



A Celebration To Remember!



Over 340 Tau Phis and their guests attended our four-day Centennial Celebration held on the Main Campus, and at TΦΔ, State College Ramada and Mont Alto Campus.

INSIDE:

- 2** Our Centennial Celebration
 - 5** PSU President's Letter to TΦΔ
 - 6** The Honorable Phis' Reports
 - 10** Alumni Updates
 - 14** Old House Heritage
- Special Insert:**
"News From The Treehouse"

The 100-Year Flood At TΦΔ – Two short months after the centennial weekend and during the recent Christmas break, when temperatures in Happy Valley plummeted to sub-zero degrees, the boiler shut down and a main water pipe froze. Soon after, substantial flooding occurred causing significant damage in the basement and on the first-floor levels of the House.

Until further notice, access to the fraternity house at 427 East Fairmount is currently **CLOSED** to everyone—except State College Borough and Centre Region Code inspectors, property management staff, insurance company representatives, and authorized construction and mitigation company crews.

Please do **NOT** attempt to access the House (including parking lot and patio) unless otherwise authorized by the Tau Phi Delta Corporation Board. This includes during April's Blue-White Game as well as July's Jim Evans Memorial Golf Tournament and the week of the Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts (the Arts Fest).

The Taproot

**Tau Phi Delta Fraternity
Penn State Alpha Chapter**
427 East Fairmount Avenue
State College, PA 16801-5711
(814) 237-2207
www.tauphidelta.org

The Tau Phi Delta Foundation Board of Trustees

Officers: Kory Enck, Chairman
Ben Hoffman, Treasurer
Sean Sweeney, Secretary
Trustee: Franklin Judd
Planned Giving Specialist:
Dave Messics

TΦΔ Grand National Chapter

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

Tau Phi Delta Corporation Board of Directors

Officers: Rich Kappel, Phi
Andy Krawzyck Alpha Phi
Daniel Gerber, Tau
Jared Adams, Sigma
Directors: Shaun Doran,
Eric Horvat, Travis Kostyal,
Corbin Rinehart, Kody Unangst &
Jack Breen

The Taproot

Editor: Bill Herb
Associate Editors: Earl Hower,
Ben Emminger & Jim Clark
Honorary Editors: Tom Yorke and
Adam Heggenstaller
Mailing List and Circulation:
Christine Eberhart, Earl Hower &
Jack Breen
Contributors: Kory Enck, Dave
O'Barto, Rich Kappel & Bill Herb
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.

All back issues of *The Taproot*
published since 2004 can be found
online at: www.tauphidelta.org by
navigating to the "Alumni" page.

Our Centennial Celebration

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 Brothers formed an organization built on solid ideals, core values and a genuine love for the out-of-doors. A fraternity today by thousands as Tau Phi Delta.

On behalf of the Tau Phi Delta Centennial Committee, we extend our appreciation to those in attendance for your participation during our recent centennial celebration. Yes, you did your part to make this event a huge success!

We hope your visit back to our fraternity was enjoyable and that you were able to rekindle old friendships as well as meet many of the 300-plus Tau Phis and their significant others of all ages in attendance.

We'd also like to thank the many of you who supported the fundraising efforts prior to and during this celebration. Thank you for making the trip to be part of this special gathering!



There was a well-attended PSU Arboretum Tour on campus during Friday afternoon. Followed by the evening's Pizza Party and Craft Beverage Social featuring Br. GENE ODATO'S "Artisan's Pizza" portable Wood-Fired Brick Pizza Oven.



The entire celebration weekend was a grand success and offered an opportunity for the many attending Tau Phis from all eras to visit and socialize while meeting others.



Plenty of good food at Saturday afternoon’s BBQ gathering held under a large, rented circus tent. A standing-room-only crowd watched the Penn State – Michigan football game on the big screen TV, while others played cornhole, tossed horseshoes, fed the fire ring or partook in a few more adult beverages on the patio and in backyard.



The Current Phis

Dozens of folks relaxed in the chapter room, viewing the many historic memorabilia on display and examining the old House composites along with many scrapbooks filled with memories.

The TΦΔ Fraternity leaders, three current Phis, planted the Centennial Tree and buried a Time Capsule included (Above “The Current Phis” photo L to R) Bros. **RICH KAPPEL** (Corporation), **SEAN MCCANN** (Active House) and **DAVE O’BARTO** (Grand National).



There was the presentation of an original painting “Our Founding Brothers – Circa 1922” painted Br. **STEVE TOROK** that is now proudly displayed in our chapter room. Also introduced was a recent gift from the Brothers of the Washington Alpha Chapter—a lost redwood slab with our carved Greek letters that was once their entrance sign on their fraternity house in Seattle—given to us for safe keeping.

A group of Brothers, representing the 1956 – 1969 classes, visited their old fraternity house, located at 238 East Fairmount Avenue, to reflect and reminisce their many fond memories.

Later that evening, a silent auction was a huge success, featuring many quality items up for bid, such a custom fly rod, a treehouse crosscut saw, and a few cornhole board sets. Along with lots of outdoor gear, wildlife artwork and other collectables, there was even a vintage bottle of Old Forester 1920 Prohibition Bourbon with a set of etched glassware and engraved coasters with the TΦΔ centennial logo.



The Gathering At The Old Fraternity House

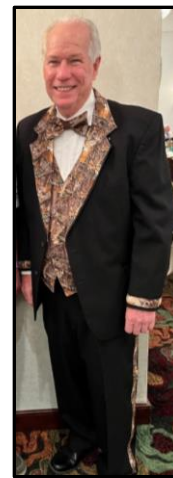




A Full House At The Centennial Banquet

Editor's Note: This amazing video is available online for your viewing at www.tauphidelta.org/about1 (or by navigating to "Alumni" webpage and then onto "2022 Centennial Celebration").

The Tau Phi Delta Foundation's Saturday's night 100th Anniversary Banquet filled over 300 seats in the Ramada Inn Conference Center.



The evening event featured Br. [←] **JIM CLARK** who entertained the crowd as the event emcee, a Br. **CHUCK STRAUSS'** reading of a congratulatory letter from the Penn State president, Dr. Neeli Bendapudi (see page 5), various Tau Phi leadership presentations, a special Honorary Little Sister recognition for Mrs. **CAROL STRAUSS** and the viewing of a 20-minute historical video "100 Years of Brotherhood."



Little Sisters From Six Decades Gathered After The Banquet

Sunday morning's brunch featured a keynote speaker, Dr. Jim Edwards, [→] president of the Lion Fraternity Alumni Association, who spoke to 150 Tau Phis about the many challenges that Greeks face today at Penn State.



On Monday, the PSU Mont Alto Campus welcomed and recognized dozens of visiting Tau Phis at the front steps of Wiestling Hall and provided a lunch reception and a campus arboretum tour.

Later, a ceremonial dedication for a TΦΔ Centennial Tree, along with a pewter display placard (below), was held near Conklin Hall.



Overall, the Tau Phi Delta Centennial Celebration was a grand success ... 100 years in the making!

Congratulations Tau Phi Delta Fraternity!



Dr. Neeli Bendapudi
President
Pennsylvania State University



PennState

Neeli Bendapudi, Ph.D.
President
The Pennsylvania State University
201 Old Main
University Park, PA 16802

814-865-7611
Fax: 814-863-8583
president@psu.edu

October 14, 2022

Sean McCann
President
Tau Phi Delta Fraternity
427 East Fairmount Avenue
State College, PA 16801

Dear Sean:

On behalf of the entire Penn State family, it is my great honor to extend my congratulations to you, your Brothers, and your Little Sisters on Tau Phi Delta's centennial anniversary.

For more than 100 years, Tau Phi Delta has elevated our university community, and communities across the Commonwealth, through outstanding commitment and service. From your beginnings as the Pennsylvania State College's Forestry Club to the impactful organization you are today, Tau Phi Delta—including its active members and engaged alumni—has not only enriched conservation efforts and academic achievement but has also shown outstanding support for the University and your fellow students through blood drives, intramural competitions, and much more. It is truly the dedication and passion of your members that empowers Tau Phi Delta to grow and thrive, and I am delighted to take part in recognizing this incredible milestone and celebrating a century of brotherhood, excellence, and service.

Congratulations again on reaching Tau Phi Delta's 100th anniversary. You have my sincerest and deepest gratitude for the important role your Brothers and Little Sisters continue to play—both on and off campus—in strengthening the Penn State community. I look forward to witnessing all the success you will achieve together as you embark on your second century.

Sincerely,

Neeli Bendapudi, Ph.D.

The Honorable Phis' Reports



**Richard
Kappel
(Fall '86)
Phi,
Tau Phi Delta
Corporation**

kappelra@comcast.net
(724) 433-0233

Brothers, allow me to share with you my thoughts about “Our 100-Year Celebration” and “The 100-Year Flood.”

Since we last met in-person in April 2022, your Corporation’s Board of Directors has held monthly virtual meetings to conduct the business of Tau Phi Delta. There has been a tremendous amount of activity behind the scenes to identify and implement improvements within our organization. In order to manage the large scope of work in an aging house, our Development Team hired Nittany Co-op property managers to help us with Phase One of the improvement projects.

We had deep cleanings, fresh paint, improved lighting and electrical repairs. Our kitchen appliances were cleaned and serviced to the delight of our cook, Patti. We ordered new plates, cups, bowls, utensils, and necessary kitchen equipment that has not been upgraded or replaced in years. We ordered new industrial rectangular tables and chairs. We purchased six new leather sofas for the

chapter room just in time for our Centennial Celebration.

We welcomed home hundreds of our Brothers, Little Sisters and their guests with a clean, fresh- looking, uncluttered fraternity house complete with fall decorations. What a great event! Delicious food and drinks along with lots of laughter and selfies! Forgotten stories were retold of our times together over the years. We were delighted to hear many compliments on the condition of our House and the current Brothers’ commitment to maintaining the fraternity.

We shared the vision of our Phase Two and beyond renovations for our House and announced a call to continue to donate funds to both the Foundation and Corporation.

As the Christmas holidays rolled around, the temperatures in north-central Pennsylvania plummeted to below zero. Then our boiler shutdown, we had a pressurized sprinkler system pipe in the basement freeze and burst and six inches of water filled into the chapter room, dining and bar area. Thus the 100-Year Flood of TΦΔ.

We took immediate action and engaged our insurance carrier and started the restoration process. We had to close the House until further notice.

We worked with returning students to retrieve their belongings from the House and transitioned to alternate housing for the semester. Our Actives continue to thrive in spite of it all and have managed to recruit a spring pledge class of five!

We hired a local general contractor to further hire and manage all of the subcontractors that will be involved in replacement of all damaged infrastructure including, to name a few: electrical panels, water heaters, whole house boiler heating system and fire alarm systems to name a few. We have great insurance to cover all property damaged as well as loss of rental income.

Our goal is to have the TΦΔ fraternity house re-opened in August of 2023 for the fall semester. To achieve this goal, the Development Committee will only focus on what needs to be done to get the House opened for Actives to move back in.

Yes, these *are* challenging times and as Tau Phi’s—we *will* rise again! We are looking for a few good men to come alongside us as we rebuild.

Please feel free to contact me to see how you can get more involved. One way is to attend the upcoming spring, board of directors meeting.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve this Brotherhood.

We are all in this together!

TΦΔ Leadership Summit & Board of Directors Meeting

This important meeting will be held on Sunday, April 30th at 1 to 4 PM, ET, at PSU, Tyson Building, room 309.

We will hold a hybrid session with a virtual option offered, but we hope you will consider attending *in-person*.

Refer to page 16 for Zoom meeting details.



**Dave
O'Barto
(Fall '90)
Phi,
Grand
National
Chapter**

*Obarto@comcast.net
(412)310-3291*

Greetings, Brothers. As you know a lot has been happening at 427 East Fairmount Avenue ... Not all good, but not all bad, either!

Coming off our centennial high, we heard a tremendous outpouring of gratitude and satisfaction regarding the entire lineup of the weekend celebration.

I must yet commend the Centennial Committee, especially Co-Chair **CHRISTINE EBERHART**. The group was comprised of some hardworking other Alumni Little Sisters and Brothers, as well as those from the Foundation, Corporation Board of Directors (BOD) and many Active Brothers! Great work, folks, and thank all of you that had the opportunity to attend this historic moment of TΦΔ fraternity.

If you didn't make it back, I guarantee your name was brought up with all the reminiscing and story-telling that was going on!

Now back to reality. First, the Grand National has been working closely with the BOD and the Development Committee to mitigate the Tau Phi Delta's "100-Year Flood" damage that occurred over Christmas break. Again it was when a water pipe froze and broke, causing severe water damage to the basement and

ground floor levels. The ultimate goal is to get our Brothers back into the House as soon as possible while putting the fraternity house back together efficiently and productively! The Development Committee was formed in October 2021, and out of this committee, renderings were produced and displayed at the Centennial to showcase the much-needed updates our House required—along with a very hefty price tag. Little did we know or realize how instrumental not only the renderings are but how important the brothers are that make up the Development Committee. As part of this committee, I can assure you these men are working diligently to put our fraternity back together. Their expertise, knowledge, skill set, contacts, and, most importantly, time is extremely valuable dealing with insurance claims, infrastructure repairs, water damage mitigation, required building codes and ongoing meetings with contractors.

Secondly, the Grand National Officers and BOD's Phi, **RICH KAPPEL**, have been discussing Tau Phi Delta's need to better stream-line information, communicate more effectively and organize documents (i.e., taxes, bylaws, officer descriptions, Penn State requirements, Borough regulations, etc.) to attain continuity when officers transition.

Lastly, the Grand National has been contemplating membership with the Lion Fraternity Alumni Association (LFAA).

LFAA President, Dr. Jim Edwards, was the keynote speaker on the Sunday morning brunch at our Centennial Celebration. Dr. Edwards spoke about LFAA role of advocating for fraternities with the University's imposing, overzealous, heavy-handed mandates and requirements, as well as State College Borough.

He was also instrumental, along with some other LFAA board members, in helping our Active Brothers find housing after being displaced. More to come on our role with LFAA.

Again, the LFAA exists for the following purposes:

- To advocate for the fraternities at PSU with the University, Borough, our neighbors and the general community.
- To promote fraternalism between alumni chapters.
- To share best practices between alumni chapters.
- To work together to build a better fraternity system at Penn State.
- To develop and share relevant educational activities for fraternity undergraduates and alumni.

As we move forward, the key element of our success is that the Active Brothers continue to stick together and operate Tau Phi Delta as best and efficiently as possible.

I'd encourage you to reach out to the Actives via email or text to show your support as Alumni, and so they know how

important and instrumental they are in continuing the traditions of Tau Phi Delta!



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 form after 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 Corporation. This year is no exception.

The following individuals have donated \$15 to \$200 for a total of \$775 toward the cost of printing and mailing last year’s issue of *The Taproot*. This falls quite a bit short—about \$400—of our printing and mailing costs of 875 newsletters.

Thanks again to:

Eric Asp *Dick Ausherman*
Tom Breslin *Jack Byerly*
Jim Clark
Forrest Fenstermacher
Earl Hower *Nelson Levens*
Dave Rupert *Matt Thomass*
Scott Wilson *Tom Wolf*
Don Young

Please note, the Tau Phi Delta Foundation appreciates any contribution to *The Taproot* to support their continued communication efforts such as this alumni newsletter ... Especially with this issue printed in full color.

We thank you for your continued support of *The Taproot*.

Please take a few minutes to complete the alumni update sheet (found page 15) or download a copy online at www.tauphidelta.org and return it.

Or send a detailed update by emailing Bill Herb, Editor, at: m.b.tailfeathers@gmail.com.

A Big Thank You

Goes out to these additional Tau Phis for their response to the appeal for donations previously mailed and during the centennial for the House renovations. To date, 269 Tau Phis (out of 856 potential Alumni and Active Brothers and Little Sister Alumnae) have responded donating a total of \$77,545. To all, your support of TΦΔ is greatly appreciated!

Brian Aldridge
Peter Alexander
Joel Bachert
David Baldwin
Ed Balsavage
Wade & Carie Bartley
Jeff Bissett
Charles Bowers, Jr.
Linda Brehm-Schindler
Phil Brumbaugh
John Byerly
John Caldwell
Ed Cesa
Bill Cherko
Cameron Clark
William & Linda Cook
James Cowan
Clayton Crum
Barry Cunningham
Travis Cunningham
Luke Dillinger
Rebecca Dillinger-
Middleton
Russell Earle
Joseph Eichert
Kory Enck
John Ewell
Simon Fry
Joseph Gans, V
Jeffrey Gowen
Dave & Chrissy Gustafson
John & Margaret Hickey
Kent & Barb Hickey
Cynthia Holland-Cowdrey
Karl Imdorf
Kenneth Janosko
Franklin Judd
Chris Kamzalow
Rich & Barb Kappel
Stephen Kepner

Jeff Kurtz
Bob Laverick
Paul Lawlor, Jr.
William Lazarus
Nelson Levens
David Martino
Herbert McCarter, III
Clark McColly
Robert McColly
Austin Noguera
Keith Rhodes, II
Gretchen Runkle
Paul & Lisa Schmidt
Robert Schmidt
Lance Schul
Robert Shrum
Roy Siefert
Patrick Snickles
Chuck & Carol Strauss
Jim & Cis Stelter
Steve Toth
Carl Victorius
Harry Vitolins
Mitchell Vowler
Thomas White
Philip Wilkins
Tom Witmer
Doug Wood
Kevin Yontosh
Ray Zomok

Editor’s Note: An additional 183 names were listed in the previous issue of *The Taproot*.

Search online at www.tauphidelta.org; then navigate to the “Alumni” webpage; then to “Taproots” and open “Taproot 2021;” refer to page 9.

Again, a big thanks to all!

Foundation's Report



**Kory
Enck**
(Fall '86)
**Chairman,
Tau Phi Delta
Foundation**

kenck415@comcast.net
(717) 405-7566



The Tau Phi Delta Foundation is alive and well after recovering from what was our most successful event ever. Attendance

for our Centennial Celebration was a smashing success! We had 250 in attendance for our Friday night event, and over 300 for each meal function on Saturday. Sunday morning's brunch was also well attended, with about 150 present.

The silent auction at the banquet alone garnered over \$5,000, with all of it coming out of many high-quality donated items from the Brotherhood.

Thanks to all who showed up to visit and support Tau Phi Delta!

As most of you know, the proceeds we raise for the Foundation are used for the future of Tau Phi Delta, as we represent our fraternity's non-profit educational entity that was formed in 2009.

It was created by Alumni Brothers to support the educational opportunities provided to the local chapter of Tau Phi Delta Fraternity.

As a 501(c)(3) public charity, the Foundation provides a tax-deductible way to support the education of current and future members of Tau Phi Delta.

One of our educational programs is the Tau Phi Delta

Scholarship. Through the years, we've recognized over a dozen worthy Active Brothers with such scholarships. In 2022 during the centennial evening banquet, we handed out another scholarship of \$1,500 to Br. **ETHAN KILLIAN**.



**The 2022 Scholarship Recipient
Br. Killian (L) with Br. Enck**

This spring we will be accepting applications for even more scholarships from the Active Brothers.

A large part of our scholarship fund comes from our Annual Jim Evans Memorial Golf Tournament with a few additional monies coming from other events such as the TΦΔ Speaker Seminars. We are continuing to host such educational events (most recent was "The 9-11 Survivor Tree" presentation held on campus) and major fundraiser events like the one held during our recent 100th anniversary. In the past, we have also hosted specific fundraising reunions, such as for those from the 1970s and 1980s decades.

If you attended the Centennial Celebration, you got to see our patio at the House. Those personalized pavers are always available and are a great way to pay tribute to a pledge class, memorialize a loss or honor the accomplishment of a Brother or Little Sister. They are priced at \$425 for an 8"x8" paver, or \$275 for a 4"x8" brick. Please reach out to me if interested.

Again, if you are interested in contributing to the Foundation, donations are tax deductible. Credit card payments, investment accounts, appreciated property, or

planned gift vehicles can be accepted in consultation with the Foundation's investment manager and the donor representative.

Finally, we are looking for a couple of folks to step up and join the Tau Phi Delta Foundation Board of Trustees. If you have an interest, please reach out to me.

Annual Golf Tourney



This year's **Jim Evans Memorial Golf Tournament** will be held on Saturday, July 8th with a 9:00 AM, ET shotgun start at the Skytop Mountain Golf Club located at 350 Freestone Lane, Port Matilda, Penna.

Price is \$85 per golfer with a student rate of \$60. Bring a check to the event made payable to: Tau Phi Delta Foundation.

Skill contest prizes to be awarded with a light lunch and fundraiser held afterwards at the course. Also, BYOB.

To reserve your foursome (need names) in advance, contact Br.

JIM COWAN via email at: jamesmcowan66@gmail.com, or text him at: (814) 571-1813.

See website for specific event rules at: www.tauphidelta.org.

In recent years, we've had as high as 88 golfers attend this outing and help raise additional revenues used toward our scholarship fund.

As a repeat reminder: The fraternity house is closed for flood repairs. Do not attempt to access the facility or use the patio or parking lot.



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.

One unique TΦΔ family combination, are Bros. **JIM “JC” COWAN** (Fall '76) of Port Matilda and his nephew **ANDREW KRAWCZYK** (Spring '22) of State College. Andy happens to be the current House Phi.

There was one recent pair of Brothers—by the same mother—who joined the Brotherhood.



The **CLAIR** brothers from Elizabethtown are (L to R) **BRAYDEN** (Spring '20) and **DEVYN** (Fall '22).

While we wait the outcome of the current pledge class, hopefully, in the near future there will be another pair of blood brother Tau Phis.



From the nearby Borough of Howard, the **PACELLA** boys (L to R) are **BRANDON** (Spring '21) and his brother, **NICK**, of the current Spring '23 Pledge Class.

Alumni Updates

“Awards `R Us”



WESTMINSTER
COLORADO

In early 2022, TΦΔ Brother **LANCE SCHUL** (Fall '91) was recognized for his two separate distinguished and heroic acts in the line of duty as a senior police officer for the Colorado city of Westminster.

In both incidents, he managed to end the confrontation of an armed suspect and later end an attempted suicide. His response and quick-thinking actions were conducted with great risk to himself and his fellow officers.



Lance with Ann at the local law enforcement honor ceremony.

Originally from Kane, Penna, Lance, previously worked as a deputy sheriff in Jefferson County, Colo. and before that in Loudoun County, Va. He also had worked prior for a few non-profits including the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation as well as the National Rifle Association.

He and wife, Ann, reside outside of Denver in Littleton.



ERIC “WHIZZER” ASP (Spring '92) moved several times after graduation until he went back to college and got his Master's in physician assistant studies.

He has been practicing medicine for the last 20 years. Eric has four grown children and seven grandchildren.

He is looking forward to fall archery season and loves getting and reading *The Taproot*.

[easppac@yahoo.com](mailto: easppac@yahoo.com)

RICHARD “DICK” AUSERMAN (Fall '65) went to work for Grove Brothers Lumber Co. in Chambersburg in 1968. Soon after he received “Greetings” from Uncle Sam. Three years later Dick was discharged as a Spec 5 Image Interpreter of aerial photos after spending 27 months in Vietnam.

He returned to Grove Brothers where he established and managed a pallet manufacturing plant for the next 10 years.

While Dick was looking for other work, he and his wife decided to cut a little firewood to tide them over. Their business grew, and 40 years later he's still processing *several* cords per year, mainly for the physical workout.

As a member of the Franklin County Rock and Mineral Club his spare time is spent collecting many minerals and crystals.

“Last year's *The Taproot* brought back many good memories.”

Little Sister **LINDA (BREHM) SCHINDLER** (Fall '75), sister of the late **DENNIS BREHM** (Fall '72), finally retired in late 2020 from Pacific Power in Roseburg, Ore. after 25 years of service.

The year 2020 was quite a year for her and everyone else. “I was going to retire in March of 2020, but the pandemic hit. Then, on the day I was going to list my house for sale in September, I was evacuated due to a wildfire.”

She was finally able to list the house in October, so she could move back to Penna. to help her parents. “With my golden retriever and two cats, I traveled cross country during the Thanksgiving week. But my two horses, Teton and Shiloh, had to wait until May 2021 to finally make their cross-country trek.”

Linda was finally able to buy a house in Wellsville and settle herself and the animals in one place. Now, she can enjoy retirement, by playing with the animals and working on her six-acre York County homestead.

linschindler@gmail.com



TOM BRESLIN (Fall '54) is still amazed he has been retired for 32 years. Tom missed the Centennial Celebration, but his testimonial appeared in the “100 Years of Brotherhood” history video shown at the banquet.

Tomb3557@gmail.com

After 40 years of running his forest consulting business, **JIM “JC” COWAN** (Fall '76) retired last September. As a celebration vacation and a bucket list trip of his, he and his wife, Lisa, took a Viking Expedition Cruise to Antarctica.



The Cowans at lunch on the cruise liner's chilly upper deck.

“Having been on the other six continents, this was something I had to do!”

jamesmcowan66@gmail.com

FORREST FENSTERMAKER (Fall '53) and Ruth have been independent residents at the Brookdale Chambrel Continuing Care Facility of Williamsburg, Va. since July.

ffensty@cox.net

At a post-centennial weekend gathering, some Tau Phis from southcentral Penna. met to (or attempted to) solve the world's problems during a fellowship breakfast at the Round-The-Clock Dinner in York.

[←] Those attending included (L to R) **JACK GINGRICH, MIKE MICHALEC, JOEL DENNIS, TIM STRATHMEYER, ANDY KYLE, JIM CLARK, and STAN PIORKOWSKI**—All from a 10-year time span of pledging from Fall '68 to Fall '79.

The word was received that **HOWARD “HOWIE” FEDDEN** (Fall '73 - Beta) of Sheridan, Wyo. had long planned on returning to Penna. for our Centennial Celebration until an unfortunate accident changed everything. In June, he took a fall backwards down a flight of stairs in his home and severely injured his skull. After an emergency life flight to Billings, Mont. for brain surgery, he recovered but only

temporarily in a Casper, Wyo. rehab center. He's back home but struggling.

Drop him a line at:

8 Cessna Lane
Sheridan, WY 82801

Feddenhm@yahoo.com

DAVE “GOOSE” GRAY (Fall '73), who retired and moved from the Texas coast to the South Dakota Badlands and then onto Alaska, recently reported that they now moved to eastern Texas.

goose3195@aol.com

Although **DAVE GUSTAFSON** (Fall '96) tagged an impressive 6x6 bull elk last October in the Rocky Mountains, his most memorable trophy was this long sought “wascally white wabbit” taken a few months later in the Allegheny Mountains of McKean County, Penna.



The “Swede” took this snowshoe hare using a family heirloom — his great-great uncle's Remington Model 17 20-gauge shotgun.

BILL HERB (Fall '65) says he and Marian had a great time at the 100th anniversary celebration, and really enjoyed getting back together with the 60s decade group, especially connecting with the “Crow's Nest Crew” of 1968.

Once again, he was unsuccessful in his handgun hunt during Pennsylvania's senior antlerless deer season. But Bill will try again next year.

M.b.tailfeathers@gmail.com

NELSON “CORKY” LEVENS (Fall '74) retired in August 2021 from the forest products industry working in sales, purchasing, and management. Nelson and his wife, Nancy, sold their day care business last June.

During the past few years, he, along with Bros. **KIRK GALLEY** and **JIM COWAN**, went hiking to several east coast mountain tops, including Mt. Washington, Mt. Mitchell, and Mt. Marcy.



Bros. Levens, Galley and Cowan

Both Nelson and Kirk enjoy bike riding and participated in the Seagull Century for a few years.

During the pandemic, Nelson purchased a gravel bike and began rail trail riding. He and Kirk rode the Pine Creek Trail, the Great Allegheny Passage Trail (from Pittsburgh to the C&O Canal Trail in Cumberland, Md.) and the Lehigh Gorge Rail Trail of northeastern Penna.

Besides biking, Nelson keeps busy with playing golf, cruising on road trips with his '65 Chevelle convertible, trap shooting, and traveling with Nancy to new destinations.

The Levens spend a lot of time with their two grandchildren, Mitch (age 6) and Elliott (age 4).

njlevens@comcast.net

**SEND US YOUR ALUMNI
UPDATE FORM**

For the next issue of

The **Taproot**

A good time was had by all ... Except for this mule deer buck.



ROB LUSK (Spring '11) took this 3x4 muley last fall while hunting in the

Roosevelt National Forest in northern Colo. with two other Tau Phis, **JULIAN MAZA** (Fall '12) and **MATT MARSHALL** (Spring '11).

rob@loosecannonoutdoors.com



Sadly, one of Tau Phi Delta's first Little Sisters from the early 1970s, **DEBORAH (KOHL) KEARSE** (PSU '73), passed

away on October 11th after a valiant battle with multiple myeloma.

Deb was previously co-owner and vice president of marketing for Kohl Building Products, located in Reading.

She and her husband, **JOSEPH THOMAS “TOM” KEARSE** (Fall '71), recently moved north to Gaines, in Potter County.

Both Deb and Tom were each previously recognized as Mont Alto Centennial Fellows in 2004 for lifelong professional and community contributions as branch campus alumni.

LUKE MENTZER (Fall '11) recently graduated from the Penna. Game Commission's Ross Leffler School of Conservation. As a new State Game Warden, his first field assignment will be in “God's Country” Potter County.

AUSTIN NOGUERA (Spring '14) and his wife, Emily, welcomed their first child, a son named Finley, on January 3, 2023.

Austin, a Service Forester for the Pinchot State Forest (Penna. DCNR Bureau of Forestry), was elected to the PSU School of Forest Resources Alumni Group Board of Directors.

Two other Tau Phis, **CORBIN RINEHART** (Spring '08) and **HOWARD WURZBACHER** (Spring '77), were re-elected to their second term on the Board. While **CHUCK STRAUSS** (Fall '56) will be finishing his term on the Board by the spring of 2024. And more recently, a fifth Tau Phi to be elected as a director was **TRAVIS CUNNINGHAM** (Fall '10).

anoguera@pa.gov

DAVE RUNKLE (Spring '81) retired in October 2021 after 37 years as an Environmental Lab Supervisor. His wife, Little Sister **GRETCHEN (EICHHORN / Winter '83)** retired from the U.S. Department of Defense.

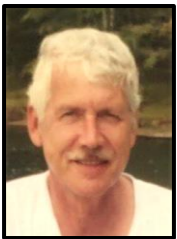
Dave, who spends more time outdoors now, reported, “I killed a buck with the crossbow in November 2021 and 2022 along with eight ringnecks in December and January, my first in decades, at a local State Game Lands after purchasing a new 20-gauge side-by-side after retirement. We've recently had a flock of 27 turkeys, including 13 gobblers and over 30 deer, including 6 rack bucks, in the field behind the house — which is located three miles from downtown Carlisle. I continue to fish for wild trout throughout the Michaux State Forest including the little creek in Mont Alto which still holds a healthy native brookie population that I recently began to target via Tenkara flyfishing which is a blast.”

They became first-time grandparents on a July 1st arrival (grandson William), which made him postpone his trip to Alaska to visit his brother last summer.

runklefish@gmail.com

DAVE RUPERT (Fall '77) finally retired after 40 years of managing the Armstrong County, Penna. Conservation District to spend his time travelling and enjoying life with his lovely wife, Lina. He is going to spend more time hunting, fishing, and visiting his kids and grandkids. An avid cyclist, he plans to bicycle more of our own country along with a few regions in Europe.

Drrupert56@gmail.com



EDGAR "GARY" SCOTT (Fall '58), passed away peacefully at age 83 on September 9, 2022.

After graduating in forestry in 1960, Gary began his professional career with the Penna. Bureau of Forestry holding multiple positions for several years in various locations, becoming District Forester of Gallitzin State Forest in 1970. There he made many accomplishments, and established the Clear Shade Wild Area, the Charles Lewis Natural Area, and both the John P. Saylor Memorial and Lost Turkey Trails. He retired in April 1997 after 37 years of service.

His knowledge of wildlife included a fascination of reptiles and amphibians. Known as the snake expert, he often performed presentations with his favorite — the rattlesnake!

SCOTT "WHIP" WILSON (Spring '77) retired from wood products manufacturing after 40 years in July 2020. A good friend of his owns a brewery and distillery and immediately hired him as master brewer. "I had been homebrewing for 22 years, so it was pretty easy for me."

They have four grandchildren.

Two are in their teens and two under age five. "It's been much fun. The teens, my sons and I do quite a bit together besides camping, mountain biking and shooting. My granddaughter is a crack shot with any gun we throw at her."

He's backpacked the West Rim Trail twice and hopes to hike Virginia's Blue Ridge's Triple Crown: McAfee Knob, Tinker Cliffs and Dragon's Tooth.

Scott and his pledge brother, **CARL "HOSMER" VICTORIOUS**, and their spouses, get together often, usually meeting at a campground near some historical point of interest, such as Harpers Ferry or Gettysburg.

scott3bd@gmail.com

Art Print Sale



"Caution At The Clearcut"

Commissioned by Tau Phi Delta Grand National in 1989, noted wildlife artist Doug Pifer created this exclusive pen and ink drawing of some curious whitetails at Tau Phi's old shack.

Signed and numbered limited edition (300), we still have a few copies available, for only \$65. Price includes UPS shipping.

Please make check payable to: Tau Phi Delta Grand National.

Send your request/payment to:
Gene Odato
154 Polecat Road
Landisburg, PA 17040-9236

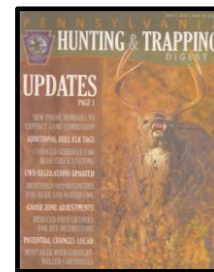
Tau Phis In The News

PENNSYLVANIA *Outdoor News*

The March 17, 2023 edition of the bi-weekly newspaper, *The Pennsylvania Outdoor News*, featured an article, titled "At 100 Years Old, Forestry Fraternity Still Going Strong" about TΦΔ.

Br. **JIM CLARK** sold the idea for the special feature to editor Jeff Mulhollem. Deborah Weisberg wrote about Tau Phi's history, unique Brotherhood at Penn State, and various Alumni accomplishments as well as our recent centennial. Oh yes, and about the fraternity's annual bear hunt tradition.

Also, in the Penna. Game Commission 2022-2023 *Pennsylvania Hunting and Trapping Digest* (on page 39)



you'll see a TΦΔ advertisement (below) that **JEFF KURTZ** 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? Penn State's Forestry Fraternity is a good place for outdoorsmen in agricultural majors and all other majors. **JOIN US AT THE "TREE HOUSE"**

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

TauPhiDelta.org

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

TAU PHI DELTA
427 E. Fairmount Ave., State College, PA 16801
*Thanks to our alumni use of this ad!
Ad sponsored by Polaris Surveying and Forestry of SE PA.
*Would appreciate alumni contributing to a larger ad next year.

For several years, Jeff has been paying for these expensive ads. If you'd like to help Jeff out, please contact him at (610) 539-5361 or hunterwald@yahoo.com.

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 Herb (Fall '65)

This series is normally about “tales from the old fraternity house.” Thus, during the recent Centennial Celebration, a few tales were told about a tradition at Tau Phi Delta that dates back to 1924 with the development of a “Brother’s Pin.”



Brother’s Pin ~ No, not the small ceremonial Colorado spruce tree lapel pin often referred to as the “Brother’s Recognition Pin,” but rather, a finely crafted, 10k gold shield that, at times, was available with crest of rare gems. Along our Greek letters, there’s a pair of

inlaid gold pinecones surrounded by our fraternal motto: *Omen Andres*.

Pinmates ~ So, during this recent gathering, the question came up at a table filled with a mixture of a few Brothers from both past and present. “Are there Pinmates anymore?”

Back in the day, when a Brother had more than casual intentions toward a young lady, he would give her his fraternity pin. So, upon “pinning” her, she would become his “Pinmate.”

Actually, I have been told that the last time a Brother ordered and bought (and gave) such a special pin from the jeweler was in 1977. However more recently, several have been found and purchased on eBay. Including the one shown above, with the engraved initials of “LEF” and a date of “1925.” It was purchased online for a mere \$270.

Pole Party ~ Generally, this “pinning” was a private, almost secretive, ceremony, because once the act was discovered, the Brother was in imminent danger of a trip to the “pole.”

This enforced trip was usually a crime of

opportunity. At some indeterminate time after the pinning, just as the Brother was thinking that perhaps he was in the clear, the moment would arise.

Usually, this moment occurred during some House social function, ideally one in which the potential victim was in some sort of diminished state and when his Pinmate was present.

As I recall, the victim would be tackled by one of the Brothers who would loudly announce, “Pole Party!” At that time the befogged pinned Brother realized what was coming and would struggle violently to escape. However, more and more Brothers would join in, and the victim-to-be was dragged out to our flagpole in the front yard overlooking East Fairmount Avenue.

Usually, he was tied—inverted at times—to the flagpole. Other times, he was suspended by his feet from the flag halyard, which always scared the “halyard” out of me when the pole bent like a four-weight fly rod taming a lunger.

For those without any maritime experience, a halyard is the rope used for raising and lowering a sail, flag or yard on a sailing ship. Thus, the name halyard.

In any event, the unlucky pinner was immobilized, and his sweetheart (aka Pinmate) was handed a large bucket of water which she used to soak her beloved. This was mildly uncomfortable in warmer weather, but if the event was in the winter, it was heart-stopping—sort of like a naked visit to the North Pole at any time of year.

After this, the hapless Brother was anointed with the contents of numerous ketchup and mustard squeeze bottles, which resulted in deposits of the condiments in parts of his anatomy which had not been so seasoned since Hell Week.



(What is Hell Week? Well, we will have to save that discussion for another day.)

[←] Here is photographic evidence of Br. Jack McCandless (Fall '65) during his Pole Party. By the way, Jack and his Pinmate, and now his wife, Kathie, are still together after 50-plus years.

Editor’s Note: Of course, *no* Pledges were hazed, harmed, or injured (nor ever will be) during the course of such events. `Just saying!



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 21620-4001

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 East Fairmount Avenue
State College, PA 16801-5711

Address Service Requested

Future TΦΔ Scheduled Events for 2023

PLAN AHEAD:

- **Tau Phi Delta Leadership Summit and TΦΔ Corporation's Spring Board Meeting**
 - Board of Directors Elections
 - Development Committee Flood Repair Update
 - With Foundation Trustees/Grand National • Sunday, April 30 / 1 – 4 PM, ET

Location: Tyson Building- Room 309, University Park, PA (PSU Main Campus)

 - On-campus parking is available in adjacent lots and at nearby Eisenhower Parking Garage.
 - All Brothers are invited to attend and encouraged to participate.
 - Virtual remote access available. Zoom: <https://psu.zoom.us/j/96023318020>
Note: The Passcode and Waiting Room are disabled, thus no need for Meeting ID and Passcode.
 - Email for more meeting details, contact Martin McGann: mrm19@psu.edu / (814) 574-5821
 - Agenda to be posted online: www.tauphidelta.org
- **Fraternity House Spring/Summer Flood Repair/Renovation • March 1 to August 15**
NOTICE: The fraternity house will continue to be **CLOSED** for next six months!
- **Annual W. James Evans Memorial Golf Tournament • Saturday, July 8 / 9 AM, ET**
For more specifics, contact: Jim Cowan or Gavin Collins, Event Co-Chairmen
jmc4con@verizon.net / gcollins573@gmail.com
More details and rules online at: www.tauphidelta.org (Navigate to “Happenings” webpage)
- **PSU Fall Homecoming • Football Game Saturday, October 14 / Kick-Off – T.B.D.**
Penn State Nittany Lions will host the University of Massachusetts-Amherst Minutemen.
A pre-game fraternity gathering (Hint: A tailgate) starts about 4 hours prior to game time.

Please send us your Alumni Update for the next issue (Fall 2023) of *The Taproot*. Thank you!