



The Taproot

News for Tau Phi Delta Alumni

www.tauphidelta.org

Volume 18

Fall 2021 / Winter 2022



1922 2022

CENTENNIAL

CELEBRATION REVISED DATES

October 14 -17, 2022

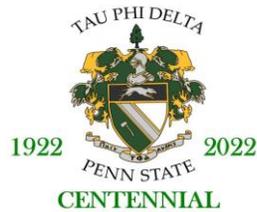
(Big Ten Conference and Penn State recently changed the home football schedule.)

INSIDE:

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Please disregard any previous reference to the other dates (October 21 – 24) as noted on the mailed “Save These Dates” postcard and the “Centennial Announcement” insert found in a recent correspondence, along with any email communications and event promotions posted online.

We appreciate your understanding and apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused you.



By Christine Eberhart (Fall '85) and
Dave O'Barto (Fall '90)
Co-Chairs, TΦΔ Centennial
Committee

It began as the Pennsylvania State College's Forestry Club over 100 years ago. On April 11, 1922, the club – with its 18 young student members – developed into a bona fide fraternity. These charter fraternity Brothers formed an organization built on solid ideals, core values and a genuine love for the out-of-doors. A fraternity known over a century and today by thousands as Tau Phi Delta.

Through the decades, these students – both men and women – made their mark at Penn State in academics, community service projects and collegiate activities. History was being made with each passing year.

As these Tau Phis went on to graduate, they became recognized professionals, dedicated employees, successful business leaders, community members and responsible citizens.

Perhaps you were one of them?

It is has come time to commemorate that grand history which made you possible!

Our Centennial Committee, with its more than dozen TΦΔ Brothers and Little Sisters, has been busy developing an event-filled weekend worthy of your attending in October 2022 ... A celebration 100 years in the making.

We hope to see you then!

Christine: *ebs0704@yahoo.com*

Dave: *obarto@comcast.net*



The Charter Fraternity Brothers of 1922

TΦΔ Centennial Celebration

– Event Pre-Registration –

Is highly recommended.

Registration Form enclosed (yellow insert) and also found online at www.tauphidelta.org.

– Lodging Arrangements –

Available at

Ramada by Wyndham –
State College Hotel &
Conference Center
1450 South Atherton Street,
State College, PA 16801

A room block has been reserved at special rate of \$89 per night (plus tax) and is available from Thursday through Sunday nights (October 13 –16).

Note: Reserved room block expires on September 14th.

Call (814) 238-3001.

When making your hotel reservation, be sure to mention “Tau Phi Delta” and use special discount code: TAUPHI22



– Schedule of Events –

• Thursday, October 13th

Early arrival – Ramada

• Friday, October 14th

PSU Campus Tours: Arboretum & Forest Resources Building
Artisan's Pizza Wood-Fired Brick Oven Pizza & Craft Beverage Social – TΦΔ

• Saturday, October 15th

Centennial Oak Tree Planting – TΦΔ

Old TΦΔ House Alumni Photo Shoot – 238 E. Fairmount Avenue

Bonfire Old Fashioned BBQ

Lunch Gathering – TΦΔ

100th Anniversary Happy Hours & Centennial Banquet – Ramada

Cash Bar, Silent Auction/Raffles, History of TΦΔ Presentation & much more!

• Sunday, October 16th AM

Brotherhood Brunch & Keynote Speaker – Ramada

Mont Alto Alumni Dinner – The Mill Café (PSU Mont Alto)

• Sunday, October 16th (PM) & Monday, October 17th

TΦΔ Reunion – PSU Mont Alto
Campus Tour, Luncheon & Special TΦΔ Tree Dedication

(More details on page 18)

Awards `R Us”



PennState
College of Agricultural Sciences

Department of Ecosystem Science
and Management

In early 2021, TΦΔ Brother and former House Advisor, **DR. WAYNE K. MURPHEY** (Fall '49), was posthumously recognized with the PSU School of Forest Resources Alumni Group's Outstanding Alumnus Award.



Upon his return from military service in 1948, Wayne entered the Mont Alto campus, majoring in

forestry (B.S. Forestry – 1952 and M.S. Wood Products – 1953).

After a short stint in the private forest products industry, as an engineer in the wood-preserving research lab (Koppers Company), he later became a researcher in preservative treatment of wood products at the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station.

Wayne returned to academia in 1959, joining University of Mich. Department of Wood Technology, where he pursued his PhD degree (1961) and taught courses in wood anatomy and product development.

He returned to PSU in 1960 as the professor of Wood Utilization, then of Wood Technology, and later as the department head of Wood Science and Technology and associate director of the School of Forest Resources and coordinator of the Forest Resources Lab.

In 1978, he became the head of the Department of Forest Science at Texas A&M. In 1981, he joined the USDA Cooperative States Research Services in Washington D.C. serving as principal wood technologist. He retired in 1998 and lived in Annapolis, Md. until his death in 2013.



Society of American Foresters

As announced in the October 2021 issue of *The Forestry Source*, two Tau Phis were honored as Fellows of the Society of American Foresters (SAF). The rank of Fellow honors SAF members for long-standing service to the forestry profession at the local, state and national levels. SAF Fellows are further, “Recognized as an ambassador for the advancement of forestry.”

Little Sister alumna, **CECILE M. “CISSY” (CAVANAUGH) STELTER** (Fall '86), was elected as an SAF Fellow.

After graduation (B.S. Forest Science 1989), she worked on a Masters of Forest Resources with her graduate research at the Gettysburg National Military Park.

Cecile next worked for the U.S. Forest Service in the Forest Inventory and Analysis Section in the Radnor, Penna. office.

In 1998, she began her employment with the Penna. DCNR Bureau of Forestry first as a forest technician, then a Service Forester, later an Assistant District Forester and, eventually, the District Manager of the Cornplanter State Forest in Warren.

As a Certified Forester, an ISA Certified Arborist and Tree Farm Inspector, she has served the SAF Allegheny Plateau in several leadership positions.

Cecile has served on the Penna. Forestry Association board and is an active member of the Penna. Forest Heritage Association.

Also elected as an SAF Fellow was Br. **HOWARD G. “DOKEY” WURZBACHER, JR.** (Spring '77).

After graduation (B.S. Forest Science 1979), this previous PSU School of Forest Resources Alumni Group's Outstanding Alumnus Award recipient (2018) worked for the U.S. Forest Service in Montana and later in the private sector in Penna. for Fisher and Young and Endeavor Lumber companies (1982 to 1987).

He then began a 31-year career with the Penna. Game Commission and retired as the regional forester (northwest office in Franklin).

Howard has been active with the SAF, serving in multiple leadership roles of the Allegheny Plateau Chapter and the Penna. Division and served on the national Committee on Professional Recognition.

Howard has served on the Penn State School of Forest Resources Alumni Group's board of directors, including as president.

He is a member of the Penna. Forestry Association, the Western Penna. Conservancy and the Wildlife for Everyone Endowment Foundation.



The **Taproot**

**Tau Phi Delta Fraternity
Penn State Alpha Chapter**
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State College, PA 16801-5711
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TΦΔ Grand National Chapter
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Dave Gustafson, Alpha Phi
Gene Odatto, Tau
Earl Hower, Sigma

**Tau Phi Delta Corporation
Board of Directors**
Officers: Rich Kappel, Co-Phi
Corbin Rinehart, Co-Phi
Sean McCann, Alpha Phi
Daniel Gerber, Tau
Jared Adams, Sigma
Directors: Shaun Doran, Eric Horvat,
Travis Kostyal and Kody Unangst
Acting CFO: Sam Durant (past Tau)
Outgoing Alpha Phi: Matt Bellia

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Board of Trustees**
Officers: Kory Enck, Chairman
Ben Hoffman, Treasurer
Sean Sweeney, Secretary
Trustee: *Vacant*
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The Taproot

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published since 2004 can be found
online at: www.tauphidelta.org by
navigating to the "Alumni" page.

The Honorable Phis' Reports

Grand National Chapter
By Dave O'Barto (Fall '90)

To all alumni Brothers and Little Sister alumnae, by now you should have received the appeal letter seeking your help to rebuild our alumni membership database.

Again, we would appreciate your help by returning a completed TΦΔ Information Request Reply Form that was attached. This will greatly improve our ability to communicate with each other.

Also enclosed with the letter was a pair of fraternity decals for you to proudly display and, as I wrote, for all to recognize TΦΔ.

If for some reason you did not receive this letter with the decals, email me and we will send you another.

Next year marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of our fraternity. This is most certainly a significant accomplishment that you should be very proud of.

We have an amazing group participating on our Centennial Committee. In addition to my co-chair Christine Eberhart, two other ladies, Lisa O'Brien and Cissy Stelter, are a big part of our working group.

Along with two other Grand National Chapter officers, Gene Odatto and Earl Hower, we have some other "old timers" like Chuck Strauss, Jim Clark, Roy Siefert, Martin McGann, Dave Ragantesi, Kory Enck and Ben Hoffman. More recent Brothers, such as Corbin Reinhart, Kody Unangst and Actives Caleb Gerber, Mark Melesky, are also on board.

Thanks to all as we strive to prepare for a celebration of TΦΔ like no others before.

I would be remiss not to remind you about the appeal letter's ask for your support to raise the funds for the much-needed renovations – such improvements that would significantly help with recruitment in our efforts to attract new Brothers for years to come.

We hope you could do your part with a gift and become part of the upcoming House renovation efforts. Targeted renovations and improvements are to begin soon with a planned completion in time for the October's celebration.

To date, we have received \$56,620 from 183 generous Tau Phis, and hopefully with more to come!

Please refer to page 9 for a listing of these many Alumni and Actives who have responded so far. Yes, their support is very much appreciated!

I am very much looking forward to your attendance at our Centennial Celebration (during the revised dates of October 14th - 17th) as we reacquaint with others, see firsthand these many



House improvements and celebrate the green and white.

(412) 310-3291 / obarto@comcast.net

P.S. Please check out the cool centennial promotional video produced by Br. Jim Clark online: www.tauphidelta.org.

A \$5,000 Challenge

At the time of press, we received a proposed "Challenge Contribution" from an anonymous Brother in the amount of \$5,000. The specifications of the challenge are securing five other matching \$5,000 contributions from Brothers and/or Friends of Tau Phi Delta, payable by October 22, 2022.

If the challenge is met, our Fraternity would accumulate an additional \$30,000 toward our major renovation project.

Tau Phi Delta Corporation Board of Directors

By **Kody Unangst**
(Fall '12) Outgoing Phi



Brothers! On behalf of the Tau Phi Delta Corporation Board of Directors (BOD), I would

like to thank you for taking the time to page through this important issue of *The Taproot*.

Things at the Treehouse have been going well, considering everything going on in the world. While there are challenges, morale is at an all-time high!

The Actives are continuously proving the dedication and pride they have toward the "Green and White." Their numbers are steadily growing, improvements are being done, and most importantly ... our beautiful cook, Patti, is happy!

There is a lot happening over the coming months and I ask for your consideration. We are in the midst of undertaking one of the largest renovation projects in TΦΔ history. We're aiming to fully renovate the downstairs living area (i.e., rear foyer, dining room and social bar room) before the Centennial Celebration in October 2022. This major renovation work will require asbestos removal, new flooring, and overhauling the electrical and heating systems, plus refurbishing the solid red oak paneling.

Not only will this be awesome for the returning Alumni to see, but will also surely help bolster the Brothers in their already growing numbers and recruiting efforts!

You likely already received a Save the Date postcard notice for the Centennial Celebration weekend, as well as a more recent

fundraising mailer and I do ask you to please consider both! I can't wait to see you at the celebration!!

Finally, after nearly a decade I have decided to step down as BOD Phi. While I plan to stay on the Board, I unfortunately no longer have the necessary time to be a productive leader.

However, I am very thankful we found an amazing Brother to continue leading our corporation: Rich Kappel (Fall '86). Rich's experience and knowledge will be a huge asset to our fraternity, and I am excited to welcome him onto the BOD as the new Phi.

As always, please feel free to reach out with your questions, concerns, or if you want to get more involved. Thanks!

Kody: (484) 894-3012

Kodyunangst93@gmail.com

Rich: (724) 433-0233

kappelra@comcast.net



NEWS FROM THE TREEHOUSE The Phi's Message

By **Matthew Bellia**
(Spring '19) Outgoing Phi

As my term as the House Phi is winding down, I am pleased to announce that we have 24 Active Brothers, a Fall '21 pledge class of five and an anticipated respectable number for a Spring '22 class.

Since our last alumni newsletter during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, we managed to induct the Spring '21 pledge class of eight with these now-Brothers: Tom Smith, Jake Schneider, Jack Breen, Brandon Pacella, Sam Mathena, Nick Hogg, Mark Melesky, and Caleb Gerber.

Our more recent five pledges include: Thomas Sprow, Taylor

Bohn, Tristen Barge, Andy Krawczyk, and Cole Brewer.

Our House bills are \$4,500 per semester and \$800 for those living out of the fraternity. Also, rent for those living here over the summer was \$200 per month.

I am proud to share that our last academic report showed a combined GPA of 3.24 out of a 4.00 system.

We worked with the Clear Water Conservancy for our most recent community service requirement by participating in their annual "Watershed Clean-Up Day." This consisted of cleaning up trash and debris from a pre-determined location in Centre County.

Right now, we are actively searching for other community service opportunities to fulfill our semester requirements.

Outside of the House, we are in good standing within the Interfraternity Council (IFC), and Penn State University in general.

Throughout this past year and a half, it has been very challenging to juggle and abide by the various COVID-19 restrictions set in place by both the State College Borough and university. Yet, we have been successful with recruitment as well as keeping the House running on all cylinders.

Whenever the lockdown first began, our actions were severely limited, even on our own property. This included strictly not having anyone not living in the House on the premises. As I am sure you can all imagine, that adds a lot of stress to the Brotherhood in terms of recruitment and staying in touch with potential members that wished to learn more about TΦΔ.

However, we were able to make it through this period with no problems and still admit two successful pledge classes.

Many Brothers before me, recall the IFC Dance Marathon and the many contributions Greeks made in the past. We have started to elevate our participation in the THON, scheduled for this February 18-22.

Should you get a fund-raising appeal in the mail from Penn State to donate to this dance marathon, be sure to please note Tau Phi Delta on the reply form and the fraternity will get credit for your tax-deductible contribution.

We also participated in this year's campus-wide homecoming celebrations, creating a parade float with the help of two other organizations (American Society of Civil Engineers and Orchesis).

We are proud of reinstating both traditions and do not see them leaving anytime soon.

We have made numerous improvements to the exterior of the House including replacing all mulch on the property with river rock. We've revamped the cook parking spot and truck parking lot off Elk Alley with new railroad ties and river rock, too.

We are enthusiastic about working closely with those Alumni volunteering on the Corporation Board of Director's Renovation Committee to raise the funds and launch many of the planned improvements to the fraternity house. The same enthusiasm is shared toward those on the Centennial Committee for organizing our 100th anniversary celebration and continuing the tradition of Tau Phi Delta.

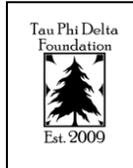
(724) 581-3909 / mx5974@psu.edu



P.S. If you should you know of any young men — either currently or soon-to-be enrolled at Penn

State — who you think would like to experience what TΦΔ has to offer, please let us know.

Editor's Note: Effective January 2022, the new House Phi (and Corporation Alpha Phi) is Sean McCann and he can be reached at (610)505-9681/ sjm6739@psu.edu.



Foundation's Good News

By Kory Enck
(Fall '86)

We have some very exciting times ahead for our beloved Tau Phi Delta. Along with a physical revitalization of the House taking place over this year and our 100th anniversary, 2022 also marks the 12th year for our Tau Phi Delta Foundation. In addition, we have a very strong Brotherhood right now.

If you have visited the House over the last seven years, you would have seen the results of our patio paver project. Many of you have participated and you can see your pavers lining the rear entrance of the fraternity house.

This project raised nearly \$20,000 for the Foundation Endowments!

Plus, we still have room for more. Personalized pavers (8x8) are \$400 and bricks (4x8) are \$250.

Harry F. Ivins
Phi
1922-23

Kory Enck
Fall 1986

Have your name and pledge class put on a brick, or maybe your entire pledge class on a larger paver.

The choice is yours!

In addition, this year's Annual Jim Evans Memorial Golf

Tournament, held in early July at the Skytop Mountain Golf Club near Port Matilda, attracted a crowd of 60 golfers who helped raise an additional \$1,200 toward our scholarship fund.



We continue to hand out scholarships to deserving active Brothers each year and we have given out over 12 in the past five years. This year the recipients were Matt Bellia, a senior environmental resource management major, and Ethan Kilian, a junior finance major pursuing a minor in forestry.



2021 Scholarship Recipients Brothers Kilian and Bellia

Again, the plans for our Foundation include making scholarships available, formation of endowments, raising proceeds to help offset the cost of our annual taxes and, ultimately, to further Tau Phi Delta and its mission.

On behalf of the Trustees for Tau Phi Delta Foundation, I thank you for your generous support!

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. And of course, please consider a tax-deductible donation today!

(717) 405-7566 / Note new email: kenck415@comcast.net

Advisor's Corner

By **Martin McGann** (Fall '72)
Co-Advisor

This semester has come to an end and I'm glad to say that everything at the House has gone well. We started off this semester with an eye towards future renovations.

At the TΦΔ Corporation Board meeting this fall, there were several Actives who volunteered to serve on the renovation working group and help with planning how these projects will go forward.

The planned renovations are concentrated on the lower floor in the dining area, the bar room, the cook's head, and other spaces such as hallways and rear entrance areas.

There is a lot of work to be done including removal of the existing floor tiles, asbestos abatement, new heating lines in the dining and bar areas, oak wood paneling refurbishment, new ceiling treatments, lighting and improvements to the cook's bathroom. The house is in dire need of these improvements.

As you can imagine, for a fraternity house that was constructed in the late 1950s, there is a lot to do, and this upcoming work is only a small part of what should be done.

One project of immediate importance is fixing the firebox in the chapter room fireplace. Many firebricks have started to crack, and a lot of the mortar has fallen out. Until this situation is rectified, fires will not be permitted. This repair is happening now, while all other work will begin in early March.

It has always been stressed to the Actives that they need to respect the House and treat it

well. This will be an opportunity for the Alumni to demonstrate by action what they've been saying in words.

Needless to say, there will be some changes to the normal operations at the House starting in early March, throughout the summer months, and going on into the fall semester. The Actives seem to be very supportive of the efforts to improve the conditions at the house and are willing to put up with what PennDOT would term: "temporary inconvenience – permanent improvement."

Another way to demonstrate to the Actives the good feelings and memories that we have towards the House will be to contribute to the renovation fund. Some of the Alumni – more specifically the Grand National and Corporation officers – are currently soliciting funds for this work.

What better way to prove to the Actives how we feel about the House and our Brotherhood than to provide ample funds to complete the renovations on time for this October's Centennial Celebration.

Co-Advisors

Martin McGann

(814) 863-7595 / mrm19@psu.edu

Shaun Doran

724) 944-2462/smd277psu@hotmail.com

'60s Era Evening Reunion

During the Centennial Celebration weekend, a separate gathering is also being organized for any interested Tau Phis from the '60s era on the evening of Friday, October 14th (site in State College to be determined).

Should you have any interest in this small reunion or for more details, contact Matt Thomas via email at tmattdody@gmail.com or call (610) 867-5250 or email Tom Yorke at waterman2000@comcast.net or call him at (703) 593-1706.

We Are ... Family!

In the past, we have had many "legacy" Brothers and Little Sisters with combinations of fathers (and/or mothers) and their sons/daughters, grandfathers and grandsons, brothers, sisters, cousins, or nephews and nieces – just to name a few.

It was recently discovered that **CALEB GERBER** (Spring '21) is the son of **DANIEL GERBER** (Fall '90) from Elizabethtown.



Brothers Dan and Caleb Gerber

Also, **THOMAS SMITH** (Spring '21) is the younger brother of **DANIEL SMITH** (Spring '19) from Beaver Falls.



The Smith "Brothers"

It's always great to see the TΦΔ tradition continue and be passed along from generation to generation and within the family.

TΦΔ Leadership Summit Report

By Rich Kappel (Fall '86), Phi Corporation Board of Directors



On Saturday, January 15, 2022, Tau Phi Delta hosted a joint leadership meeting with multiple Alumni and Active members meeting in-person at the fraternity house or virtually via a Zoom link.

The last time such a conference had been held, was in January 2020 – just a few months prior to the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak.

This time, present were representatives from the Grand National Chapter officers, Foundation trustees, Penn State Alpha Chapter house advisors, Corporation officers and directors, current House Executives, and the Centennial and Renovation Committees.

Centennial Celebration: The committee of about a dozen Tau Phis had been making real progress planning a full schedule of events planned for 4 days in October. However, due to sudden changes, recently made by the Big Ten Conference to the 2022 Penn State football schedule, the dates of the centennial celebration have been changed. (new dates October 14 to 17).

The Ramada has been very accommodating in changing the dates. While a slight set back,

efforts to communicate this change and market the events are moving forward.

House Renovation: Estimates for desired phase 1 renovations could be as high as \$250,000. We will be looking into financing options to complete phase 1, as well as future phases 2 and 3, in addition to the ongoing support from those responding to the recent fund-raising appeal.

This committee will continue to evaluate contractor estimates and review the “must-haves” versus the “nice-to-haves.” The target is to start as soon as the March spring break (asbestos ceiling and floor tile removal) and continue renovations throughout the summer months.

Fund-Raising Appeal: Sent out more than 750 mailed letters with about a 19% response rate. After four weeks, a total of 143 contributors donated an initial \$50,220 (as of January 9th). Individual contributions ranged from \$50 to \$5,000.

There is an open challenge from an anonymous Alumnus Brother requesting five other Tau Phis to each match his \$5,000 offer.

House Pledge Recruitment:

While the Actives’ recruiting efforts are still hampered and limited by the University policies, attitudes remain positive. PSU sponsored involvement fairs continue to be one way to reach out to perspective Brothers.

Once planned for spring 2020 (but cancelled due to the pandemic), the goal is to re-schedule a series of outdoor educational event to get potential recruits to the fraternity. Hosting such events

at the House would feature expert speakers (archery, fly fishing, wildlife). The House Phi and Social Chair are to put together a calendar of events for the next two semesters.

Plans are to also reach out to like-minded student groups on campus, such as the Society of American Foresters, Wildlife Society and Woodsman Team.

Fraternity Communications:

Newsletters, such as *The Taproot* and *News From The Treehouse*, will continue to play a huge role in connecting with Alumni. Also, keeping the website current and informative and maintaining a social media presence equally important to reach the public – especially perspective rushes. The plan is to update TΦΔ Facebook and further utilize Instagram.

Relationship Building Between Alumni and Actives/Pledges:

Schedule several in-person and virtual activities, including the return of a spring homecoming and BOD meeting on the day of the annual PSU Blue White game on April 23rd. With the hopes to build momentum throughout the months of the 2022 spring semester, hold virtual Saint Patty’s Day, some happy hours and wine tastings.

Lastly, the Corporation’s board of directors, along with the help of Grand National officers and House advisors, will re-institute fraternity house visits and inspections as a means to mentor and assist the Actives Brothers to better manage the facility.

This was a great and long overdue meeting! I encourage us all to get to work, re-connect, and celebrate our amazing 100-year anniversary in 2022.

A Big Thank You

Goes out to the following Tau Phis for their response to the recent appeal for the House renovations. Your support of TΦΔ is greatly appreciated!

Peter Alexander
Stanford Arner
Eric Asp
Brian Balonick
Troy Bartley
Joseph Bartnicki
Randall Bauman
Russell Belles
Matt Bellia
James Binder
Timothy Breneisen
Thomas Breslin
Tristen Bressler
C. Daniel Brogdon
Gary Brubaker
Mark & Candace Brunermer
Thomas Buch
Lisa Cairo-O'Brien
Thomas Campbell
Robert Carroll, III
Robert Chrismer
Jim Clark
David Clymer
Ernest Coder
Gavin Collins
Aaron Cook
Gordon Cruickshanks
Douglas Danko
Terry Dayton
Marc DelRosso
Larry Donmoyer
Frank Downs
Lee Ebeling
Christine Eberhart
Eric Eberly
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Larry Geesaman
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Daniel Gerber
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Chris Kamzalow
Rich & Barb Kappel
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William Kilmer, Jr.
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Cody Kline
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Roger Mentzer
Dave Messics
Scott & Stephanie Meyer
Michael Michalec
Matthew Mihaly
Jordan Miller
Dennis Millin
John Murdock
Robert Muti
William Neidigh

David & Jennifer Nelson
Dr. Wade Nutter
David O'Barto
Gene Odat
Kevin Oskin
Robert Otto
Enzo Paludi
Van Parsons
Greg & Mary Peiffer
Julie Peiffer
Stanley Piorkowski
Dave Ragantesi
David Redmond
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Patricia Remy
Darren Riggins
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Dave Runkle
Dave Rupert
Gregory Schaeztle
Josh Schafer
John Schrenk, Jr.
Wayne Schutz
Edgar Scott
Jeffrey Shilling
John Sickafuse
Roy Siefert
Mark Sims
Craig Smith
Daniel Smith
Glenn Snyder
Zachary St. Laurent
Barry Stauffer
Jim & Cissy Stelter
Donald Stoner
Carl Strausbaugh
Dr. Charles Strauss
Ronald Stroble
Gary Swanson
Sean Sweeney
Matthew Thomas
Michael & Carol Thomas
Kenneth Thompson
Charles Thuma
Mike Todd
Kody Unangst
Alex Van Pelt
Teresa Webster
Wendy Weisel-Ranney
Christopher Wiley
Thomas Wolf
Carl Wolfe, Jr.
Andrew Wolgemuth
Howard Wurzbacher, Jr.
Alex Yoder
Neal Yoder
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{Donors as of January 30, 2022}

Supporting The Taproot

The Taproot continues to provide news about the Actives and Alumni of Tau Phi Delta through the support of our alumni. The "Alumni Update" section of this issue includes many entries provided to us through emails or with the return of the insert from last year's issue.

Each year, our loyal readers have provided financial contributions so the printing and mailing of *The Taproot* is not a financial burden on the Actives or the Alpha Chapter. This year is no exception.

The following individuals have donated \$20 to \$100 for a total of \$845 toward the cost of printing and mailing last year's issue of *The Taproot*. This falls quite a bit short of our printing and distribution costs of 875 newsletters.

Thanks again to:

Tim Breneisen	Tom Breslin
Rob Chrismer	Christy Clark
Jim Clark	Russ Earle
Page Etchison	Ginny Glasscock
Drew Graves	Earl Hower
David Rupert	Pat Wilson-Schmid
Chuck Strauss	Andy Wolgemuth
Tom Wolf	Martin Zukovich

Please note, the Tau Phi Delta Foundation also recently had an extremely generous contribution to *The Taproot* from an anonymous donor – a one-time \$1,000 donation to support continued communication efforts such as this alumni newsletter.

We thank you for your continued support of *The Taproot*. However, we hope that in honor of the upcoming TΦΔ 100th Anniversary, that you too would consider donating, perhaps, \$100 to *The Taproot* (payable to the Foundation) to ensure its future publication in 2022 and beyond.

Please take a few minutes to complete the alumni update sheet (found page 15) or download one found online at www.tauphidelta.org and return it. Or send an update by emailing Bill Herb, Editor, at: m.b.tailfeathers@gmail.com.

Alumni Updates

TIM BRENEISEN (Fall '73) has retired after 30 years in public recycling in Lancaster Co, Penna.
Tjb9285@comcast.net

As last reported in *The Taproot*, **TOM BRESLIN** (Fall '54) wants to clear up the facts that he did not pledge in Fall '53 (that was when he was at Mont Alto), and that John Eastlake (not "Westlake") whom he met at a CCC historical gathering at Letchworth State Park, passed away in February 2021 ... "Joining the ranks of departed Mont Alto foresters. It's sad that so many Tau Phis have passed away."

Tomb3557@gmail.com
(585) 228-1265

CHRISTY CLARK (Winter '77) writes that she happily retired on April 1, 2019, from GE Appliances after 33 years! She is loving retirement, enjoying her friends, working out, and doing more home remodeling.

Christyclark1955@gmail.com
(916)771-4314

ROBERT F. "ROB" CHRISMER (Fall '50) provided an update dating back 70 years. During the summer and fall of 1951 he worked for the U.S. Forest Service in Enterprise, Ore. In the summer of 1952 and for the next five years, Rob was a smoke jumper in Missoula, Mont.

Beginning in 1956 Rob spent 38 years in engineering with the Singer and Ryobi companies in Pickens, S. Car., retiring in 1994.

After 62 years of marriage, Rob's wife, Betty, passed away in May 2019. Rob and Betty had three children: Robert, Elizabeth, and Paul, plus two grandchildren.

Rob had nice things to say about *The Taproot* but sadly noted that

several of his good friends from TΦΔ had passed away.

He has fond memories of his years at Mont Alto, Penn State, and Tau Phi Delta.

(864) 859-3201

DR. ROBERT W. DOUGLASS (Fall '53), passed away at home on November 11, 2020 in Fairhope,



Ala., having been preceded in death by his wife of 62 years, Joe Ann, a year earlier.

He was born in Philadelphia and graduated PSU in 1956 with a B.S. in Forestry. He then served in the U.S. Army. After his brief military service, he earned a M.S. from Purdue University in 1961 and a Doctorate degree from the University of Minn. Dr. Douglass was the author the textbook, "Forest Recreation," which was used to teach a generation of forestry and natural resources students at colleges across the country. He taught forestry at the Mont Alto Campus. He worked with the federal government in the early development of agricultural applications of then-secret satellite imagery analysis (Rumor has it that his office was in Langley, Va.).

Bob then went on to become the Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Dept. in the School of Natural Resources at The Ohio State University for decades. His professional interests were in resource-based recreation planning and remote sensing.

He had published several works on recreation, on applications of remote sensing in water-oriented recreation planning and on uses of high-altitude photography.

RUSS EARLE (Spring '94) retired from the U.S. Air Force in 2012 as a Lt. Col. where he served as a navigator on a C-130. He also retired as a Lt. from the Oakland, Calif. Fire Department in 2013.

Rob started his own business: Rainbow Bridge Engine Services and is the proud owner of 20 horses and burros, as well as 6 dogs.

He is building his own airplane (a Rons S-21 Outbound) and lives in Reno, Nev.

24FireLt@gmail.com
(510)207-9646

Little Sister **CHRISTINE "CHRIS" EBERHART** (Spring '85) recently hosted a day-long tailgate before the annual "White Out" football game with another Little Sister alumna and a few alumni Brothers in attendance.

Included below are (L to R) **DAVE MESSICS, BEN HOFFMAN, DAVE RAGANTESI, KARL IMDORF** (and his wife Karen), **EARL HOWER** and (front row) **CHRISTINE EBERHART** and **CAROL ENIGLES-FALTEICH**.



Good food and friends, along with the help of some adult beverages, made for a great outing. The day only got better after the Nittany Lions beat the ranked SEC team – the Auburn Tigers.



After 21 years as Regional Field Rep. for the National Rifle Association, **KORY ENCK**

(Fall '86) has taken a position as the Regional Director for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) for western Penna.

kenck415@comcast.net



THOMAS H. "TOM" FEDEROWICZ (Fall '70) recently died on June 2, 2021 at the Masonic Villages in Elizabethtown.

Tom, who grew up in Mount Carmel, Penna., received his B.S. in Recreation and Parks (1973) and M.S. in Therapeutic Recreation (1975). He continued his affiliation with the university where Tom worked as an HR Specialist, retiring in 2005 after 26 years.

A lover of the great outdoors, Tom enjoyed fishing and hunting – thus the logical attraction to TΦΔ. He found enjoyment in trail riding, hiking and photography in the mountains of Centre County. He was an avid woodworker and had an artistic knack for detailed woodcarving. Tom especially took great pride in contributing to building the family camp on the nearby Juniata River.

VIRGINIA "GINNY" (BURNE) GLASSCOCK (Fall '77) added a new cell phone number at (208)720-9587. Their flyfishing outfitting business, Idaho Angling Services (anglingservices.com), has continued to be busy, as many "Covid refugees" headed to Idaho for social distancing and outdoor activities.

Ginny shot her first elk last fall (at 283 yards with a .270), just a few miles from their Picabo cabin. Ginny's response to her successful hunt was, "Thanks to those Brothers for starting me out with a 20-gauge single shot on gray squirrels back in the day!"

ANDREW "DREW" GRAVES (Spring '00), his wife, Tina, with their son, Liam (11), and daughter, Kendall (9), have spent the last decade in the "mountains" of Bloomington, Ind. (home of Indiana University Hoosiers).

Drew and Tina spend their time volunteering with Cub Scouts, coaching softball, and chauffeuring the kids around.

Their house continues to be divided each fall over whether to cheer for Penn State, Nebraska, or Indiana football.

DAVE "GOOSE" GRAY (Fall '73) reported that during a fall 2020 hunt in Dave's new home state of Alaska, his son, Andy, shot a dark grizzly and a moose. Dave shot a blonde grizzly bear early in the same hunt.



Dave reported that more thrilling than a wilderness grizzly hunt, was the arrival of their first grandchild in late February 2021. "Big news as of last week, I have a new title. You can now call me 'grandpa.' We've been waiting a long time for that. Granddaughter Olivia Jean is healthy and growing.

I also admit I read *The Taproot* cover-to-cover. Still follow Tau Phi Delta avidly from afar. I also recognized a lot of the names in the last issue. Unfortunately, too many posthumously. Seemed unusually 'dark' with all the Brothers that were suddenly 'gone.' Kind of hits close to home these days. And the pandemic is a dark cloud hanging over all of us. Both Barb and I got our second shots weeks ago. So, this week we started to venture out of self-imposed isolation for the first time since late October. It feels like we just got out of prison ... Hope this finds the rest of our Tau Phis surviving, getting vaccinations and eager to come out of this pandemic hibernation."

goose3195@aol.com



DAVE GUSTAFSON (Fall '96) shot his first elk – a 5x5 bull – last October (2020) in the Gunnison National Forest, Colo.

Dave is the newly appointed Director of the Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management for the Penna. Game Commission in Harrisburg.

His wife, Little Sister **CHRISTINE “CHRISSEY” (READINGER)** (Fall '95) recently started a new job as Property Assessor for the Perry County government in New Bloomfield.

They have two daughters, Rebekah (10) and Caroline (7) and reside with Ruby (their new fox red Labrador retriever) in Loysville.

davegus4125@gmail.com
christinegustafson29@gmail.com



JAMES F. “JAMIE” HOFFMAN, JR. (Fall '82) is the founder, owner and breeder of the Outstanding Seed Company located

in Beaver Falls, Penna. that specializes in pumpkins, gourds, and squash. Check out his website at www.outstandingseed.com.

Jamie holds a B.S. in Horticulture and has over 35 years' experience in the commercial vegetable seed industry. According to his website, “Jamie’s knowledge of plant breeding, seed production, seed quality, cultural practices and customer service enables the development, introduction, supply, and marketing of our industry leading hybrids.”

jhoffman@outstandingseed.com

KARL IMDORF (Fall '76) continued his support to raise funds for Team Foster. This organization partners with dog trainers to obtain, train and partner service dogs with injured and disabled veterans. With many veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, neither the U.S. military nor the Veteran Affairs can provide adequate resources for such support.

September 11, 2021 was the Team Foster 100, when dozens rode their bicycles over 100 miles across N. Jersey to raise \$119,000.



Karl bears our flag while leading his fundraising platoon.

ROB LUSK (Spring '11) is part of Loose Cannon Outdoors, an organization formed by several Tau Phi alumni, including **JACOB GLOTZBACH** (Fall '13), **ALEX VANPELT** (Spring '13), **GAVIN COLLINS** and **KEITH RHODES** (Fall '14) and **JEFF GOWEN** (Spring '02). They recently organized the “Trashmaster Classic” litter clean-up on the nearby Raystown Lake.



Rob reported, “We had roughly 40 people at the event. In total, the contestants collected 19 tires, 7 picnic tables, 5 docks, 2 hot water heaters and 3 tons of trash.”



Tau Phi Delta Brothers of Loose Cannon Outdoors

To help in the future or to learn more about these Brothers' conservation efforts, see: www.loosecannonoutdoors.com

RICHARD D. “RICK” MARTH



(Spring '04), age 38, passed away suddenly on July 6th after suffering a heart attack in his Shinglehouse home.

Rick, who was lovingly known by his family and friends as “Minnow” and “Fish Daddy Rick,” graduated in 2006 with a B.S. in Wildlife and Fishery Sciences.

At the time of his passing, Rick was at the height of his career as the fish hatchery manager for the Penna. Fish and Boat Commission in Oswayo (Potter County).

Rick was an Eagle Scout, a Free Mason who served his newfound community, an avid, hardcore hunter, committed angler, and a good trapper ... A typical Tau Phi!

During his days at the TΦΔ, Rick was known for his sense of humor. Once at the fraternity's Halloween party—soon after actor, Christopher Reeve had his horse steeple jumping accident – Rick dressed up as Superman in a wheelchair.

Long after graduating, he had been a steady factor in helping to keep the tradition of House bear hunts during the past decade. Sadly, his fun-loving attitude, enthusiasm and passion for the hunt will be missed on future Seven Mountains drives.

GENE F. ODATO (Fall '72) recently hunted black bear with a small group of Tau Phis in the Forbes State Forest of southwestern Penna.

The gang included Bros. **GREG "BOO-BOO" PEIFFER, CALEB HOFFMAN, EARL HOWER** and **DAVE "OBO" O'BARTO**.

No tags were filled, but a good time was had by all who "camped" at Dave's brother Tom's house.

Note: Gene's new email address redbone219@gmail.com



The Ole Bear Hunters – Odato, Hower, O'Barto

TΦΔ Corporation board member and webmaster, **CORBIN "THE COLONEL" RINEHART** (Spring '08) and his wife, Little Sister **STEPHANIE (CHILDRRESS) RINEHART**, (Fall '09) announced the arrival of their new daughter, Paige, on October 28th. They reside in York with daughter, Carson (age 4) and son, Jack (age 2).

Corbin is the Business Development Manager and the self-proclaimed "Resident Wood Nerd" for Windsor Mill, Inc. and currently serves on the PSU School of Forest Resources Alumni Group board of directors.



When he is not casting a fly rod and landing a big fish, he also keeps himself busy as the third vice

president of the Northeastern Young Lumber Execs and the associate director of the Eastern Building Material Dealers Association.

corbin@windsorone.com

We sadly must report some news from McConnellsburg – the sudden death of **WADE STERMER** (Spring '88) who passed away on October 28th while awaiting an organ transplant.

He is survived by his wife, Little Sister alumna, **CAROLYN "CARRIE" (HUGHES) STERMER**, and their two daughters.



Wade's 1990 Composite Photo

One of Wade's last wishes was that his ashes be spread at the grounds of his cabin. The family has plans to do that in the spring and then hold a memorial service honoring his life afterwards.

CHARLES "DR. CHUCK" STRAUSS (Fall '56) reported the August 28th passing of the former Director of the PSU School of Forest Resources, Dr. Robert S. Bond at age 96. His credentials included a PhD. in forest economics from Syracuse University. He had previously worked in government, private industry, and served on the University of Mass. Faculty before landing his position at Penn State in the late 1970s.

Also, sadly Dr. Jim Finley, former PSU forestry professor, died recently on October 2nd as a result of a firewood cutting accident at his camp in Elk County.

His credentials included a PhD. in extension education from Penn State where he later held the Ibberson Chair and was Professor Emeritus of Private Forest Management and Human Dimensions and Natural Resources.

Both men were extremely dedicated to the forests and were leaders in their field with research and many technical publications. Both were Fellows to the Society of American Foresters.

CRAIG TALLEY (Spring '81), who was the House Phi in '82, has become a snowbird – living seasonally in Rio Grande, N.J. and Port Saint Lucie, Fla.

He enthusiastically announced that, "We intend to make the centennial celebration next year!"
ctalley55@gmail.com
(610) 246-9734

RICHARD M. "DICK" VOELKER (Fall '55) of Pittsburgh passed away March 3, 2018. Richard was a forestry major at Penn State (1957), a U.S. Army veteran, an avid photographer and an active supporter of many charitable and social justice causes.

HANS G. VOGELSONG (Fall '84) of Winterville, N. Car., married Michelle Marie Nolin on July 31, 2021, with his teenage son, Levi, serving as his dad's best man. "Dr. Hans" is a former House Phi,



and currently an Associate Professor, in the Dept. of Recreation and Leisure Studies, at East Carolina University in Greenville, N. Car. and he has been at ECU since 1999.

vogel songh@ecu.edu

MARTIN "ZUK" ZUKOVICH (Fall '75) realized that after building his gamebird business from 0 to 90,000 birds per year, it was time to sell out and retire. He is looking forward to a lot of flyfishing and bird hunting with his seven English Setters (Only because having eight bird dogs would be crazy).

Last year, in addition to Penna., Marty was able to hunt and fish in Colo., N.Y., N.H., and Mich.

This year Zuk hopes to do more states and even meet up with some old Tau Phis along the way.
Mxzuke@ptd.net / (570) 778-8086

A Special Tribute

In memory of some of our last known surviving World War II veteran Tau Phis, who later continued their service in the field of forestry with notable distinction.

THOMAS J. BEARD (Fall '48) was a decorated WWII Army veteran (from the Normandy



landing to the Battle of the Bulge defense to the Rhineland occupation) when he later came to Penn State on the G.I. Bill.

He enrolled in forestry and soon joined ΤΦΔ. After graduation in 1951, he was California-bound and began a career with the U.S. Forest Service by timber cruising and as district ranger on the Mad River Ranger District.

Tom's experience extended into firefighting, timber, and lands management. As a licensed professional forester with the state of Calif., he was awarded a certificate of merit by Lassen National Forest in northern Calif. Tom was named "Mr. Biomass" for his instrumental role in the creation and operation of the Wendel geothermal biomass power plant. He was a strong advocate of fire safety, fuels reduction and defensible space on both private and public property. Retired after 38 years of service with the U.S.



Forest Service, he passed away in 2018 at the age of 91.

DR. WILLARD "WILL" H. CARMEAN (Fall '41), a longtime resident of Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada, died at age 95 in 2017.

Will left college to serve during

WWII in France and Germany. He was a platoon leader with the 14th Armored Division.

After the war, he earned his undergraduate forestry degree at Penn State, and then his M.S. and Ph.D. in forest soils and silviculture at Duke University.

He had a long and distinguished career with the Forest Experiment Station of the U.S. Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest, Ohio, Ill. and Minn. Later he served with United Nations Development Programs in Haiti, Greece, Turkey and Malaysia. In 1979, Will joined the Faculty of Forestry at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ontario. During Will's time in Canada, he spearheaded the preservation of a 2,000-acre old-growth white pine forest at Greenwood Lake.



RICHARD CAIRNS COOK (Fall '46), age 91, passed away in 2016 in Stuart, Florida.

During WWII, he had served in the U.S. Army Air Corp 451st Bomb Group in Italy.

Richard was not just a graduate of Penn State University, but of Duke University, and took additional graduate studies at Syracuse University. Later, while at Rutgers University, he served as acting Chairman of the Forestry Department. He was an executive with Johnson and Johnson for 20 years, and later, a director with the National Wholesale Druggists' Association (now known as the Healthcare Distribution Management Association).

RICHARD K. ELY (Fall '45) born in



1922 – the year that our fraternity was organized – passed away in 2019 in

Wickenburg, Ariz.

During WWII, he served as an aerial engineer with the Army Air Corps (46th Troop Carrier Squadron - 317 Troop Carrier Group), attaining the rank of technical sergeant. Richard participated in the Pacific theater and battles in the southern Philippines, New Guinea and Luzon and received the Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters for participating in missions that flew into combat areas.

Prior to his service, he attended forestry school at Mont Alto. Subsequent to his discharge from service in 1945, he re-entered Penn State and pledged.

With his degree in 1948, his first forestry job was for Abitibi Pulp and Paper in Ontario, Canada.

A year later he moved back to the states and began his long-term career as a forester for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), starting on the Klamath Reservation (Ore.) then continued to manage resources on the Makah Reservation (Wash.) and the White Mountain Apache Reservation (Ariz.). In 1962, he was appointed to head the BIA Fire Control Office in Washington, DC, overseeing the nationwide management of all forest fires occurring on all reservation lands.

He ended his BIA career in 1974 assisting in the development of the Boise, Idaho Fire Center and later in the Denver, Colo. Office.

Editor's Note: Over 130 Penn State Chapter Tau Phis served during World War II. Learn more about these now long-gone Brothers in the article "Our Own Band of Brothers" found in the 2008 issue of *The Taproot*.

You can read about them online at: www.tauphidelta.org

In The News

The December 18, 2020 edition of the *Pennsylvania Outdoor News* featured this group of Penn State fraternity bear hunters. Yes, they were from Tau Phi Delta!

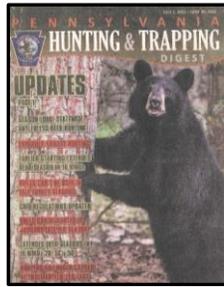
This impressive 418-pound male black bear was harvested during the special Sunday hunt on November 22, 2020.



Shown here are the 16 Brothers and a guest at the long-standing popular location of many previous TΦΔ bear hunts.

They drove out this bruin from the rocky slopes of the massive rhododendron thicket located upstream from the Laurel Run Reservoir (Seven Mountains region on the Mifflin-Centre County line).

Photo was taken by illustrator for *The Taproot*, **STEVE TOROK** (Spring '86), who organizes and coordinates the annual bear hunts based at the House – our bear hunt tradition continues!



Also, turn to page 56 in the Pennsylvania Game Commission 2021-2022 *Pennsylvania Hunting and Trapping Digest*, and you'll see a TΦΔ advertisement (shown below) that **JEFF KURTZ** (Fall '77) has again designed and purchased to help us recruit new Tau Phis.

Considering Penn State Main Campus? Do you have a love for the outdoors and enjoy hunting and fishing? Interested in an Ag Science, Environmental or Conservation career?

JOIN US AT THE "TREE HOUSE"

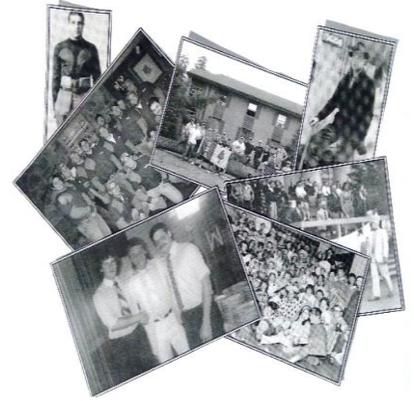
Go beyond having a place to live at school and find a home among young men like you at Penn State's Forestry Fraternity.

TAU PHI DELTA
427 E. Fairmount Ave., State College, PA 16801
Find us on Instagram: tau_phi_delta_psu

Thanks to Bill Healy and Jeff Kurtz for their use of their art
Ad sponsored by Polaris Surveying and Forestry of SE PA

The "Join Us At The Tree House" ad features Jeff's artwork (wild turkeys) and the well-recognized barred owl drawing on display in the House chapter room done by **BILL HEALY** (Fall '61).

Photos Wanted



We are seeking old photos for the development of "The History of Tau Phi Delta" presentation and other screen showings during the upcoming Centennial Celebration.

Looking for photos of pledge class projects and bolts, formals and parties, and hunting, fishing and road trips with Tau Phis.

Please contact **JIM CLARK** (Fall '68) via email jimclark105@comcast.net and/or call/text at (717) 424-2869.

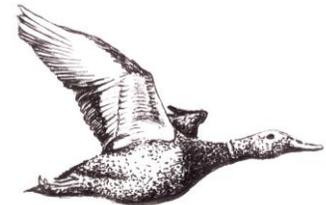


Follow us on Instagram at: [tau_phi_delta_psu](https://www.instagram.com/tau_phi_delta_psu)

Editor's Final Notes

In the next issue of *The Taproot*, the continuing feature **Tau Phis in the Great Outdoors** will return.

It is where the forest and fields and fish-filled waters are our playground.



Steve Torok

Titled "Duck Hunts Unlimited," it is a fun-filled article featuring several tall hunting tales and crazy antics of Tau Phi's waterfowlers of years gone by.



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A special thanks to these two Brothers: **ERIC HORVAT** (Spring-Beta '94) – above – and **MITCHELL VOLMER** (Spring '07) – below – and their company's support by advertising in *The Taproot*.



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This continuing feature of The Taproot is where Brothers of years gone by can share what life was really like at the old fraternity house at 238 East Fairmount Avenue.

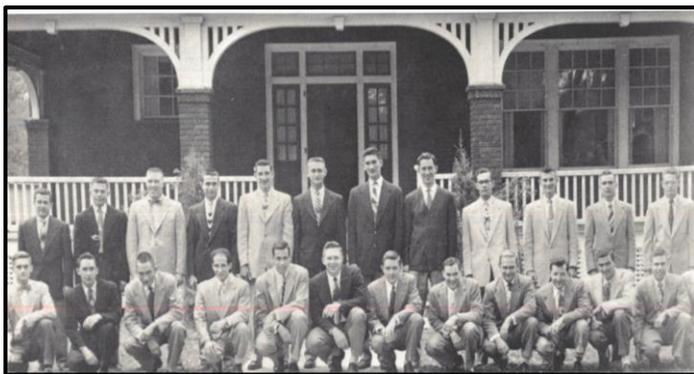
Old House Heritage

This series is normally about “tales from the old house.” However, when preparing for the upcoming TΦΔ centennial celebration, we stumbled onto a few images from the old fraternity house that were worth sharing.

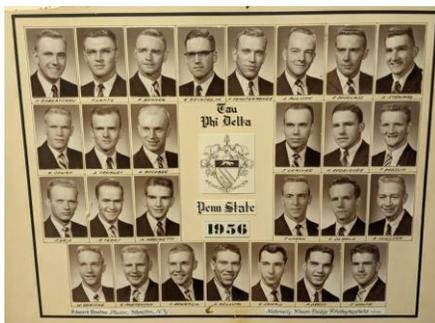


Aspiring Foresters at Field Trip in 1956

Can you spot the three Tau Phis? Look for George Schmid, Richard “Skeeter” Werner and Jim Spaid – all graduated in 1958. Unfortunately, all three Brothers have passed on.



Typical House Composite In Black and white (1956).



Typical South Seas Island Party of the '50s

A long-standing, popular springtime affair enjoyed by all!



November 1957 Fasching Party at TΦΔ

With plenty of Tau Phis: Bros. Jim Wolfe, Carl Wolfe, Ron Bartoo (faculty adviser), Charlie Ruppert, Chuck Strauss (with Carol on their first date), Rog Fredrick, Jim DeTurek, Wade Nutter, Phil Simonski and Pete Dress.

← From the 1953 *LaVie* – Brothers of TΦΔ

Sadly, most of these Brothers shown here are deceased, except for two. Surviving at nearly age 90, are Albert Schutz and Robert Chrismer.



Yes, That Was What Life Was Like At 238 East Fairmount!

Mont Alto and TΦΔ



In The Beginning –

By Earl Hower (Fall '77)

In 1903, the Pennsylvania State Forest Academy – one of the first forestry schools in the nation – was established in the small Franklin County village of Mont Alto.

At the turn of the last century, much of Pennsylvania's once endless mountain forestlands had been decimated.



Endless Deforested Mountains

So, the goal of this new academy was to support the “Crusade for a change from the barren hills caused by forest fires and charcoal production.” The early foresters were trained in forest protection, timber management and reforestation.



Early Trained Foresters at Mont Alto

In 1929, this academy – long considered Pennsylvania's cradle of conservation – became part of the then-Pennsylvania State College and continued to offer forestry at the new Mont Alto branch campus location.



The Science Building

Now, this, “Campus was used as the first year of training for all Penn State forestry students.” During that time, they spent many days in class in the Science Building and nearby forestland of South Mountain – now the Michaux State Forest. “They completed the remaining three years of study at University Park.”

From a 1931 issue of *The Cones of Tau Phi Delta* publication, “The college location at Mont Alto continues to play an important role in the Brotherhood's membership expansion, vocational training, and individual growth. During the summer camp program, the sophomores were in training at Mont Alto, becoming intimate with surveying, silviculture and measurement during the day and burning the midnight oil preparing volume tables and maps.”

So, for many, the attraction of a fraternity house of foresters was too hard to resist.

The TΦΔ Connection –

By Charles “Dr. Chuck” Strauss (Fall '56)

Back in the “Good old days,” when men were men and all freshmen foresters went to Mont Alto, this campus was a natural recruitment center for Tau Phi Delta. Even today, there is a posed allegiance between freshmen at the Mont Alto campus and our Fraternity's recruitment needs.

But “Way-back-when,” our House had a far easier recruitment task by simply focusing on the Mont Alto campus. After all, we, as a fraternity, were largely foresters-in-training and, as a composite student-group, knew about the following three years of this major. We were an information center on summer employment, summer-camp, ROTC and other club activities at University Park.

Our recruitment effort typically offered a chance to visit the campus, stay at the House, and possibly meet a rather rare commodity then – women! Tau Phis’ visits to Mont Alto had little to no competition from dormitories, boarding houses or other fraternities. With the right mix of Brothers, we could provide an orderly and interesting view on the prospect’s next three years in forestry and “campus life” in general.

Looking back at the late 1940’s through the early 1960’s, Mont Alto was a certain “gold mine” for recruitment. Our only problem was the logistics of getting to Mont Alto and getting our recruits to visit the House on a given weekend. We maintained contact with Mont Alto’s faculty, and we had a good reputation in terms of academics and professional leadership, too.

Receiving a “bid” from Tau Phi Delta was looked upon as an achievement and the promise of a fruitful career at the Main Campus. Whereas freshmen at Mont Alto experienced a 20 to 30 percent attrition during their first year, once a Brother, our numbers held at a commendable rate.

To be sure, the “exam files” (Our library with file cabinets filled with copies of old quizzes and exams.) helped, but we also had an effective mentoring spirit within the House.



For Decades Many Tau Phis Crossed the Iconic Stone Bridge of Mont Alto



Tau Phis at the 1976 Mont Alto Field Day

In 1964, when Mont Alto converted to a multi-major and co-ed campus, their diversity caused a certain complication to our recruitment process. Gradually, and in part due to fluctuating forestry enrollments, we too diversified, with our singular identity in forestry expanding to other majors.

We still held our identity as the “Treehouse,” but now it was more symbolic of our principles and our love of the outdoors than to any given major. Still identified as an “Ag” fraternity, we are also recognized as a student organization by the College of Agriculture and the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management.

While today there are the occasional Tau Phis who had started out at Mont Alto’s Forest Technology program and then continued their education in Happy Valley, by the end of the 1970’s the “cash cow” of Mont Alto rushees slowed down.

The fond memories of the connection between Tau Phi Delta and Mont Alto continues in the hearts and minds of many Alumni Brothers.

The TΦΔ Reunion –

As part of our Centennial Celebration, the Penn State Mont Alto Development staff will be hosting a TΦΔ Reunion on the day after our weekend celebration in State College on Monday, October 17, 2022.

Plans include a welcoming reception and luncheon at the Mill Café, campus tour of the Arboretum and Conklin Hall Veterans’ Flag Memorial. In addition, a special TΦΔ Tree dedication and planting is on the schedule.

Arrive a day earlier on Sunday the 16th and there’s an evening dinner planned for alumni and their guests at the Heritage Room of the Mill Café on campus. Refer to the enclosed registration insert.

Should you have any questions about this gathering, feel free to contact Dr. Chuck Strauss for more details at chs3@psu.edu or call (814) 777-4101.



TΦΔ ALUMNI UPDATE & TAPROOT SUPPORT FORM

Please take a few minutes and tell us about yourself and your family so you can be included in the "Alumni Updates" section of the next issue of *The Taproot*.

Name and Nickname _____

Pledge Class (i.e., Fall 1922) _____ Graduation Year(s) _____

Phone Number(s) (To be printed) _____
(Specify home/work/cell)

Email Address (To be printed) _____

Quotable comments and other information about you, your family, your career and interests outside of work (If need be, continue on a separate sheet).

Enclosed is my contribution to support the continued printing of *The Taproot* alumni newsletter:

___ \$10 ___ \$20 ___ \$30 or \$_____ (Specify amount).

Please make your check payable to: Tau Phi Delta Foundation (Add to memo: The Taproot)

Then send this form and the check to: **Bill Herb**
9780 White Swan Court
Chestertown, MD 21620

You may also send an alumni update and suggestions for future newsletter articles by email to the editor, Bill Herb, at: *m.b.tailfeathers@gmail.com*



Tau Phi Delta Fraternity
427 E. Fairmount Ave.
State College, PA 16801-5711

Address Service Requested

Future TΦΔ Scheduled Events for 2022

PLAN AHEAD:

- **Spring Homecoming with South Seas Island Revival Corporation Board/Foundation Trustees/Grand National Meeting • April 23**
(PSU Blue-White Football Game Weekend) At the Fraternity House 10:00am
Agenda to be posted online: www.tauphidelta.org
- **Fraternity House Summer Renovation • May 15 to August 15**
NOTICE: The fraternity house will be **CLOSED** for the summer months!
- **Annual W. James Evans Memorial Golf Tournament • July 9**
For more specifics, contact: Jim Cowan or Gavin Collins, Event Co-Chairmen
jmc4con@verizon.net / gcollins573@gmail.com
- **Tau Phi Delta Fraternity's 100th Anniversary Celebration • October 14 to 17**
REVISED DATES

More details online: www.tauphidelta.org

Please send us your Alumni Update for the Fall 2022 issue of *The Taproot*. Thank you!