

The Alumni Resource

<http://snr.osu.edu/alumni/>
WINTER 2004

A Change in SNR Administration



In August 2004, Dr. Gary W. Mullins stepped down as SNR Director after serving over five years in the director's chair. His leadership has broadened the SNR vision

and his service to the School has been much appreciated. Although he plans to retire in the not so distant future, Dr. Mullins continues to serve the School and the College in a new capacity as the Ohio Agricultural Research & Development Center (OARDC) Columbus-based assistant director while resuming research and teaching in the School of Natural Resources.

Gary Mullins started his OSU career immediately after receiving his Ph.D. in Recreation and Resources Development at Texas A&M University in 1979. Beginning as an assistant professor in SNR's environmental education, and parks and recreation administration programs, he was promoted to associate professor in 1984 and to profes-

sor in 1994. He became the School's interim director in 1998 and director in 1999. In addition to extensive teaching assignments at Texas A&M and OSU, he taught science in a junior high school, worked as an interpretive naturalist and National Park Service park ranger/planner, and has served as consultant and/or advisor to: The Nature Conservancy, the USDA Forest Service, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, and the Discovery Channel. His jobs have led him to a number of research, education and communications projects and programs, including exhibit, script, and curriculum materials development and evaluation. Dr. Mullins directed the Ecological Communications Research and Development Lab as part of his OARDC research appointment for 15 years. After stepping down as SNR Director this past August, Dr. Mullins joined OARDC as assistant director and resumed his SNR research and teaching responsibilities.

With Gary Mullins' departure as SNR Director, Dr. Jerry Bigham graciously accepted the position of interim director of SNR in August 2004. We all welcome Dr. Bigham in his new role as acting SNR Director. As a soil scientist, Dr. Bigham joined OSU's Department of Agronomy in 1977 after

receiving his Ph.D. from North Carolina State University. He became a member of the SNR faculty in 1994 during the administrative reorganization of the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (FAES). Dr. Bigham's professional experiences have included being a Humboldt Scholar and visiting associate professor at the Technical University of Munich. He has received numerous awards and recognitions and has been active with the Soil Science Society of America, the International Soil Science Society, and the Clay Minerals Society. Administratively, Dr. Bigham became SNR's Research Coordinator in 2002. He has taught Basic Soil Science and Soil Mineralogy.

Serving in an interim capacity, Dr. Bigham is working to keep the momentum of the School and its faculty focused on recommendations established by the 2010 Committee and engage a number of new initiatives to improve the academic reach of SNR, including a name change and curriculum revisions. Bobby Moser, College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) Dean and Vice President for Agricultural Administration, has challenged a search committee to fill the SNR Director position permanently by next year.

The Buckeye Network

On behalf of the Career Exploration Office and the Ohio State University Alumni Association (OSUAA), we are pleased to announce that a new and improved Buckeye Network is now available. The Buckeye Network is a searchable database of Ohio State alumni volunteers who have agreed to help fellow alumni with career advice and information. We have added networking preferences and academic information fields that we hope will allow for a better experience for those in the job market for the first time or making a transition from one career to another.

Currently the Buckeye Network is available to members of the OSUAA. Future plans include opening the database up to all alumni and current students. In order for this to be a valuable career networking tool, the database must contain as many alumni contacts as possible.

Would you please take a moment to become a career contact by following these steps:

- Go online and enter www.ohiostatealumni.org
- Select/click on Alumni Directories & Buckeye Network
- Select/click on Buckeye Network
- Enter your UserID and password.

If you are not registered in the OSUAA online community, complete the short registration process to verify your status as an OSU alumnus and a member of the OSUAA and select your User ID and password. Then click on "Create a Buckeye Network Profile" and complete the four-step profile wizard.

Thank you for registering for the Buckeye Network. We would also appreciate it if you would encourage other OSUAA members to participate. Your participation gives Ohio State an even stronger reputation for developing young professionals.

Important Dates!

SNRAS Executive Council 2005 Meeting Dates:

Saturday, February 5th
Saturday, April 9th
Saturday, July 16th
Saturday, October 1st
Saturday, December 3rd

Meetings start at 9:30 a.m. at the Longaberger Alumni House, 2200 Olentangy River Road. Any SNR alumnus interested in getting involved, please feel free to come.

The Annual SNR Fish Fry and Spring Rendezvous is planned for May 21st.
Please mark your calendars now!

SNRAS Recognizes Student Leaders

The SNRAS recognized student leaders at the Annual College of Agriculture and School of Natural Resources Recognition Banquet on May 6th. These leaders were presented with a certificate and \$250 scholarship by SNRAS Executive Council members Angel Mauder and Leighland Arehart. The scholarship is derived from the Lee Johnston Leadership Award. Student leaders are nominated by faculty and students of the School and selected by a panel of Executive Council members. A list of this year's recipients and a sampling of their contributions are presented here.

Julie Codispoti, a junior Human Dimensions major, who has served as a student council representative and liaison to the Outdoor Recreation and Parks Association and has also been a member of the Student Leadership Forum.

Heath Eisele, a senior Environmental Policy and Planning major, who has worked on behalf of the Central Ohio Clean Fuels Coalition and Collegiate Farm Bureau and has served as SNR undergraduate representative to the Academic

Affairs Committee and as an Honorary Ambassador for the School.

Vicki Barto, a senior in Wildlife Management, who has served in numerous leadership positions for societies that include the Pre-Vet Club, National Collegiate Scholars, Agriculture and Natural Resources Council, Forestry Forum, and Outdoor Recreation and Parks Association.

Marne Avina, a senior Wildlife Management major, has served as Vice President of The Wildlife Society and has been active in Forestry Forum and the EcoExplorers program at SNR.

Sara Grillo, also a senior in Wildlife Management, was a member of Gamma Sigma Delta (the Professional Agriculture Fraternity), the Pre-Vet Club, Forestry Forum and Outdoor Recreation and Recreation and Parks Association, where she recently served as Secretary.

SNRAS congratulates these deserving student leaders and encourages them to continue making positive strides for the School and in their careers.

GOODBYE TO A GREAT FRIEND

The SNRAS sadly notes the passing of a great friend of conservation, the School of Natural Resources (SNR) and our Alumni Society. Sherman L. "Jack" Frost was an original member of the Alumni Society's Honorary 100 and faithfully served as its representative to the SNRAS board since our inception. Jack had an outstanding career in natural resources management in the field of water policy and planning and served in many capacities in the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR).

As a pioneer in water conservation, Jack's career spanned more than 50 years. He began in the Civilian Conservation Corps where he helped unemployed men find forestry jobs. After next consulting for the American Forestry Association, Jack moved to Ohio and began his career with ODNR, Division of Water. He was known as an expert on Ohio water issues and was one of the founders of the Water Management Association of Ohio.

After his retirement from ODNR in the early 1970's, Jack served as a member of the Environmental Board of Review and also as an adjunct professor in SNR. He frequently offered a historic, but real-life perspective to new SNR students and shared many thoughtful and entertaining stories as a common guest lecturer in introductory classes. Jack was a great friend of the School and the Alumni Society and will truly be missed.

SNRAS Officers Elected

Congratulations to our Executive Council officers for 2005:

Mark Dilley, President
Julia Hinders, Vice President
Pete Lane, Secretary
David Heffner, Treasurer

These officers were elected at the November 6th meeting of the SNRAS Executive Council. In addition, four new members were inducted as council members: Lori Monska, Luke Mountjoy, Tom Shuman, and Ray Williams. Jim Bennett accepted a nomination to the position of Student Representative. The group is proud to serve the Society, and is looking forward to a productive new year. These newest council members will be introduced in the spring newsletter.

Please note that there are still several vacancies on the council. If you would like to serve, please contact President Mark Dilley at (614) 818-9156.

SNRAS Endowment Fund Donation

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Please send your tax-deductible donation to:
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Make sure that Account #410531 appears on your check payable to SNRAS Endowment Fund

Note: There is currently about \$3,000 in principal in this fund, but we must reach \$25,000 to begin to grant scholarships.

Welcome To Our Newest Members of SNRAS Executive Council

LEIGHLAND AREHART

Leighland is one of our newer members joining SNRAS council. He majored in Parks, Recreation and Tourism Administration, with a specialization in Law Enforcement, and graduated from SNR in 2002. He is also a 2002 graduate of the Ranger Academy Program through Hocking Technical College. After graduation, Leighland was hired by the ODNR Division of Wildlife, and completed the Division of Wildlife's officer training academy in 2003. He currently resides in Delaware County where he has served as the Wildlife Officer since January of 2004. Leighland is an avid duck hunter and outdoorsman. He has been an active member of the SNRAS council since June of 2004, and hopes to

help promote our fish and wildlife resources through his involvement with the SNRAS council.

ADAM CLEMENTS

Adam, who grew up in Worthington, Ohio, has always had a strong interest in the environment. He joined SNR at the end of his sophomore year, joining the human dimensions program with an emphasis on policy and planning. After graduation in June 2004, Adam accepted a staff scientist position with Delta Environmental Consultants, Inc. in the petroleum division. He has done work monitoring, correcting, and reporting petroleum-contaminated soil and groundwater throughout Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana. In the future, Adam hopes to do more to



Doug Zehner



From left to right, Jon Gerken, Angel Mauder, Julia Hinders, Leighland Arehart, and Adam Clements

clean up and protect the environment. When not working, Adam likes to relax by spending as much time as possible outdoors. He enjoys hiking, canoeing, biking or any other activity that allows him to be outside. He also enjoys traveling and playing hockey. Adam is excited about joining the council and being involved with the Alumni Society.

JON GERKEN

Jon grew up on a farm in Henry County. He graduated from Patrick Henry High School and received a BS in Agriculture from OSU in 1970 with a major in Agronomy. Jon serves as the State Soil Scientist for USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Jon began his career with NRCS (then Soil Conservation Service) in 1970. Jon worked in a number of field locations in Ohio before coming to the state office in Columbus in 1980. He assumed his current position in 1999. Jon married another OSU alum, Diane, and they have two sons—Mark, a 2002 graduate from OSU's School of Natural Resources and Matthew, a 2003 graduate from OSU's College of Engineering. In Jon's spare time, he enjoys making improvements to their rural property. He also enjoys photography and making home videos, playing basketball and participating in a variety of outdoor sports.

Development Council as their coordinator until 2002. She is now the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program coordinator for NRCS in Columbus. Julia lives in Bexley and has one son who is attending Miami University and majoring in Interdisciplinary Studies.

ANGEL MAUDER

A 2001 graduate in Wildlife Management, Angel has joined SNRAS' executive council within the last year. Shortly after graduating from OSU, Angel worked for the School of Natural Resources as the Records Officer/Assistant to the School Secretary. In 2003, she accepted a position with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Wood County, where she is currently working as a Soil Conservationist. In her spare time, Angel enjoys reading, camping, shopping, going to the movies and spending time with her friends, family and dog Max. Angel currently lives in Toledo where she grew up, and looks forward to meeting new people and working with SNRAS.

DOUGLAS L. ZEHNER

Doug was born and raised in Ashland County, Ohio on a small beef farm. He graduated from Ashland High School in 1969 and in 1973 graduated from OSU with a BS in Agronomy. He is married and has two sons, both attending OSU—one in Architecture and one majoring in English. Doug has been employed by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Soil Conservation Service since graduation, with the exception of a tour in the US Peace Corps. Currently, Doug serves as the Assistant State Conservationist for Operations in Columbus. He has served in several locations and positions in the agency including NRCS Liaison to Ohio EPA. He also served as a Soil Conservationist in Medina, Paulding, Delaware and Franklin counties. Doug loves to tie flies, backpack, and fly fish for trout. His interest in water quality and freshwater ecosystems, like many professionals in natural resources, carries into his avocations as well.

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SNR Faculty Treated Like Royalty For Wetland Work

Years of hard work and innovation pay off—in more ways than one—for our own SNR wetland

expert Dr. William Mitsch. Dr. Mitsch, along with Professor Sven Erik Jørgensen of Denmark, received the 2004 Stockholm Water Prize from the hands of HM King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden during an August Royal Banquet and Ceremony in the Stockholm City Hall. The awards recognize their pre-eminent contributions to the knowledge of lakes and wetland functions. Mitsch and Jørgensen have “contributed substantially to understanding how to make human use of them more sustainable and how to protect them better in the future”.

Dr. Mitsch is a professor of natural resources and environmental science and director of the Olentangy River Wetland Research Park at The Ohio State University in Columbus. As founder of the world-class wetland research and education

facility, Mitsch and his researchers and staff recently celebrated its tenth anniversary. The 30-acre complex of marshes and wet forests is a kind of natural supermarket for aquatic and terrestrial wildlife, which come there to eat. “It’s one of the most distinct living laboratories on any college campus in the country,” said Mitsch. “It’s also a prime way to study the long-term behavior of these ecosystems. That’s one reason why it’s so important to have this facility on a university campus.”

Both professors were praised for their theoretical and applied work on lake and wetland ecosystems, management of lake and wetland water quality, and lake, river and wetland conservation, restoration and usage in both developing and developed countries. Mitsch has also shown that constructed wetlands can be engineered for use as buffering and purification systems, as has Professor Jørgensen, who for the last nine years has been responsible for a project in Tanzania to develop better knowledge of such systems.

As educators, authors and speakers, Mitsch and

Jørgensen have influenced and inspired many of the scientists and environmental engineers responsible for lake and wetland protection in all parts of the world. An international SCOPE (Scientific Committee on Problems in the Environment) on ecological engineering and ecosystem restoration initiated by and chaired by Dr. Mitsch held workshops in Tallin, Estonia and Beijing, China, to investigate applications of ecological engineering in developing countries and countries in transition. Such approaches have also been applied in several sub-Saharan countries in Africa, parts of Asia and elsewhere. Many results have been published in the leading publication in the field, “Ecological Engineering,” which Professor Mitsch founded. Congratulations to these leaders in their field!

Excerpts to create this article were taken with permission from a full article entitled: “King of Sweden Presents Danish, American Wetlands Experts with 2004 Stockholm Water Prize” published online by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI).

SNRAS May 2004 Rendezvous and Fish Fry



Nearly 200 alumni, faculty, students and friends of the Ohio State University School of Natural Resources (SNR) attended this year’s Alumni/School sponsored fish fry. The May 22nd event was held at the 38-acre Gwynne Conservation Area located at the Molly Caren Agricultural Center—the site of the annual OSU Farm Science Review—and gave the School an opportunity to showcase the Gwynne Conservation Area and provide a learning experience for friends and families of SNR and our Alumni Society.

Faculty and staff of SNR prepared an excellent perch fish fry luncheon and many professional agencies and businesses provided hands-on activities. Gander Mountain sponsored a very popular fly tying workshop, and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) provided strong support for the event. The Ohio Division of Wildlife’s activities included fishing, a firearms simulator, and Project Wild demonstration. Division of Parks and Recreation provided an outdoor skills trail, while the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves provided a stream quality-monitoring workshop. Personnel from the Division of Watercraft were also on hand to provide boating safety information.

Gander Mountain, the ODNR Division of Wildlife, the Columbus Zoo, and SNR donated several door prizes including Zoo passes, fishing equipment, a backpacking tent and clothing apparel.

Congratulations are in order to Jen Dennison, John Disinger, Mary Emmenegger, Jennifer Fish, Dave Graham, Amanda Hardesty, Joy Kirkpatrick, Quinn Sammons, Lance Williams, and Xiaoyan Zhang as this year’s prize winners.

We would like to thank the following event sponsors and contributors to this year’s event: American Express, Coca-Cola, Gander Mountain, ODNR Division of Wildlife and, of course, our School of Natural Resources.

Mark your calendars as plans are already underway for the May 21, 2005, School of Natural Resources Spring Rendezvous. Details for the upcoming event will be announced in the next SNRAS Newsletter.

Thank you!

Thank you to the following alums who made generous donations in 2004 to help our society promote our profession and our commitment to the School of Natural Resources:

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A River of Change

A memorable part of Campus may be changing. No, not the stadium, but the large landmark beside it, the Olentangy River. Though the water may look serene from the bridges, the section that flows through campus below the Olentangy Wetland Research Park to the Fifth Avenue Bridge is one of the most impaired sections of the Olentangy River. In order to comply with EPA guidelines, the City of Columbus is proposing the removal of the Fifth Avenue Dam to help improve water quality along this stretch. Originally constructed to create a reservoir that would be utilized as a source of cooling water for the OSU power plant, the dam no longer serves the original purpose and is nearing the end of its lifespan. Therefore, it needs to be removed or repaired.

Because dams change the flow regime of a river, they often are detrimental to aquatic life. The altered flow causes sediment to settle and cover the natural substrate along the river bottom. This substrate is needed to provide habitat for many aquatic species. Removing the dam should increase flow. This increase will move sediment from the channel allowing settling downstream and in the floodplain where nutrients can be utilized by the riparian vegetation. This process will recreate the habitat that was naturally occurring in this area and restore biological integrity to the river.

Three natural resources classes, Ecosystem Management Policy (Natural Resources 835), Ecological Engineering and Science (Civil Engineering/Natural Resources/Food, Agricultural, and Biological Engineering 618), and Community Education (Natural Resources 715) teamed up with the Landscape Architecture (Planting Design) to determine a project that would be acceptable to OSU, state and federal agencies and the surrounding community. First, community perceptions and wants were investigated. Using this information to design different improvement/restoration projects, the plans were then taken back to the community. The college has helped through Service-Learning Scholars Roundtable to not only involve the students with hands-on experience but to serve OSU and the community with sound plans. Before any plans can be made about the dam removal, a feasibility study first must be completed. This includes sampling of the sediment trapped over 70 years behind the dam for containments such as heavy metals and organics. Currently the Army Corps of Engineers is teaming up the Civil Engineering Department and the Ecological Engineering Society (students from natural resources, environmental science program, agricultural engineering, and civil engineering) to test the sediments to see if and how a dam removal can take place. Tim Lawrence with Ohio NEMO says that a timeline is still unknown but a "decision should happen between next spring and a year from next spring."

Though the crew club may have to travel farther to practice if the restoration takes place it will create a learning laboratory for OSU students as well as a healthier stream for the whole community to enjoy.