



The TAPROOT

News for Tau Phi Delta Alumni

www.tauphidelta.org

Volume 6

Fall 2009

IFC Chapter of the Year

The Penn State fraternity and sorority community is comprised of 92 organizations. Of this group, 51 are considered Interfraternity Council (IFC) fraternities. Knowing these numbers is important in order to fully appreciate the significance of the following.

Last spring, one fraternity — Tau Phi Delta – Penn State Alpha Chapter — was recognized with the University's **Distinguished Community Service Award**, due to their major contributions to trail management and improvements on the PSU's Stone Valley Experimental Forest, continued landscaping efforts at State College Borough's Lederer Park, and their previous habitat work on the local Pennsylvania Game Commission State Game Lands #176.

Each year, Penn State's Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life conducts a thorough annual review of each of the local Greek organizations. The goal is to determine if our fellow organizations fulfilled the expectations outlined in the "Greek Pride Initiative: A Return To Glory" program that was created in 2004. If a chapter meets the basic expectations, they are identified as a



Active Brothers (left to right) JR Murdock, Jeff Decker, Tyler Gebhardt, Mitch Vowler, and Aaron Gallaher proudly display the newest additions to our chapter room's trophy case along with House Co-Advisor Br. Martin McGann (far left) and Associate Dean Dr. Marcos Fernandez (far right).

Chapter in Good Standing — a feat that Tau Phi easily met in 2008 – 2009.

Chapters may also apply for an additional level of recognition, called **Chapter of Excellence**. This award is presented to chapters that have surpassed the minimum expectations and have distinguished themselves in the areas of community service, philanthropy, and educational programming. Only four IFC fraternities were named as such at

annual awards ceremony, held on April 27, 2009. Actually, we knew that Tau Phi Delta was to be recognized as a **Chapter of Excellence** because Dr. Roy Baker, Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life at Penn State spilled the beans a few weeks earlier while attending a dinner at the House. Dr. Baker was joining Dr. Marcos Fernandez, Associate Dean for

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**Don't miss Homecoming at TΦΔ
October 17, 2009**

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Undergraduate Studies of the College of Agricultural Sciences and his wife Sheila for an authentic “Jambalaya Supper” that they provided for with the actives (This is something they have done annually with the four Ag. fraternities since arriving at Penn State nearly five years ago).

However, the night was not over with the **Chapter of Excellence** award. The active’s crowning achievement this year was the presentation of the **Chapter of the Year Award** (The Omega Epsilon Award of Fraternity Merit) at the same ceremony.

70’S REUNION

Terry Stemmler (Fall ’75) is working with the Actives to organize a reunion for Brothers and Little Sisters that were in the House in the 1970s (as well as those from the late 1960’s and early 1980’s). The reunion will be held on the weekend of the Blue-White Game in April 2010, and it is open to all alumni. The Athletic Department has not set the date of the Blue-White Game, but it probably will be April 24th. Please keep open that weekend as well as the preceding and following weekends.

The reunion will include a Board of Director’s meeting in the morning, a tailgate before the Blue-White Game, a catered dinner, a silent auction with wine and cheese, and a band beginning at about 9:00 pm. Of course, there will be informal activities throughout the day.

The proceeds of the fund-raiser will benefit the Tau Phi Delta Foundation. Alumni and Actives are encouraged to donate items for the silent auction. Please be thinking about hunting and fishing gear and supplies, wildlife art, and Penn State and Tau Phi Delta memorabilia that you might donate.

A special mailing will be sent in January with specifics on this reunion. It will include a final detailed schedule, registration form, hotel information, and a donation form for silent auction items.

As Br. Chuck Strauss, who was in attendance, noted “This rather small fraternity that has been dedicated to professional leadership in forest resources for years and years, was identified this evening as Penn State’s lead fraternity. Our Actives have, indeed, brought forth an exceptional credit toward the symbols and ideals that we have espoused over these many decades.”

Dr Fernandez, who also is the university advisor for Delta Theta Sigma Fraternity, noted “We certainly applaud and celebrate the accomplishments of the brothers and advisors affiliated with Tau Phi Delta Fraternity. I know the alumni must be proud of this, their most recent university-wide distinction, and rightly so, because garnering the ‘2009 IFC Chapter of the Year Award’ places this group of men at the pinnacle of all that is good, positive and commendable in the Greek Community at Penn State University, considered by some measures to be the largest in the nation.” He also noted, “I actually observed the members from our Delta Theta Sigma Fraternity enthusiastically clap and cheer for Tree House in recognition of this wonderful accomplishment by the chapter, and recognition for our college. No jealousy, or bitterness, but genuine happiness for their colleagues at Tau Phi Delta.”

**Chapter of the Year Plaque**

Yes, this is the same Tree House we joined years ago. As Brothers, we are not only pleased but very proud of what these young Active members brought about with this year’s recognition. Congratulations Tau Phis!

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. Contact Tom Yorke at (703) 753-0271 or tjyorke@mindspring.com with questions, comments and suggestions.

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Chris "Zoo" Zamzalow (Spring '95 Alpha)
Phi

Hello Brothers. I am sure most of you are anxiously waiting the upcoming hunting seasons. I know that I sure am. I can just picture that nice Pennsylvania whitetail buck walking under my tree stand right now. Oh well so much for daydreaming, time to get down to business.

This past spring's BOD meeting was one for the ages, we held a Grand National Convention. Yes, you heard me right, we elected the Board of Trustee's for the TΦΔ Foundation (previously the Endowment Fund), we held Grand National Elections, and we also voted to approve the Constitution and By-Laws for the Foundation. I do not want to steal the Grand National and the Foundation's thunder, but I feel that it is important to let the Brotherhood know what we accomplish at the BOD meetings. We also held BOD elections this past Spring, Br. Sean Sweeney (re-elected), Br. Josh Schafer (new member), Br. Jon Fitzkee (new member), and myself were elected to the BOD for a term of two years. Br. Sean Sweeney will remain as Tau and I will remain as Phi.

Back in February, Br. Chris Myers (House Advisor) approached me about getting him some help. A lot of Chapter's use Co-House Advisor's and Br. Myers felt that he did not have enough personal time to make a full commitment to Tau Phi Delta. I contacted Br. Martin McGann, associate professor of landscape contracting, at PSU's Department of Horticulture, about coming on board as a Co-Advisor. He met with Br. Myers to discuss their respective roles, and he agreed to be a Co-Advisor. At this Fall's BOD meeting we will formally appointment Br. McGann as a Co-Advisor with Br. Myers. Br. McGann will mainly be concentrating as our liaison with the University, basically picking up where Dr. Chuck left off after his retirement.

During last Fall's BOD meeting Br. Tom Kears and his wife, Deborah Kohl Kears (who is also a Little Sister) offered to assist Tau Phi Delta with the replacement of the front door and windows. The BOD was interested in this project and asked Br. Kears to come up with some numbers and present it at the Spring BOD meeting. Br. Kears made a formal proposal at the Spring BOD meeting, and the Brotherhood voted to proceed with this project. Please note that the Kearses are doing this for Tau Phi Delta at the cost of materials and donated the installation. Brs. Chuck Strauss, Roy Seifert, and Tom Yorke each contributed \$1,000 for this project. We hope other alums will make contributions to cover the remaining \$5,000 cost.

Editors Note: See new front door and windows on page 4.

The Actives have been very busy as you can see by the lead article. The awards and recognition the Actives have received this past year are the type of things that make Tau Phi Delta stand apart from other fraternities. The BOD congratulates the Actives on their achievements this past year and looks forward to a very bright future with these Brothers that are currently in the House.

Supporting *The Taproot*

The Taproot continues to provide news about the Actives and Alumni of Tau Phi Delta because of the support of our alumni. The "Alumni Update" section of this issue includes 42 entries provided to us through emails or returns of inserts from last year's issue or the active's spring newsletter. Each year individuals or groups of Brothers and Little Sisters have provided financial contributions so the printing and mailing of *The Taproot* is not a financial burden on the actives or the Alpha Chapter. This year is no exception. The following Brothers and Little Sisters have donated \$10 to \$100 to help print and mail *The Taproot*.

Phil Arnold	Dick Ausherman
Don Berger	Tom Breslin
Christy Clark	Bill Cherko
Andrew Duncan	Forrest Fenstermaker
Richard Foster	Porter Gearhart
Carl Geesaman	Steve Gehringer
Robert Hivish	Tim Holtz
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Norm Martin	Bill McDonald
Marco Marchetti	John Marker
Dave Messics	Dennis Millin
Richard Parkinson	Stan Piorkowski
Earl Reinsel	Karl Shaffer
Roy Siefert	Ron Stroble
Brooke Thomas	Charles Thuma
Mike Whyte	Thomas Wolf
Tom Yorke	Mike Zarichnak

We may have missed a few contributors if checks were sent directly to the House. Please accept our thanks and apology if you made a contribution since the last issue and are not listed above.

If you have not sent us an update about yourself in recent years, please take a few minutes to complete the insert sheet in this issue and send it back to us. Better yet, turn on your computer and send an email to Tom Yorke, Editor, at tjyorke@mindspring.com. Your Brothers and Little Sisters want to know what you have been up to since you left Penn State

The Tau Phi Delta Foundation

The Brothers of Tau Phi Delta convened a Grand National Convention on April 25, 2009, to approve the articles of incorporation and by-laws of the Tau Phi Delta Foundation. The Foundation is a Non-Profit Corporation formed under the Non-Profit Corporation Law of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, educational, and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Corporation is specifically organized to provide and enhance educational opportunities for active student members and alumni of the Tau Phi Delta Fraternity affiliated with the Tau Phi Delta Grand National Chapter, a section 501 (c)(7) organization.

The incorporation of the Foundation is largely the result of the efforts of Brother Sean Sweeney, the Tau of the Penn State Alpha Chapter. He has worked with a Tax Attorney for more than two years to resolve some outstanding tax issues and to put us on a firm footing as a tax exempt organization and to qualify as a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170 (c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code. We have not received a final ruling from the Internal Revenue Service, but our attorney sees no reason why the ruling will not be in our favor.

The Foundation will be managed by a Board of Trustees elected from the fraternal alumni members of the Tau Phi Delta Fraternity. Brothers Josh Gallaher, Kory Enck, Bob McColly, Adam Heggenstaller, and Tom Wisniowski, were elected as Trustees on April 25. The Board has elected its officers, and is working diligently to develop a plan for accepting contributions and managing revenues to support the purposes of the Foundation. You will hear more about the Foundation from the Trustees in the coming months. It is expected that a capital campaign for the various Foundation funds will begin in earnest in the spring of 2010, but donations will be accepted in the remainder of 2009. Anyone interested in donating to the Foundation can contact Foundation Chairman Kory Enck at KENCK@nrahq.org (717-689-3200) or Secretary Tom Wisniowski at twisniowski@holtandbugbee.com.



New oak door and windows enhance the entrance to the Tree House.

Alumni Updates

In June 2009, the Pennsylvania Department of Natural Resources' Bureau of Forestry promoted two more Brothers to District Foresters. **JASON ALBRIGHT** (Fall '91) was selected as the new District Forester of the Rothrock Forest District #5 in Huntingdon. Jason was an Assistant District Forester for the Moshannon Forest District #9. He and his wife, Little Sister **KRISTEN (STRONG)** (Spring '92) and family, reside in nearby Pleasant Gap. albrightteacher@yahoo.com

GENE F. ODATO (Fall '73) was named the new District Forester of the Tuscarora Forest District #3, located in Blain. Gene, a resident of Perry County, had been the Chief of the Rural and Community Forestry Section in Harrisburg. godato@pa.net

They joined the ranks of a few other District Forester Brothers, **ROY SIEFERT** (Fall '74), Tioga State Forest District #16 and **TERRY STEMMLER** (Fall '75), Gallitzin State Forest District #6, along with Little Sister, **CECILE M. "CISSY" (CAVANAUGH) STELTER** (Fall '86), Cornplanter State Forest District #14.

RICHARD "DICK" L. AUSHERMAN (Fall '65) is the owner/operator of Pennsylvania Firewood, a company that markets firewood in Baltimore and the surrounding area. He is trying to decide whether old age or the Emerald Ash Borer will lead him to retirement. His hobbies include rock and mineral collecting, trap shooting, and playing the banjo. 717-334-4092

Little Sister **CHRISTY CLARK** (Winter '77) majored in advertising and marketing and graduated with a degree in Communications. Christy is single and living in Roseville, Calif. She works for General Electric, and she enjoys traveling, reading and working out. She says there were only 3 of us in our pledge class—**LINDA (KLUCK) COOK** and **MARY ELLEN (SCHUTZ) GUTNECHT**. 916-771-4314

TOM "TAB" BRESLIN (Fall '54) is retired from the New York Office of Parks, Recreation and Historical Preservation. He and Lucy have been married 51 years, and they have 3 children and 6 grandchildren. Tom enjoys gardening, woodworking, and volunteering at the hospital and cancer center. He also enjoys participating in webinars from Penn State and Cornell just to keep in touch with the profession. 570-752-1626; tomb71@msn.com

BILL CHERKO (Fall '62) works for Home Depot and lives in Manchester, Conn. He and Linda have two daughters, Kim and Sandra, and two grandchildren, Dylan and Jillian.

DAN DOUTHITT (Fall '63) wrote to compliment The Taproot staff on the "Our own band of brothers" article in the last issue. He said, "I mentioned to Sandy that if someone woke me from a deep sleep I could tell them in an instant who the Seven Honorable Brothers who were killed in World War II were. As it should be. I was surprised that so many were never found. I guess life as an airman - Army, Navy, Marine, or Air Force - was and continues to be perilous."

Dan also wanted us to be aware of **BILL WILCOX'S** (Fall '61) accident, which is described in Bill's alumni update.

ANDREW "BANJO" DUNCAN (Spring '95 Alpha) is a forester with the Pennsylvania DCNR Bureau of Forestry. He and Maressa have been living in Danville for the past two years. She works in Harrisburg for PHEAA while he works out of Hazelton. Andrew enjoys duck hunting, bowhunting, flintlock, flyfishing, and mushroom hunting. He says, "Our jobs continue to be challenging and fulfilling, and we are fortunate in these tough economic times to have job stability and time off now and again for each other and our hobbies. I have a 4-year old Labrador named Cash; he is a great retriever on waterfowl with a good nose for upland birds. Anyone with a good female lab whom is interested

in breeding, please give me a ping. We would like to breed him in the next 3 years. I can send pictures of him in action. The Taproot gets better each year, thanks largely to the commitment and passion of all involved. I really enjoy the alumni updates, stories, and the war heroes article in the 2008 edition. No doubt putting this together is a 'noble process.' Keep up the good work!" aduncan@state.pa.us

THOMAS "TOM" J. EUCLIDE (Spring '80) is the Associate Vice President for Facilities Planning and Operations at Kent State University in Ohio. After graduating in 1983 with a B.A. Architectural Engineering, he went on to work briefly as an engineer in Providence, R.I., and Towson, Maryland, before heading west to Akron, Ohio. He soon moved to nearby Kent and has been there for 22 years. His wife Julia (Shedleski) (PSU '83) is currently completing her masters in biology. They have three children, Ellen (23), Dan (21), and Peter (19). Ellen has a dual degree in economics and Spanish and will soon be leaving for Luxemburg for her Masters degree in public policy. Dan is studying economics and marketing, while Peter is a sophomore in wildlife biology — It should be no surprise that they all were or are at Kent State. His hobbies are typical Tau Phi Delta outdoor avocations: hunting, fishing, skiing, canoeing, biking, climbing, and camping. "I do spend a good amount of time leading high adventure trips for the local youth in our Boy Scout troop and Venture crew. I recently won first place in my division of the 21st Annual Grand River Canoe and Kayak Race sponsored by the Lake County Metro Parks. It was the first race I have entered since I won the Sy Barash Regatta canoeing trophy with **BILLY JOHNS** (Fall '79) back in the early '80s in Stone Valley. As if he doesn't have enough to do with his limited spare time, he's currently organizing an adventure triathlon for KSU (canoeing, running and biking) called the "Black Squirrel Adventure Triathlon." teuclide@neo.rr.com

FORREST FENSTERMAKER (Fall '53) is retired and living in Williamsburg, Va. He enjoys traveling, gardening, and working on environmental issues with the

Trailblazers at Fords Colony. He and Ruth have 3 children and 3 grandchildren. He says, "I always enjoy The Taproot." He and Ruth met **EARL** and Anne **REINSEL** and **PAT** and Barbara **LANTZ** (both Fall '53) in Las Vegas this past January. No one hit the jackpot.
ffengty@widowmaker.com

RICHARD "DICK" FOSTER (Fall '52) sent us an update from Germany. He says, "I was very favorably impressed with the Fall 2008 Taproot. You and your staff certainly spent a lot of time and effort getting all that information together. I was particularly touched by the reports of military service during and after WWII. They were a reminder of how lucky I was in that regard; too young for WWII and too old for Korea and Vietnam. After graduation in the Spring of '55, I spent 4 years in the US Army Corps of Engineers, 2 of those years in Germany. In 1959, I entered a graduate program for non-teachers at Rutgers University. Two years later, I began teaching math in Franklin Township, NJ, married the German teacher, and sired a son. In 1970, we moved to Germany, had a second son, and taught in 3 different schools over a period of 28 years. I got divorced in 1992 and married a divorcee from Konigsfeld, the town in the Black Forest where I have lived now for 33 years. Barbera and I each have two married sons and a total to date of 7 grandchildren.

PORTER "TRAPPER" H. GEARHART (Fall '50) is retired and lives in Warren, Pa. We lost his 2008 check for support of The Taproot so being the great guy that he is, he sent us another check for twice the amount of the first one.
porterg@westpa.net

CARL GEESAMAN (Fall '70) wanted to thank the people responsible for the well-written article, "Our Own Band of Brothers." He said, "Someone has put a lot of time and effort into this article and they are to be commended."

Retired from the Penna. Game Commission, **STEVE GEHRINGER** (Fall '66) enjoys fishing, hunting, hiking, and gardening. He and Linda live in Mansfield. They have a son and daughter and two grandchildren. 570-662-7499; sdgehr@ptd.net

ROBERT "BB-GUN" HIVISH (Spring '05) graduated in 2007 with a degree in Actuarial Science. That maybe a first for $\tau\phi\Delta$? He and Erica were married on May 9, 2009. They have a son, Connor. He is the Assistant Manager of Kingston Township, in Luzerne County, and he enjoys hunting, fishing and hockey. 570-406-4062 or 570-690-8288;
rhivish@kingstontownship.com

TIM HOLTZ (Spring '79) has moved from Coudersport and now lives in Austin (in Penna., not Texas.), with his bride Beth Hoff. Tim is part owner of Northern Appalachian Log and Forestry Company and is president-for-life of the Twin Valley Hunting Club (owned along with 9 other Tau Phis in nearby Keating Summit).
tholtz@zitomedia.net

GREGG HORVAT (Spring '98) reports that he is thankfully single and still enjoying drinking and chasing women. He works for Kraft Foods in Chicago and wants everyone to know that they have a place to stay while visiting the Windy City. 919-259-0167;
gahl42@yahoo.com

Former Phi, **CHARLES "CHAZ" F. KREWSON III** (Fall '50), returned to Penn State in 2008 to attend the 120th anniversary of the Penn State Glee Club and the annual banquet of the alumni and friends of the School of Forest Resources. Chaz graduated with a B.S. in Forestry from Penn State and an M.S. from USC. He is a retired Air Force Hospital Administrator and Health Care Administrator with the V.A. Department of Medicine and Surgery. He and Margarit have two children, Charles IV and Caroline. He enjoys reading, hiking and classical music. 202-333-2080

BOYER KANTZ (PSU '51) retired owner/operator of Boyer Kantz and Associates, a natural resources (forestry and mining) consulting and land surveying firm in Wellsboro, Pa., died in July 22, 2008. This WWII U.S. Army veteran was residing in Mansfield at the time of his death.

ANDY KYLE (Fall '78) and Linda, his wife of 23 years live just to the north of the City of York. They are

empty nesters, well kind of. Their two daughters, Krista and Staci are also Penn Staters, Krista at Hershey Medical Center and Staci at the Altoona Campus. Both will be living in State College this fall and by spring should both be enrolled at University Park. Andy hopes to connect again with others from his pledge class: **ED "EMHO" CROW**, **RAY ZOMOK**, **GREGG MORGAN**, **JIM SAKAL**, and **MARK LESKO**. He recalls the good times and claims, "We were best known as 'The Super Six' and for being the only pledge class that all used slippery elm for our pledge logs." Andy works for Penna. Department of Environmental Protection as an entomologist in the black fly and mosquito (West Nile Virus) programs. Several other Brothers with DEP state government careers include: his pledge brother, **RAY ZOMOK**, along with **MICHAEL "ROCKY" OBERCASH**, **HARRY VITOLINS**, **ROD NESMITH**, and **SHAWN CABLE**. akyle@state.pa.us

MARCO "TONI" A. MARCHETTI (Fall '54) is retired from the USDA, Agric. Research Service, Southern Plains Area Rice Research Unit. He and Nancy live in Beaumont, Texas. They have 5 children, 18 grandchildren, and 3 great grandchildren. Toni's hobbies include birding, target shooting, gardening, barbershop quartet, and rough carpentry. 409-861-1940;
themarchettihouse@att.net

After being gone from Penn State for almost 50 years, **JOHN F. MARKER** (Spring '56) decided it was appropriate to report in by providing the following account of his years after graduation. "When I left campus in 1959, Mary Cree (Wilson College '59) and I were married and headed West. Our married life began in the small lumber town of Mc Cloud, Calif. where I was hired as a forester with the U. S. Forest Service on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. From there we worked our way through some 33 years with the Forest Service, produced three children, lived in exotic places like Hayfork, Mt. Shasta, San Francisco, and Bakersfield, Calif., Ogden, Utah, Washington, D.C., and Medford and Portland, Ore., where I retired as the

See Alumni Updates, page 10

The Ugly Man Contest ...Another Penn State Tradition Lost To The Ages



Can you identify this Brother?

Well you really should know him, because back in “the days of yore” this noble Brother helped our House achieve a degree of notoriety by winning the 1957 Ugly Man Contest. This was an annual event, sponsored through IFC, but open to all student groups. We’re not certain how many years this “competition” ran but during Fall 1957 our House Phi, Carl Wolfe, was the catalyst in getting TΦΔ involved in this campus-wide event.

By all historical accounts and up until this time, socially speaking we were largely a “beer and pretzel” organization in the years prior. But to his credit, Br. Wolfe led various efforts to upscale TΦΔ’s social calendar and otherwise expand the recognition of our House. Toward Carl’s goal we held “theme parties”, entered in float parades, and tried to be a bit more fashionable in our appearance. For example, the Fall ’57 pledge class held a German “Fasching” Party, complete with a 2-story stein on the front yard, personal steins for attendees, and everyone dressing in some form of German regalia.

During the spring of ’58, Carl engaged the House in the Spring Week float parade. The theme was TV programs and we entered a colorful paper mache cowboy riding a 15-ft rocket, all carefully built

upon a flat-bed wagon. Br. Philip Simonski’s yellow and black Ford convertible pulled our entry through the campus parade route. But Spring Week didn’t end there, with this Phi organizing another theme party. This time it was South Seas Island, probably the first in this Tau Phi tradition [Darn, we missed another reason to celebrate an anniversary]. They placed sawdust throughout the basement party room, built decorations, and applied a great deal of tan theater paint on sarong-clad Brothers and their dates.

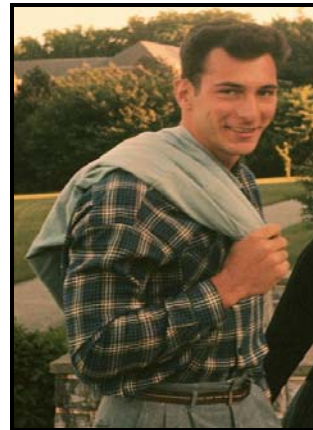
With regards to the Ugly Man Contest, one of Br. Wolfe’s immediate questions was who to secure as a probable candidate. Our volunteer, Br. George Schmid, was one of the tallest guys in the House, a senior and casually interested in his Brother’s silly ideas and off-the-wall schemes. He was far from ugly but he was tall, approaching 6’ 3” or better. Carl, along with a few creative others including Br. Chuck Strauss, organized a rather lengthy transformation of George involving a special helmet, a strange set of long underwear, and lengthy facial applications. Central to the process was an old bear rug and pair of donated Texas long horns. The helmet frame was made of chicken wire, onto which was mounted the pair of horns, with this strange head ware covered with swatches of bear hair. Not the easiest thing to wear but a darn good start. Next was the long underwear “suit”, built with layers of bear hair carefully glued from the ankles to the neckline. The grand finale was a facial transformation including a fake nose, scars, chalk teeth, theater paint and, more bear hair glued as side burns and beard.

This was a labor of love and required considerable time and patience on behalf of George. The costuming process took place three times — the first was for a Coleman Studio photograph that was run in *The Daily Collegian*, the second was an informal campus walk-around to further introduce our candidate, and, finally, a formal float parade through campus. Each of these appearances required a “good hour” of preparation, plus the tedious follow-up of removing glue and bear hair from George’s face. He was tolerant ... but not overjoyed by all of this

showbiz. Incidentally, they used George’s nickname as his moniker for the contest: The Groge.

On our first tour through campus, Chuck also served as Groge’s keeper, complete with cowboy hat, game coat, and 12-gauge shotgun [Times were different then]. They entered by the Main Gates near Allen Street, with “Groge” politely tapping co-eds on the shoulder, and, in return, receiving screams and laughter. We had a very good time that afternoon.

The contest included about ten entries, with the winner to be selected on the basis of penny votes cast at the HUB, with the proceeds going toward some local charitable cause. Our House did a good job of networking among fellow students, forestry classmates, girlfriends, faculty, Aggies-at-large, and the general student population. The entire contest was concluded with a formal parade through campus, with Groge standing and growling atop a flatbed trailer, upon which we had fastened a semblance of forest cover.



Brother Schmid ... Far from ugly!

Well, the proof in our pudding was winning the contest by way of the most penny votes! We had the Ugliest Man on Campus, and after three prolonged make-up sessions, maybe one of the most irritated. In our own small way, this event provided a certain gathering among the Brothers and sudden claim to fame and campus-wide attention toward Tau Phi Delta ... Back in the dark ages of the 1950s.

See Ugly Man, page 13

Tau Phis in the Great Outdoors

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

Editor's Note: *This is a continuing feature of The Taproot – a place much like the oaken walls of our fraternity – where Brothers can share their successes and failures, in the great outdoors.*

The Last Hunt at No-See-Um Meadows

By Br. Tom Yorke (Fall '61)

The hunt begins at the TΦΔ reunion that was held in conjunction with the School of Forest Resources Centennial in April of 2007. Br. Joe Eichert offered an Idaho elk hunt as one of the raffle items during the reunion. Joe has lived in Idaho since the late 1960's, and he has hunted and fished most of the state. Br. Chuck Strauss has hunted with Joe for many years, and the very nice White-tailed and Mule Deer mounts in Chuck's home and office attest to hunting opportunities there. In recent years, Br. Joe "Bart" Bartnicki has joined them in elk camp. Br. Bob McColly won the raffle so he was going to be in the 2008 elk camp (Actually his son, Br. Clark, won the trip but gave this prize to the financier of his college education). Joe had asked me to come out and hunt numerous times, and he called me again in the spring of 2008 to tell me he had a good hunt planned. Chuck, Bart, Bob, Stan Pennypacker (PSU Forester), and two Idaho friends would be in camp at No-see-um Meadows on the Lewis and Clark Trail in northcentral Idaho. There was room for one more.

Previously, I always had a conflict: busy work schedule, Big Ten football game, Homecoming, or some other trip. Well, the stars, football schedule, and elk season were aligned in 2008. But it was going to be tight! I could fly to Idaho on October 7, set up camp on October 8 and 9, hunt October 10-15, fly home on October 16, attend PSU Homecoming on October 18, and leave for an annual surf fishing trip on October 20. Actually, I think what convinced me was Joe's comment, "We are not getting any younger, so you need to do it soon if you are going to do it." So in May

2008, I called Joe and said I was coming if there was still room in camp.

Saying I was coming for the hunt was the easy part. I had always been pretty much a day hunter. Get up early in the morning while trying not to wake up Jeannie or the kids, eat some breakfast, pack a lunch, drive to the hunting area, hike in with bow and tree stand, climb a tree on a good game trail, and settle in for the first morning light. I have bowhunted in Missouri, Pennsylvania, Florida, Georgia, Maryland and Virginia for the past 30 years. My last rifle hunt was an 8-point buck in Pennsylvania back in 1979.

My only experience with camp-type hunting was in Florida and Georgia. We hunted two large ranches in central Florida; plenty of

inch boots were great for mild-weather hunts and climbing trees, but they would not do well in more than a few inches of snow. I ordered a good pair of 10-inch Outfitter boots, and then broke them in for next two months.

My next issue was a rifle. Joe said that he had plenty of rifles, and that I did not need to go through the hassle of checking a weapon on the flights to Idaho. However, I had not fired a rifle since 1979, and I figured that I needed some practice in case a bull elk was looking to commit suicide by venturing too close. So I degreased and oiled my old Ruger 30-06, bought some new ammo and heading off to the local Izaak Walton League range in Centreville, Va. As soon as I started firing, my senses were alerted to sound and smell of gunfire. I was wearing earplugs, but I still had

a slight ringing in my ears. The biggest surprise was the power of the 30-06. I shot two rounds of 10 shots each, and I had a bruised shoulder that evening. Two more trips to the range, and I was ready for the hunt.

I arrived in Lewiston, Idaho at 8:30 pm and was met by Joe and Bart. We

drove the one hour to Orofino on Idaho 12 along the banks of the Clearwater River and the Lewis and Clark Trail. We entered Joe and Lee's house through the garage to Joe's workshop that has the best reloading and fly tying stations that I've ever seen. Bob and Chuck were already asleep outside in Joe's camper. Bart and I got the spare bedrooms. After a hug from Lee and one beer, I was ready to crash. I hit the sack at 10:30 and was wide awake at 3:00 am (Which was 6 a.m. my time).



Brothers McColly, Yorke, Eichert, Strauss, and Bartnicki in Onofrio, Idaho

deer, turkey, and pigs, but that is another story. The camp was a ranch house with a family room, full kitchen, and plenty of bedrooms and bathrooms. I said it was camp-type hunting. In Georgia, we actually slept in tents and had our meals under a fly. However, we had toilets and showers within a short walk of camp.

I had all the necessary clothing for the hunt, including raingear, hats, wool shirts, vest, etc. Except that I needed a new pair of boots. My 6-

We awoke to a clear, cool morning in Onofrio. I had my last shower for a week or more, drank a cup of coffee, and helped pack Joe's 4x4 cab crew. The sun was shining when we left Orofino, but the clouds rolled in as soon as we climbed up to the Fraser Plateau. We drove through Potlach, state, and national forest land and the roads got rougher as we got farther from Orofino. We were headed for the headwaters of Sherman Creek in the Clearwater National Forest. Sherman's Creek is a tributary of the Lochsa River, which is the northern boundary of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. Wolves were introduced into the Wilderness in the mid-1990s by the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service.

We got to the campsite in mid-afternoon and finished setting up camp. Joe had taken Stan Pennypacker and Ray Vatne in to camp earlier in the week, and they had the main tent and covered-cooking area set up. The main tent was big enough to sleep four and hold a table for eight and a wood stove. We put up a second sleeping tent and cut some firewood to feed the woodstoves in each tent. The



Sleeping tent at No-see-um Meadows

camp had a spring with fresh water for cooking, washing dishes and ourselves. There also was a USFS-maintained outhouse about 100 yards from camp. Dinner that night was elk steaks, baked potatoes, corn-on-the-cob, and melon for dessert. We played a game of pitch after dinner, and Ray and I defeated the defending champions, Joe and Bart. We climbed into our sleeping bags at 10:30 pm. We first heard the wolves howling not more than an hour later. This was not a good sign; Joe had warned us that the elk population was being decimated by wolves as they migrated further and further

from where they were first introduced. We heard later from a biologist with the Nez Pearce Tribe, that a healthy wolf pack can take out 100 to 150 elk per year.

The next morning was bright and clear with a heavy frost. We did a little more work around camp and then headed out to cut more than a cord of Larch and Lodgepole Pine for the stoves. We did some scouting in the afternoon as a light snow fell. "Spud" Storrey arrived with his two mules; one for riding and one for packing out the elk meat. Spud set up a corral for the mules just behind the main tent; however, after hearing about the wolves visit to camp the previous night, he opted to keep the mules in the trailer each night. Dinner was whitetail meatloaf, mashed potatoes, corn-on-the-cob, and peaches. Elk one night and venison the next night; we were ready for the hunt. Ray and I got wiped out in Pitch, 5 games to 0.

Friday, October 10 was the opening day of elk season. After a hearty breakfast, we set off with 3 to 4 inches of fresh snow on the ground. Joe, Bart, and Ray, and I took the ridge trail, which is east of camp, towards No-see-um Butte. There were fresh boot prints of two hunters on the trail, and Joe bitched as soon as he saw them, "They are going to where I want us to hunt." He proceeded to say this for the next two miles, but I could hardly hear him over my gasps for more oxygen. We climbed about 800 feet in the first mile, but it seems like a lot more to this Easterner. Our camp was at 5,800 feet so the air was a little thinner than my lungs were accustomed. As we got closer to the peak, the wind picked up, and "Pilot Bart" estimated that we had a 25-knot headwind. We eventually cut off the ridge trail and bushwhacked to a rock outcrop overlooking a tributary to No-see-um Creek. Ray glassed the open slopes on the other side of the creek while the rest of us gathered some wood for a fire to toast our ham and cheese sandwiches. Lunch finished, we headed back to the ridge trail and then proceeded across the ridge to the Sherman Creek drainage. We stopped in several open areas to glass the western slopes of the drainage. Joe had seen many elk on those

slopes in the past, and he, his son Tom, and another forester buddy had all bagged a bull elk from them on previous hunts. As the sun started to set, we climbed down to the trail in the creek bottom and hiked back to camp. On the trail, we saw that Spud had ridden his mule down the trail in the morning. We also picked up boot prints of Bob, Chuck, and Stan. Spud had ridden up behind them. Later that evening, Bob mused, "Shows you how good a hunter I am cause I didn't hear the mule coming."

After some water and several visits to the Jack Daniels bottle, my muscles started to relax. Bob and Chuck were hitting the Scotch, Joe and Bart were savoring the Bacardi, and Stan was drinking vodka or some other clear liquid. We got back late so dinner was spaghetti and meat sauce and pumpkin pie. After dinner we talked about the hunt and played some 6-player Pitch. No one saw elk (Score: Wolves 1- Hunters 0). The only sign of game were some blue grouse and squirrels and fresh deer and lynx tracks. Pitch ended with each team winning one game.

We got a slow start on Day 2 of the hunt after a long night of heavy snoring and howling winds. No one was real anxious to hunt in the cold, windy conditions; the temperature in the cook tent was 15 degrees and outside the winds exceeded 25 knots. We had a leisurely breakfast of scrambled eggs with ham and cheese, bacon, hash browns, and sourdough toast. We eventually headed out about 10:00 in the morning. Bob and Chuck took the Quail Ridge trail west of camp; Joe, Bart, Ray and I took the Liz Saddle Trail also west of camp; Spud rode his mule; and Stan stayed in camp to stir the ham and beans for dinner. He was on page 198 of his Sudoku puzzles. The Liz Saddle Trail was supposed to be an easy hike, but the first half mile was a steep climb, and I was gasping again. We hiked through two saddles to a rock outcrop overlooking the slopes that we traversed the previous day. We glassed the slopes for awhile without seeing any elk, hiked down into Horn Creek drainage and contoured back to the trail. We saw some bull rubs, but no new sign. Stan and the other guys were excited when we got back

to camp because they had heard two shots and thought we had fired them.

The ham and beans were great, but they were served a little early. I had washed up and changed clothes, and I was only on my first Jack when dinner was served. We listened to the radio through a lot of static to what seemed like many hours of postgame shows of the Washington State/Oregon State and Boise State/Southern Mississippi football games without hearing anything about Big Ten games, particularly the Penn State/Wisconsin game. The nightly Pitch game again ended in a 1:1:1 tie. And we heard the first rumblings about petitioning the U. S. Geological Survey to rename No-see-um Meadows to No-see-um Elk Meadows (Score: Wolves 2 – Hunters 0).

Joe, Bart and I went back up the Ridge trail on day 3. I took the lead on the first part of the climb and set a pace conducive for an oxygen-deprived Easterner. We hiked to “Joe’s Rock”, an outcrop with a good view of the open slopes between No-see-um Creek and the backside of No-see-um Butte. We glassed those slopes for a couple of hours without seeing any elk and then bushwhacked through some heavy alder thickets to another overlook where elk had been spotted on previous hunts. Again no elk. We climbed down into the



Brothers Bartnicki, Eichert, and Yorke at “Joe’s Rock”

Sherman Creek drainage to pick up the trail back to camp. I took the lead again and set a reasonable pace. I was adjusting to the altitude; I was breathing hard, but not gasping.

Dinner that night was pot roast with potatoes, carrots and onions and pumpkin pie for dessert. We continued to party after dinner and

the story telling started. Stan Pennypacker won the World Championship in crossbow at Lake Placid in 1999. He has built crossbows that were used to set world records for both men and women. Bob McColly holds the Ligonier record for snatching 30 quarters in a row. Chuck Strauss inducted Ray Vatne as an honorary member of the School of Forest Resources Alumni Group. The camp was showing some signs of stress at not seeing any elk (Score: Wolves 3 – Hunters 0). Pledge Bob (he was the youngest in camp) said, “Strauss was supposed to do the dishes tonight and all he did was wipe the jelly off the table. Five days in camp and all he did was to wipe the jelly. This #@^*+@! table better be clean.” We decided that the adventures of camp needed to be documented in *The Taproot* with one caveat; “What is said in Elk Camp stays in Elk Camp.” It would have been a much more interesting article without this restriction.

Monday was our last day of hunting; we were breaking camp the next morning. We started with a breakfast of sausage, eggs, and pancakes. Stan was on page 205 of the Sudoku book. Joe really wanted to see an elk on his last hunt in No-see-um Meadows so he, Bart, and Spud hiked to an area called “The Hole”, an area where elk always could be found. The rest of us hunted some of the areas we had been the previous days. Again, none of us saw any elk! Dinner that night was turkey and noodles instead of fresh elk filets (Score: Wolves 4 – Hunters 0). The finals of the Pitch tournament came down to another 1:1:1 tie. Ray and I won the tiebreaker. Monday evening was overcast and the warmest night in camp; the temperature in the kitchen had risen to 32 degrees for the first time in 6 days. At about 4:00 am it started raining, poured hard at times, and I heard Joe muttering about having to break camp and pack out in the rain.

The rain stopped by 6:30 am, so after a hearty breakfast, we broke down camp and packed 3 trucks and a trailer. It started snowing as we climbed into the trucks, and it took us about 2 ½ hours to get to a black top road. We stopped for lunch at

Weippe, a saw mill town where State and Federal foresters are not welcomed. We all had burgers and fries served by the proprietor-waitress-cook of the Weippe Café. During the ride from Weippe to Onofrio, we must have passed 20-30 logging trucks. They are cutting timber on state and private land even though the U. S. Forest Service cannot figure out how to manage a timber sale anymore.

The shower at Lee and Joe’s that night might have been the best shower since returning from two weeks on a forest fire in the early 1960s. Bob, Chuck and I were flying out the next morning. The rest were going to hunt Mule Deer in another area for a few days. We met for dinner that night at the River Edge Restaurant on the banks of the Clearwater River. The wine, food and service were great. It was a fitting end to the “Last Hunt at No-see-um Elk Meadows”. Although we didn’t have a shot at an elk either with gun or camera, Joe was a great host and put together a terrific camp. It was an opportunity to bond with Brothers as we shared stories, laughter, games, and meals (and a few drinks) while reminiscing about our years at Tau Phi Delta and Penn State. And we are doing it again. As you read this article, Bart, Chuck and I will be joining Joe, Ray, and Spud in another elk camp on the Chief Joseph Plain, an area south of Lewiston near the confluence of the Salmon and Snake Rivers. We **will** see elk this year; we just need to decide whether we want shoot one and then pack it out. I am carrying my camera.

“Alumni Updates” from page 6

(JOHN F. MARKER continued)

Regional Director of Public and Legislative Affairs in 1992. During my time in the Forest Service, I had the opportunity to enjoy a number of great assignments. I worked in fire, timber, as a line officer, in public affairs and as a national fire program manager. Mary became a successful CPA and the lead in raising our two boys and daughter while I was running around with the Forest Service.

After retirement we bought a farm, about 65 miles east of Portland, in

the Hood River Valley. I also did some fire protection consulting work for a couple of years until farm development demanded more than a lick and a promise. We are now owners of Sentinel Orchards, a 22-acre commercial operation growing cherries and pears, which are marketed with other Hood River fruit in the U. S., Europe and the Far East.

During the orchard development period we also were founding partners with three other couples in the development and publishing of a national trade magazine focused on wildland fire management. After eight years we sold the magazine to one of the big time publishers.

We have been on the farm for 17 years and are perfectly content with rural Oregon. However, we do from time to time venture out to Alaska, Europe, explore the West, and on occasion we get back to Pennsylvania to visit our old home towns of Marienville and Chambersburg, and on occasion the now gigantic Penn State main campus. I maintain my interest in forestry through the Society of American Foresters and as director of the National Association of Forest Service Retirees, and editor of its newsletter.

While we consider the West home, we do miss Pennsylvania from time to time and always enjoy returning to a very beautiful state. We do our best to convince western friends who have not experienced the East that our home state is not wall-to-wall homes like Los Angeles, but a very forested and beautiful place to live." 541-352-6154; jf37m@aol.com

We also lost a check from **NORM "IWO" M. MARTIN** (Fall '47) in 2008. After we notified him that it got lost in the mail, he sent us another larger check. Thanks Norm. He and Charlotte live in Erie. He is retired from Roddis Plywood—Weyerhaeuser. Charlotte said, "I really enjoyed the 2008 Taproot—It brought back memories." 814-825-4908; martns@verizon.net

WILLIAM "MAC" R. McDONALD (Fall '48) graduated in 1951. He and Marie live in Silsbee, TX and have 3 children, 8 grandchildren, and 6 great grandchildren. Mac worked for 35

years in resource management with Kirby Forest Industries. He enjoys hunting, fishing, gardening, travel, and politics. 409-355-7148

DAVE "TROUT BUM" B. MESSICS (Fall '84) and Susan live in Forest Hill, Md. They have two children, Patrick (9) and Megan (7). Dave is an Advancement Officer at the National Rifle Assoc. of America. His hobbies are flyfishing, upland bird hunting, collecting vintage shotguns, and shooting Kimber pistols. 410-692-0915; dmessics@aol.com

DENNIS G. MILLEN (Fall '71) retired as a Park Ranger with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers after 31 years of service. He and Sandra live in Confluence, PA; they have two children (Heather and Mark) and one grandson. Dennis is currently self-employed with Millen's Hides, Furs, Roots, and Tree Seeds. His hobbies are hunting, trapping, fishing and skiing. 814-395-5332; treeseed@qcol.net

We received the following note from **BILL MITCHELL** (Fall '60): "We are off on a OAT trip to Central America; depart May 14 for 15 days. Karen has several planned trips back to Germantown, Md. since our older daughter Sarah is expecting a son in August. We're slow but hopefully steady, i.e. as grandparents. I went fishing with **DENNY MOLLI** (Fall '60) in February, and I have been trying to connect on camping with **DAVE BAUER** (Fall '60), but his long-time dog, Duke, is not doing well." Bill also suggested that we include an update on the annual bear hunt, which is included in another section of The Taproot.

RICHARD "PARKY" C. PARKINSON (Fall '62) and Joann live in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. He is retired, but he works two afternoons per week at the Wildlife Care Center in Ft. Lauderdale. They escape Florida and spend 3-4 months traveling with their fifth wheeler each summer. They saw **WAYNE KUHN** (Fall '62) in California for two days last summer and visited Sequoia National Park. **BOB SHRUM** (Fall '62) and his wife were in south Florida this winter and they had lunch together. 954-583-3233; parky446@bellsouth.net

STAN PIORKOWSKI (Fall '69) proudly pledged exactly forty years ago in the first class at the "new" house and later graduated with a B.S. in Forest Science in 1971. He and his wife, Marianne, have three adult children: Matthew (a '95 US Naval Academy graduate), Stephanie (Philadelphia College of Pharmacy in '97), and Martin (another Penn Stater but in '01).

Since he has never been listed in *The Taproot* before, Stan wanted to give us his biography [life history]. "After graduating from Penn State in '71 and with a ROTC officer's commission in the U.S. Army, I went to helicopter flight school. For 3 years, I flew 'Kiowa' and 'Huey' choppers in Colorado with the 4th Mechanized Infantry Division and in South Korea with the 2nd Mechanized Infantry Division. After departing the military, my wife and I set up a household back in Penna., working as a state park foreman at R. B. Winter State Park with the Penna. Bureau of State Parks in Mifflinburg. Three years later, I transferred to the Bureau of Forestry as a timber management forester on state land, then a service forester working with individuals on their private woodlots — all in the Bald Eagle District. After 17 years there, I went to Harrisburg as a fire operations supervisor with the Bureau's Division of Forest Fire Protection. I retired from there 11 years later in June 2007."

He pointed out that during his time with that Division, he worked with many Tau Phis, including the usual suspects like Brs. **ODATO** and **SIEFERT**, but also with **CHARLIE CHOPLICK**, and **JOHN BEARER**. "That's my life and career in a nutshell. Call or e-mail me if you like?" (570) 837-7069 or stanley@mapatan.com

DAVID J. PUTNAM (Fall '68) was one of the recent, newly-appointed board members of the Pennsylvania Board of Game Commissioners. Dave, who resides with his wife, Hilda, in Centre Hall, was nominated by Gov. Edward G. Rendell, then confirmed by the state Senate, and later sworn in to serve the Commonwealth's Pennsylvania Game Commission. He'll hold this office for term of eight years and

function as one of eight directors to establish the policy for this natural resource agency. Although he was selected to serve by district (Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Jefferson, McKean, Potter counties), he'll represent all Pennsylvanians and the state's 467 species of wild birds and mammals.

Br. Putnam's career started out with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the State College Field Office where he, conducted environmental studies on the Allegheny River basin, as well as on large U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects, such as the Tioga-Hammond reservoir project and the lock and dam systems on the Monongahela and Ohio rivers. His role with the Feds, found him working extensively with the USDA, PGC, Penna. Department of Environmental Protection, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, County Conservation Districts, and hundreds of private landowners. "For the past 20 years, I was involved in habitat restoration starting with wetlands and native warm-season grasses and stream-bank fencing and later including stream restoration," Putnam said. Prior to that, Dave's had many other PGC connections. A 1970 graduate in forest science, his graduate school training at PSU later had him conducting research with Jerry Wunz, the late PGC biologist who pioneered the trap and transfer of wild turkeys in the state. Prior to that, his father, served as a career Game Warden. "My father, Jerry and other biologists of that day inspired me to pursue a career in wildlife management." He's also serving on the board for the Pennsylvania Wildlife for Everyone Endowment Foundation. (814) 364-1091; djputnam@statecollege.com

We received the following note from **EARL REINSEL** (Fall '53): "My wife Anne and I live in Missoula, Mont. I retired here after a long career with U. S. Forest Service. We are blessed with two children and four grandchildren. Our time is spent volunteering, traveling, reading, etc. Also, we enjoy time at our small (16'x24') cabin located along a forested creek about 40 miles

west of town. No electricity, phone, TV or indoor plumbing – someone has to rough it! We have seen all sort of wild critters there including lions and wolves. We have enjoyed all issues of *The Taproot*. Keep them coming. Thanks to all in producing the newsletter."

KARL "FOOSE" SHAFFER (Spring '74) and Kathy live down south in Pittsboro, North Carolina. They have two daughters, Lisbeth and Kristin. Karl is an Extension Specialist (Soil Science) with N. C. State University. His hobbies include fishing, kayaking, biking, hunting, and juggling. 919-542-5803; karl_shaffer@ncsu.edu

PHILIP SIMONSKI, JR. (Spring '56) of Seal Rock, Ore., lost his four-year battle to melanoma on July 10, 2009. A retired career forester with the U.S. Forest Service in the Pacific northwest, Phil maintained a steadfast interest in the outdoors following his retirement. He was a professional bass tournament angler, fishing guide and owner of Powder Creek Tackle, expert coyote hunter, and outdoor writer, who authored a best-seller among predator hunters, *Coyote Hunting – The Complete Book From Head to Tail*. Judging by the title, he was still the same humorous guy to all knew him at Tau Phi Delta. He also did his part during the House's campaign to win the 1957 Ugly Man contest (see article in this issue). Phil attended the PSU School of Forest Resource reception along with a few other Oregonian Tau Phis at the 2007 Society of American Foresters' National Convention in Portland (Fall 2008 *The Taproot*, page 18).

MACCLAIN "MAC" B. SMITH, JR. (PSU '43) of Ann Arbor, Michigan, died shortly after receiving his 2008 issue of *The Taproot* on October 29th. His and other WWII veteran Brothers' stories were featured in the same issue's "Our Own Band of Brothers" article (His photo while in his ROTC uniform standing in front of the old House is on page 9 of that issue). Dr. Smith was the retired executive director of the Michigan Forestry Association. At the request of his family, memorial donations may be sent to the McClain B. Smith, Jr.

Scholarship Fund in care of Michigan Forest Foundation, 6120 S. Clinton Trail, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827.

STEVE "SNOOKERS" SNOOK (Spring '80) is an Environmental Engineer with the State of Vermont. He and Ann Kitson have two children, Katie and Tucker. Steve enjoys running, telemark skiing, Nordic skiing (he lives in Vermont), canoeing, and hiking. He says, "In 2004 I started working for the State of Vermont's Department of Environmental Conservation, Air Pollution Division. I discovered that a lot of folks would go running at lunch, so I took up running. In 2005, I ran my first marathon, and since the knees are holding up, it's become an annual event. I'm trying to do my part to support the running shoe industry." 802-886-5462; vtsnook@chilitech.net

We received the following note from **RON STROBLE** (Fall '61): "I just received the House newsletter which reminded me it's about time to send some financial support for *The Taproot*. I really enjoy it! A big well-done to everyone who helps put it together. This 'Old Tree' is still standing. Hope all is well with you and yours. I hope to get back for Homecoming either this spring or fall." Ron lives in Montoursville, Pa.

BROOKE THOMAS (Fall '58) is a Professor of Anthropology at the University of Massachusetts. He and Shirley live in Leverett, Mass. 413-548-9281; rbthomas@anthro.umass.edu

CHARLES "VIRGIL" F. THUMA (Fall '75) lives in Virginia Beach, Va. His youngest child is at Virginia Tech. When he contacted us, he was headed to Smith Mountain Lake, which on the way to Virginia Tech. charles5652@cox.net

MIKE WHYTE (Spring '81) is married to Little Sister **NORA (COURSEN)**. They have four children, Julie, Amy, Billy, and Brandi; the oldest is off to Northwestern this fall. Mike spent 4 years in the Army in military intelligence. He subsequently received an accounting degree from the University of Alabama-Huntsville. He is the Chief Financial Officer of Camber Corporation, a

defense contractor headquartered in Huntsville, Ala. Mike fills his spare time coaching soccer and refereeing youth soccer, photography, reading and computer gaming. He also is president of the High School Soccer Booster Club. 256-830-9046; mike@camber.com

BILL WILCOX (Fall '63) suffered a traumatic back injury when he fell while putting up a tree stand near Norton, Kansas, last October. Fortunately, his wife Sue was with him and they had cell-phone reception. A rescue crew arrived within 25 minutes, and he was airlifted to a hospital in Kearney, Neb., within 2 hours of his fall. Bill and Sue went through many crises and adjustments since the accident. The last 9 months were filled with surgeries, long hospital stays, trips to the emergency room, and stays at rehabilitation hospitals in Nebraska and Colorado. Bill continues rehabilitation at home. They are building a new house on their ranch in Ft. Collins, Colo., that will be more wheelchair friendly than their existing home. Bill wrote in their online journal in April: "About 6 weeks ago I realized that I was no longer dwelling on what was lost as a result of the accident, but rather what I could still do. My life had turned a corner ... Sue and I are doing better, moving forward, adjusting to the new reality, and planning for our future." Additional information and updates about Bill's continued rehabilitation can be obtained at: <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/billwilcox>.

THOMAS E. WOLF (Fall '66) and Sharon live in Johnstown. They have two children and two grandchildren. Daughter Diane is an attorney in Washington, DC and son Mike (PSU '94) is a partner in a forestry consulting firm in southwestern PA. Tom is retired from the Penna. Department of Agriculture. He enjoys fishing, hunting, travel, and walking. 814-266-2247; wolffe109@verizon.net

MICHAEL L. ZARICHNAK (Fall '64) and Carole live in Hoover, Ala. Mike is a Utility Forester with the Alabama Power Company. He and Carole have a son, daughter, and one grandson. Mike enjoys hunting. 205-822-5055; mlzarichnak@bellsouth.net

"Ugly Man" from page 7

So the "Penn State Ugly Man" of 1957" was Tau Phi Delta Fraternity's George M. Schmid.

George later graduated in the Spring '58 and included this esteemed title within his personal resume. He worked for an engineering firm near Philadelphia on land resource evaluations, earned a pilot's license, and completed various aerial photographic assignments for his company. Sadly, he died a young man at the age of 45 while jogging in his neighborhood. Groge, you will not be forgotten!!

Epilogue:

Stories are often never finished. Pat Wilson-Schmid, George's wife, recently confided that the first time she saw Groge was during his Ugly Man campus tour among all those co-eds. She was intrigued with our "creature" and attended a final appearance of contestants in Schwab Auditorium. When Groge descended from the stage he took off his fake nose and facial makeup and gathered further attention from this very pretty red head.

Brother Charlie Ruppert's then girlfriend, Gretz, (now Mrs. Ruppert) introduced Pat to George in February '58. George courted Pat over the following year (she graduated in '59), with George making quite a few trips from his initial Pittsburgh job to the University Park campus. They married in 1961 and celebrated the birth of their son in 1968.

Following her loss of George in 1981, Pat maintained her steadfast love for him and continued her ties with the Rupperts and George's graduation class.

She was inducted as an honorary member of the School's Class of '58 during their 50th reunion at the Mont Alto campus in 2007.

Pat lives in the historic Schmid farmhouse in Lederach, Penna. and continues as a talented artist and teacher in both the United States and Ireland.



GREETINGS FROM IRAQ

By the time this issue of *The Taproot* goes to press, these two Tau Phis will be stateside and back with their families and friends in Pennsylvania. U.S. Army Reservist, Capt. **DANIEL "DEKE" H. DICAMILLO** (Fall '85) and Penna. National Guardsman, First Lt. **DAVID "SWEDE" J. GUSTAFSON** (Fall '96) completed their tours of duty in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Dan has returned to his Bureau of Forestry position at the Tioga State Forest in Wellsboro, while David will soon be back in his "civies" at his Game Commission forestry office in Harrisburg.



Dan prepares to lift off from Operating Base Kulsa.



David wins over the hearts and minds of local villagers with some donated school supplies and sporting goods in the Fallujah-Taji region.

More Mont Alto Memories

By Br. Donald Berger (Fall '62)

***Editor's Note:** As promised in the last issue, Br. Berger has provided us with some best recollections of his days nearly fifty years ago at the PSU Mont Alto branch campus.*

Hope I have names correct as time has clouded some facts, but has made all my fish bigger.

I entered Penn State at the Mont Alto in the fall of 1961; one of 106 new forestry students. We were mostly somewhat unpolished, but sincere in our love of the outdoors. At the beginning of the fall term we were semi-civilized, but we rapidly and happily fell back to more primal ways in our small island. School became secondary to our new found freedom.

In 1961 we were at the top of our game in vitality and good looks; but somewhat lacking in social graces. The faculty tried to correct this with a social at Wilson College in nearby Chambersburg. I had some misgivings as we loaded into the back of the deuce and a half with Professor Lange driving. I noticed some of my classmates had on boots and flannel shirts and carried double bit axes. Happily though all went well, and I fell deeply in love with Jane "What's Her Name," and spent fun times with friends at Wilson and Penn Hall throughout the year.

Back at school things were unraveling. Some fellow, Pierson in the next room, who was on Captain Pigg's rifle team, gave up on school and spent days shooting chipmunks on campus. We all checked the hallway bulletin board for daily kills. He soon had over 100 'chippy' tails tacked there as his proud trophy display, arranged biggest to smallest. **JON MUSSELMAN** (TΦΔ Fall '62), my roommate, took to whittling chunks of box elder trees into shavings in our dorm room. As for me, I was failing chemistry. However, NaCl was the only formula that I ever learned. Others took to shooting rats at the dump, playing long football games, taking solitary hikes, or other dysfunctional

behavior. Adding insult to injury, local girls took to driving through campus, showing some skin, and then driving away while laughing.

At some point, Professor Lange gave me the job of school librarian. I was like the Maytag repairman, as no one used the library. The newest books predated the "Great War", and the periodicals had no centerfolds. So I read a lot while on the job, including every action of the 28th Division in the First World War. I also read about Dr. Joseph Rothrock and Gov. Gifford Pinchot, two of my Pennsylvania heroes still today.

Winter term was better; clear and cold often dipping below 32°F even inside Conklin Hall. The hearty fellows still engaged in naked towel fights. I once watched another dorm mate, Charlie Buck, a Shawnee Indian, as he went early in the morning to break the ice on the waterfall pool and take a dip.

As the winter sun sank from sight, I often emerged from Conklin Hall, bound for the mess hall, into a barrage of snowballs. Those in the Cottage were barring us with a snow fort and hundreds of snowballs. We milled in disarray until hunger and desperation led us to attack with whatever was at hand and overwhelm their smaller numbers on our way to Chef Bernie Resnick's warm chow.

During the evenings we often visited other rooms to discuss the meaning of life or to brag on female conquests and hunting and fishing tales, thus honing our skills for bigger lies later in life.

Spring term included a military display and a field day with lumbermen's competition against forestry students from West Virginia. They were bigger and hairier than most of our best, but we may have won in log rolling and tree chopping.

I tried being a Christian and went some Sundays to the small chapel on campus for services. I am still trying to get right with God today, hopefully with better success.

Spring also brought fires and fire crew. How we loved to jump on the trucks for a chance to get our hair

singed and our lungs full of smoke. We eventually determined that the local arsonists from South Mountain were setting the fires to get work as firefighters and the fires died off.

Mont Alto was a time in my life never to be recaptured, mostly fun, with a small select group of young men in a forestry school that has faded to history.

Send us your favorite memory about Mont Alto Campus for a future issue of The Taproot. Whether you lived with the Conklin crazies, failed a dendrology quiz, fought fires in South Mountain, or woke up with a hangover more than once—face first in mud puddle — after a kegger on Pine Knob, we would love to hear your tales.

Our Own Band of Brothers

We received many comments and compliments about the "Our Own Band of Brothers" article in the last issue of *The Taproot*. The article was the result of two years of research and writing by our Associate Editor, Br. Earl Hower. Earl sent a questionnaire to all Brothers from the 1940s and early 1950s requesting information about their war experiences and their time in the House. He then followed up with telephone calls, emails, letters, and personal interviews to gather more details and photographs for the article.

But he did not want a byline then and only reluctantly provided the following quote:

"Working on this article was a very humbling experience. I really didn't want a byline, because I didn't write the story. It was actually 'written' by those many brave Tau Phis who unselfishly served our country during the war!"

Thank you Earl for reminding us of the brave young men that proceeded us at Tau Phi Delta.

Da Bears

It's been a few years since we gave a report on the TΦΔ bear hunters.

For the House hunt, 2007 was a very good year, with Brothers and a guest tagging five bears while hunting the Seven Mountains — four of them on the season opener. The lucky Brothers included Rick Marther, Andy Duncan, Jeff Gowen, and Thomas Wisniewski with his very rare kill, a true albino.



Brother Wisniewski and his albino bruin

Up north, after religiously attending each hunt for 27 years, Br. Gregg Pieffer tagged his first bear. Also Br. Frank Downs dropped a last day bear only to have some outsider tag it for himself. It happens!

2008 was not so good for the 427 East Fairmount bear camp, with none taken — the first time since 2000 that the House came up short. The golden bears or alumni hunters in Potter County tagged three bruins, including Brs. Stephen Warner and Gene Odato, each taking a bear on the first two drives of Monday morning. They all ended up back at camp in time for 10 o'clock brunch.

This year's three-day bear hunting season is November 23 – 25. If interested in the House hunt, there are always a few slots left on the roster, contact Pat Weiss (814-364-2917; pdweiss2001@yahoo.com). Sorry the roster up north always seems to fill up with 25 hunters, mostly Brothers and their sons, in recent years.

WANTED:

Stories and photos of your log cabins (both homes and retreats) for a future *"Tau Phis in the Great Outdoors"* article in *The Taproot*.

Send to ehower@iwla.org -or- Earl Hower
111 Plaza Street, NE
Leesburg, VA 20176

In The News

Featured in the June 2009 issue of NRA's *American Hunter* magazine (pages 20 – 21) was an article titled the "Top Ten Colleges For Hunters" by Sarah Taylor. With a 2 million subscriber readership, the magazine staff researched their final selections based on academic reputation, availability of wildlife/forestry or conservation majors and outdoor recreation classes, and hunting opportunities near campus.

The count down (up) started with number 10 as North Carolina State University ended at number 1 as, no other than the Pennsylvania State University. But the best was yet to come as her article noted a few agricultural fraternities in Happy Valley including one that "even sports an archery range and meat pole in the back yard." Guess what forestry fraternity? Yes, Tau Phi Delta.



Da Bears of Potter County



Address Service Requested

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

FALL HOMECOMING

October 17, 2009

10:00 AM

Board of Directors Meeting

12:00 Noon - 2:30 PM

Lunch at the House (Fall Fest with Pig Roast)

3:30 PM

Kick-off -- PSU vs. Minnesota

8:00 PM

Beverages and snacks at the House

For more information contact:

Mitch Vowler, Alumni Committee Chairman

(570)233-4510) Cell

mfv5007@gmail.com