



### Our fraternity needs help!

While we continue to do a great job regarding graduating Brothers, those Penn State University restrictions since 2014 have created serious and dangerous setbacks in recruiting pledges.

The university's continued mandates against all fraternities could easily sink Tau Phi Delta.

Do you know of any young men either currently or soon-to-be enrolled at Penn State who would like experience what TΦΔ has to offer by becoming part of our nearly 100-year old tradition?

We are looking for your sons, grandsons, nephews, neighbors, members of your church, former youth from a Boy Scout troop ...

If so, please contact **AARON SWEGER** at: [ams8707@psu.edu](mailto:ams8707@psu.edu) / (717) 802-6123.

## "Tau Phis In The News"



**PennState**  
College of Agricultural Sciences

Department of Ecosystem Science and Management



**PennState**  
Alumni Association

*Penn Stater* Magazine

The recent PSU Forest Resources Alumni Group Board of Directors election results included two Tau Phis.

Congratulations to **CORBIN "THE COLONEL" RINEHART** (Spring '08 / PSU '11 Wood Products), and **HOWARD "DOKEY" WURZBACHER** (Spring '77 / PSU '79 Forest Resources) who have been elected to a three-year term on the group's board of directors.

Corbin is new to the alumni group and is the former Sigma for the TΦΔ Corporation Board and our fraternity's current managing webmaster.

Prior to his retirement as a regional forester for the Pa. Game Commission, Howard had previously served on the alumni group board (2011-2017), including two years as president.

Two Tau Phis were featured in an article titled "Stepping into Smoke" (page 42) in the July/August 2019 issue of the *Penn Stater* magazine.

Fire foresters, **SHAUN "SLO MO" DORAN** (Fall '03) and **CHRIS LAYOU** (Spring '06), were the featured subjects among several Penn State forestry graduates employed by the Pa. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Bureau of Forestry who are assigned to help fight western wildfires.



Br. Doran



The "Member's Page" (last page) of the July 2019 *American Hunter* magazine featured a short tale of a 2018 Alaskan hunt taken of Tau Phi **GREG "CHAMP" FLEMING** (Fall '96) as well a fitting tribute to his late father.



Success in Alaska!



Br. Layou

Along with a mention of two other fire-fighting Brothers **MIKE BECKER** (Fall '90) and **ERIC FRITZINGER** (Fall '01), the author gave a nice but brief shout-out to Tau Phi Delta Fraternity as well in the article.

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# The Taproot

**Tau Phi Delta Fraternity**  
427 East Fairmount Avenue  
State College, PA 16801-5711  
(814) 237-2207  
[www.tauphidelta.org](http://www.tauphidelta.org)

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

**Penn State Alpha Chapter**  
**Board of Directors**

**Officers:** Kody Unangst, Phi  
Matt Mihaly, Alpha Phi  
Sam Durant, Tau  
Ethan Bauer, Sigma

**Directors:** Shaun Doran,  
Scott Gaylor, William Leete,  
Corbin Reinhart and Kevin Stough.

**The TΦΔ Foundation**  
**Board of Trustees**

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

## The Taproot

**Editor:** Bill Herb  
**Associate Editors:** Earl Hower and  
Ben Emminger  
**Honorary Editors:** Tom Yorke and  
Adam Heggenstaller  
**Mailing List and Circulation:**  
Joe Costanzo, Earl Hower, and  
Eric Kemper  
**Contributors:** Shaun Doran,  
Kory Enck, Dave Gray,  
Matt Mihaly, Dave O'Barto, and  
Kody Unangst.

**Illustrator:** Steve Torok  
**Webmaster:** Corbin Rinehart

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

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

**So please check it out if you did not**  
**receive the last issue from fall 2018!**

## 'Just A Flag!

**Br. Earl W. Hower (Fall '77)**  
**Sigma, Grand National**

In the last Tau Phi Delta *News From The Treehouse* spring newsletter, the Actives innocently announced that the location of their Blue White



Game tailgate would be identified with a certain political flag; more specifically a "Trump 2020" flag.

Little did they know that some Alumni would be upset by what was misconstrued as the fraternity's party affiliation or a political endorsement?

Was it a youthful indiscretion? Perhaps, as they are young men – old enough to be: my sons, or for many Alumni: their grandsons.

While they were advised otherwise, some thought it was cute. Or perhaps funny, or just wanted to express "in your face" to the university's strong-armed, liberal-leaning authorities.

For sure, they thought using this flag was a way to stand out in the sea of flags displayed by parked vehicles during game day.

A few years ago, I gave the House a blue and white striped flag pole and Revolutionary War era "Continental Flag" for the purpose of having a unique, but somewhat related image of a tree to be displayed on a pole at tailgates.



This one was with red body and a distinct pine tree in a partial white background. It too was kind of a subtle protest symbol against Old Main and their new oppression levied onto PSU's Greek organizations.

My guess is they either lost it or forgot about it at the time of printing the newsletter. It was however found soon after and was used instead of the advertised "Trump" flag and will continue to be used in the future "unofficial gatherings on campus" (better known by others as tailgates).

The thing of it is, regardless of what flag or banner used, nobody

outside of our fraternity would ever have known that the tailgate is a Tau Phi Delta function – other than our own Brothers, Pledges, Little Sisters, and a few invited guests.

Why? Please consider that the display of any fraternity or sorority flag and/or Greek letters has long been banned at tailgates on campus.

Yes, it has even gotten to the point that our Brothers do not wear Greek letters on shirts and caps when tailgating out of fear of retribution. And they never use a vehicle with any Greek letters displayed on a rear window or bumper. There's nothing to identify our fraternity to any outsiders such as administration officials, campus police, and university-paid fraternity watchers.

The bottom-line is: Tau Phi Delta's name can never be spelled out; nor can our Greek letters "TΦΔ" ever be displayed openly "on campus." Some even suggest that displaying the word "Treehouse" would also be pushing our luck.

Frankly my Brothers, there are far greater issues at hand at our House, though we do fly our green and white flag daily on the front yard pole.

Our critical issues include recent recruitment challenges, dangerously low numbers of Actives, a property that is physically challenged by its age (60 plus years old), not enough hands to do house duties, and certain generational attitudes that differ from those who lived there before them.

An Alumnus Brother recently pointed out that the "university and borough have not dealt Greek Life any favors. By means of strict social regulations and crippling recruitment guidelines, every passing semester brings new challenges in advancing our fraternity"

As for the near-term future, what needs to happen is for us to reestablish our bearings and for TΦΔ to continue.



This is the time for all Brothers of all ages to rally around our flag ...

And for us to stand proudly behind 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 the return of the insert from last year’s issue.

Each year out loyal readers, many are individuals or groups of Brothers and Little Sisters, have provided financial contributions so the printing and mailing of *The Taproot* is not a financial burden on the actives or the Alpha Chapter.

The following Brothers, a Little Sister, and a spouse of a deceased Brother have donated \$10 to \$200 for a total of \$1,200 toward the cost of printing and mailing last year’s issue of *The Taproot*.

Stan Arner	Joe Bartnicki
Larry Beans	Tom Breslin
Tom Campbell	Robert Douglas
Page Etchison	Dave Glaesser
Ginny Glasscock	Carl Griffin
Bill Herb	Earl Hower
Glen Janos	Wade Nutter
Dave Rupert	Wayne Schutz
Sid Slocum	Charles Thuma
Patricia Wilson-Schmid	
Tom Witmer	Carl Wolfe

We thank you for your continued support of *The Taproot*; however, your contributions have come up short of our goal to support the printing and mailing of this issue. Please support *The Taproot*!

Please take a few minutes to complete the yellow alumni update sheet inserted in this issue (Or download one found online at [www.tauphidelta.org](http://www.tauphidelta.org)) and return it.

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

You also can send an update by emailing Bill Herb, Editor, at: [m.b.tailfeathers@gmail.com](mailto:m.b.tailfeathers@gmail.com).



Follow us on Instagram at:  
[tau\\_phi\\_delta\\_psu](https://www.instagram.com/tau_phi_delta_psu)

## The Honorable Phis’ Reports

### Grand National Chapter By Dave O’Barto (Fall ’90)

In March, I along with the other four Grand National Chapter officers: Brothers Gustafson, Odato and Hower, met in State College and conducted an inspection, interviews, and various observations at the Tau Phi Delta Fraternity - Penn State Alpha Chapter.

We attended a Monday evening, 2-hour long, House meeting and afterwards another 2-hour post rap session with Actives and Pledges that lasted until 1 o’clock in the morning.

We since sent a written statement addressing our observations, sincerest concerns, and strong recommendations for changes to the Alumni Corporation Board of Directors, Actives Brothers and House Advisors.

Our “wake-up” call, while not appreciated by some, was accepted and understood and changes are happening.

However, the most recent efforts of our Brotherhood to revitalize the fraternity house’s appearance and operations must be recognized. We commend the concerned Alumni (Corporation BOD included) and Active executive officers for their leadership with this initiative.

The reality is the Penn State forestry program is on the decline with enrollment numbers slashed dramatically when compared to decades before. The fact is the PSU School of Forest Resources, now called the Department of Ecosystems Science and Management, educates and graduates more wildlife students than forestry students.

Yes, the reality is that we (TΦΔ) are no longer a *true* forestry-based fraternity; rather we have morphed into an “outdoor-interest” fraternity in order to survive.

Likewise, the pledge program will likely change not only for us to continue, but also to follow the University’s rules for compliance.

We’ll do our best to guide and mentor those in the House to do their part for the governance of the fraternity and to reinforce our long-standing important values and existing rules – from managing house duties and maintenance operations, passing along traditions and history, to protecting the sanctity of our chapter room.

To support the recruiting efforts the Grand National helped “acquire” a tabletop display board for the Actives to modify and use at upcoming tabling event.

Also, we supplied them with a customized green and white table cover with our name, seal and website. Soon to be delivered, is a professionally designed pop-up display banner (see below) for the Actives to use at such public events, including on Main Campus, and hopefully during future Branch Campus visits.



One thing the Grand National did recognize from our recent visits and interactions, is that those Actives currently living in the House are some great guys.

Alumni should rest assured that they are up to the challenge and want to see Tau Phi Delta Fraternity thrive and continue!

(412)310-3291 / [obarto@comcast.net](mailto:obarto@comcast.net)



## Corporation Board of Directors

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

Greetings Tau Phis! This year 2019 has proven interesting to say the least. I'm sure most of you can relate, time seems to fly by even quicker with each passing year. Like always, there is a lot going on in the world of Tau Phi Delta.

With regards to the physical house we have wrapped up the new boiler project. While this was a major undertaking, we believe the annual cost savings from higher efficiency and fewer repairs will help to pay for the boiler over the coming years.

Additionally, a group of several Alumni – ranging from the 70s, 80s, 90s and recent decades – took on the Chapter Room this past summer. Removal and replacement of the tile floor, the drop ceiling and lighting combined with painting the back walls and ceiling, new window treatments and reframing damaged wall hangings have done wonders to highlight one of our fraternity's most interesting features.

After more than three weekends of work, the project came together

nicely, and I encourage everyone to stop by and check it out!

I would like to thank all the Brothers who donated time and effort towards the project, especially Bros. Earl Hower and Mitch Vowler for their significant financial and in-kind contributions. A gift bequeathed from the late Br. Porter Gearhart's estate also helped, in part, to fund this effort.

We're also eyeballing a future fund-raising effort for new furniture to add as the final enhancement to our Chapter Room.

The Board has made a point to organize at least one "Work Weekend" a year. Over the past two years, with the help of our Alumni and Actives we have been able to rebuild the retaining wall near the west side of the property and renovate the aforementioned Chapter Room. It is our hope to continue this tradition.

Future projects may include renovating the front vestibule/foyer area, replacing the retaining wall along the east side of property, and redoing the cook's powder room adjacent to the kitchen. These are just a start; with many more much-needed repairs to come.

While our House is great, she is showing her age. I am sure more of these projects will pop up as semesters go by. If you have

any interest in getting involved with these projects, please don't hesitate to contact me!

We hope that by working with the Actives to improve the physical condition of our House we can help bolster recruitment. To help supplement this further, we are reinstating the Annual TΦΔ Gun Raffle (Contact Br. Ethan Bauer at: [ebauer2013@gmail.com](mailto:ebauer2013@gmail.com)). Please keep an eye out later this fall for tickets to buy or sell – proceeds to go to our membership efforts.

Hosting events, paying for advertisements, marketing Tau Phi Delta, and adding more physical plant improvements will all help to increase interest in our Fraternity.

If you have and questions, concerns, or suggestions please don't hesitate to reach out, I would be happy to talk with you.

Additionally, if you have any interest in helping with future work weekend projects, wish to receive gun raffle tickets, or contribute to any of these future projects, including Chapter Room furniture purchases, please feel free to contact me.

(484) 894-3012

[KodyUnangst93@gmail.com](mailto:KodyUnangst93@gmail.com)



## House Phi's Message

By **Matthew Mihaly**  
(Fall '16)

As we enter the fall semester, we are all excited to be back and are very optimistic about recruitment. Besides classes, of course, football season is upon us. We couldn't be happier about that. We are looking forward to salmon fishing road trips, group deer drives, and, of course, the biggest one of all: the annual TΦΔ bear hunt.

However, one other kind of hunt stands out for now. That is the hunt for new potential Brothers.

We pushed recruitment hard at the involvement fair held on August 29<sup>th</sup> during the first week of



### New and Much Improved Tau Phi Delta Chapter Room

Paint, polish wood paneling and floors, and new ceramic tile flooring, LED lights and drop ceiling.

classes. We are comfortable saying we expect a decent pledge class.

At that time, we already have two boarders that have decided to pledge Tau Phi Delta and we were in the process of convincing many more to pledge this fall and spring.

We received roughly \$3,000 in donations for recruitment and marketing and I just want to give a huge “thank you” for all those that contributed. Your donations are highly appreciated! A variety of rush activities are in the works, too. We plan on doing a skeet shoot in the upcoming weeks as well as another fun event such as bowling.

We are pleased with the outcome of the renovations in the chapter room. The new ceiling and floor tile look absolutely beautiful. A huge thank you to all the Alumni who made contributions, big or small, toward this effort. We are grateful to be a part of a great fraternity with amazing Alumni involvement. In order to keep the chapter room in pristine condition we have placed an extra man on the chapter room house duty. Two guys are always better than one.

We are continuing to be recognized as a chapter in good standing thanks to the Actives and the House Executive Board made up of me (Phi), **TRAVIS KOSTYAL** (Alpha Phi), **NICK GRENCI** (Tau), and **LUKE NORWIG** (Sigma). We are striving to do well in the classroom and participate in numerous philanthropy and community service events.

In spring 2019, we added four new Brothers: **DAN SMITH**, **MATT BELLIA**, **OWEN NEFF**, and **LUKE TALLEY**. This group is highly-motivated and we are pleased to have welcomed them into our Brotherhood. Their pledge project consisted of redoing the archery range as well as cleaning up the side yard area.

We currently have a total of 14 Brothers, 12 in house and two out-of-house (stuck with apartment contracts), and four boarders.

As I mentioned, we had plenty of interest at the recent involvement fair on campus and along with the previously-mentioned boarders, and we now have a solid, fall class with six pledges.

We’re also keeping tabs with interested freshmen who will be eligible to pledge come spring.

I just want to again thank everyone for making Tau Phi Delta a strong and healthy Brotherhood.

Without the generous support and contributions from our Alumni and Actives our House would not be what is it today. We wish everyone a safe and blessed end of the year as well as good luck in your hunting endeavors.

If you have any questions or advice to offer, please feel free to give me a call or email me.

As always feel free to stop by if you are ever in the area. We enjoy all the old stories about Tau Phi traditions and tales from the great outdoors as much as you do.

Again, should you know of any young men either currently or soon-to-be enrolled at Penn State who you think would like to experience what TΦΔ has to offer, please let us know.

To the hunt!

(203)824-7474

*mmihaly14@gmail.com*



## Foundation's Good News

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

In August, the Tau Phi Delta Foundation Board of Trustees announced the winners of their 2019 TΦΔ Academic Achievement Scholarships.

Current House Tau, **NICHOLAS GRENCI** (Fall '16), was the top recipient of \$1,000. He is a recent graduate and is currently a doctoral candidate in Nuclear Science from Butler, Pa. The two runners-up – each receiving \$750 – included Active Brothers: **AARON SWEGER**

(Spring '18), a Carlisle native majoring in Landscape Contracting Design/ Build Option with a minor in Arboriculture and former House Phi, **TYLER TURCHECK** (Fall '16), a Mining Engineering major hailing from Ligonier, Pa.

As you can imagine it was a difficult choice among all the applicants. We have some great Brothers living in the fraternity!

Funds are raised through various alumni donations, such as the proceeds collected from the annual W. James Evans Memorial Golf Tournament, recent alumni fundraisers, as well as the sale of Tau Phi Delta Foundation Pavers permanently on display on the fraternity's rear patio.

As a reminder, each of the previous and new applicants are welcome to reapply in the spring.

Our congratulations go out to these three young Tau Phis for the recent recognitions. We wish them the best in their academic pursuits.

Speaking of, we still have available spaces for engraved patio pavers. Please refer to the yellow inserted donor order form, or email: [ben.hoffman@outdoorsg.com](mailto:ben.hoffman@outdoorsg.com)

We thank all who have given and support the efforts of our foundation!

(717) 405-7566 / [kenck@nrahq.org](mailto:kenck@nrahq.org)

## Advisors' Corner

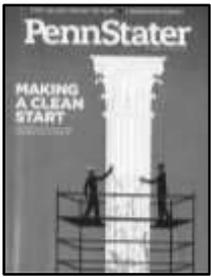
By **Shaun Doran** (Fall '03)  
Co-Advisor

This past spring semester, the House advisors received a phone call to let us know the officers of the Grand National Chapter would be in State College on a Monday night and would be attending a House Meeting. I can't remember a time when the entire Grand National attended a House Meeting during my tenure with TΦΔ, so I cleared my schedule and made it a point to join them.

We got together for dinner prior to the meeting and opened a discussion (as it related to the

issues of the membership decline) on the points we were going to talk about at the evening's visit.

One of the first items discussed, was, should the situation arise, what we would have to do should we have to liquidate the property. That was *not* a topic I was expecting to hear that evening. Nor was it a topic I would have ever been prepared to discuss, had the Grand National not made it clear it could be a reality in the future, if we don't get our act together now!



There's an article published in the September/October 2019 issue of the *Penn Stater* titled

"Cleaning House," in which PSU President, Eric Barron and Vice President for Student Affairs, Damon Simms and were interviewed about the university's stance on Greek Organizations, and the future of Greek Life at PSU.

Essentially, the previous regulations imposed by the university during the recent school years are just the beginning. PSU is seeking to further wrestle control of the Greek system from the hands of the IFC and into the hands of university officials. At one point in the interview, Simms states that fraternities that don't follow the path set by the university will eventually "Go away." He also adds "...we'll do all that we can to see that they go away."

So how is the university going to do that? How are they going to ensure the organizations that they can't control, that they so desperately want control over, are going to just "go away?" Though the plan was not outlined in the Barron/Simms interview, that plan is simple, and it's a tactic as old as the institutions themselves. They have limited the opportunities for

students to join fraternities. At the beginning of this semester, students had five days excluding the first weekend to be registered as a rush for a fraternity. That excludes first semester students, as they are prohibited from rushing or pledging fraternities altogether.

This is how the tactic works, membership dwindles, and without new members, the organizations starve financially. Statistically, the university can show that they've trimmed 'X' number of houses out of the Greek system at Penn State. Statistics won't show whether the houses were trouble makers or not, but there's no prizes for betting on how Penn State is going to spin it.

I found the second article in the series to be much more disturbing than the first. It recapped the last party that was held at (our next-door neighbors) Pi Kappa Phi. The article describes a growing tension between their active brothers and chapter alumni. Without alumni support, "Pi Kap" lost its recognition as a fraternity at Penn State. The chapter has since remained closed for the past three years. They are opening its doors this fall, recolonized with an entirely new, fresh crop of brothers and pledges to carry the organization forward.

In the spirit of being good neighbors, we wish them well in this endeavor.

The factor that led to ΠΚΦ's demise, is the very factor that sets ΤΦΔ apart from the others – the relationship between Alumni and Actives. Despite our subtle differences over the years, I would like to think the relationship between our Active and Alumni Brotherhood remains strong.

For example, a few Alumni spearheaded a major chapter room renovation effort this summer that gave the it a much-needed facelift.

The physical state of our House has always been a point of contention between our Actives and Alumni. I am happy to report

that our Actives showed their appreciation for the capital improvements at the first House Meeting by reinstating some old by-laws and passing new ones to preserve the chapter room in its pristine state and return it to its rightful place as the showcase of Tau Phi Delta.

The Actives have also each taken on membership challenges at a personal level. Actives were diligently working in discussion to ensure that every rush was on a first name basis with each Brother. Most of the Brothers that make up the generations of Tau Phi Deltas never intended to join a fraternity at Penn State. Our Brothers are aware of this and have sought to establish personal connections with the rushes and ensure that each rush has a personal connection to the House and its members.

If ΤΦΔ is going to weather the coming storm, it will not be due to the actions of the Actives or Alumni. It will be due to what we can do together, as an organization. Alumni, we need to help them find and recruit new members. When visiting the House, we need to meet with pledges and rushes and highlight all the wonderful things that Tau Phi Delta has done for us as professionals and as members of society. Actives, you'll need to continue to work with Alumni, not against them. Maintain that structure as the wonderful place it is to every one of us and make it an appealing place for new members and their parents to visit.

As the words scribed on our shield translate: "Let Us Be Men." So, let us be men who work together to drive forward, to keep our organization alive and thriving through the challenging semesters to come.

#### **Fraternity Co-Advisors**

Shaun Doran: (570) 922-4454

*shdoran@pa.gov*

Martin McGann: (814) 863-7595

*mrm19@psu.edu*

# Alumni Updates

At the National Wild Turkey Federation National Capital Area Chapter's annual fundraiser, held in Manassas, Va., five Tau Phis showed up to support this organization's wildlife conservation cause.



In attendance were (L to R above) **JOEL BACHERT** (Fall '97), **ADAM "HIGGINS" HEGGENSTALLER** (Fall '95) and his son Jacob, **GREG "CHAMP" FLEMING** (Fall '96) and his son Ian, **KEVIN "KRUSTY" WALTER** (Fall '92), and **EARL HOWER** (Fall '77).

**MIKE BAKER** (Fall '58) passed on September 23, 2018 in Manning S.C. He was a US Navy veteran of the Vietnam War.

**JOE "BART" BARTNICKI** (Fall '60) and his wife, Pat, celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in July with a family outing to Punta Cana with their three children and five grandkids.

In August, he headed to Limpopo Province in South Africa for a safari, where he took a Cape buffalo, kudo, impala, springbuck, and blesbuck.



He's going to Argentina in later to fly fish for rainbows. Bart reports, "Retirement is great!"

**TOM BRESLIN** (Fall '54) reports that he is still able to wander in the woods, and he thanks the staff of *The Taproot* for doing this work.

**PETER DORNEY** (Fall '77) still lives near Quakertown in a log cabin on ten acres and with a pond filled with bass and blue gill, a greenhouse, and three chickens. He and Lisa, have a daughter Ashley and son Collyn.

He's been Executive Director of the Hatfield Township Municipal Authority since 1994. "It's sort of like **WAYNE SCHUTZ'S** job at Derry Township [Dauphin County, Pa.]."

Through the years he's had some encounters with other Tau Phis. And he's actually been up to see to the House a couple of times with his son, who as a wrestler, competed in Eastern Nationals wrestling tournament at Rec Hall. "I actually ran into **KEN WOLFE** one time at the House, with his son who was also competing at Eastern Nationals.

I've also run into **RICK TAYLOR** frequently, as he works at Valley Forge's wastewater facility. And I've golfed with **MIKE THOMAS**, who works for Merck Pharmaceutical water treatment. I've been in email contact with **MARK LESKO** and once with **KEVIN VERNAREC**."

[pdorneyhtma@verizon.net](mailto:pdorneyhtma@verizon.net)

Former PSU forestry professor, **ROBERT W. DOUGLASS, PHD** (Fall '53) reports that sadly his wife, JoeAnn (PSU '62), passed away on May 15, 2018.

Robert retired from The Ohio State University in 1975, and now lives in Fairhope, Ala.



"Come on in! The water's fine" says **KORY ENCK** (Fall '86) during his recent "BASSCAMP" on Penn's Creek in Snyder Co., Pa.

He was joined with two other Tau Phi piscators **BEN HOFFMAN** (Fall '86) and **DAVE "DAVIS" MESSICS** (Fall '84).

Each Brother was able to fill their creels or, at the very least, tell some tall fishing tales.

**PAGE ETCHISON** (Fall '72) worked for 41 years and is retired and living in Greencastle, Pa. He enjoys travel, hiking, golf, and fishing.

[petchison@comcast.net](mailto:petchison@comcast.net)

**VIRGINIA "GINNY" (BURNE) GLASSCOCK** (Little Sister '77 - '79) sends greetings and lets us know that she enjoys *The Taproot*. She hopes her contribution will allow us to print photos a bit larger, so she can see the faces of the "old crew" better.



She thinks all of them (her included) turned out just fine.

Ginny is still living the big Idaho life

enjoying all that the Mountain West has to offer.

"My new retirement job, in addition to helping my husband, Dave, with Idaho Angling Services, is currently with the Craters of the Moon Natural History Association a non-profit that helps to operate the local National Park Service's visitor center."

She sends a "big hello" to those who might remember her.

[ginnyglasscock@gmail.com](mailto:ginnyglasscock@gmail.com)

After retiring in 2018, **DAVE "GOOSE" GRAY** (Fall '73) left the offshore oil rigs near Houston, Tx. for the Black Hills of southwestern S. Dakota.



Soon after, Dave (R) took off to an Alaskan caribou hunt with son, Andy (L), with considerable success.

[goose1395@aol.com](mailto:goose1395@aol.com)

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** For more details of this Artic Circle hunt, check out this issue's "Tau Phis In The Great Outdoors" on page 13.

After 14 years on the editorial staff for the National Rifle Association publications, **ADAM "HIGGINS" HEGGENSTALLER** (Fall '95) left the Washington, DC area to return home to Pa. He left as the Executive Editor, *American Hunter* magazine to become the Editorial Director of the *Game & Fish* publications.

*higgins\_308@yahoo.com*

**BILL HERB** (Fall '65) and Marian are still enjoying life in "the land of pleasant living" near Chestertown (Eastern Shore), Md. They have plenty of room for visitors.

"For the first time in 12 years, hundreds of geese that winter in the creek decided to pay a visit to my lawn. I'll need to get a replacement dog to keep them in place!"



He and Marian had a long-awaited trip to Egypt in mid-winter during which they hit all the major attractions from Alexandria to Upper Egypt and saw more tombs and temples than they ever dreamed of.

They also spent March in Fla. visiting **JACK McCANDLESS** (Fall '65) and Kathy.

*m.b.tailfeathers@gmail.com*

In January **DR. JOHN "BEN" HERR** (Fall '79) went to Fort Myers, Fla. to meet his pledge brother **BRYAN MILLER** for a fishing expedition to celebrate their early retirements. Bryan's a snowbird living on the Gulf Coast over the winter.



According to Ben (above), who retired as PSU assistant research professor, "Although the weather was cold and uncooperative, we did hook a couple of snook."

Later, Bryan (below) caught the large tarpon single-handedly from his boat."



Bryan sold his Denver, Co. construction business to his son and retired as well.

*johndavidherr@gmail.com*

*Bryan@millerwalls.com*

On September 14, **KARL IMDORF** (Fall '76) completed a 100-mile cycling team fund-raising event called the "Foster 100" which began in Philadelphia and ended in Cape May, NJ at the Naval Air Station – Wildwood.

The event is held in honor of a Penna. born, fallen hero, US Army Captain Erick Foster (KIA Iraq), to raise money for wounded veterans.

Raising over \$106,000 this year, Team Foster will sponsor service dogs to partner with injured vets suffering from combat-related disabilities.

This group ensures that these dogs are obtained, cared for, and provided hundreds of hours of specialized training – all at no cost to veterans.

To give: *www.teamfoster.org*.

*karl.imdorf@gmail.com*



Also, from the Fall '79 pledge class, **WILLIAM "BILLY" JOHNS** and Bonna Tanaka were recently wed during a simple church service in Port Allegany, Pa.

His brother, **FREEMAN** (Fall '81), and Billy's son, **WILL** (Fall '16), were on hand to witness the ceremony.

Billy is the head procurement forester for Emporium Hardwoods.

*billyinpc@hotmail.com*

According to LinkedIn, **BILL "BILMER" KILMER** (Fall '79)



recently launched his own business in Lexington, N. Car. (near Greensboro/Winston-Salem). As president of

WRK Associates, his firm specializes in the laminate industry. He offers skills and experience in "operations management, process engineering, innovation, strategic planning and business management." For more than 30 years, Bill worked in forest products industry throughout both the Carolinas.

After his M.S. Forest Resources, he held various production management positions with wood/paper operations for Dyneau Overlays, Shaw Industries, BMK America, and SWISS KRONO AG.

*bkilmer@aol.com*

**SCOTT LYON** (Fall '04) reports that he's a Forest Products Specialist for the Wisc. Dept. of Natural Resources now living in Suamico, Wisc.

*Scott.Lyon@wisconsin.gov*

Also, some additional belated sad news about the 2015 passing of **JOHN MARKER** (Fall '56). Retired from the US Forest Service, residing in Mt. Hood, Ore. he served on the Evergreen Foundation Board and was one of the founders of the National Association of Forest Service Retirees.



After working for Domtar in Johnsonburg, **J.R. MURDOCK** (Fall '06) took a new position as timber procurement forester at

Potter Lumber Co. in Alleghany, N.Y. where he introduced mechanized logging and 18-wheeler freight to reduce cost and increase access to timber sales.

J.R. keeps busy contracting timber sales with the region's state agencies, Alleghany National Forest, as well as private forestland owners.

*Jmurdock5081@gmail.com*

**WADE NUTTER** (Fall '57) retired as professor emeritus in the University of Georgia Warnell School of



Resources and Forestry in 1997.

He then became *semi-retired* as founder and president, followed by chairman and consultant, of Nutter & Associates, Inc., an environmental consulting firm with expertise focuses on soils, hydrology, forestry, geology, and aquatic/ecologic resources.

Wade and his wife Marilyn have four children (two others are deceased) and nine grandchildren.

His hobbies include woodworking and sailing. In the last four years, he has sailed his boat to Bermuda, Cuba, and the Bahamas. He claims he retired again in spring 2019.

[www.NutterInc.com](http://www.NutterInc.com)



**DAVE "OBO" O'BARTO** (Fall '90) and wife, Rochelle, traveled to Parris Island, S.C. to attend their son, Tate's USMC basic training graduation.

Private O'Barto earned high marksman ratings ... A skill that he perhaps developed from his years while bear hunting with older Tau Phis up north?

**GENE "DEGO RED" ODATO** (Fall '73) and **KEN "GEEK"**

**WOLFE** (Winter '77) sent us this cellphone photo last October from Craig, Colo. during their elk/mule deer hunt.



Gene (L) and Ken (R) apologized for missing fall homecoming and claimed they had a good excuse!

[godato@centurylink.net](mailto:godato@centurylink.net)

[Wolfe55@ymail.com](mailto:Wolfe55@ymail.com)

Long retired from the Pa. Bureau of Forestry, Bald Eagle State Forest District, **STANLEY PIORKOWSKI** (Fall '70) was struck, rather suddenly, with Gillian Barre Syndrome in July. He was hospitalized at Geisinger Medical Center and has long road to recovery at home.

A get-well card or emailed note sure would help (1842 Daddario Hill Road, Middleburg, PA 17842).

[spiorkowski@live.com](mailto:spiorkowski@live.com)

**RAYMOND PLOTTS** (Fall '58) passed away on November 6, 2018, at his family's homestead in Huntersville, Pa.



After receiving his PSU forestry degree, he was

commissioned in the US Navy. After ten years active duty as a navigator and in the reserves, he separated as a lieutenant commander with full honors. He had retired after 25 years with the Pa. Dept. of Transportation as the labor relations coordinator.

**DAVE "SCRUFFY" RUPERT** (Fall '77) reports that after 37 years, he is still the Manager of the Armstrong Conservation District in Pa. Only three years to go until retirement!

He enjoyed his bike ride in September going from Berlin to Copenhagen. This winter, he will be going bike riding in the Fla. Keys.

His son is a pharmacist in Ohio, and his daughter is a computer forensic specialist in Fla.

He's is going back to Mexico in 2020 to kill a couple of more Goulds wild turkeys. He reports that after 40 years of practicing, his pledge brother **EARL HOWER**, can still miss a spring gobbler. "I have the proof!"

[Drupert56@gmail.com](mailto:Drupert56@gmail.com)

**JIM SHRIVER** (Fall '70) reported that **RIC ULRICH** (Fall '61) of Leesport, Pa. passed away on December 17, 2018. "I worked for Ric at Met Ed for most of my career. He was my mentor and friend as well as my boss. But best of all we were hunting buddies for the past 40 years."

[m5294@ptd.net](mailto:m5294@ptd.net)

**SID SLOCUM** (Spring '71) finished 41 years of living in Texas and has permanently relocated back to Pa. He can be found in a Philly suburb (545 Andrew Road, Springfield, PA 19064).

Sid thanks the editors of *The Taproot* for their efforts.

[sidslocum@hotmail.com](mailto:sidslocum@hotmail.com)

**GLENN SNYDER** (Fall '55) spent 10 years (1960-70) on active duty with the US Air Force as a fixed wing/helicopter pilot. He went to Colo. State for his MS in 1970-71, and to the University of Freiburg from 1972-75 for his PhD.

He worked as a forester in Rocky Mountain US Forest Service Region 2 from 1976-2013 in program management, and wildland fire and coop fire management.

After his active duty, Glenn continued in the Military Reserve and Wyoming National Guard as a pilot until retiring in 1997 and served in the Gulf War as a helicopter pilot.

Glenn retired from the US Forest Service in 2013 and has been occupied managing 105 acres of forest land in Colo., as well as 108 acres of forest back in Pa., while at the same time trying to keep up with his lovely wife of 42 years, Heidi. They have one son, four daughters, and eight grandchildren.

He is sorry he has not visited the House since he left.

[pennger@comcast.net](mailto:pennger@comcast.net)

**CHARLES “DR. CHUCK” STRAUSS** (Fall '55) shared with us a fishing tale of his. He was fishing in Centre Co. on a secret stretch of Bald Eagle Creek during the second week of the Pa. 2019 north zone trout season. In two hours, he only caught one trout!



“It’s a great piece of water, not heavily fished, and frequented by osprey and bald eagles ... My preference was to use a hare’s ear nymph -size 16 and it did trick! I carefully played him for 15 minutes in that I was using a 5x tippet.

It was a decent size, so I brought it home for Carol’s gourmet kitchen.

Plases me that my old fly rod with nymphs still works!”

He also reported that several Tau Phi Alums recently funded and established a Veteran’s Marker for Honorable Br. **JEAN CHOVELT** at the Mont Alto Campus Veteran’s Flagpole Memorial located in front of Conklin Hall. This newest marker (with five others) will be dedicated on Veteran’s Day (November 11<sup>th</sup>).

Chuck also dropped by the House this summer to “inspect” the renovation project with a case of Pottsville’s finest lager brew for the workers. He’s since asked, “Is anyone establishing a fundraiser for new furniture for the newly refurbished chapter room?”

*Chs3@psu.edu*



We recently got a much-delayed word that **KENNETH TYSON** (Fall '52) of Chambersburg, Pa.

sadly passed away on April 23, 2016.

Ken was retired after three decades of working for the Washington County (Md.) School Board as an administrator.



Also found on LinkedIn, was former Phi, **JOHN VATCHER** (Fall '77). He’s retired in

Seattle, Wash. “But I am available for projects, information, advice, and so forth. I’m very affordable compared to most consultants or to the cost of hiring a full-time employee. My experience ranges from manufacturing engineering to financial analysis and strategic planning.”

After Penn State, John had a long successful career as a forest products industry industrial engineer in the Pacific Northwest.

**TOM WITMER** (Winter '80) has been with Philadelphia Parks and Recreation (formerly the Fairmont Park Commission) for nearly 20 years, managing forests plagued by invasive plants, too many deer, stormwater damage, excessive human use, diseases and insect pests, dirt bikes, vandalized equipment, dumping, crime, and other problems. “Other than that, things are going well!”

Growing up hunting, trapping, and fishing the then-wild spaces of Centre County, Tom could not have imagined that he would end up in the “urban jungle.” It wasn’t quite the brand of forest management he had trained for at PSU, but it has had its interesting points – finding a human skull, for example.

Tom is guessing that foresters in other counties haven’t had many stands of forest from which they had to remove 80 burned-out dumped cars before they started timber operations.

In Tom’s case, he has adapted to living there, at least for this “season.” He doesn’t run into many Tau Phis down that way in Philly, which is to

be expected. He did see **PAT WILEY** a few years ago at his business.

Tom enjoys reading the news from other Tau Phi’s and encourages the Active Brothers to persevere in the face of the remarkably restrictive university policies.

*Witmer2@comcast.net*

**CARL W. “WOLBE” WOLFE** (Fall '55) began working with the Neb. Game and Parks Commission in 1960 and retired in 2001. He’s been volunteering with the US Fish and Wildlife Service for 11 years during the winter months in Fla. and Ga., where he worked in various wildlife studies (i.e., red wolf, Sambar deer, gopher tortoise, and manatees). He also volunteers with Audubon Neb. in the Rowe Sanctuary.

*Cwolfe321@hotmail.com*

“Go west young man!” was the motto for six flatlander Tau Phis during their recent two-week long cutthroat trout fishing expedition in the Rocky Mountains.

One of the days, the group traded their waders and fly rods for hiking boots and walking sticks and climbed South Triple Peak near Pineville, Wy.



Spotted here on the mountaintop are (L to R) **HOWARD “DOKEY” WURZBACHER** (Spring '77), **TIM HOLTZ** (Spring '78), **JOHN “BEN” HERR** (Fall '79), and **TROY SHAW** (Spring '84).

Not shown – two other Brothers who were either back at camp cooking dinner or wading in the nearby stream – **STEVE “BENNY” WARNER** (Fall '75) and **ED “EMHO” CROW** (Fall '78)

**Please send us your Alumni Update for the 2020 issue of *The Taproot*. Thank you!**

*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

### “Vehicles Can Have Character – Part I”

By Bill Herb (Fall '65)

While this series is about “tales from the old house,” some of these events actually occurred very soon after the move to 427 East Fairmount.

Vehicles can have character, and characters can have vehicles. This is a reminiscence of one such vehicle and one such character.

Please note that this article contains simulations of adult language, and may be unsuitable for impressionable children, or for that matter, impressionable adults.

The vehicle in question was probably a World War II military surplus jeep, possibly a CJ2. It was a shocking shade of blue with a black canvas top, a very low-ratio rear end, and a Buick V-8 under the hood.

It may have been the result of an illicit mating



+



encounter between General Motors and Willys Overland products, and like any good mongrel, it had some of the finer qualities of both parents, as well as some potential hereditary defects. It could go almost anywhere, but it did have some idiosyncrasies which figure in this set of tales. They will be discussed at the appropriate times.

Like the vehicle, the owner had his own set of idiosyncrasies. This Brother, who shall remain nameless (at least until you figure out his identity, if you haven't already), was renowned as having the most colorful (read: profane) command of the English language of any individual that I have ever

known. This reputation was cemented by his remarkable four-word sentence, which managed to incorporate three separate variants of the common Anglo-Saxon term for intimate relations (verb, adjective, and noun).

In a heated discussion of what seemed to be an unreasonable requirement imposed on our class by a forestry professor, his response was: “Eff that effing effer!” This was a virtual hat trick of profanity and earned the speaker the sobriquet of “Dirty Ed”. This dates to a time, more than four decades ago, when 12-year olds, typically, couldn't make a sailor blush, and to a time when I had a much more restrained vocabulary. I do blame my own – sometimes colorful – language on prolonged exposure to Dirty Ed in my formative years.

I am sure there are many stories that could be told about this Jeep and its owner, including the times when he (the Brother) returned to the Old House, but the Jeep was in some unknown (even to the owner) location. However, I will speak of only four stories, because I was involved in each of them. Gentle reader, please be forgiving, because these memories are somewhat clouded by the passing years, and the beer that may have accompanied some of the events. I don't think the events were preceded by the classic redneck line “Hold my beer and watch this.” but rather by “Eff yeah, I can do that.”

The first one was innocent enough. It was a night, possibly a Friday, following some social event or other, and Dirty Ed and I, looking for adventure in all the wrong places, went for a midnight drive. We were heading down some unfamiliar dirt track when we were faced with a large pile of earth, heaped up into the middle of the road. Obviously, the road was closed for some reason, and this mini-Everest of earth was designed to prevent any further progress down the road.



So, we engaged the Warn hubs, Ed yanked the controls into 4WD, and proceeded up the facing slope at an uncharacteristically sedate pace. The pace was a bit too sedate, because when we reached the top and crested the peak, our forward momentum was insufficient, and we did not head down the back slope. There we sat, with all four wheels spinning in the air. Sort of like an upright version of a turtle on its back. Ever resourceful, we knew what had to be done. We dug out the bumper jack that was part of the emergency equipment, and (no way to put this diplomatically) jacked ourselves off.

Of course, we were still on the wrong side of the obstruction (from our point of view), so Dirty Ed simply tried it all over again, this time keeping up our momentum, so we made it down the other side. As I recall, our mission was completed, and we turned around and crossed the hump once more and headed for the barn.

Around this time, I had a 250cc Yamaha dirt bike, to which I had added some low gearing of its own and was sort of proud of the hills that it could climb. I mentioned one particular hill, out near the deer pens, and bragged about my ease in scaling the hill. Once again, this was the red flag, and Dirty Ed demanded that he be shown this mound.

We hopped in the Jeep and drove to the hill. It was steep and took off from the road at a right angle, so there was no way to “get a run,” except what could be gained across the width of the narrow dirt road. Ed pointed the Jeep up the hill, backed across the road to get a bit of a head start, and announced: “I don’t need the effing 4-wheel

drive”. With that, he launched the jeep up the hill. He was almost right!

Just before we reached the top, the rear tires began to spin, and we knew we were not going to make it. We now experienced the first idiosyncrasy of the Jeep. The brakes were not that good, really, and there was no way they could slow us down enough to reverse our way down the hill with any degree of control. Dirty Ed was quick-minded and knew if he could throw the shifter in reverse, the low gearing, engine compression, and weak brakes might combine to give him just enough control to avoid disaster. Good idea ... bad execution. Ed forgot the second idiosyncrasy: the clutch was no better than the brakes.

He succeeded in getting the transmission into neutral, but it would not shift into reverse. So now, we not only had no brakes, but were also out of gear and probably out of luck. We hurtled backward down the hill, even faster than we went up. I have no idea how Ed kept the jeep on a straight line, but we followed the same path down, shot across the road backward, and came to a stop somewhere in the puckerbrush on the far side of the road.

Speaking of puckering, I remember reaching out the open door on the passenger side and touching a large white oak at our stopping point.



Not only was there no harm done, except to our nerves, but we now had several more feet to get a running start up the hill. We made it without incident ... and without 4-wheel drive.

(To be continued next issue of *The Taproot*.)



*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**

### “Artic-Style Caribou Hunt”

By Dave “Goose” Gray (Fall ’73)

Illustrations by Steve Torok (Spring ’86)

The following is a partial story of my caribou-grizzly bear hunt during August of 2018 off the north slope of the Brooks Range in Northern Alaska.

**Our Road Trip** – My son, Andy, three friends and I, left for a two-day drive across Alaska for our caribou and bear hunt. We drove 11 hours to Fairbanks the first day, then arose at 4 a.m. on the second day. We had to drive 200 miles north of Fairbanks, on the Dalton Highway which parallels the Alyeska pipeline all the way to the Arctic Ocean. Once a paved highway, the heavy service trucking usage and harsh weather transformed long stretches to badly-potholed dirt road. We had to catch a “ferry” plane at 10 a.m. at “Pump Station #5” on the Alyeska Pipeline.

Once at PS-5, we called Brooks Range Aviation (BRA) on the sat phone. They sent a “Beaver” and a Cessna single engine plane to pick us up. It was a quick 20-minute flight from PS-5 to Bettles (29 miles as the raven flies). There are no roads to Bettles in summer; only ice roads in winter.

We checked in at BRA to confirm our itinerary. Weather was poor the preceding several days; all planes were in the air picking up over-stayed hunters eager to get back to civilization.

A couple hunting parties had come out that morning. One had a handful of small heads; another had gotten skunked. Reality started to set in. Andy had hunted with BRA in 2017 – a relatively easy hunt with high success (four caribou bulls and two grizzly bears). However, 2018 was not looking good.

In late afternoon, we were ferried out to the small lake they utilized for their float planes. Our

weight had come in at 1,871 pounds (hunters and gear), 71 pounds over the limit, but close enough they let us slide. We boarded an “Otter” float plane that afternoon.

It was sunny most of the flight. We flew through the various mountain passes. It seemed our wingtips almost touched the sheer rocky mountain sides. When we got through the mountains rain began with heavy overcast and low visibility. We landed on Jobe Lake, 107 miles north of the Arctic Circle, and just north of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. We offloaded in the rain, covered all with a tarp, and the pilot took off quickly before the weather socked him in. It was pouring rain; there were no trees anywhere; the wind was blowing; temperatures in the low 40s – welcome to an Arctic hunt!

**Camp Life** – Camp was a sheltered inlet off the main lake. We were on the east side of a bluff that was probably 40-foot higher than the lake shore. The lake shore was covered with mounds, shrubby bushes and piles of glacial rock. We quickly set up camp; moved gear bags into the tents, unrolled and inflated sleeping pads, and pulled sleeping bags out of stuff sacks to puff up for the night. There was not a flat spot large enough for a sleep pad, much less a tent floor. We split into a couple of groups, heading for various high points with no real plan, just anxious to glass the surroundings. We spotted caribou north of the river and a few to the southeast and southwest. The Nigu River ran east to west, with many bends. It was swift, deep, and not wadable with our hip waders. To our east, it turned to the south and cut us off to both the north and east, preventing any significant hunting excursions in those directions. We could see a significant caribou herd across the river a couple of miles north. There was nothing in any other direction. We had dinner around 7:30, glassed a bit more, and headed to bed by 9:30. It was still light enough to see after 11, and “can see” light was about 7 a.m.

**Camp Food** – There was no fuel for a fire; all cooking was off a small gas stove (jet burner or equivalent). All food was based off hot water. Daily calorie intake was about 1500 calories.

Breakfast comprised of instant coffee, pre-cooked cold bacon (two slices per hunter), hot cereal, and breakfast bars for those who “didn’t eat breakfast” (More on that fairy tale later).

Midday was a combination of trail mix called “Gorp,” energy bars, “Payday” candy bars, plus

the “Babybel” cheese balls, but these eventually augmented our so-called dinner, which was a variety of “Mountain House” freeze-dried packaged meals. The cheese balls could be melted into the freeze-dried base and added a welcome flavor and substance.

Hunting was strenuous to an extreme, and calories became a focus of all meals. The various freeze-dried meals came with two or three servings per package. You ate the whole package; none were divided up. The higher serving count packages were prized because of the higher calorie count. Serving allocations were based on roughly 200-300 calories per serving, so a three-serving meal had 50 percent more calories than a two-serving meal with cheese balls for further calories. By day 2, everybody was eating breakfast – breakfast bars became midday snacks. The hot cereal was gone by the seventh day, and more than half of the extra freeze-dried dinners were eaten for breakfast after some of the more strenuous hunt days.

**Day 1** – We were up early, ate a quick breakfast, and split into small groups to glass different directions. One group went north to the river, then west; one group went southeast around the lake then south.

A typical hunt was hiking to the highest available land, sit and glass in all directions. Game was located by binoculars, then evaluated using spotting scopes. We typically glassed anywhere from a half to six miles distance. You carried a pack with water, snacks, emergency warm gear, rain gear, plus skinning knives, gloves, game bags, and tarp if you were lucky enough to shoot a bull – usually 25 pounds.



We spotted numerous “shooter” bulls to the west, but they were a very long way off and moving. Game can cover ground casually a lot faster than a hunter can hike it, so we didn’t attempt to “stalk” any moving game.

We learned the frustration of trying to walk on tussock tundra. Walking on this was like trying to walk on foam mattresses covered with half basketballs of marshmallow stability, interspersed with small but

often deep drainages, and treacherous moss. You learned to try and walk on the whitish “lichen” patches that tended to grow on harder ground and made for easier trek. Second choice was the dull maroon ground. This was dwarf birch; although a trip hazard, it also needed drier ground to root and grow. You avoided the orange-green moss; it was extremely soggy, and you never knew how deep you would sink. You learned to look across the marsh and pick out the stripes of green grass that marked a drainage flow or stream whose open water could be over the tops of hiking boots. All of us had walking poles. These were invaluable for walking across tussock tundra – balance, two extra points of stability, and a probe to check footing/depth in front of you. At roughly 3:30 p.m., we finally called it a day and returned to camp.

Sam and Brian had spent the day off the south side of camp, across the lake, which was only accessible by skirting the eastern end. They glassed east and west off the flat but saw no caribou worthy of shooting.

There was a break just south of the lake which rose about 25 feet the water. Then a large flat expanse of tussock tundra marsh extended three quarters of a mile to the next bench. This flat became known as the “Field of Tears”; it was a strenuous, nasty crossing, especially with a heavy pack. The next bench had a series of cuts, brakes, humps. It was about a quarter of a mile wide and 30 feet above the Field of Tears. Above the second breaks was another flat, with about a half mile of uphill slant to the foot of the mountain ridge.

At about 6:30 p.m. it started to drizzle. Everybody turned in early, exhausted from the first day of frustration being handcuffed by the terrain.

**Day 2** – It had rained most of the night; a common occurrence. It rained part of every day, and most nights; accompanied by a constant east or a west wind. We awoke about 6:30 to heavy fog/low cloud cover. Visibility was limited to about a quarter of a mile. Breakfast was casual and stretched out. The fog finally started to lift two hours later.

Sam and Brian headed out early, around the east end of the lake, to the first breaks to glass in the limited visibility. Andy, Scott and I headed out shortly after. As we approached them, they reported there was a shooter bull and a smaller bull bedded down across the Field of Tears, three quarters of a mile away. We stopped short of the

first breaks to reconnoiter. They were not interested in trying to stalk the sleeping bulls across the Field of Tears. We decided to sneak on the bulls from within the second breaks.

We quickly made our way down the first breaks to the east; a light breeze from the west helped. We skirted a small lake and crossed the eastern edge of the Field of Tears into the second breaks. We were breathing hard and sweating from quickly crossing the tussock tundra.

We started through the breaks, keeping to low gullies in a winding-twisting fashion. Partway up, we shed our packs and took only our rifles. Soon we felt a slight swirl of breeze on our backs. We were still far from where we perceived the bulls to be and were not sure if they winded us. We quickened our pace to try and get to them before they bolted. When we got to where we thought they had been bedded, Andy popped his head over the hump and the bulls spotted him immediately. They had moved off a distance and were climbing into the breaks towards the upper bench.



Andy told me to climb up and get ready to shoot. I peered over the top of the hill, and the big bull was looking right at me, clearly about to bolt. I rested my rifle on top of the hill and estimated the distance to be about 200 yards; the outer limit for the .45-70. Projectile drop at this distance was about 12 inches. I had a round in the chamber, so I put the crosshairs over the rear back of the bull and fired. I shoot 405 grain bullets in the .45-70 at a muzzle velocity of about 1,800 fps.

The impact of that big bullet was obvious and impressive. The shot staggered him with devastating impact, turning him from four-wheel drive into two-wheel drive. He staggered on his front legs trying to turn and go. I fired twice more, missing the second and dropping him on the third. We later ranged his location and found he was 161

yards away, so I was shooting a bit high which probably had something to do with the second shot missing.

As we approached him, there was no “ground shrinkage”. He had significant palmation on his upper horns with eight points on one side and nine on the other, including symmetrical matching “forks” on each. He had “back scratchers” on the backs of the main beams, double shovels in front below four point “fronts” – a real trophy bull.

After the carcass was “processed,” Andy and Scott split the meat. The meat packs were heavier, about 100 pounds each, but it is tradition the hunter packs out his own skull and cape. The meat is easy to pack for comfortable transport; but the head and cape was a challenging load. The caped skull with antlers, about 70 pounds, rides very high on the pack, and is difficult to tie down, making for an unwieldy load, shifting from side to side as you lean.

It became obvious it was a nasty load to carry through the untrustworthy footing crossing the vast tussock tundra.

Before we shouldered the packs to head to camp, we dragged the carcass to a spot we could easily glass from camp a little over a mile away, anticipating that it might attract a bear once it “ripened”. To spur ripening, the last thing I did was slice the gut cavity open. The stomach had bloated in the sun during the field butchering and when I cut it, it exploded, spraying nastiness everywhere. I had to live with the odor for the rest of the week of hunting. Ugh!

The final positioning and slicing of the carcass were to have significant impact two days later . . . the carcass “disappeared” between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. on the fourth day, during a heavy fog.

Without the walking poles, I would have fallen often during the walk across the Field of Tears. I needed help shouldering the pack to get it up and situated on my shoulders and could not drop the pack to rest without help. I could lean over on the poles to rest but could not drop the pack and then re-mount it by myself. It was over a mile back to camp with over half of that across the challenging tundra.

The rest of the seven-day hunt was a resounding success; all five hunters took trophy caribou bulls; and we also got one “self-defense” grizzly.

But I’ll leave telling that tale for another day!



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



## DATES TO REMEMBER

### DATE CHANGE NOTICE:

- **2019 Fall Fraternity Board of Directors & Foundation Trustees Meeting with Grand National Elections • November 16, 2019 9AM**  
Any questions contact: Kody Unangst, Phi, Corporation Board of Directors  
(484) 894-3012 / *KodyUnangst93@gmail.com*  
Note: Also a home football game weekend (Indiana Hoosiers) – Kick-Off T. B. D.

### NEXT YEAR:

- **2020 Spring Homecoming • April 18, 2020**
  - Spring Fraternity Board of Directors & Foundation Trustees Meeting 9AM
  - Blue White Scrimmage Football Game – Kick Off T.B.D.
- **W. James Evans Memorial Golf Tournament • July 11, 2020**  
For more specifics: Jim Cowan or Gavin Collins, Event Co-Chairmen  
*jmc4con@verizon.net / gcollins573@gmail.com*

### PLAN AHEAD:

- **2022 is Tau Phi Delta Fraternity's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Year.**  
Seeking volunteers to help organize events. More details to follow.