementation. Research was discussed and new avenues for continued investigation were discovered. For more information on this event, and the student chapter of SCB at Iowa State, please visit the following website: <http://www.stuorg.iastate.edu/scb/homepage.html>.

We look forward to seeing you at the 3rd annual Iowa Conservation Symposium in 2009!

FROM OUR STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADUATES



Rector atop Mt. Crested Butte in Colorado.

AARON RECTOR

Forestry alumnus and current Forestry graduate student

As an undergraduate, Aaron Rector completed an internship with the Colorado State Forest Service conducting Forest Inventory Analysis (FIA).

"I was on one of six FIA crews throughout the entire state of Colorado. My three-person crew was stationed on the western slope of the Rockies where we covered nine Colorado counties. I was able to work in almost every ecosystem that Colorado has to offer. We began the season chasing snow up to spruce and fir-filled alpine environments where the air was thin. We ended our season in pinyon and juniper-filled canyon lands, which were much lower in elevation.

What I liked most was the amount of time I spent in the field. I averaged a 45-to-1 hourly ratio of field to office hours in a week. It wasn't uncommon to be in the field for five days at a time. With all of that time spent in the field, I was able to see some spectacular wildlife. Over the course of six months I was witness to cougars, elk, badgers, moose, bobcats, and big horn sheep. I even spotted a lynx in plain sight. Unfortunately, no bears were to be seen, but I found plenty of evidence that they weren't far away."

"I am grateful that the ISU NREM department has provided me an education that made it possible to have this type of work experience."

ADAM HAVARD

Animal Ecology; Fisheries, recent graduate

As an undergraduate, Adam Havard completed internships with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and has been stationed at the Lake Rathbun fish hatchery, Three Mile Lake, and the Mt. Ayr Fish Management Station. Havard also worked at the Aquatic Research Facility on campus. Upon graduation, Havard accepted a full-time position with New Mexico Game and Fish.

"At Rathbun I helped spawn walleye and catfish and performed routine daily chores with the fish and the hatchery grounds. I transported fish around the state and worked as if I was a full-time employee. It was a great work environment.

My favorite part of working for the DNR was the structure of the work day and the pay. I also liked meeting the full-time employees and forming network connections for the future.

While working at the ISU Aquatic Research Facility, Rich Clayton and Joe Morris were the best managers one could ask for. Every day was fun working in the basement of Science II. I also really liked the fact that I had some small supervisory roles while working there. It helped me with my future plans, and now I am on the fast track to a manager spot with New Mexico Game and Fish.

My favorite part about the NREM department was the closeness of the faculty and students. It is a very tight-knit department and a great environment where everyone belongs. I enjoyed all of the departmental get-togethers and clubs. I was the President for the American Fisheries Society Chapter my final year and I helped several students get into the fisheries program, and possibly helped them discover what they want to do for a career. Through this leadership position I had the opportunity to work with the public and help them to understand natural resource topics.

In my current position as a fish culturist I am raising rainbow trout, but soon I will be working with the Gila Trout which were recently placed on the endangered species list. Our hatchery has been chosen to take over the Gila Trout program in partnership with the federal hatchery.

I am also working on a research project to find the cause of high mortality rates in recently hatched trout at other hatcheries. Because of my research experience at ISU, I have been given a vital role in this project.

I love it here because it is in the Gila Wilderness area and it is very remote... 65 miles to the nearest grocery store. I have no plans to leave anytime soon, but someday I would like to return to Iowa and work for the Iowa DNR."



Havard moving trout with New Mexico Game and Fish.

JOHN ROBINSON: DIVERSITY IN NATURAL RESOURCES



NREM alum, Robinson, is a national leader in encouraging minorities and inner-city groups to become involved with natural resource issues.

ENCOURAGING DIVERSITY IN NATURAL RESOURCES

Submitted by Jim Dinsmore, retired Animal Ecology faculty member

In the fall of 1977, John Robinson traveled from Pittsburgh to Ames and enrolled in the undergraduate Fish and Wildlife Biology major at Iowa State. Robinson's ultimate goal was to study wild wolves in the arctic. In 1982, he graduated with an FWB degree but his focus had changed greatly.

During the winter of 1978-79, Robinson had become enthralled with the study of birds. After his graduation, he worked first for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on national wildlife refuges in Illinois and Tennessee. From there, he moved to the U.S. Forest Service and held jobs first in Wisconsin and then for many years in California. Along the way, Robinson started his own business writing software for sorting and storing birder's field observations and for identifying birds. He also wrote a novel.

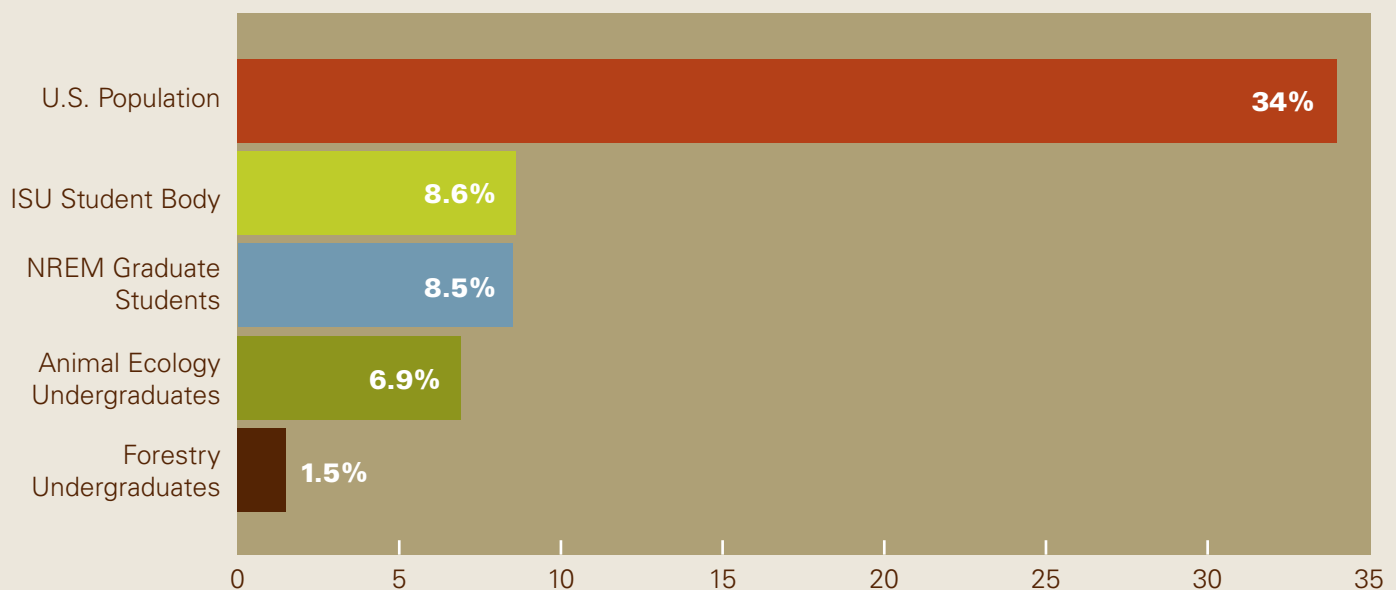
When Robinson retired from the federal government in 2005, he was well into another project, trying to understand why so few African Americans and other ethnic minorities were interested in the study of birds and other wildlife. Of African American heritage, Robinson came by this naturally. At most meetings, both scientific and recreational, he found that he was the only African American present. In 2008, he published a book on this topic in which he presents the findings of his research. The book, *Birding for Everyone*, presents the results of several surveys and numerous interviews that Robinson conducted to try to understand why so few African Americans are involved in this activity.

Robinson's surveys suggest that among other things, lack of someone to go birding with, lack of time and money, and lack of familiarity with outdoor settings were often cited as limiting factors. In his interviews, individuals now successful in the natural resources field said that having a mentor or supportive parents, knowing someone to go birding with, and school and community programs were often helpful in getting them started.

Robinson's goals have changed greatly since the day he entered Iowa State, and now he is a national leader in trying to get minorities involved with birds and other natural resource issues.

ACCORDING TO THE 2007 CENSUS, 34% of the U.S. population is made up of racial minorities. This percentage is an 11% increase since the 2000 Census. The face of America is changing. **How does the face of NREM compare?**

Minority Percentages



You can encourage the involvement of this integral and growing part of America's population in natural resource activities and issues. Involving minorities and inner-city groups in natural resource activities and issues is one way to encourage environmental awareness and the enjoyment of our natural resources for future generations. Be a mentor and encourage people of all backgrounds to enjoy nature and pursue the natural resources field here in NREM.

ALUMNI UPDATES

KYHL AND CLOUGHESY RECEIVE NATIONAL AWARDS AT 2008 SAF NATIONAL CONVENTION

Sharon (Abrahamson) Kyhl (Forestry '79) was presented with the W.D. Hagenstein Communicator Award in recognition of her efforts to increase public awareness of natural resources. Kyhl is currently employed as the Wyoming Capitol City Coordinator for the U.S. Forest Service. Throughout her career, Kyhl has conducted more than 300 interpretive efforts related to forestry all across the country.

Mike Cloughesy (Forestry '78) was presented with the Technology Transfer Award in recognition of his outstanding achievements in technology transfer, implementation, and extension. As director of forestry at Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI), Cloughesy oversees development and implementation of forestry education for landowners. Each year thousands of foresters and landowners attend OFRI's programs. Additionally, Cloughesy has conducted more than 200 workshops, tours, and classes that reached an estimated 7,500 forest landowners.

Both Kyhl and her husband Clint (Forestry '83), and Cloughesy and his wife Teresa (McCoy) Cloughesy (Forestry '78), visited with our current students at the alumni reception held in conjunction with the SAF national convention.

REUNION OF '62-'64 FORESTRY ALUMNI

One arrived by bicycle as RAGBRAI passed through Ames. They all arrived with stories to tell of their student years, and they did. Several brought their wives who could tell more stories about life since then, and they did. One was a special guest who represented all the families that supported the professors who taught at their field camp sessions. And a good time was had by all as eight forestry alumni from the 1962-64 era converged on a campground near, appropriately, Story City on July 21-22, 2008.



Forestry alumni from '62-'64. From left: Leo Frueh, Mike Hathaway, Dennis Adams, John Ritchie, Ron Prichard, Pat Hopkins (widow of Dr. Fred Hopkins), John Torrence, Dale Netherton, and Stan Lunstrum.

A short video of some of the happenings is available courtesy of Dan Netherton (<http://web.me.com/dnetherton/Site/Movie.html>). There was plenty of visiting, food, and fond memories. A tour of the ISU campus and Science II emphasized how times have changed since they were students. Of course, Forestry was in a different building when they were here – Curtiss Hall! The '62-'64 group is thinking about meeting again, so let Dan know if you want to help plan the time and place. The current folks in NREM always welcome back alumni, whether in individual visits or as part of a reunion group. Do stop by!

HUMBURG IS CHIEF BIOLOGIST

Dale Humburg (Fisheries & Wildlife Biology '73) is now Chief Biologist for Ducks Unlimited. Prior to this position, Humburg served as the head of the Science Division for the Missouri Department of Conservation where he had worked as a research biologist.

RUNKEL PAPERS AVAILABLE IN ISU LIBRARY

Papers written by Sylvan Runkel, (Forestry '30) Iowa naturalist, educator, and author, are now available in the ISU library's special collections. For more information on Runkel, or to locate his papers visit: <http://www.lib.iastate.edu/spcl/manuscripts/MS619.html>.

BURKGREN FEATURED IN GLOBE

Mary Jo Burkgren (Animal Ecology '04) was featured in the *Globe Gazette* of Mason City, IA, for her work as the deputy director of special projects for the Mitchell County Conservation Board and her recent appointment as Mitchell County naturalist. Living out of town, Burkgren drove about 92,000 miles during her two and a half years at ISU to complete her degree. That is equal to rounding the equator well over three times! Burkgren was quoted as saying that her new job is like a dream come true.

IN MEMORIAM

Since our last newsletter, we received word of the passing of the following alumni and friends. Our most sincere condolences are extended to their families.

Theodore Allen	B.S.	Forestry '50
Chester Beil	B.S.	Forestry '41
Agnes Bruggeman	<i>(Wife of Arnold E. Bruggeman)</i>	
Ernest Dahl	B.S.	Forestry '41
Samuel Doran	B.S.	Forestry '49
Joseph Dose	B.S.	Forestry '52
Keith Forsythe Ewers		Forestry
Kathy Fritch	B.S.	Forestry '56
Keith Govro	M.S.	Animal Ecology '77
John Griffith	M.S.	Forestry '42
Charles Harris	B.S.	Animal Ecology '73
Allan Haukon	B.S.	Forestry '39
Paul Hoffman	B.S.	Forestry '48
George Kansky	M.S.	Forestry '40
Dennis Kingsbury	B.S.	Forestry '72
Albert Maris	B.S.	Forestry '39
Thomas Martin	B.S.	Forestry '53
Clair McCrory	B.S.	Forestry '50
John Nelson	B.S.	Forestry '52
Maynard Nelson		Forestry
Robert Peterson	B.S.	Forestry '54
Richard Quintus	B.S.	Forestry '41
Charles M. Schumacher	B.S.	Forestry '39
Robert Smith	B.S.	Forestry '67
Brian Sterbenz	B.S.	Forestry '89
Duane Stoppel	B.S.	Forestry '51
Dale Volkman	B.S.	Forestry '60

KATHY FRITCH: PADDLE HARDER!



In addition to many other kayaking adventures, Kathy paddled all 280 miles of the Grand Canyon three times!

If you search the packs of skiers near Durango, Colorado, don't be surprised if every pack contains peanut M&Ms, and plastic bags for cold feet. These are two of the items found in "Kathy's Pack," 20 pounds of items that will help you survive a few nights in extreme conditions, according to avalanche expert and adventurer Kathy Fritch. Well over 3,000 people have been touched by the knowledge and dynamic personality of ISU forestry alum Kathy Fritch in her teaching alone. The end of her courageous battle with cancer this past May prompted an outpouring of gratitude and fond memories related to Kathy's work and life.

In 1956, Kathy received her B.S. in Forest Management from then-Iowa State College (ISC) as one of the very first women in the program. She had an eye for adventure as a gold medalist in fencing, and as a fire lookout ranger atop the towers in the Black Hills National Forest where she spent summers during her college years. It was there that she met her soon-to-be husband and best friend of 52 years, Don Fritch.

Don, then a recent graduate from New York State College of Forestry, was working in fire control "I heard her good-looking voice on the radio, and climbed the mountain to meet her," says Don. While Kathy was an adventurer, she had also enjoyed the arts. Perhaps she drew on her experience in the ISC Marching Band or the folk-dancing club, but arts and adventure collided when she taught Don the polka around the catwalk of the lookout tower. By Christmas, they were engaged.

Don and Kathy spent two years with the U.S. Army in Germany, and then returned to the U.S. to work for the Forest Service in South Dakota, and then Colorado where Kathy became the first female member of the ski patrol in the Purgatory Ski Area. She also became an instructor at the Silverton Avalanche School. In 1977 Don and Kathy moved to Jackson Hole, WY, where Kathy joined the national ski patrol, worked as the only woman on the Helitack Fire Crew in the Grand Tetons, and organized the first Nordic Ski Patrol and Search and Rescue for Teton County. Don's retirement from the Forest Service in 1988 brought the "dynamic duo" back to Colorado where Kathy remained active on the Ski Patrol and in the Avalanche School, even organizing another school. 2008 marked the 100th year of Kathy and Don's combined service as members of the National Ski patrol.

Kathy earned recognition many times for her work as a ski patroller and in other roles, including being awarded the green merit star from the National Ski Patrol for winter life-saving missions. In addition to those life-saving missions it is impossible to count the number of lives she has saved through her teaching. As an avalanche school instructor, Kathy used her personal experience of surviving a serious avalanche to educate people about ski safety. Her dedication and commitment to helping others drove her message of avalanche knowledge and avoidance. This included the development of "Kathy's Pack."

A streak of adventure ran through Kathy's work and hobbies, including sky-diving, hunting, hot air balloon riding, hiking, and river rafting. Missy Votel, editor for the *Durango Telegraph* said, "...I'm pretty sure she could fight off a grizzly with her bare hands, rig a cozy snow cave from pine boughs and twine, put a mean coat of wax on her three-pins, and still put a warm dinner in the enamelware." Votel went on to call Kathy a "good, old-fashioned butt kicker." It's no surprise that even when facing her battle against cancer Kathy would rely on her motto, "Paddle harder!"

As a mother of four children, Kathy was very involved in her children's activities and in the community. Kathy served as a Girl Scout leader, foster parent, EMT, and 4-H leader. In these, and many other roles, Kathy lived out her passion for helping others. She truly remains a hero to many.



Don and Kathy Fritch at Winter Park, CO, on April 4, 2008.

MEMORY SUBMITTED BY KATHY AND PRINTED IN THE 2004 EDITION OF OUR NEWSLETTER.

Summer Camp, 1953 – We were touring the front range of the Rockies, visiting more sites than I can now remember. We camped wherever the big deuce-and-a-half trucks we rode in pulled in for the night. Those days, campgrounds were not illuminated as they are now. Being female in a mostly male environment, I tended to get slightly away from the crowd to roll out my sleeping bag. Tents were not an item in those days.

Patting and feeling in the darkness, a-hah! I successfully found a fairly smooth and level spot unoccupied. I grabbed it, crawled into my bag, and slept soundly. Come daylight, my first awareness was of feet, lots of feet, tromping right past my nose.

I was, you guessed it, located directly in the center of the main path to the restrooms. I learned that morning how to get dressed totally and very quickly, deep within the confines of my sleeping bag. This skill is the one I continue to use, most frequently, throughout my travels.

Important Things I Learned at College:

- #1: If it's smooth and level, it's probably not virgin wilderness!
- #2: Don't ever get yourself totally indisposed in the main traffic lane!
- #3: As you go through life, always have an escape plan for whatever happens along the way!



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SAVE THE DATE

The annual NREM Recognition Banquet will be held April 25, 2009, at the Quality Inn & Suites in Ames, Iowa. Please join us for a meal and good conversation as we recognize our outstanding students and scholarship recipients.

NAME YOUR NEWSLETTER

This publication is designed to facilitate your connection with the NREM department. So who better to give it a name than you, our alumni and friends! Please submit your suggestion for the title of this publication via email to lacyjo@iastate.edu.

KEEP IN TOUCH!

This form is for your convenience in sending any news to share with your ISU NREM friends. Please let us know of any career activities, honors, awards, or personal notes. If you send pictures, please label them with names and dates. We will try to include all information sent, but space limitations do apply. Pictures will be returned. Thank you!

Name _____ Major/Degree _____

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