focus on forestry
at Oregon State University
Fall 1990

DONORS
A little help from our friends
Fall 1990

Each fall, we take the opportunity to recognize the contributions of the many people and organizations that have helped make the College of Forestry a very special place to learn, teach, and conduct research. You'll read about several of them in this issue. Over the years, these contributions have added that extra dimension to our programs that sets this College apart from other programs of forestry in the United States.

Can you imagine the College of Forestry without McDonald-Dunn Forest? Or without a Forestry Media Center or a Self-Learning Center? Or without the Oregon Forestry Education Program, which helps K-12 teachers bring forestry into their classrooms? Or without the Lundeen Laboratory, which helps our students hone their communications skills? Or without the Hoener Trust, which supports students through scholarships, fellowships, work-study grants, student loans, and opportunities to travel to national meetings?

And then there are the 50 scholarships and 20 fellowships we offer every year, all of which come from donors' generosity. Our supporters help provide the resources we need to do our job of educating young people about our forests and the manufacturing of wood products.

I cannot overemphasize the importance of these contributions. I am often asked why they are so important for a state-supported institution. The fact is, we are not state-supported—we are state-assisted. The OSU Fact Book shows that in 1990, only about 36 percent of the University's budget comes from state appropriations. In the College of Forestry that number drops to 33 percent. With costs increasing, the pinch is getting worse.

Our College has been truly blessed with good friends who have helped us through difficult times, provided us with resources to serve our students and Oregonians in very special ways, and, through endowments of money and property, have ensured that their generosity will be felt in perpetuity. To all of you, we say, Thanks. And we extend our heartfelt appreciation for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

George Brown
Dean, College of Forestry
Oregon State University
Giving that makes a difference

Whether it's lab equipment, paper machines, tree-growing land, or the spoken word, gifts to the College of Forestry pay off in a better education for students.

Support for the College of Forestry comes from all Oregon's taxpayers, but some of those citizens feel moved to do more. Private, corporate, and foundation gifts are vital to the continued well-being of the College.

How do we repay our donors for their support? By maintaining a rich diversity of good scholarship—a forestry program that reflects no narrow agendas or interests, but offers its benefits to all the people of Oregon.

New tools for learning. Jim Wilson with the Composite Materials Lab's new hot press, a $65,000 system that will simulate industry conditions for manufacturing many types of composites.

The following three stories tell of some of the good things that can happen at the College of Forestry when vision and energy are empowered by generosity.

The building blocks of wood

The new Composite Materials Laboratory at the Forest Research Lab is a large-scale project in which private and corporate gifts played a crucial role.

Slated to open officially this fall, the $450,000 laboratory features state-of-the-art equipment for fabricating and testing all kinds of composite materials—fiberboard, particle board, oriented strand board, plywood, laminated-veneer lumber, laminated timbers, and others, as well as materials that incorporate such non-wood components as glass fiber and metal.

"The lab will simulate industry conditions for manufacturing any type of composite," says Jim Wilson. "Anything industry can do, we can do, only on a smaller scale, and with improved process-control capabilities."

Wilson is a professor of forest products, one of eight in the College of Forestry whose research will be enhanced and drawn together by the capabilities of the new lab. Professors in other disciplines, such as mechanical and civil engineering and agricultural chemistry, will also take part in some studies.

Ultimately, Wilson says, this fundamental, interdisciplinary research could pay off in commercial products to challenge markets now dominated by plastics, alloys, and artificial fibers.

"What goes on in this laboratory," says Sam Wheeler, "may very well be the cutting edge of some important future discoveries." A 1950 College of Forestry alumnus, Wheeler is a major donor to the new lab. "I've been in forest products manufacturing since I graduated," he says, "and I know the importance of brand-new (manufacturing) processes, both for the industry and for the Northwest."

Wheeler's very generous gift in 1986, an $85,000 gift from Willamette Industries, and other contributions together made the new lab possible.

Other major donors are the William H. Hunt Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Clark, Georgia-Pacific Foundation, Chembond Corp., Borden Chemical, Stimson Lumber Co., C. W. Knodell, and Mr. and Mrs. James B. Wilson.

Because wood composites are engineered—not just manufactured—they represent a leap forward in wood utilization, says Wilson. "We can tear a tree down into its essential..."
components—the basic building blocks—get rid of the irregularities and defects, and put the pieces back together in a very specific manner. We can engineer wood composites to meet exact specifications.”

Some potential commercial payoffs:
- Glues that will adhere to wet wood. These could greatly reduce time and energy now spent in drying veneer.
- New nondestructive testing methods for veneer, panels, and composite beams, improving their quality and reliability.
- Improved preservatives for wooden panels, enabling them to challenge new markets.

The new lab’s 1,700-square-foot working space features five stations, one each for material preparation, gluing, fabrication, pressing, and conditioning of composite products. There are also up-to-date instruments for nondestructive (for example, sound-wave) testing of composites, computerized imaging, and analysis of glues and chemicals.

Unlocking the secrets of genes

A gift of $25,000 from a 1933 graduate who’s interested in forest disease control will help College of Forestry researchers unlock the genetic secrets of tree disease resistance.

The gift is Conrad Wessela’s first installment on a larger one: he is leaving the College nearly half his estate in his will. The bequest will establish a fellowship fund to support graduate students in forest disease control. Their research will be directed by genetist Steven Strauss.

 Strauss is a professor of forest science and a leading researcher in forest genetics and biotechnology. Because he was named a Presidential Young Investigator by the National Science Foundation in 1988, the NSF doubled Wessela’s gift through a matching grant.

Wessela devoted his career to controlling tree diseases. His first job after graduating from forestry school was to establish and organize a program to control white-pine blister rust in certain areas of southern Oregon. White-pine blister rust is a fungus disease of European origin that attacks the “soft,” five-needle pines—eastern and western white pine and sugar pine. The fungus moves back and forth between the pines and an alternate host, Ribes, the genus name for currant and gooseberry plants.

In 1934 and 1935, Wessela was working for a federal Department of Agriculture agency called the Bureau of Plant Industry, headquartered in Oakland, Calif. At that time, he says, “control” consisted of grubbing up all the wild currant and gooseberry bushes in a stand of pine. “We pulled millions of those things out,” he says, adding dryly, “It was a scientific weeding job—but we had only moderate success.”

Wessela later worked for the Roosevelt-era Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. He served in Europe during World War II, and in 1954 he went to work for the USDA Forest Service, from which he retired in 1966. He has worked on many tree diseases, including oak wilt, a disease of some importance in the eastern U.S., and dwarf mistletoe and root rots in the West.

Much progress has been made, he says, especially in the techniques of breeding disease-resistant varieties of commercially important trees. “I’ve been up to Idaho not too long ago, and theago1 white pines up there look pretty good. But there are some diseases for which we have no control at all. Dr. Strauss’ work could prove to be very important.”

 Strauss and three graduate students are applying the techniques of molecular genetics to forest disease. Traci Gilland-Parks is working on ways to insert resistant genes into trees. She is using the department’s new gene gun, which was itself purchased with the help of an anonymous private donor.

A second student, Hanhong Bae, is studying the genes of a root-rot pathogen, Phellinus weirii, that attacks conifers. And Lorraine Nyers is developing a method for sterilizing engineered trees to ensure that they won’t release their new genes in a natural forest.

The College of Forestry is not the only beneficiary of Wessela’s generosity. He has bequeathed another substantial portion of his estate to the University of Oregon in honor of his late wife, Helena DeGnath Wessela, who graduated from the U of O with an education degree. The money will establish a scholarship fund in her name for education students intending to teach the physically and mentally handicapped.

Wessela is generous with his time, too. Now living in a retirement complex in Roseburg, he volunteers his skills as a woodworker, building wheelchair ramps and doing carpentry and fine cabinet work for charity and for fellow residents. He also washes dishes for the local Meals on Wheels program—reviving a skill he employed to get himself through college during the Depression.

A hard look at hardwoods

When Harold and Alice Marchel bought a stretch of Willamette River bottom land in 1966, they intended it to be a picnic spot and family retreat. And many family picnics did take place in that serene setting, amid the grass and waving cottonwoods next to the wide river.

But the Marchels dreamed of something more. “My husband always had a vision of using this land
Gifts over the years

The three major gifts detailed on these pages are only the most recent in a long history of donor generosity. Here are some of the other projects that gifts have made possible:

- **The paper machine.** The Forest Research Lab's papermaking machine came to the College two years ago from 3-M Corp. in St. Paul, Minn. Thanks to the timely intervention of emeritus forest products professor Walt Bublitz, who used to work for 3-M, it was diverted here after it had outlived its usefulness to the company. The machine cost about $50,000 when it was purchased in the mid-1950's. A similar one today would cost up to $300,000.

- **The Starker Lectures.** Thanks to a $15,000 annual pledge from a prominent forestry family with close ties to Oregon State, the Starker Lectures series brings to OSU some of the best minds in the fields of forestry and natural-resource management. The lectures have brought to campus such guests as Jack Ward Thomas, Forest Service wildlife biologist and lead author of the recent and controversial spotted-owl report; Charles Bingham, executive vice president of Weyerhaeuser Co.; and James A. Burns, U.S. District Court judge in Portland.

- **The Harris Fund.** Lee Harris had just entered a master's program in forest economics when he died in 1979. A fund in his memory continues to provide graduate students in forest economics with such unglamorous essentials as computers and software, subscriptions to technical journals, special technical books, and travel expenses to professional conferences. Some day the fund will endow a scholarship or fellowship. The Harris Fund is augmented each year with a gift from the Gibbet Hill Foundation.

to help young people,” says Mrs. Marchel.

Harold Marchel died in 1988, but his vision is reality today. Thanks to the family's generosity, 60 acres of their land now belongs to the College of Forestry. Experiments in hardwood silviculture will be conducted there, and many future forestry students will work and learn in its living laboratories.

The land lies on the north bank of a bend in the river a few miles east of Corvallis. The dedication ceremony was held there on a sunny day last April.

"We have happy memories of this property," said the Marchels' oldest son, Walt, at the dedication. "Dad was the one who knew every part." Walt's brother John added, "We just aren't able to keep up with the place like he could. It's fitting that the University should use the land to benefit young people and the whole state."

The elder Marchel was a friend of Carl Stoltenberg, now-retired dean of the College. He also had a keen interest in forestry. In 1982 the Marchels and the Benton County Extension office organized a cooperative effort called Forest Research Farms. Together they planted an experimental plot of black cottonwood, a hardwood species that grows rapidly in the rich, moist Willamette River bottom land. Today some of the trees are 30 feet tall.

The College is planning another 10-acre trial of hybrid poplar, a related hardwood. These *Populus* species, foresters believe, may prove valuable as pulpwood and sawlogs in the near future. The experiments should yield a lot of information on growing them commercially.

"This land is a very timely gift," said George Brown, dean of the College of Forestry, at the dedication ceremony, "coming as it does on the heels of a report advocating setting aside large tracts of Douglas-fir forest for the spotted owl. Hardwoods are a promising future source of wood. We can do the necessary research here."

The gift carries benefits for the Marchel family, too. They'll still be able to use the land for picnics and for Mrs. Marchel's garden, and they will be free of property tax—which has increased considerably over the years.

"The taxes were costing me more than I was able to afford," says Alice Marchel. "Still, I didn't want to sell it off piece by piece. My children and I felt strongly that we should give the land to the College of Forestry. And I know that's what my husband would have wanted."

**A living laboratory.**

Alice Marchel and sons Walt (left) and John.

**Touching lives**

Gifts have made a difference in every sphere of the College's mission—teaching, research, extension, and continuing education. They have improved student services, enhanced teaching, made possible exciting new research programs, and broadened the outreach from the College to the larger forestry community.

Gifts from committed supporters help the College of Forestry continue to touch the lives of people both inside and outside its walls.
The College of Forestry thanks the following donors for their contributions to us and to Oregon State University during the past year.

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Salmonberry, thimbleberry, red alder, vine maple, Douglas-fir. Find one of these in a coastal Oregon forest, and the others won’t be far away.

The first four shrubs are the most abundant woody vegetation in Douglas-fir plantations in the Coast Range, and they can be heavy competitors. This poses a problem for foresters: finding the most efficient, cost-effective, environmentally safe, and politically acceptable way to give the Douglas-fir a competitive advantage.

The issue of weed control, says Steve Radosevich, has moved beyond a technocrat’s hip-pocket judgment of which herbicide to spray on what kinds of weeds. “The efforts of the past 30 years or so have been directed at developing the technology,” he says. “Now we are being asked significant questions by society, in the form of environmental impact statements, pesticide regulations, and outright confrontation.

“It’s a sign that our discipline is maturing that we are being asked, and are answering, these questions. However, the answers will take a longer view, a more integrative view, than what’s prevailed in the past.”

Radosevich, ecologist and forest science professor at OSU, is the program leader for CRAFTS, a cooperative private-public effort to address some of the larger questions of vegetation management in Northwest forests.

CRAFTS, which stands for Coordinated Research on Alternative Forestry Treatments and Systems, was born in 1981 in a crucible of conflict over the use of chemicals to solve weed-control problems. Over the past decade, the cooperative’s original mission—evaluating herbicides—has evolved into reflecting a larger frame of reference. Today CRAFTS deals with questions like these: what kinds of weed-control tools are available? (Answer: not only herbicides, but manual, mechanical, and biological techniques, and fire.) How can these tools be used to improve the performance of Douglas-fir? And—perhaps most importantly—how can a better understanding of forest ecology help in the quest for effective vegetation management?

CRAFTS has developed several tools to make weed-control decisions both efficient and scientifically defensible. One is VEGPRO, a computer program that prescribes forest vegetation treatments of various kinds. VEGPRO will soon be released as commercial software.

Other accomplishments:

- Another computer program, ICUPS (Interspecific Competition Index Projection System), which estimates the future abundance and composition of salmonberry, thimbleberry, red alder, and vine maple in young Douglas-fir plantations.
- An early version of a computer model for estimating how different levels of competition will affect Douglas-fir growth.
- A study comparing methods for controlling bigleaf maple sprout clumps and the beginnings of a computer program to help manage them.

Radosevich, widely recognized as an authority on weed ecology, was the first American scientist to define herbicide resistance. He approaches the subject of weed control with a scientist’s training and a philosopher’s temperament.

“In our research methodology over the past 50 years,” he says, “we have become very good at reductionist science.” Information gained in this way “is good, but it doesn’t answer the integrative questions that science and society are asking.”

Along with his duties at CRAFTS, Radosevich is one of six principal investigators in a new three-year study examining the sustainability of agriculture in Oregon.

He has also pulled together an interdisciplinary working group of scientists at OSU and elsewhere to develop a program in sustainable forestry. Its mission, according to a vision statement, is to forge links among scientists and the public in order to promote the continued well-being of “human and forest communities.”
EARTH DAY ’90

Celebrating the Earth. Jim Boyle, Forest Resources professor, takes his turn at the soils table (left), and student Dave Cramer makes a point (right) to visitors at Lewisburg Saddle in the College’s McDonald Forest. The forest tour and the children’s activities were among several College of Forestry events honoring Earth Day in mid-April.

Students win awards

Graduating senior Leslie Powell gets a congratulatory smile from Dean George Brown at Student Recognition Night last spring. Leslie received the Harold Bowerman Leadership Award. Also at the awards dinner, Molly Egan and Frank Buhrille each received the Paul M. and Neva Dunn Senior Award, and Andrew Parker was chosen by his fellow students to win the Kelly Axe Award.

The Bowerman Award, established in 1976, goes to the senior who best exemplifies the “Fernhopper spirit.”

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Kudos for faculty

W. Thomas Adams, professor of forest science, won the 1990 Aufderheide Award for excellence in teaching. The award was given to Adams at the Fernhopper Banquet in February. This is the first year it has gone to a faculty member whose teaching responsibilities lie mostly at the graduate level.

The award is based on nominations from students, and the winner is selected by a student committee organized through Xi Sigma Pi, the national forestry honorary.

"It's a real honor because it comes from the students," says Adams. "This type of award is very important to faculty. It's important to us to know that we're appreciated by the students."

Adams teaches forest genetics and leads the Pacific Northwest Tree Improvement Research Cooperative.

The Aufderheide Award, established in 1959, is named for Robert Aufderheide, a 1935 graduate of the OSU School of Forestry.

The International Union of Forestry Research Organizations (IUFRO) has selected Jeffrey J. Morrell, associate professor of forest products, to receive its Scientific Achievement Award. The award will include a scroll, a medal, and a check for $1,000, to be presented at the IUFRO XIXth World Congress in Montreal this August.

The IUFRO award is given to an average of two scientists a year worldwide. It recognizes young scientists for distinguished achievement in forestry, forest operations, or forest products.

Morrell, 34, has done extensive work in wood preservation. He heads the Forest Research Laboratory's program in biodeterioration and preservation, and has published 85 scientific papers during his seven years at the College.

David A. Cleaves, associate professor of forest resources and Extension forestry marketing specialist, has received the national Public Service Award from the Association of Consulting Foresters (ACF). The award was presented to Cleaves at the ACF national meeting at Ashland, Oreg., in July.

The Northwest Scientific Association named Richard H. Waring, professor of forest science, Outstanding Scientist for 1990. The honor, authorized annually but conferred less frequently, is awarded to scientists who are well known for their accomplishments and who have performed work of outstanding importance in the Pacific Northwest.

Waring is a forest ecologist and physiologist. Since 1963, when he joined the College faculty, he has played a major role in shifting the focus of research toward a more holistic or ecosystem perspective.

COPE scientist dies

Catherine G. Bacon, principal silviculturist on the Adaptive COPE (Coastal Oregon Productivity Enhancement) team, died April 25, 1990, in Torrance, Calif., of cancer. She was 34.

Bacon held a bachelor's degree in botany from California State University, Hayward; a master's in forest ecology from Humboldt State University in Arcata, Calif.; and a doctorate in reforestation silviculture from Virginia Polytechnic University. She joined the College faculty in 1987 as assistant professor of silviculture in the Department of Forest Science. She was an active member of the Society of American Foresters.

"She placed high value on good science and the responsible management of forest resources," says Logan Norris, head of the forest science department.

Bacon's family, friends, and colleagues have established a fellowship in her memory. The fellowship will be for a woman graduate student in ecology or silviculture in the Department of Forest Science. Contributions may be sent to the Catherine G. Bacon Fellowship, OSU Foundation, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331, or to the department.

College hires new research dean...

Bart Thielges, a forest geneticist from the University of Kentucky, is the College's new Associate Dean for Research. Thielges steps into the position vacated by George Brown when he became dean of the College last fall.

Thielges, a Chicago native, holds a bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois University and two master's degrees and a doctorate from Yale. For the past 13 years he has been professor and chairman of the Department of Forestry in the College of Agriculture at the University of Kentucky.

He was attracted to OSU by "the
reputation of the College, the graduate faculty, and the location," he says.

Thielges will administer the College's $10-million research program, a job that involves planning, policymaking, budgeting, and representing the College's research interests to the governor and the legislature. He also will supervise the College's publications and information programs.

... and new director of development

The College of Forestry has hired its first-ever director of development. Lisa Mattes, 31, comes to the College from OSU's College of Business; she was director of development there also.

Mattes is a 1981 graduate of the University of Idaho. She began her career at Jamestown College in Jamestown, N.D. Moving to Billings, Mont., she worked for two public-relations firms, then for the YWCA as its first director of development and public relations. Mattes was then hired by Rocky Mountain College in Billings as director of annual giving, a job that required raising $1.3 million annually. After two years there, she moved to Oregon to take the College of Business development post at OSU.

Mattes will coordinate the fundraising activities of the College. She and her husband Barry have two children, Christa, 5, and Cole, 1.

Social aspects of forestry to be examined

The College of Forestry has joined forces with the Forest Service and the University of Washington to encourage research and discussion on the social implications of natural resource management. Dean George Brown met in April with Charles Philpot, director of the Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station, and David Thorud, dean of the University of Washington College of Forest Resources, to sign an agreement forming a group called Consortium on Social Values of Natural Resources.

Members of the consortium will come from various administrative, research, and academic institutions in the West. Their mission will be to promote an integrative, interdisciplinary approach to research touching on social issues.

Says Dean Brown: "The Forest Research Laboratory Advisory Committee has placed a high priority on research that helps managers better understand society's perceptions and values regarding forest resources and management. The consortium will provide valuable information for managers and policy makers at several levels."

Owl limits could hit hard, say researchers

Conservation strategies to protect the northern spotted owl in western Oregon could have a costly and widespread impact on the region's rural economy even though the state's economy as a whole will continue to grow, says a team of researchers that includes two College of Forestry economists.

Depending upon the forest protection plan selected, the cost could range from 12,000 to 50,000 jobs lost and from $470 million to $2 billion in lost wage and salary income, the researchers’ report says.

The report was prepared for Oregon Governor Neil Goldschmidt by Brian Greber, assistant professor of forest economics; K. Norman Johnson, associate professor of forest economics and forest-plans coordinator for the governor; and Gary Lettman, economic analyst with the Oregon Department of Forestry.

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Pioneering "girl forester" now runs her own show

Pauline Barto Sandoz' life has never gone in a straight line. She's the first woman forestry graduate from Oregon State, and her enrollment in 1939 was an unpleasant surprise for then-Dean W.F. McCulloch, who felt strongly that wherever a woman's place might be, it was not in the woods.

Yet it's only recently that Pauline has come to be a timber manager in her own right. She owns and manages 120 acres of timberland, part of her family's original homestead.

Her late husband Fred, who was timberlands manager for the Booth-Kelly Lumber Company (and a 1940 Oregon State forestry graduate) was the forester in the family during the 39 years of their marriage. He died in 1985.

Pauline, beyond one season's work as a forest-fire lookout, had never had a chance to practice the forestry skills she'd learned in college. Today she has that chance, and she's grabbing it with both hands.

"Yes, it's scary to manage these lands by myself," she says. "But I'm doing it, yes, I am."

Pauline was born in 1921, the only girl in a family of six children. She was raised on a 160-acre homestead near Junction City, where her father started Oregon's first rhododendron nursery. Pauline enrolled in forestry school at Oregon State College in 1939 simply because she wanted to learn about trees.

She had registered a day late and thus missed the preregistration interview. "I just went to the registrar and paid my fees. The registrar said—which I always thought was a little strange, but I remembered this—he said, 'Ha, ha, ha. Won't Mac (Dean McCulloch) be surprised.' But I just ignored that little bit and paid my fees and showed up in class. And I guess after they'd taken my money . . ."

She was accepted but not particularly welcomed. "The hardest part was that I didn't have anybody to consult with, or to talk to about classes and problems and things."

Field trips were awkward, too. "The first thing that happened, the first time I got in the truck, somebody uttered an obscenity. That was the only obscenity I heard. They took him outside—I heard about this later—and said, 'your teeth are out of your head unless . . .'

"I was totally oblivious to the fact that I was being protected."

Being the only "girl forester" (as the 1945 yearbook called her) wasn't easy, but it nurtured a pioneering spirit that stays with Pauline today. College was clearly a critical gathering point for her native independence, curiosity about nature, and insistence on knowing how to do things. And it stimulated her lifelong passion to learn more.

"What happened to me when I got to college," she says, "and I think it happens to a lot of people—was, the more I learned, the more ignorant I felt. I didn't even know what I didn't know. Where does it end?"

Pauline races ahead of ignorance in a headlong pursuit of knowledge. She's a Master Forester through the OSU Forestry Extension program, sharing her education and experience with others. And lately she's been studying birds. "I went to eastern Oregon recently, and I saw an avocet, and an ibis," she says, the names rolling with relish off her tongue. "Excitement! Where have I been all my life?"