Chair’s Message
Bill McDowell

The past year has been a productive one for the Department, and has again shown our faculty taking a leadership role at UNH. Dr. Mimi Becker is serving this year as Chair of the University Senate, and Dr. John Aber is now Vice President for Research and Public Service. Dr. Kim Babbitt received the 2003-04 award for international research funded by the Vice President’s office, and you will enjoy reading about her work in EcoQuest and her research study in Maungatautari located on North Island in New Zealand. We’re very proud of the accomplishments of both students and faculty and you can read more about them in this issue.

One item that may be of interest to many of you is a new degree program in Environmental Sciences. During the past year our Water Resources and Soils Programs, along with Hydrology in Earth Sciences, merged to offer a new undergraduate major in Environmental Sciences. Options offered in the new degree include Hydrology, Soil and Watershed Management, and Ecosystems.

This year has also been a milestone for our Department with the retirement of Dr. Richard Weyrick and Patricia Neff. Pat retired June 30, 2004 after 37 years of service to UNH. She was Business Manager of the COLSA Business Service Center and was the backbone of business administration for our Department. Dick Weyrick also retired June 30 after 39 years of service to the Department of Forestry, INER, the Department of Forest Resources, and our Current incarnation as the Department of Natural Resources. The Department has grown and evolved over the years and Dick’s leadership in the Forestry program, the Department, and the University community will be sorely missed. Faculty, students and staff will all agree that we were honored to have had the opportunity to work with Dick, or to have him as a teacher and advisor.

At the annual Department of Natural Resources picnic on August 25th we welcomed 23 new M.S. and 4 new PhD students. This is a record number for us and it promises to be an exciting and productive new academic year. We thank all our Alumni for your continued support towards scholarships for our students and updated equipment in our labs. We encourage you to visit our updated website, read about our programs, our faculty, and our students. Take a pictorial walk through College Woods and take a tour of some of our classes on Blackboard. There’s lots going on, and we thank you for being a part of it!

Faculty Update
Russ Congalton, Professor of Remote Sensing and GIS -- It has been a great summer. In late May, 2004, I was inaugurated as President of the American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS) at the Annual Conference in Denver, Colorado. I have served as vice president (2002-2003) and president-elect (2003-2004). When my term as president ends in the Spring of 2005, I will serve as an officer for one more year as past president. In June, I spent 2 weeks in New Zealand with Dr. Mimi Becker and a graduate student named Jesse Bishop. We initiated a research project as part of my GLOBE Research to map land cover and vegetation change in New Zealand with the cooperation of GLOBE New Zealand, a large number of GLOBE schools, and Landcare Research. Jesse has remained in New Zealand until December to oversee the work. Finally, in July, I led the US delegation to the International Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing conference in Istanbul, Turkey. This conference occurs only every four years and as president of ASPRS, I was responsible for leading the US delegation in the General Assembly. It was a great experience to spend 2 weeks in Istanbul.
Kim Babbitt, Associate Professor of Wildlife Ecology received the 2003-04 award for international research funded by the VPAA. She was on sabbatical leave in New Zealand Spring Semester 2004. The following is her Summary Report of Activities and Accomplishments Related to CIE Grant.

My main goal for sabbatical was to begin the process of establishing a research program in New Zealand. This would serve both to enhance my role as EcoQuest-UNH Academic Program Coordinator as well as to broaden the scope of my research program overall. As outlined in my proposal, I planned to establish a research study at a place called Maungatautari. Maungatautari is an old volcanic ridge that is located on North Island. Is it is also a site for a very exciting conservation endeavor. This site is the location for a planned 3200 hectare “mainland island”. The plan is to erect a predator-proof fence, engage in significant predator-removal, and reintroduce native species that have been extirpated – including lizards! The first phase of my research, which I began as part of my sabbatical, involves collection of baseline data that can be used as a gauge for changes following species introduction. With the help of Jillana Robertson and Elizabeth Jones, both former UNH students and EcoQuest alumni living in New Zealand, I was able to document the presence of forest geckos (Hoplodactylus granulatus) on the mountain. This was an exciting find, as it was widely believed that no geckos remained on the mountain. No one had documented their presence in decades, and our find made the local newspaper! Our endeavors to locate skinks were not successful. After many days of searching the most suitable locations for skinks (e.g., downed logs), and monitoring using baited ink-pad funnel traps in which skinks attracted to bait would walk across an ink pad leaving foot prints on paper, we came up empty. Skinks, therefore, are likely candidates for reintroduction. By getting in at the baseline collection phase, I have positioned myself to be a key researcher during the reintroduction phase. In fact, I have already submitted a pre-proposal with my post-doc (who is a native of New Zealand) to the Marsden Fund in New Zealand (equivalent to NSF) to examine the functional role of lizards on the forest-floor insect fauna. The work would be conducted at Maungatautari as part of reintroduction efforts.

I also proposed to begin looking at effects of forest management practices on natural legacies (snags and coarse woody debris) as these structural components can be particularly important for skinks and geckos. After discussions with the colleague with whom I would conduct this research over the long-term (Dr. Mark Ducey), we decided to post-pone this research until his sabbatical leave this coming fall.

I used some of my time to establish new contacts in New Zealand with appropriate agencies and university faculty. This effort turned out to be the most fruitful of all! While in New Zealand I was invited to an island off the east coast of North Island, New Zealand to work with a group of faculty on establishing a research program on the ecology, behavior and management of the northern brown kiwi (Apteryx mantelli). The kiwi is the icon of New Zealand and is the most primitive bird alive today. It has many unique features and, like so many species in New Zealand, it is threatened by exotic mammals. This species is listed as endangered in New Zealand. Although this was an unanticipated project, I returned to the island in the spring and have firmly established a collaboration with Dr. Isabel Castro of Massey University. I have just accepted a master’s student who will begin a field project this June. The project will examine causes of egg hatch failure in the kiwi. Dr. Castro and I are actively writing grants for this project as well as other research questions we wish to examine, and I have recently been made an honorary faculty member at Massey University (equivalent to our adjunct status).

Finally, I was able to accomplish a significant amount of work on the EcoQuest program. In addition to giving four lectures, running a field exercise, and assisting with the development of a Directed Research Project, and together with staff at EcoQuest, I was able to update and improve the old student handbook. We now have an academic handbook and a center handbook. The former addresses pedagogic and related topics and the latter contains the nuts and bolts of procedures (e.g., getting a visa, what to pack).

In closing, I want to thank CIE for the support provided. It really did help to initiate my new international research program. I am excited about future prospects for more research in New Zealand and to continuing my work with EcoQuest.
Mimi Becker, Associate Professor of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Russ Congalton, Professor of Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems just returned from New Zealand (June 2004) where they and Natural Resources Graduate Student Jesse Bishop, a DNR-EcoQuest alum, field tested Jesse’s research project and met with New Zealand collaborator Dr. John Lockley, New Zealand GLOBE coordinator and scientists at Landcare Crown Research Institute. Jesse will be located at the Institute while working with students from a variety of GLOBE schools to map land cover at a range of protected areas being restored under New Zealand’s Biodiversity restoration initiatives so that change over time can be tracked using satellite imagery as sites recover. One site, The Maungatautari Trust, is a reserve that EcoQuest students have worked on, and DNR Alumna Jillana Robertson works for the Trust that manages the site. The team also stopped at the EcoQuest Education Foundation’s new campus and were treated to a grand tour from Ria Brejaart and Jono Clark, who manage the delivery of the EcoQuest program.

New from Mimi’s Natural Resources and Environmental Policy Lab: Mimi had occasion to celebrate with a number of her graduate students. She “hooded” Ph.D. advisee Lynda Brushett, who received her doctoral degree in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies. Doctoral student John Coon was formally admitted to candidacy in the NRESS doctoral program this spring. Doctoral student Luci Nascimento received a summer teaching assistantship which she used to conduct the scoping study of the Sao Francisco River Basin (Brazil) preliminary to the design of her doctoral research proposal. Luci completed her M.S. degree in Environmental Conservation in December 2003. Master’s student William Fleeger is away doing field research on coordinated planning for watershed management in the Pacific Northwest.

On a personal note: Mimi, who serves as Coordinator of the Environmental Conservation Program, is Chair of the UNH Faculty Senate for the 2004-2005 year, and continues to serve as Chairman of the Board of Sustainable Harvest International.

Andy Rosenberg, Professor of Natural Resources Policy and Management. Andy’s current research covers three main areas, the interface between science and policy for marine resource management, population dynamics and ecosystem modeling of exploited systems, and the use of historical information for reconstructing biomass of fished species over historical time.

Spring 2004 semester, Andy continued his work on the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, culminating in the release of the Preliminary Report to governor’s in April. The final report will be released at the end of July. This entailed at least monthly trips to Washington, D.C. as well as participation in public events in the Northeast, New York and Washington. Andy made presentations to the American Bar Association, Capitol Hill Oceans Week, the UN Global Forum, the Packard Foundation, the National Press Club, the Metcalfe Institute on Environmental Journalism, NH Sea Grant, Connecticut Sea Grant, and University of Maine School of Law on the Commission’s work. He also testified before two Senate Committees and expects further hearings in the fall, and has briefed the Governor’s of NH and Maine and the Secretary of Environmental Affairs for Massachusetts.

Other travels and activities this past semester included co-convening a symposium at the AAAS Annual meeting, presenting invited papers at the World Aquaculture Conference, co-convening a session and presenting a keynote address at the World Fisheries Congress, participating in a National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis working group, and presenting a paper at a NOAA Sponsored workshop on marine protected areas. For the past six months, Andy has also served as a member of the NOAA Research Review Team. The draft report recommending changes in the agencies research enterprise has recently been released. He has also participated as an expert advisor for a UN session on developing a global marine assessment.

Dave Burdick, Research Associate Professor of Natural Resources - Physiology and Ecology of Coastal Wetland Plants spent part of this summer with New Franklin Elementary School 4th graders planting 900 ribbed mussels in Portsmouth, New Hampshire’s North Mill Pond. For seven years Dave has worked with the nonprofit group, Advocates for North Mill Pond, and the New Franklin Elementary School in Portsmouth to introduce mussels to the pond’s smooth cordgrass marsh.

The project started after a 1997 Jackson Estuarine Lab study found that there were no animals present in the marsh which had been artificially created to make up for marshland lost to the NH Port Authority expansion.
In 1998, Dave teamed up with now retired New Franklin Elementary teacher Ann Smith, whom he had met while working with the Advocates for North Mill Pond. Together the two formed the program through which the fourth-graders plant the mussels in the pond.

In addition to planting the mussels, the student have taken water samples from the pond and learned of its cultural and historical ties to Portsmouth. Over the years, the fourth-graders have planted approximately 5,000 mussels.

The mussel planting is scheduled to continue for one more year when the total mussel population in the marsh reaches 6,000. After that, Dave says the mussel population will have hopefully reached a level large enough to sustain itself.

In addition to Jackson Estuarine Lab, the marsh restoration project is cosponsored by the Advocates for North Mill Pond, the Portsmouth School System, and Great Bay Coast Watch. (excerpts from the June 25, 2004 UNH Campus Journal).

Ted Howard, Director, UNH Center for International Education and Professor of Forestry Economics recently visited study abroad sites in Grenoble, France as well as The Hague and Utrecht in The Netherlands.


Department News

From UNH Media Relations and UNH Foundation September 17, 2003 ~

UNH’s Woodland Classroom Receives Support

DURHAM, N.H. -- For four decades, while he was teaching forest biometrics and management, Professor James Barrett regularly visited the University of New Hampshire’s College Woods. He started his day there with morning walks, and he brought students from his classes to learn about forest ecology. He found College Woods to be an endlessly enriching living laboratory. And now College Woods has found a generous benefactor in Barrett.

The UNH Foundation has received a gift from Professor Emeritus, James Barrett, and his wife, Juddie Barrett, to establish the College Woods Scholarship Fund. The scholarship will provide financial help to a student in natural resources recognizing the value of College Woods, East Foss Farm and other UNH woodlands, all of which play a critical role in the education of UNH students.

The scholarship also is an expression of thanks for woodland walks and many rewarding days teaching students about forestry and natural resources.

Barrett's gift encourages the university to protect and treasure the woods. “College Woods is a living library for education and research that did not cost a penny to build,” he says. “It’s a protected water supply; a place to walk, jog and cross-country ski; and a place of beauty for reflective thinking. It is the only campus I know of where you can take a five- to 10-minute walk to such a wonderful natural resource.”

It just makes common sense that learning about the natural world is essential to a meaningful education. Barrett says, “Our woodlands are nearby classrooms and should be protected. College Woods offers opportunities for both a liberal and a scientific education.”

The mussel planting is scheduled to continue for one more year when the total mussel population in the marsh reaches 6,000. After that, Dave says the mussel population will have hopefully reached a level large enough to sustain itself.

Located on the west side of campus, College Woods comprises approximately 250 acres of woods, streams, and small fields. It is the oldest and most intensively used university property for outdoor activities. Some 60 acres within the main woods area was designated as a Natural Area, in a preservation status, in 1961. The original land was donated by Benjamin Thompson Jr. to New Hampshire College of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts (as the university was then called) via his will in 1891.

“First it was pasture and then white pine,” Barrett says. “Then the 1938 hurricane took down a lot of trees. That happened again with a hurricane in 1956. There’s a silt clay soil that’s really the best for the original trees--birch, beech and maple--and College Woods is going back to that type of forest now, the forest it was before the Europeans came here.”

For more information about the College Woods Scholarship, contact the UNH Foundation at (603) 862-2570.
Pat Neff, Business Manager of the COLSA Business Service Center retired on June 30, 2004 after 37 years of service at the University of New Hampshire. A retirement party was held on June 24 at Rudman Hall where many friends from over the years dropped in to wish Pat well. Among the many gifts of recognition, Pat received a special certificate of “Honorary Professor of Natural Resources” for her many years of unwavering and outstanding service, dedication, and improvement to the educational mission of the Department of Natural Resources. Pat and her husband Tom Neff (For BS’69 MS ’73) will enjoy kayaking, walking in their woodlots and relaxing in their new wicker furniture.

On May 20 the Department of Natural Resources hosted a retirement party for Dr. Richard Weyrick where we enjoyed pizza, cake, and ice cream and listened to numerous stories by faculty and colleagues of their memories of teaching and working with Dick. Don Quigley and Matt Chagnon of Thompson School presented Dick with a “pork-pie” hat and the Department presented him with a UNH cherry rocking chair.

The Cradle of Forestry -- and of Life
James Barrett, Professor Emeritus, Department of Natural Resources

On a bright day on May 14, 2004 I visited the Cradle of Forestry, the site where forestry began in this country. The National Historic Site, once a part of the Biltmore Estate in North Carolina, is located on Highway 276, just off the lower section of the Blue Ridge Parkway, with its awe-inspiring views. Nestled in a remote part of the Pisgah National Forest in the Great Smoky Mountains, a U.S. Forest Service Interpretative Center, hosted partly by volunteers, celebrates the historic site. One can spend hours at this delightful place with its indoor exhibits and two outdoor interpretative trails: one trail loops around the Biltmore Campus, and the other around field demonstrations of past and present forestry.

The Biltmore Forest School, founded in 1898 by Dr. Carl Alwin Schenck, a German forester, continued till 1913. Schenck instructed students who planned to attend the school to bring a couple of blankets, boots, and three sets of coarse clothes. Nothing else. Students would need to buy a horse, preferably a sturdy farm horse, near the school. A six-month internship followed a year of course work. That invitation to education excited many a young man.

Usually in the mornings, Schenck taught students forestry in a small schoolhouse. After lunch Schenck and his students galloped off into the woods for hands-on experience. Both in the classroom and in the field, Schenck shared his knowledge about German forestry with students.

Over the decades, my students at the University of...
Historically it has been assumed that groundwater was free of fecal-borne microorganisms due to the natural filtering affects of the soil. Although the movement of bacteria-laden water through soil and aquifer sediments often results in significant removal of bacteria from the aqueous phase, recent studies suggest that bacterial contamination of groundwater is a national health concern in the United States. Elevated concentrations of indicator organisms in drinking water aquifers may be due, in part, to the release of sediment-associated bacteria. This condition, referred to as tailing, is caused by the slow detachment of previously attached cells over time, with aqueous concentrations often orders of magnitude below the peak concentration. Extended tailing, the continued elution of bacteria at low concentrations, has often been observed in laboratory and field transport experiments. Unlike the factors controlling bacterial attachment to aquifer sediments, the processes controlling bacterial detachment from sediment surfaces at steady state are not well understood.

To address this gap in our understanding of bacterial transport in the subsurface we performed laboratory
column experiments to investigate the transport and detachment of a nonmotile strain of Escherichia coli (E. Coli) at resting state through uncoated and Fe-coated quartz sand (350-500 µm) in KC1 solution at low and high ionic strength (0.001-0.01 M). For each experimental run, we injected [H]-labeled E. coli into flow-through columns, and column effluent was sampled for approximately 11 hours. To account for biological effects on detachment, experiments were also run using E. coli treated with 0.5% formaldehyde.

Tailing was observed for our experiments using Fe-coated sands, which is contradictory to the reporting of others. Bacteria have been found to irreversibly attach to Fe-coated sands due to the positive charge of the coating and negative charge of bacteria. This irreversible attraction is thought to permanently remove bacteria from the aqueous phase, yet our research indicates that E. coli can detach under these conditions and enter back into groundwater. We also found significant differences between fixed and live cells, indicating that biological effects on attachment and detachment are involved. More research is necessary to elucidate the factors controlling detachment for the future protection of groundwater supplies from contamination by pathogenic microorganisms.

School garden programs have been used for years, but until recently, not much research had been conducted to highlight the many benefits these programs offer students. John Dewey used school gardens to foster educative experiences for his students. Hickman explains, “The cultivation, processing, and preparation of food and fiber in an educational setting function in Dewey’s work as a kind of metaphor for the cultivation of intelligence.” The California Department of Education has passed both Senate and Assembly bills supporting a “Garden in Every School” initiative. This initiative has already spawned over 3,000 school garden programs in California alone.

Given the acceptance of the recent school garden movement, the aim of this study was to develop a phenomenological understanding of the impact of a school garden program and its garden-based curriculum on student participants of a private school in New Hampshire. Specifically this study was used to explore four student’s experiences within the school garden program, and how these experiences impact their relationship with nature and food. The question became; how do school garden programs impact the ways in which students form a relationship with the natural world? Data was collected utilizing participant interviews as the primary qualitative method, along with several days of on-site observations. I started with the basic idea that all people are capable of developing a human-nature relationship, and then moved toward a more complicated idea of how this fits into the school garden program experience. Through this study I hope to broaden the scope of research on the human-nature relationship, as well as to expand traditional expectations for secondary academic institutions to include school garden programs.
21st Natural Resources Banquet-BBQ
April 28, 2004
Granite State Room
Memorial Union Building

John Stevens, winner of the “C. Tattersall Smith” ugly tie award, and his wife, Lauraine, of the COLSA Business Service Center.

Mimi Becker presents Sarah MacDougall with the EC Outstanding Student Award.

Mimi Becker presents the Alumni Scholarship Awards.

Donna Dowal, EcoQuest; Luci Nascimento, NRESS Ph.D. Program; Haruka Asahina, M.S. Forestry; and Bill Lee, WL’74, enjoy the evening festivities.

John Litvaitis presents Christopher Habeck with the Clark L. Stevens Award.

Pete Pekins enjoys conversation with a group of students.

Ted Howard presents Abby Finamore with the Lloyd W. Hawkensen Award.

Matt Chagnon, Assoc. Professor of Forest Technology, Thompson School; Harold Hocker, Professor Emeritus of Forest Resources; and Sarah Smith, Extension Assoc. Professor enjoying pleasant conversation.
Department of Natural Resources 2004
Banquet Awards Ceremony

The following scholarships were awarded to grad and undergrad students at the 28 April 2004 Department Banquet Awards Ceremony.

Clark Stevens: Christopher Habeck, WL
Ruth E. Farrington: Jennifer Weimer, For; Christopher Habeck, WL; Joseph Shannon, For; Nathanael Lewis, EC; Matthew Spinner, For.

Lloyd W. Hawkensen: Kendra Gurney, EC; Abby Finamore, EC

Cass Adams: Jennifer Hein, WL; Jessica Durocher, WL; Meghan Selinga, WL

Elizabeth Greene Award: Shannon Buckley, EC

Richard B. Johnston Award: Kendra Gurney, EC

James J. DiStefano: Joshua Borgeson, WL

Class of 1974: James Panaccione, WL

Alumni Scholarship Award: Erin Dewey, EC; Alison Chaney, EC; Shannon Buckley, EC; Emily Eppinger, WL; Kenny Damon, WL

Outstanding Student Awards went to the following undergrads:

Soils: Dan Miller
Environmental Conservation: Sarah E. MacDougall
Wildlife: Janice A. Huebner
Forestry: Jennifer L. Weimer

Nancy Coutu Scholarship: Hannah E. Sherrill

Faculty and Alumna Awards:

Teacher of the Year Award: Thomas Lee
Distinguished Alumni Award: James R. Schriever (MS RAM '92)

A number of Department of Natural Resources Undergrad and Grad Students received prestigious awards over the past semester. Congratulations go to the following:

Shannon Buckley, Environmental Conservation Junior, received the Frederick Smyth Award. This award is presented each year by the University of New Hampshire, “To the most meritorious student(s), for the purchase of books.” The University awarded Shannon a prize of $325. Shannon was recognized at the Student Awards Reception on Tuesday, May 11, in the 1925 Room in the Elliott Alumni Center.

Jessica MacManus, Wildlife Management Senior, was awarded a Fulbright Student Grant to spend the 2004-2005 academic year doing research on cheetahs in Namibia.

Ingrid Nugent, Joseph Blanchard, and Christopher Habeck were winners of the Undergraduate Research Conference competition held on April 28, 2004. Ingrid Nugent and Joseph Blanchard were winners of the Earth, Oceans & Space Symposium. Ingrid, an Environmental Conservation major, carried out her research under the direction of Dr. Andy Rosenberg. The title of her poster was “Strategic and Tactical Planning for Offshore Wind Power Facilities in the U.S.A.” Joseph, also an Environmental Science major, completed his research on “Microbial Carbon and Nitrogen Substrate Utilization in Long-term Heated Soil Plots.” Joseph was advised by Dr. Serita Frey. Both awards were sponsored by NH Space Grant and Marine Program ($500 each). Christopher Habeck, College of Life Sciences & Agriculture winner, completed his research on “Microhabitat Analysis of Moose Neonatal Areas in Northern New Hampshire.” Christopher was advised by Dr. Peter Pekins. This scholarship award is sponsored by Student & Academic Affairs and Vice President for Research and Public Service ($500 award).

Janice Huebner (Wildlife Senior) was selected as this year’s recipient of the P.F. English Memorial Award that recognizes the Outstanding Wildlife Management Major in the northeastern U.S. and Atlantic Canada. The award is presented at the annual meeting of the Northeast Section of the Wildlife Society.

Catherine Bozek, South Hadley, MA, was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to teach English in South Korea during the 2004-2005 academic year. Ms. Bozek, who completed a Master’s Degree in Natural Resources at the University of New Hampshire in December 2003, also hopes to learn more about management and outreach programs related to ecological systems while in Korea. “As in many countries throughout the world,” says Bozek, “Korea is experiencing habitat loss and degradation because of rapid industrialization. To counteract this destruction, Korea is setting aside several conservation areas for protection, including important areas of coastal wetlands that are home to species of migratory birds. I am interested to see how this management method is working in Korea, and how the public is becoming involved with the protection of these ecosystems.”

Ms. Bozek plans to integrate her interests in ecology into her English lessons. Thus, the Fulbright scholarship will allow her to fulfill a long time goal of living in another culture, while also making a significant contribution to the community in which she will be living.

Congratulations to the NESAF 2004 Quiz Bowl Champions from UNH. Winners representing the Department of Natural Resources were: Jen Weimer, Rob Kenning, Steve Junkin, and Dan Dubie. The Quiz Bowl took place at the New England SAF Meeting in Quebec City, March 23-26, 2004.
George H. Laramie (For) is retired from the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture after serving 36 years from 1948-1982. He was Director of the Division of Markets and Standards, Weights and Measures. George is now 86 years and resides with his daughter, Joan (UNH ’77) in N. Andover, Massachusetts. He also has a son, Richard (UNH ’69). George and his wife, Arlene, were married 63 years – 1941-2003.

From the editor: I checked into the Department’s history files and came across the original commencement program for the class of 1940:

“Seventieth Annual Commencement Exercises of the University of New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire – Monday, June the seventeenth, One thousand nine hundred and forty.
Listed under Bachelor of Science, College of Agriculture is George Henry Laramie… For Canaan
The closing song was written by H.F. Moore, ’98

ALMA MATER
New Hampshire, alma mater, We love thee, old New Hampshire,
All hail, all hail to thee! And to the White and Blue,
Behind thee tow’r the mountains, Where’er our work shall call us,
Before thee roars the sea. We always will be true.
Thy sons and daughters ever We’ll ever guard thy honor,
Thy praises loud will sing: Bright shall thy mem’ry be:
New Hampshire, alma mater, New Hampshire, alma mater,
Accept our offering. All hail, all hail to thee!

1948
We were sorry to learn that Al Neff, (For) passed away July 5, 2003. Al was a U.S. Navy veteran in both WWII and Korean Wars, retired after 27 years of service as a Lt. Commander. He retired from the State of Oregon as a forester after 37 years. He married Edith Converse on Dec. 18, 1947 in Durham N.H. They moved to Salem in 1957 and lived in Newport and Coquille before moving back to Salem in 1972. Al received his BS in Forestry from the University of New Hampshire in 1948 and his Masters from Yale School of Forestry in 1949. He was a member of the Society of American Foresters, Salem Stamp Society and Morningside Methodist Church. He loved spending time with family and friends, baseball, traveling, stamp collecting, and fishing… Al is survived by his wife, Edith; 5 daughters and one son; 11 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

Ken Mattern (For) was a Landscape Architect (Engineer) for the Connecticut Department of Transportation from the 1950’s to 1980 and he retired in 1981. His wife, Dorcas, and he have five children (two UNH grads), a grandson and niece are also UNH grads. At 85 years of age, Ken is still very active, or so everyone likes to tell him. He has lived in Southern Connecticut (Branford) since 1951. The reason he didn’t graduate until the class of 1948 – due to five years as USAAC Pilot during WWII.

1957
Karl Zeller (WL) wrote a great note: “I’m using this copy of the TALLY SHEET to tell you more than you need to know; excuse me – I get wordy when I reminisce. I owe UNH far more than I can ever “repay”. I entered UNH in fall of 1954. It was the only University that had housing for veterans and had a Forestry School. The prosfs.
the time were Clark Stevens, Oliver Wallace, (Lewis?) Swain, & Bertram Husch... Prof. Hocker came, I think, in
1957. I feel honored to have been their student. The entire social atmosphere of the “Forestry School” was
impressive and memorable – Clark Stevens and his never-ending bobcat research, Wallace and Swain and I going
to Passaconaway to set things up for our summer camp in 1956. Prof. Swain was an accomplished pianist – I recall
a “family” meeting at Prof. Husch’s house where Prof. Swain played old forgotten Forestry ballads. Anyway,
upon graduation, I readily was hired by the Forest Service, USDA, and spent 26 challenging and memorable (and
I hope productive) years in the Forest Service, full of duties that those old provincial New Englander profs. had
failed to teach me about, like shoeing horses, packing mules, climbing telephone poles and dealing with cantankerous ranchers, loggers and miners in the Nat’l. Forests of Wyoming and Colorado.

I’m retired now, still happily married with four children, two of which were born while I was at UNH.

I know of no other alumni that served in my area of work, yet I’d very much like to hear of others that attended
UNH during my time there (’54-’57), especially these: Larry White; Bill Sheehan (who was in the F.S. in Utah);
Bill Zeedyk. And it was another alumnus, Bill Rawlings (grad. ’56) who enticed me to apply for a job with the
F.S. in Region Two in 1957. Sadly, Bill died in a horseback accident in 1959, but his widow, Mary Ann Ott still
lives locally here, and being an old New Hampshire girl, she and I reminisce about UNH.

1968

Steve Hobbs (For) was appointed Chair of the Oregon State Board of Forestry by Governor Kulongoski. The
seven member Board is responsible for forest policy on all forest lands within state jurisdiction, particularly
private and state lands. In addition, the Board has oversight responsibility for the Oregon Department of
Forestry. Steve is Associate Dean for Research and Professor in the College of Forestry at Oregon State Univer-
sity where he has been a faculty member for more than 25 years.

Steve and his wife Beverly, also Class of 1968, live just outside of Corvallis in the foothills of the Oregon Coast
Range where they enjoy frequent hikes through the OSU College Forest and a nearby county park. Each fall
they return to New Hampshire to visit family and the UNH campus.

1973

Tom Neff (For BS’69 MS ’73) measures a sugar maple on one of his Peterborough, NH woodlots. Entering Tom’s data
on the tally sheet is Pat Neff, a now retired 37-year veteran of UNH (see story pg 5). Both Tom and Pat look forward to
spending more time enjoying their favorite endeavors: managing woodlots, skeet shooting and kayaking. P.S. The
Biltmore stick is 39, the Filson vest is 34 and the Forester’s age is undisclosed!

1974

Allen Jackson (WL) reports, “After 30 years in the US Fish
career I was located in the New Jersey Field Office’s Division of Ecological Services working a wide range of
responsibilities to protect the environment. In my spare time, I became very involved in promoting proper
management of Purple Martins to help restore declining populations in the Northeast. I received the 2002
Landlord of the Year award, a national award from the Purple Martin Conservation Association recognizing my
“many outstanding contributions toward helping both the Purple Martin and fellow martin landlords.” I work
with 70 landlords in NJ, band about 3,000 martins each year, and give slide presentations for educational pur-
poses.

I married for the first time in 1995 to a wonderful woman, Billie, have 6 children, 5 grandchildren, and 1 great
grandson (Trevor “Allen”) who keeps me plenty busy.”
1975

E.B. “Butch” Fitzpatrick (For) retired from the Forest Service on October 3, 2003. He is presently semi-retired working as a verifier for the Master Logger Certification Program under the Wisconsin Professional Loggers Association. Here are a few excerpts from a local newspaper writeup:

By Kurt Krueger, News-Review Editor:
“E.B. “Butch” Fitzpatrick, who retired recently as a district ranger on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest after 32 years of federal service, plans on spending more time in the woods. After spending much of his career on Western forests, Fitzpatrick came to the North Woods in 1991, when he became a district ranger on the Ottawa National Forest. He moved to Three Lakes in 1997 after being named district ranger of the Eagle River-Florence district. “I’m very proud of what the Forest Service has done to balance all the competing interests in what the national forest should provide,” said Fitzpatrick. “I feel good about the fact that we listen to what the public tells us.” Forest Supervisor Anne Archie commented, “Butch’s long career in the Forest Service exemplified the passion and commitment he has for natural resources and the responsible stewardship of public lands. He cares about forest resources and he cares about the people who work and play in the forest.”… Butch began his career with the Forest Service with temporary appointments in New Hampshire on the White Mountain National Forest in 1966, ’68, ’73 and ’74 in timber, recreation and law enforcement. One of my favorite tasks early in my career was backcountry patrol on the Appalachian Mountain Trail system. Hiking each day and camping out was a great way to start a career,” he said. Two additional temporary assignments were also held on the Olympic National Forest in Washington State, where he worked in the supplies and materials section as well as reforestation in the fire off-season. He received an associate’s degree from New Hampshire State University in 1967 and returned to the university after his time in the military to receive his bachelor of science degree in natural resource management and forestry in 1975…

F. William Simmons (Soil) is an associate professor of soil and water management at the University of Illinois. He recently won the John Clyde and Henrietta Downey Spitler Teaching Award in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences. The award recognizes his achievement in developing both outreach and campus educational programs, his use of applied research and his excellent communications skills. He has been included on the U. of I’s Incomplete List of Outstanding Teachers every semester he has taught.

Celeste Philbrick Barr (EC) jobshares the position of Education Director at Beaver Brook Association, a non-profit with a mission of environmental education and natural resource stewardship. Beaver Brook is based in Hollis, NH and has protected over 2,000 acres of farms, forest and wetlands and offers 35 miles of trail for public use. Celeste and other staff members offer classes for preschoolers through adults. Over 10,000 people visit BBA every year.

Celeste also serves on the Souhegan River Local Advisory Commission, the Milford Recycling Committee, the Milford Earth Day Committee and organizes environmental education activities with the Milford Parent Teacher Organizations.

Beau Patterson (WL) is district wildlife biologist in Wenatchee for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. He has been in Washington almost three years following eleven years with the state of Wyoming. His job is split about 60% game management (primarily mule deer and bighorn sheep) and 40% diversity (primarily shrub-steppe obligates). He was appointed this year to the USFWS Columbia Basin pygmy rabbit recover team, which has been both extremely interesting and equally so challenging. Beau and his wife, Renea, have a 4 ½ year old son, Edan Lee.

Beau was excited to see Paul DeBow (WL ’88) in New Hampshire in June 2003. He is living in Plymouth with his wife, Jessie, and two children, Jacob and Alex. Paul owns and operates DeBow Wildlife Services.
Amy Seif (EC) is the Director of a new Center at the University of New Hampshire; the Center for Integrative Regional Problem Solving (CIRPS) assists community decision makers reduce the impacts of growth and development upon the environmental, community, and human health. She returned to work at UNH several years ago after living in Vermont and working as the sustainable campus specialist for Middlebury College.

Craig Kost (WL) recently resigned as Assistant Wildlife Management Area Supervisor with the Minnesota DNR and moved back home to New Hampshire to be near his family and friends. After spending three years in South Dakota, in graduate school; four years in Florida, working for the State Fish and Wildlife Commission; and two years in Minnesota, working for the State Department of Natural Resources, he realized that family and friends were an important part of his life that was missing. In July, 2003, he accepted a position with the USDA, APHIS, Division of Wildlife Services in Concord, NH as a Wildlife Biologist-Rabies Program Assistant. The scope of his work involves working with Wildlife Services staff in many states, developing national databases for the National Rabies Program. He also has initiated the process of developing protocols and procedures for GIS use within the National Rabies Program.

Craig recently visited with Dr. Olson and cut his Christmas tree! He had a great visit and couldn’t believe it had been nine years since graduation.

Kristin Bird (WL) completed her Masters Thesis at Oregon State University in early 2002, on the topic of “Community-based sea turtle conservation in Baja Mexico: Integrating science and culture.” She continues to be employed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, currently working as the Outdoor Recreation Planner at Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge in northeastern New Mexico.

Kristin was married in May of 2003, becoming Kristin Kuyuk. Her husband is from Turkey, and teaches at New Mexico Highlands University. The couple plan to move back east and pursue their Ph.D’s in the near future. When the time comes, Kristin is hoping to conduct research in Turkey.

Ryan Loysen (EC) returned home to Rochester, NY in October 2002 after earning his M.S. in Environmental Education from Southern Oregon University. He currently works as the Education Director for Braddock Bay Raptor Research, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of birds of prey and their habitat. He also works in the Education department of the Seneca Park Zoo. As of summer 2004, he will be the Conservation Education Coordinator for the Seneca Park Zoo. He has not figured out yet if he can manage both jobs.

Ryan DeSantis (For) returned from two years of working for a national park and municipality ecology center in Bulgaria with the U.S. Peace Corps’ Environmental Program. Since January of 2003, he has been at Michigan Technological University’s School of Forest Resources and Environmental Management working towards his MS in Forest Ecology. He is studying the effects of different silvicultural treatments (anchor chaining and prescribed burning) on regeneration and biodiversity in a post-harvest jack pine stand. He plans no concrete job path in the works following the completion of his Masters in late 2004 and is currently considering his PhD.

James Innes (MS For) is Ecologist and Site Manager for the Teakettle Ecosystem Experiment located within the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Teakettle is a 1300 ha old growth mixed conifer forest in the Sierra Nevada 80 miles east of Fresno, CA and the site of the Teakettle Ecosystem Experiment set up to study the effects of fire and thinning treatments on ecosystem function (http://teakettle.ucdavis.edu). His basic duties at Teakettle are to supervise and manage data collection among the many graduate students and researchers, run the field crews, manage the research project and direct research, and maintain the facilities. His current research examines the effects of fire and thinning on coarse woody debris.

Jim is married to Robin Jenkins (WL 2001) and lives in Sacramento CA. He has a thirteen year-old daughter, Maisie, who lives in Vermont. He recently saw other UNH grads Ben Applegate (For 1998) (who came out to the Sierras and Jim went to his wedding in VT), Kevin Hathaway (For 1998) (went hiking with Kevin in the Sierras this summer), and Stuart Bevin.
Publication Available

Last October 2003, Ken Desmarais (For ‘96), forester with the Division of Forests and Lands, and Karen Bennett (BSF ‘79 and MS ‘92) coordinated a two day workshop attended by nearly 100 foresters entitled, “Managing White Pine in the New Millennium.”

Mark Ducey, Sarah Smith (For ‘78), Dick Weyrick, Kyle Lombard (For ‘90), Peter Pohl (For ‘66), Bill Frament (For MS ‘91), Jeff Gove (For ‘77 MS ‘80), and Inge Seaboyer (For ‘83) were among the presenters. The workshop was a forum for managers and researchers to gather to share the latest about white pine management, measurement, condition and regeneration. A proceedings, “Managing White Pine in the New Millennium” containing 16 papers is available for $8.00 (check payable to UNH Cooperative Extension) from the Forestry Information Center, Rm 211 Nesmith Hall, Durham, NH 03824. It is also available at http://ceinfo.unh.edu/Pubs/ForPubs/whitpin.pdf

Seacoast Shock
James Barrett, Professor Emeritus

In large parts of the United States, more than a quarter of our songbird species are in decline, largely as a result of rampant development and forest fragmentation. Human population is burgeoning in coastal areas – home of the highest diversity of bird life -- and many species are struggling to survive the degradation and loss of coastal habitat. Overall, scientists consider about 25 percent of the 700 bird species in North America to be in trouble.

The National Audubon Society

In less than 25 years, it’s estimated that all the remaining land in southeast New Hampshire will be spoken for -- either developed to maximum capacity, or permanently protected. That’s precious little time to save the woodlots and fields, fishing holes and sliding hills that make these communities what they are.

Jane Difley, President of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests

Those two quotes could be summarized “Seacoast Shock.” The statement by the National Audubon Society is based on the entire United States, with emphasis on coastal areas. Jane Difley points to urban sprawl devouring land in our part of the world. Although the statistics are shocking, we don’t feel the shock in our daily lives, for development is a quiet invasion. But let’s not wake up two decades from now and say: Where did the forests and fields go? Where did the wildlife go? Where did the New Hampshire landscape that I loved go?

What is our answer to these threats to our natural world in the seacoast of New Hampshire? If we are to enjoy the rich variety of forests and wildlife in the seacoast, towns and organizations must take bold steps to permanently protect fields and forests in large enough blocks to sustain ecological diversity. Protecting the biologically rich land bordering rivers and coastal waterways is especially critical for wildlife diversity in our part of the world -- in doing so, we will be playing our role in slowing the national decline in songbirds.

How can UNH respond to “Seacoast Shock?” We have the ethical responsibility to put most of our university owned woodlands into permanent protection. Some may say we are in the business of education, and we have fiduciary responsibilities. But fiduciary itself means “holding something in trust for another.” There can be no greater responsibility than to hold something valuable in trust for our students and the people in the seacoast of New Hampshire that could otherwise be lost forever. Protecting woodlands is a good neighbor policy that will likely result in greater funding for UNH, but even if it doesn’t, it’s the right thing to do.

If we don’t have enough indoor space, we can always add rooms to our town hall or schools. We can’t add fields and forests to the seacoast of New Hampshire. Once gone they are gone, gone, gone. And our grandchildren, and the grandchildren of those moving into the seacoast, will not realize what they lost, what we abandoned.

Life changes. Last fall Paul Bunyon fell. This spring Dick Weyrick retired.

Before I retired, I shared a career with that old bird for about four decades. Dick is a good teacher who develops uniquely strong relationships with students. He believes in an integrated approach in natural resources education. He’s a strong conservationist, dedicated to protecting forest land.

Notice that I write about Dick in the present tense. The Department of Natural Resources needs him in some capacity, perhaps on a part-time basis. Come back Dick!

James Barrett, Professor Emeritus
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The Loss of a Giant

The year 2003 has not been a good one for New Hampshire landmarks. Last spring the Old Man of the Mountain, formed centuries ago, collapsed, an event I described in “Nature Changes--Timeless Beauty Remains.” This past fall high winds snapped off Paul Bunyan at about sixty feet. Paul, a giant white pine that reigned over the College Woods for centuries, was gone.

I’ve seen the wind snap off other large pines over the decades, so I knew one day it would happen to Paul. After all, the old giant pine, that had reigned since the Revolutionary War, enclosed a rotten core and couldn’t live forever. Still, it was a shock to see a stub where the great tree once stood. Though I didn’t hear it, the tree fell with a thunderous crash taking some trees and large limbs with it.

Paul Bunyan grew to about fifty inches in diameter and reached skyward 135 feet. At one time the tree was taller, but decades ago lost about twenty feet of crown during an ice or wind storm. Some remaining pines are over 150 feet tall, but slimmer than the giant.

Let’s go back in time to follow the history of the College Woods and the development of Paul Bunyan. The journey will be a bit fuzzy, for records are incomplete.

Beech, maple, and hemlock likely dominated the College Woods before the Europeans arrived. The forest probably contained scattered pines, oaks, and birches. White pine grows very well on the silty soils, but cannot compete with the hardwoods.

The many rock walls tell us that most of the land was cleared for pasture. Although land clearing and abandonment took place in Central New England mainly between 1800 and 1850, the process probably occurred earlier in forests near tidewaters. White pines commonly invade abandoned pastures.

By 1900 white pines dominated the College Woods in a giant forest. Photos of the forest remind me of the old growth in the Pacific Northwest. At that time other giants possibly towered over Paul Bunyan.

During the past century hurricanes and wind storms took their toll on the white pines. By the time I arrived at UNH in the sixties only scattered giants remained--remnants of a once huge forest. Beech, maple, and hemlock were once again becoming dominate trees in the College Woods. Over the decades I saw windstorms take down the big trees, some near Paul Bunyan. On one fatal day this fall Paul Bunyan’s time had come to join the earth as we all do. Still, we commonly consider that the end has come too soon.

For many years I enjoyed visiting with the giant, and musing about life when Paul Bunyan was a young tree. Now it’s gone. I’ll miss that giant. Nature changes. Timeless beauty remains.

James Barrett, Professor Emeritus