Forestry Kaimin

2012-2013
History of the Forestry Kaimin

The Forestry Kaimin originated in 1915 as a yearly newsletter. It largely consisted of a review of Forestry Club activities over the year, as well as work from faculty, students, and research papers from the regional Forest Service office\(^1\). The Forestry Kaimin was published almost continuously from 1915 until 2000, except for several pauses during World War I and World War II, when the majority of the students in the School of Forestry were serving overseas. Over the years the content has varied greatly from a simple review of club activities, to a full blown yearbook for the School of Forestry. Last year, after a 12 year hiatus, the Forestry Kaimin was resurrected. Within the pages this year you can find an update about activities for all the clubs within the College of Forestry and Conservation, as well as a smattering of other news and pieces written by students.

I hope perusing these pages brings back fond memories of another interesting and eventful year in the College of Forestry and Conservation.

Kenneth Plourde
Forestry Kaimin editor 2013

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\(^1\)Source: Magill, C. 2013. 100 Years of Forestry at the University of Montana, Missoula. Mansfield Library, Missoula, Montana, USA.
Dedication

Dr. Dan Pletscher

After serving the students of the College of Forestry and conservation as a Professor of Wildlife Biology for nearly 30 years, and the Director of the Wildlife Biology Program for 19 years, Dan will be retiring on June 30th, 2013. He has trained countless graduate and undergraduate students in his time here, and has grown the Wildlife Biology Program into one of the best in the world. We would like to sincerely thank Dr. Pletscher for his efforts, and wish him a very relaxing and enjoyable retirement.

Back in the Day - Dr. Pletscher, front, second from left, pictured with the 1987 Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society
College of Forestry and Conservation Faculty

Affleck, David - Associate Professor of Forest Biometrics; Director of the Inland Northwest Growth & Yield Cooperative

Alaback, Paul - Professor Emeritus of Forest Ecology

Ballantyne, Ashley - Assistant Professor of Bioclimatology

Belsky, Jill M. - Professor of Rural and Environmental Sociology; Director, Bolle Center for People and Forests

Borrie, Bill - Professor of Park and Recreation Management

Bosak, Keith - Assistant Professor of Nature Based Tourism and Recreation

Brown, Perry - Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Professor of Social Science in Natural Resources

Burchfield, James - Dean of College of Forestry and Conservation; Professor of Forest Social Sciences

Burke, Edwin - Professor of Wood Science and Technology

Chung, Woodam - Associate Professor of Forest Operations

Cleveland, Cory - Associate Professor of Terrestrial Biogeochemistry

Dawson, Natalie - Associate Director of the Wilderness Institute

Dobrowski, Solomon - Assistant Professor of Forest Landscape Ecology

Dodson, Beth - Associate Professor of Integrated Natural Resource Planning; Director, Forestry Program

Dreitz, Victoria - Research Assistant Professor

Eby, Lisa - Associate Professor of Aquatic Vertebrate Ecology

Freimund, Wayne - Professor of Protected Area Management; Director, Wilderness Institute

Goodburn, John - Associate Professor of Silviculture; Chair, Department of Forest Management

Gunderson, Kari - Adjunct Research Assistant Professor

Hebblewhite, Mark - Associate Professor of Ungulate Habitat Ecology

Jencks, Kelsey - Assistant Professor of Watershed Hydrology

Keyes, Christopher R. - Associate Research Professor of Silviculture; Director, Applied Forest Management Program

Kolb, Peter - Associate Professor of Forest Ecology & Management; Montana State University Extension Forestry Specialist

Krausman, Paul - Boone and Crockett Professor of Wildlife Conservation

Larson, Andrew - Assistant Professor of Forest Ecology

Lekberg, Ylva - Adjunct Assistant Professor

Lukacs, Paul M. - Assistant Professor of Quantitative Wildlife Ecology

Marczak, Laurie - Assistant Professor of Aquatic Invertebrate Ecology

McCool, Steve - Professor Emeritus of Wildland Recreation Management

Metcalf, Elizabeth Covelli - Assistant Professor of Parks Tourism & Recreation Management

Metcalf, Alexander L. - Assistant Research Professor; Assistant Director, Bolle Center for People and Forests

Mills, L. Scott - Professor of Wildlife Population Ecology
Mitchell, Michael - Adjunct Research
Professor of Wildlife Conservation; Leader of Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit

Moisey, R. Neil - Interim Deputy
Commissioner, Academic, Research, & Student Affairs; Professor of Nature-based Tourism

Naugle, Dave - Professor Large Scale Wildlife Ecology

Nelson, Cara - Associate Professor of Restoration Ecology; Director, Wildland Restoration Program

Nickerson, Norma - Research Professor; Director of Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research; Director, Parks, Tourism, and Recreation Management Program

Nie, Martin - Professor, Natural Resource Policy; Chair, Department of Society & Conservation

Patterson, Michael - Associate Dean of College of Forestry and Conservation; Professor of Human Dimensions of Wildlife and Natural Resource Management

Phear, Nicky - Climate Change Studies Instructor and Program Coordinator

Pletscher, Daniel - Professor of Wildlife Biology; Director, Wildlife Biology Program

Potts, Donald F. - Professor Emeritus of Watershed Management

Queen, Lloyd Paul - Professor of Remote Sensing; Director, National Center for Landscape Fire Analysis

Riddering, James - Adjunct Research Assistant Professor; Remote Sensing Program Manager, National Center for Landscape Fire Analysis

Running, Steve - Regents Professor of Ecology; Chair, Department of Ecosystem and Conservation Sciences; Director, Numerical Terradynamics Simulation Group

Schwartz, Michael - Adjunct Research Assistant Professor of Wildlife Biology

Scott, Dane - Associate Professor of Ethics; Director, Center for Ethics

Seielstad, Carl - Associate Research Professor; Fire/Fuels Program Manager, National Center for Landscape Fire Analysis

Servheen, Chris - Adjunct Research Associate Professor of Wildlife Conservation; Coordinator, Grizzly Bear Recovery Program

Siebert, Stephen F. - Professor of Tropical Forest Conservation and Management

Six, Diana - Professor of Forest Entomology/Pathology

Thomas, Jack Ward - Boone and Crockett Professor Emeritus

Tonnessen, Kathy - Adjunct Research Assistant Professor; National Park Service Liaison to Rocky Mountain Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit

Venn, Tyron - Associate Professor of Natural Resource Economics

Wakimoto, Ronald - Professor of Forest Fire Science

Woodruff, Carol - Adjunct Assistant Professor of Technical Writing

Yung, Laurie - Associate Professor of Natural Resource Social Science; Director, Resource Conservation Program

Zuuring, Hans - Professor Emeritus of Forest Biometry
College of Forestry and Conservation Staff

Adams, Jim - Accounting Associate

Arends, Lisa - Budget Analyst

Belcher, Laurie - Director of Accounting & Fiscal Operations

Bentley, Emma - Assistant Director of Development and Alumni Relations, Wildlife Biology Program

Cho, Youngee - Program Director, NTSG

Dattilo, Diana - Administrative Associate, Department of Ecosystem & Conservation Sciences

Edington, Kit - Information Technology, QSG

Eidson, Lisa - Wilderness Information, Technology, New Media, and E-Learning Specialist at the Wilderness Institute

Farmer, Barbara - Accounting Associate

Filardi, Catherine - Citizen Science Program Director, Wilderness Institute

Franz, Jeannette - Administrative Associate, Wildlife Biology Program

Gerloff, Lisa - Executive Coordinator, RMCESU

Grau, Kara - Economic and Social Science Research Associate, ITRR

Hayes, Lori - Administrative Associate, Forestry Main Office

Hoff, Valentijn - Fire Center, GIS Analyst

Jennings, Kate - Director of Development and Alumni Relations, College

Kinyon, Jill - Administrative Associate, Boone & Crockett Program/Leadership Program/Dean's Office

Logan, Robert - Network Administrator, QSG

Maltonic, Wendy - Database Administrator & Federal Liaison

Maus, Frank - Manager, Lubrecht

McWilliams, Sherri - Systems Administrator, QSG

Naumenee, Niels - Systems Administrator, Fire Center

Nitz, Linda - Conference Manager, Lubrecht Forest

Oschell, Christine - Assistant Director, ITRR

Perry, Thomas - Research Assistant, AFMP

Redfern, Catherine - Budget Analyst

Rothell, Marie - Administrative Associate, Department of Forest Management

Rowell, Eric - Image Programmer and Remote Sensing Analyst, Fire Center

Schelvan, Leana - Director of Communications, College

Sindelar, Jami - Program Coordinator, Fire Center

Smith, Rachel - Program Leader, Native American Natural Resource Program

Smith, Kate - Program Manager, Grizzly Bear Recovery

Sweet, Michael - Research and Information Systems Specialist, QSG/GIS and Montana Climate Office

Tanner, Megan - Project Manager & Research Associate, ITRR

Teske, Casey - Remote Sensing Image Analyst II, Fire Center

Trowbridge, Shonna - Director of Student Services, College

Weis, David - Bandy Ranch Manager

Wood, Michael - Leadership Program Coordinator

Zdziebko, Devi - Administrative Associate, Department of Society & Conservation
CFC Centennial Celebration
100 Years of Forestry Education in Montana

History:
The School of Forestry at The University of Montana was officially established on March 21, 1913, when the state legislature of Montana authorized its creation and allocated $6,000 for salaries and supplies. The university had started offering courses for Forest Service rangers in 1909 in response to the creation of the US Forest Service in 1905, and the need for a formal forestry education program in Montana.

The school formally opened on September 8, 1914, with 25 students. Throughout the 1920s and '30s the School of Forestry grew and trained the bulk of the Forest Service's rangers and other positions. A master's degree in Forestry was added in 1946 and PhD in 1964. In 2003, the School of Forestry was renamed the College of Forestry and Conservation.

Centennial Celebration:
The celebration itself will be held in the fall from September 19-21, 2013. There will be a variety of activities including a BBQ, an open house at Lubrecht Experimental Forest, a dendrology tour of Campus, presentations from faculty and current students, a tailgate of the Griz game, and a banquet.

Anyone interested in helping or attending should visit www.cfc.umt.edu/centennial

For more information on the history of the school, Archives Specialist Carlie Magill has created the publication “100 Years of Forestry at the University of Montana-Missoula”, the publication is available on the CFC centennial website, or at the Mansfield Library.
History of the Wildlife Biology Program:
A specialization within Forestry in Wildlife Management was created at UM in 1936; a somewhat similar specialization within what is now the College of Arts and Sciences in Wildlife Technology was created in 1937.

In 1965, for the first time, a B.S. was offered in Wildlife Biology with three options (Terrestrial, Aquatic, or Wildlife Sciences). During that same year, one could earn a B.S. in Forestry with a “wildlife option.” There was also a Forestry master’s degree offered in Wildlife Management. In 1969, the “wildlife option” under Forestry was removed. The wildlife graduate degree in Forestry was renamed Wildlife Biology. However, the Wildlife Biology Bachelor’s Degree was still separate from Forestry at that time.

Finally, in 1970, Wildlife Biology became a cooperative program between Forestry, Botany, Zoology, and the Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit. The “Wildlife Sciences” option was renamed the “Honors Option.” This cooperative structure, now between the College of Forestry, Division of Biological Sciences, and Montana Cooperative Research Unit, still stands today.

The Anniversary Celebration:
Our 75th Anniversary, held September 13th through 15th, 2012, was a fantastic celebration. We welcomed over 150 alumni, former and current faculty, students, and friends back to campus. Attendees came from fourteen states and Canada, and spanned over five decades of graduation years.

The event may be over, but we're still celebrating the wonderful successes of our Program and our fabulous alumni. Check out photos of the event and watch the videos produced for the occasion by visiting http://www.cfc.umt.edu/wbio75/default.php

Social Hour- A mix of alumni, faculty, staff, and students pose outside the Forestry Building during a social hour reception
Student Clubs and Organizations
Another year has come and gone and the Forestry Club is as strong as ever. This year started out with the annual BBQ that brought in many new members and gave everyone a chance to catch up. We helped the College of Education with freshman orientation by setting up bonfires on the oval for incoming students to stand around and meet their professors. Our next event was the Fall Smoker. We put on tours to places such as the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the Smokejumper base, then headed out the Lubrecht for a pig roast and a bonfire made out of Christmas lights, but who’s complaining. To help our friends at Lubrecht, we burned some piles and cleaned some cabins as a way of showing our appreciation. When the snow began to fall we once again found ourselves at Winter Olympics experiencing some very unique skitching techniques and exciting crashes. The Christmas party was another success and many gifts were given to all the good girls and boy. This year was full of excitement and fun and I wish next year’s president, Clay Stephenson, good luck. Foresters Once...

Chuck Gesme
Forestry Students Association President 2012-2013
FORESTERS ONCE, FORESTERS TWICE!
The Foresters' Ball was given an ultimatum by the President of the University in the spring of 2012. We were told to change the event to ensure a safe environment for attendees and include an opportunity for the community and families to participate or it will not be held on campus any longer.

The students came together and wrote out a comprehensive *Foresters' Ball Strategic Plan* that outlined changes to the dance and created two new daytime events. The dance was moved earlier in the night, shortened by an hour and closed the door for entry halfway through the event. The two new events; the Careers in Natural Resource Fair and the Community Forestry Day hosted presenters from all aspects of natural resource management and had a combined attendance of over 600 community members.

The changes to the dance meant fewer tickets sold but with financial support from President Royce Engstrom, the Director of the Adams Center Brad Murphy and my mom Elizabeth Marshall, we were still able to give out a substantial amount of scholarships; $10,400 in total to 37 students and 6 student organizations.

This year’s theme was *Lightning Striking, Crews A’ Hiking* and was a dedication to the students and alumni of the University of Montana work in wildland fire seasonal jobs and careers.

Next year’s Ball will probably undergo additional changes and tweaks to the Strategic Plan as we settle into a new norm but I am sure the 97th Chief Push, Evan Neal will do an excellent job.

96th Foresters’ Ball, Chief Push
Jonah Vaughan

96th Foresters’ Ball Committee
Chief Push – Jonah Vaughan
Construction – Evan Neal
Deconstruction – Clay Stephenson
Logistics – Leah Gamble
Publicity – Dylan Brooks
Safety/Security – Caleb Matthew
Treasurer – Matt Freeborn

Ball Queen
Jena Trejo
Guest of Honor
Alex Williams
The Foresters' Ball Tracks crew pictured in front of the ancient wood flooring.

Thanks to an awesome Bar crew, we witnessed what might be the first complete wrap around 2nd story porch.

Of course we won Boondockers Day.

Can-Can dancers showing off during the evening dance


Above: SBA President kidnapping
Below: Pole Run crew on the deck
The mission of the UM Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society is to provide students with the experience and professional network that will allow them to be successful in the wildlife field, and to promote sound management of wildlife through education and outreach to the community. This year we accomplished both of those through a variety of trips, skills building events, guest speakers, and several public outreach events each semester.

We started off the school year with a float trip down the Clark Fork River followed by a BBQ to get to know new members. One of the first weekends of September we also joined the other student groups at the annual Smoker, this year included not only tours but an orienteering course which included a wildlife ID station. During October our chapter was once again able to help out the Backcountry Horseman of Missoula during a work day at the Blackfoot Clearwater Wildlife Management Area. This is the second year in a row we’ve been able to help work on fencing and trails there, and we hope the event will continue into the future.

From October 13th-17th we sent 14 students to the 19th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society in Portland, Oregon. It was an awesome trip with lots of great events to attend at the conference. Everyone who attended was able to meet many professionals from around the country, along with attending excellent talks about current research in the wildlife field. We were also able to meet with many other students and exchange ideas about how to improve our chapter.

In the fall our chapter also hosted our first (and hopefully annual) photo contest. Many of our members take extraordinary pictures while in the field, and we implemented the contest to try and see some of the images. The top 13 photos were used to make a 2013 Wildlife calendar, which we also sold as a fundraiser for the chapter.

As Spring rolled around the student chapter stayed quite busy. Shortly after returning to classes the chapter sent 17 student to the 51st Annual Conference of the Montana Chapter of The Wildlife Society Annual, held in Whitefish, MT. The state meeting always provides some of the best opportunities for our members to meet wildlife professionals (and potential employers!) from around the state, as well as the chance to attend scientific talks of regional importance.

In March we helped the foresters build the 96th Forester’s Ball. Once again the Wildlife Society was tasked with building the jail, which we then use as a fundraiser for the chapter. We also presented at the Career fair and Community Forestry Day. Overall it was a very busy weekend for the chapter, but a great opportunity to help our fellow students in the CFC and to spread the word about the wildlife field and other natural resource professions.

The chapter kept and extremely busy schedule throughout April right up until the end of the school year. At the start of the month, 11 student chapter members went on a spring break trip Eastern Montana to the C.M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge to help survey for endangered Black-footed ferrets and sage grouse. Later in the month we hosted our now annual Rifle Raffle. The last few years the rifle raffle has become an extremely successful fundraiser and helps fund many of the outreach programs and field trips. Finally at the
very end of the month we performed an urban deer survey for the city of Missoula. The data will be used in conjunction with a literature review conducted about urban deer management in other cities to help inform the city council about potential management strategies for deer in the city.

Throughout the year the chapter continued to maintain an active Education Outreach Program. We did a variety of events this year, covering everything from various wildlife ID presentations at schools to assisting in larger outreach events. This included hosting our first ever Wildlife Extravaganza in the spring, it was held in association with the Missoula 4H and FFA programs. We had a great set of presenters and we hope the event will continue to grow in the future.

Overall it was a phenomenal year for the chapter. I think everyone did a great job in helping us meet our mission of helping developing wildlife professionals and promoting understanding of wildlife in the community. Thank you to everyone who helped out this year and makes our chapter what it is, it would not be the same without you!

Ken Plourde

President
UM Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society 2012-2013
Just like the Society of American Foresters logo suggests, the student chapter is 'growing better all the time.'
2012-2013 proved to be a very successful year.

In October, we attended the 92nd annual Society of American Foresters National Convention: Resilient Forests. While it was not as unique as going to Hawaii like members got to last year, we were able to send 13 members to Spokane, WA for this year's convention. The Missoula City Chapter, Flathead Chapter, and State Chapter all donated funds to help us attend the conference. Our members were able to sit in on educational seminars, meet students of other chapters as well as forestry professionals at the expo, and network with alumni at a mixer. Four lucky students got a chance to compete at the student Quiz Bowl. The trip was a great success. Next year we'll send some students to the conference in Charlestown South Carolina.

Shortly after the convention, four members took a trip up to the Swan Valley to plant willow trees for the MPG Ranch. We hope to take on more service projects that offer experiential learning opportunities.

Our members at the National Convention in Spokane Washington. October 2012

Student – alumni mixer.

Quiz Bowl Team: Tayler Fink, Edward O'Donnell, Aaron Griffith, and Josh Meek

MPG Ranch Willow Planting: Tayler Fink, Leah Gamble, Buster (Dog), George Gaines, Emery Fogg
Members helped construct the photo booth, a 16'X20' free standing building in under three days for the 96th Foresters Ball in March.

During the second semester of the year, our members took a trip to attend a Flathead Chapter meeting and take a tour of the Stoltze Algae Aquaculture plant.

We also participated in an education day at Rattlesnake Elementary School. At the end of May, several students took a trip to Helena for the weekend to attend the Montana State SAF meeting. Keeping with our annual traditions, we also provided a BBQ at Forestry Days held each year at Fort Missoula.

New this year, our student chapter has officially adopted a 25-acre plot of forest in Marshall Canyon from the City of Missoula Parks and Recreation Department. We will create a geodatabase of spatial data for the unit, map stand boundaries, flag SMZ's, develop a silvicultural prescription, cruise and mark the unit, implement a thinning treatment, all on a volunteer basis. We'll even assist city employees to burn the slash!

This year provided members a variety of different opportunities, some of which are new traditions. We are looking forward to getting out and providing these types of experiences again next year.

Thank you for an unforgettable year: Jon Kinion (Chair), George Gaines (Vice Chair), Josh Meek (Treasurer), and Tayler Fink (Secretary)
2012/2013 was the inaugural year of The UM Student Chapter of the Montana Recreation and Parks Association. Our goal is to help students interested in Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management pursue their passions and career goals. Activities we did this year included making picnic tables at Fort Missoula for National Public Lands Day, hosting a talk by Steve Archibald of the Arthur Carhart Wilderness Training Center, taking an interpretive tour of the Grant Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site, and a day hike in the Scapegoat Wilderness. We've enjoyed our first year and hope to have many more years as a CFC club – Kate Bascom and Morgan Sanden (Co-Presidents)
The Montana Druids is a student honors society. We strive to bring the student body, student groups, faculty and alumni of the College of Forestry and Conservation together and unified. We were established in 1923 and from that day to the present, we have always followed one of our main tenets, "to give full measure of service regardless of compensation received." In line with that idea, our deeds are rarely publicized, and we prefer to work behind the scenes.

This year marked the second year that we organized an education day with the Rattlesnake Elementary School. Multiple student groups within the College of Forestry and Conservation set up stations to teach 1st through 5th graders about the outdoors. The Forestry Club demonstrated fire safety, and even brought Smokey the Bear along with them! The Wildlife Society brought their pelts and skulls and taught kids species identification and about the animals in Montana. The Society of American Foresters brought in different branches and taught the kids about tree identification and the importance of Montana forests. Finally the Student Recreation Association had a relay race with responsible camping techniques being the name of the game. Thank you to all the students who helped make the Rattlesnake education day a huge success for its second year.

We would like to thank all of the students, alumni, faculty and staff in the College of Forestry and Conservation that have made this college a home and a family during our time spent here.

Kristina Gunderson
Druids President

Druids’ Outstanding Senior Award 2013
Ken Plourde

Druids’ Outstanding Faculty Award 2013
Dan Pletscher
To start off the year we traveled down to Orofino, Idaho to compete against the University of Idaho in a tug of war and relay race. Our next stop was in Oregon to compete in the Fall Frost, where we came out victorious. The team was very successful in raising money through firewood sales. Time not spent practicing was used to split and deliver firewood to the Missoula area. This spring we will travel to Flathead Valley Community College and the University of Idaho. The team is very excited to host the 74th AWFC Conclave in conjunction with Forestry Days at Fort Missoula this spring and hopes to come out on top!

Kelsea Idler & Clay Stephenson
Team Captains 2012-2013
Student Recreation Association of the University of Montana

Who We Are and What We Do

We are a student organization on campus with a passion for recreating in the outdoors. We do it all—hike, fish, backpack, camp, raft; if you can name it, we probably do it! Our members come from all different backgrounds, all majors, and all skill levels, so our group is very diverse and people pick up essential skills and lifelong friends. Apart from running around the backwoods and swimming in the glacial lakes of Montana, we give back to the community through volunteer work. We visit elementary schools and teach safe camping essentials, participate in the annual Fall Family Fest with Missoula Parks & Rec., and build a chow hall at the Foresters Ball among many more volunteer opportunities in the community. So next time you are amongst the forests and mountains of Montana be sure to look for the Student Recreation Association!
The Student Association for Fire Ecology and Management once again had a successful year.

Fall semester began with a trip to Altoona Ridge Lodge in Maxville, MT for defensible space counseling, and continued throughout the year with two more trips around the Missoula area. In early December twelve students attended the Association for Fire Ecology conference in Portland, Oregon. The conference provided a unique opportunity to network with other SAFE chapters from around the country and exchange ideas and best practices.

Other activities included professional mixers, building the fire history museum at Forester’s Ball, and a resume/federal hiring workshop.

Thanks to all members for another great year and the continued success of UMSAFEM!

2012-2013 Officers
President: Ted Adams
Vice-President: Matt DeLaney
Secretary: Valentijn Hoff
Treasurer: Shannon Agner
The University of Montana student subchapter of the American Fisheries Society is a student group committed to promoting fisheries science and conservation and developing future fisheries professionals.

The mission of the American Fisheries Society is to improve the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems by advancing fisheries and aquatic science and promoting the development of fisheries professionals.

UMAFS meets twice monthly, during which it often features fisheries professionals, graduate students or other fish or aquatic related speakers. The meetings also serve to promote networking between students and professionals and provide information to further their careers in the field.

The club was involved in a number of activities during the 2012-2013 academic year. During the fall semester the club held its second annual Fish Trivia Night, at which teams answered questions ranging from state fishing records to fish in films. Also in the fall, UMAFS partnered with the student chapter of the Wildlife society to cohost a graduate school panel discussion. Wildlife biology students were encouraged to attend and bring questions for the panel that included professors and graduate students.
U of M chapter of the American Fisheries Society

UMAFS was also able to send three of its members to the Western Division AFS meeting in Boise, where members networked with professionals and furthered the club’s regional involvement.

In the spring semester, the club sent 17 members to the Montana Chapter state meeting, a new record. At the event, the club also hosted a student social for the UM and MSU student chapters and professionals. Multiple club members presented undergraduate research at the meeting, as well.

The club welcomes new officers Katie Rayfield (VP), Paul Nicoletti (Treasurer) and Alec Underwood (Outreach/Education) and congratulates Tracy Wendt as the new president. The club also says goodbye to senior officers Morgan Sparks (President), Mariel Maxted (VP) and Eduardo Contreras (Treasurer).
Freshman Letter

Last Year, I probably could not have named a town in Montana. The best I knew was that winters are dang cold this far north and that Yellowstone and Glacier were on my list of places to see. As of last June I had never even been to Montana, yet some crazy urge in my adventurous soul brought me 1568.43 miles away from my home just north of Chicago to the University of Montana.

At orientation, Dan Pletscher recommended to a group of to-be wildlife students that the student chapter of the Wildlife Society was the way to go if you wanted to get some experience and make friends. I trusted that and upon my first meeting I instantly fell in love. Every speaker has fed my curiosity and every event has given me a chance to make connections.

The event that initiated my domino effect of involvement in the CFC was the annual Fall Smoker trip with the Wildlife Society, Forestry Club, and Student Recreation Association. The pig roast and the Christmas light lit burn pile were some of the highlights that led me to explore other groups and traditions within the College of Forestry and Conservation.

My story takes me from TWS to Club to Forester’s Ball to the Druids. My work on Foresters’ Ball showed me the importance that the University of Montana’s CFC has on its students. CFC alumni and students from all branches of the university come together to continue a tradition that has brought “a swingin’ good time” and sleep deprivation for almost a century.

Something that the CFC and its student groups have taught me is that no hard work goes unnoticed. Most importantly, I have gained a family out here— a family of bearded men and boss ladies. Whether I just want to go to Jerry Johnson or if I’m sick of Zoo food and need to borrow a kitchen, the friends I have made through these clubs are there. Next year, I will be taking on positions of leadership in Forestry Club. I may show some potential but the truth is that I would be nowhere without the never ending encouragement that I have received from my foresters and wildlifers.

My advice: get out there and be willing to put your best foot forward. Don’t be afraid to ask for help or advice because we all had to learn at some point. Don’t be afraid to talk to people, or be the only freshman at an event. Enjoy every second. Use common sense and work hard; I promise it’s worth it.

And so, the journey of the city slicker learning the ways of the woods is to be continued.

Keep on Keepin’ on,

Lara Antonello
Wildlife Biology
Four years ago, two bright-eyed and bushy-tailed wildlife students, hailing from separate coasts, came to campus eager for adventures in Montana and ready to start their careers in wildlife.

During the first weeks of that initial semester, we both found ourselves sitting in Tuesday night meetings in FOR 305, meetings of the Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society. Little did we know how formative joining that organization would be during the rest of our time here. We went on trips to the Bison range, Yellowstone, and occasionally a party or two.

By our sophomore year, we began to share the many classes required of wildlife students, and also found ourselves in officer positions in TWS. Between many study sessions and wildlife events, we found ourselves scheming more and more about how to boss around other students in the CFC. Our efforts proved successful, when at the end of the year we were elected as President and Vice-president of the Student Chapter of TWS.

These positions afford us great opportunities to impose our opinions on others. Whether it was planning trips to Hawaii for the National TWS conference, micromanaging the construction of the Jail during Forester’s Ball, or not communicating with our other Wildlife Society officers, we had a blast. In addition, we learned a great deal about how to ignore criticism and be as cliquey as possible.

The beginning of our senior year found us at the highest throne of our empire. Not only were we “re-elected” to our positions of power, but we were given the largest office of all of the student groups in the CFC. With numerous new minions flocking to organization, we used our high status to emphasize our devious principles: to teach the importance of involvement in the profession, provide opportunities for networking, and to impart a passion for wildlife and conservation to the younger generation.

The past four years have brought us more great friendships and experiences than either of us had hoped for. Working together and getting deeply involved in many of the opportunities in the CFC has infinitely more important than any class we’ve both taken, and has provided us both with a strong foundation where we can build our careers in wildlife.

Thank you to all our friends, the faculty, staff (especially Jeanne), and many mentors that have been there for us the last four years. It has been a great ride, and we wish you all the best.

Sincerely,
Ken Pfurtscheller & Kristina Gundersen

PS: To those climbing the ranks behind us, we’ll always be watching...
'TWAS AT THE BALL

'Twas in the year 2012,
A man stood up to say
"There will never be another Foresters' Ball."
If HE had his way.

The foresters sat all misty eyed,
'A grumbling in their seat
And decided it was time
To do something differently.

Joining forces with the folks before,
Soon to be the FSA,
The woodsmen wrote a Strategic Plan
That would hopefully save the day.

Their words were crunchin'
As their thoughts were punchin'
At the UM's awful scheme.
To attempt end the best annual dance
The West has ever seen.

The plan was signed,
The Ball was set for March 22nd, 23rd.
The committee forged on,
And sights were set to the week that just occurred

Fast forward now, to a half fortnight ago
When Paul Bunyan came to town.
The foresters laid his tracks, with chalk in hand
And ripped their knuckles down.

The foresters built and built,
From Monday mor' to Thursday night
'Till flooring lay and buildings raised
To meet the bar front's height.

The final nails and finishing touches
Were done by Friday's noon
For the presenters of the Career Fair
Would be arriving soon.

The showing was low, the students were few,
To be expected with something so fresh.
They gave it a shot, and tried something new
So to the UM, they did it, oh yes!

As the feds filed out, the boots rushed in
To prepare for the evening's events
'Twas the opening night of the Lumberjack's Ball
And all hinged on attendance.

Dancing was easy, with a floor so bare,
Dates trickled in 'till nine.
There was a different feeling in the air.
But the foresters still had a good time.

The timber jills and lumber jacks
Mulled over their thoughts by drink
At a place called Third and a favorite Saloon,
Where they used the night to think.

After a "great" night's rest,
The foresters awoke for their next test of the week
'Twas the Community Day, where the chitlins' would play,
And the woodsy smiles need be.

The slide was a hit!
The children would shriek, since Silicon slides so fast.
Their faces would smile, they'd be back up the aisle
To go down with the Slurry Bomb cast!

The family's attendance could only be matched by
The nightly dance itself.
A line at the door,
Greeted those at the floor
Of the ticket booth's high wood shelve.

If not for the closing door at nine.
The dance would have sold out,
But those that got in, were the luckiest souls
This side of the Rocky Mount.

The costumed cohorts moved their cowboy heels,
While watched by Chief Push Vaughn.
From Waylon to Credence and other reels
The country funk band played on.

'Till then, at the end
Goodnight Irene sang
While the bluish snow did fall.
It just goes to show
That some things never go, because it
'Twas at the 96th Foresters' Ball.

- Leslie Neu
A Special Thanks to...

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