



Our Founding Brothers



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Special Insert:
"News From The Treehouse"

During the Centennial Celebration weekend of 2022, an amazing piece of artwork was presented to the House. An original painting "Our Founding Brothers" by Br. **STEVE TOROK** (Spring '86) is now proudly displayed in our chapter room.

He was inspired by this previously discovered, 100-year-old photo of the Pennsylvania State College Forestry Club members who formed $K\Phi\Delta$ —the social forestry fraternity on January 11, 1922. Two years later, on March 4, 1924, $T\Phi\Delta$ the national forestry fraternity was formed.

According to Br. Torok, "I've always enjoyed creating artwork, from kindergarten through college art classes. Painting and drawing became my number one hobby. So, I thought this would be a good way to "leave my mark" at Tau Phi Delta Fraternity.

OUR FOUNDING BROTHERS *continued on page 14 ~*

The **T**aproot

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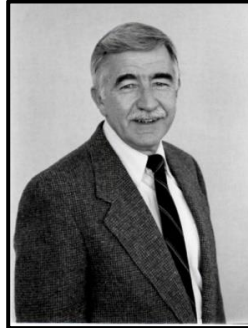
All back issues of *The Taproot*
 published since 2004 can be found
 online at: www.tauphidelta.org by
 navigating to the "Alumni" page.

Awards `R Us

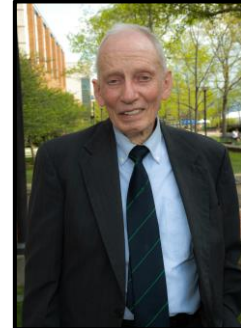


PennState
 College of Agricultural Sciences

Department of Ecosystem Science and Management



Br. Browning



Br. Loucks

Recently, two Tau Phi Delta Brothers were recognized with **PSU School of Forest Resources Alumni Group's Outstanding Alumnus Awards**.

2022 – EDWIN R. “ED” BROWNING (Fall '55 / B.S. Forestry 1958). Over the course of Ed's wide-ranging, 35-year career with the U.S. Forest Service, he served in 14 positions on six national forests in four regions. These included assignments in all three branches of the Forest Service: National Forest System, State and Private Forestry, and Research. During his career, he received ten awards for outstanding accomplishment, strong leadership, and sustained, high-level performance. These culminated with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's highest award, the Superior Service Award, presented to Ed by Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan in 1992.

2023 – DR. DANIEL P. LOUCKS (Fall '52 / B.S. Forestry 1954). Daniel is a professor emeritus at Cornell University, who earned an M.F. from Yale University in 1955 and a Ph.D. from Cornell University in 1965. From 1965 to 2012, he served on the faculty of Cornell's School of Civil and Environmental Engineering where he taught and directed research in the development and application of economics, ecology and systems analysis methods to the solution of environmental and regional water resources problems. He published dozens of technical papers and research fundings and served as a consultant to private and government agencies and various organizations of the United Nations, the World Bank, NATO, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Bros. Browning and Loucks joined the ranks of more than a dozen other Tau Phis to have been previously recognized for their professional accomplishments and civic contributions as Outstanding Alumni of Penn State's School of Forest Resources.



Boy Scouts of America

In 2023, Purdue University professor emeritus **DR. WILLIAM “BILL” HOOVER** (Fall '64) was recognized with the **Boy Scouts of America Distinguished Conservatnionist Award**.



He had a 40-plus year career guiding students and constituents across

Indiana on the topics of timber tax and forest economics. Bill began his career of service in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a basic training officer and later a combat engineering battalion operations officer in Vietnam.

Bill grew up as a Boy Scout and continued his involvement in Scouting as a volunteer adult leader. For decades promoted natural resources conservation and taught nature studies and ecology to hundreds of young Scouts.

He is best known as the Purdue's Department of Forestry and Natural Resources historian and for pitching in on various community projects to promote forest maintenance and recreation.



Officer of the Year

In October 2023, **JEFFREY “MAC” MCELRATH** (Fall '85) was recognized as the **Centre County Crisis Intervention Team Officer of the Year** for “consistently demonstrating genuine empathy and understanding when interacting with individuals in crisis.”

Officer McElrath possesses a “calm and kind demeanor when handling crises and volatile situations safely and compassionately.”



Mac, who graduated in 1987 with a Criminal Justice Degree, first worked for five years for the Berwick Police Department.

He returned to Happy Valley to continue his law enforcement career at Patton Township outside of State College for the last 28 years.



Distinguished Fellow

Recently, two more Tau Phi were recognized as **Mont Alto Distinguished Fellows** for their lifetime accomplishment as a branch campus alumnus.

In September 2023, **JIM “JC” COWAN** (Fall '76) was honored during the 120th Anniversary Celebration of Forestry at Mont Alto event.

And a year prior in October 2022, **EARL HOWER** (Fall '77) received this same honor during the Mont Alto Campus' recognition of TΦΔ 100th anniversary.



(L to R) Bros. Cowan and Hower

They joined the ranks of over two dozen Tau Phi Delta Brothers and Little Sisters with similar honors over the past two decades since 2003.

Distinguished Fellows are recognized for their accomplishments and contributions to their careers and communities after graduating from Penn State.

The Honorable Phis' Reports



**RICHARD
KAPPEL**
(Fall '86),
Phi –
Tau Phi Delta
Corporation

kappelra@comcast.net
(724) 433-0233

Two words come to mind when I think about our organization over the past several months: Resiliency and Teamwork.

Resiliency – Because we were able to withstand and recover quickly from very difficult conditions.

As most of you know by now, we experienced a \$286,000 flood claim for heating, electrical and plumbing systems, and other flood related damages to our fraternity house. Fortunately, we had more than adequate insurance to allow us to survive.

Our number one goal was to get the House back open for the 2023 Fall Semester. And we did it!

Teamwork – The combined action of a group of people.

Your Corporation's Board of Directors (BOD) expanded the monthly meeting leadership to include the Grand National officers, the Development Committee members as well as House Advisors. We met as often as necessary via zoom

in virtual meetings and sometimes, on the fly, urgent decisions were made via text messages.

A few other of our efforts included the following, as we:

- Developed and conducted our first-ever (and successful) online elections for BOD members with the participation of 154 Alumni and Active Brothers.
- Re-energized the Website Committee to look at ways to update the look and utilize modern technology to not only better market TΦΔ and promote to potential members, but more importantly, to communicate within our organization. In the future, you should be able to read meeting minutes and give feedback.
- Initiated a By-Laws Committee to review and update old, outdated documentation.
- Created a Development Fund Committee to secure future donations that will directly benefit the Fraternity as recently initiated by Br. Jim Cowan's multi-year donation. (Read Br. Frank Judd's report on pages 7-8). Hopefully with others to follow.

As we look to the future, we want to standardize all aspects of our organization so that we can plant new Tau Phi Delta chapters within the Penn State branch campus community as well as beyond Pennsylvania!

As I stated at our recent Fall meeting, I believe we have the right Brothers, in the right positions at the right time. There is no "I" in this TEAM.

While these have been challenging times, I believe brighter days are ahead and momentum is on our side. As Tau Phi Delta in 2024 remains "Strong as an oak!"

Thank you for the opportunity to serve. And as I have always said, "We are in this together!"

Grand National Spring Meeting

This important meeting will be held on Saturday, April 6th at 10:00 am, ET, at the Tau Phi Delta chapter room.

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 details.

BOD Elections

Nominations are accepted for four (4) positions prior to and during the April 6th meeting.

1. Contact **GREGG HORVAT**, BOD Sigma, text at (919) 259-0167, or via email

Gregg.horvat@gmail.com.

2. Be sure that the prospective nominee is willing to serve and provides a brief, 3 to 4-sentence bio (i.e., name, pledge class, hometown, current occupation, and what their interest in serving). Bios will appear with online ballots and website.

3. Voting online starts on April 15th and runs until April 30th

4. By the 15th, we'll email the link to vote to Alumni with known email addresses.

5. Should you not receive an emailed ballot to vote by midnight April 16th, contact Gregg via email and request a ballot link.



**DAVE
O'BARTO
(Fall '90),
Phi –
Grand
National
Chapter**

obarto@comcast.net
(412) 310-3291

Life moves fast...And the same can be said for life at Tau Phi Delta.

The doors of TΦΔ were opened just in the nick of time for Fall 2023 classes to begin and for our Brothers to occupy the House.

The Grand National would first and foremost like to acknowledge and thank the Active Brotherhood for cooperating with our organization, sticking together, and understanding the circumstances at hand.

With all of the unknowns throughout the claims process such as completion dates, construction material, occupancy permit and functioning utilities coupled with the pressure of having to sign housing contracts we are tremendously grateful and thankful for your loyalty, cooperation, and understanding. It is truly awesome to have you guys back in the House!

The Grand National would also like to recognize and acknowledge the hard work, time, and efforts of alumni Bros. **MARTIN MCCANN, RICH KAPPEL, DAN GERBER, ERIC HORVAT, and MITCH VOWLER**, as well as the entire

Board of Directors (BOD) and our Development Committee. This brief thank you does not begin to touch the efforts and time these guys have put in and continue to put into Tau Phi Delta. Their tenacity, attention to detail and resolve in dealing with all aspects of the claim, contractors, invoices, codes, inspections, our cook Patty's contract, insurance, accounting, State College Boro restrictions, and University demands. It is truly remarkable and a job in and of itself. **THANK YOU ALL!**

Moving forward, the Grand National regularly sits in on the BOD monthly Zoom meeting (Held on the first Sunday at 8:00 pm, ET) as they address both the current and future needs of Tau Phi Delta as well as getting processes and systems established to better transition leadership and communicate throughout our organization.

Perhaps our biggest challenge will be having a contingent of Brothers to occupy the House in the Fall with such a large graduating class coming up this May.

As part of the Development Committee, we displayed architectural renderings at the 2022 Centennial (see page 15) and now need to move forward to revitalize the House.

This is not going to be cheap, and we need to organize a major capital campaign to raise significant funds. Having made significant utility upgrades to the boiler system and electrical panel after the December 2022 flood, Tau Phi Delta is in need

of serious and significant upgrades to the aesthetic appearance of our House.

Why? New huge apartment complexes are inundating the skyline of downtown State College and students—many in their first year on campus—are being pushed out of dorms and must sign apartment leases six months to a year in advance to secure their living space. This competes with our ability to attract many potential Brothers who can live in the House immediately and free of long-term lease contact restrictions.

In addition to the comradery of our outdoor interests, one of our other major attributes and draws has always been cheaper living expenses combined with home-cooked meals. A stone fireplace, bar with a pool table, and spacious patio with a fire ring help, too.

Tau Phi Delta must now become competitive with our facilities. These upgrades will certainly draw and help recruit new Brothers. It has been said: "If you build it, they will come."

As with any organization we need your help. Please consider participating on a committee or board and donating—your time, talent, or funds—for this remodeling effort.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and your continued support!



Foundation's Report



KORY ENCK
(Fall '86),
Chairman –
Tau Phi
Delta
Foundation

kenck415@comcast.net
(717) 405-7566



The funds we raise for the Tau Phi Delta Foundation are used for the future of Tau Phi Delta, as we represent our

fraternity's non-profit educational entity. It was created by our Alumni as a means 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 2023, we handed out three \$1,000 scholarships to **CALEB GERBER, NICK HOGG,** and **ANDREW ROLAND.**

This spring we will be again 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 (See enclosed flyer or online at www.tauphidelta.org) along with additional monies

coming from the sale of personalized patio pavers. They are always available and are a great way to pay tribute to a pledge class, memorialize a loss or honor of a Brother or Little Sister. If interested, please feel free to reach out to me.

A few years ago, we announced information about the TΦΔ Outdoor Speaker Series as a qualified educational project. It's a way for the Brothers to host an educational event open to the public and as a way to attract potential members to see the House and meet the Brothers. Administered by Actives, the costs could be paid for by the Foundation.

We are always open to holding additional fundraiser events such as the reunions held at the House over the last few decades, or sporting events such as the annual Jim Evans Memorial Golf Tournament.

On that note, hey, why doesn't anyone step up and do a fishing or sporting days tournament?

Again, if you are interested in contributing to the Foundation, donations are tax deductible. Credit card payments, investment accounts, appreciated property, planned giving, or donated vehicles can be accepted in consultation with the Foundation's investment manager and the donor representative.

We would also like to congratulate the current Corporation Board of Directors which has had probably experienced the hardest year that any group of leaders has endured. The Phi, **RICH KAPPEL**, along with the others really stepped up and are to be commended for all of their efforts to recover from the flood.

We are...Strong...As an oak!

Supporting The Taproot

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

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

The following individuals have donated \$20 to \$100 for a total of \$980 toward the cost of printing and mailing last year's issue of *The Taproot*. This falls quite a bit short (about \$500) of our printing and distribution costs of 875 newsletters.

Thanks again to:

<i>Stan Arner</i>	<i>Joe Bartnicki</i>
<i>Tom Breslin</i>	<i>Robert Chrisman</i>
<i>Jim Clark</i>	<i>Mo & Cam Clark</i>
<i>Dave Dries</i>	<i>Joe Eichert</i>
<i>Kory Enck</i>	<i>Carl Galanti</i>
<i>Bill Herb</i>	<i>Earl Hower</i>
<i>Dave O'Barto</i>	<i>Tom Witmer</i>
<i>Tom Wolf</i>	

Please note, the Tau Phi Delta Foundation appreciates any contribution to *The Taproot* to support their continued communication efforts such as this alumni newsletter.

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

Please take a few minutes to complete the alumni update sheet (enclosed in the inserted *News From The Treehouse*) 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.

Estate Giving



FRANK JUDD
(Fall '64),
Chair –
TΦΔ
Development
Fund

frankjudd@me.com
(717) 951-2898

The Tau Phi Delta Corporation's Board of Directors (BOD) has re-established a specific account for donations, bequests, etc. to the TΦΔ Fraternity. This "Development Fund" will receive all monies and physical gifts not specifically designated for the Tau Phi Delta Foundation.

In clarification, the Foundation was initiated to provide a charitable, tax-deductible gift option for our Brothers and Little Sisters. However, all such monies in our Foundation are restricted and generally required to be used for educational purposes.

Accordingly, most financial needs to support those Brothers living at 427 East Fairmount (427) cannot be drawn directly from the Foundation. The Foundation has supported scholarships for our Actives and supports activities including rush (recruitment).

Also, a charitable tax deduction such as this has been essentially eliminated with the changes in personal income tax laws over the past six years.

Some history here... Up until acquiring 427, the BOD in the late 1960s maintained the "Building Fund." The architect's drawings for

rebuilding the old House at 238 East Fairmount (238) were always on display at fall Homecoming during the 1960s.

The plan was that we were to build half a new House, tear down the existing 238, and then build the second half of the new House. *Sounds crazy now!*

Alums dropped off checks and cash in fives to twenties. But never too much more back then.

And that was the extent of fund-raising until the summer of '69. *Is that a song title?*

The fund generated about \$20,000 at that time.

With 427 purchased on a shoestring, the "Building Fund" and any and all donations, were used to purchase the 427 and keep it afloat!

Then with the sale of 238, and a resurgence in House membership, major financial issues were held off. *I won't mention leaking bathroom pipes, a new roof, or a bum heater that came with 427.*

In 1984, we paid off the mortgage, and got to the 21st century in fair-to-good shape.

The BOD approved the forming of an Endowment Fund in 1999 as our target for fund raising. We had a great response, with more than \$150,000 donated over several years, while about \$50,000, or so, came in individual donations from Brothers and Little Sisters.

But what put us over the mark was a bequest from the will of Br. **RICHARD "JACK KNIFE" HARTLEY** for \$100,000.

It's kind of debatable when he pledged; but he was a WWII veteran and came to Penn State on the G.I. Bill and graduated with a Forestry degree in 1952.

Generosity from another Tau Phi continued a few years later, when Br. **PORTER GERHARDT** (Spring '50) donated \$107,000 from his estate. This is, so far, our largest donation to date.

Of interest, the largest individual one-time donation recently received was for \$10,000; the first check received at a Homecoming as a challenge incentive was from Br. **CHUCK STRAUSS** (Fall '56). Then the first envelope that I ever opened with a donation was from a Little Sister alumna from the mid-1970s.

Several years ago, our Development Committee, headed by Br. **DAVE O'BARTO**, Grand National Phi, initiated a fund drive and an appeal mailing to prepare for potential major expenses. *This used a TΦΔ stoneware mug as an incentive for \$100-plus donations.*

Again, we had good response: About \$70,000 has been given including donations prior to and during our 100th anniversary in 2022.

The BOD has since realized that with future development efforts, a more targeted destination fund was required. To that end, the "Development Fund" has been initiated.

A recent bequest by Br. **JIM COWAN** (Fall '76) was, in part, the driving force for getting this unique fund account established. Br. Cowan created an insurance-backed annuity providing the House with an annual bequest of \$3,000 a year for a period of 32 years, and \$4,000 in the 33rd year. *That's a \$100,000 donation in total for those of us who had problems with the Math 41 course at Penn State.*

The first payment was issued this past fall. And Br. Cowan has maintained the principal of an equal amount of \$100,000 held within his estate, which at the end of the 33-year period will be distributed to his three daughters.

It is hoped by Br. Cowan that this method of giving may be used as an example by other Brothers and Little Sisters who share a similar love and commitment to TΦΔ!

Large sum donations can be made over a period of years without giving up control of the principal.

The example of Br. Cowan's commitment demonstrates that there are numerous methods to support the House into the future. We do not always need to put a bequest into our will and then wait for the inevitable to take place. Consider insurance policies, stocks, bonds, CDs and other cash equivalents. Physical items too, such as your gun, coin, or art collection. *And there is always that hunting camp in the northern tier of Pennsylvania with that natural gas lease!*

There are likely numerous other ways to help out the House before your will becomes "in-force as an estate."

One word of unofficial advice from the late Br. Hartley's attorney at that time to me: "Don't list minor physical items or collections in your will if you don't have to; they will be taxed, at least at the state level in Pennsylvania for sure." As "Jack Knife" listed all his duck decoys, fishing lures, guns. Just create an off-will handwritten list, signed and keep with your trusted heirs.

Also, donating from an IRA generally doesn't work; either because of taxing an IRA declining balance to almost zero or other restrictions. Best to check with your tax guy or gal on this.

The quickest of course is a cash bequest in a will; but that's not always practicable.

From now on there will be a clearer path for receiving, controlling and auditing our alumni/alumnae donations via our new Development Fund.

So, if and when you decide to provide more support to Tau Phi Delta, indicate (in a will, bequest, insurance policy, or on the back of a napkin) describe the beneficiary as follows:

Tau Phi Delta Corporation
(IRS EIN# 90-0422172)
Attn.: Development Fund
427 East Fairmont, Avenue
State College, PA 16801-5711

To mail a check, please send it directly to Br. **DAN GERBER** (BOD Tau) at:

155 Becker Road
Elizabethtown, PA 17022
gerberforestry@aol.com
(717) 648-6199

If you are a more senior Tau Phi alum – You at one time lived at 238 and you haven't seen age 70 for some time – and if you wish, you can contact me to discuss your plans.

Thank you again in advance for your consideration and support!

Editor's Note: In addition to Frank's work with the newly-formed BOD Development Fund, he worked with the formation of the previous Endowment Fund, was a past Grand National Chapter Phi, and serves as Trustee on the Tau Phi Delta Foundation.

"Curfew"

~ *Continued from page 13*

Once again, all was going well until Br. H brought the Ford to a careful stop (Probably thanks to the additional ballast courtesy of Br. G's weight, and/or the studded tires) behind a line of traffic, on that same damned hill on Shortlidge Road, which leads down to the traffic light on East College Avenue and continues onto South Garner Street.

No one is sure which subsequent vehicle, heading down the same hill, was unable to make that same careful stop (Perhaps lacking sufficient ballast or studded tires).

The result was a slow-motion chain reaction, sort of like dominos falling, of cars being hit from the rear, sliding down to hit the car in front, and starting the same reaction all over.

Normally, such an incident would result in enraged drivers and/or passengers getting out of the vehicles, looking for damage, swearing, and exchanging license information, insurance information, and possibly fisticuff blows.

However, it seemed that no one wanted to leave the warmth of their respective cars or to discuss anything regarding drinking while driving with the campus or Boro gendarmes.

So, when the light at the bottom of the hill changed, all parties continued to their respective destinations as though nothing had happened.



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

Alumni Updates



After earning her B.A. in International Relations, **ROSALIE (MAGLIONE) ALLIGOOD** (Fall '72) – one of the

first TΦΔ Little Sisters – went on to earn two Master's Degrees (Tax Law and Public Administration) and her Juris Doctor degree. She worked 35 years for the IRS and ironically passed away last year ... on April 15th.

BEN ARMUSIK (Fall '68) was recently visited by **JIM CLARK** (Fall '68). While our emcee for the Centennial festivities in 2022 underwent open heart surgery last September, Jim's obviously on the mend. He and wife, Linda, recently traveled to Florida via Amtrak Auto Train and met up with Ben and his daughter, Stephanie, in Orlando.



Bros. Armusik and Clark with Ben's Daughter Stephanie at a Disney Resort

(Photo Credit: Mickey Mouse)

JOE "BART" BARTNICKI (Fall '60) spent last May hunting gobblers with his three grandsons. They had a very successful season – all four harvested birds. He then hit the trout streams. Bart wanted to pass along his compliments to all involved with the Centennial celebration, "One hell of a party!"

Bart had an unexpected visit from **TOM YORKE** (Fall '60) and Jeannie in June, where they had a pleasant dinner and some adult beverages. capt75hh@gmail.com

JOHN BEARER (Fall '70) has been in rehab for health conditions related to his legs and is expected to be there for a few more months.

You may send your cards and well wishes to him at:

Penn State Rehab Hospital
1135 Old Chocolate Avenue
Hummelstown, PA 17036

Or drop him an email at:

firebear@gmail.com

ROB CHRISMER (Fall '50) retired in 1994. His youngest son, David (a PSU graduate), and his wife, currently live with Rob.

Rob reports that his years at TΦΔ were great and he has many good memories.

Little Sister **MORGAN "MO" (KAMPMEIER) CLARK** (Spring '16) writes that her husband **CAMERON "CAM" CLARK** (Fall '14 / B.S. Wildlife Fisheries Science) works as an environmental technician specializing in timber rattlesnake monitoring on large-scale construction projects across the state. While Mo with a degree in Hospitality Management, works in human resources and recruitment.

In their spare time they forage for local wild berries and mushrooms, and Cam hunts the local state game lands for deer, wild turkey, and pheasants.

CamClark616@gmail.com

In response to the Centennial Celebration promotion, **DOUG DANKO** (Fall '72) emailed "Thanks for all the great information! Great job. Unfortunately, my plans on attending have changed. We have a second home and I am currently in Sarasota, Fla. after Hurricane Ian came through. I am very sad I will miss seeing some of my pledge brothers!"

dankod@comcast.net

In May 2023, **DAVE DOMIN** (Winter '80) was on a date at a bar in Adams County, when he noticed a guy at another table wearing a Penn State flyfishing tee shirt.

Dave asked, "Do you know Joe Humphreys? He's an honorary brother at my Penn State fraternity."

The guy replied with a smile, "Really! When did you pledge?"

As he approached Dave, he reached out to shake his hand and then said, "Strong!"

Then continued by telling Dave, "I guess you don't recognize me, Dave. I'm your big brother!" said **GARY "SWANNY" SWANSON** (Spring '79).



Bros. Swanson and Domin



It was noted in the previous issue of *The Taproot*, that the last Brother to buy and pin his sweetheart occurred in the late 70s.

On April 22, 1978, **LARRY DONMOYER** (Fall '76) pinned Patricia Fahey in front of Old Main. As tradition goes, this romantic ceremony was witnessed by a gang of Tau Phis.



Patricia decided she could put up with Larry and they were married August 11, 1979. She wore the pin at the Centennial banquet.

donmoyerlc@md.metrocast.net

DAVE DRIES (Fall '63) just finished writing his memoirs. He had to include stories on "Hey You" and our fraternity's house mother, Mrs. Snow. He loved the articles on them in *The Taproot*, and they helped to bring back his memories.

ERIC EBERLY (Spring '90) writes that finally he and Kathy traveled to Alaska. Eric's attempts to reach out to Little Sister **WENDY WEISEL-RANNEY** went unheard, but that did not stop them from fishing and hiking the backcountry.

Now married for nearly 30 years, they recently moved to Tennessee. Their three children are finally out of the house, with one left to go through college. Eric couldn't convince them to go to Penn State, but all their hearts bleed blue and white.

CHRISTINE EBERHART (Fall '85), along with several other Little Sister alumnae, have organized the Facebook group with the intent to generate communications with other alumnae and help support the current TΦΔ Little Sisters program.



For more details, contact Chris for at

(484)769-3311 / eb0704@yahoo.com

JOE EICHERT (Fall '59) was sorry that he and Lee missed the 100-year anniversary event. They had expectations of attending, but due to some physical limitations, they had to cancel.

Puttergirl1965@gmail.com

Sad news from Sheridan, Wyo. as **HOWARD "HOWIE" FEDDEN** (Fall '73 - Beta) recently lost his battle to recover from traumatic brain injury on January 12. He had an unfortunate homebound accident, when in June 2022, he fell down a flight of stairs and severely injured his skull.



Last November, **JOSEPH "JOEY" GANZ, III** (Fall '07) tagged this trophy 355-pound Luzerne Co. bruin with his hometown hunting buddies, including **MITCH VOWLER** (Spring '07). A week later, he shot a nice 8-point buck.

Now Joey's goal is to score this spring gobbler season and earn him the prestigious triple trophy.

joseph.gans@gmail.com

BILL HERB (Fall '65) says that he and Marian are doing well and enjoyed the warm weather in Florida in March and a 48th anniversary trip to the N.Y. Finger Lakes. Later that fall, they traveled to the Lakes Region of Italy. As always, Bill anticipated his "old fart" antlerless deer season in Tioga County and then buck hunting after Thanksgiving.

m.b.tailfeathers@gmail.com



GUY W. KAY (Fall '50), 92, passed away on October 10, 2022, in his St. Helena, Calif. home. He came to PSU on an athletic scholarship, earning

a B.S. in Botany and winning an NCAA Championship in track and field. He served in the Korean War as a combat medic. Guy married his college sweetheart Connie Curry in 1954 and went to work for Nestle Corporation eventually ending up in the Calif. Napa Valley and was responsible for production and warehousing at Wine World.



JEFF "MAC" MCELRATH (Fall '85) made it official last Christmas, when he proposed and is now engaged to Helen Hopkins - Kidd. Congrats to Mac!

mac1cop@comcast.net

According to a recent LinkedIn posting, **JOHN "JR" MURDOCK** (Fall '06) wrote: "What began as a wild idea, many years ago, while cruising timber has now become a reality. Murdock Forest Management, LLC has launched into the cut-to-length logging field with a direct focus on improving timber stand quality after a harvest. My primary focus is offering timber stand improvement, group selection, thinning, and shelterwood harvests to public and private landowners in northwestern Pennsylvania."



Br. Murdock and Claire

JR and his wife, Mandy, reside in Wilcox with their two young daughters, Claire and Elsie.

Murdockforestmanagement@gmail.com / (570) 439-0307

Sad news about **EDWARD "SAM" NENNO** (Fall '69). **TERRY DAYTON** (Fall '71) passed along this sad belated notice of his good friend to Little Sister alumnae, **TERESA "TERRI" (TULLIO) SPRINGER** (Spring '72).

Sam (aka "Turkey Man") had passed away on May 2, 2023.

Terri recalled that Sam lived at the House in the early '70s with his "kids" – a brood of young turkey poults that he imprinted as part of his graduate research. "The first time I met him, he had on an army jacket and introduced me to his kids by opening the flaps of the pockets and out popped all these little turkey heads. He would follow them as they grew and discovered many new things about their behavior, language and diet. Sam will likely be remembered as the character that he was!"

Sam worked for the U.S. Forest Service in W. Va. where both he and **DR. BILL HEALY** (Fall '61) studied human-imprinted wild turkey poults from hatching through adulthood.

Br. Dayton is planning for a memorial celebration for Sam on his southwestern Penna. farm during the upcoming opener of the spring gobbler hunting season — A fitting tribute!



Br. Nenno With One of His "Kids"

DAVE RUPPERT (Fall '77) and his wife, Lina, took a coastal cruise to Alaska last summer.



Here they are at the Columbia Bay on the Prince William Sound.
Drrupert56@gmail.com

Several Tau Phis of varying ages – from a wide range of pledge classes starting from Fall '76 to Spring '14 – gathered in Potter County to hunt during the last day of the 2023 Penna. rifle deer hunting season.*



(L - R) Karl Imdorf, James Ostergaard, Billy Johns, Earl Hower, Tim Holtz, Jeff "Kid" Patten, Will Johns and Howard "Dokey" Wurzbacher

* No deer were harmed in the making of this photo.

After each living in Colo. for several decades, **LANCE SCHUL** (Fall '91) finally connected with **MARC FLICKER** (Spring '83) at the log cabin that Marc built near the Pike National Forest.

They hunted the end of the 2023 Colo. spring gobbler season with a visiting "flatlander" from back east, **EARL HOWER** (Fall '77).

No Merriam turkeys were found. While Earl suffered from the effects of elevation sickness, he did have a few close encounters with a pregnant cow moose.



Bros. Flicker and Schul

After reading the 100 Year Flood, **CRAIG TALLEY** (Spring '81) emailed us back, "Thank you for the update and your continued support of Tau Phi Delta for their dedication to our Fraternity."

ctalley55@gmail.com



LUKE TALLEY (Spring '19) of Kennett Square, Penna., died on October 24, 2023, sadly after a delayed hospital stay.

Luke, age 24, fought a courageous battle but was unable to overcome injuries sustained in an auto accident that happened about a month prior.

His memorial service was held on November 18th and a large contingency of Active Brothers – who skipped the first day of the House bear hunt – attended to pay their respects to our young Brother.

Luke's mom insisted that the attending Brothers share some stories about Luke's time spent at TΦΔ and Penn State. Thus, bringing many smiles in remembrance of this lost Brother.

WILLIAM R. "BILL" WILCOX (Fall '63) of Wellington, Colo. died on November 13, 2023.

After earning his B.S. Forestry, he served in U.S. Navy's Naval Intelligence, then earned his M.S. in Forest Products Utilization at Colo. State University.

Most of his career was spent working for the Colo. State Forest Service and retired as their State Forester.

Years later, Bill broke his spine after falling from his tree stand leaving him permanently wheelchair-bound.



Bill and Sue Wilcox

TOM WOLF (Fall '66) wrote that, "It was good seeing all you Crows' Nest Old Farts at the Centennial Celebration."

wolfe109@verizon.net

Editor's Note:

I resemble that remark!

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

“Got Elk?”

By EARL HOWER (Fall '77)

Illustrations by STEVE TOROK (Spring '86)

Normally this column features stories about our Brothers sharing their outdoor adventures.

For over 100 years, Tau Phi Delta Fraternity has mainly been a home for those studying forestry, and later, also wildlife and fisheries, recreation and parks, and environmental and natural resources management. It also has attracted a common group of Brothers with the same outdoor recreational interests, such as hunting, fishing, hiking, camping and enjoying nature. It has evolved into a common thread among all of us and has been our lifeblood for our fraternity.

After leaving Happy Valley, many Tau Phis have found satisfaction by joining, supporting, and getting involved with like-minded organizations with a conservation cause.



RMEF
www.rmef.org

One such group that has attracted many Tau Phis in recent years is the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF). They support the RMEF mission that is

“committed to conserving, restoring, and enhancing natural habitats while promoting the sound management of wild, free-ranging elk, which may be hunted or otherwise enjoyed.”

Don't let the name “Rocky Mountain” fool you, as the RMEF has had a major impact on the elk herd here in Pennsylvania—in fostering cooperation with state agencies and private companies for elk management and habitat conservation.

Yes, we have elk in the Keystone State!

However, it was not long ago, four decades ago, when the elk population located in a small pocket of land in northcentral part of the state dwindled to a few dozen – mainly due to a brainworm infestation, human conflicts over crop damage, loss of quality habitat, and illegal poaching.



I was first exposed to the fact that there were elk in the Pennsylvania in the mid-1970s by Nick Hunter, my dendrology instructor at Mont Alto, who did his graduate work on our elk.

For years, it was considered lucky to see an elk or two by chance when travelling in the norther tier.

Today the now huntable elk population has grown to an estimated 1,400, and during my last three recent trips to camp in Potter County, I've seen dozens of elk on each trip.

Volunteers have made the RMEF one of the most successful wildlife conservation organizations committing their time, talents and energy to the mission to ensure the future of elk and other wildlife, their habitat and our hunting heritage.

It's no secret that the elk herd in this state has prospered thanks to these volunteers. Check this out: www.rmef.org/elk-network/pennsylvania-elk-prosper-thanks-to-rmef-volunteers/

Since the early '90s, many dedicated Brothers have volunteered for RMEF here in the state, as well as others who were or still are employed by RMEF.

Those Tau Phis who are key volunteers here on RMEF Committees include Bros. Gene Odato, Steve “Benny” Warner, Chad Hartzell, Ben Hoffman, Greg Trimmer, Ken Wolfe, and Will Leete.

A previous RMEF CEO was Br. Rich Lane (Fall '75) who was located in their Missoula, Mont. national headquarters. Other Tau Phis who previously worked for RMEF included Bros. Dave Messics and Lance Schul, and Dave Ragantesi and Kory Enck, who are currently RMEF regional representatives.

There are about 30 local chapters of dedicated volunteers in Pennsylvania that organize and host fund-raising banquets to generate the much-needed dollars on behalf of elk to purchase and enhance habitat and promote conservation.

To be a part of this team to work for the elk in Pennsylvania and if you're interested in volunteering in your area, contact the following Tau Phis.

They could use your help!

Dave Ragantesi
dragntesi@rmef.org
(570) 278-4747

Kory Enck
kenck@rmef.org
(717) 680-1950

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 “Curfews”

By BILL HERB (Fall '65)

In a previous article (*The Taproot*, Issue 12 / 2015) concerning our then-fraternity's house mother, Mrs. Snow, the topic of curfews for female students was mentioned.

My recollection is that they had to be back in the dorms by midnight on Friday and by 1:00 am for Saturday night (Actually Sunday morning), unless they had previously signed out that they were in some “public place.”

Lore has it that on any given Friday or Saturday night, there was a minimum of 10,000 co-eds having sticky buns at the Ye Old College Diner (Now sadly defunct, but the sticky buns live on and are baked off site and can be purchased in various venues in town and on campus. `Sorry, I digressed).

However, for those females who both were attending a Tau Phi Delta Mixer, Jammy, South Seas Island Party (or the like), and had to be back to the dorm by the appointed hour, a delicate balance was required between “partying hardy” and heading back to the dorm. That could mean a long, slow, tipsy walk back to East Halls under a looming deadline.

However, there was a much quicker, and much riskier approach. If the coed was dating a Brother or even a Pledge who had a car, or had access to such an individual with a car, the partying could go on a bit longer, and the couples could make a final vehicular dash back to the dorm to beat the clock.

The two main problems with that approach were that this was in the days before “designated drivers,” and the chosen chauffeur was most likely one of the “designated drinkers.” To further up the ante, every other coed with access to a driver was making the same mad inebriated dash back to the dormitory at exactly the same time.

Throw in inclement weather, like sleet, snow or heavy rains, and you might have faced the same problem that – let's call him -- Br. G and his date and an unremembered Brother and his date, encountered with Br. H and his date (Well, maybe he had a date; this is lost in the mists of time and his legendary marginal dating success).

Br. H drove a seven-year-old Ford Fairlane with a black paint job that had been lovingly and inexpensively applied by hand with a brush. While it was not the most beautiful vehicle, the old Ford would usually start, and could transport six sober individuals, or more drunken individuals, easily.

It was a dark and stormy, snowy night when the intrepid six began the trip back to East Halls with only minutes to spare before coeds turned into pumpkins. During the evening's festivities, a good bit of snow had fallen, and there was, perhaps, a half-foot or so on the ground, and, more importantly, on the roads. The first part of the trip was uneventful, but at some point, on campus, along the slope on Shortlidge Road, snow, gravity, and traffic congestion overcame forward momentum, and the old black bomb came to an embarrassing halt into a snow drift.

Br. G, gentleman that he was, hopped out and got behind the Fairlane to provide a push. He was small, but wiry, and soon he had the car moving forward, Br. H, the pilot, realized that if he stopped, precious momentum would be lost, so he just kept on going, leaving Br. G standing helplessly in the snow, wearing only his suit (Not his birthday suit, at least) and dress shoes. There were more important considerations at hand, and besides, Br. G could do a bit of snowy running, catch up to the group on a level stretch of Pollack Road, and warm up while providing a bit of additional ballast for traction.

The hand off at the dorm had been delayed by the unscheduled stop, and the dreaded curfew time had come and gone. However, not only was the wayward car pusher wiry, but he was persuasive, and after some vigorous shaking and hearty banging on the dorm door, a coed dorm monitor allowed the tardy coeds to enter with no black marks on their permanent records

And so, the return back to 238 East Fairmount began.

CURFEW *continued on page 8 ~*

“Our Founding Brothers”

~ Continued from page 1

After graduating, I pondered doing a painting to be permanently displayed at the House. This pondering went on for years...Okay, actually for decades.

As for subject matter, the old trusty wildlife theme kept coming to mind, but I kept pushing that aside. Something unique, something every past, present, and future Brother could relate, was what I was looking for.

Finally, in early 2022 my procrastination paid off, instead of biting me in the ass like it usually does. The TΦΔ Centennial Committee contacted me about using my art skills to benefit the upcoming 100th year anniversary celebration of Tau Phi Delta.

That’s when the creative light bulb went off in my head! I remembered that old, black and white group photo of the 1922 founding Brothers on the chapter room shelf.



If it wasn’t for these 17 guys having a vision, none of us would be reading this newsletter right now. Actually, there were 18 founding Brothers, but one had to operate the camera. The scene in this photo (above) needed to be magnified and brought to life. The Brothers sent me a digital copy of the photo and the project got rolling.

As far as the mechanics of the painting are concerned, it had to be done on a large scale to show the details of each founding Brother. The painting was done on a piece of hard-maple-veneered plywood with a custom barnwood frame. This made it easy to screw into the wood walls of the chapter room. Acrylic paints with an acrylic sealer are the medium that I used.

To give the aura of a reminiscent, old scene from the past, I intentionally limited myself to a total of seven earthy colors plus black and white. This created the subdued colors in the painting.

This artwork was a physical and mental journey. Physically, as most artists can attest, it’s a thrill to bring these human figures to life, to give the viewer a 3D feel through light, shadows, and color.

Although some thought that I had used an image of the nearby Seven Mountains, actually the background mountain valley in the painting was completely created by me. This was done in a simple, faded style to create distance and depth from the foreground.

The mental journey I took with this painting was really fun. I put myself back in time to that day in 1922 when this photo was taken. Were these young Brothers having a woodcutting party? Was it a group fishing day? Maybe it was a field lab forestry class? Or was it just a beer drinking get-together?

I thought wouldn’t it be neat to actually visit this exact spot today? As I’m painting, a crazy notion kept coming to mind. Right after this photo was taken, what if a stranger with psychic powers approached the founding Brothers and told them “In 100 years from now, a future alumnus is going to do a painting of this photo, to be displayed in celebration of you guys at the only chapter remaining in the country.” What do you think their reactions would be?

As I painted each founding Brother, I wondered about his story. Where did he come from? What kind of person was he? What did he become? Did he die young or live to be an old man? Of course, I couldn’t help but think who, in this fraternity line-up, was the practical joker? Who was the dumb ass? Who was the lazy ass? Who was the bookworm? Who was the one who got picked on a lot? (Probably the guy fourth from the right, short with big ears.) Who was the token fat ass? (Definitely the guy fourth from the left).

In other words, simply the same cross-section of Brothers has transcended these past ten decades and will continue for the decades to come.

So as each of you view this piece of artwork, whether it be online or in person at the House; remember, it’s not a painting, but a timeless mirror reflecting the Brotherhood of Tau Phi Delta.”



Architectural Renderings

Here are just a few samples of the proposed improvements for the lower level of the House that the Development Committee is considering.

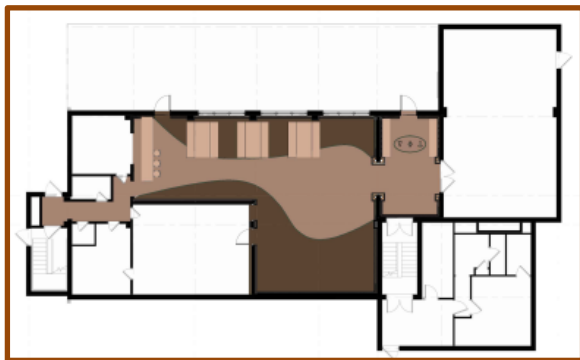
Any questions on the many details involved with this project can be directed to Br. **ERIC HORVAT** by emailing: ruthianblast@gmail.com.



Dining - Bar Rooms



Rear Door Entrance / Foyer



Layout View of the Project Work Area

Parting Shots

Tale of Tau Phi's Walnut Tree



A long story short ... Over twenty years ago, a squirrel buried a nut on the property line in our front yard. Last fall, the next-door neighbors kindly requested that we remove this now towering tree as its roots had been encroaching into their flower garden and endlessly dropping messy leaves, branches, twigs, and nuts in their yard. Yes. It's a tree!

So, wanting to be a good neighbor, we hired a local arborist to remove it. Pleased, the neighbors gave us \$1,900 to cover those expenses. Then a few Alumni Brothers cut and prepared three walnut sawlogs and sold them to a local Amish sawmill for nearly \$650.

Fraternity Lifeguard Benches

A recent article in the PSU alumni magazine, *Penn Stater*, reported that “nearly every fraternity house in town seems to have one on its lawn, each hand-painted with chapter letters and colors.”

Wanting to *keep up with the Joneses*, and upon reopening of the House after the flood, the Brothers built their own oversized green and white lifeguard



bench— proudly displaying on the rear patio to all those who pass by TΦΔ that: “We are ... Treehouse!”

Centennial Video

A reminder to all Actives and Alumni: If you wish to see the fraternity's history video— originally presented during the Centennial banquet—look online at www.tauphidelta.org; open **ALUMNI** webpage; then navigate to the bottom **2022 Centennial Celebration**; and click on “**100 Years of Brotherhood Video**” to view this 22-minute presentation.

Hint: This video is mandatory viewing for all Pledges!

Please send us your Alumni Update for the next issue of



**Tau Phi Delta Fraternity
427 East Fairmount Avenue
State College, PA 16801-5711**

Address Service Requested

Future TΦΔ Scheduled Events for 2024

PLAN AHEAD:

➤ **Grand National Spring Meeting • Saturday, April 6 / 10:00am, ET**

- Active Brothers
- Corporation Board of Directors
- Tau Phi Delta Foundation Trustees

Location: Tau Phi Delta Fraternity

- All Brothers are invited to attend and encouraged to participate.

- Virtual remote access available. To join Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84886663028?pwd=K2RzK2dHSTdaUmRDN0NnaktnRFMrQT09>

Meeting ID: 848 8666 3028 Passcode: 793739

- Or dial-in at: (646) 931-3860 or (301) 715-8592

- Agenda to be posted online: www.tauphidelta.org

➤ **Online Voting for Corporation Board of Directors • April 15 to 30**

See page 4 for details

➤ **Annual W. James Evans Memorial Golf Tournament • Saturday, July 27 / 9:00am**

For more specifics, contact: Jim Cowan or Gavin Collins, Event Co-Chairmen

jmc4con@verizon.net / gcollins573@gmail.com

More details and rules see the enclosed flyer or online at: www.tauphidelta.org

➤ **PSU Fall Homecoming • Saturday, September 28**

- Tailgate and football game – Nittany Lions vs. Fighting Illini