

The Alumni Resource

<http://snr.osu.edu/alumni/>
SUMMER 2005

Our Spring Rendezvous was a **HUGE SUCCESS!**



Smokey the bear gives one of his trademark handshakes (shouldn't his typical greeting be a bear hug?).



This Andean Condor would make a good bodyguard for Kevin Hills of the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium (would you run past this bird?)

Congratulations to all the School of Natural Resources' staff and alumni volunteers who worked to make the 2005 Spring Rendezvous such a successful event. With more than 150 friends, alums and students in attendance, SNR spirit was in the air. Thumbs up on two new additions to the event—the well received pork roast and the live Birds of Prey program presented by Kevin Hills from The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium.

We would like to thank this year's sponsors for presenting programs, sponsoring booths and providing entertainment and prizes: ODNR Division of Wildlife, the Division of Watercraft, Division of Forestry, USDA-NRCS, Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District, The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, the OSU School of Natural Resources and our own SNR Alumni Society.

This year, five outstanding natural resource professionals were honored at the event and presented with plaques for their induction into the SNRAS Honorary 100 (see The Honorary 100 Awards article on page 4). A silent auction was also held which raised \$170 for the SNRAS Student Scholarship Endowment Fund. Thanks to everyone who donated exciting auction items and door prizes: Loretta Lammie, Steve Goodwin, Lori Monska, Jack Hanna, the Columbus Zoo and The School of Natural Resources.

Throughout the day, attendees had the chance to mingle with fellow SNR supporters and participate in many popular activities such as fishing, archery and tee shirt dying. There was something for all ages. One of the highlights, The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium's Birds of Prey program presented by Kevin Hills, kept children and adults alike mesmerized by the awesome bird of prey ambassadors.

Thanks to the School of Natural Resources and SNRAS for providing the catered pork roast meal and the financial support for the event. This event would not have been such a success without the tireless support of the Rendezvous planning committee: Chairperson Angel Mauder, Lori Monska, Rene Johnston, Mark Giese, Luke Mountjoy, Tom Shuman, Leighland Arehart, Marc Sommer and Steve Goodwin. Thanks also to SNR Director Dr. Jerry Bigham, Pat Patterson, Ellen Crivella, and Dave Sammons for providing additional support.

More photos on page 5

SNR Alums Hike the Appalachian Trail

In Spring of 2001, Josh Stephens and his wife, Jamie Smialek, (both recent SNR graduates) took one of the greatest adventures of their lives—they hiked the Appalachian Trail. Starting on the southern terminus of the trail at Springer Mountain in northern Georgia, the couple began their exciting, but challenging trek.

When asked why they wanted to embark on such a challenging adventure, Josh said that they wanted to do something memorable to mark their transition from the university to the “real world.” (Little did they know that they would both be back in graduate school at The Ohio State University the very next fall!) But both Josh and Jamie are dedicated environmentalists who love the natural world. They could think of no better way to learn about themselves and their world than by taking this trip.

Their trip took about four months, in which time they were able to witness the seasons change from winter to spring in the upper elevations. The weather was highly varied. They hiked in snow and sleet early on; March and April in the high country can be very cold and wet. Most days were pleasant, though they did hike in a good deal of rain. As the summer set in, midday became very hot. To avoid the heat, they hiked early in the day, took a midday siesta, and then finished hiking in the evening. Josh said, “There are few things as beautiful as an Appalachian sunset as beheld from your campsite.”

As Josh told us, “We knew it would be difficult, but we also knew we were up for it. We took it easy some days (only hiking a few miles) and pushed ourselves other days. We took the time to live each day on the trail to its fullest. Even though there were some days when the rain wouldn’t stop, when you could feel the wind constantly and when you couldn’t escape the fog, we never allowed our spirits to dampen.

We also took this trip as a means to solidify our pending marriage. And, I am pleased to say, that in four months of spending every day and night together, Jamie and I only had one minor argument.”

What was the most interesting thing they experienced during the trip? Josh said there were many to pick from, but one that stands out in his mind was a day they came upon an unnamed waterfall. There had been heavy rains and the waterfall was swollen beyond normal capacity. The water funneled into a narrow chute and spouted 50 feet down to the streambed below. It was in a narrow, rocky chasm, and the water resonated off of the walls in this odd, melodious sound. It was like music without instruments. He and Jamie bathed in the pool above the waterfall. The water was freezing, but it felt wonderful. That was one of his most memorable days on the trail.

The couple met many wonderful people on the trail and formed a sort of community with other hikers. Four months after starting their journey, they finished in June at Harper’s Ferry, West Virginia after traveling 1,008 miles. So, the big question is, would they do it again? Both Josh and Jamie emphatically agree they would. They actually have plans to finish the trail someday. Josh would encourage anyone who has the chance to go and do it.

What’s their next adventure? Well the couple has been planning a European trip for some time. They discovered that it is possible to hike from France to Slovenia in the Alps by traveling between high-country huts. It is about 600 miles, and they figure they could do it in two and a half months. Soon, they will both have teaching jobs with summers open for travel. So, they hope to make that trek in the next couple of years. Great to see SNR alums reaching new heights!

Peck honored at Recent Parks and Recreation Conference

Lawrence J. Peck, Deputy Director of Columbus Metro Parks, was recently honored at the annual conference of the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association (OPRA) held February 9-12 in Cincinnati, Ohio. Mr. Peck received the coveted OPRA Professional of the Year Leadership Award, presented annually to a single employee in the park and recreation industry who exhibits the highest degree of leadership, involvement and overall professionalism.

Mr. Peck joined Metro Parks in 1991 and has served in an Assistant Director/Deputy Director capacity for the past 13 years. Prior to his tenure with Metro Parks, Mr. Peck served as Deputy Chief of the Ohio State Park System from 1983 until 1991. Other employment experiences include assignments

as an assistant park manager and management analyst with Ohio State Parks and Administrative Assistant to the Director of the Davenport, IA Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Peck was also a Presidential Management Intern from 1981 to 1983 serving with the Department of the Army during which time he received extensive training and experience in procurement and contract negotiation and administration.

Mr. Peck holds a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree from The Ohio State University in Parks and Recreation Administration (1978) and a Master of Science (M.S.) degree also from The Ohio State University in Natural Resources Management (1981).

SNR Buckeye Gear is Here!

Get the latest and greatest School of Natural Resources buckeye logo wear on-line at <http://snr.osu.edu>. Just click on the SNR Store link.

Polar fleece jackets, stadium blankets, messenger bags, hats and more! A percentage of the profit comes back to support student organizations and the alumni society.

Don't see what you want?
Contact our sales rep, Joanna Whitcher at jwhitcher@kingpro.com or call her at 614-777-4080.

New Program to Feature Alumni “Professional Mentor” Component

The Ohio State University School of Natural Resources has been quite busy during the past year developing a new Scholars Program that will advocate environmental stewardship to undergraduate students of all majors. The new program, titled the Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) Scholars Program, will offer qualified students a variety of learning, service, and leadership opportunities that will complement their selected major at Ohio State.

Linda Harlow, associate provost of The Ohio State University’s Honors and Scholars Center, felt that a program focusing on the environment would appeal to a strong contingent of Ohio State students. According to Harlow, “We’ve had a lot of students asking if we offer anything in environmental sciences. We are hoping that the ENR Program will interest a whole new group of students that we haven’t been attracting.”

One exciting component of the ENR Scholars Program is a plan to pair each student with a professional currently employed in a field related to the environment and/or natural resources. These “professional mentors” would meet with their designated student approxi-

mately one or two times each quarter, offering helpful advice and giving the student a point of contact in the professional world. Jim Bennett, ENR Scholars Program Advisor, believes that the professional mentor program could make a tremendous impact on the overall experience of each student participating in the ENR Scholars Program. “The professional mentor program will provide each student with a unique insight into the professional world and allow students to explore career options that they never knew existed. Professional mentors will have the opportunity to provide these students with career advice, internship opportunities and a connection to the working world – all for a very minimal time commitment.”

If you would be interested in becoming a professional mentor for one of the students enrolled in the ENR Scholars Program, please contact Jim Bennett by phone at (614) 292-0097 or via email at bennett.361@osu.edu.

Special Delivery *By Lori Monska*



Steve Dodd receiving his hand-delivered Honorary 100 award from Lori Monska.

What do you do when an Honorary 100 inductee is unable to accept their award in person at the Spring Rendezvous ceremony? If they are local, you can have another alumnus present their award to them as Council member Tom Shuman did in presenting Wayne Lashbrook his award. Another option is to have a close acquaintance deliver the award, which worked for Charlie Call and his nominee, Tom Tugend. Those options worked great, but what if the person is more than half-way across the country? This was the case for our nominee Steve Dodd, who works at Glacier National Park.

Well, you can hop on a plane at Port Columbus, change planes in Minneapolis, have a stop over in Great Falls before finally landing in Kalispell, Montana. But before going any further, I had to spend a few days in Whitefish, Montana talking most things moose with moose biologists from across the USA, Canada and Sweden. It just so happened that I was heading to the 41st Moose Conference and planned to spend a couple of extra days in Glacier National Park. After getting contact information from Mark Giese (the nominator), I decided it would be fun to deliver Steve Dodd his Honorary 100 award in person.

Steve only knew that I was coming out to Glacier and had something for him. He never got his letter of nomination until about the time I got there, as there was mix-up with his mail forwarding. Steve was very surprised and grateful to be named to the Honorary 100. I was glad to be able to present his award in one of the most beautiful spots in the country. Of course, you want to have good meals when you travel. He gave me a great recommendation for a place to eat on my way to look for moose, and I believe I fared better than the red fox I had seen earlier that morning feasting on snowshoe hare.

I can't say that SNRAS will be able to promise such service for future inductees to the Honorary 100, but I'm glad this delivery was a success! Funny the way some things work out.

The Honorary 100 Awards

Honoring Those Who Honor Their Communities

At this year's Spring Rendezvous, five people were inducted into the Honorary 100. They were selected for their support of the mission of The Ohio State University's School of Natural Resources, their support of SNR students and for leadership in their communities. This year's awardees are:



DR. DONALD BURTON, D.V.M.

Dr. Donald Burton, D.V.M., is the owner and Senior Veterinarian of Animal Care Unlimited as well as the founder, Executive Director and Chief Veterinarian of the Ohio Wildlife Center. OWC is a non-profit organization founded in 1984 to increase awareness and appreciation of Ohio's native wildlife. Don was recently appointed Adjunct Associate Professor at OSU College of Veterinary Medicine in preventive medicine. He is a leader in wildlife rehabilitation and conservation and has built a stellar reputation for the OWC. Don was nominated by Bruce McCoy of Ohio EPA (and former SNRAS Executive Council member).

STEVE DODD

Steve Dodd is a national expert in the field of natural resources law enforcement, with more than 30 years of experience. He currently serves as the Director/Commander of the Park Ranger Training Program at Northern Arizona University and is a highly regarded educator valued for his leadership in the park law enforcement field. He is a graduate of the OSU School of Natural Resources and worked as an adjunct faculty for the past 11 years. Steve has been instrumental in establishing the Ranger Academy Partnership programs serving the School of Natural Resources and its students. He was co-nominated by School Secretary Mark Giese and former Executive Council member and ODNR retiree Steve Goodwin.

WAYNE LASHBROOK

Wayne Lashbrook is Stewardship Manager for Mead Westvaco. A Purdue graduate, Wayne has been very active with the Forestry Association. He has trained many loggers and has also made extensive efforts in community outreach, including support of the Project Learning Tree program to educate Ohio's citizens about forests and forest resources. Wayne was nominated by Bob Nelson, Manager of the Wood Department at Mead-Westvaco.



DR. GARY MULLINS

Dr. Gary Mullins recently retired from his position of Director of SNR. He has been and continues to be an adamant supporter of SNR and the School of Natural Resources Alumni Society (SNRAS). He started his career at OSU School of Natural Resources in 1979 as an assistant professor and moved up to interim director in 1998, becoming director in 1999. A full profile on his impressive career can be viewed in our winter 2004 newsletter at <http://snr.osu.edu/alumni/newsletters/Winter2004.pdf>. Gary was nominated by Steve Goodwin.

TOM TUGEND

Tom Tugend is an employee of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) with over 20 years of service, most recently in the Division of Mineral Resources Management as Deputy Chief of Permitting and Field Operations. He has also worked for the Division of Reclamation and Division of Oil and Gas. A lifelong Ohio resident, he managed reclamation programs under another Honorary 100 member, Mr. Bob Teater, former Director of ODNR. Tom was nominated by Charlie Call of Call's Farm.

Please join us in congratulating these recipients for all their hard work and continued success. If you know a possible candidate for our Honorary 100, send an email to lori.monska@columbuszoo.org or contact SNRAS Executive Council member. Nominees need not be SNR alumni.

Spring Rendezvous Photos



Rendezvous participants work on creating individualized SNR shirts.



The "Dilley boys" (sons of SNRAS President) enjoy the Division of Watercraft boat exhibit.



Division of Watercraft Officer Craig Watson (father of quintuplets!) teaches an eager crew how to use the rescue bag.



Participants of all ages had a great time fishing at the Gwynne Conservation Area, with gear and bait provided by ODNR Division of Wildlife.



Division of Wildlife's Dave Wilson instructs a young archer.



Frank Gibbs of the Natural Resources Conservation Service dishes the dirt on hydric soils and wetlands for interested attendees.

Help Welcome the Newest Members of Your SNRAS Executive Council

SNRAS would like to welcome, and thank, the newest members of the executive council. Everything SNRAS provides, from this newsletter and student scholarships to hosting fun alumni reunion events, is done by caring volunteers. It's fun and rewarding to give back to a school that has given you so much, and we are always looking for new recruits. So thanks to this new group of alums for volunteering to get involved and helping to keep SNRAS the strong alumni society it is.

Jim Bennet joined the SNRAS Executive Council as the Undergraduate Student Representative in November of 2004 while completing his Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in Parks and Recreation Administration. He is now completing his Master of Science (M.S.) degree in Natural Resources Management, again with a specialization in Parks and Recreation Administration. Jim was employed from 2002-2004 on a seasonal basis with the U.S. Forest Service as a Wilderness Ranger in Oregon and Wyoming. He is currently employed with Columbus Metro Parks as an administrative intern and with The Ohio State University School of Natural Resources as the Environment and Natural Resources Scholars Program Advisor. Jim enjoys all forms of outdoor recreation, but is especially fond of canoeing, fishing and hunting.

Lori Monska has an Associates degree in Animal Health Technology from Columbus State Community College and graduated from SNR in 2004 with a Bachelors degree in Wildlife Management. Lori has worked at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium since 1984, 13 years in



Our new SNRAS Executives (from left to right): Ray Williams, Tom Shuman, Lori Monska, Luke Mountjoy, and Student Representative Jim Bennett.

the Herbivore/Carnivore Complex and the last seven years in the North American region with special interest in moose. Her moose fascination has taken her to northern Ontario in winter to assist with re-capturing radio-collared moose. She is a member of several professional organizations and actively assists the North American Moose Foundation, founded in 2001. Lori's hobbies include wildlife photography, bird watching (preference on waterfowl), traveling to Alaska and Canada, gardening, bicycling, and her four cats.

Luke Mountjoy is a 2004 graduate of the SNR Sustainable Resource Management program and currently works for Ohio EPA Division of Air Pollution as an Environmental Specialist II in the Air Monitoring Unit. Luke is also a licensed realtor in Ohio and a business entrepreneur. Originally from Southeast Ohio, Luke received his Associates Degree from Hocking College with a double major in Fish Biology and Wildlife Management. During his studies at SNR, he accepted a co-op and internship with Honda of America's environmental compliance division, ODNR Division of Soil and Water, Ohio EPA's Air Toxics Division, and USDA's Agriculture Statistics Service. Currently Luke and his 13-year-old son Luther live in Pickerington Ohio and are very active in school sports and various outdoor fitness activities.

Tom Shuman is originally from Canal Fulton, Ohio and now lives temporarily in Chillicothe. Tom graduated in December of 2003 with a B.S. in Natural Resources. While in school, Tom was the Vice-President and President of the Forestry Forum. Tom has worked for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry since graduation. He is currently employed as a Forester in the Athens office working on State Forest land in the Athens District. The Athens District covers Zaleski, Hocking, Shade River, Blue Rock, Perry, Gifford and Sunfish Creek State Forests. In his spare time Tom is a high school football official and likes to hunt and fish.

Ray Williams was born in Fairview, PA which is outside of Erie. Ray graduated from SNR in 2004 with a Bachelor of Science degree in natural resources specializing in forestry and parks and recreation. Currently, Ray works at the Schottenstein Center on the Ohio State University Campus. He is an avid outdoorsman and enjoys many hobbies out in nature. Ray will be getting married later this month and just purchased his first home. Congratulations, Ray!

SNRAS Endowment Fund Donation

This fund was created to establish perpetual scholarships for deserving SNR students. Donations are fully tax deductible. There is currently \$3,420 in this fund, but we must reach \$25,000 to begin granting scholarships.

Name (first, m.i., last)

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Please send your donation to:
Nancy Marzella
714 Fawcett Center
2400 Olentangy River Road
Columbus, Ohio 43210

Please make your check payable to:
The Ohio State University Foundation
and indicate account *410531 Natural Resource* on your check



In Memoriam: Dr. John F. Disinger

Professor Emeritus in the School of Natural Resources

SNRAS is sorry to report the passing of an inspirational professor at the School of Natural Resources. John F. Disinger, Professor Emeritus in the School of Natural Resources in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences passed away earlier this year on March 26, 2005.

Dr. Disinger was awarded the OSU Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching in 1995. Known as "Dr. D." he encouraged students to conduct "real-world" projects to enhance their awareness of their role in environmental decision-making. His personal attention to students was fair and respectful of diverse views. An assessment of John shared by a colleague and echoed by many others was that, "John was a quiet and honest man, a man you could trust, a colleague in the truest sense of the word, a man whose driving passion was working with students and other young people, a man you could truly call friend, a man we will sorely miss."

Professor Disinger held a Bachelor of Science in general education from SUNY-Brockport; a Masters in secondary education from the University of Rochester, New York; and a Ph.D. in science education from The Ohio State University. He taught in the West Irondequoit, New York, Central School District from 1956-1970 before coming to OSU as an assistant professor in the School of Natural Resources. He served as acting director from mid-1988-December 1989, and also served as associate director of the ERIC Clearinghouse for Science, Mathematics, and Environmental Education, housed in Ohio State's College of Education. Following completion of his interim assignment as the School of Natural Resources director, he returned to regular faculty status until his retirement in 1995.

Professor Disinger was a member and past president (1985-1986) of the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) where he served on the Board of Directors from 1979-1986. In 1984 he received the Walter E. Jeske Award from NAAEE, the highest honor NAAEE bestows. He was a member of the Ohio Academy of Science, the Ohio Alliance for the Environment, and many other conservation and environmental education-related organizations and professional societies. For the last several years, John served as a board member of the Environmental Literacy Council.

The John F. Disinger Endowment Fund was established in 1995 to provide scholarships for upper-division undergraduates in sustainable resource management. John continued to serve the School, the Alumni Society, and his environmental education initiatives long after his retirement. Contributions may be made to the John F. Disinger Endowment Fund c/o office of University Development, 2400 Olentangy River Rd. Columbus, Ohio 43210-1027. Dr. Disinger will be greatly missed.

This article was written by Pat Patterson, SNR Communications Coordinator, for an OSU Board of Trustees report.

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Your Name Here?
The SNRAS Executive Council has several vacancies. If you can serve, please call Mark Dilley at (614) 818-9156 or send an e-mail to the address shown in the roster. Thank you!

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CONGRATULATIONS to SNR Student Leaders

The future of our natural resources looks very bright based on the 2005 student recipients of the OSU School of Natural Resources' Lee Johnson Leadership Awards. This award is presented annually in collaboration with the School of Natural Resources and the SNRAS alumni society.

This year two students were chosen for this honor for their outstanding work and leadership during the course of their education. They are **AMANDA HARDESTY**, nominated as a third year student majoring in urban forestry and environmental sciences and **JIM BENNETT**, nominated as a fourth year student majoring in parks, recreation and tourism administration. Both came highly recommended for their active involvement in student organizations and for their unwavering support of SNR. Each received a certificate and a monetary scholarship.

Congratulations to Amanda and Jim, best of luck in your future education and careers.