

The



# Taproot

FALL 2005

News for Tau Phi Delta Alumni  
[www.tauphidelta.org](http://www.tauphidelta.org)

Volume 2

## From the Board of Directors: **Alumni Involvement Keeps TΦΔ Strong**

Fellow Alumni,

This is an exciting time for Tau Phi Delta. Over the past two years, we have seen a tremendous increase in alumni involvement in the House.

*The Taproot* is one example where a small group of alumni took on the job of producing a newsletter for and about our alumni. We also had a good turnout for Homecoming last year with more returning alumni from the '50s and '60s than previous years. This year's Jim Evans Memorial Golf Tournament fielded a record number of 88 alumni.

The Endowment Fund and financial contributions for the Dr. Charles H. Strauss Office of Forest Economics in

the new School of Forest Resources building are other examples of alumni involvement. (*Editor's note: See page 3 for more information on our progress towards honoring Dr. Chuck in the new building.*)

We will need your continued involvement as we begin a major capital improvement campaign. The first-priority project in this campaign is the mandatory fire suppression system. The cost to bring the House to code will be in excess of \$70,000. Also on the drawing board are electrical and bathroom improvement projects at costs of \$48,000 and \$103,000, respectively.

Do you have a hidden talent that could help with the improvement campaign? Why not get in on the ground floor of this effort and join us for Fall Homecoming this year.

Fraternally,  
Br. Jim Stelter, Phi  
Board of Directors  
Penn State Alpha Chapter  
(724) 658-2552; stelt3@aol.com

## **School of Forest Resources Centennial**

Mark your calendars for April 26-29, 2007. The School of Forest Resources is celebrating its Centennial on April 27-29. The celebration will include an issues conference and reception in the new School of Forest Resources building on Friday, April 27. There will be tours of the building, campus, and Stone Valley followed by a reception and banquet at the Nittany Lion Inn on Saturday, April 28. A Sunday brunch at the Nittany Lion Inn will conclude the celebration.

The Brothers and Little Sisters of Tau Phi Delta will hold a reunion concurrent with the Centennial Celebration. We plan to have a reception and light dinner at the House on April 26 and have other opportunities to get together during the weekend.

Details about the Centennial Celebration and the Tau Phi Delta reunion will be included in the 2006 issue of *The Taproot* and in *Resources*, the School of Forest Resources newsletter.

## **INSIDE:**

- 5** Mont Alto Memories
- 6** Outdoors Tales
- 8** Forest Service Brothers
- 10** Alumni Updates

**Don't miss Homecoming at TΦΔ!**  
**October 29, 2005**  
**See back cover for details.**

# Active Phi's Report

## Brothers enjoy summer but welcome return to TΦΔ

Greetings Alumni,

I am happy to report to you on the status of the active chapter in this second issue of *The Taproot*. The actives were busy this summer gaining experience in their fields and earning a few extra dollars to get them through the upcoming school year.

Br. Nick Spinelli worked as a recreation coordinator in Yellowstone, enjoying the country's oldest National Park and beefing up his resume for his recreation and park management degree. Br. Phil Brumbaugh also gained some experience in the field of recreation and park management with his internship with the Williamsport Crosscutters minor league baseball team. In the field of Forestry, Chad Atwood continued his work with the U.S. Forest Service, Shaun Doran worked with the Pennsylvania Game Commission, and Clark McColly worked for his father's company in Ligonier. Scott Lyon also gained some valuable experience working in the wood products industry. Landscape contracting majors, Nick Duffy and Jeff Gowen, both worked for Scott's Landscaping in State College

hoping to gain some in-the-field know-how. Brian Tiegs also stayed in State College and worked in a biology lab on campus.

Despite summer's adventures, the active Brothers were all excited to return to Tau Phi Delta. We hope to keep this fall's schedule full of rush events and community service. We will have 23 brothers and one boarder living in the house this fall. One face Tau Phi Delta will miss in 2005 is Nancy Robinson, our cook for over ten years. We have found and hired a replacement, but Nancy will be missed, and we wish her the best of luck in retirement.

Homecoming this year will be similar to the format last fall. The dinner will be a more formal function than past homecomings and we hope to attract some of our alumni that have not been back to the house in many years. I look forward to seeing all of you at Homecoming and hope that this summer and the upcoming hunting seasons treat you well.

Fraternally,  
Br. Casey Fenton, Phi  
Penn State Alpha Chapter  
(814) 237-2207; cjf181@psu.edu

## First Annual TΦΔ Gun Raffle

Proceeds benefit the Endowment Fund for future House improvements. Drawing based on the Pennsylvania Lottery 7 p.m. evening daily number from Dec. 1-10, 2005. Tickets are \$10. Winners will receive the gun or a voucher from Gander Mountain for the value of the gun they won, to be redeemed at any Gander Mountain store. Contact Sean Sweeney, scs170@yahoo.com or (717) 951-8963, for tickets.

Remington 700 CDL 7mm Rem. Mag. • Marlin 1895G .45-70 Govt. • Benelli Nova 3.5" 12 ga. • Ruger 10/22 40th Anniversary .22 Long Rifle • Winchester X-150 .50 inline muzzleloader • Remington 870 Express combo 12 ga. • Marlin 917 VSF 17 HMR • Remington 700 VLS .204 Ruger • Mossberg 835 3.5" 12 gauge • Winchester 70 Featherweight .308 Win.

## The Taproot

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The Taproot is a publication of the Board of Directors of the Penn State Alpha Chapter of the Tau Phi Delta Fraternity, 427 E. Fairmount Ave., State College, PA 16801. Contact Tom Yorke at (703) 753-0271 or [TomYorke@RegencyDV.com](mailto:TomYorke@RegencyDV.com) with questions, comments and suggestions, and for information on contributing.

# Notes from the Grand National

Greetings Brothers,

As fall approaches and we start thinking about hunting season, make sure to mark your calendar to include a return visit to Tau Phi Delta for the Homecoming celebration. You can share your early season muzzle-loader and archery tales with your old friends and meet some new younger Tau Phis who, just like the old days, are still out there in the woods.

The House has many challenges in front of it today. As you can all attest to, it was no different back when you or I were in the House. We always had a project that seemed impossible at the time, but we always got the job done and were ready for the next challenge. I am sure we can rise to the occasion to meet the challenges we face today.

Having an active local and national organization has never been more necessary than it is right now. Penn State University intends to only recognize national fraternities and they are questioning our fraternity's national status. The

Grand National and the Penn State Alpha Chapter, both alumni and actives, will be working on this pressing issue.

Likewise, I will make an attempt to be more present at meetings. I have been here for many years and would be willing to work with someone who may want to be the new Grand National Phi. Give it a try.

We still have "Caution At The Clearcut" artprints and also replacement Brother's pins. I will have some available for purchase at Homecoming, or you can contact me and I can send them through the mail.

Hope to see you on October 29. I will have stories of the "big one that got away" during our Tau Phi-Outer Banks fishing trip in October. If you are in the area of Hatteras, N.C., the week of October 9, stop by.

Fraternally,  
Roy A. Siefert, Phi  
Grand National  
(570) 376-2159; rsiefert@state.pa.us

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**Having an active local and national organization has never been more necessary than it is right now.**

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## Office to be Named in Honor of Strauss

The Brothers of Tau Phi Delta are very proud that one of our own, Dr. Charles H. Strauss, is Director of the School of Forest Resources. Dr. Chuck was the House Advisor for more than 30 years. He also served as a member of the Board of Directors, and he can still be found at the House for BOD meetings during Homecoming and the South Seas Island party each year. The new School of Forest Resources building will be a lasting tribute to his contributions to Penn State.

The Brothers of Tau Phi Delta also are recognizing his contributions to the House by naming an office for him in the new building. We are contributing \$25,000 to the building fund in order to name one of the offices the "Dr. Charles H. Strauss Office of Forest Economics." Slated to be displayed as a gift from Tau Phi Delta, we think our contribution is the first support of a capital project at Penn State by any fraternity or sorority.

We are close to our goal of \$25,000, but we still need the help of a few more individuals. The individuals listed below have pledged or contributed \$23,100 to the building fund. If others have the resources to help out please contact Brothers

Bob McColly  
(forestls@adelphia.net) or Tom Yorke  
(TomYorke@RegencyDV.com).

### Contributors of \$1,000 to \$2,500

Joe Barnicki • Tom Breslin  
Mark Brunermer • Wayne Dunlap  
Joe Eichert • Pete Hallock • Bill Healy  
Frank Judd\* • George Leavesley  
Richard Parkinson • Greg Schrum  
Tom Yorke



Contributions from Brothers will be used to dedicate the Dr. Charles H. Strauss Office of Forest Economics in the new School of Forest Resources building.

### Contributors of \$200 to \$999

Phil Arnold • Barry Borgiet  
John Caldwell\* • Rick Claggett\*  
Dan Douthitt • Dennis Dunham\*  
Carl Geesaman\* • Larry Geesaman\*  
Bill Herb • Cam Koons\*  
Patrick Lantz\* • Bob Malecki\*  
Bob McColly\* • Clark McColly\*

**See "Office," page 15**

# Mont Alto Centennial Fellow Awards

As part of the conclusion of its 100th anniversary celebration, Penn State's Mont Alto Campus hosted a Centennial Fellows Dinner on April 3, 2004. Sponsored by the Penn State Mont Alto Alumni Society and Commonwealth College, the Mont Alto Centennial Fellow Awards recognized alumni who have made outstanding contributions to their professions, communities or society at large.

According to the late Dr. Joan Hocking, who edited *Centennial Voices: Penn State Mont Alto 1903-2003*, "The legacy left by alumni, administrators, and friends helps us understand Penn State Mont Alto's past century and will help us create its future in the 21st century."

Of the thousands of college students who attended Mont Alto in the past century, 93 were selected to receive this recognition. It should be no surprise that there were a few Tau Phis in the mix. Actually, more than 10 percent of these award recipients had affiliations with Tau Phi Delta fraternity.

The commonwealth campus was the historic site of the Pennsylvania State Forest Academy from 1903 until it merged with the Pennsylvania State College system in 1929, five years after Tau Phi Delta was chartered. The House has had a long relationship with Mont Alto. For decades, the university's forestry undergraduates were required to attend their first few years at this small branch campus. For years after, the campus remained the "recruitment" backbone of our rush program. There are many Brothers, and Little Sisters too, whose allegiance to Penn State grew because of their Mont Alto experiences—well before they ever heard of Tau Phi Delta.

"From Forestry Academy to University" was the theme throughout the centennial year celebrated by Mont Alto's alumni. It is this strong foundation that has set the stage for Penn State Mont Alto's second century of excellence. No doubt there will be more Tau Phi connections by 2103.

**Br. John V. "Jack" Berglund**



**Hon. Br. Maurice K. Goddard**



**Br. James C. Nelson**



**Br. Robert Bommer, Jr.**



**Br. Mark R. Hahn**



**L.S. Deborah Kohl-Ritter**



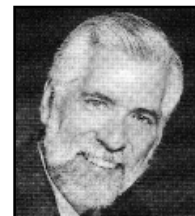
**Br. Richard C. Cook**



**Br. Joseph T. "Tom" Kears**



**Br. Mark R. Webb**



**Br. Jack M. DeForrest**



**Br. Edward F. Kocjancic**



**Br. Richard A. Werner**





# Memories from the Underbelly of Mont Alto

By Br. Brooke Thomas

*Editor's Note: Brooke wrote the following article after attending a Tau Phi Delta reunion of Brothers from the 1960s "in response to an informative but rather cleansed presentation on the new Mont Alto that seemed to have little memory or feeling for the foresters' historical tenure at the institution." We are including his memories in a multi-part series in The Taproot so that the alumni who attended Mont Alto can relish the memories, and so those who graduated after the '60s will have an appreciation for our experiences at Mont Alto.*

As a kid fresh out of private school, and one who had grown up in the pine-paneled basements of New Jersey's suburbia, Mont Alto was, indeed, a rude but necessary awakening. There I met—and became friends with—a diversity of interesting and enjoyable young men, many from rural backgrounds quite different from what I had experienced. They saw the world in new and exciting ways (at least most of them) and introduced me to new ways of dealing with it. I am indebted to the students and faculty who intentionally and inadvertently gave me this experience.

Most of the stories I recall have a theme of guns and challenging authority. I suppose this was memorable since in New Jersey I was the only one of my peers who had a gun and hunted, and who passively plotted (in my mind, since no one else seemed interested) to overthrow the moral authority of suburbia and the developers who had built up most of the open space. Becoming a forester, therefore, seemed like a great solution (or escape) to this hometown dilemma. So I set off to Mont Alto having constructed myself as an outdoorsman fully versed in the ways of the wild. Upon arriving on campus with a single shotgun it became painfully clear

I was but a "babe in the woods." Below are some of the memories that stick in my mind after a year's residence on the Mont Alto campus during 1958-59.



Upon arriving we were all issued double bladed axes. This was the real thing and I was on my way to become a real forester—hot dog! We were instructed to keep one of the blades as sharp as we could; the other was for chopping the rough stuff. Upon returning to my room my roommate, who had just returned from the Navy, exclaimed with relief that his axe would be useful for barring the door in case his estranged wife showed up and tried to kill him. What?! As he stirred the first of what was to become an unending series of coffees over that year, I was given instructions as to how to identify the woman, the probable make of her car, and how to warn him in time. Also, he was convinced that she would appear at any time, day or night, and that the awkward visitation was probably inevitable. In his plan my axe would be used as back-up for self defense although I wasn't sure which blade should properly be employed under such circumstances. Frankly, it was a rather weird beginning for my first day at Mont Alto Forestry School.



More trivial, but also distinctly remembered on that day, was the introduction to the Mess Hall. Recall I had just come from private school where we appeared in the dining commons in blazer and tie, and carried on reasonably civil conversations about news or sports with a "master" assigned to the table. At Mont Alto dining apparently was designed to be somewhat utilitarian. Dishes consisted of Army issue, stamped steel trays. As we passed down the serving line the

most memorable individual on the staff was a huge ex-boxer. He delighted in ladling out the food with an overhand swing that landed most often on the tray but resulted in tailings and splash backs in the general vicinity. With time I learned to keep quiet, look down, and hold the tray as far away from my person as possible. This guy also had a perverse way of cutting up salami or wurst. He would look you square in the eye, wiggle a huge knife back and forth to get your attention, and with a sinister smirk reel off small slices onto your plate. Maybe it was first day jitters but I hastily concluded that one would not want to encounter this guy alone on a moonless night or even at mid-day. Upon being served and returning to a long dining table it became apparent that there were no chairs. However, if you reached under the table there were spring-loaded stools that pivoted out. The trick was to keep the pressure on them while you sat down lest they spring back under the table at the last moment, and you end up on the floor to the glee of tablemates. Clearly Mont Alto was going to be a place where one should not expect a lot of frills, and my tales of private school were probably best buried in some secret, deep, remote vault. I went to bed that night wondering what I had gotten into and speculating on alternative scenarios. One had the ex-boxer creeping outside the window with his smirk and glittering knife. In the other my roommate's ex-wife was bashing through the door and stabbing me to death by mistake. Alas, this was the beginning of a great uncharted, social experiment—not exactly the romanticized one I had anticipated.

*See the Fall 2006 issue of The Taproot for more insight on Mont Alto social life, dorm pranks and high adventure.*

# Tau Phis in the Great Outdoors

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

*Editor's Note: This is the first of what we hope will become a regular feature of The Taproot—a place, much like the oaken walls of our fraternity's bar-room—where Brothers can share their successes, and failures, in the great outdoors. Send your stories, with photos for proof, to TomYorke@RegencyDV.com.*

## Shooting the Mighty Yough Rapids

By Br. Gene F. Odato (Fall '73)

During the early to mid 1970s, the Tau Phi Delta Brotherhood and associated friends made many excursions to the Youghiogheny River in the Laurel Highlands of southwest Pennsylvania. I remember one wonderful weekend when 36 people showed up to raft, fish and have a great camping trip. Little Sisters, wives, girlfriends and Brothers were all represented. A good time was had by all!

This was before Brs. Chuck Strauss and Joel Strong did the recreational impact study of Ohiopyle State Park that eventually made it very difficult for private boaters. For in the past, we either bought our own rafts or rented

some from area outfitters. Now reservations are required to access the river landings and guided trips are given preference.

Br. David Cowan was a "local" who knew the river very well and was the only one I trusted to run the rapids with myself in my two-man raft. That was the best fun because we got tossed around like a cork but could maneuver very well, unlike those big barge rafts.

I recall one incident where we saw a raft full of young beauties stuck on a rock. We figured a good ramming speed and slammed into their raft to dislodge these damsels in distress.

Well, we both went flying into the air and landed in the water. Dave managed to get on the overturned raft and with nothing to hold onto he just dug



Br. David Cowan (Fall '73) fills the yellow rubber rafts before setting forth on a voyage down the Youghiogheny River.

his nails into the rubber. I caught a rock with my feet in front of me and the current lifted me up so I made a giant leap for the raft and Dave. The only thing I had to hold onto was his bathing suit, which didn't last long. But it was a crowd pleaser with the ladies in the scuttled raft.



An adventurous group of Tau Phis, including Brs. Dennis Brehm, Bill Cook, David Cowan, Billy Johns, Bill Kilmer, Nelson Levins and Tom Witmer, and Little Sisters Claudia Clymer, Linda Cook, Cheryl King and Debbie Suggars, prepare to run some whitewater during a 1970s

Then there was the time when Brs. Bill Cook, Lee Patterson, David Cowan, Dennis Brehm, Tim Breneisen and I floated from Confluence Dam to Connellsville to do some fishing and whitewater. This was after I had graduated in 1975 and my dad had presented me with a 17-foot Grumman canoe for the accomplishment. What a trip! We actually caught some bass and trout, camped in remote parts along the river and had a blast. Lee Patterson was my wrestling partner in gym class at Mont Alto, but he outweighed me by 70 pounds or more. Well he was in the front of the canoe, which put it out of balance. I steered us around a rock and that imbalance caused us to roll the canoe. I remember my full tackle box went straight to the bottom of the river.

Running the Yough's rapids with full rafts and a canoe was very, very challenging. All the camping gear was in those rafts and weighed us down. We managed but, "Whew!"

Arriving late one evening, we camped along the railroad tracks that night, a passing train threw a brake shoe or something and it flew, hitting one of our tents. There were some



tense moments there since we didn't have a clue as to what was going on.

We were camped at the mouth of Indianhead Creek. But when we awoke, in front of us was a rough forest road that led down into the river bottom that also gave us a wonderful view of the nearby stream. About halfway down we spotted a swimming hole in the creek—full of naked bathing mountain ladies. It was just wrong, just wrong. Sorry!

I still own both of those rafts. One is a two-man and the other is a larger, six-man that I would gladly donate to someone or to the House. They have been preserved in baby powder and should be in fair shape. Well, I guess I need to check them out first. Just let me know if someone wants them. Free to a good home.

I have graduated from rafts to canoes and now to a jonboat. By the way we are looking for a used jet prop motor for it. Anyone have one for sale?

For more information on the finer points of white water rafting or if you can find a good home for some 30-year old rubber rafts, contact me at [godato@pa.net](mailto:godato@pa.net) or (717) 789-9206.

### My Western Connection By Br. Chuck Strauss (Fall '55)

I first met Brother Joe Eichert when I returned to Penn State as an instructor in 1961. Joe was completing his Bachelor's in 1963 and then his Master's degree under the direction of Dr. Bob Shipman (in 1965) and, afterwards, was employed as a research technician on the University's forest wastewater recycling project.

Our initial ties had to do with various aspects of the grand outdoors. This took in gun collecting, Brittany spaniels, hunting, fly fishing, and all those fun pursuits. As alumni, we also maintained certain ties with the House, particularly when there was a focus on social events. But to be sure, the central thrust of our friendship was focused on

the grand sports of hunting and fishing. When we could escape the university, we'd roam Pennsylvania's hillsides in search of vintage firearms.

I can still recall one morning in Ferguson Building when Joe just happened to drop by with an interesting story of three superior doubles that appeared at our local shop, Waltz Sporting Goods, in Shingletown. Of course, Joe couldn't resist temptation and had acquired the less costly of the three, a very clean

L.C. Smith 20 gauge, with 26" barrels, ejectors, and single trigger.

"Want to see it?" he asked. "Well, here it is!" (In those days, firearms weren't banned from campus).

What a delightful piece! Now, the two remaining guns were a Winchester 21 in 12 gauge with 28" barrels, ejectors and single trigger and a Winchester 21 in 16 gauge with 28" barrels, ejectors and single trigger, plus an added set of barrels. But their probable cost was near triple the price of the Smith.

"Joe," I sez, "you really ought to own one of those classy Winchesters and our mutual friend Stanley Pennypacker (a bachelor at the time) would be the ideal recipient of the other Winchester. And just to lighten your load, I'd be willing to take this Smith off your hands at the price you paid." After all, what are friends for?

And so it came to pass that Joe took possession of the Winchester 12 gauge and Stanley the 16 and "yours truly" acquired that neat little Smith 20. This past fall, the Smith and I, with the noble help of a fine Springer, collected

a few ringnecks at Hillendale Shooting Preserve.

Later on, during the winter of 1969, Joe accepted a forestry position with the Idaho Department of Lands and moved to Orofino, Idaho. Joe knew where he was headed. In fact, he had hunted the Bitterroot Mountains in eastern Idaho over a series of years while still living in State College. There was this particularly BIG mule deer mount hanging in their apartment, and



Br. Chuck Strauss downed this fine mulie last year with help from his "guide"—Br. Joe Eichert—in the Joseph Plains region overlooking the Snake River in Idaho.

I would salivate over that trophy while visiting Joe and his wife Lee.

The Eicherts made a successful transition to their new home, responsibilities, and friendships. Lee proved to be a successful teacher in the Orofino school system (3rd graders) and Joe as a forester-on-the-move within the Department of Lands. Television reception was poor, and the Eichert family was soon expanded with daughter Katie (1972) and son Tom (1973).

We'd typically exchange Christmas cards and Joe's were always more exciting. There he was in the mother lode of big game hunting, surrounded by steelhead and salmon, and still having sufficient time for golf and trap shooting.

**See "Outdoors," page 15**

# May the Forest Service Be With You

Although the House bell and clapper were “acquired” by Brs. Lukstat, Gackebach, Dormam and Biddle off of a abandoned logging train from within the Allegheny National Forest, Tau Phi Delta has had many other connections with the Forest Service.

For decades Penn State’s summer forestry camp, located near Marienville, was held in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service. Likewise, similar local towns and villages surrounded by national forestlands, such as Ridgeway, Tionesta, Endeavor, Sheffield, Kinzu (now under water) or Heath Pump Station, were the sites of previous Tau Phi pledge class bolts. However it was the federal jobs in the forestry professions with valuable work experiences for Brothers that makes the strongest historic connection with the U.S. Forest Services’ National Forest and Grasslands system.

Well before a new forestry club at the Pennsylvania State College grew into our fraternity, President Theodore Roosevelt recognized that, “The nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased, and not impaired, in value.”

Gifford Pinchot was appointed the first chief forester of this fledgling federal forest agency in 1905. In his letter to the secretary of agriculture, he reported, “Our responsibility to the Nation is to be more than careful stewards of the land, we must be constant catalysts for positive change.”

Establishing this agency not only put America’s forests under “professional management, but it also had a long-lasting impact on federal bureaucracy.” According to Tom Thompson, current deputy chief of the National Forest System, “The Forest Service was the

first government agency to put professional people in charge of managing public lands. If that didn’t happen, maybe we wouldn’t have the Fish and Wildlife Service and some of the other federal agencies we have today.”

Almost immediately in 1907, some Penn Staters began filling the ranks of this government agency nationwide. But it wasn’t until the mid-1920s when

Brothers from the Penn State, Washington and Minnesota chapters were lucky enough to land a short term summer jobs at one of the many remote, start-up Experimental Stations located throughout the fledgling forestland system in many of the western states and in the Alaskan territory. Other who graduated ended up in places like Nantahala

(N.C.), Quachita (Ark.), Natural Bridge (Va.), Eldorado, Plumas, and Trinity (Calif.), Superior (Minn.), and Grand Mesa (Colo.) NF.

The earliest printed account (July 1929 Cones) of a Brother’s Forest Service experience was by Br. Walter Quick (’24), district forest ranger for the Shenandoah NF (now known as George Washington NF). Even this early account noted some of the same multi-uses and issues that seem to haunt the Forest Service today. By his account our national forests are “unique in many respects and deserves a visit by those interested in her problems and possibilities, whether the interest be that of the forester, camper, sportsman, or timberman, features of much appeal will

be found.”

In a later accounting (March 1932 Cones), Br. Dewey Sechrist (’32) mentioned his great adventure starting out in a 1923 Model-T Ford traveling cross country to Los Angeles (to check out Hollywood) and then onto Tahoe NF, to be part of a forest survey party cruising scorched timber on a 7,500-acre burn. He was partnered with Penn State Alpha Br. Worthington and Minnesota Betas, Brs. Anderson, Nilsen and Beardsely. Later he trained in the Modac NF, wintered in northern California, but managed to take a side trip to “Tia Juana, Mexico.” Later he



President Roosevelt confers with his Chief Forester Gifford Pinchot (circa 1907).

Tau Phis were first hired for seasonal, contractual, short-term, and eventually full-time and even career positions in National Forests (NF).

Timing was everything! With chapters of Tau Phi Delta, located on each coast, in Washington and Pennsylvania, and one in “da nort” country of Minnesota, our newly professional and social forestry fraternity was able to offer such in-demand forestry positions with a variety of Brothers from across the country.

The earliest known accounts from the December 1928 issue of *The Cones of Tau Phi Delta* revealed that several



traveled to see his Brothers at the Washington Alpha Chapter and toured both British Columbia and Yellowstone National Park. Come spring he got another job cruising timber in the San Isabel NF in Colorado until September 1; just in time to return to State College.

Similar experiences throughout the generations of Tau Phis sounded the same. Bill Mitchell ('63) tells one such tale. "One hot summer evening while recuperating from a day of working on the highway for the Penn D.O.T. in Doylestown, Pa., I received a phone call from my Tau Phi Delta roommate, Barry Klink ('62). Barry was in Libby, Mont., working on the Raven Ranger District of the Kootenai NF. The call was to say there was a sudden opening at his district office for a smokechaser at a GS-2 level for \$1.25 an hour and was I interested? Four days and a bewildering variety of bus rides later, I got off the bus from Kalispell and presented myself for a great summer of firefighting, indoctrination to the Forest Service, and some serious eating courtesy of our 72-year old bunkhouse cook, by the name of Dolly. It was a summer of no girls, great evening trout fishing, and enough forest fires to convince me that I had better find another career! However I did meet Br. Tom Yorke ('64) while fighting a fire on the adjacent district. The most memorable moment was working 109 hours of firefighting in one week."

No Brother ever became Chief of the Forest Service (at least not yet). But after graduate school at Syracuse and later at Michigan State, and a variety of National Forest assignments in upper Michigan and western North Carolina, Br. Dr. Dean Quinney ('50) rose to the highest known rank of any other Brother as deputy staff director in the Washington, D.C., headquarters.

Many others spent their entire careers, and this longevity is noteworthy. Recently retired from the Northeast Forest Experiment Station,

both with 33 years, are Brs. Stan Arner and Dr. Bill Healy. Br. Joel Hockinson spent his 32 years in Monongahela, Chippewa, Allegheny, and White Mountain NF.

Although years of service were not listed, according to the Penn State Alumni Association's records, others who retired from the Forest Service include Brs. Edwin Browning (Utah), Porter Gearhart (Pa.), B. John Losensky and Earl Reinsel (Mont.), Norwood Robertshaw (Calif.), Clark Sell (Ga.), Robert Snoich (Ore.), Donald Stoner (Wyo.), and Edwin Youngblood (Mich.).

Also from the same source, those still gainfully employed with the Forest Service include Brs. Robert Bartholomew, Harry Bowlin, Arthur Briggs, Ed Cesa, Joel Hockinson, Mark Lesko, John Marker, Ray Nelling, Joel Strong, Brian Slagle and Rodney Whiteman, and Little Sister Kristen Oskin.

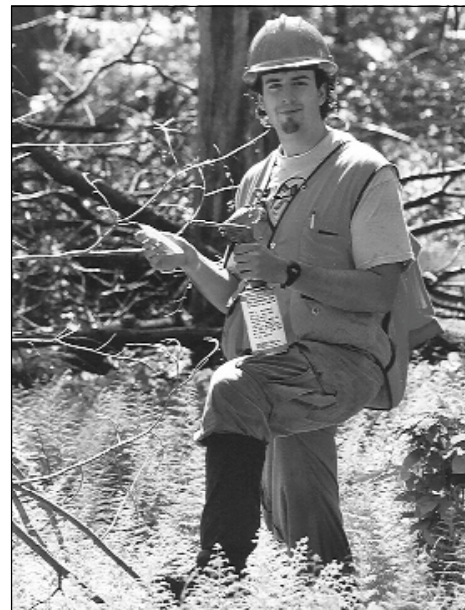
Many other Brothers and a few Little Sisters, too many to list, started out their natural resource careers with the U.S. Forest Service today hold prominent positions in other federal and state agencies, as well as in private industries. For example, better than half of the 17 Brothers currently with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry at one point got a federal government paycheck. Add to that the state-assigned firefighting jobs in the West, then almost all worked for the Forest Service at one point or another in their forestry careers.

The tradition continues today as most recently active Br. Chad Atwood spent his "summer vacation" working as a SCEP intern. He got some valuable silvacultural and timber sale layout experiences while working under the expert tutelage of Br. Ray Nelling in the Bradford District of the Allegheny NF.

After a century of resource management, the Forest Service, with its 30,000 employees, is looking to the challenges to manage the many complex forest



Spanning several generations, Tau Phi Delta Brothers Dewey Sechrist (1932) and Chad Atwood (2005) both share common ground as "careful stewards of the land" by serving as U.S. Forest Service employees.



ecosystems. "Passion, professionalism, and spirit run strong within the 'outfit' that Gifford Pinchot created," says the current Chief, Dale Bosworth.

Both Roosevelt and Pinchot said it best, as Tau Phi Delta continues to be a part of this noble effort to treat "our natural resources as assets" as "careful stewards of the land."

# Alumni Updates

## Where we've been and what we've done

**PETE ALEXANDER** (Fall '61) is still working for Glatfelter on Maryland's eastern shore. He recently moved to: 900 Salisbury Court, Salisbury, MD, 21804.

Rebekah and **ERIC ARMUSIK** (Fall '92) and daughter Nadija Amelia, 2, welcomed their newest family addition, daughter Milla Jerista on Eric's birthday last fall. The Armusiks still reside in their renovated 130-year old Victorian home in Hamburg, minutes from Cabela's. As an acclaimed artist, Eric, son of **BEN ARMUSIK** (Fall '68) and Little Sister **CHRISTINE CABALIK**, has exhibited his paintings in 15 different exhibitions in three states in 2004, including shows in Philadelphia and New York City. Eric won the Allied Artists of America Award at an Exhibition in NYC, and was a semi-finalist in the Art Renewal Center Worldwide Exhibition (out of 30 countries) for Master Realist Artists. In 2003 Eric was nominated to represent the United States as one of its artists at the Florence Biennale in Florence, Italy. His latest accomplishment is as illustrator for *Fusion* magazine published by conservative radio talk show host, Glenn Beck. His work can be seen at [www.ericarmusik.com](http://www.ericarmusik.com).

As reported in the first issue of *The Taproot*, **PHIL ARNOLD** (Fall '61) is a Contributing Editor of *Elvis International, The Magazine*. Now Phil has created an Internet blog, which contains the many articles that he has written about the "King" and the rock stars of his era. Check out <http://elvisblog.myblogger.com>.

**MIKE BAKER** (Fall '59) says the time has finally come, as he retired from Pac Strapping on May 9, 2005. He and Carol moved south to Wyboo Plantation only four days later. Their new address is: 314 Lake Arbu Dr., Manning, SC 29102. Mike says everyone is welcome to come golf and fish. (803) 478-7202 or me2cab@aol.com

**BRIAN D. BALONICK, ESQ.** (Fall '95) returned for Homecoming last year and is

an attorney with Klett, Rooney, Lieber & Schorling, P.C. in Pittsburgh. bdbalonick@klettrooney.com

**JEFF "MAGILLA" BISSETT, D.V.M.** (Fall '92), graduated PSU with a B.S. in Dairy and Animal Science in 1997 and then went on to become the assistant flock manager of the PSU sheep center until 1999. He then was accepted to Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine and spent three years on the Island of St. Kitts in the West Indies studying Veterinary Medicine. He finished his final year of clinical training at Cornell University, earning his D.V.M. in May 2002. After working in Lowville, N.Y., just west of the Adirondacks, he recently accepted the position of Associate Veterinarian of Large Animal Medicine and Surgery for Brandywine Veterinary Services in Honey Brook, Pa. Jeff and wife, Marjorie, live in Morgantown, Pa. (610) 913-0333 or bissett@yahoo.com.

**BARRY L. BORGIET** (Fall '61), currently resides in Indialantic, Fla., and Zweibruecken, Germany with wife Helene Dessauer, sons Bernd and Frank, and daughter, Nicole. Retired from U.S. Air Force after 20 years, he then added another 18 years as civil servant working for the U.S. Army in Germany. Daughter Nicole is a student at the University of Saarland in Homburg, Germany (hence the address on two continents). He has hunted extensively in Germany for roe, fallow and red deer, wild boar, and chamois, and in Zimbabwe and Namibia for plains game. Barry has had recent contact with **GEORGE LEAVESLEY** and wife Rose Ann and **TOM YORKE** and wife Jeannie, as they keep meeting in Europe somehow. barry.borgiet@us.army.mil

**TOM BRESLIN** (Fall '54) recently returned home to Pennsylvania after a long career with the U.S. Forest Service. Tom was in the House with **BOB BOMMER**, and he was the Alpha Phi when **CHUCK STRAUSS** and **RICHARD "SKEETER" WERNER** were mere pledges.

**MARK BRUNERMER** (Fall '83) married Little Sister **CANDACE BLAIR**, and the couple have a son, Joshua, 13, and daughter, Sarah, 10. The family's latest addition, a German Shorthair Pointer puppy, will change their priorities this fall. Mark is president of Sickels and Associates, Inc., a surveying/civil engineering consulting firm in Woodbury, N.J. Candace is a Software Engineer for Verizon. Candace, a part-time soccer mom, is busy running the kids to all their activities, reading, and splitting time between the cottage in Somerset, Pa. and the family's place in Ocean City, N.J. Joshua enjoys soccer, small game and deer hunting and fishing, and Sarah enjoys soccer, softball and swimming. They are looking to purchase hunting property in eastern Somerset County or western Bedford County, Pa.

**JACK BYERLY** (Fall '65) has worked for the Pennsylvania Game Commission for 30 years. As the Chief of the Forestry Division, is actively recruiting Tau Phis. [Editor's Note: Refer to **HOWARD WURZBACHER'S** update.] He's the past Pennsylvania Forestry Association treasurer and the current treasurer of the Keystone Chapter of the Society of American Foresters. Daughter Becky is living in Hilton Head, and daughter Amanda and her husband live in Harrisburg. Son, John, served three years in the U.S. Army with the Old Guard in Washington, D.C., and he is now living at home while attending Harrisburg Area Community College.

**JERRY CORTEZ** (Fall '63) and his wife Elaine are owners of a concrete and excavating company and still working after 35 years in the business. Elaine retired as owner and operator of a beauty salon. Jerry enjoys hunting and fishing, and fishes the ocean off Aruba three times a year. Both enjoy camping, golfing, snowmobiling, and traveling. They have 3 sons, a daughter, and 10 grandchildren.

**DR. JACK M. DEFORREST** (Fall '71), enjoyed the first issue of *The Taproot*, and

he would love to find out how **ERIC "CHICKENMAN" WACHSMUTH**, **STEVEN GEHRINGER** and **BILL HERB** are doing. Presently as Vice President of Technology Licensing for GE Healthcare's BioScience Division, he and wife of 27 years, Anne, reside in Wycombe, Pa. Anne works as a counselor at Delaware Valley College in Doylestown. Oldest daughter, Jolie, graduated from PSU (Spring '03) with a degree in chemistry, and she is presently in the chemistry Ph.D. program at University of Pittsburgh. Son, Cory, an Academic All-American wide-receiver for the West Chester University football team, graduated in May 2005 with a dual major in economics and business. Their youngest daughter, Lindsey, is a senior at Council Rock High School, and as a competitive swimmer, qualified for the state championships as freshman and sophomore. Jack.DeForrest@ge.com

**DAVE DOLAK** (Spring '88) is a marketing, branding and sales expert. Dave currently is helping to drive sales and build a relatively new brand of instruments launched by Malvern Instruments. The instruments are used in research and quality control laboratories around the world to characterize sub-micron sized particles and molecules. Dave was also founder and senior consultant of DMD Enterprises of Charlottesville, Va., a nationally-recognized resume writing and career development services firm that served a global market. Dave married Little Sister **AMY PELKOWSKI** (Spring '87) on September 27, 1997. They have two sons and a daughter born between November 2000 and July 2004. Amy says that, "Dave was my Little Brother way back when although we didn't start dating 'til years later ... the rest is history." You can learn more about Dave's career and experiences at [www.DaveDolak.com](http://www.DaveDolak.com).

After he graduated in 1979 with a B.S. in Environmental Resource Management, **PETER DORNEY** (Fall '77) returned to Quakertown, Pa., and is currently the Executive Director of the Hatfield Township Municipal Authority in Montgomery County. He and his wife, Lisa, have a daughter Ashley, 14, and a son, Collyn, 9. Pete spends most of his free time either coaching spring and fall Little League baseball or youth wrestling. Collyn got to

see Penn State and (more importantly) the House for the first time in 2004 when he wrestled in the Eastern National Championships at Rec Hall. Ashley, also an accomplished athlete, as a middle school sprinter won her track team's MVP award this past spring. pdorney@erols.com

**DAN DOUTHITT** (Fall '64) retired from the Pennsylvania Air National Guard in October 1999 with over 32 years of military service. The last five years were as the commander of the 112 Air Control Squadron in State College. He reports: "During that time we were able to move the unit from its location near the campus flower gardens to new facilities located at the State College airport." Since retiring, he's been working parttime as a consultant for the ANG. His wife, Sandy, sold her gift shop The Colonels Ladies in Boalsburg about 10 years ago when they moved to Virginia only to return to Happy Valley after two years. She enjoys being a homemaker and keeps active playing tennis, while Dan does a little fly fishing/tying and some volunteer work with their church and Habitat For Humanity. After graduating from PSU, their two sons went on their own. Scott manages the Red Lion restaurant in Vail, Colo. Sadly his younger brother, Jeff, died in a skiing accident in Jackson Hole, Wy., in December 2001. The couple visited with **BILL** and Sue **WILCOX** on several occasions in the past years and rendezvoused in Vail in spring of 2002, where they had a great visit and even got in a little fishing. They occasionally see **BILL HOOVER** when he's in town or in Clearfield for a family visit. "It is through him and *The Taproot* newsletter that I keep up with other Brothers," says Dan.

**ANDREW "BANJO" DUNCAN** (Spring '95 Alpha), has been using his B.S. in Forest Management with the Pa. DCNR Bureau of Forestry as a service forester for the past three years. Working in Bloomsburg and residing in nearby Benton, he is engaged to be married June 3 to Maressa Dressler. Besides the typical Tau Phi "hunting and fishing" hobbies, he's into dog training and mushroom hunting. (570) 925-1060 or acd113@hotmail.com.

**WAYNE** (Fall '62) and Betty **DUNLAP** have recently moved to a new home in Haymarket, Va. They live in the same "55 and better" community as **TOM** and Jeannie **YORKE**. Betty has settled into retirement, but Wayne is still very active in the operation of Dunlap Woodcrafts, a supplier of fancy-figured wood for gun stocks, musical instruments, furniture, and custom flooring.

**ERIC "MACGYVER" EBERLY** (Spring '90) has lost contact with many of his Brothers, maybe from moving around so much since his 1993 graduation. He now lives in Madison, Ala., but he spent seven years in Connecticut working at Pratt & Whitney Engines, just waiting for a chance to get out of New England. He then spent three years in South Carolina while working for GE Power Systems on new products, including the new 9H gas turbine being used in Wales to generate electricity. He's now with NASA, working on the space shuttle main engines. Eric noted, "Many years of ambition have culminated to this opportunity. My biggest dream has come true!" Along the way, he married his biggest encourager,

## What have you been up to?

We of Tau Phi Delta have done or are doing a little bit of everything. Let your fellow Brothers know what is going on in your world by submitting a brief update about your job, family

or even latest hunting trip for the next issue of *The Taproot*.

Send your story to "Alumni Updates" in care of Tom Yorke, 5384 Antioch Ridge Dr., Haymarket, VA,

20169-3195. Or email them to [TomYorke@RegencyDV.com](mailto:TomYorke@RegencyDV.com).

You may also want to consider posting an update on the discussion board found at [www.tauphidelta.org](http://www.tauphidelta.org).

See "Updates," page 12



# "Updates," from page 11

Kathy, in 1994. They have three children, Cody, 8, Dylan, 5, and Julia, 3. He continues, "Kathy works part-time in the local hospital emergency department and does a wonderful job taking care of the four children in her life ... the biggest kid is the Tau Phi."

theeberlys@knology.net

**PORTER GEARHART** (Fall '51) retired from the U. S. Forest Service in 1986. He worked mostly on the Allegheny National Forest. He spends his time now gardening and reloading shotgun shells for his passion—trap shooting. Porter was a member of Senior Vet Pennsylvania All State First ATA Trap Team in 2002-2004.

**PETE** and Donnie **HALLOCK** (Fall '61) and **BILL** and Georgette **HEALY** (Fall '61) cruised to Bermuda together this past spring.

**CHAD E. HARTZELL** (Fall '89) is employed by Kohl Building Products as a sales representative specializing in building products. He and wife, Robin, and their daughter, Emile (born November 8, 2004), live in Aspers, Pa.  
cehchad@aol.com

After spending a year as Senior Communications Specialist for the National Rifle Association's Community Service Programs Division, **ADAM "HIGGINS" HEGGENSTALLER** (Fall '95) was recently promoted to Associate Editor of *Shooting Illustrated*. Check out the magazine at [www.gunsandhunting.com](http://www.gunsandhunting.com). (703) 624-0083 or [higgins\\_308@yahoo.com](mailto:higgins_308@yahoo.com)

**BILL HERB** (Fall '65) recently retired from the U.S. Geological Survey where he began his non-military Federal career in 1973. Although he is a forester and a forest hydrologist by training, his total career in forestry was a two-month stint at the long-defunct Nittany Timberlands (owned by **RON BARTOO**) in State College back in the late 60s. He did a lot of honest (not forestry) hydrology work with the USGS in the early part of his career, but moved over to the "dark side" of management some-

time around 1984. He began his USGS career (hired by **TOM YORKE**) in College Park, Md. and subsequently moved to Pennsylvania, Texas, Minnesota, and completing the circle, back to Maryland in 1994. Since 1994, Bill had been a hydrologist on loan at the U.S. Army Environmental Center at Aberdeen Proving Ground, filling a variety of roles (about 14 at last count). Currently he's Chief of the Integration Branch where his teams have responsibility for such items as the Army's environmental management system, environmental performance assessment system, federal environmental legislative and regulatory monitoring, and pollution prevention support. After 10 years living near the head of the Chesapeake Bay, Bill finally bought himself a boat last spring and plans to take advantage of the upper Bay's striped bass fishery. He resides in Bel Air, Md., with his wife, Marian, and their son, Bryan, 16. They also have a second son, Jason, who lives in Baltimore. *[Editor's Note: Bill retired from the USGS on Friday, returning to work Monday as a contractor to the U.S. Army.]*

**JOE HLIVIA** (Spring '90) and his wife Denise have been married for six years and live in Pine Grove Mills, with their son Alex, 2, and 1-month-old daughter, Jordan. Joe, a 1992 graduate with a B.S. in environmental resource management, is currently employed as an environmental scientist with McCormick Taylor, Inc. (engineers and environmental consultants) in their State College office. Denise is the Assistant Coordinator Contracts and Grants Management for PSU's Eberly College of Science.

After PSU, **AL KEPICH** (Fall '81) went onto Colorado State University for a B.S. in Exercise and Sports Science. He lucked out in the summer of 2004 after traveling and coaching soccer most of the summer, when he landed a full-time teaching job in Prince William County, Va., as an elementary physical education teacher. He hopes to go bear hunting with other Tau Phis, maybe up in Potter County. He's been part of the Mont Alto soccer player's alumni games

and enjoys the related group campouts at Caledonia State Park. He did manage to be a New England ski bum last winter. Al says, "We need to get some of our boys from Fall '81 and have them and a few others from the early '80s make a showing in the next *Taproot!*"  
[coachkepich@aol.com](mailto:coachkepich@aol.com)

**JEFF "MAC" MCEL RATH** (Fall '85) married Little Sister **DONALEE MARTIN** and the couple currently lives in the State College area with daughter, Aubrey, 5, and son, Garrett, 2. Mac has worked for the Patton Township Police Department for the past nine years with another five years "on the job" as a Berwick, Pa., police officer. Donalee is currently working as lab manager for Dr. Frisque in the PSU Biochemistry Department. Mac has been on the Board of Directors for the House since 1998.

**BILL "CHUMPY" MONTGOMERY** (Spring '91) is using his PSU B.A. in Geography/Urban Studies and Masters in Planning from Indiana University (our Big Ten rival) working as the program director for the Health Federation of Philadelphia. He's also a part-time instructor at the Community College of Philadelphia, as well as a Remax relator and non-profit management grantwriting consultant. He and his wife, Kathleen, and daughters, Elizabeth, 11, and Claire, 6, live in Philadelphia (more specifically the Fishtown neighborhood). What little spare time he has is split up between his family, church, remodeling is home, watching Eagles and Nittany Lion football, and as a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.  
(215) 203-8889 or [tauphidelta2001@yahoo.com](mailto:tauphidelta2001@yahoo.com).

**RAY NELLING** (Fall '90 Beta) took his 1992 B.S. Forest Science degree and put his knowledge to work for the Virginia Dept of Forestry for nearly ten years. Now Ray is a Reforestation Forester/ Timber Sale Administrator, for the U.S. Forest Service out of the Bradford Ranger District in the Allegheny National Forest. He and his wife, Janelle, have a daughter, Rayelle, 7, and son,



Seth, 5. His spare time and money are spent keeping up with their busy kids and remodeling/upgrading their 80-year old house in Bradford, Pa. Ray says, "Good to be back in 'friendly' territory, as Virginia Tech Hokie fans were a bunch of snobs!" (814) 363-9959 or rjrsnel@pennswoods.net

**GENE "IOTA" ODATO** (Fall '73) recently joined the ranks with **DR. TIM "CLONE" COPELAND** (Spring '85) as a leukemia and bone marrow transplant survivor. [Editor's Note: *Congrats to both!*] Gene is currently with the Pennsylvania DCNR Bureau of Forestry as the Chief of Rural and Community Forestry in the Harrisburg office. Gene and his wife Kathy reside in Landisburg, Pa. with daughter, Meredith, a sophomore at Cornell University, and son, Nicholas, a junior at West Perry High School. When he's not volunteering for his church and the local conservation clubs, he's fishing and duck hunting on the Susquehanna River with family or friends. An avid bear hunter, he sells an occasional log home (for former company White Mountain Log Homes) to get his "mad money" to pay for his many successful Colorado elk hunts. Godato@pa.net

**DR. ROBERT OTTO** (Fall '65) married Gail, his Tau Phi Delta pin mate, in 1970. They lived in Orono, Maine, where both attended the University of Maine for grad school, spending a lot of time with **JOE ARMSTRONG** in those years. They moved to Washington, D.C., in 1974 where Robert took a job with the National Marine Fisheries Service and Gail with Housing and Urban Development. There they socialized with **RICK CLAGGETT** (his Little Brother). After considering several alternatives, he remained with the NMFS, but moved to Kodiak, Alaska, in 1977. Robert says, "We thought we would try it for a few years." Slightly over 26 years later they are still there with two sons, Michael and Christopher, and daughter, Sandra. Rick become director of a small laboratory there (see [www.afsc.noaa.gov/kodiak/](http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/kodiak/)), and Gail works for the Kodiak Island Borough School District where she coordinates Federal programs. He continues, "Kodiak is quite a place and has actually become a pretty civilized community (10,000 pop.) ... A long ways from the

mud, blood and beer days in the late '70s (3,500 pop.). It is getting a little crowded, but the fishing and hunting are quite tolerable."

**DAVE PUTNAM** (Fall '68) is living in Centre Hall, Pa., with his wife Hilda. He is a Fish and Wildlife Biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in State College. He says, "I will be eligible for retirement this fall and haven't decided what I will do yet. I would love to hear from any brothers who want to talk." djputnam@statecollege.com

**DAVID "BIG DAVE" RAGANTESI** (Spring '87) is the regional director for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation for eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland and Delaware. His home base is in Montrose, Pa., where he hides out with his girlfriend, Theresa, and daughter, Kelsie, 14. (570) 278-4747 or dragantesi@epix.net

**BILL "RAT" SMITH** (Spring '70) attended PSU between 1969 and 1972, and then he transferred to the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. He and his wife, Susan, both graduated in 1976, and they have a private practice in Beaver, Pa. Their mostly four-legged patients include dogs, cats, horses, cows, goats, and other farmyard animals. They have two sons, Robert and Ryan, who are attending the California University of Pennsylvania. Bill's favorite hobbies are horseback riding, camping, and sightseeing in Pennsylvania. Bill says his best memories are the pledge class bolt (they kidnapped and took a Brother to Ligonier), volleyball games at the House after dinner, and wintertime caving at Schaefer's Cave.

**TERRY STEMMLER** (Fall '75) is the Assistant District Forester for the Tioga State Forest in Wellsboro, Pa. He has spent over 25 years in with the Commonwealth, mostly with the Bureau of Forestry, but did four years with the Pennsylvania Game Commission at the beginning of his career. He's kept busy during his winters, as he has coached wrestling for 15 years (with two high school state champs and several placewinners) and officiated wrestling for the past decade or more. When he's not spending the rest of his free time working on his retirement home near New

Alexandria (Westmoreland County), he's preparing and planning a combination caribou hunt/fishing trip for next year. (570) 723-1686 or Tstemmler@state.pa.us.

**DR. CHUCK STRAUSS** (Fall '55) "briefly" reports on his travels: "This past year included my 'traditional' trips to Montana for flyfishing and Idaho for hunting. We had a great time on the Madison and Yellowstone Rivers in early July pursuing trout during the annual stonefly hatch. During mid October, **JOE EICHERT** and I succeeded in getting my wife, Carol, yet another fine mule deer trophy for her family room. Carol and I enjoyed a great trip to Washington and California in August, where we covered some PSU business and then extended with a visit to her brother and wife in San Diego. In early October, we attended the Society of American Foresters conference in Edmonton, Canada. This is a fine city and only four hours from the Canadian Rockies, which proved to be the highlight of our trip. I had an extremely difficult time keeping Carol out of the Native American art stores." As the PSU Director of the School of Forest Resources, he further notes: "The best part of my job is meeting various alumni and friends from the School. And not just from the standpoint of trying to gain their financial support. We have over 4,500 alumni throughout the United States and some of the more senior members have great memories of their PSU education and in establishing their careers. In 2007, our School will celebrate it's 100th Anniversary, and we have a dedicated group of alumni already planning for this event, so please pay attention to the *Resources* newsletter. Speaking of which, my New Year's prediction was a much stronger Nittany Lion football team!"

**CHARLES "VIRGE" THUMA** (Fall '75) and his wife, Sue, are living in Virginia Beach, Va., with their three children, Elizabeth, 21, Melissa, 18, and Robert, 16. Since leaving PSU in 1977, he has earned an M.S. in Management from Troy State in 1996. After a 20-year stint with the U.S. Navy, he retired as a Commander and is currently a government civil servant for the Department of Defense. (757) 721-2450 or charles5652@cox.net.

**See "Updates," page 14**

# Updates, from page 13

**TOM** (Fall '61) and Jeannie **YORKE** have spent much of the past year decorating and adding to their new home in a "55 and better" community in Haymarket, Va. Jeannie is doing the decorating, and Tom is doing the adding. He has added a workshop and archery range in the basement, and he is in the final stages of building a deck onto the back of the house. The deck faces the first fairway of a new golf course that opened May 7. The enticement of the new golf course has slowed progress on the deck. A late-spring trip on a river ship from Antwerp, Belgium, up the Rhine River to Basel, Switzerland, also slowed progress. Tom says, "We had a great time, good food, and lots of wine. We also got to spend a day with **BARRY BORGIET** (Fall '61) in Strasbourg, France. Strasbourg is a beautiful city with an extensive network of canals that connect the Rhine River with the Il River, a tributary to the Danube River." The Yorkes also cruised to Alaska last fall with **JOE** and Lee **EICHERT** and **GEORGE** and Rose Ann **LEAVESLEY**.

After his PSU days and with his B.S. Ag Engineering, **KEN "GEEK" WOLFE** (Winter '76) went on to earn his M.S. in Food Ag and Biological Engineering from Ohio State. He's now an Area Engineer with the Natural Resources Conservation

Services-USDA in Frederick, Md. Ken volunteers as head wrestling coach for Linganore/Urbana Youth Athletic Association. He resides in Boonsboro, Md., along with his wife, Theresa. Their children are Sara, 22, a recent Hood College graduate, Ashley, 14, and Alex, 9. Like dad, his kids are athletes too, as Ashley is a basketball star at Boonsboro High School and Alex won the Maryland Kids Division Freestyle State Championship in wrestling. (301) 606-1296 or ken.wolfe@md.usda.gov

**HOWARD "DOKEY" WURZBACHER** (Spring '77) and his wife, Cynthia, and daughters, Ashley and Sarah, reside in Titusville, Pa. Since obtaining his 1979 B.S. in Forest Science, he's been for the most part with the Pennsylvania Game Commission and currently works out of their Northwest Region Office in Franklin as the regional forester. Also Brs. **JACK BYERLY**, **ANDY HETRICK**, **RANDY BAUMAN**, and **DAVE GUSTAFSON**, and Little Sister **ANNETTA (EGLEY) AYERS** are other foresters for this state's wildlife agency. While other Tau Phi staffers in the PGC include land management officers, **STEVE GEHRINGER** and **JIM BINDER**, and wildlife conservation officers, **JEFF KENDELL** and **PAT SNICKLES**. A "regular" Tau Phi Delta bear hunter since 1980,

Howard says he's counting the days until this year's bear season.  
(814) 589-7538 or hcwurz@aol.com

**MIKE ZARICHNAK** (Fall '64) has been with the Alabama Power Company for 30 years as a forester in line clearing. Prior to that he spent four years in the Army and one year in Florida with a utility line clearing company. His children are grown. His son is a mechanical engineer, and his daughter is a nurse. Mike has not been back to Happy Valley and Tau Phi Delta except for a visit to Penn State in 1977. He was active in the local PSU Club when Penn State and Alabama played each other regularly before Big Ten Football took over. He hopes to retire in the next two years, and then he will be able to get back to our reunion as part of the School of Forest Resources Centennial in 2007.

**MARTY "ZUKE" ZUKOVICH** (Fall '75) has been married for 17 years to Debbie Walker. They live in Tamaqua, Pa. He says that his hobby of raising game birds and English Setters is out of control. He has about 28,000 pheasant, quail, chukars, and Hungarian partridge, and also has had six to 20 dogs at one time or another. He is ready to hang up the real world and make his hobby a full-time business.

## Jim Evans Memorial Golf Tournament Sets Attendance Record

Participating in this year's Jim Evans Memorial Golf Tournament were 88 alumni from across the country, the largest turnout in the event's history. The tournament raised more than \$1,000 for the Jim Evans Memorial Scholarship Fund. Congratulations to Brs. Mark Brunermer, Dave Eppinger, Jeff McElrath and Jim Stelter for shooting the winning score of 61.

For information on next year's tournament, contact Tournament Chairman Adam Hegginstaller at (703) 624-0083 or higgins\_308@yahoo.com, or log on to [www.tauphidelta.org](http://www.tauphidelta.org).



The winning foursome receives their prizes after the tournament. From left are Brs. Jim Stelter, Adam Hegginstaller (Tournament Chairman), Jeff McElrath, Dave Eppinger and Mark Brunermer.



## Outdoors, from page 7

Each of those cards and letters typically held an open invitation for me to join Joe in his annual fall pursuits. The winter of '85 was a particularly long and gray time in Pennsylvania, further aggravated by flu and other maladies. In desperation, I wrote to Joe and indicated that in my advancing senior years I had best try to sample some of those western hunts.

Now, keep in mind, Joe and I hadn't seen each other for some 17 years. By now, we had different schedules, obligations, and sets of friends, and I simply asked for Joe's advice on a good quality outfitter who might drag my sorry butt through the wilds of Idaho in pursuit of strange-sounding animals. Hopefully, I would have the added time to visit Joe and Lee and their family.

In about five to six days I received a response from Joe, within which he indicated that most of the outfitters in his region were a bunch of crooks and thieves and enclosed please find a license application for the 1986 season. Please complete this for a mule deer license, I'm taking you to one of my favorite locations along the Snake River.

And so we began a 20-year series of high adventures in Idaho and Montana. Each year has held the promise of renewed friendships and a sharing of



Br. Joe Eichert takes a well deserved break after dragging Br. Chuck Strauss' "sorry butt through the wilds of Idaho" in pursuit of game.

excitement along the trails and rivers of this grand state.

I've exchanged with Joe's family and their other great Idaho friends. We've attended girl's basketball games and further enjoyed the company of son Tom on our hunting excursions.

We've shared the best of hunting and those long, long backpacks out of various canyons. And within the Chapter Room of Tau Phi Delta is a fine mule deer buck that Joe and I presented to the Brothers.



## Four bear bagged by TΦΔ

The Tau Phi Delta Bear Hunters experienced yet another season of success by downing

four bruin last year. Congratulations to Brs. Chris Campbell (170

pounds), Brian McHail (460 pounds), Anthony Morris (100 pounds) and Greg Schaetzle (250 pounds) on some fine shootin'.



Those interested in hunting with the House during bear season this year should contact Br. Pat Weiss at (814) 364-2917 or [pdweiss2001@yahoo.com](mailto:pdweiss2001@yahoo.com).

## Office, from page 3

Mike McNamara\* • Bob Momich\*  
Wade Nutter • Jim Stelter  
Howard Wurzbacher\* • Mark Webb\*

The Brothers marked with an \* have pledged or contributed comparable amounts to both the Penn State Building Fund and the Tau Phi Delta Endowment Fund.

If you have pledged an amount to be paid over several years, this is a reminder to send in your contribution for 2005. Please make your checks payable to Penn State and send them to the attention of Abby Hopkins, College of Agricultural Sciences, 234 Agricultural Administration Bldg., University Park, PA 16802-2600. Contributions to the Tau Phi Delta Endowment Fund should be sent to Frank Judd, 727 Buckwood Lane, Lititz, PA 17543-8436.

# Sustaining *The Taproot*



Fellow Alumni,

*The Taproot* is a newsletter for and about the alumni of Tau Phi Delta. It is part of an alumni commitment to become more involved in the House.

We got off to a great start with *The Taproot* last year. We had several interesting articles and 63 updates about our alumni. Furthermore, we had a good turnout for Homecoming 2004 with more returning alumni from the 1950s, '60s, and '70s than we've seen for many years.

We also had good financial support so the alumni newsletter was not a financial burden on the actives. Brother Ed Balsavage (Fall '85) paid for the printing of the first issue of *The Taproot*. Forty other brothers made contributions to support *The Taproot*, Homecoming, Rush and House improvements.

We want *The Taproot* to be self-sustaining, so we are requesting your support once again this year. We would not have covered our costs last year without the very generous contribution from Brother Balsavage. Any contribution will help us bring news about Tau Phi Delta and its Brotherhood to your mailbox. Please consider donating \$10, \$25, \$50 or more if you have the financial resources so that we can continue to provide a quality newsletter for our alumni. See the back of this insert for more information on how you can help.

We also rely on the alumni for the material that we include in *The Taproot*. Seventeen green inserts were returned last year with information about alumni. We would like many more responses so we'll have a robust "Alumni Updates" section in the next issue of *The Taproot*. Please take a few minutes to fill out this green

sheet, or better yet, send an email to one of the editorial staff: TomYorke@RegencyDV.com, earlh@iwla.org or aheggenstaller@nrahq.org. Tell us about your job, family, hobbies, travels, and/or hunting and fishing exploits.

The next issue of *The Taproot* will have continuing articles on Tau Phi Delts in the great outdoors and historical articles about Mont Alto and the House. Please tell us about your unique outdoors experiences and your years at Mont Alto and the House. Or, simply send us a photo or two with some explanation, and we'll do the rest. Photos will be returned.

In addition, we are working on a piece about Brothers who served in World War II. All across America, the numbers of our World War II veterans are dwindling daily. The young men who once took the bayonet to our enemies of totalitarian Japan and fascist Germany are in their 80s, or nearly there. For the next issue of *The Taproot*, we are researching the involvement and sacrifices of Tau Phi Delts. We are looking for information, stories, photos and other contacts of both those surviving and lost Brothers who served and those who lived in the House immediately before and after the war. Please contact Earl Hower at 111 Plaza St. NE, Leesburg, VA 20176, (703) 777-6527 or earlh@iwla.org. We owe them so much, and this tribute is all too fitting.

We hope you enjoy this issue of *The Taproot*, and—with your help—we look forward to providing you with many more.

Sincerely,  
The Editors



Tau Phi Delta Fraternity  
427 E. Fairmount Ave.  
State College, PA 16801  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## See You at Homecoming!

Tau Phi Delta will again host a traditional Homecoming on October 28 and 29. The House will open its doors on Friday evening and all day Saturday. The annual homecoming parade in downtown State College will begin at 6 p.m. Friday. If you are in town, please stop by and visit with the actives, pledges and returning alumni. Friday night's reunion social will be causal.

The fall Board of Directors meeting will be held Saturday at 10 a.m. As always, all alumni are welcome. A light lunch will be served immediately following the Board meeting.

After the Nittany Lions defeat the Purdue Boilermakers (kick-off time to be determined), the House will host a social for all returning alumni. For possible football tickets, call toll-free (800) 863-3336 or locally (814) 865-5555.

The social will start at 3:30 p.m. and dinner



will be served at 5:30 p.m (or one-half hour after conclusion of game). If you attend the game, please stop by afterwards and visit with your returning Brothers. If you do not have tickets for the football game, please consider driving up to the House anyway. The roads are empty during the game, and the traffic will be light in the early evening if you stay for dinner.

Hope to see many of you at Homecoming!