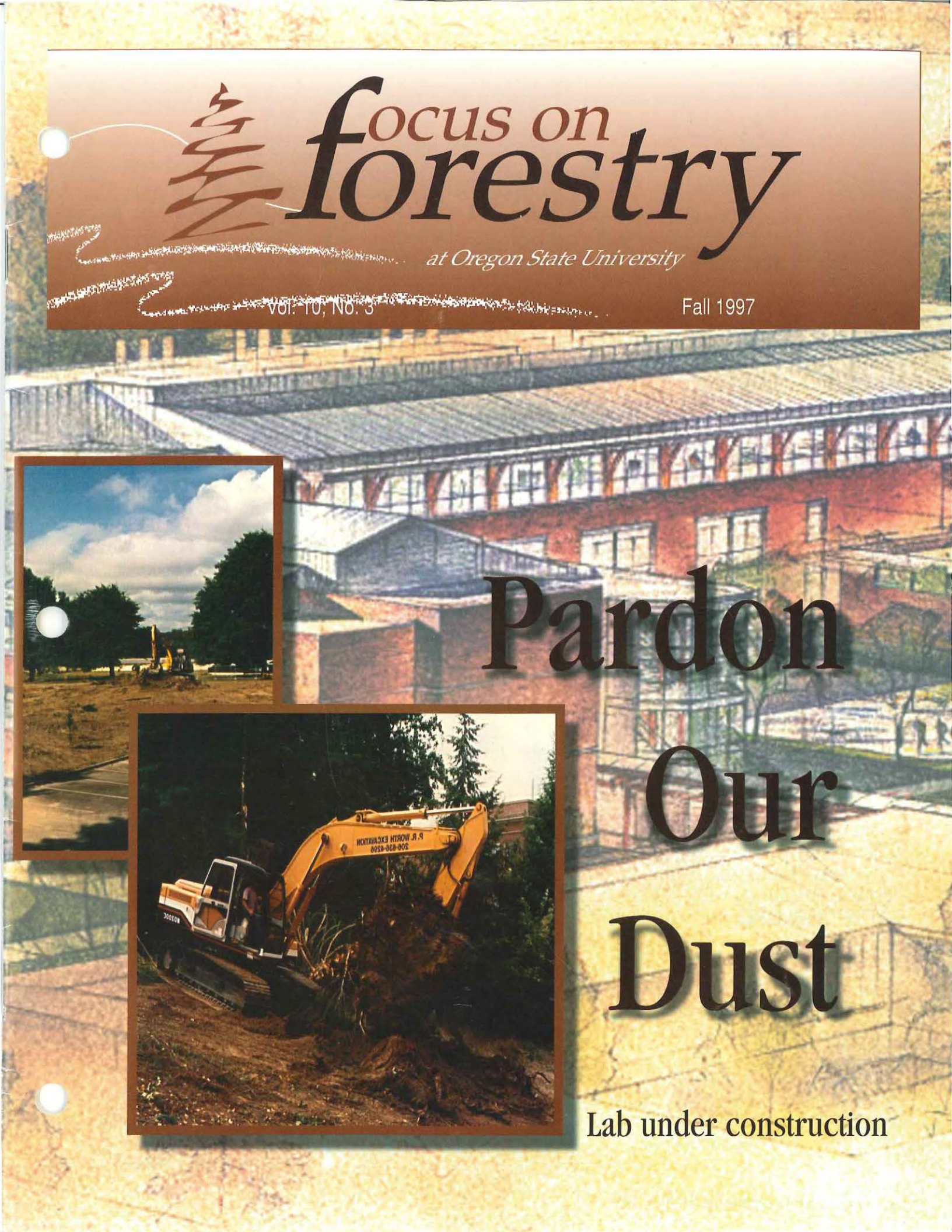


focus on **forestry**

at Oregon State University

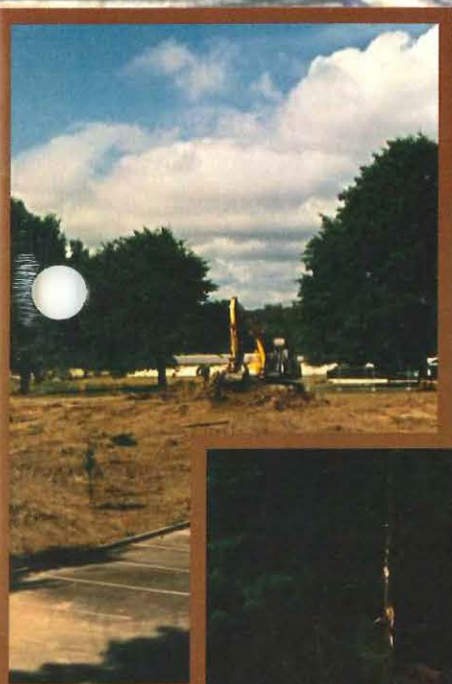
Vol. 10, No. 3

Fall 1997



Pardon Our Dust

Lab under construction



from the Dean

We did it! We broke ground for our new Research Laboratory on Fernhopper Day '97, right on schedule, and the construction is now under way. We'll keep you up to date on progress through the special section, Lab Notes, which we introduce in this issue of *Focus on Forestry*. You can also follow the progress on a day-to-day basis through the College's Web page. There's a special section devoted to the lab, featuring real-time photos from a camera mounted on the roof of Peavy Hall. Open www.cof.orst.edu and click on Facilities and then on Camera.



While we're all very excited about the new Laboratory and the research facilities it will provide, it is important to remember that this building is really about helping us serve Oregon better. It's clear that we can no longer meet our obligation to provide Oregonians with the best knowledge about our forests and forest products in the facilities we currently occupy. This new Lab will help us meet the needs of our citizens, our students, our profession, and our industry in the coming century. It is not a luxury, it is a necessity.

“

This new Lab
is not a
luxury—it is a
necessity.”

Think about the coming century. World population will again double, to over 11 billion people by the year 2050. Per capita consumption of all resources is expected to rise worldwide, adding pressure on our already-stressed natural resources. Research focused on ways to increase the productivity of our forest land base, and on the technology to use these resources most effectively, is going to be key to helping us meet the needs of people on a global scale. That is what this new facility will allow us to do.

We are grateful to the many of you who have joined with us in making this Laboratory a reality. And we know there are many more who will do so in the coming months as we move forward with our campaign. The new Lab is truly an investment in the future, one we know will pay big dividends for Oregon and beyond.

If you're in the neighborhood, I hope you'll stop by to see the progress on the construction. And keep an eye on our new Lab Notes section, or browse our Web page. I'm sure you'll catch some of the excitement we feel here on campus.

George Brown

Dean
College of Forestry
Oregon State University



College of
Forestry

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Our goal is to keep Forestry alumni and friends informed about the College of Forestry and its many activities and programs.

We welcome letters, phone calls, and e-mail comments from readers.

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News from Alumni return mailer



On the cover:

It's a mess!
But not for long.

Our new Laboratory
will soon rise from
what is now a hole in
the ground behind
Peavy Hall. Please
read all about it in
our new special
section, Lab Notes,
designed to keep you
informed about
progress on the new
building.

You'll see Lab Notes
in most issues of
Focus on Forestry
from now until Spring
1999, when the new
Lab should be up and
running.



Langs give century-old homestead

Site will become part of Tillamook Forest Interpretive Center

“

It's one of the few places where you can see pre-Burn trees.”

A 41-acre wooded meadow next to the Wilson River in Tillamook County came to the College of Forestry as a gift from Carl and Bette Lang of Rainier, Ore. The property, just upstream from the Oregon Department of Forestry's Jones Creek Campground, will

bought it in 1988. The property, formerly part of Crown Zellerbach Corp. holdings, came up for sale after the 1986 takeover of the company by financier Sir James Goldsmith.

Lang, who was an accountant for Crown Zellerbach at the time, bought the

A pioneer homestead. Walter and Alice Smith settled on this piece of land near the Wilson River in 1886. King's Mountain is visible in the background.



become part of a new interpretive center focused on the Tillamook State Forest.

Carl and Bette Lang have used the property as a family campsite since they

property with the aim of retiring there. Over the next eight years he and his wife spent weekends and vacations fixing it up—creating nature trails, installing

outdoor toilets, building a volleyball court and a three-walled shelter. The Langs opened their land to group camping by churches and clubs. "In a normal year," says Lang, "the guest book would exceed

The property, which lies 22 miles east of Tillamook on Oregon Highway 6, is in the heart of the former Tillamook Burn, now the Tillamook State Forest—the 365,000-acre area that was burned

over in four forest fires between 1933 and 1951.

Parts of the Lang parcel were burned in the fires, but some trees adjacent to the highway on the downstream end of the property were spared. "The fires just skipped over them," says Doug Decker,



1,000, plus many fishermen and hunters."

The interpretive-center idea, says Carl Lang, "fits Bette's and my ideal that the old-growth trees won't be cut and that many people, not just one owner, would enjoy the beauty of this property for years to come."

Oregon Department of Forestry bought the property from the OSU Foundation for \$425,000. The money will establish a trust fund that will eventually become the Carl and Bette Lang Education Fund. Its earnings will benefit educational programs at the College of Forestry. "The gift appealed to us because we'd be making a conscious contribution to education," says Carl Lang.

In fact, says Dean George Brown, the Lang donation is a twofold gift to education. "Beginning very soon, it will help tell the story of the Tillamook State Forest and the principles of good forest management. And many years down the road, it will benefit students here at the College. We're very grateful to Carl and Bette for their generosity and foresight."

the Oregon Department of Forestry's project manager for the planned interpretive center. "It's one of the few places where you can see pre-Burn trees."

Before the fires, the property was a homestead and a stopping point for travelers on the Wilson River Wagon Road between Forest Grove and Tillamook. And even before that, its broad river ledge was a resting place for Indians traveling up the Wilson and across the Coast Range divide.

The property's history and situation make it perfect for an interpretive site, says Decker, who has done extensive research on its past. "What begins to emerge when you look at the place is the layers of history that are there: presettlement times, then exploration and settlement, then the fires, the salvage logging, and modern forest management. All these layers have something to say about where the forest has been and where it's going."

Chow line. These men helped fight the 1939 Tillamook fire from their base camp at the Smith homestead.

Seeing the trail

Students make trails in the McDonald-Dunn Research Forest

Cindy Wolski and Alexis McQuillan are designing interpretive trails in the McDonald-Dunn Forest for Bruce Shindler's interpretation projects class, offered through the College of Forestry.

Cindy, a senior in Forest Recreation Resources, is designing her trail in a prehistoric Kalapuya Indian site. She calls it the Interior Riparian Oak Woodlands Interpretive Trail.

"I want to educate people so they can use resources responsibly—plus I really enjoy being outside," she says.

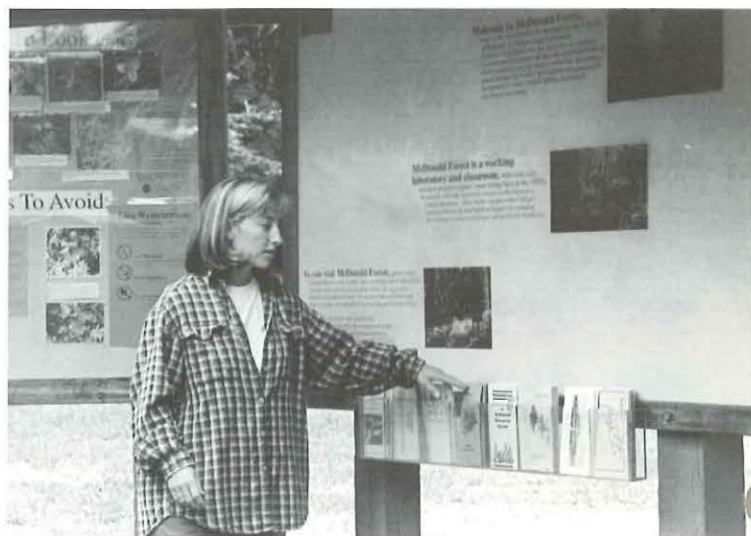
Cindy designed her trail to inform people about local Kalapuya Indian culture and their link to the environment.

In this upper portion of the Willamette drainage, the Luckiamute band of the Kalapuyans lived with close ties to the land. They hunted herds of elk, collected nuts from woody species, seeds of wild grasses and tarweed, Oregon-grape, and the berries of salmonberry, elderberry, and raspberry.

The Kalapuyans built planks for their winter houses from western redcedar. They made hunting bows from Pacific yew and shrubs.

Cindy looks forward to showcasing these species from the plant kingdom as main attractions for the trail.

Alexis McQuillan, who graduated



with a degree in environmental science last spring, is envisioning a very different trail. In another part of the Research Forest she is interpreting a study area where trees have been harvested, leaving stands of older trees, some two-story stands, patch cuts, and modified clearcuts. This is an area seemingly unlikely to harbor a trail.

That's just where Alexis wants to put one. "I want the public to understand these different treatments and management techniques," she says.

Alexis is designing her trail to weave right through the College of Forestry Integrated Research Project, or CFIRP. The research project is examining different harvesting techniques and their effects. Her trail will educate the public on tree regeneration, effects on wildlife, and the dynamics of social values in forest practices.

"Because CFIRP covers so many

“
I want to
educate
people so they
can use
resources
responsibly.”

areas of forest management,” says Alexis, “it has a very good potential as an interpretive site.”

Using interpretation as a management tool is aimed at creating good relations between the public and forest managers, says Alexis. Her trail explores issues the public wants to know more about, letting them see the early results of current research.

A brochure will guide a visitor through the site in 11 stops, covering topics like harvesting objectives, wildlife responses in the two-story stands, aesthetics of patch cuts, tree regeneration, and economics. “Forest managers care about what people think when they see trees being cut,” says Alexis.

It might seem a simple project, designing a trail. Not according to those who’ve tried it, though. “You don’t think about it,” says Cindy, “but there’s a lot of planning that goes into these trails.”

It takes a lot of thought and care to select the right story to tell about a site and then choose an interpretation theme for the overall message. Numerous other decisions must then be made, right down to selecting the type of paving. Depending on the site, it might make more sense to choose asphalt over concrete, or gravel, or even dirt. Cindy’s trail will have pullouts wide enough for two wheelchairs to pass. Footbridges may need to be built over marshy areas to minimize human impact.

Also, there’s the problem with pests. “Nonnative, invasive vegetation may have to be removed,” she says, “and that could be a big project.”

Cindy’s greatest challenge was deciding what information about the Kalapuyans to include. “I read all I could about Kalapuya Indians and immersed myself in the project. Then I had to put what I learned into eight signs on a trail less than a mile long.”

Alexis found her challenge with the length and grade of the trail. “An interpretive trail is supposed to be short and

relatively flat,” says Alexis. “That’s hard to do here with the steep terrain.”

This is where Bruce Shindler, assistant professor of Forest Recreation Resources, comes in. Cindy, Alexis, and the rest of his students have already studied the basics during a preceding environmental interpretation class. When they start creating their own projects, students can turn to Shindler at any time for help.

With Shindler’s help, Cindy was able to narrow down her topic to Kalapuyan use of native vegetation. Part of her solution for getting that information to the trail was designing a brochure to be placed at the trailhead. The brochure will serve as a reference for self-guided walks on the trail, highlighting important information that doesn’t get onto the trail signs. It’s also a way for people to share their experience with family or friends who were unable to visit the site.

Cindy and Alexis take the planning of their trails seriously. But the payoff is worth the hard work. As Cindy puts it, getting right to the point, “I love what I’m doing.”

—S.W.

Effective interpretation is more complicated than it looks. Left, an example of what Cindy’s brochure may look like. Right, Alexis takes a break.



It's all in a day's work for this Forest Engineering grad

“

Like the logging industry, I've learned to be adaptable.”

Biking, paddling, driving, and finding your way with map and compass. Doug Mays and his partner came in fifth in the international Camel Trophy competition.

The setting may have been exotic, but some of the tasks were pretty familiar: negotiating a four-wheel-drive vehicle over barely roaded terrain and finding the next destination with a map and a compass.

“Nobody gave us the correct route—we had to find it,” says Doug Mays. “Well, that’s what a forest engineer does.”

Mays, 35, is a 1983 graduate in Forest Engineering and a logging foreman with Willamette Industries, Inc.

Last spring he was one of 40 international competitors racing across Mongolia’s rugged northwest corner in Land Rovers. They were vying for the Camel Trophy, a yearly off-road driving contest held in various countries around the world.

The Camel Trophy combines a

bumpy drive through an exotic landscape with competitions in various outdoor events. This year, two-person teams from 20 countries around the world competed in a 1,440-mile cross-country trek inter-



persed with competitions in driving skills, orienteering, mountain biking, and kayaking. Five of the team members were women.

Mays and his U.S. team partner, Chris vanNest of Bethlehem, Pa., came in fifth in the annual event, sponsored by

Land Rover Ltd. and Worldwide Brands.

Mays had never heard of the Camel Trophy until last year, when a fellow member of the Mt. Hood Ski Patrol suggested he apply to be on the team. "At first I thought I'd never make it," he says. "I just assumed there were too many people more competent than me." But after passing successively difficult trials in Georgia (the U.S. state) and Spain, "I thought, I have as good a chance as anybody."

The preliminary trials involved strength, skill, and creative thinking. One task was to change a front tire on a Land Rover without a jack. Mays rigged a bipod with small logs and hoisted the front end with the vehicle's own winch. "Like the logging industry," he says with a grin, "I've learned to be adaptable." He and his partner eventually beat out more than 1,000 other candidates for the U.S. team.

Mays and vanNest joined the other teams in Ulaan Bataar, Mongolia's capital, on May 13, three days before the scheduled departure. There they rested and got acclimatized and de-jetlagged. They also worked on ways to cram a mountain bike, a kayak and paddles, camping gear, clothing, personal items, and food for four people (two competitors plus two photographers or journalists) into and on top of a four-seater Land Rover Discovery.

The 20 teams departed from the city square of Ulaan Bataar, Mongolia's capital, after a rousing sendoff by the prime minister and a large crowd. They received a sprinkling of mare's milk, a traditional blessing.

They spent the next 19 days driving a 2,500-kilometer counterclockwise loop around the high steppes of Mongolia's northwestern region. The average elevation is 4,500 feet, and in many places the landscape looks like Oregon's high desert, says Mays, rolling plains ringed by

mountains, except the peaks are jagged needles rather than smooth-sided volcanic cones.

The caravan stopped at remote lakes and rivers, including Lake Hovsgol, Mongolia's largest freshwater lake, so pure the bottom is clearly visible 300 feet down, and the Selenge River, which flows through larch and pine woods on its way to Lake Baikal in Siberia. There was also a day's drive from the high country down into the hot Gobi Desert. The competition ended at Karakorum, the capital of Genghis Khan's 13th-century Mongol empire.

The first night out of Ulaan Bataar, the teams were treated to a "nadaam," a tournament featuring the traditional Mongolian sports of wrestling, archery, and horsemanship. They spent the night in gers, roomy, wood-framed, canvas-skinned, portable houses invented by the nomadic Mongolians.

In the morning there was a 13-kilometer mountain-bike race, an orienteering competition, a kayak race, and a driving contest, one right after the other. "The key to success in these events," says Mays, "was being a quick-change artist. I was down to my skivvies three or four times a day."

Mays did well in the mountain biking, driving, and orienteering contests. "I drive around in the woods all day on the job," he says, and he's been comfortable with a map and compass ever since forestry school. His partner was the better kayaker.

After each day's competitions, teams were given the latitude and longitude coordinates of the next destination and a deadline for getting there. The spot was usually a day or a day and a half away, and the road no more than a dusty track that braided and unbraided across the landscape. The maps were printed in Russian, but that wasn't usually a problem—competitors could read the numbers



men on board—the attendant, the Russian journalist and the station owner. The party got their fill-up.

The Camel Trophy adventure, says Mays, was an immersion into a very different culture. “I’d heard of Genghis Khan and Golden

“
Mongolia is
on a learning
curve, with
freedom but
no money.”

and identify the landscape features. And the teams carried hand-held, satellite-directed global positioning instruments.

Competition was fierce but cordial, says Mays. During one driving event, the Russian team’s Land Rover took a curve a little too fast, did a complete barrel roll, landed back on rubber—and went on to win the race. On another, the Greek team got stuck and the Turkish team stopped to help, and neither team arrived at the next destination in time for the competitions. “That’s pretty remarkable, when you consider how long the Greeks and the Turks have been fighting each other,” Mays says.

When it was nearing time to refuel, competitors looked for gravity-fed diesel tanks on a hillside—not always easy to find, Mays says. They paid for their fuel with gas cards provided by the sponsors. Usually the proprietor would honor the cards, but one attendant was dubious. He insisted on taking one of his customers to town, where the station’s owner lived, to verify that the card was good.

A member of the Russian party, a journalist, hopped on the back of the attendant’s battered motorcycle. The bike’s front tire was stuffed with rags and bound with a chain to the rim. The attendant and his two passengers headed for town while the others waited. After a while the motorcycle returned, with *three*

Horde, but I didn’t know anything about Mongolia today.” Cut loose abruptly in 1990 after 70 years of Soviet rule, the country is struggling to build a free-market economy. Abandoned cranes loom on the skyline of Ulaan Bataar, and buildings stand half finished. Cows walk across the airport parking lot, and holes gape in the sidewalks where manhole covers are missing.

“They have freedom but no money,” says Mays. “They’re on a learning curve right now; the winds of change are blowing, but it’s going to take time.” However, there is a 90-percent literacy rate, and the people elected a democratic government last year. The citizens of Mongolia take pride in their glorious past and their rich present-day culture.

The children in particular were fascinated by the event and swarmed around the competitors. Mays has a photo of himself and his teammate at the closing ceremonies with their arms around two Mongolian boys in their early teens, dressed in their best. “They told us they’d put on their good clothes because they wanted to get their picture taken with us.”

He came back home with warm feelings for his friendly hosts and for his fellow competitors from around the world. “I’ve got friends now,” he says, “in 20 different countries.”

The kids, naturally, were fascinated. Doug Mays gets acquainted with a couple of young friends.

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September 1997
College of
Forestry
Oregon State
University



Sen. Mark Hatfield shows off his new suspenders, a gift from Dean Brown. More photos from the groundbreaking ceremonies inside.

The new Forestry and Forest Products Manufacturing Research Laboratory will help College scientists provide knowledge and technology transfer in many important areas, including advanced manufacturing systems, wood composite technology, engineered wood products, pulp and paper chemistry, wood preservation, forest genetics, silviculture, and integrated forest protection.

Lab Notes

The Campaign for the new Forestry and Forest Products Manufacturing Research Laboratory

Watch the building of our new Lab on College website

Now you can watch the construction of our new Forestry and Forest Products Manufacturing Research Lab on your computer screen. A video camera mounted on the roof of Peavy Hall catches the action and

four feet in diameter, and has a capacity of 42,000 cubic feet of water." The underground pool lessens the flood potential of rainstorms by delaying the discharge of water into storm sewers.



Also during this time, crews are installing the water, steam, and sanitary sewer lines. Usually these four different utility systems go in one after the other, says Alaman, but in this case they're being done concurrently to take advantage of dry September days.

"We're trying to beat the weather," says Alaman. "We're pretty much counting on rain by the first of October, and our big push is to get the utilities in place, then get rock down and start on the parking lot and the substrate of the building. We need to get up out of the ground before it starts raining."

The relocated building, OSU's fourth oldest, was the Department of Poultry Science's feed mixing facility. It was built in 1892 on another site on the northeast corner of the campus, and it's been moved three times already. Right now it's resting on blocks due south of Peavy Hall, near the corner of 30th and Washington. Its fifth home will be near downtown Corvallis.

Left, a backhoe prepares the site south of Peavy Hall. Below, a historic building on its way to a new home. More construction photos inside.

feeds it to our Web site. Open www.cof.orst.edu and click on Facilities and then on Camera to see what's going on.

You'll find the view from Peavy a little different these days. Trees, shrubs, lawns, and a century-old building have been removed to make way for the new Lab.

Consequently, the site looks a little bleak and bare right now. Crews working for the building contractor, Lease Crutcher Lewis, are putting in the storm detention system, which amounts to a huge underground pool to catch and hold storm runoff, says project manager Henry Alaman. "It's 500 feet long,



Donors to the
new Forestry and
Forest Products
Manufacturing
Research
Laboratory as of
mid-August 1997:

**Timothy Acker
Juliana and Michael
Barnes
Russell Barry
Josephine and Louis
Bateman
Carol and John
Belton
Jill and John Beuter
Michael and Nan
Bodgan
Boise Cascade
Corporation
Constance and
David Bowden
George and Joan
Brown
Elton and Margaret
Brutscher
Gordon Bunker
Virginia Burns
Champion
International
Corporation
Chi-Soon Chang
Marcia and Marvin
Coats
Ona and Wilber
Dehne
John Drain
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Hardman
Alvin and Gladys
Hickman
Dawn and Steven
Hyland
Don and Gayle
Langmo
Susanna Laszlo
Sislin and Walter
Lund
John Lynch**

Groundbreaking . . .



Official groundbreaking took place in April on Fernhopper Day. Sen. Hatfield gave the keynote speech and, with President Risser, planted conifer seedlings in pots before swinging a hoedad and turning up the first sod. Below left, Dan Green and John Bell enjoy a conversation at lunch after the ceremony. Directly below, the ground has now been broken a little more thoroughly by heavy equipment. Next step: a parking lot—before it rains, we hope.



Mark McElroy
 Max Merlich
 Katherine and
 Lawrence
 Merriam
 Carol and Earl
 Nelson
 Doris and Martin
 Nygaard
 Lawrence and
 Virginia Pagter
 Andrew Petersen
 Marion and Roy
 Pettey
 Professional
 Forestry Services,
 Inc.
 Verona and Willis
 Ragland
 Linda and Robert
 Randall
 Dixie and James
 Ryneanson
 Milton and Nancy
 Schultz
 Lyle Seaman
 Nancy and Peter
 Sikora
 Hillis Slaymaker
 Gerald and Joyce
 Smith
 John and Ruth
 Smith
 Iva and Walter
 Thompson
 Elsie and Philip
 Tuma
 David Underriner
 and Barbara
 Rossi-Underriner
 Andrew Upham
 Cecil Vandal
 Frank Waterhouse
 Robert and Roberta
 Way
 Weyerhaeuser
 Company
 Foundation
 Wee and Anna Yee
 Ted Young

Boise Cascade supports new Research Lab

Boise Cascade Corp. has given the OSU College of Forestry a \$100,000 donation for the new Forestry and Forest Products Manufacturing Research Lab.

The gift raises to \$1.2 million the tally of private donations raised in

products division. "The research and product development efforts of OSU have benefited Boise Cascade and the forest products industry. With the expanded capabilities of this new lab, OSU will continue to provide critical information to the industry."

The \$24 million new building will replace the aging Forest Research Laboratory complex, which has

Boise Cascade's Dick Parrish with OSU President Paul Risser.



been unsatisfactory for some time because of cramped laboratory space and outdated equipment.

"Forestry has become a very complicated, very research-intensive enterprise," said Forestry dean George Brown, "and

OSU's \$14 million campaign for the 97,000-square-foot new Laboratory. The laboratory has also received \$10 million in federal appropriations.

"Boise Cascade and OSU have had a long-standing relationship," said Dick Parrish, senior vice president for the company's building

our current facilities just won't allow us to do the sophisticated, 21st-century research we need to do. We're immensely grateful that Boise Cascade recognizes the importance of staying current on the forestry research front."

Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation gift meets its match

Matching funds have been received for the \$500,000 gift from the Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation.

The Foundation's half-million-dollar contribution toward the new Research Lab, given last December, came with a \$250,000 check and a challenge: the second half of the gift would be disbursed after the College raised an additional

\$500,000 from the forest products industry.

Enough gifts have now been received from forest products companies to complete the match. "We are extremely grateful to our industry supporters for helping us complete this gift from the Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation," said Dean George Brown. "Our friends truly went the extra mile for us."

So far, gifts totaling more than \$1.2 million have been given or pledged by companies, foundations, alumni, and friends. The fund-raising campaign for the new Forestry and Forest Products Manufacturing Research Lab will finish in April of 1999.

The Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation gift, one of the largest in the history of the company's philanthropic foundation, kicked off the \$14 million fund-raising campaign for the new Laboratory last December.

"The size of this gift says something about how we view the importance of the project," said Elizabeth Crossman, Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation vice president. "This laboratory is something OSU urgently needs—up-to-date facilities and equipment to continue its leadership in forestry research."

Giustina family foundation lends its support

The N.B. Giustina Foundation has made a gift of \$70,000 toward the new Research Laboratory. "Research, particularly forestry research, is important not only to the University but to the state," said Larry Giustina, general partner of Giustina Land and Timber Co. and secretary of the foundation's board. "We thought it was time to step forward and make a donation."

The family foundation is headed by Larry Giustina's father, N.B. "Nat" Giustina, partner of Giustina Land & Timber Co. in Eugene. Nat Giustina is a prominent figure in the Northwest forest industry community and an active supporter of OSU, his alma mater. He is a past president and chairman of the board of the OSU Foundation, and he has served on several other OSU committees, including the Alumni Association board of directors. He was the builder of the Trysting Tree Golf Club. He received the E.B. Lemon Distinguished Alumni Award in 1983 and the OSU Distinguished Service Award in 1990.



In memoriam

Victor Simpson



Victor Simpson with his wife, Barbara.

Next year a College of Forestry student will receive a scholarship given by family and friends in memory of Victor Simpson '43, who died in April of a stroke. His wife, Barbara, in a letter to the College of Forestry, asked that the \$1,750 one-time award be given to "a fine, Victor-type person" who wants to become a forester.

What is "a fine, Victor-type person?" Says Barbara Simpson: "Victor was such a straight arrow, always honest, always aboveboard, no deviation. A man of integrity."

Simpson was district forester for a private holding company, managing 150,000 acres of timber and rangeland in northern California's Almanor Basin. "He supervised the timber sales and took care of all the business concerning company lands," says Barbara Simpson. "He was a bear in insisting on good forest practices."

Always alert to fire danger, she says, he was known to shut down operations that were out of compliance. "That didn't make him especially popular with the loggers, but they often later admitted that they knew he did it for the good of the woods."

Simpson and his wife were married in 1945, and Simpson started working as a forester as soon as he was discharged from the Navy in 1946. He worked in the Almanor Basin from 1950 until he retired in 1984.

"He certainly put his Oregon State education to good use for Lo! these many years," wrote his wife in a letter to the College of Forestry, "walking and/or snowshoeing almost every acre and getting to know most of the trees by their first names."

Simpson is survived by his wife, four children, and seven grandchildren.

Austin D. McReynolds

Austin D. "Mac" McReynolds, a 1937 graduate of the Oregon Agricultural College School of Forestry and active member of the Oregon Logging Conference, died in April in Sublimity, Ore. He was 86.

A long-time resident of Eugene and a third-generation Oregonian, McReynolds was born in 1911 near Cottage Grove. He attended a one-room grade school near his family's ranch, and graduated from Cottage Grove High School in 1928. After two years as a logger and mill worker, he started college in 1930. Like many Depression-era students, McReynolds had to drop out of school periodically to earn enough money to go back.

In 1935 he married Ellen Ellis, and

the next year he returned to school, graduating in 1937. He was a district fire warden in Medford until 1945, and then a forest engineer for the West Coast Lumbermen's Association and Pacific Northwest Loggers Association in Eugene. He went to work for Giustina Bros. Lumber and Veneer Co. in Eugene in 1947 as a logging engineer and then as a forest manager. He stayed at Giustina until he retired in 1975.

He is survived by his wife, Ellen, a daughter, Gwenn Beight of Monmouth, and a son, Larry, of Beverly, Mass., four grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. Memorial contributions to the College of Forestry Legacy Scholarship Fund may be made in his name.



Mac McReynolds with his wife, Ellen.

The worrisome issue of landslides

Marv Pyles hikes up a steep landslide in the Oak Creek drainage of McDonald Forest. "Look here," he says, pointing with his foot to wet soil in the middle of the slide. "This landslide was probably caused by groundwater."

The landslide scar stretches above

him into his area of interest. "I came to OSU to worry about landslides," he says. And according to Pyles, we've got plenty of them to worry about in western Oregon.

After five landslide-caused deaths in the Umpqua River Basin in November 1996, Pyles was asked to testify before a

legislative committee. "The agenda item was the issue of public safety with the focus on landslides caused by forest management," he says.

He was also asked to lead a team in



Probing the mysteries of landslides—natural and human-caused. Marv Pyles leads Governor John Kitzhaber's blue-ribbon landslide investigative team.

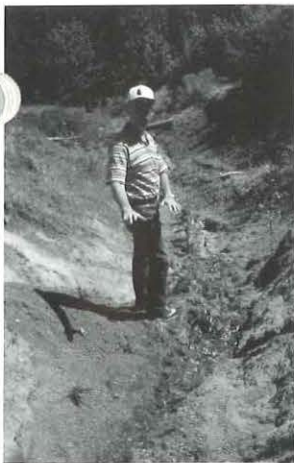
him some 25 yards, cutting a room-sized bowl into the hill, exposing bare soil and the roots of several trees and revealing bedrock at the base of the scar.

"The theory is that without roots, the soil goes downhill. But look at those roots," says Pyles, associate professor in the Forest Engineering department. "Why didn't they hold the soil?"

It was questions like this that drew

writing a report for Governor John Kitzhaber. The report gives historical context and reviews current information about forest practices and landslides in Oregon. The report team includes Paul Adams, Robert Beschta, and Arne Skaugset, all Forest Engineering faculty members.

Pyles and his team found current landslide research less than adequate. "We



don't have a real good handle on how often landslides naturally happen," he says.

Silviculture practices and roads clearly cause some landslides, he says. What isn't known is the magnitude of the increase in slides caused by human activities.

"This is the problem: we don't have clear information about what, if any, measures will mitigate landslides but allow us to keep the economic benefit of forest management."

The governor's report, he says, "is about trying to extract what facts we can from the literature and to convey those facts to the governor and others in such a way that will result in sound administrative and legislative decisions."

Pyles was always around forestry when he was growing up. He was raised in the redwood country around Crescent City, Calif., and worked on his uncle's farm and sawmill in Clatskanie, Ore. Later he worked for the Six Rivers National Forest in northern California, maintaining trails and fighting fires.

But his path didn't lead him directly into forestry—he became an engineer instead. In 1973 he earned his bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering at OSU and then continued for his master's in Soil Mechanics.

In 1974, while he was still a graduate student in the Department of Civil Engineering, changes were happening on the other side of campus that would eventually change his career. George Brown, then Forest Engineering department head, led an effort to broaden and strengthen the Forest Engineering curriculum. The change included a class in soil mechanics.

It was pure happenstance that at the same time, as a graduate student, Pyles was asked to teach a soil mechanics course for juniors in Civil Engineering. The course was one of those included in the new Forest Engineering curriculum. "I taught the first soil mechanics class to

forest engineers at this university," says Pyles. "This was the beginning of an interesting saga with forestry." He went on to earn his doctorate in Geotechnical Engineering at the University of California at Berkeley in 1981.

Just after a vacation at the Pendleton Roundup in September of 1980, he drove through Corvallis to have dinner with his former major professor, Lee Schroeder (now the University's vice president for finance and administration and interim athletic director). At the time, the College of Forestry was looking for a professor in soil mechanics. According to Pyles, the search had so far turned up no likely candidates, so Schroeder mentioned the position at dinner.

"I've never had a class in forestry in my life," he says. But the College was looking for someone with strength in the area of soil mechanics. He jumped at the chance.

In July of 1981 he started his forest engineering academic career at OSU. He does a lot of useful and challenging research, such as his work on landslides, but it's his teaching, he says, that carries the most impact on actual policies and practices. "That's because the teaching goes out into the world with the students and becomes part of the practice of forestry," he says.

It's a two-way street when it comes to the benefits of teaching. Students get close interaction with their professor and his research, and Pyles gets his own rewards: "I get a real charge out of presenting the difficult material of soil mechanics to forestry students," he says.

Along with teaching classes in fluid mechanics and hydrology and forest soil mechanics at the College of Forestry, he has taught a number of classes in geotechnical engineering for Civil Engineering students.

He is also the advisor and director of

Please turn to Pyles, page 18

“
What
measures
might mitigate
landslides
while keeping
the economic
benefit of
forest
manage-
ment?”

Honor Roll of Donors

Please read this first!

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Each year the College of Forestry has the pleasure of thanking its Honor Roll of Donors for their contributions over the past year.

Everyone who made a gift to the College of Forestry through the OSU Foundation between July 1, 1996 and June 30, 1997 appears in this Honor Roll. In addition, those who have made major gifts in previous years will continue to be recognized in our top four recognition groups.

This year's listing is divided into nine recognition groups:

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While we make every effort to obtain an accurate listing, mistakes do occur. To anyone we have inadvertently left off the list or placed in the wrong category, or whose name we have misspelled, please accept our apologies. We would appreciate being informed of our oversight. Please contact Gail Wells at the College of Forestry, 218 Peavy Hall, Corvallis OR 97331; telephone number is 541-737-4241; e-mail address is wellsg@frl.orst.edu.

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forestry Currents

Introducing our student intern

“
My internship
at the *Focus*
is a great
introduction to
science
journalism.”

Focus on Forestry has a new student intern, Seth White. Seth is majoring in biology at Oregon State and minoring in writing.

Coming from the Portland area, he has a background in outdoor recreation and has recent experience in wetland prairie restoration.



He would like to write freelance articles, essays, and fiction on the environment.

“My internship at the *Focus* is a great introduction to science journalism,” he says. “I’m starting to learn the tricks of the trade.”

He expects to graduate in the spring of 1999 and pursue a master’s degree in either journalism or ecology—he hasn’t decided yet.

He wrote “Seeing the trail” on page 6 and “The worrisome issue of landslides” on page 12, and he took several of the photos that appear in the special section, Lab Notes.

Welcome aboard, Seth!

Pyles

Continued from page 13

the dual-degree program in Forest Engineering and Civil Engineering. The five-year program leads to degrees from both the College of Forestry and the College of Engineering.

Pyles points up to the ridge where the forest ground cover breaks off into a steep, soil cliff. “This slide happened in stages,” he says, “at least two or three.” At the edge of the slide there are terraces, like steps, indicating the stages. Each stage has the beginnings of life, from new grasses at the latest stage to the planted alders of the earliest.

“See the wood down there?” he says, now pointing to a buildup of branches and limbs at the bottom of the slide. “Stop landslides and you throw away a component of wood input into streams.”

Landslides and debris torrents are mechanisms for getting wood into streams and also the source of gravel for spawning.

“If you’re trying to manage both the forest and the riparian zone,” he says, “you may not want to manage in a way that absolutely prevents landslides.”

Pyles believes the only way to stop management-induced landslides is by stopping management altogether. “But that leaves us with no economic benefit and a lot of economic liabilities,” he says.

“A single recipe may not achieve a solution,” he says. “It’s a complicated system and a complicated problem.”

—S.W.

Send us your news

Our new insert, Lab Notes, has taken the place of the Alumni Insert which usually runs in the Fall issue of *Focus on Forestry*. The Alumni Insert will reappear in the Fall 1999 issue, after the new building is finished.

We'd still love to hear from

you. Please use the space below to tell us about yourself, your career, your family, your opinion on the state of the world, or anything you'd like to share with fellow alums in the Winter 1998 issue of *Focus on Forestry*.

Then tear out the page, fold it

on the lines, stick on a stamp, and mail it to us by Thanksgiving, if you can.

Please type or print very clearly. You may feel free to send a photo.

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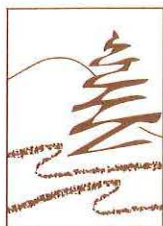
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