

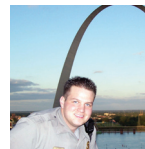
# The SENR Alumni Resource

Spring 2010

<http://senr.osu.edu/alumni.htm>

We have a new web address!

We create and maintain connections among OSU SENR students, faculty, and alumni, and advance natural resources professions and education throughout the state of Ohio, and beyond.



## Message from the President

Spring is the beginning of new visions. The snow will melt, leaf buds will open, and flowers will start to bloom. For SENRAS we are hoping for new visions also. We are working on ways to produce funds that will allow us to sponsor events for students and our alumni.

We have developed some ideas to help us with our goals. An online store is in the works. This has not quite reached the final stages of development, but is no longer in its infancy. Our hope for this is two-fold, in that it will provide operational funds and also allow us to build our scholarship fund. The other idea that we are proposing is a return to basic membership dues. We are considering a small annual fee that will be rewarded with a small gift as a thank you. Please read the proposed constitution changes within this newsletter for more details on our proposed dues structure.

If you have a Facebook page, be sure to become a fan of SENRAS to stay up to date on the latest news!

Please also mark your calendars: Our annual meeting is April 28, just prior to SENR Spring Dinner. As in the past couple of years, you can attend our annual meeting via computer link, if you wish – but you are very welcome to buy tickets for the dinner and come to campus early to attend our meeting in person. The webcast gives you the opportunity to see what is going on when you are unable to make the drive to Columbus or you're stuck in your office. Be sure to watch your email for the link on how to participate. If you haven't been receiving SENRAS emails, please contact Kyle Ware at [ware.72@osu.edu](mailto:ware.72@osu.edu) and provide him with your email address to be added to our listserv. During our webcast, we can see how many people log in, and we would like to have that number increase each year. The more alumni we have involved, the better we can be for the school, the students, and ourselves. We hope you'll join us, in person or in the virtual sense!

**Lori Monska**

President  
School of Environment  
and Natural Resources Alumni Society

### In This Issue

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School of Environment and Natural Resources

**Alumni Society**

## SENRAS Could Charge Dues

The School of Environment and Natural Resources Alumni Society could require its members to pay dues if the proposed constitutional amendment passes. The vote for the amendment will be held at the Society's annual meeting on April 28, 2010 at 4:00pm. The amendment includes language that would modify how dues are paid to the society. The amendment would also require all elected council representatives to be current members of the OSU Alumni Association. These amendments will help the Society raise money for endowments and to sponsor student events, such as the SENR Spring Dinner. If you would like to read the exact language of the proposed changes, please go to <http://www.senr.osu.edu/Alumni.htm> and click on the "Constitution" link.



## Save The Date

**April 28**

SENR Spring Recognition Dinner  
5:00 PM

**May 13**

CFAES Recognition Banquet

**May 22**

Ohio State Alumni Day  
with the Cleveland Indians

**June 12**

Ohio State Alumni Day  
with the Cincinnati Reds

## The 2010 Einstein Professorship has been Awarded to Bill Mitsch

Dr. Bill Mitsch has been awarded a 2010 Einstein Professorship from the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). The Einstein Professorship Program annually awards up to 20 distinguished, international scientists actively working at the frontiers of science and technology from around the world and every scientific discipline.

Mitsch will be visiting CAS Institutes in Beijing and elsewhere in China this summer. He will tour several major Chinese watersheds including the Yangtze River Basin where he has done extensive work. Details of his study of the effects of the massive Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze River are available online at <http://researchnews.osu.edu/archive/ecodam.htm>. While in China, Mitsch will give an Einstein Professor Lecture at the CAS Center for Ecological and Environmental Sciences in Beijing.



## New Ohio Union Open for Business

After just more than three years of construction, the new Ohio Union officially opened its doors on Mar. 29 to Ohio State students, faculty, staff, alumni, and visitors. The \$118-million Union spans 318,000 square feet and features more than 30 meeting and event rooms; seven eating options, including a 22-hour diner; banquet and performance spaces; an outdoor "Block O" fire pit; state-of-the-art technology; and access to twin parking garages. [www.osu.edu/news/news-item2743](http://www.osu.edu/news/news-item2743)

## OSUAA to have Strengthened Partnership with University

The Ohio State University Board of Trustees approved an affiliation agreement on Feb. 5 that will more closely align the Ohio State University Alumni Association with the university. The Alumni Association will remain a member-based organization but, by working in new ways with the university, it will expand its reach beyond dues-paying members. To learn more visit, [www.ohiostatealumni.org/media/Pages/GriffinPartnership.aspx](http://www.ohiostatealumni.org/media/Pages/GriffinPartnership.aspx).

## SENRAS Hockey Night

The School of Environment and Natural Resources Alumni Society had its third Alumni Hockey Night on Saturday, February 27, 2010. The evening started out with a tailgate party at the Longaberger Alumni House featuring food, fun, and appearances from Brutus, The Ohio State Cheerleaders, and The Ohio State Alumni Band! After a scoreless regulation and overtime, the Buckeyes pulled out an exciting shootout win to beat the number 2 ranked Miami Redhawks 2 to 0! There were many new faces in attendance, providing the opportunity for our "regular" alumni members to visit with new people! We hope to see you next year and GO BUCKS!

## Get Connected with SENRAS Online

The School of Environment and Natural Resources is on Facebook! Now you can keep connected to fellow alumni and find out about fun career and networking events by becoming a fan of the SENRAS. Visit [www.facebook.com/OhioStateSENRAS](http://www.facebook.com/OhioStateSENRAS) and start receiving updates, read letters from the OSU Alumni Association, and share your thoughts, comments, and job announcements. Join the conversation!

**facebook**

## SENR Students Get Involved

In December, the School of Environment and Natural Resources helped six undergraduate students get involved by providing transportation and lodging for the 70th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. The conference was held in Springfield, Illinois and was an excellent opportunity for students to learn about current research on topics including adaptive management, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and wind energy. Each evening a student-professional mixer allowed interaction with professionals from Midwest universities, federal and state government agencies, and non-government organizations. SENR students received valuable advice from the professionals and made connections for future networking.

Students walked away from the conference understanding the importance of selecting a career for enjoyment and focusing on getting started in their field of interest as a stepping stone to reaching their dream job. They also received firsthand experience of the opportunities a student gains from a conference and highly recommend it to their peers. Attending the 70th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference proved to be a valuable experience for SENR students and they look forward to future opportunities.

## Iceland Summer Study Abroad

Susie Burks, Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) Scholars Coordinator, and Páll Kolka, Graduate Research Associate, took a group of 14 students (ENR Scholars and/or SENR majors) on a Study Abroad program to Iceland, June 12th-21st, 2009. This study abroad program exposed students to a country with unique and diverse environmental advantages as well as problems.

Students examined how another society deals with environmental issues similar to those found in the US and saw such dichotomies firsthand. The numerous examples of environmental issues found throughout the island provided a wonderful outdoor classroom for studying and observing

issues such as land degradation (deforestation, soil erosion, and desertification) and the threats of poor resource protection, as well as the possibilities of environmental restoration and the benefits and costs of energy sources such as geothermal and hydropower. In addition to learning about environmental issues, students learned about industries such as fishing and whaling, tourism and park management through field trips to national parks with unusual features such as geysers, glaciers, and hot springs.



The ENR Scholars and SENR hope to continue this study abroad experience to Iceland in years to come. Students wrote about activities and their experiences in Iceland on the SENR Blog. Visit [www.senrosu.wordpress.com](http://www.senrosu.wordpress.com) to view the blog.



## Jerry M. Bigham

The SENRAS congratulates Dr. Jerry Bigham, former Director of the School of Environment and Natural Resources and Professor of Soil Science, on his recent retirement from the School of Environment and Natural Resources. Dr. Bigham officially retired from SENR on January 31, 2010. A retirement reception was held on January 26, 2010 to honor him and Dr. Don Eckert, SENR Associate Director, who also retired from service to School.

Dr. Bigham joined OSU's Department of Agronomy in 1977 as an Assistant Professor after receiving his Ph.D. in Soil Science from North Carolina State University. He was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor in 1982 and Professor in 1992. While in Agronomy, Dr. Bigham was actively involved in the mapping and inventory of Ohio soil resources through a cooperative agreement between the University, ODNr and USDA-NRCS. Administratively, Dr. Bigham served as chair and co-chair of Graduate Studies in Agronomy and Soil Science from 1987-98. He became a member of the SNR faculty in 1994 following an administrative reorganization of

the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. He became SNR's Research Coordinator in 2002.

He accepted the position of interim director of SNR in August 2004 and was appointed director in June 2005. It was during his appointment as director that the School became the School of Environment and Natural Resources. Bigham stepped down from the position of director on Nov. 1, 2009 as Dr. Ron Hendrick took over as the new School Director after a lengthy national search. During his tenure as SENR Director, Dr. Bigham is credited with providing outstanding leadership and service to the School of Environment and Natural Resources. He has done much to establish a firm foundation for the School of Environment and Natural Resources to reach its new benchmarks over the next decade.

Dr. Bigham was a member of the Soil Science Society of America's editorial board for over 17 years and served as the Society's Editor-in-Chief from 1994-99. He was an Alexander von Humboldt Research Scholar and



Visiting Associate Professor at the Technical University of Munich in 1988-89. In 1997, he was named a Fellow of the Soil Science Soci-

ety of America and received the Clay Mineral Society's Jackson mid-Career Research Award for his identification and characterization of a previously unknown mineral produced by acid sulfate weathering. His research interests have included soil genesis and geography, the influence of soil management on surface water quality, the chemistry and mineralogy of iron in acid mine effluents, the reclamation of lands disturbed by mining, mineral alterations associated with biological leaching processes, and the beneficial re-use of coal combustion by-products. He has taught Introductory Soil Science, Soil Morphology and Classification, and Soil Mineralogy.

The School of Environment and Natural Resources Alumni Society sends its best wishes and gratitude to Dr. Bigham as he embarks on his next journey beyond SENR. Thanks Jerry!



# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## Tim Parker

Tim Parker is a Columbus, Ohio native and a graduate of Whetstone High School. He began his college career at Columbus State Community College and at the time was undecided regarding his major. However, after attending a seminar discussing Saugeye in the Hoover Reservoir presented by Cassie May, a graduate student from The Ohio State University, Tim realized he was interested in pursuing Fisheries Science at The Ohio State University. Tim is an avid outdoorsman and thought Fisheries Science would be a perfect fit for him.

In 2008, Tim started his first year as an undergraduate student at SENR studying Fisheries Science. Tim feels he has learned a great deal about fish and wildlife through his coursework and has taken the initiative to get

involved outside of the classroom. Shortly after transferring to OSU, Tim began a volunteer internship in Dr. Dabrowski's aquaculture laboratory. He currently works as a student employee in the lab, and recently began an undergraduate research project focusing on rearing juvenile Yellow Perch. Tim's hard work in the lab was rewarded when he received a scholarship from the Ohio Aquaculture Association for being an undergraduate student working on an aquaculture related project. In addition to the Lab, Tim has worked as an electrofishing intern for the Ohio EPA, and spent last summer sampling in the Killbuck watershed.

Tim understands the importance of joining professional societies and is currently a student member of the



Ohio Aquaculture Association, the American Fisheries Society, and the Wildlife Society. Tim is looking forward to graduating in the spring of 2011, has aspirations of pursuing a Master's degree, and hopes to have a long and prosperous career in the Natural Resource field.

## Give Until It Helps

Your donation to the general fund helps support Society activities and outreach efforts to alumni. A tax-deductible donation to the SENRAS Endowment Fund will help support future students with scholarships, once the fund is fully endowed. I know that there are many worthy causes to which you can give. I understand that times are tight right now. However, I assure you, this is worthy of your help. Your donation gives back to School you came from and the Society of which you are a part. To borrow a concept from former SENRAS President Mark Dilley: Don't give until it hurts; instead, you should strive to give until it helps. You'll be glad you did.

Thank you for your consideration,

**Lori Monska**

President, SENRAS

### SENRAS Endowment Fund Donation

This fund was created to establish perpetual scholarships for deserving SENR students. Donations are fully tax deductible.

Name (first, m.i., last) \_\_\_\_\_

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#### Please send your tax deductible donation to:

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