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### Calendar of Events

- Midyear Commencement**  
December 13, 2008
- GLI Hockey— Joe Louis Arena**  
December 27–28, 2008
- FRES Natural Resources Career Fair**  
January 29–30, 2009
- Winter Carnival**  
February 4–7, 2009
- Symposium and Banquet**  
April 2009
- Alumni Reunion**  
August 6–8, 2009



## Message from the Dean



Peg Gale '77

## Dear Alumni and Friends,

We are located in one of the largest freshwater ecosystems in the world, anchored by Lake Superior and the forests and wetlands that make up its watershed.

Sustainability of these systems is critical, but what does sustainability mean to foresters, ecologists, wildlife biologists, biotechnologists, and wood scientists?

When defining "sustainability," I am reminded of what G.L. Hartig wrote in 1804:

*All wise forest management must ... utilize [woodlands] ... in such a way that later generations will be able to derive at least as much benefit from them as the present generation claims for itself.*

We should always ask ourselves if we are maintaining or enhancing the potential productivity of the area. We also need to consider if the next generations will value the forest the same way as we do.

As an educator, the question becomes, "Are we teaching students these principles? Are we providing students the necessary science and basic skills for them to manage sustainably?" Another question is, "Are we providing students with the knowledge base they'll need

to address new issues that go beyond what they learned in their formal education?"

We often hear that we are a global society, and the Internet reminds us of this every day. Yet we often forget the land-use decisions we make in one area can affect others very far away. We are working to build the knowledge base for our students here locally and also for students from other countries. In this newsletter some of the exciting people we have just hired and the exciting instruction and research that is expanding the perspectives of our students, faculty, and staff, particularly regarding land management in Michigan, across the US, and around the world. All of these initiatives provide a wealth of new ways to broaden our students' education.

I would love to hear about your global experiences and how your education provided you with the necessary tools to meet those demands. Please email me or call anytime (mrgale@mtu.edu 906-487-2352) Have a great winter!

Peg

## Conclave then and now

One of my best memories from my undergrad days was the Thirtieth Annual Midwestern Foresters Conclave. Me, the one usually picked last for most team sports, and my partner, who must have come from better stock, sawed our way through an aspen log like it was butter to win first place in the two-woman buck saw event. No, seriously, it was great. I still get chills. Sadly, this is as much fame as I have to claim. The year was 1981.

To prove it, I have the framed and dusty certificate, prepared on one of those old-fashioned things called a typewriter, hanging (still) in my office. It reads, "In Recognition of Outstanding Performance in Competition in Old Logging Arts and Modern Forestry Skills." Imagine that. My prize for all that hard work was a 25-foot Lufkin tape measure, which I still use often. Ah, the fond memories.

But, wow! Have things changed! Did you know that now Conclave is a corporate-sponsored, ESPN-worthy event? How great is that? And the event was hosted by our own Forestry Club at the Ford Center in Alberta this September. Some of the events have changed,



2008 Forester's Conclave

but I'm sure the experience is the same. Read more about the Collegiate Series and the Forestry Club's results on page 9. Don't forget, you can view more about past Conclaves in our online yearbooks at [www.forest.mtu.edu/yearbook](http://www.forest.mtu.edu/yearbook).

Did you compete in Conclave? Do you have a Conclave memory? I'd love to hear about it. Send me an email: [carrie@mtu.edu](mailto:carrie@mtu.edu).

— Carrie Richards '84

## Development and Outreach

by Chris Hohnholt

The job market's up, the job market's down; it's a cycle that we see mirrored by our enrollment numbers. It makes sense: if you spend four years in college, you want a job when you graduate.

The School's undergraduate enrollment this fall is up to 188 students, the highest since 1999, due primarily to the largest freshman class since 1997.

Our School offers three undergraduate majors. We are the largest undergraduate forestry program in the state. We are proud of and dedicated to our strong tradition in forestry and graduating students who excel.

Roughly half of our undergraduate students are foresters, and they are entering a job market that looks good. The Bureau of Labor and Statistics (BLS) reports a 5-percent growth in jobs for foresters in the next ten years and forecasts a wave of retirements. In addition to the promising job market, our students' prospects look particularly bright thanks to an active alumni network that funnels notices to me of openings. Please keep them coming!

About one-fourth of our students are applied ecology and environmental sciences majors. In this field, the BLS indicates growth is expected to be much faster than the average for all occupations, particularly for those earning a master's degree. While the overall market looks incredibly promising for these students, I encourage you to look for these openings and send me notices of them. Many of our students who graduate with this degree do find a job, but we need to expand our network and look out for our fellow alumni.

The third major is wildlife ecology and management. We highly encourage our students interested in this major to look at graduate school. Although the BLS reports 5-percent growth in this field, most will occur far from the Great Lakes region. What's more, most of the entry-level jobs pay entry-level wages. This is a popular major, and we're upfront: in order to be employed in this field, the students need to do something to differentiate themselves from their peers. This could be additional statistics and computer modeling courses, graduate school, or traveling far from home during the summers to gain valuable experience. Please help! If you know of work opportunities or want to mentor a wildlife student, please let me know. I can match you up with a student who would be thankful for your time, knowledge, and expertise.

I've been a part of your team for a year now. It's been a distinct pleasure to meet some of you in your homes, places of business, or somewhere else along the road. Together we can help our students take that critical first step in becoming a professional.

Please write often. I'm always available at [cahohnho@mtu.edu](mailto:cahohnho@mtu.edu) or 906-487-2417.

## In the News

■ In May, Associate Professor **David Flaspohler** appeared on the outdoor show *Discovering*, hosted by Buck LeVasseur. It is broadcast on WLUC-TV6 out of Marquette, Michigan. The show focused on raptor migration in the Keweenaw.

■ **Rolf Peterson** and **John Vucetich's** wolf-moose research on Isle Royale is featured in a slideshow on the *Scientific American* website. A link to the slideshow can be found at [www.forest.mtu.edu/news](http://www.forest.mtu.edu/news).

■ Michigan Tech made the *Washington Post* with a story about how global warming is affecting the wolves and moose of Isle Royale. A link to the story can be found at [www.forest.mtu.edu/news](http://www.forest.mtu.edu/news).

■ Assistant Professor **Robert Froese** was interviewed by WUGN-10 on biomass harvesting workshops held near Munising. Froese sits on the steering committee of the BURN-UP project, [www.upwoodybiomass.org](http://www.upwoodybiomass.org), which organized the workshops. A link to the news clip is available at [www.forest.mtu.edu/news](http://www.forest.mtu.edu/news).

Our career fair will be held January 29–30, 2009. If you or your company is interested in participating, or if you want information, please contact Chris Hohnholt at 906-487-2417 or [cahohnho@mtu.edu](mailto:cahohnho@mtu.edu).

## Alumni Sightings



Amber Kenny visited with Dean Peg Gale on her trip to Houghton.

Amber Kenny (MS 2007) returned to Houghton to give the commencement message to the Houghton High School class of 2008. Amber talked about her experiences as a student in the Peace Corps Master's International Program in Togo. She lives in Washington, DC, where she works on Afghanistan agriculture and natural resource reconstruction projects for the Foreign Agriculture Service Office of Capacity Building and Development. She hangs out with **Brian Henry** (MS 2006) and **Jack Chapman** (MS 2004), who also work in DC.

Dave and Jacqueline (Pyper) Myrold (both 1977) visited the School on a vacation to the UP. The Myrolds were married in 1979 after earning their MS degrees from

the University of Idaho (Jacqueline) and Washington State (Dave). Dave got his PhD from Michigan State and is now a professor in Oregon State University's Department of Crops and Soil Science, in soil microbiology and forest soils. They have three grown children and live in Corvallis, Oregon.



Submit your Alumni News update to Carrie Richards, [carrie@mtu.edu](mailto:carrie@mtu.edu), or at [www.forest.mtu.edu/alumni](http://www.forest.mtu.edu/alumni).

## Greetings from Houghton





**James (1971) and Michele Bernier (1971)**, pictured here with Dean **Peg Gail**, were presented with a McNair Society plaque on a visit to the School in August.



**Chuck Jones (1964)**, left, with **Chris Hohnholt**, visited the School and reminisced about Chuck's days as a student and a member of the varsity basketball team. Chuck is a retired Forest Service district ranger. He and his wife, Carolyne, live in Three Forks, Montana.



**Laura (Carlson) and Mike Hoganson** of Littleton, Colorado, took a fall color tour across the US and visited the School. Both are 1971 graduates, Laura from our School and

Mike from the School of Business and Economics.



**Jennifer Papillo (MS 2003)** stopped by to say hello in September. She is an educator at Delaware State Parks and enjoys hiking, camping, and travel.

## Awards and Recognitions

### Honors

■ Former graduate student **Panchita Paulete** presented the paper "Teaching Trees: Grassroots Reforestation Efforts for Gambian Schools," coauthored with Professor **Blair Orr** and Saikou Samateh of the Gambian Department of Forestry. The paper was second place in the best paper category at the Conference on Environmental Education Approaches for Sustainable Development and Poverty Alleviation: Learning from the Indigenous Cultural Communities/ Indigenous People, held May 5-7, 2008, at Banaue, Ifuago, Philippines.

■ Graduate student **Dan Haskell** was awarded a grant from the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology for his research project, "Measuring the Ecological Benefits of Lakeshore Restoration for Breeding Birds in Northern Wisconsin: The Wisconsin Lakeshore Restoration Project."

Dan also received a visit at his research project from two of Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle's cabinet members: Rod Nilsestuen, secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection; and Matt Frank, secretary of the Department of Natural Resources. The visitors were interested in the shoreline restoration project at Found Lake, Wisconsin, which is evaluating the effects of native vegetation and habitat restoration on wildlife populations and lake water quality. The funding for this project totals over \$250,000 in the planting of native trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants, and grasses; bioengineering techniques; and logistical support.

■ Graduate student **Amber Roth** was awarded a grant from the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology for her research project, "Golden-winged Warbler Habitat Research and Conservation from Wisconsin to Colombia."



*Dan Haskell explains his research project to Wisconsin administrators.*

### New Funding

■ Associate Professor **Chris Webster** received \$30,000 from the USDA Forest Service and North Central Station for "Stable Isotope Analysis to Elucidate the Physiological Basis of Silvicultural Treatment Response in Great Lakes Pine Ecosystems."

■ Associate Professor **Andrew Storer** received \$30,499 for one year from the US Department of Interior and the National Park Service for "Multicriteria Risk Models and Management Studies for Invasive Plants at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore: Development, Validation, and Implementation."

■ Associate Professor **Andrew Storer** received \$77,000 from the USDA, APHIS for "Multistate Comparison of Emerald Ash Borer Trapping and Survey Tools."

■ Associate Professor **Andrew Storer** received \$79,475 from the USDA Forest Service for "2008 Emerald Ash Borer Risk-Based Detection Survey in Wisconsin and Northern Michigan."

■ Dean **Margaret Gale** received \$2,500 from the USDA Forest Service-Northern Research Station for "Distinguished Ecologist Lecture Series."

■ Professor **Martin Jurgensen** received \$35,000 from the USDA Forest Service for "Evaluating Fire Impacts on Wood Decomposition."

■ Assistant Professor **Robert Froese** received \$13,007 from Wolverine Power Cooperative Inc. for "Carbon Inventory for the Wolverine Energy Crop Trials."

■ Professor **Martin Jurgensen** received \$66,001 from the USDA Forest Service, Custer National Forest, for "Validation of Region 1 Soil Quality Standards and Protocols on the Custer National Forest."

■ Associate Professor **Andrew Burton** received \$30,507 from National Science Foundation for the first year of a potential five-year project totaling \$151,628, "Collaborative LTREB Proposal: Long-term Ecosystem Response to Chronic Atmospheric Nitrate Deposition."

### New Arrivals



**Hairong Wei** has joined the School from Wicell Research Institute in Madison, Wisconsin, where he was a bioinformatics developer. He holds four degrees: a bachelor's in agricultural sciences and master's in forest genetics from Beijing Forestry University, China; a master's in computer science from the University of Chicago; and a PhD in Plant Molecular Biology from the University of Hawaii.

Hairong's areas of teaching expertise are in bioinformatics programming and skills, computational genomics, data analysis, and systems biology.

Hairong's family includes his wife, Wenzhu Hao, who works for PPD Inc., in Madison; daughter Mian, a sophomore in high school; and three-year-old son Max.



**Catherine Tarasoff** has accepted a position in our School as an assistant professor. Catherine earned her BS degree from Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops, British Columbia, in natural sciences and a PhD in Weed Science from Oregon State University. She is teaching Vegetation of North America (once commonly known as "dendro") and Freshman Seminar. Catherine will hold a joint appointment in our unit and the Department of Biological Sciences, where she will teach botany. She is also an advisor for undergrads in the School and a mentor for the Learning Community.

### Strategic Faculty Hiring Initiative

*The Strategic Faculty Hiring Initiative, which cuts across academic disciplines to focus on a research theme, hired seven new faculty members whose research focuses on sustainability. Two of those new hires will have appointments with the School.*



**Paul Doskey** comes to Tech from Argonne National Laboratory, where he worked in the Climate Research Section. He studies environmental and biogeochemical processing of organic chemicals and of gases and aerosols that affect climate. He also develops models to predict the fate of chemicals in the environment under various conditions. He will hold a joint appointment in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and the School.



**Audrey Mayer** comes to Tech from the University of Helsinki. Her research focuses on sustainability indices, which can help manage environmental systems by measuring the impact of time and space as well as the interaction of ecological, economic, and social dimensions. She will hold a joint appointment in the Department of Social Sciences and the School.

### In Print

■ Research Scientist **Dana Richter** coauthored a paper with PhD student **Sara Robinson**, civil and environmental engineering alumna Maria Beardslee (2005) and civil and environmental engineering master's student Maureen Habarth, "Differential Sensitivity of Fungi to Lithium Chloride in Culture Media," which appears in the journal *Mycological Research*, published by the British Mycological Society, Vol. 112 (2008).

■ Assistant Professor **Robert Froese**, MSBA graduate Jillian Waterstraut, Associate Professor Dana Johnson (SBE), Professor David Shonnard (Chemical Engineering), MBA graduate James Whitmarsh and doctoral student **Chris Miller** published "Lignocellulosic Ethanol: Is it Economically and Financially Viable as a Fuel Source?" in *Environmental Quality Management*, Autumn 2008, Vol. 18, No. 1.

### 1964

**John Grosman** is a "serial retiree." Since his retirement in July 2000, after thirty-five years with the Wisconsin DNR, he has worked at volunteer and "for pay" ventures, including managing a forest fragmentation education project and as a FEMA project officer on disaster response efforts. For the past four years, he has worked as the wildland fire training officer for USFS, State and Private Forestry, Northeast Area in Wisconsin, providing coordination and support of the wildland fire programs managed by twenty states in the Northeast. He additionally serves the interagency fire community as the geographic area training representative, where his key mission is training and development of the workforce. John plans to "retire" again in July 2009.

### 1982

**Gail (Hoult) Truess** is a full-time driver of the Honda Pilot Command One safety vehicle at all IndyCar Series road and street course races. A link to a story about Gail's career can be found at [www.forest.mtu.edu/news](http://www.forest.mtu.edu/news).

### 1983

**John M. Bedford** was recognized by Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) Director Don Koivisto, with a "Promising Practices" Award. This award, from the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, honors John for his work with USDA's Cooperative Emerald Ash Borer Program (EAB). John began his career with MDA as the EAB field operations chief in 2003; he is now the pest survey field operations coordinator for the Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division. He implements EAB survey and detection work and facilitates other pest surveys in the field.





## Family Ties

**Pete Cattellino** (1974) sent this picture of his son Jason (far left) and two friends, Bob Evans (center) and Ben Bachran, who recently completed a 100-mile unicycle ride from Houghton to Marquette to raise funds for two Upper Peninsula pediatric cancer patients. The unicyclists took a break for this photo op in front of the Ford Center sign in Alberta.

## Saying Good-Bye

The summer of 2008 saw many changes for the School, including some new faces, but we had to say good-bye to some old friends too.



**Chung-Jui Tsai and Scott Harding** (pictured here with Dean Peg Gale center) have moved on to new careers at the University of Georgia.



**Matt Weeg and Jackie Grant** have moved to Pennsylvania, where Jackie is with Penn State University and Matt is with Penn State-Altoona.



After twenty years, **Bill Yrjana** leaves the School for his well-earned retirement.

## David Karnosky Passes Away



**David Karnosky**, one of Michigan Tech's premier scientists, died October 24, 2008, at his home in Chassell. He was 59.

He was a professor of forest genetics and biotechnology in the School and had recently accepted an appointment as the Robbins Chair in Sustainable Management of the Environment. In addition, he was the director of the University's Ecosystem Science Center and directed the Aspen FACE (Free-Air Carbon dioxide Enrichment) experiment near his hometown of Rhinelander, Wisconsin.

"He was an exceptional scientist and teacher," said Dean **Peg Gale**. "And he was so giving to his students and the people who worked for him; if he saw that you were committed, he would give you the shirt off his back."

"He was one of the most productive scientists I've ever met," said Michigan Tech President **Glenn Mroz**, a member of the School's faculty and its former dean. "He was way ahead of his time and had an enormous impact in the area of air pollution and forest genetics."

Since coming to the University in 1983, Dave and his colleagues were the first to genetically engineer a conifer species, *Larix decidua* (also known as larch, or tamarack). He was instrumental in establishing the Aspen FACE site in Rhinelander, where plots are exposed to elevated levels of carbon dioxide and ozone, mimicking atmospheric conditions of future forests. He and other researchers made groundbreaking discoveries there relating to tree growth, physiology, pest interactions, and carbon sequestration.

**Janet Pikkarainen**, his administrative aide of thirteen years, remembers her first big project, typing the inaugural proposal for Aspen FACE in 1995. "He was always coming up with new ideas—I was amazed at what he would think of. He was so dedicated to his research, but even though he was so involved, he was considerate, compassionate, and giving, such a gentle person."

At Michigan Tech, Dave received the 1993 Research Award and then in 2006 received the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations Scientific Achievement Award.

"His scientific genius will be carried on through the strong connections he has made and the innovative science he created," Dean Gale said. "We will miss his inspiration and quiet ways."

**A memorial fund has been set up in Dave's name to create an arboretum at the School. You may use the attached envelope to send a donation or contact Chris Hohnholt at [cahohnho@mtu.edu](mailto:cahohnho@mtu.edu) for more information.**

## Faculty Focus: Rod Chimner

### Using science to understand, restore and conserve our wetlands

**Rod Chimner** came to the School as a visiting assistant professor from the Natural Resources Ecology Laboratory at Colorado State University. This year his position became permanent, and he is now an assistant professor.

Rod earned an undergraduate degree from Northern Michigan University in earth science in 1990, a master's in forest hydrology from Michigan State in 1994, and a PhD in Ecology in 2000 from Colorado State University.

He has brought with him from Colorado his love for wetland ecology and the outdoors. Rod's teaching responsibilities include a senior-level wetlands class that has become popular with many, including environmental engineering students; a graduate-level restoration ecology class; and several graduate-level advanced wetland classes.

Rod's research spans local and international projects. Locally, he has several projects in the Keweenaw helping to develop conservation and restoration strategies for our wetlands.

At Seney National Wildlife Refuge, Rod is working on a long-term project that evaluates how climate change will affect peatlands, and how changes in peatlands will feed back to the atmosphere. He is investigating how changes in precipitation and temperature alter methane and carbon dioxide emissions, plant production and vegetation composition. The study takes advantage of long-term hydrological modifications made at the site in 1910, when the area was drained for agriculture.

In the San Juan Mountains of Colorado, Rod has been working on a four-year study mapping wetlands, assessing their condition, and developing restoration plans. Through his EPA-funded work, he has discovered that mining is a primary cause of wetland disturbance in Colorado, as it is in the Keweenaw. Rod has also been working in the Andes Mountains and is mentoring a graduate student in Patagonia who is studying how grazing is altering wetlands.

Rod and his wife, **Sigrid Resh**, who is an adjunct assistant professor in forest ecology at the School, and their two children, Galen and Sage, enjoy both international travel and family road trips. Living in the Keweenaw, they play outdoors often and are active in mountain biking, cross-country skiing, telemark skiing, and hiking.



### Gift Enhances Peace Corps Programs, Orr to Direct

Patricia Nelson and the John and Elizabeth Widenhoefer Trust have given generously to support the Peace Corps Master's International (PCMI) Programs at Michigan Tech. As a result, Professor **Blair Orr** has been named on-campus director of the PCMI.

"These funds will also enhance the applied research component of students' Peace Corps experience," Blair said. "Student research frequently focuses on community needs, from water supplies in Cameroon to waste management in Fiji and Armenia to enhanced agroforestry in Paraguay and Bolivia. Also, students will be able to use the resources we have back on campus more effectively." For more information, visit

[www.gradschool.mtu.edu/catalog/ms-peacecorps.html](http://www.gradschool.mtu.edu/catalog/ms-peacecorps.html).



## Alumni News

### Keeping Connected

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**1983**  
**Annette (Kikendall) Prochaska** and her husband, Wayne (Chem Eng 1983) live in Lake Orion, Michigan, with their seventeen-year-old twin boys, Ian and Zach. Annette works for General Motors as the manager of vehicle scheduling for North America. The family keeps busy with all of the boys' activities: cross country, ski and track teams; Boy Scouts; and band. After their sons are off to college next year, Annette and Wayne are considering coming out of retirement and starting off-road rallying again. They look forward to a return to Houghton for the Lake Superior Rally—which in their day was called the P.O.R.

**1989**  
**Jeff Andrews** and **Lisa Anderson** were married after graduation, then headed to Virginia Tech to earn their master's degrees. Today they live in Europe and have two children, Emma, 16, and Adam, 8. Jeff is manager of the US Army Europe (USAREUR) Integrated Training Area Management (ITAM) Regional Support Center (RSC), in Grafenwoehr, Germany, which provides geospatial and range sustainment support throughout the European, Central and African Commands. His European land management responsibilities cover more than 200,000 hectares located in multiple countries. Jeff and Lisa are enjoying Europe and have purchased a home in Weiden, Germany. The family travels extensively, visiting nine countries in the last six months. Jeff says, "I am very fortunate to be where I am today, both personally and professionally, most of which I can attribute to my time at Tech."

**1990**  
**Meral Jackson** left Northwestern Michigan College for a position as land manager for BioTech Agronomics, a residuals management company in Beulah, Michigan. The company works primarily with application of biosolids on farmland.



# Alumni News

## Keeping Connected

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2001

**Jamie Sheahan** is the executive director of Columbia Gorge Ecology Institute, a small nonprofit, where she enjoys the challenges and diversity of her job. She is restoring wetlands, building partnerships, educating kids, finding funding for research and restoration projects, and managing a great team of AmeriCorps interns. She commented that living in the Columbia River Gorge is a perk.

2002

**Elaine (Billy) Kraft** moved to Perth, Australia. She and her husband, Joe (Geo Eng 2002), work for Portman Iron Ore, she as an environmental coordinator, he as a mine planner. They will live in Australia for about two years, then return to their positions with Cleveland Cliffs in Ishpeming, Michigan. Elaine says that there are many opportunities for environmental scientists there.

**Corey Magdziak** was married in May 2007 to Melissa Moren. He works as a forest technician for American Forest Management in Hurley, Wisconsin, and lives in Ironwood, Michigan

**Andrew McDowell** lives in Hibbing, Minnesota, with his wife, Micheline, and their three daughters: Alexis, Brianna, and Caitlin. He is the environmental manager at Cleveland Cliffs' Hibbing Taconite Company and is pursuing an MBA and an MS degree in Environmental Management from the University of Maryland.

2004

**Jennifer (Taylor) Karberg** (MS and PhD 2008) received the Best Student Oral Presentation award in May at the 2008 Society of Wetland Scientists meeting in Washington, DC. Jennifer is a research supervisor with the Nantucket Conservation Foundation in Massachusetts.

2005

**Natalie (Nelson) Randall** worked for the Michigan DNR as a wildlife assistant after graduation and now works on the Multiple Species Inventory and Monitoring project for the Iowa DNR. She is pursuing a master's in wildlife biology from Iowa State University. Natalie comments that she misses the beautiful autumn that the Keweenaw has to offer.

2006

**Molly Cypher** accepted a position with Kiewit Corporation and has moved to Vancouver, British Columbia. She is working on a renewable energy hydrology project.

## In the Field

### Emerald Ash Borer Found in Keweenaw

The emerald ash borer has made its first confirmed appearance in the Keweenaw. It was found by alumnus **Mike Schira** (1975), who is with the MSU Extension Service, and verified by faculty member **Andrew Storer**.

In looking further, Andrew and his colleagues found at least fifty infested or previously infested ash trees in the one-acre area surrounding the site and more infested trees within a few blocks.

What's more, the larvae of the glossy green beetles, which have devastated ash trees in southeastern Michigan, seem to have been chewing away undetected for some time. "Based on the condition of the trees," Andrew said, "the emerald ash borer has clearly been here for a number of years."

The invasive insect has been spotted three previous times in the Upper Peninsula, but the closest known infestation was more than 200 miles from the Keweenaw site, in Laurium.

"It's disappointing to find them here, but since they are here, it's better that we know," Andrew said. "Now that we know they are here, homeowners and land managers will be able to protect or remove their ash trees as part of management efforts against this pest."

Meanwhile, Andrew and members of his lab are widening their search for the ash borers and the trees they kill. The Michigan Department of Agriculture is expected to join the hunt in an attempt to determine the extent of infestation and to develop recommendations for homeowners and land managers.

Emerald ash borer is native to China, Japan, Korea, and Mongolia and probably hitched a ride to the US in wood packing material used in cargo containers. Once here, and faced with few natural enemies, the invasive insects began attacking all native ash trees.

The beetles lay eggs on the tree's bark, and their larvae tunnel underneath, eating the living part of the bark and the outer layers of wood. Eventually, the tree dies.

Emerald ash borer can only travel two miles in a lifetime, but they expand their range as people haul infested firewood or other infested materials to new areas with ash trees.



Students in Associate Professor Andrew Storer's Forest Health class learn to identify the signs of EAB.



Funding to create the trails comes entirely from two sources. One is proceeds of the timber harvest, which is being managed by the School. **Jim Schmierer**, school forester, says, "We are happy that we can put our expertise to work on this worthwhile project."

The second source is a gift from local philanthropists Bob and Ruth Nara. The University is extremely grateful for their vision of community recreation and their willingness to put significant financial resources behind their ideas.

## In the Classroom

### Summer Youth Brings Students to Our Programs

It has been fourteen years since **Christa Luokkala** attended Summer Youth at Michigan Tech and received an authentic look at college life. Christa participated in the medical physiology program and has vivid memories of everything from dissecting a chicken embryo to dorm life in Douglass Houghton Hall. Her experience and Michigan Tech's reputation led her to choose Tech, first for her undergraduate degree in biological sciences and now a master's degree in applied ecology.

She is studying the influence of nitrogen pollution on fungi that live in association with tree roots, called mycorrhizal fungi, in Alaska. Luokkala is trying to understand how these responses affect boreal and northern temperate forest ecosystems.

**Stacy Osborne** participated in the Summer Youth wolf ecology program and found it "amazing."

"We hiked all over searching for dens and prints," she remembers. "I learned so much. Being able to keep the casts of prints we found was the best part. This program convinced me of where I wanted to attend college and what my major would be."

**Jeff Autenrieth** spent time at the Ford Center while enrolled in Summer Youth. He enjoyed the hands-on activities and eventually majored in forestry. While he was first interested in wildlife ecology, "I changed to forestry because I like hunting," he said, "and wildlife people spend most of the hunting season looking at other people's game instead of being in the woods."

"It was also a plus that both my parents **Jeff Autenrieth Sr.** (Forestry/Surveying 1978) and my mom **Sandy (Perry) Autenrieth** (Liberal Arts-History 1978) graduated from Michigan Tech," he added.



Christa Luokkala is a graduate student of Adjunct Professor Erik Lilleskov.



The Wolf Ecology Program, which introduced Stacy Osborne to Tech, is popular with high school students interested in wildlife and natural resources.



Jeff Autenrieth is majoring in forestry.



Forestry graduate student Ashley Hippler works the bucksaw.

### Forestry Club Hosts Timbersports

Students from nine Midwest universities came together to match skills at the Ford Center in Alberta last September when the Tech Forestry Club hosted the 2009 STIHL Timbersports Collegiate Series.

The competition, which will be broadcast by ESPN-U next summer, is part of the Fifty-seventh Annual Midwestern Timber Sports Conclave, hosted by Michigan Tech. It was the first of five regional qualifying events leading up to the Collegiate Series finals in June.

In the Collegiate Series, one student from each of participating universities competed in four events: the single buck, stock saw, standing block chop, and underhand speed chop. **Trevor Hahka**, chair of the Forestry Club, represented Michigan Tech and sawed and chopped his way to a respectable third place finish overall, even with an unfortunate disqualification on a technicality in the single buck event.

Other events included the speed chop, pulpwood toss, log roll, tobacco spit, dendrology, wood identification, bolt throw, two-man bucksaw, and Jack and Jill bucksaw, in which a man and a woman work opposite ends of a six-foot crosscut saw.

The rest of the crew from the School put in some extra effort to turn in a third-place team performance. Adding to our point total were **Charlie Barna**, fourth in bolt throw; **Jake Reed**, first, and **Jeff Autenrieth**, second, in the match split; **Kristen Schaub**, third, women's tobacco spit; **Bryan Watters**, third, and **Steve Miceli**, fourth, in men's tobacco spit; **Russell Gross** and **Josh Brinks**, third in log roll; **Russell Gross**, first, and **Adam Komar**, second, in wood identification; the team of: **Melissa Porter**, **Sarah Diehr**, **Kristen Schaub** and **Ashley Hippler**, second in women's pulp toss; team of: **Trevor Hahka**, **Nick Maki**, **Paul Roell**, and **Wesley Proctor**, third in men's pulp toss; and **Adam Komar**, first, and **Russell Gross**, third, in dendrology.

Congratulations to all for representing our School so well!



Trevor Hahka on his way to a third-place finish at Timbersports.



## Around the School

### Reunion Review

Another great crowd came out for the School's reunion activities in August. It was a pleasure to see all the alums from the Class of 1958 and others who joined the event. Again, the group included a fun-spirited gathering of alumni, family, former and current faculty, and friends. There were five alumni from the Class of 1958. Oh, the stories!

In addition to the University's reunion activities, the School took time to honor some of its own. **Nancy Wizner** was named the School's 2008 Outstanding Alumnus, and the School's 2008 Outstanding Young Alumnus Award was presented to **Jessica Turino**. Plan ahead: Next year's Michigan Tech Reunion is scheduled for August 6-8, 2009.

### 2008 Outstanding Young Alumnus— Jessica Turino (1994)

Jessica began her career working in the private sector in procurement. Her first job involved working with a local logger who had three logging crews. This was an opportunity to utilize the technical forestry skills she learned at Michigan Tech and her communication and social skills. This job was very challenging: it required meeting both the logging company's goals and the forest landowner's objectives.

Since 1999 Jessica has been at Weyerhaeuser in Grayling, Michigan. There she also works in procurement and is responsible for supplying raw material to the Grayling OSB mill and hardwood sawmill located in Lewiston. Jessica has also been involved in Weyerhaeuser's Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) program since its inception in 2000, when the Grayling site was chosen as a pilot program for the eastern procurement system. Currently, she is the coordinator for Eastern Wood Products Facilities SFI Group Certification, overseeing SFI programs located in the eastern United States. She is also involved with coordinating the Integrated Fiber Planning Process for the Great Lakes region. Her favorite thing about working for Weyerhaeuser is the diversity her job has to offer: opportunities to travel and see different geographies, forest practices, mills, and systems and to gather information from all.

Jessica is also active in Michigan's SFI State Implementation Committee and serves as the state chairperson. She is a member of SAF and a certified forester.

Jessica resides in Manton, Michigan, with her husband, Westley Windover (1994), daughter Elise, and son Caden.

### Nancy Wizner (1977)—2008 Outstanding Alumnus

Nancy earned her Michigan Tech bachelor's degree in forestry in 1977 and a master's in fire and emergency management from Oklahoma State University in 2002.

She began her federal career in southeastern Alaska, where she was employed as a forestry technician surveying logging roads in the Tongass National Forest. Her interests in conservation and protection brought her to the National Park Service in 1979. Throughout her career with the National Park System, Nancy worked as an emergency medical technician, a wild land firefighter, search and rescue team member, interpretive ranger, communications center supervisor, program manager, incident commander, critical incident stress peer counselor, and federal law enforcement officer.

Her law enforcement experience began as a field ranger with daily road, foot, and boat patrols; she was subsequently promoted to chief ranger responsible for management of protection operations. In 2007, Nancy moved to Redwood National and State Parks where she is chief ranger. In this position, she works in partnership with California State Parks.

Nancy's career with the National Park Service has included the following areas: Carlsbad Caverns National Park, Capulin Volcano National Monument, White Sands National Monument, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Haleakala National Park, the USS Arizona Memorial, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, Death Valley National Park, and Redwood National and State Parks.



It was so nice to see so many from the class of 1958! Left to right: George Lehrer, Tom Gelb, Claudette (Simons) Spiroff, Gerald Vande Hei, and Larry Golin. Missing from photo is Mrs. Fred Kisabeth who traveled from Boise, Idaho, to attend the reunion with her daughter, Diane Kisabeth.



Honor Academy member Barb Wade (1977) (left) and Dean Peg Gale present Jessica Turino with her award.



Nancy Wizner (center) is joined by Honor Academy member Les Reid (1951) and Dean Peg Gale as she received her award.

## Around the School *continued*

### GLIAC Honors Student-Athletes

Three student-athletes from our School were among thirty-seven University-wide to be named to the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Association All-Academic Team. The award honors student-athletes who demonstrate hard work in the classroom; it focuses on excellence in both athletics and academics.

The GLIAC All-Academic Team from the School are, in men's track and field, **Scott Kentner**, sophomore, forestry; **Stuart Kramer**, senior, applied ecology and environmental sciences; and, in women's track and field, **Laura Kangas**, senior, applied ecology and environmental sciences.

### Isle Royale National Park Wolf-Moose Research Celebration

The year 2008 marks the fiftieth anniversary of continuous wolf-moose research at Isle Royale National Park. The research, headed by wildlife ecologists from Michigan Tech, is the longest running predator-prey study in the world.

During July, a celebration was held on the island recognizing some of the scientists who have led the study, including wildlife ecologists **Rolf Peterson** and **John Vucetich**, from our School. Also in attendance were other scientists who have been involved over the years, National Park Service personnel, environmentalists, politicians, and the public.

A consortium of educational, governmental, and natural resources organizations has led the year-long effort to celebrate and publicize the wolf-moose study. To read more, visit [www.wolfmoose.mtu.edu](http://www.wolfmoose.mtu.edu).



Hundreds gathered this summer at Isle Royale to celebrate fifty years of continuous research to better understand the complex relationship that binds the island's wolves and moose.

## Around the World

### Michigan Tech to Offer Transatlantic Forest Resources Master's Degree

In the transatlantic graduate program, students on both sides of the Atlantic can now earn dual forest resources master's degrees from Michigan Tech and a Finnish or Swedish university. The program is one of sixteen recently funded by the new US-European partnership, called ATLANTIS (Actions for Transatlantic Links and Academic Networks for Training and Integrated Studies).

Twelve Michigan Tech graduate students and twelve graduate students from Finland and Sweden will be able to spend one year at Tech and the other year at one of the Scandinavian partner universities. Students who complete the program will receive dual MS degrees, one from Michigan Tech and the other from the Swedish or Finnish university they attend.

The new dual-degree program is designed to enhance the global competitiveness of forestry in the temperate zone, to contribute to sustainable management of forests globally, and to improve the quality of higher education in forestry in the US and the European Union.

A global perspective is very important, said Dean **Peg Gale**. "We're living in a global society, yet our perspectives and practices are quite different," she explained. "We need to understand how other countries are managing their natural resources, just as others are interested in how we manage resources in the US. This project will make the distance between us much smaller."

"This is a unique opportunity for graduate students to get two years of education for one year's investment," said Professor **Chandrashekar Joshi**, who will lead the program for the School. "They will also get an international experience and a chance to learn about each other's approach to forestry and tree biotechnology."