



Thanks & More!

Thanks to all and here is our ongoing request from the editors.

We really need to get the input of the Brotherhood if we are to make *The Taproot* successful and to be of service to all. We encourage anyone to contribute stories from the old (or new) House, stories of the great outdoors and your personal updates.

We want to give an editorial shout-out to Br. Bill Mitchell who has provided us with some shaggy dog tales (tails?) for our Old House Heritage segment about our very own Hey-You's formative years. In fact, he gave us so much good material that we are going to split it across the 2015 and 2016 issues of *The Taproot*. So please stand-by!

We also want to recognize Chet Snow, the grandson of our beloved, late housemother, Pearl Snow, for the information and family photos that he provided for the cover story about her that is in this issue.

We know that there are lots of great stories out there that the Brotherhood would enjoy hearing. Our legal department has informed us that the statutes of limitations have probably passed on most of them, so please don't hesitate to submit them. Again, thanks!
— **Bill Herb**, Editor

INSIDE:

- 3** Awards 'R Us
- 4** The Honorable Phis' Reports
- 6** Alumni Updates
- 11** Old House Heritage
- 13** Tau Phis In The Great Outdoors

A Pearl Beyond Treasure

By Bill Herb (Fall '65)



Our Beloved Mrs. Snow

The concept of a fraternity housemother probably seems as quaint and exotic today as buggy whips or curfews for coeds, but they did exist back in the dim recesses of time — some 50 years or so ago. I won't comment on the buggy whips or how they figure in this narrative, but coeds did have 12-midnight curfews on Fridays and 1:00 a.m. curfews on Saturdays (This could be the subject for an entirely different article).

I suppose the prevailing theory was that the only threats to the virtue of these young ladies occurred after hours. In another attempt to protect these virtues, a housemother was required to be on the premises whenever females were present in a fraternity house.

We had the privilege of having Nora Pearl (Weston) Snow as our housemother during my time in the House. I don't think I ever knew the Nora or the Weston parts of her name, and she was always Mrs. Snow to us ... except for those times (but never in front of her) when she was referred to as "the Ball", this being short for Snowball. We were not too original in our nicknames.

Do some of you remember Sunday dinners back in those days when Mrs. Snow reigned supreme at the dinner table? Some fortunate TΦΔ Brothers, who happened to have dates or pin-mates that were brave or foolhardy enough to accompany them to Sunday dinner, or who had parents visiting for the meal, were the cause of much misery for the remaining pledges and Brothers.

Sundays were intended to be days of rest, contemplation, and academic pursuits. Well, let's be serious, they were actually times to nurse hangovers and sleep in very late, but Sunday noon dinner was also a mandatory meal for any Brothers or pledges who were in the House for the weekend. To add insult to injury, the bedraggled and hung-over membership was expected to show up for the meal in a tie and sport coat. Those who were unwilling or unable to crawl down to the basement dining room were subject to a \$5 fine. This was a tidy sum in those days and had the desired effect of discouraging absences.

Accordingly, the tables resembled not so much a Sunday dinner, but rather a meeting of a bloodshot-eye support group combined with a casting call for "The Walking Dead," but generally included a few relatively sober individuals trying to impress a girl or deceive a parent.

Mrs. Snow, our long-suffering housemother, had a place of honor at the head table where she was attended by the Phi or another officer who often looked as bad, or worse, than the rest of us. I do not recall Mrs. Snow ever commenting upon our conditions.

Continued - Page 2 See: Mrs. Pearl

The **Taproot**

Tau Phi Delta Fraternity
 427 E. Fairmount Avenue
 State College, PA 16801
 (814) 237-2207
 www.tauphidelta.org

Grand National Chapter
Officers: David O'Barto, Phi
 Dave Gustafson, Alpha Phi
 Gene Odato, Tau
 Earl Hower, Sigma

Penn State Alpha Chapter
Board of Directors
Officers: Mike Prinkey, Phi
 Kody Unangst, Alpha Phi
 Shawn Cable, Tau
 Mitch Vowler, Sigma
Directors: Joseph Gans,
 William Leete, J.R. Murdock,
 Nick Spinelli, Chuck Strauss, and
 Steve Toth

The TΦΔ Foundation
Board of Trustees
Officers: Kory Enck, Chairman
 Robert McColly, Treasurer
 Sean Sweeney, Secretary
Trustees: Ben Hoffman and
Vacant
Planned Giving Specialist
 Dave Messics

The Taproot

Editor: Bill Herb
Associate Editors: Earl Hower and
 Ben Emminger
Honorary Editors: Tom Yorke and
 Adam Heggenstaller
Mailing List and Circulation:
 Joe Costanzo and Kevin Stough
Contributors: Kory Enck, Chad
 Hartzell, Bill Herb, Martin McGann,
 Bill Mitchell, Dave OBarto, Mike
 Prinkey, and Kody Unangst.
Illustrator: Steve Torok
Webmaster: Corbin Rinehart

The Taproot is published by the
 Tau Phi Delta Foundation, with the
 support of the Board of Directors of
 the Penn State Alpha Chapter of the
 Tau Phi Delta Fraternity.



Mrs. Pearl (From page 1)

Nora Pearl Weston was born in August 1890, in Blount County, Alabama, where her father, William Perry Weston, was a Methodist minister and President of Snead College. Always called "Pearl," she was the second eldest of 14 brothers and sisters and the oldest daughter.

I recently had the good fortune to exchange some emails with Mrs. Snow's grandson, Chet. He wrote to me that "She often spoke of the 'Phi Deltas', and I think I still have some iced-tea spoons with your fraternity letters on them, that she used ... not valuable certainly, but among her effects when she passed, she having kept them for some years after leaving State College 10 years before her passing in 1982."

As a young woman, she lived in Oklahoma from 1900 to 1929. So, one of Tau Phi Delta's "urban legends" was that Mrs. Snow had been 'Miss Oklahoma' in her early days [Can a forestry fraternity really have an urban legend?].

Once again her grandson came to the rescue and disabused me of that notion. "While I don't think my grandmother was ever 'Miss Oklahoma' as I doubt they had such competitions there in her youth, I do know she was considered a beauty in her time with her waist-length black hair. She was an accomplished horse-woman and pioneer.

She once told me that she had learned to ride bareback in her teens so as to be able to *outride* any of the drunken Indians that frequently squandered their month's pay in liquor and then ran a bit wild around the town where they lived. I believe it was on the Chickasaw reservation originally.

She moved to the Oklahoma Indian Territory [Not yet a state] with her family when about 12 years old due to her father's chronic asthma that was not helped by Alabama's damp, muggy

weather. He believed that the dry family home in State College, soon prairie Okie air would be beneficial to his health – he was right as he lived another 25 years there."

Pearl, her sister, Helen, and their brother, Earl, shared a house near Oklahoma State College, to get a college education and all to become teachers. Pearl became a school teacher in Norman, Okla., where she met Walter Carroll Snow, a friend of her brother's who was also studying education and administration at Oklahoma State.

Pearl married Walter in August 1916. They had three children, Walter Alard, Aleda, and Alden.

Alden, her youngest son, died shortly before his first birthday; all three were born in Okla.

A year or so after this family tragedy, Walter, Pearl and their two surviving children moved temporarily to New York City where Walter received his MA degree, then to Greensburg, Penna., where he was named Greensburg High School principal. Pearl had earned her AB degree in Education from Philips College in Enid, Okla., just before they moved.

She taught junior high in Greensburg for 3 years until married women were told to give up their jobs to men during the Great Depression, circa 1935.

Walter became an Education Extension professor for the then-Pennsylvania State College while living in Greensburg. He and Pearl, with Walter and Aleda, moved to Penn State's main campus at State College in 1936, where father and son built a large two-story family home on the corner of Mitchell Avenue and McKee Street.

After her husband's death in May 1951, Pearl continued to live in the Family home in State College, soon



becoming a fraternity housemother



for ΤΦΔ.

After 20 years, she retired in the 1970s, when shoveling snow each winter became too much of a chore,

and moved to Van Nuys, Calif., to be close to her daughter, Aleda. She was very active in the local Baptist church in both State College and Van Nuys, until the 1980s. She passed away on the west coast on December 3, 1982 at age 92.

One duty assigned to pledges was sitting with Mrs. Snow while she was ensconced in the vestibule during Friday or Saturday evening social events when females were present. Ms. Snow's position was "strategic" from the standpoint of knowing if any coeds, after going up the stairs to the second floor restroom, came right back down and did not venture anywhere else on the second or third floors.

It was also "strategic" from the perspective of the Brotherhood, as it kept her one floor away from the basement "skin room" [This room was obviously named for the tanned animal pelts on the wall].

Mrs. Snow took all sorts of outrageous events in stride, including the time that one of our fellow pledges, we will call him *Pledge M*, pulled down the top of his date's dress.

Now this was not a deliberate salacious act, but it was our pledge dance, and *Pledge M* had been taking both his escort and drinking duties seriously. His date was very fond of sloe gin fizzes; so much so that she sent *Pledge M* downstairs quite a few times for refills while she visited with other

Brothers, their dates, and Ms. Snow in the vestibule.

After quite a few of the sloe gin drinks, she stood up and had trouble staying vertical so *Pledge M* graciously, but drunkenly, grabbed her around the waist. His date, thinking he was getting frisky, put her arms coquettishly around his neck and then collapsed straight down to the floor. *Pledge M*, in a gracious endeavor to keep her standing, firmed up his grip on her at the waist but she slid from his grasp leaving him holding nothing but her slinky one-piece dress. All the other Brothers in attendance agreed that her ensemble at that point was more appealing and attractive than the dress she had been wearing earlier.

As I recall, Mrs. Snow had no comments about this unfortunate incident, discretion being part of the housemother job description.

Awards 'R Us

Since the last printing of *The Taproot*, several Tau Phis received significant awards at the national, state, and university levels.

National – In 2000, Dr. **William M. Healy** (Fall '61) retired from the U.S. Forest Service after a 33-year career as a wildlife biologist, but his research still influences conservation and restoration efforts today.

In recognition of his contributions to wildlife conservation, Bill received the National Wild Turkey Federation's **Wayne Bailey Lifetime Achievement Award** in Nashville, Tenn. at their February 2015 annual convention.

This national award recognizes a wildlife biologist, trapper or wildlife manager who has devoted their career to the wild turkey and played a major role in the turkey's restoration and management.

His research included studies about nesting habitat, the effects of weather on survival rates and was also among the first to use human-raised turkeys in researching aspects of their behavior.



Bros. and NWTf Members Kevin Yoder (left) and Kevin Walter (right) Congratulate Bill Healy (center)

Bill (B.S. Forestry '64, M.S. Wildlife Management '67 – both PSU, and Ph.D. Forestry '71 - West Virginia University) and his wife, Georgette, reside on their farm in Smithville, West Virginia.

State – Last September, at the Penna. Forestry Association's quarterly business meeting in Wellsboro, they recognized **Roy A. Siefert** (Fall '74) with the **James T. Rothrock Award**.



Roy Siefert (left) Accepts PFA Award

The Rothrock Award recognizes actions and service that contribute to the continued conservation of Pennsylvania's forest resources in the spirit of PFA's founder, Dr. Joseph Trimble Rothrock.

"Screamer" (B.S. Forest Science '76), who spent 34 years with the Penna. DCNR Bureau of Forestry until his 2014 retirement as the district forester for the Tioga State Forest. He calls Middlebury Center, Penna. his home.

University – Later last October, the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences inducted **Thomas H. Yorke** (Fall '61) into their **Armsby Honor Society**.



Tom Yorke (center) Honored by PSU

Named in recognition of the college's first dean, Henry P. Armsby, this society was created to honor alumni and friends who have demonstrated a commitment to the PSU College of Agricultural Sciences.

Membership is offered to alumni and friends of the college who have served on the Ag Alumni Society board of directors or who have been honored with a college or University alumni award.

Tom (B.S. and M.S. Forestry '64 and '67) and his wife Jeanne, reside in Haymarket, Virginia.

—
Our congratulations go out to these worthy Tau Phi Delta Brothers – Bill, Roy, and Tom!

The Honorable Phis' Reports

The Grand National

By **Dave O'Barto** (Fall '90)

On behalf of the Grand National Chapter and the entire Brotherhood, I'd like to thank Br. Joel Bachert for his nearly two decades of service as the Grand National's Tau.

I first noticed Joel's dedication and love for TΦΔ when I had to type in his email address for the first time – "tpdevergreen@hotmail.com" – Says it all! Joel, we wish you all the

best and look forward to seeing you at the House.

As Joel rides off into the sunset, I'd like to welcome Br. Gene Odato as the new Tau. Thanks for stepping up Gene and we look forward to working with you and making Tau Phi Delta a better place.

obarto@comcast.net

The Board of Directors

By **Mike Prinkey** (Spring '96)

Greetings Brothers! The Fall Semester at Penn State is just underway and I'm sure many of you are preparing for all of those fun fall activities that we enjoy so much; raking leaves, carving pumpkins, and the like. Once you finish up all those to-do items, good luck in Penn's Wilds and beyond.

This summer we undertook a few additional upgrades at the house. All of the remaining windows in the house were replaced. This includes all of the Brothers' rooms. The roof on the house was planned for the summer, but hasn't been installed yet due to some challenges with the contractor. Hopefully we can still get this completed this year. All of these house improvement projects to date have been funded by the late Br. Porter Gearhart bequest.

In January of 2013, we organized and held a TΦΔ Leadership Summit (refer to *The Taproot* Volume 10/2013) that included attendees by the Board of Directors, Grand National, Foundation, Advisors, and Active Executives for the purpose of working on some issues and planning for the future. The event was attended by 13 Active and Alumni Brothers and was well received by all. Many open discussions were held on topics such as membership, communications, finances, and property improvements.

Recently at the time of publication of this alumni newsletter, we convened again, to review the progress made and again plan for future. A summary of the discussions and outcomes will be presented at the Fall Homecoming meeting. At that time, we will bring any resulting new business to a vote.

Also, you can expect to see a more detailed account of this meeting in the 2016 issue of *The Taproot*.

A few days I am frustrated by the challenges of our organization, but many days I am just amazed by the efforts of volunteers like Bros. Dave Eppinger and Joe Constanzo.

Neither of these Brothers have held a formal leadership position in a long time, but both have contributed in a meaningful way for many years.

Dave has handled the House's insurance needs for many years. He has recently stepped down from this activity, which really brought to light for me how much he had been doing.

While, Joe created, operated, and maintained the member directory database that is our only formal record of Brothers and Little Sisters. We are currently looking at ways to manage this in the future. Thanks again to both for their efforts.

I look forward to seeing many of you at Fall Homecoming. If you can't make then, but are in the area for a game or otherwise, make an effort to stop by the house and see the actives. Share a memory or some wisdom with them and in doing so you'll help pass along the traditions of our fine organization.

Should you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me. (814) 280-7888 *mip103@gmail.com*

Editor's Note: You can now email the entire organization. Messages can be sent to the master email list by addressing a message to: *tauphidelta-l@lists.psu.edu*.

If you would like to have an email address added, changed, or removed from the list, please let me know.

Foundation's Good News

By **Kory Enck** (Fall '86), Chair

The plans for the Tau Phi Delta Foundation include making scholarships available, formation of endowments, raising proceeds to support other educational endeavors, and finally to further Tau Phi Delta's educational mission.

Our fund-raising efforts continue, in part, with the ongoing efforts to solicit more patio paver sponsors.

With over 50 patio pavers bought, contributions hit the \$20,000 mark – Thus allowing us to improve our facility with a new patio!

Needless to say, this fundraiser



project continues to be a huge success, as requests keep coming in.

There's still room for more bricks and pavers to be engraved (see above sample). If you need additional information or an order form, contact us, or online: www.tauphidelta.org.

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

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

kenck@nrahq.org

House Phi's Message

By Kody Unangst (Fall '12)

Hello again, from the active Tau Phi Delta Brotherhood. Entering this fall semester, the House consists of 27 Actives, with 19 living in-house; the remaining rooms being occupied by a few borders, one pledge, one recent alumnus, and one non-affiliated.

Since the last issue of *The Taproot*, we have Brotherized 11 new members (4 – Fall '14 and 7 – Spring '15). They have installed a beautiful hardwood floor in part of the chapter room and constructed picnic tables for the patio. Needless to say, these men have been and continue to be great additions to our fraternity.

More exciting news is that we've pledged in 12 prospective members for the Fall '15 pledge class.

Finally, I would like to thank all the Alumni who have helped with projects around the House. Things like new windows and appliances help us all in many ways.

Your contributions do not go unnoticed and are greatly appreciated by all who live at or visit 427 East Fairmount Avenue.

Lastly, if you are an annual contributor to the Four Diamonds Fund/Dance Marathon (aka THON),

please remember to designate "Tau Phi Delta" on your mail-in or online donation form and we'll also get the fund-raising credit. Thank you!

I hope to see you soon at the fall Homecoming, as we have finally perfected the pig roast and it is sure to be delicious.

Feel free to contact me should you have any questions or comments.
(484)-894-3012 kou5005@psu.edu

Editor's Note: Do you know of someone who is a candidate to become a Brother? If so, pass this information along to any of the current Actives. Yes, our fraternity always is in need of more pledges; so please send the names of any known worthy candidates!

Advisors' Corner

By Martin McGann (Fall '73)

Looking back over the last several months, I figured that there are several things that would interest the Brotherhood that I have direct knowledge of.

The first are the new windows at the fraternity house. All this past summer, I have had Brothers come over to my house to help me construct a new three-season room (Yes, they were paid a wage commensurate with the regional average for construction). One thing I was told several times was how happy the Active Brothers were with the new windows: "They look great." "They work." And "They don't let the wind in anymore."

It was refreshing to see how pleased these young men were with the improvements provided through funding by the BOD. Of course, there may be some who will miss that drift of snow on the window sill inside their room this winter but overall, this is a great improvement.

At the beginning of the semester, I attended a fraternity advisors' meeting on campus where our friend, Roy Baker, the PSU Director of Greek Life, let us know what had happened and what is planned, vis-à-vis, the fraternity system on campus.

There were a number of fraternities that were in trouble with the

university, the borough, or their national (And sometimes all three). The degree of stupidity involved with some fraternity members' actions is truly amazing. I presume all of you should be familiar with the KAP (KDR) fiasco. They are currently suspended for three years.

What I found a bit disturbing was that the suspension was handed down, not by the IFC, but by the university. So is the IFC the governing authority for fraternities, or has the university usurped that role?

There are other dictates from the IFC that have come out dealing with restrictions on recruiting pledges, having social events, requirements for providing pledge educational materials for approval, times pledges can or can't be at a house and mandatory attendance at some IFC sponsored meetings. I suspect a politically incorrect cartoon may show the universities hand up the IFC's ass, making its mouth move.

Suffice it to say, things were much easier for fraternities years ago and for *ancient* alums such as myself, the change in rules from then till now is discouraging. The Actives though, seem to take it in stride and I feel will make the most of opportunities to follow, or circumvent, the rules.

Lastly, I attended the first House meeting of the fall semester. At that meeting Brothers were taking the initiative to address some of the most persistent, decades-long problems in the House. The major one being persons who don't pay their house bills. I have to think that we all need to support these initiatives coming from within so that the Actives will see that engagement and interest in the House doesn't stop after graduation.

I hope everyone had a good summer and I am looking forward to seeing at least some of you at both fall and spring Homecoming.

mrm19@psu.edu

Editor's Note: The other Co-Advisor, Shaun Doran (Fall '03), again sends his greetings to all from the fire line out west in Oregon and Washington. shdoran@pa.gov

Alumni Updates

World-renown artist – and former House Phi – **ERIC A. ARMUSIK** (Fall '92) recently won the People's Choice Award and Honorable Mention in a competition sponsored by Jerry's Art Arama for his self-portrait (See below).



Eric and wife, Rebekah, an accomplished novelist, and their children, Nadija, Milla and Alexei, call Hamburg, Pa. their home.

He's had a good year winning: People's Choice in a regional billboard competition, Finalist in both the Art Renewal Center International Salon and in the Figurative Painting Competition at the Museum of Modern Art in Barcelona, Spain.

Eric released two books *Invoking Tradition* and *Religious Paintings* featuring images of his paintings.

"I'm thankful to God for all I've been given!"

For more information on his work, go online: www.ericarmusik.com
ericarmusik@gmail.com

Editor's Note: Eric is the son of **BENJAMIN "BEN" ARMUSIK** (Fall '69) who resides in Middleburg, Fla.
armusikb@yahoo.com

RANDY BAUMAN (Spring '85) was recently promoted to regional forester in the southeastern regional office in Reading. He has been with the Penna. Game Commission for over two decades.

rbauman@pa.gov

Sadly, **DENNIS M. BREHM** (Fall '73) lost his battle with colon cancer on March 8, 2015. As the Director of Forestry/Chief Procurement Forester for Weaber Lumber located in Lebanon, Penna., he gave start to many newly-graduated Penn State foresters, many whom were Tau Phis. Included were **BILLY JOHNS, JEFF PATTEN, ART BIXLER, BRAD WAGNER, PAUL SHAFFER, DON KLINGER, JOHN LATCHER, BRANDON BEVAN** and **DAVE GUSTAFSON**; just to name a few.



He was an active member of the Penna. Forest Products Association, where he served as vice chair of their Sustainable Forestry Committee.

On behalf of Dennis' family, his sister, Little Sister **LINDA (BREHM) SCHINDLER** (Fall '75), wishes to thank the Brotherhood for the concerns and many condolences.

schindlerl@centurytel.net

Painted Post, N.Y. is the new home for **TOM BRESLIN** (Fall '54). "We moved there to a 'senior living' building (for those over 55 years young) to be closer to our children."

tomb3557@gmail.com

CHRIS "BIZZOL" CAMPBELL (Spring '98) lives in Cannonsburg, Penna., with wife, Gina, and children daughter, Hailey (7) and Connor (4). He enjoys small game, archery, turkey, and bear hunting. He is hoping that **TOM WISNIORSKI** (Fall '96) "Will shoot straighter this year, as compared to last year, if he even sees another bruin!"

cx434@yahoo.com

BILL CHERKO (Fall '62) has become a fanatic University of Conn. sports fan. He has season tickets and all that stuff for football, and says, "UConn isn't any good, but they are improving, and have Army and Navy on the schedule for this year."

cherkomoo2@yahoo.com

CLAYTON CRUM (Spring '85) dropped a note to say that he was working as a Special Education teacher in Georgetown, Del., and has two children in college. "I enjoy reading the news and latest information about the House."

After working 38+ years for Alpha Natural Resources as Director of Environmental Affairs, **TERRY DAYTON** (Fall '71) retired in 2012. Alpha is the 3rd largest coal company in the United States. Terry enjoys his retirement on his farm, and is catching up with undone projects.

His wife, Robyn, and he have been traveling, especially on fly fishing trips to the Bahamas and Belize. Their son, Chris, is a regional manager for Weyerbacher Brewing Co. and their daughter, Lois, is the environmental coordinator for Alpha.

tdayton@windstream.net

We are saddened to report the May 12, 2015 passing of Suzanne DeTuerk, wife of **JAMES R. DETUERK** (Fall '57). He's a Professor Emeritus with the PSU School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture. They lived in State College and were married at the Eisenhower Chapel 55 years ago.

jrd3@psu.edu

LEE EBELING (Fall '62) is now retired from his practice of structural engineering. He is married to his college sweetheart, Christine. They live in Great Falls, Mont., where the hunting and fishing is great. "All Tau Phis are welcome to join me for a fishing trip there!"

leeebeling@gmail.com

DAN GERBER (Spring '90) is currently working as a Right-of-Way Agent for the Penna. Power and Lighting in Lancaster, Penna. He's worked for PPL for 11 years, mostly in the Vegetation Mgmt. Department.

He does his forestry consulting work part-time. Jenny and he have been married for 23 years and have 2 sons – their oldest is a freshman at Susquehanna University and their youngest is a 7th grader.

dggerber@pplweb.com

Little Sister **ASHLEE (EARLY) GULVAS** recently married Cory Gulvas. She's a forester for the Penna. Bureau of Forestry out of the Tioga State Forest, while he works to the west at the same state agency's Susquehannock State Forest. They reside in Wellsboro.



One of their hobbies include collecting winter-dropped white-tailed deer antlers in the remote, rugged mountains of northern Penna.

agulvas@pa.gov

BILL HERB (Fall '65) isn't really a great fan of Florida (especially the college football teams), but he and Marian had a pleasant two-week trip there in February.



Bill had the good fortune to see about 200 manatees in the river at Blue Hole State Park, and managed to catch a couple of juvenile tarpon while in the Keys.

m.b.tailfeathers@gmail.com

ANDY HETRICK (Winter '78) continues his career with the Penna. Game Commission as regional forester in the southwestern regional office near Ligonier. He has been there 32 years, and is now looking forward to spending a lot more time in his archery stand or a few extra days fishing the local trout streams.

"I am encouraged by the number of Tau Phis who are now PGC foresters and doing great habitat work for our wildlife resources."

ahetrick@state.pa.us

In spring 2015, **CALEB HOFFMAN** (Fall '08), was hired fulltime as a forester for Penna. Game Commission out of the southcentral regional office in Huntingdon. However in November, he made a visit to one of this agency's bear check station. He filled his first bear tag while hunting with family, friends, and a band of Brothers in Potter County. His trophy bear, taken during a clearcut drive on the Elk State Forest, had an estimated live-weight of 533 pounds.



Other Tau Phi Delta Bear Hunters (Brothers) on the hunt included **WILL LEETE, DON KLINGER, GREG PEIFFER, KARL IMDORF, DAVE OBARTO, and HOWARD WURZBACHER.**

hoffmanforestry@gmail.com

The year 2014 marked the end of fun single ways of life for **GREGG "WIDGET" HORVAT** (Spring '98) as he wed Laura Fischer last August. He sent thanks to all the Tau Phis that made the trip to cheer him on.

gregg.horvat@gmail.com

RICHIE "DOC" KING (Fall '12) currently resides in Prosperity, Penna. and is working out of

Fairmont, W.Va., for Home Base, Inc. — a child advocacy and family preservation. His plans are to graduate from Indiana University of Penna. in spring 2016 with a M.S. in Hospital Administration. He is still trap shooting, hunting, and fishing.

Doc offers us a Hunter's Prayer that he has in his office, and feels that it suits the Brotherhood well:

"We pray for sights to be straight and aim to be true.

We pray for no pain to the game we pursue.

We thank you, Lord, for this land.

We thank you for the sights from our stand.

We pray for safety one and all.

We pray we may return next fall."

crks220@gmail.com

RAYMOND "PAPPY" J. LOMB (Fall '77), of Middletown, Md., passed from this life of an apparent heart attack on November 4, 2014. Ray was born and raised in Crafton, Penna. After leaving the Pittsburgh steel mills "for college" in his late 20s, he received his Associate in Forest Technology at Mont Alto, and continued on for another two years of study in Entomology. Moving to Maryland for a gypsy moth forestry pest study, he met his wife to be and married Debbie Smith in 1981. They were happily married for 33 years, and raised a family together.

Ray was known for his sense of humor, his work ethic, and his love of fishing. Many a Sunday morning he worshiped at the church of the great outdoors.

His pledge brother, **EARL HOWER**, noted, "I was saddened to hear the news about my old lab partner and fellow fraternity pledge brother. Whether at Mont Alto in Conklin Hall or at Tau Phi Delta, Ray was so well liked and admired by many for his blue collar roots, sense of humor, and his love of life."

DAVE B. "TROUT BUM" MESSICS (Fall '84) calls Jarrettsville, Md., home. Recently he was elected president of a local conservation club

Over~

in Pylesville – the Sportsman’s Chapter of the Izaak Walton League.

He began working for Judicial Watch, a government watchdog organization in Washington, DC, in September 2013. He is their Senior Manager of Strategic Giving, and works two days per week in the city and the rest of my time in his home office. And at times he’s on the road meeting with supporting donors. “Sadly, there’s plenty of scandals and job security these days.”

His family is all well. Megan is in 7th grade at St. Margaret’s in Bel Air, and Patrick, attends Archbishop Curley High School in Baltimore. His wife, Sue, works at a University of Md. research lab. “Life is good!”

Dmessics@aol.com

BILL MITCHELL (Fall ’60) let us know that he and Karen continue to enjoy Phoenix, Ariz. though he is getting itchy. They still like their travel – the latest in Uzbekistan. Fishing is still important with trips to Ennis, Mont., and Durango, Colo. They enjoy their winter visits from **ROBERT MILLI** and **DAVID BAUER**.
williammitchell2@cox.net

DAVE “OBO” OBARTO, (Fall ’90) notes that TΦΔ was once again well represented at the National Park Service’s Flight 93 Memorial Park during the 2015 tree planting days.



A handful of Alumni Bros. from assorted eras showed up on Friday, April 17, 2015 to plant native trees at the nearby site of the infamous 9-11 crash. Included were **MARK BRUNERMER**, **TOM WOLF**, **EARL HOWER**, **JASON ALBRIGHT**, **GENE ODATO**, and **MIKE MCNAMARA**.

If interested lending a hand at next year’s event, contact Dave.

obarto@comcast.net

A very belated notification of the death of **DELBERT L. “DEL” PERRY** (Fall ’42), who passed on March 31, 2012, at age 87.



Formerly of Piqua, Ohio, he graduated from Penn State with a B.S. degree in wood utilization (’48). But his initial Penn State schooling

was side-tracked for a few years as he volunteered during World War II, serving in the Navy as a Lieutenant Junior Grade aboard the USS Yancey in the South Pacific, at Iwo Jima and later in Okinawa.

He moved to Ohio to work for Hartzell Industries in the veneer division, and later as a manufacturer’s representative for Kewaunee Scientific Equipment.

Over the years Del has served the Piqua community in many ways, such as a PTA president, on the Town Tree Committee, a member of the Rotary Club and a Free Mason.

Work has begun on the new TΦΔ Website redesign and reboot. Updates should be more frequent due to ease and better integration with the Actives. To all Alumni, please send anything that you would like to contribute to our Webmaster **CORBIN RINEHART** (Spring ’08) at *cjr5109@gmail.com*. This includes any photos from your days in the House. “It would be great to have a running scrapbook for each decade going on the Web. Please send me any feedback as well.”

E. GARY SCOTT (Fall ’57) retired in 1997 from the Penna. DCNR Bureau of Forestry. He and his wife, Sharon, moved from Ebensburg to a retirement village near Bedford. They still travel a lot and spend time with their grandchildren. They are easy to find. “So Brothers are welcome to stop and visit anytime!”

snakegar@yahoo.com

After 31 years with State of Texas environmental agencies, **SID SLOCUM** (Spring ’70), has retired.

Sid and his wife, Tina, have temporarily relocated to Philadelphia to be close to the grandkids.

sidslocum@hotmail.com

While **TERENCE “TERRY” STEMMLER** (Fall ’75) is still working as the Penna. DCNR Bureau of Forestry’s district forester at the Gallitzin State Forest, he’s spending much of his recent vacation time abroad – salmon fishing in Alaska and later fishing pike and hunting caribou in Quebec, Canada. Aye!



The rest of his spare time is spent organizing another ’70s TΦΔ Reunion during the 2016 Spring Homecoming (Same weekend of the next Blue-White Game on April 16th). When they last gathered in spring 2010, they had a great turnout.

Refer to the back of the enclosed alumni update form (or online at *www.tauphidelta.org* and search the Alumni page) for more details. Volunteers to help are welcomed.

He recently ran into **JOHN SHOTZBERGER** (Fall ’74) on a Idaho forest fire assignment. John and his wife, Deana, are going to try and make it back east from Libby, Mont. next April for the ’70s Reunion.

terencestemmler@yahoo.com

AL TAUSES (Fall ’72) moved to northern Maine after graduation to practice forestry, and spent 35 years not “working but having an “adventure every day.” When he retired, he sold his house, bought an RV, and volunteers across the country. He had been volunteering for U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service at the Crystal River National Wildlife in Florida.

While he was there, he met **CARL WOLF** (Fall ’58) — who was travelling as well — and he told Al that **CHUCK STRAUSS** (Fall ’56) was his roommate.

This is the second time while on the road, that Al ran into Tau Phis. The first time was **FRED KOSER** (Fall '72) in California. Al would welcome the opportunity to meet other Tau Phis on his travels. His next stop is Wisconsin.



Al also noted that the picture (↑) on our fraternity's Website alumni home page (www.tauphidelta.org) is of his pledge class at the camp located north of Renovo that is owned by the family of **FRED KOSER**.

atauses@aol.com

Remember the Tullio sisters? Well in April during the this year's Flight 93 Memorial Park's annual tree planting days, the participating Brothers were pleasantly surprised when two Little Sisters (circa mid-1970s) approached them to say "Hi!"



MARY JANE "MJ" (TULLIO) MCFADDEN and **TERESA "TERRI" (TULLIO) SPRINGER** — also both sisters — were there on special volunteer assignment to remove exotic/invasive plants. Both were part of the TΦΔ's first series of Little Sister pledge classes in the trimesters of 1974 and 1975.

MJ graduated with a B.S. in Parks and Recreation ('77), resides in Connellsville, and recently retired from the U.S. Park Service. Her last post was at Fort Necessity National Battlefield in nearby Fayette County.

After graduating with a B.S. in General Agriculture ('74), Terri earned an M.S. Agriculture Education ('81). Most recently she

spent over three decades teaching, as well a near decade as an interpretive technician at the Ohio State Park. She's currently employed at the Fayette Co. Conservation District.

Teri resides in Mill Run with husband, Bill. "We have 25-acre farm, and raise Scottish highland cattle, horses, a dog and cat for entertainment."

"We're only minutes away from Ohio State, Fallingwater, Nemaquin, and Seven Springs, so if anyone is passing through, give us a shout!"

MJ: *psux2@zoominternet.net*

Terri: *btspring@lhtot.com*

ERIC S. "RIC" ULRICH (Spring '61) stopped growing Christmas trees after 40 years of a "choose and cut" hobby operation on a few acres at their rural home. He is now growing American Chestnuts for the Pennsylvania Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation. It allows him to keep his "head in the game and his hands in the dirt".

Ric says "I believe it is important to keep the pure American Chestnut germplasm alive for future restoration of Pennsylvania native chestnuts. Our Pennsylvania natives have awesome form and growth."

ricstree@comcast.net

HARRY "FAT LAT" VITOLINS (Fall '75) of Cogan Station, Penna. writes, "I've had writing *The Taproot* on my 'things-to-do' list thinking I have time. Procrastination, appears to not to go away in retirement."

He started work for the Penna. Dept. of Environmental Protection in 1978 and retired in 2013 as a Water Pollution Biologist Supervisor.

In his parting email to his colleagues read: "It's been 35+ years when I started with the then- DEP in the York District Office, making \$5.89 an hour. I have survived eleven secretaries that headed up this state agency."

He and wife, Connie, have been taking it slow and enjoying their 4-year old grandson, Cason. "I've been teaching him to cast a fishing line, call turkeys and walk on contours

that are very close together on a topographical map, thus preparing him to drive deer for me someday at camp in the hills of Lycoming County. Retirement has been a blessing and it's been nice that I don't have to do as my chores in the dark with lights on after work, like mowing grass or stacking firewood."

hmvit@yahoo.com (570)447-7499

Last fall, a western big game hunt fraternity reunion was held in the Bridger-Teton National Forest. It was attended by expert elk hunter **STEVE "BENNY" WARNER** (Fall '75) who served as the camp's cook, along with **JAMES "CATFISH" BINDER** and **HOWARD "DOKEY" WURZBACHER** (both Spring '77), **TIM HOLTZ** (Spring '79), brothers **WILLIAM "BILLY" (Fall '79)** and **FREEMAN "FEE-FEE" JOHNS** (Spring '81), and **TROY SHAW** (Spring '84).



These Tau Phis got to celebrate on the last day in camp with a first-timer, and the only successful elk hunter, Billy's teen-aged son, Will. **RICHARD "SKEETER" WARNER** (Fall '57) and his wife, Pat, still live in Corvallis, Ore. Skeeter has developed a severe case of peripheral neuropathy and is now bound to a wheelchair. No more running from grizzly bears in Alaska!

werner@peak.org

KLAUS WEIKMANN (Fall '66) wrote that he was looking forward to seeing some pledge brothers who he had last seen in 1969. An annual November hunting trip (see **TOM WOLF** update) in the vicinity of Sundance, Wyoming, is the impetus for his desires — this along with a visit by

Over ~

DON YOUNG (Fall '66) and his wife, Margie, to Boulder, Co. in 2013.

klaus.weickmann@comcast.net

A longtime supporter of TΦΔ and benefactor to the Penna. Forestry Association, **HENRY "HANK" WESSEL, ESQ.** (Fall '42) passed away at age 92 on May 20, 2015.

Before he could graduate from Penn State in forestry ('47), he entered the Army and served in the 69th Infantry Division in Europe. After the war, he earned his law degree at Temple and was a practiced law in the Philadelphia area.

Hank was very instrumental in helping us to acquire our current 427 East Fairmount property in 1968.

In his later years, he developed serious vision problems. Although blind, he managed to travel by bus with his wife, Barbara, to attend the April 2007 PSU School of Forest Resources Centennial celebration. That was also his last fraternity visit.

TOM WOLF (Fall '66) wrote that he and Sharon took their third western car trip in fall 2014. They drove 8,000 miles through California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas — mostly National Parks. He noted that they were all worth the visit, but we really "should believe those who say it is hot and dry out there."

Tom also had another great Wyoming deer hunt with a few Brothers: **JACK BYERLY** (Fall '65), **ARMSTRONG** and **HOWARD FEDDEN** (both Fall '70), and master campfire chef, **TOM MUSCHLITZ** (Fall '66). "Good campfires, good stories, good food, good memories, and good hunting, was had by all!"

wolft@verizon.net

Another older and long-surviving Tau Phi, **ROBERT GANS ZELLERS** (Fall '39), of Economy Borough, Penna., passed away peacefully, at age 96, on February 1, 2015, after a prolonged but gentle decline.



Born in 1918 in Easton, Penna., Bob loved the great outdoors, especially hunting and fishing.

After he graduated in forestry ('41),

the war hampered his career in the forest. Enlisting during World War II, took him to southern France as an Army Medical Tech. Specialist. He later married 2nd Lt. Ruth Greenwell, a in the Army Nurse Corps, in 1944.

After the war, a forestry career of a few years was followed by surveying and then serving as the Monroe County (Penna.) deputy tax assessor.

Supporting The Taproot

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

Each year individuals or groups of Brothers and Little Sisters 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 Brothers and a Little Sister have donated \$20 to \$100 for a generous total of \$1,400 toward the cost of printing and mailing *The Taproot*.

Stan Arner	Joe Bartniki
Tom Breslin	Chris Campbell
Bill Cherko	Clayton Crum
Terry Dayton	Lee Ebeling
Daniel Gerber	Dave Glaesser
Kay (Goehring) Brockett	
Bill Herb	Andrew Hetrick
Gregg Horvat	Earl Hower
Richie King	Dave Messics
Bill Mitchell	E. Gary Scott
Karl Shaffer	Roy Siefert
Sid Slocum	Terry Stemmler
Albert Tausas	Charles Thuma
Steve Toth	Eric Ulrich
Klaus Weickmann	Richard Werner
Thomas Wolf	Howard Wurzbacher

We thank you for your continued support of *The Taproot*; your contributions have met our goal to support the printing and mailing of this issue. Keep up the good work!

Please take a few minutes to complete the inserted yellow alumni update sheet in this issue (Or found online at www.tauphidelta.org) and send it back to us.

Also, sending a check for any amount to support *The Taproot* would also help and would be much appreciated!

You also can send an update by emailing Bill Herb, Editor, at: *m.b.tailfeathers@gmail.com*.



An on-the-job reunion of nearly two dozen Tau Phi Delta Brothers and Little Sisters was held in January 2014, when the all foresters of the Penna. Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources' Bureau of Forestry held their statewide management meeting at a conference center in State College.



Tau Phis Of The Bureau (left to right standing) Bill Cook, Gene Odato, Terry Stemmler, John Maza, John Brodnicki, Cecile Stelter, Bob Fitterling, Joe Engel, Mike Becker. (sitting) Jason Albright, Andy Duncan, Eric Probert, Dave Aurand, Eric Fritzinger, Shaun Doran, Ashlee Gulvas, Luke Ulsamer, and Chris Layaou. (not present) Roy Siefert, Charles Choplick, Dan Dicamillo, and Paul Weiss.

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

By Bill Mitchell (Fall '61)

“Hey-You – The Beginning”

Prequel: “The Most Interesting Dog In The World”

In the fall 2013 issue of *The Taproot*, Br. Bill Herb provided a great recollection about the exploits of a beagle named Hey-You, who reluctantly shared *his* house with ΤΦΔ Fraternity in the 60s. However, I had a part in Hey-You’s arrival and pledging.

Hey-You — The Revelation. The delivery of Hey-You to the House is a “shaggy dog” story in itself. I had been elected Phi in the spring of 1962. That summer I worked for Dr. L.D. Love, a U.S. Forest Service researcher based in Fort Collins, Colo. My job was to visit three selected campgrounds in New Mex. and Ariz. each twice. I would record hourly use at formal campsites at each campground. Each visit entailed five days and I recorded hourly use from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The data sheet for each campsite required filling in a lot of detail. I had per diem and a huge green Chevy station wagon sufficient to sleep in if necessary. I put on 10,000 miles over 3½ months and had a casita near the University of New Mexico for the weekends.

One particular day I was working on Mt. Lemon outside of Tucson. A blonde California valley girl sidles up to the car to chat. I proceeded to gather some personal data when a monster clap of thunder and bolt of lightning hit a Ponderosa pine about 50 feet away, knocking us both to the ground. Getting up, I observed she had beautiful green eyes, a golden tan, and a pink acrylic halter-top under *extreme* tension. I thought back to Physics 101 and the marvel of electrostatic fields.

Unfortunately, her parents came running and led her away. I was left to ponder the meaning of it all. Then it came — through the smoke, lust, and smelly, charred bark — a revelation: I was to return to our Fraternity and bring forth a dog. It was a dog intended to unite the Brotherhood and give the House a campus reputation.

I completed my summer of data collecting job and had to return the government-issued car to Fort

Collins. The Chevy persuaded me to take a meandering southern route north and stop at each border crossing along the Ariz. and N. Mex. line. I’d walk across the border, mingle with the natives of that other country, and purchase 4 liters of spirit at every stop. It was a way to learn Spanish and the meaning of ‘*Oso Negro.*’ Back in Ft. Collins I carefully wrapped my glassware in my sleeping bag, Indian blankets, serapes, cowboy boots, etc. in one big cardboard box and shipped it via Railway Express to State College and flew home.

Hey-You — Lost and Found. Shortly after getting back to the House for the fall term, I borrowed someone’s car and with two brothers whom I don’t recall (Well, it has been 53 years ago) went to the Centre County SPCA in Centre Hall one afternoon after class. As I recall, there weren’t too many dog choices; most seemed to have one drawback or another as we evaluated the lot. A small beagle stood apart, stared at us and wagged his tail very slowly. It is true: he got us at first stare. I made a \$5 donation and we had a mascot. We didn’t ask if he was neutered.

Back at the House, I can’t say the all the Brothers were ecstatic judging by the half-hearted murmurings. Sarah, the cook, was keeping her thoughts to herself. There was no red carpet. That first night Hey-You slept under my bed offering a whimper or two.

Here my memory gets hazy (Perhaps a guilty conscience?) regarding my nurturing him (Or lack thereof). I did buy him a collar and leash, and did get a license. But I don’t recall ever feeding him or buying real dog food, giving him exercise or obedience training. After all, we had a houseful of pledges that each required the same attention.



Pledge Hey-You

Continued – Page 12 See: Hey-You

Hey-You (From page 11)

As a pledge, Hey-You quickly figured out who was his friend, who had the better bed, and who gave him a lot of slack. After two weeks, he decided where to bed down. While I wasn't the best parent, I tried to make sure he was in the House by curfew, and read him inspirational dog tales. Most importantly I did name him. I can't point to any one thing that gave me the inspiration for his unique name. Revelations are hard to decipher ... unless accompanied by a bolt of lightning and a halter top. My innate modesty prevents me from boasting of such a great name. It was tough, considering possible printable candidate names such as: Schmidts of Philadelphia, Pabst, Rolling Rock, or Tamacus II.

Hey-You — Not A Lone Pup. At this point, I should mention another dog that figures in the collective canine house memory. It was a greyhound named Tamacus. If you check the Fraternity's escutcheon or look at your fraternity pin, which you are undoubtedly wearing at this moment, you will note a dog similar to a greyhound on at the top of the shield. (Escutcheon is also a medical term, but I digress).

The mystery for you readers: Why is the greyhound there? Ironically, Br. Wade Nutter, Phi (Circa 1959), had obtained an 8-month old greyhound from Br. Robert Forney's dad, a veterinarian in Hershey. The dog was meant to help boost fraternity solidarity. To Br. Nutter, I owe my idea of getting another mascot. Br. Nutter recently recalled that Tamacus, his greyhound, enjoyed squirrels and girls.

He slept in Br. Nutter's closet, always choosing the dirtiest pile of clothes. He was a campus fixture and would go to class in the morning and come home at noon, nap, and greet the boys at supper. Unfortunately two years on, he was hit by a cement truck on College Avenue as he headed home. Certainly, it can be said that Tamacus had a greyhound identity crisis not to mention a fatally slow gait. Nutter also remembers that the original Tamacus was a mythological swordsman of generous reputation and proportion – A fitting description of the Tau Phi Delta Brotherhood.

Sometime in late October, I got a phone call on the fraternity phone from the local train station. With borrowed car, we retrieved my shipped box and bottles of Mexican hooch. We had a great party that weekend. Speaking of phones, I remember the house at 238 Fairmont had three phone lines. Adams 7-2207 was the exchange. The house had quiet hours from 7 to 10

p.m. Remarkably few calls were made/received during the break. (My, how times have changed!)

Hey-You — The Hunter. For a while Hey-You kept a low profile; he just ate, grew, and psyched out the environment. One beautiful fall Saturday morning, some of the Brothers decided to go hunting on a property around Waddle that Br. Bartholemew had leased. I think the hard core hunters, such as Bros. Bartholemew, Bartnicki, and Molli and the "Schreck" were in the party.

I asked to join and bring Hey-You. After some grumbling, I got a yes, and that is when the trouble began.

When afield, we loaded up and discussed how we would work the plot, I unleashed Hey-You, who of course had seen not a field let alone a rabbit or pheasant.

When I use the phrase "*then it hit the fan*" this is an understatement. Without the leash, Hey-You exploded down the field, bugling like a veteran hunting dog, ripping into bramble patches and bounding up in three-foot tall grass to see.



Rabbits squirted in all directions, moving like agitated molecules. Hey-You picked up on one rabbit, tore after it and began to gain. Hoping madly, it ran under a 7-foot cattle fence. Hey-You abruptly slammed into the fence, then, unbelievably, climbed up and over and down the other side without breaking stride. Meanwhile, he still barked frantically.

All of us just stood in our tracks, mouths agape, as this rogue drone was clearly berserk and was ignoring our calls. "What the #%&*!" Our actual verbal exclamations upon witnessing this primeval display of "genes will be genes" are best left to your imagination.

We knew then that we had some kind of weird dog. His habit of driving rabbits into a hunting group needed some correction as shooting each other vice the rabbit was not a good plan.

... **To be continued Fall 2016**



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

This continuing feature of The Taproot — is a place much like the oaken walls of our fraternity — where Brothers can share their successes and failures, in the great outdoors. Send us your tall tales and any related photos for future edition.

Tau Phis in the Great Outdoors

The forest and fields and fish-filled waters are our playground

“My Bear Hunt For The Ages”

As told by Chad Hartzell (Fall '89)

Illustrations by Steve Torok (Spring '86)

What do I remember? It feels like ages ago. Actually it was ten years ago this fall; yet it is as clear as if it had just happened yesterday.

It was our fraternity's annual bear hunt and the 2005 season was particularly a special one for Tau Phis. The House was full of energy, as the *Field and Stream* magazine had sent a renowned writer and staff photographer to cover our hunt. Spirits were high. Combined with the successes of the first day's bear drives, it turned the place into celebration like none before.

That evening after the hunt, with our gear stored, rifles cased, and three bears on the meat pole, it was time for some adult beverages and of course entertainment for the evening. For those that were present, you know what I mean.

Bros. Kevin Walter and Bob Fitterling and I had our tags on these bruins and we were the center focus of the unplanned festivities at the fraternity.

Even though the next day, we were exempt from doing drives, all three of us were busy and had spent the whole day dealing with taxidermists and butchers. But I had plenty of time to reflect on my bear hunting experiences — all centered around the Brotherhood.

Being a lifelong hunter, joining Tau Phi Delta was a natural move with its many outdoorsmen traditions that included the annual black bear hunt. I could not think of a better place to learn all the ropes and develop my skills by participating in successful bear drives.

My first bear hunt happened during my pledge period in 1989. So, yes, I wore my pledge pin on my hunting vest. Now that's hardcore!

I remember when I was asked if I wanted to go bear hunting. I didn't know what to expect, but after the first year I was hooked.

My family never hunted for bears considering I grew up in Adams County with very little sign of them. Whitetail deer were our fix.

Through the years, my experiences included bear hunting in many different locations statewide and with an array of skilled, serious Tau Phi Delta bear hunters from varying eras. They included those dedicated bear hunt organizers, such as Bros. Dave Gustafson, Kevin Horner, Earl Hower, Gene Odato, Steve Torok and Pat Weiss. While hunting out of the fraternity house, we hunted in Centre, Mifflin, and Huntingdon counties. When with the “golden bears” — the older alumni who moved north — we've hunted in Potter, Tioga, McKean, and Cameron counties.

This has given me plenty of exposure to different and, yes, difficult terrains where black bears call their home. In oak forests, we hunted rocky slopes with mountain laurel thick as the hair on a dog's back and tangled rhododendrons grown 20-feet tall. While hunting in beech-maple forest type, we drove in some of the wildest, thickest, nastiest, most briar-infested clear cuts on both state and corporate forestlands found in the northern tier.

During my first 15 years, I had seen four bruins before taking my first shot at one. In fact, I saw two with a gun in my hand during my first year bear hunting.

The first when I was driving, actually crawling through a laurel-covered, 75-degree slope. I saw a flash of black fur and then briefly made out the rump of a bear as it disappeared only a few yards in front of me.



This was during my first drive, a House hunt in Cox's Valley in the nearby Seven Mountains.

At first I thought — since I was still a pledge — that the rigorous torture as a driver must have been hazing. However it occurred to me that there were Brothers, both actives and alumni, equally participating in the same challenging drive.

Continued – Page 14 See: My Bear Hunt

My Bear Hunt (From page 13)

Later that evening, I was “kidnapped” and on the next day I ended up with the older, perhaps wiser, Tau Phi, hunting out of Br. Roy Siefert’s then home in southern Potter County. That afternoon, I was standing next to Br. Dan Dicamillo when he took his long-distance shot at a 400-pound bear across a snow-covered Steer Hollow.

Again in Potter County’s Susquehannock State Forest in 2000, I kicked up a bear at a short distance in front of me during a beech brush clearcut drive and it ran to my left to another driver. Br. Gene Odato hit it, we tracked it, but we lost it as it entered posted private property. Soon after it was shot by the adjacent landowner.

The next encounter with a bear was in 2002 while in the Asaph Wild Area of the Tioga State Forest. I was the forward, right flanker on a drive and a bear jumped out of an old cut in front of me and disappeared into a patch of laurel and huge boulders as fast as it had appeared.

After hunting out of the northern camp for numerous years, I opted to take leave of the bear hunt. This became especially critical as a newlywed and later when my daughter was born in November 2004. To be able to keep the peace on the home front, I decided to hunt closer to home. So I returned to hunt with the House a year later.

First day of the 2005 bear season was a cold one! This is typical weather for good bear hunting. I remember the heart-pounding, pre-dawn hike, actually more like a forced march, into the Detweiler Run Natural Area in the Rothrock State Forest. Dressing light to hike in, we changed out of our sweat-soaked clothes once we arrived to our first drive’s set-up location.

A long story made short. Kevin, as a poster, tagged his bear during the first drive. A few bears were sighted, shot at, and missed during this drive.

Now in our second drive, Bob was driving when he stepped into a small, rocky opening when he anticipated an opportunity, after hearing another driver above him shout, “Bear!” He quickly loaded a live .30-30 round in the chamber, took his shot at 8 paces, dropping another bear.

I was posted a few hundred yards away and leaning against an ancient hemlock near the bottom of the slope not far from the stream. I struggled to figure out all the distant shouts and shots fired over the sounds of the gurgling creek below me. Suddenly I heard someone close by within the drive scream, “Bear in the drive!” I

couldn’t get a fix on the direction. This was followed by the report of another rifle.

Then I clearly heard a twig snap and I peered into the dense cover in front of me. I was staring straight into the eyes of bear about 50 yards away.



It continued towards me and dropped momentarily out of sight into a rocky depression. I lifted and sighted my rifle ahead as it left the ditch at about 20 paces. My .30-06 shot hit my target square in the chest and this bear flipped backwards and went silent and still.

Almost an hour passed after my shot, when the drive had fully ended. My knees were weak and my hands were still shaking. I struggled to pull out my sheath knife. I vaguely recall the small crowd of Brothers gathered around and congratulating me.

After tagging my 200-pound female bear, I looked down to admire my prize. I do remember paying homage to this magnificent animal and her full, shiny, black coat and saying quietly to myself, “Thank you, bear!”

The bear hunts with my *blood brothers* will live with me as some of the best hunts and times that I ever had as a pledge, an active Brother, and, now, an alumnus. I am honored to be part of this Tau Phi Delta tradition.



Editor’s Note: Refer to the TΦΔ Website (www.tauphidelta.org) for the achieved copy of *The Taproot* – Volume 1/Fall 2004 with the complete history of our decades-long bear hunting tradition.

Also on the same Website, you can find a reprint of the September 2006 *Field and Stream* article “Blood Brothers” by T. Edward Nickens, with photography by Erika Larsen.

Reunions: TΦΔ Style



A reunion, as defined in *Webster's Dictionary*, is:

- 1) The act or process of coming together again;
- 2) The state or condition of having been brought together again;
- 3) A gathering of relatives, friends, or former associates.

More specially, it's a "gathering of the members of a group who have been separated by time or distance." Sound familiar?

Much has been reported in past issues of *The Taproot* about our own style of reunions. A '60s Reunion in 2012 that included a cruise (see above photo) and a '70s Reunion held during the 2010 spring homecoming were both were big hits!

While our largest record reunion of Tau Phis of recent, was during the 2007 PSU School of Forest Resources Centennial. This gathering at the House included catered fillet mignon under a large circus-style canopy tent with *real* china, crystal and silverware. The affair drew over 100 alumni and guests from a span six decades — 1942 to 2002.

It should be of no surprise that hunting is at the center of a fair number of these reunions. For years, they have set up camp in national forests in western states, or in cabins in Penn's Woods. Some may have even found time to hunt a little.

There are times that even work place meetings become the venue for a "work-related" reunion (see page 10). Annually the Penna. DCNR holds statewide staff forester meetings in State College. This makes a perfect venue for those Tau Phis within their ranks to get together; although a few may have gathered after hours at the Rathskellar.

Regardless, if your TΦΔ Reunion is at an SAF Convention in Seattle, Wash., an orchard tour in Parkdale, Ore., a golf course in Port Matilda, Penna., or a snowbird's condo in Naples, Fla., we'd love to hear about your successful event.

Editor's Note: Refer to the enclosed insert for more details on the next planned '70s Reunion (April 16, 2016).

Years Gone By

Long before the invention of the internet and social media, Br. Carl Wolfe (Fall '58) was caught on campus one sunny spring day, snapping candid photos of young coeds while walking to class.

Pledge Phil Simonski (Spring '59) observes and takes careful, detailed notes. Check out the pledge log on the lower left corner!



Another Tau Phi Kodak Moment

Unless you trust the U.S. Mail to safely deliver it, send us electronically any digital photos from previous years at Tau Phi Delta. Please be sure to identify those in the photos and explain to the best of your ability as to what it is all about.

Editor's Note: We would appreciate any photos of Br. Sam Nenno's blue jeep.

Next Issue ...

The next issue of *The Taproot* (possibly for Tau Phis in the Great Outdoors) will feature the delayed printing of those "Trout Bums Of Tau Phi Delta." It's about Brothers and Little Sisters whose life is centered on the most popular North American gamefish species — the trout. Such as those who love angling, do guiding and instructing, compete and promote the sport, and work in managing fisheries, and volunteer to stock and improve habitat. Send your "fish tales" to Earl Hower at: earlh@iwla.org.

Likewise, Bill Herb is looking for a few more short stories on the strangest pets kept and cared for in the fraternity house. Send your "crazy critter" stories to: m.b.tailfeathers@gmail.com.

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



FALL HOMECOMING

October 10, 2015

9:00 AM	Fraternity Board of Directors & Foundation Trustees Meeting
11:00 AM	Light Lunch
12:00 PM (Noon)	Football Game Kick-Off – Penn State vs. Indiana
One Hour After Game	Victory Celebration Dinner with Beverages at the House Serving Roasted Hog named “Hoosier”

~ \$25 per person or \$45 per couple for lunch and dinner ~

For more information, contact:

Austin Noguera or Kevin Stough, Alumni Committee Co-Chairmen

House: (814) 237-2207 **Cell:** (610) 763-3714 **or** (717) 818-6171

Email: agn5046@psu.edu **or** kms5428@psu.edu

Mark your calendar: Spring Homecoming – 70s Decade Reunion will be April 16, 2016.