Letter from the Chair

Great things continue to happen at Kentucky’s Land Grant Forestry Department. I am pleased to report we recently earned reaccreditation for our undergraduate forestry program through the Society of American Foresters. This recognition reinforces our ability to recruit new students and graduate society-ready foresters and natural resource managers.

We still have much to do, including the continued implementation of our revised undergraduate curriculum – which contributed to the Department’s success in reaccreditation. We are in the process of hiring a new Forest Management faculty member and have recently hired our new Forest Manager at Robinson Forest; I would like to welcome Mr. Chris Osborne to the team. Filling these positions will contribute to our goal of functioning as Kentucky’s one-stop shop for forestry 1) research, 2) Extension, and 3) education. Many details of our activities in these mission areas can be found throughout this issue of our newsletter.

As forecasted in the fall 2010 newsletter, I have spent time traveling the state getting to know many of you. Clearly, I still have more people to meet and much more to see and do. However, I would like to share something that became immediately evident to me. The Department enjoys remarkable partnerships with people and organizations throughout Kentucky. Through the financial contributions of folks like Drs. Cliff and Barbara Taylor, we can enrich the undergraduate experience of our Forestry 480 students. Through collaborations with organizations like the Kentucky Forest Industries Association, we increase our impact and try to keep our efforts relevant to an important part of Kentucky’s economy. And with the help of agencies like the Kentucky Division of Forestry, we are able to access funding and personnel that allow us to expand our educational programming. I offer my thanks to each of these valuable collaborators and look forward to many more successes.

Terrell T. “Red” Baker
Chair and Professor

The Taylor Family Forestry Scholarship Helps Students Pursue a Career in Forestry

Drs. Clifton and Barbara Taylor generously established the Taylor Family Forestry Scholarship. Their sons, Scott and Steve, have joined their parents in donating funds to support our senior forestry capstone course. The Taylor Family Forestry Scholarship provides financial support and encourages students to pursue a career in forestry. In 2007, the seniors in the forestry capstone course used the Taylor’s forested land in the Danville, Kentucky area to develop their capstone project management plan. The Forestry Department is grateful to the Taylor Family for their generous support of our forestry program.
Students Attend National Conferences for Forestry and Wildlife

Society of American Foresters 2010 National Convention
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Fifteen undergraduate and graduate students attended the Society of American Foresters annual meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico in October 2010. The students participated in the Quiz Bowl, attended presentations, and networked with potential employers.

First row: Liang Liang, Megan Buland, Sarah Shewmaker, Ellen Boerger, DJ Pressley, Songlin Fei. Second row: Jeff Stringer, Steve Gabbard, Ellery Watson, Michael Shouse, Alex Klein, David Parrott, Kevin Devine

The Wildlife Society 17th Annual Conference
Snowbird, Utah

In early October 2010, Dr. John Cox and five of his graduate students (M.S. students Joshua Felch, Bryan Tom, and Sean Murphy, and Ph.D. students Ben Augustine and John Hast) attended The Wildlife Society Annual Conference in Snowbird, Utah. Three of these students presented posters and one student gave an oral presentation about wildlife research they have conducted while at the Department of Forestry. Dr. Cox participated as a judge of student posters and attended the student mentoring session. The students also had an all too brief opportunity to experience the diverse landscape of Utah and observe several unique wildlife species such as the pika and blue grouse.

Photo by John Cox
Sean Murphy, John Hast, Bryan Tom, Josh Felch

The Forestry Club and Forestry Graduate Student Association are selling t-shirts. If you are interested in purchasing a t-shirt, visit: http://sites.google.com/site/ukforestrygsa/

Students Participate in the Kentucky-Tennessee Society of American Foresters Winter Meeting

Nine of our students participated in the Kentucky-Tennessee Society of American Foresters Winter Meeting that was held in Chattanooga, Tennessee in January 2011. The students participated in the Quiz Bowl, attended presentations by industry leaders, and met with potential employers.

Jacob Beard was named Outstanding Forestry Student at the University of Kentucky by the Kentucky-Tennessee Society of American Foresters.

Jacob Beard and Red Baker

University of Kentucky forestry students at the Quiz Bowl at the Kentucky-Tennessee SAF Winter Meeting

First row: Liang Liang, Megan Buland, Sarah Shewmaker, Ellen Boerger, DJ Pressley, Songlin Fei. Second row: Jeff Stringer, Steve Gabbard, Ellery Watson, Michael Shouse, Alex Klein, David Parrott, Kevin Devine
Forestry Department Receives USDA Grant

The Departments of Forestry and Entomology recently completed an agreement with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service to study bats threatened by White-nose Syndrome (WNS). The study is being supported by a $400,000 grant from the USDA Joint Fire Science Program and is taking place at Mammoth Cave National Park, home to hibernating populations of several bat species, including the endangered Indiana bat and gray bat. WNS is caused by a “cold-loving” fungus that infects hibernating bats in caves and mines, leading to depleted fat reserves and early emergence from hibernation. An estimated one million bats have already died since its discovery in 2006.

The new project will evaluate the extent to which forest management activities, prescribed fire in particular, can be used to enhance habitat quality for bats, especially in late summer and autumn when bats are adding fat reserves to survive the winter. The goal is to use prescribed fire to alter plant species richness, resulting in increases in insect populations and, presumably, improved foraging success of bats. The premise behind the work is that bats possessing elevated fat reserves when entering hibernation should have a better chance of surviving a WNS infection.

Drs. Michael Lacki (Forestry) and Lynne Rieske-Kinney (Entomology) are investigators on the project, with Dr. Luke Dodd (Forestry), a Post-doctoral Scholar, directing the field activities. - Mike Lacki

Invasive Exotic Species

Dr. Songlin Fei's invasive exotic species (IES) research program focuses on mapping and modeling of IES. Research topics of his IES projects include: (1) mapping IES distributions with medium resolution satellite imagery, high resolution aerial photography, and historical herbarium data; (2) modeling the influence of natural and anthropogenic factors on IES invasion; and (3) examining IES dispersal patterns for management prioritization. All projects have local emphasis and national applicability. Dr. Fei is currently working with his colleagues in organizing the joint meeting of the 2nd Kentucky Invasive Species Conference and the 13th Annual Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council Conference held in Lexington, Kentucky May 3-5, 2011. - Songlin Fei

Female Indiana bat

Example of winter creeper taking over an urban forest.

Drs. Chris Barton and Jeff Stringer Recipients of the 2010 High Impact Research/Extension Program Award for Their Work on Streamside Management Zones

In November 2010, Drs. Chris Barton and Jeff Stringer were awarded the 2010 High Impact Research/Extension Program Award for their work on Streamside Management Zones (SMZs). SMZs for both perennial and intermittent streams are required for use on over 60 percent of the timber harvesting operations in Kentucky as mandated by the Best Management Practices provisions in the Kentucky Forest Conservation Act. The current SMZ standards were developed based on information from hydrologic studies generated outside of Kentucky and, in some cases, from significantly different forest types and hydrologic systems. To better define and ensure proper SMZ requirements for Kentucky, a collaborative effort between Extension and research faculty was initiated in 2003. This involved the development of a replicated hydrologic study to test the effectiveness of current SMZ requirements and provide detailed information to policy makers, the timber harvesting industry and woodland owners. Groups are routinely taken on tours of the different logging treatments to explain the study site, preliminary results, and value of the information coming from the research. This is classic integration of research and Extension – and Drs. Barton and Stringer provide a wonderful team-taught approach to telling the story from start to finish. - Red Baker

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Chris Barton Works on Planting Trees and Creating Jobs

In fall 2009, Chris Barton was part of a panel of international dignitaries when the United Nations kicked off its Global Climate Week with a Billion Tree Campaign press conference in New York City. The Billion Tree Campaign set a goal of planting one tree for every person on the planet. Barton, science team leader for the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative (ARRI), announced that they would fulfill a pledge of 38 million trees on mined land in 2010 – the largest pledge in North America.

Barton also announced the creation of the Green Forests Work (GFW) program, an economic development plan for Appalachia styled after the Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930s. The GFW program will focus on restoring ecosystem services on mine-scarred lands and creating jobs in the process. Successful reestablishment of the hardwood forests that once dominated these lands will provide a renewable, sustainable multi-use resource that will create economic opportunities while enhancing the local and global environment. The jobs would include everything from nursery jobs to people planting trees and then managing the sites. The press conference was a way to bring the project to the attention of the international community.

Since the announcement of the GFW program, ARRI has partnered with state and federal agencies, watershed groups, coal operators, conservation groups, environmental organizations, faith-based groups, and numerous universities, colleges, and high schools to coordinate 22 volunteer tree planting projects/events throughout Appalachia. In 2009 and 2010 those events involved over 2,500 volunteers and resulted in the planting of over 175,000 trees.

GFW is gaining momentum and the tree planting events are now evolving into large scale projects funded by grants, cost share programs, utility companies seeking carbon credits, corporate and personal donations. By the end of 2011, nearly 1 million trees will have been planted.

All the efforts ARRI and the University of Kentucky Department of Forestry have made over the last few years have really had an impact on the environment in Appalachia. We are putting back forest, and we are seeing a lot better environmental conditions with regards to habitat and water quality and carbon sequestration. - Chris Barton

First Annual Forestry Department Cookout

In September 2010, the Forestry Department held its 1st Annual Fall Cookout. We had a great turnout at the cookout. Alumni, students, friends, faculty, and staff enjoyed good company and good food.

On April 28, 2011, we are having a Spring Picnic for alumni and students. The picnic is free and will begin at 4:30 p.m. and will be held at the T.P. Cooper Building on campus. Please RSVP to the forestry.department@uky.edu or 859-257-7596 before April 18 if you would like to attend.

University of Kentucky forestry undergraduate students assist volunteers at the March 2011 Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative tree planting near the Pine Mountain Settlement School in Harlan, Kentucky

Photos by Chris Barton

Hanna Angel with members of the River City Drum Corps, Louisville, KY

Logan Nutt with members of the Group Samara from Berea, KY

Eric Hope with members of the River City Drum Corps, Louisville, KY

Chris Barton; Yugratna Srivastava, UN Environment Programme youth advisor; and Albert II, Prince of Monaco at the 2009 United Nation’s kick off of Global Climate Week.
What’s New in the Forestry Department

Employment News

- We would like to welcome two new individuals to the Forestry Department family.
  - Debbie Gutierrez is our new Account Clerk in the department.
  - Chris Osborne is our new manager at Robinson Forest.

- Laura Lhotka was hired as the department’s Academic Coordinator. Laura has been with the department since 2007 as a Post-doctoral Scholar working on curriculum and recruiting issues.

- After six years as the department’s Administrative Support Associate, Cheryl Estes left us to pursue a Masters in Kinesiology and Health Promotion. We wish her all the best in her new endeavors.

- The following employees were given Service Awards for their years of employment with the university.
  - John Cox, Adjunct Assistant Professor - 5 years
  - David Collett, Laboratory Technician at Robinson Forest - 10 years
  - Darryl Cremeans, Data Systems Manager - 20 years

- The department is currently in the process of hiring a new Forest Management faculty member.

Other News

- The Ag Development Training Team won the Laura Clay Award at the Kentucky Women in Ag Conference. Jeff Stringer is one of fourteen members on the Ag Development Training Team.

- Master’s student, David Parrott, received a student scholarship to the 16th Biennial Southern Silvicultural Research Conference in Charleston, South Carolina in February 2011. At the conference, David won the “Outstanding Graduate Student Poster Award” for his poster titled Underplanted Oak Seedling Response to a Midstory Removal with Subsequent Overstory Ice Damage.

“Name the Newsletter” Winner

Congratulations to David Parrott for winning last issue’s “Name the Newsletter” contest. David’s winning entry was The Forestry Aspect. We would like to thank David and the other participants for their great “Name the Newsletter” suggestions. David is a 2008 alumni of the undergraduate forestry program. He is currently working with Dr. John Lhotka on his Masters degree in Forestry.

Forestry Extension Wins 2009 Family Forest Education Award

The Department of Forestry Extension was named winner of the 2009 Family Forests Education Award presented each year by the National Association of University Forest Resources Programs (NAUFRP) and the National Woodland Owners Association for the outstanding Forestry Extension in the nation. Forestry Extension has also received awards from:

- Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals for the Kentucky Woodlands Magazine.
- Southern Regional Forestry Extension Forestry for the Woodland Owners Short Course and the Kentucky Woodlands Magazine.

Forestry Extension Helping Entrepreneurship Development in Eastern Kentucky

Carry Briggs, an entrepreneur from Breathitt County, recently came to the Robinson Center for Appalachian Resource Sustainability (RCARS) needing help in building a prototype to house his invention he called the “clarifier”.

The clarifier, an interactive display surrounded with wood that incorporates touch glass and computer technologies, allows individuals to interact with it simply by touching the glass. The display case may house mementos, slideshows or videos, etc. that could be used in a funeral home or museum setting.

“Briggs was looking for a way to promote his idea, but did not have the resources to design or build the prototypes he needed to market it,” said Bobby Ammerman, Extension Associate with the Department of Forestry. Ammerman and Doran Howard, a technician at the Wood Utilization Center located at RCARS, quickly began working on a design and building prototypes to house his invention.

Briggs now has prototypes being tested in several markets including a funeral home in Gettysburg, PA and will soon have one in the Greater Cincinnati Airport. Realizing the need for someone to build these cases after the orders started coming in, Ammerman and Howard began training John Marcum, an unemployed entrepreneur from the Somerset area. Ammerman has high hopes that both Briggs and Marcum can build very successful businesses as a result of these efforts. - Bobby Ammerman

Have Maples…Will Sugar

Forest landowners are beginning to realize that they have maple trees in their forests and that they could make maple syrup from them. Sugar maple is the most reliable producer for volume of sap and sugar content of sap, but red maples and other maples can also be used. The Forestry Department is now developing a program in maple syrup production. There are several options for landowners...they may want to do the whole process themselves, tap and boil the sap down using either a mobile unit or the equipment of someone nearby, or just tap some trees and let someone else do the syrup or sugar making. It’s an expensive proposition taking about 40 gallons of sap all the way to 1 gallon of syrup, but tapping trees is fairly inexpensive. - Deborah Hill

2010 Win With Wood

The Department of Forestry Extension, individual forest industries, Kentucky Division of Forestry, Kentucky Forest Industries Association, 4-H, FFA, and other youth groups participated in the 2010 Win With Wood event on October 14th at the Robinson Center for Appalachian Resource Sustainability Wood Utilization Center in Jackson, KY. There were 129 students who competed in the event. Participating clubs and schools included: Carter County 4-H, Magoffin County 4-H, Breathitt County High and Sebastian Middle School, Riverside Christian School, Knott County Central High FFA, McCreary Central High, Wolfe County High and 4-H, and Clark County 4-H. Mr. Josh Combs, from Knott County Central High FFA, was the winner of the $500 scholarship to attend the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture. - Carroll Fackler
Sunshine Brosi graduated with a Masters in Forestry from the University of Kentucky in May 2001. Sunshine, who grew up in Berea, also attended the Kentucky Forest Leadership Program in 1994 and was part of the state 4-H Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Team. She is indebted to the amazing teachers in those programs who fostered her love of forestry and inspired her to teach others.

In August 2010, Sunshine Brosi received her Ph.D. in Natural Resources from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Sunshine is a tenure-track faculty member at Frostburg State University where she coordinates the Ethnobotany, Wildlife and Fisheries, and Interpretive Biology and Natural History programs. Sunshine's research focus is on tree species threatened by exotic pests including American chestnut and butternut. She also has graduate students researching non-timber forest products and understory medicinal herbs including black cohosh. Sunshine lives in rural Garrett County, Maryland with her daughter, Summer (9), stepson, Caeman (15), and husband Dan Feller. - Sunshine Brosi

Kevin Galloway graduated from the University of Kentucky with a Bachelor of Science in Forestry from the University of Kentucky in the fall of 1991. Following graduation, he worked for a nursery and landscape business in northern Kentucky and since June of 1992 he has worked for the Kentucky Division of Forestry in Morehead. As a service forester, he assists private landowners in northeast Kentucky (primarily Fleming, Mason, Nicholas, and Robertson counties). Kevin gets great satisfaction from helping these landowners improve their forestland through timber stand improvement practices and through establishing tree plantings on marginal farmland. But he says that the most rewarding aspect of his job which he enjoys very much is seeing conservation (the wise use of our natural resources) implemented in the field and showing that to landowners and students alike. During his 18 years, he has had the wonderful privilege of working with many outstanding landowners and coworkers (foresters, rangers, and wildlife biologists) who have taught him some great life lessons. Several of these aforementioned individuals are also University of Kentucky alumni. Kevin resides in Mason County with his wife, Kim, and their children, Keenan (son) and Kolby (daughter). - Kevin Galloway

Forestry Alumni - To ensure that we keep you up to date on the latest departmental activities, please visit www.ca.uky.edu/forestry/alumni.php or e-mail forestry.department@uky.edu and update your contact information. We’d love to hear from you!

Kentucky Forest Industries Association – Forestry Partner

The Kentucky Forest Industries Association (KFIA) was founded in 1965 and has over 600 members that cover a wide range of forestry and wood industry interests throughout Kentucky and the region. KFIA membership includes sawmills, loggers, paper industry, finished wood product manufactures, landowners and a wide range of supporters of both the forestry and wood industry in the state. The Association represents a wood industry in Kentucky that has over $4.6 billion in annual sales and directly employs over 30,000 people in Kentucky.

KFIA provides a wide range of services to members including a monthly newsletter, regional meetings, legislative updates and a wide range of assistance on both regulatory and environmental compliance issues. The Association puts on the two largest forestry events in the state every year through a spring annual meeting that attracts over 350 people and the Kentucky Wood Expo that takes place in September each year and is attended by over 5,000 individuals.

The Association represents the entire wood products industry and all forestry interests before the state legislature and has been successful in supporting and passing the Forest Conservation Act and a number of transportation exemptions for wood products. All forestry issues are monitored closely at the state and also federal level through a partnership with the National Hardwood Federation.

In addition to helping members through all types of regulatory issues, the Association also works to promote the wood industry and good forest management through a wide range of partnerships. KFIA currently houses the state Sustainable Forestry Initiative Committee, Kentucky Tree Farm Committee and is a partner in the Kentucky Master Logger Program. The Association is very proud to be involved with the University of Kentucky through an excellent working relationship with the Forestry Department and providing over $300,000 in donations to the Kentucky Children’s Hospital through the Log a Load for Kids Program. For more information or to join KFIA go to www.kfia.org - Bob Bauer, Kentucky Forest Industries Association
Upcoming 2011 Events

April 12
*Got Cedar: Now what?* A program for landowners that have eastern red cedar on their property
Bracken County Extension Office (606) 735-2141

April 13-15
2011 Kentucky Forest Industries Association Annual Meeting
Lexington, KY (502) 695-3979

April 14
Ohio Valley Lumber Drying Association Spring Meeting
Anderson County Extension Office (859) 257-9511 ext. 235

May 3-5
Joint Meeting of the 2nd Kentucky Invasive Species Conference and the 13th Annual Southeast EPPC Conference
Lexington, KY (www.ca.uky.edu/invasives/)

Join us for the

**2011 Forestry Department Alumni-Student Spring Picnic**

at the T.P. Cooper Building on campus

**Thursday, April 28, at 4:30 p.m.**

Please RSVP to forestry.department@uky.edu or (859) 257-7596 before April 18 if you plan to attend this free event.