

**Spring 2013**



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Newsletter Designer ▪  
Coordinator:  
Tracey Sherman

Newsletter Editing:  
Kathryn Hollandsworth

Please send information  
for future issues to  
Tracey@vt.edu

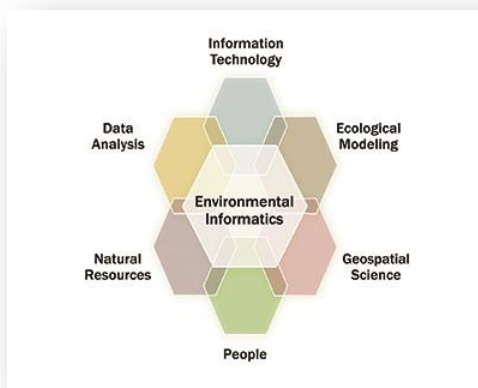
## Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation

313 Cheatham Hall, Blacksburg, VA 24061

540/231-5483 • Fax 540/231-3698 • <http://www.frec.vt.edu/>

## Environmental Informatics Undergraduate Major

The Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation is pleased to announce a new undergraduate major, Environmental Informatics. The need for professionals trained in technical and analytical approaches to environmental problems is rising dramatically. Environmental Informatics majors will bring together enhanced data gathering and knowledge integration using such tools as computer science, GIS, remote sensing, database management, data visualization, and modeling. The result is environmental problem solving. Graduates will be part of a new wave of data scientists trained to handle vast amounts of data for different specialties.



Environmental Informatics applies information science to the management of natural resources. It includes aspects of geographic information, mathematical and statistical modeling, remote sensing, database management, knowledge integration, and decision making.

## New Master Naturalist



Dr. Alycia Crall

Dr. Alycia Crall comes to us from Rutgers University where she was serving as a post-doc on an NSF-funded grant to initiate citizen science projects with the Virginia Master Naturalist program. Alycia got her Bachelor's degrees in Environmental Health Science and Ecology at the University of Georgia, her Master's degree in Ecology at Colorado State University, and her Ph.D. in Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. For her dissertation research, she helped develop and implement a national invasive species citizen

program working extensively with volunteers in Colorado and Wisconsin. She was also instrumental in the development of the website, [www.CitSci.org](http://www.CitSci.org), which provides community groups with online resources to collect, analyze, and disseminate data from their citizen science projects.

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## From The Department Head

Dear Alumni, friends, and supporters:

I am pleased to inform you that the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation had a great, productive spring 2013 semester! We have highlighted selected accomplishments of our students, staff, and faculty in this issue. Our strategy of positioning the department to launch societally relevant new innovative programs by leading our nationally ranked forestry programs has started to pay off benefits. Our student enrollments are up. Our research expenditures have gone up. Our extension programs have become more vibrant. Let me share a few specifics with you.

- Our Environmental Informatics major (featured on the front page) has been approved and will be launched in fall 2013.
- A four-year degree in Water: Resource, Policy, and Management, supported by VT campus community, is in the approval process, and we hope to offer this program in fall 2014. In order to support the water initiative, Virginia Tech is hiring a cluster of seven faculty in the Colleges of Natural Resources and

Environment and Agriculture and Life Sciences. As part of this plan, we hired Dr. Kelly Cobourn as an Assistant Professor of Water Resource Policy; she will join us on August 10, 2013. We will also be hiring an Assistant Professor of Hydroinformatics in the fall of 2013.

- Dr. Alycia Crall has joined us as the new Virginia Master Naturalist Program Coordinator. Dr. Crall came to us from Rutgers University, where she was a post-doctoral associate and Co-PI working on a recently awarded \$1.2 million dollar NSF project that focuses on developing collaborative, online science learning tools to support Virginia Master Naturalists. We are very excited to have her as a faculty member and as part of our Extension team.
- With great leadership from Dean Winistorfer, excellent facilitation from Bob Mollenhauer (Director of Development), and generous support from industry, government organizations, and non-governmental organizations, Dr. Steve Prisley has successfully established a college-wide Center for Natural Resources Assessment and Decision Support.
- As part of the Earth Day celebration, Drs. John Seiler and Eric Wiseman led the historic planting of a sycamore tree (one of the clones of a tree that existed since 1870) on Henderson Lawn. President Steger and Mayor Rordam attended the ceremony that was emceed by Dean Winistorfer.
- Mr. Kyle Dingus, our FREC Future Intern, will be leaving us in July to take a position with the Virginia Department of Forestry. Since there is so much appreciation for his work, we plan to support this position for at least one more year.



**Dr. Janaki Alavalapati**  
Professor and Head  
Forest Resources and  
Environmental  
Conservation

I will take this opportunity to wish you all an enjoyable summer!!



Left to right: Janaki Alavalapati, Paul Revell, Ed Milhous, Easton Loving

The FREC Advisory Board held its annual meeting on April 9. Items reviewed included updates on the recently approved Environmental Informatics major, the proposed B.S. degree in Water: Resources, Policy and Management, the seven new faculty positions associated with the water initiative (three to be housed in the CNRE), and student recruitment and marketing over the past year. Stephen Prisley presented an overview of the new VT Center for Natural Resources Assessment and Decision Support, and Jim Chamberlain of the US Forest Service provided an update on the USFS Center to Support Forest Products Use and the National FIA Program, which will be based at Virginia Tech. During the business session, Easton Loving was elected as Vice Chair for 2014. We sincerely thank Ed Milhous for his leadership during 2013 and look forward to having Paul Revell serve as Chair during 2014.



Evan Brooks

**Evan Brooks** joined the department as a post-doctoral fellow after receiving his Ph.D. in Forestry from Virginia Tech. He will work with Dr. Randolph Wynne and Dr. Valerie Thomas within the context and funding of the PINEMAP project. His chief task will be the expansion and application of Landsat-based models and inputs to the southeastern US.



Tiffany Brown

**Tiffany Brown** joined the department as an administrative assistant full-time in April. She will be doing data management work for Dr. Harold Burkhart and Dr. Randolph Wynne. She will also be working on projects in Extension with Dr. John Munsell and Dr. Alycia Crall (Virginia Master Naturalist Program Coordinator).



David Mellor

**David Mellor** is a behavioral ecologist whose research interests have included the mating behaviors of a diverse group of fish from Africa and Central America, the cichlids, as well as investigating the manner in which people understand and learn about science. He has worked with citizen scientists on monitoring invasive plant species in New York and New Jersey, monitoring common loons in New Hampshire, and collecting data on cichlid fish behavior. He joined FREC to work with Alycia Crall's project on Sustaining Ecological Communities through Citizen Scientists and Online Collaboration. He will be making an online course to help Virginia Master Naturalists plan and conduct novel conservation projects.

**Jessie Ward** from Chesterfield, Virginia, is an intern this summer working with Dr. Harold Burkhart on a project using computer modeling to predict the yield of loblolly pine plantations on the Kennedy Tree Farm near Dillwyn, Virginia, based on measurements from sample plots on the property. She will be starting her senior year at James Madison University this fall, majoring in Biology with a concentration in Ecology and Environmental Biology. At JMU, Jessie has worked as a Botany Intern at the EJC Carrier Arboretum and has conducted undergraduate research on the reintroduction of the American chestnut.



Jessie Ward

## New Master Naturalist *(continued from page 1)*

Prior to starting her new position at Virginia Tech, Alycia was also assisting colleagues at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology to improve an online database of citizen science projects available at [www.citizenscience.org](http://www.citizenscience.org) and has been involved with the development of a volunteer monitoring program for the Galapagos. Her general research interests include: citizen science, informal science education, environmental education, invasive species, and interdisciplinary approaches to conservation, program evaluation, and biological data integration.



**Forest Researchers Seek Economical Ways to Use Wood Waste for Energy**

Josh Chandler uses a soil auger to assess below-ground soil conditions at different depths before harvesting.

Faculty and students in FREC are making their mark in the use of forest biomass — the woody “waste” or residues from timber harvesting — as an increasingly important source of renewable energy. Both graduate and undergraduate students are contributing to the body of knowledge in this emerging energy option. They have analyzed market changes in the logging community, assessed soil disturbances from operations, and surveyed the fuel efficiency of various harvest methods. “Our objective is to address real problems that need real solutions,” Dr. Chad Bolding said. “Our research is applied and designed to serve practitioners engaged in forestry.”

Forestry Extension Associate Scott Barrett, who coordinates the statewide SHARP (Sustainable Harvesting and Resource Professional) Logger Program and is also a doctoral student studying Forest Operations and Business said, “The new renewable energy facilities in Virginia will have the capacity to use over 3 million tons of biomass a year. Many Virginia logging businesses are evaluating whether they can adapt their operations to use logging residues for energy. The opportunities are out there now.”

**Fifth Annual Graduate Research Symposium**

The Fifth Annual FREC Graduate Research Symposium was held on April 2, 2013. Graduate students came from across the Virginia Tech campus as well as multiple universities to participate. Every year the Symposium has grown, and this year concurrent oral presentations were held to make the most of the day-long affair. The day was filled with eight M.S. oral presentations, eleven Ph.D. oral presentations, and 20 poster presentations. Carol Werner, Executive Director of the Environmental and Energy Study Institute in Washington, DC, gave an excellent discussion-based keynote presentation. Ms. Werner spoke with attendees about some of the major energy issues facing the United States and the importance of scientific research for policy decisions.

Brief presentations were also given by Drs. Paul Winistorfer, Dean of the College of Natural Resources, Dean Stauffer, Associate Dean for Academic Programs, and Janaki Alavalapati, Head of the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation. Faculty members and research associates acted as judges for the oral and poster sessions: Mr. Ralph Amateis, Dr. Susan Day, Ms. Jennifer Gagnon, Dr. Jason Holliday, Dr. Tom Kuhar, Dr. Kevin McGuire, Dr. John Seiler, Mr. Raj Shrestha, Dr. Mike Sorice, Dr. Marc Stern, Dr. Brian Strahm, Dr. Jay Sullivan, Dr. Val Thomas, and Thakur Upadhyay.

The symposium was organized and successfully executed by this year’s symposium planning committee: Maura Leveroos and Amy Werner (co-chairs), Bethany Avera, Beth Boehme, Cody Gillin, A.J. Lang, and Kevan Minick. The event also would not have been possible without the help of Tracey Sherman and Sue Snow.



## New Campus Fruit Map Project

As part of a class project this spring, Urban Forestry graduate student Lele Kimball created a map of edible fruit and nut trees on Virginia Tech's campus and a website to showcase foods in Tech's urban forest. "There is growing awareness in other areas of the U.S. of urban fruit as an important community resource," Kimball says, "and I wanted to share this awareness with the Blacksburg and Virginia Tech community." The map includes an abundance of fruit and nut trees including cherries, crabapples, black walnuts, and less well-known fruit such as serviceberries, hawthorns, and Cornelian cherries. "Gathering urban fruit can be a fun outdoor activity with friends or family that provides fresh, local, and nutritious food and also can save on the grocery bills," says Kimball. To check out the map or learn more about urban foraging visit the website: <http://urbanforestry.frec.vt.edu/campusfruitmap/>



Lele Kimball standing in front of a serviceberry bush

## Henderson Lawn Sycamore Clone



Left to right: Drs. John Seiler and Eric Wiseman

On Monday, April 22, Virginia Tech President Charles W. Steger presided over a town-gown tree planting celebration with Blacksburg Mayor Ron Rordam on Henderson Lawn near where the original sycamore once stood. The 10-foot tree to be planted was rooted from a cutting taken shortly before the dying historic tree was removed for safety reasons in the summer of 2010. The sycamore clone that was planted is one of only two that miraculously survived from 300 small cuttings taken from the mother tree.

Dr. John Seiler grew the tree in a campus greenhouse, and then Dr. Eric Wiseman, associate professor of Urban Forestry and Arboriculture, took over and planted it at the campus Urban Horticulture Center operated by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

"Over time this identical twin will look just like its mother tree, which succumbed to what became a poor growing environment, root damage from underground utility work in the 1980s, fungal disease, and old age," Wiseman explained.

"The Town of Blacksburg and Virginia Tech have worked closely on the design of the College Avenue project that converts the street into a pedestrian-friendly promenade," said Matthew Gart, landscape architect for the Office of University Planning. "When we found out about the successful cloning of the tree, we immediately spoke to the town and its project designer about placing the tree within the Henderson Lawn landscape design. It's been a great cooperative effort to make this happen."



## FREC Futures Intern Update Spring 2013

It has been a productive eleven months for Kyle Dingus, the Futures Intern. Awareness of the department's undergraduate programs has been brought to 134 high schools and 15 community colleges in 60 of the 95 counties in the state! Some visits have included guest lectures to 35 classes in high school and community colleges reaching out to over 500 students regarding the department's programs, Virginia forest resources, and career opportunities. Other activities have been attending community college transfer fairs, career fairs for middle and high school students, facilitating activities for visiting elementary and middle school students to Virginia Tech's campus, writing an article for *Virginia Forests Magazine*, and meeting with visiting prospective students while they are on campus.

Additionally, Kyle has participated as a judge for Envirothon competitions along with reaching out to high school members of the Virginia Science

Olympiad and Virginia Junior Academy of Science. In the next few weeks he will be participating in promotional programs in the 4-H Congress at Virginia Tech and the Holliday Lake Forestry Camp in Appomattox and plans to help local Cub Scouts earn their forestry badge. By the end of July he will be leaving to take an Area Forester Position with the Virginia Department of Forestry in Northern Virginia. The Futures Intern commented saying, "It has been an honor to serve and promote a department and college full of wonderful professionals that have my upmost respect and admiration. I am thankful to all of my colleagues whose kind words, mentorship and teachings have been an inspiration for my accomplishments." Finally, he will prepare materials and train the next Futures Intern to continue the work.



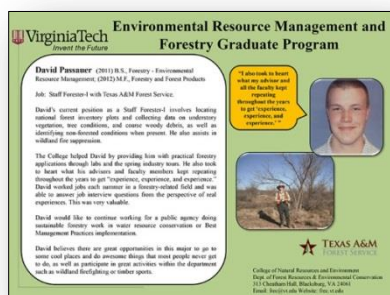
Kyle Dingus

## FREC Futures Intern Represents CNRE at Career Fair



FREC Futures Intern Kyle Dingus participated in a Living Career Fair at An Achievable Dream Academy in Newport News, VA, on February 22. An Achievable Dream is a program that focuses on student success regardless of socioeconomic background. The Living Career Fair was part of a collective effort between representatives from Virginia Tech to reach out to students at the academy from 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades. Representatives from The Student Success Center, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Career Services, Undergraduate Admissions, Pamplin College of Business, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, and College of Natural Resources and Environment all participated in the events for students.

## Career Book Featured on FREC Website



Example page from  
FREC Career Book.

A new career book has been produced to highlight the department's alumni. The book will help prospective students understand the diversity of employment opportunities and career options our alumni pursue. Compiling the career book has been a collaborative effort spearheaded by Kyle Dingus, the Futures Intern, but could not have come to fruition without help from the faculty, FREC Ambassadors Johanna Arredondo and Caleb Hopler, and most importantly our Program Support Technician Tracey Sherman. The Futures Intern was quoted saying "It's been wonderful to learn about our alumni and the great work they do. This is a fantastic marketing resource for the department and will answer a lot of questions prospective students have about careers." If you are an alumni of the department and you would like to be featured please email Tracey Sherman at [tracey@vt.edu](mailto:tracey@vt.edu).

### Jennifer Gagnon receives 2013 Alumni Award for Excellence in Extension



Jennifer Gagnon

Sponsored by the Virginia Tech Alumni Association, the Alumni Award for Excellence in Extension is presented annually to two Virginia Cooperative Extension faculty members who have made outstanding contributions to the land-grant mission of the university.

As statewide coordinator of the Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program, Ms. Jennifer Gagnon provides the state's 365,000 landowners with timely, scientifically based information about forest management and related topics and is also the lead instructor for the online short course Woodland Options for Landowners.

### Team of faculty and students advances to final round in Casey Trees Foundation Competition



Taylor Chakurda (left)

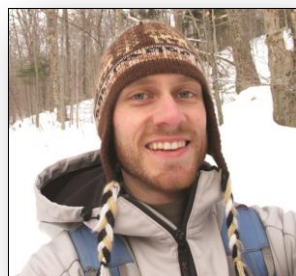
A team comprising faculty and students from three different colleges at Virginia Tech has advanced to the final round in a master plan design competition sponsored by the Casey Trees Foundation. The colleges include the College of Natural Resources and Environment, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and the College of Architecture and Urban Studies.

The goal of the Casey Trees Master Plan Design Competition and Awards Program, open to cross-disciplinary teams of faculty and students in colleges and universities, is to develop a plan for the Casey Tree Farm that reflects best practices, introduces innovative land conservation concepts, and helps expand the Casey Trees

Foundation's mission to, "restore, enhance, and protect the tree canopy of the Nation's Capital." The master plan must also reflect and reinforce the mission of the Casey Tree Farm, "to enhance the mission of Casey Trees through research, collaboration and environmental stewardship."

Representing our College and Department are associate professors Drs. John Munsell and Eric Wiseman and graduate student Ms. Taylor Chakurda.

### FREC's Gillin Presents at Conference; Stein Awarded Fellowship



Cody Gillin

Cody Gillin presented 'Soil Erosion and Stream Stabilization' at the Virginia Water Conference in March. The conference was held in Richmond and sponsored by the Virginia Lakes and Watersheds Association.



Beth Stein

Beth Stein was awarded the 2013-2014 Virginia Space Grant Consortium (VSGC) Graduate STEM Research Fellowship. This award provides fellowships of \$5,000 in add-on support to graduate students to supplement and enhance basic research support.

## **Graduate Student Team Takes Second Consecutive Title in the National GeoLeague Challenge**



Front (L-R): Laura Lorentz, Jayashree Surendrababu, and Beth Stein. Back: Catherine Howey, Taylor Seigler, Ioannis Kokkinidis, James Campbell and Won Hoi Hwang

A team of seven Geography and FREC graduate students took home Virginia Tech's second consecutive title in the national GeoLeague Challenge at the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing conference held earlier this spring in Baltimore, Maryland.

The team, which calls itself the Trail Blazing Hokies, is composed of Master's and Ph.D. students from the College of Natural Resources and Environment and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences who are members of Virginia Tech student chapter of the society.

The goal of this year's challenge, entitled Designing and Mapping Trails for the Boy Scouts of America: Mapping

Algorithm Development and Visualization, was to use geographic information system analysis to develop a cost- and time-efficient method to design trails at the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico.

Team members each received a one-year membership in the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing. In addition, they earned \$300 for their student chapter and publication of their paper in Photogrammetric Engineering & Remote Sensing, the official journal for imaging and geospatial information science and technology.

## **Spring Awards Presented**

Several prestigious awards to our departmental faculty, students, and alumni were announced at the CNRE spring awards banquet. They are listed below by category:

### **Faculty Awards:**

- Dr. M. Chad Bolding received the Outstanding Faculty Award
- Dr. Valerie Thomas was awarded the Certificate of Teaching Excellence

### **Graduate Student Awards:**

- Kevan Minick was awarded FREC's A. B. Massey Outstanding Doctoral Student Award
- Elizabeth Moore was awarded FREC's H. E. Burkhart Outstanding Master's Student Award
- Cody Gillin was recognized as FREC's Outstanding Teaching Assistant

### **Undergraduate Student Awards:**

- Lauren Cabral was presented with FREC's Alumni Award for Outstanding Senior
- Johanna Arredondo was presented with FREC's David Wm. Smith Leadership Award

### **Alumni Award:**

- John M. Carroll, retired Deputy State Forester from the Virginia Department of Forestry and a 1977 Forestry and Wildlife graduate, received the Alumni Award for Achievement



**Harold Burkhart Named Virginia's Outstanding Scientist of 2013**

Harold E. Burkhart, University Distinguished Professor and the Thomas M. Brooks Professor of Forestry in the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation, was selected as Virginia's Outstanding Scientist of 2013 by the Governor's Office and the Science Museum of Virginia. The award was presented at a General Assembly reception on January 17, 2013.



Dr. Harold Burkhart

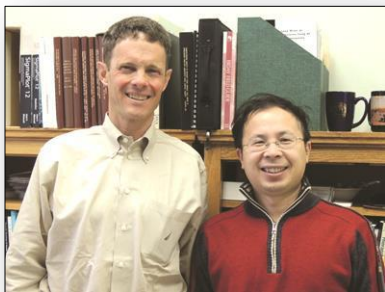
"Forest scientists consider Harold Burkhart the father of forest biometrics, which explores the theory and applications of quantitative models of forest stands," noted Virginia Tech President Charles W. Steger. "Harold's international leadership in this basic research vastly improved forest development, particularly in the South, and now earns him the title of Virginia's Outstanding Scientist of 2013."

Burkhart's principal path-breaking achievement is the development of a comprehensive, integrated set of forest yield forecasting models for stands subjected to a wide variety of management treatments. His contributions to the advancement of forest growth are unprecedented, and he has led the way in developing new methodology for tree and stand modeling and in elucidating the complex mathematical relationships between models of differing levels.

In addition to Burkhart's seminal contributions to forest modeling and advancing the science of sustainability, former students and colleagues around the nation also recognize him for his unparalleled success as a mentor to graduate students.

Burkhart, the endowed Thomas M. Brooks Professor of Forestry, served as department head from 1995 to 2008. He is a Fellow in the Society of American Foresters and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and holds professional memberships in numerous other organizations.

He received his Bachelor's in forestry from Oklahoma State University and his Master's and Doctorate in Forest Biometrics from the University of Georgia.

**Dr. Huaguo Huang Summarizes His Visit to FREC**

left – right: Drs. Randy Wynne and Huaguo Huang

Dr. Huaguo Huang was a visiting scholar from Beijing Forestry University. He worked with Dr. Randolph Wynne, Dr. Valerie Thomas, and Dr. Harold Burkhart for a year beginning in March 2012. "My work in FREC was efficient and colorful. I was equipped with a new fast computer and a bright office. My research focus is on lidar waveform simulation to assess multiple scattering effects. Dr. Wynne provided sufficient lidar data for me to validate the proposed model. The result was presented in Silviler 2012 held in Vancouver, British Columbia, which was a great opportunity for me to get to know some famous faces in the forestry lidar field. Besides doing research, I have attended several professional courses and learned a lot, including remote

sensing, GIS, lidar, forest growth modeling, and even field plantation silviculture exercises. FREC is a well-run department full of diverse programs. I witnessed the Graduate Student Symposium 2012, the undergraduate student research meeting, faculty meetings, weekly seminars, and so on. I enjoyed life in FREC very much."

**Scholarships - FREC enjoys the generosity of our alumni, friends, and supporters. Recently, several scholarships have been named to support our academic programs. These include:**

**John and Janet Doughty Scholarship:**

The scholarship named in honor of John and Janet Doughty awards an annual \$1,000 to undergraduate students majoring in forestry. John Doughty is a 1970 graduate of Virginia Tech, with a B.S. in Forestry and Wildlife from the College of Natural Resources and Environment. He has previously served his community by being the Assistant Vice President/General Manager of the Weyerhaeuser Real Estate Company in New Bern, North Carolina. Janet Doughty teaches high school students via classes at the local community college in New Bern.

**Mike Cerchiaro Scholarship:**

Mike holds both a B.S. and M.S. in Forestry from Virginia Tech. Mr. Cerchiaro also holds a Master of Business Administration degree with a finance concentration from the J. Mack Robinson College of Business at Georgia State University. He is a member of the Virginia Tech FREC Advisory Board, serves on the board of the Robinson Council of Young Business Leaders, and on the Operating Committee of the National Alliance of Forest Owners. He is also a member of the Society of American Foresters and various state forestry associations. The Mike Cerchiaro Scholarship in Leadership is aimed at students committed to excelling in a career in the field of natural resources.

**Joe Crockett Scholarship:**

Joe Crockett is a retired senior executive from MeadWestvaco. Joe's distinguished career with the company included forest management and government relations activities. This scholarship is established by Joe Crockett to assist students in furthering their education in the field of natural resources.

**Mike Hincer Scholarship:**

Mike Hincer has a B.S. in Forestry from Virginia Tech. He is a Registered Forester in West Virginia and a certified forester under the Society of American Foresters. Mr. Hincer serves on the board of the Powell River Project, a forestry and minerals research organization affiliated with Virginia Tech. Currently, he is Senior Vice President of Forest Operations for The Forestland Group, located in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. The Mike Hincer Scholarship is an annual scholarship awarded to forestry students.

**Brent Keefer Scholarship:**

Brent Keefer holds a B.S. in Forest Resource Management and an M.S. in Forest Biometrics, GIS, and Remote Sensing, both from Virginia Tech. He managed forest resource information and planning systems in the southeastern United States for Rayonier Inc. from 1978 to 1998. From 1998 to the present, Mr. Keefer has worked with Hancock Timber Resource Group as the company's Director of Resource Planning and Investment Strategy, overseeing global resource planning and investment valuation. The Brent Keefer Scholarship is an annual financial award presented to students committed to making a difference in the field of natural resources.

**Jake Huffman Scholarship:**

The Jake Huffman Scholarship was established by Dr. Jacob (Jake) Huffman, a 1941 Virginia Tech graduate from the School of Forestry and the Corps of Cadets. Jake was born and raised in Maggie, Virginia, near Newcastle. Jake had a distinguished career at the University of Florida where he was Chair of the Learning Center Development Project at the Austin-Cleary Memorial Forest, a "living, outdoor laboratory" of the School of Forest Resources and Conservation at the University of Florida. The Jake Huffman Scholarship is an annual financial award given to a forestry major from Virginia. Dr. Huffman's career in forestry was dedicated to teaching and mentoring the next generation of leaders in forestry. Dr. Huffman's gift to establish the Jake Huffman Scholarship will continue his life's work.

## Student Club Activities



The The Forestry Graduate Student Association (FGSA) had a graduate student and alumni team for the Timberbeast timbersports competition in late February.



The American Water Resources Association (AWRA) held a Taste Test Challenge on World Water Day in March, challenging CNRE students, faculty, and staff to taste the difference between bottled water and Cheatham tap water.



The Forestry Graduate Student Association (FGSA) and American Water Resources Association (AWRA) held a joint trash clean-up event in March at the Blacksburg disc golf course for World Water Day.

## Forestry Club Provides Firewood to New On-Campus Dining Facility

The Forestry Club has been selling firewood locally for many years to raise funds for timber sport activities. In spring 2012, the club was approached by the new dining facility, Turner Place, to supply local firewood when it opened that fall. The club agreed to deliver one pallet of wood a week throughout the semester. For the past two semesters Atomic Pizzeria and 1872 Fire Grill within the facility have burned club-provided firewood. Vice President and Firewood Chair Mason Thomas commented, "The Forestry Club was so fired up about being able to provide a product to our fellow students because we knew we would be a part of something bigger than just us."

### Spring 2013 Graduates!

- Evan Brooks Ph.D.
- Patricia Brousseau M.S.
- Taylor Chakurda M.F.
- Cody Gillin M.S.
- Olli-Pekka Kuusela Ph.D.
- Maura Leveroos M.S.
- Kevin McLean M.S.
- Trevor Saville M.F.
- Melissa Shockey M.S.
- Haktan Suren M.S.
- Amy Werner M.S.

### Welcome New Graduate Students!

- Eric Carbaugh M.S. – Dr. Fox
- Andrew Cockram M.F. – Dr. Bolding
- Richard Cristan Ph.D. – Drs. Aust/Bolding
- Jordan Endahl M.F. – Dr. Wiseman
- Nathan Hanzelka M.S. – Drs. Bolding/Sullivan
- Matthew House M.S. – Dr. Wynne
- Steven Kruger Ph.D. – Dr. Munsell
- Rebekah McCune M.F. – Dr. Aust
- Anna Santo M.S. – Dr. Sorice
- Xiaoyan Sheng Ph.D. – Dr. Holliday
- Laura Skeith Ph.D. – Dr. Fox





For more information  
about the *Department of*  
**Forest Resources  
and Environmental  
Conservation**  
please contact:  
**Ms. Sue Snow**  
313 Cheatham Hall  
Mail Code 0324  
Blacksburg, VA 24061  
540-231-5483  
suesnow@vt.edu  
<http://www.frec.vt.edu/>

### Dr. Steven H. Bullard - New President of NAUFRP



Dr. Steven Bullard

Dr. Steven H. Bullard, a Ph.D. graduate in Forest Management-Economics from Virginia Tech in 1983, is currently the Dean of Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture, Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas. Dr. Bullard has become the President of the National Association of University Forest Resources Programs (NAUFRP). In that capacity, he will serve NAUFRP for 2 years. NAUFRP was formed in 1981 with the mission of advancing the science, practice and art of forest resource management through the support of forest resources education, research, service and international programs at the university level.

### Alumni Award of Achievement – John Carroll



John Carroll

The College of Natural Resources and Environment bestows the Alumni Award of Achievement on prominent alumni to recognize career achievements and contributions that represent extraordinary professional accomplishments. Recipients have distinguished themselves as well as their organizations and communities while upholding the highest standards and values. John Carroll has offered longstanding support to the College and its students.

The award was presented during the College's spring awards banquet on April 9, at which students, faculty, staff, and colleagues were recognized for achievements during the academic year.

John, who earned his Forestry degree from Virginia Tech in 1977, recently retired from the Virginia Department of Forestry after 35 years with the agency. He started his career as a field forester, but soon transitioned to a management role and in 2002 became Deputy State Forester. Carroll served on the advisory board for the FREC department from 2002 to 2010. He is the owner of Carroll Resource Management LLC, an organization that actively assists forest landowners.

Gifts from our clients and friends have a direct impact on the quality of learning, discovery, and engagement programs that the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation offers. We invite you to become part of our team! To make a tax-deductible contribution, send your check, payable to the Virginia Tech Foundation, Inc., to: Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation, 313 Cheatham Hall (0324), Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061

For further information on memorial giving, endowed professorships, gifts of securities, planned or deferred giving opportunities or other contributions, please contact Mr. Bob Mollenhauer, Development Officer, at 540-231-8859 or send an e-mail to [bobm5@vt.edu](mailto:bobm5@vt.edu).