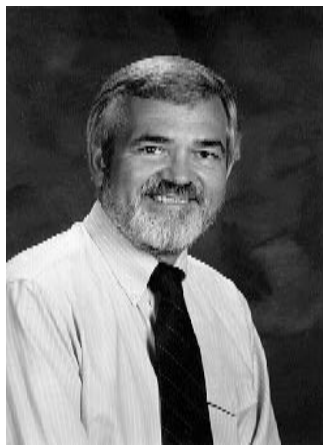


Department News & Views

Fisheries and Wildlife

Winter 1998

Message from the Department Head



One hears much about “the cost of college” these days. Students, parents, or whoever is carrying the financial load of a student’s higher education often are alarmed at the cost. At OSU we estimate the 1997-98 “standard

budget” of a resident undergraduate student attending OSU full-time is \$11,361 a year. Ten years ago estimates were about half this much. About 30% of the student’s budget provides tuition and fees; the remainder goes to room and board, books, and personal expenses. As a state-assisted institution, OSU also receives appropriations from state government, in effect subsidizing the cost of education. This is perhaps most apparent when examining costs at private universities, where the annual expenses to a student may be 3-5 times higher than at public institutions. Yet state appropriations only cover from 25-30% of OSU’s annual budget, and the state contribution has tended to decline over the last 5 years. For example, OSU’s general operating appropriation was \$65.6 million in 1997, compared to \$81.4 million in 1993. If there is good news in this, it is that most informed folks think that the downward trend in state appropriations has begun to turn.

The student/consumer of a college education must also recognize that the value of a college

education remains exceptional. Diverse studies suggest that an undergraduate degree increases an individual’s lifetime earnings by 2–3 times. On average, a holder of a bachelor’s degree today earns \$1,200/month more than a high school graduate. But (as are a-hole-in-one and days in ballparks, according to contemporary TV ads) the experience is PRICELESS. Futurists tell us that the United States rapidly is changing from an industrialized economy to a knowledge-based economy. The cost of not having a post-secondary education will be more severe in the future. Nonetheless, access to an education remains difficult for some. A pillar of the land grant mission is providing that access.

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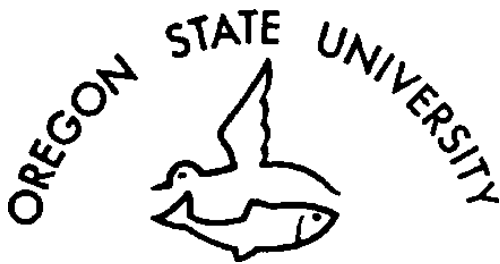
The Department of Fisheries and Wildlife family is striving to do our part to address access to education. It may be a surprise to some, but about 60–70% of our 250+ undergraduates now transfer from community colleges or other universities. It is relatively rare for a fisheries and wildlife student to begin as a freshman at OSU. It is very frustrating for a student to learn that they may have “taken the wrong math or English course” to meet OSU standards—especially if it means an extra term’s enrollment. Thus it is important that we maintain close coordination with partner institutions. But we also are providing “home delivery” for some courses. As I have mentioned in previous *News and Views*, F&W faculty have developed several distance education courses that students may complete away from campus (check out the

advertisement insert). Addressing the access issue is a priority of OSU, and of Dean Thayne Dutson.

I am also pleased that F&W alums and the many supporters of fish and wildlife in the state have chosen to help support access to education. The department is blessed with a healthy number of scholarships. About 20 undergraduates and 5 or 6 graduate students annually receive financial support from scholarships administered by the department. Another 8–10 undergrads typically find support through College of Agricultural Science scholarships; and some receive competitive awards administered by the broader University. Funding for departmental scholarships comes for specific endowments and the annual (yet sustained) support from individuals and groups. The “Grand Total” of all departmental scholarship endowments currently exceeds \$1/2 million—a testament to the generosity of many individuals and the importance of Oregon’s fish and wildlife resources. In addition, the sustained contributions of individuals and groups is remarkable. One outstanding example, is the record of the Multnomah Hunters and Anglers Club. This Portland-based group has supported one or two fisheries and wildlife students annually since 1942! Each year they now give over \$1,000 to deserving future fish and wildlife leaders. What a pleasure it is to work with folks who show such sustained commitments to education! At this time, we are working with folks at Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to establish an endowed scholarship to honor the memory of the late Phil Schneider—to many, Oregon’s “Mister Fish and Wildlife” for many decades. Phil not only was an exemplary leader and conservationist, but a proud alum of this department. He was among the first to be honored as a member of our Registry of Distinguished Graduates. It is nice to find that many want to see his work continue in perpetuity through education.

Thus there are many ways to address the “cost of education” issue. We all strive to ensure that well-qualified people will always have the means to fulfill their dreams through a quality OSU education.

Erik Fritzell



News and Views is an alumni newsletter published twice a year by the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Oregon State University.

Editor—W. Daniel Edge

Mission—The Department of Fisheries and Wildlife discovers, integrates, and disseminates knowledge about wildlife and fisheries resources, as well as ecosystems and human communities with which they interrelate. We accomplish this through interconnected programs of: 1) undergraduate and graduate education; 2) scholarly research; and 3) extended education. We educate diverse people in Oregon and around the world so they may make wise decisions and take prudent actions to improve the quality, productivity, and sustainability of fish and wildlife resources.

Comments, letters, and suggestions are welcome and should be addressed to: Editor, *News and Views*, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331-3803. E-mail: edgew@ucs.orst.edu

New Face in Nash

Dick Schmitz Describes Himself

I am thrilled to be the newest faculty member in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at OSU. At the end of October 1998, I lifted my boxes of books and journals onto the loading dock and began taking up residence in Nash Hall. I contribute to the department my interests in a large-scale view of ecology, population biology, landscape ecology, computer simulation and demographic estimation.

I come from northeast Iowa and I grew up exploring the creeks and grassy byways of the eastern Great Plains. I never cease to be amazed at how much faunal diversity still persists in an area where most of the wetlands have been drained and the tall-grass prairie has been paved over with corn and soybeans. I come to western Oregon with a deep appreciation for the incredible natural beauty of this corner of the planet. I also come with an appreciation of the potential of humans to disrupt the balanced processes of natural biological systems.

Job and academic opportunities have resulted in extended stays for me in central Wisconsin, South America, upstate New York, Mexico, and Iowa before coming to Corvallis. My soon-to-be wife, Donna, and I earned undergraduate degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. After years of dogged devotion to books we were looking for adventure...and found it. On the last Friday of our last semester, we traipsed down to the Courthouse and were married by the local judge. On Saturday we invited everyone we knew in the world to a pigroast to celebrate the event. And just in case that wasn't exciting enough, we then jumped on a jet and flew to South America to spend the next 2 ½ years as forestry extension agents with the Peace Corps in Paraguay. We used a single kerosene lamp for light and lived within 4 feet of each other after sunset. When the temperature reached a sweltering 105 degrees and there were no screens to stop the clouds of mosquitoes, we found there was no better test of the viability of a new marriage! At daylight, the howler monkeys that



roared from the trees behind our house and the lizards that rooted around amongst the shoes in the corner of the bedroom served as alarm clocks on our working

honeymoon. We thoroughly enjoyed working with Paraguayan counterparts to establish agroforestry demonstration projects with local farmers and at a small rural agricultural school.

Once back in the US, I headed to upstate New York to earn my masters degree at the State University of New York in Syracuse. Outfitted with an enthusiasm for life in rural Latin America and having mastered the art of working in close proximity in hot climates, Donna and I jumped back on a plane and flew to Mexico to live in a fishing village on the Yucatan peninsula to accomplish my thesis research. We built a number of observation blinds in a mangrove estuary and occupied a half-year recording behavioral data on wading birds. The fishermen on the estuary in turn studied our behavior, thinking that it was very weird for people to live in tiny boxes on stilts over the water. We considered it great fun traveling back to New York and telling friends that we commonly saw birds with names like turquoise-browed motmot.

I then boned up on agricultural commodity prices and insightful conversation about weather and set out for Iowa to work on a graduate degree at Iowa State University. I had unequivocally landed in the epicenter of pheasant hunting. For those of you who aren't familiar with this practice, it's a truly amazing sight watching Iowans flock to the fields in a wave of blaze orange the last weekend of October. Some people liken the annual intensity and periodicity of this behavior to the return of the

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swallows to Capistrano, others compare it to Saint Patrick, and his efforts to rid Ireland of snakes. For my part, my dog always insisted on going and I was only happy to oblige. During my stay in Iowa I was very much struck by the energy and commitment of people of extremely disparate viewpoints to work together to restore almost any small parcel of land to some resemblance of the pre-European settlement plant and animal communities.

The focus of my research in the future here at OSU will be to develop predictive models of animal abundance and diversity. I will explore questions pertinent to the processes of population and landscape ecology with a broad emphasis on

understanding the impacts of management in forested and agricultural landscapes on faunal populations and communities. Whereas the challenge in the Midwest is to restore lost fauna, I hope to help prevent the loss of diversity that is so richly evident in the Pacific Northwest.

Donna and I have since expanded our family with the addition last year of our daughter Nina and we all feel right at home here in Corvallis. I always look forward to hearing about what piques the curiosity of others with an interest in natural history. Don't hesitate to stop by my office in Nash Hall at OSU anytime so that we can get better acquainted.

F&W Alums Added to Career Achievement Registry

Congratulations to **Frederick "Fritz" Cramer** '38 and to **Austin Hamer** '42, who were added to the College of Agriculture's Diamond Pioneer Agricultural Career Achievement Registry. The Registry, which recognizes significant contributions of individuals who have served agriculture and related areas throughout a portion of their careers, was established in March 1983 when the College of Agricultural Sciences observed its 75th anniversary.

Fritz was recognized for his many years as a fishery biologist with the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries (NMFS). Many of those years were spent with fish mitigation measures and fish passage problems with dams on many of the river systems of the Pacific Northwest. He has authored and co-authored many publications relating to these problems including *Fishwheels on the Columbia*, co-authored with Ivan Donaldson '40. Now retired and living in The Dalles, Fritz has received many honors and awards for his continued interest and participation in the local pioneering and historical activity of Wasco County. He was selected "Man-of-the-year" in 1987 in his home town The Dalles.

Austin served many years with the Oregon State Game Commission as Supervisor of Conservation Education and initiated many projects for youth in outdoor schools. Later he teamed up with **Margaret Milliken**, Professor of Women's Physical Education at OSC and together they started Mrs. McCormack's Outdoor Classroom in the Prineville Schools in 1958. Between then and 1965 they did dozens more projects with 6th grade students in other schools throughout the state. More than 6,000 middle school students now participate and as many as 200,000 students have been in the program since its inception. All because Austin and others in wildlife management, forest management, and soil conservation wanted 6th graders to have hands-on experience in the outdoor laboratory and learn something of the ecology of living things. In 1996 Austin was invited to Oregon from his home in Redmond, Washington for the 30th anniversary of the Outdoor School program now sponsored by the Multnomah Education Service District and was honored as "Father of Outdoor Education in Oregon." Austin has sponsored the Hamer Scholarship in the Department of F&W since 1995.

By Lee Kuhn

Registry of Distinguished Graduates

The Registry of Distinguished Graduates is intended to recognize a select few of our alumni who have made major contributions to the field of fisheries and wildlife, and who have achieved real distinction in a career in natural resource education, research, or management.

Nominations Sought for 1999 Inductees

The committee for the Registry of Distinguished Graduates, composed of two faculty, **Dan Edge** and **Barbara Shields**, and two alumni, **Mitch Willis** and **Geoff Pampush**, is seeking nominations for the 1999 inductees. Candidates should be nominated from among those OSU graduates with at least 20 years of experience in the field.

Nominations can take many forms, but should describe the highlights of the nominee's professional career. A resume may be the most useful format, but a letter describing the nominee's career and achievements also would suffice. Please send nominations to:

Department Head
Department of Fisheries and Wildlife
Oregon State University, 104 Nash
Corvallis, OR 97331-3803



From the Mailbag

by *Lee Kuhn*

John Brantner, '40, now living in Seattle, sent his current address and a generous check for *News and Views*. Always nice to hear from the old timers. John says his contribution is "...about once in a lifetime...I'm just getting older. Had a stroke about 3 years ago." Hang in there John!

O. L. "Wally" Wallis, MS '48 of San Rafael, California writes, "...as you probably already know I've retired from the National Park Service after 37 years as Park Ranger Naturalist, NPS Chief Aquatic Biologist and Regional Chief Scientist. After retirement I served as VIP (Volunteer in the Parks) in Yosemite for six summers as a Interpreter (that's what they call naturalists these days) and for several years at Point Reyes National Seashore where I looked after the Tule elk herd that has grown to 550 animals from 10 in 1978! Greetings to all."

Paul Swanson, '50, retired from the OSU Physical Plant and is now busy practicing what **Jay Long** used to preach about harvesting the wildlife surplus. In fact, Paul was busy harvesting some of those Green Peter Kokanee when his wife sent in their current address along with a generous check for *News and Views*.

Ralph Swan, '50, always a loyal supporter of *News and Views* sent in his usual check and then in November came in person to help me celebrate my birthday at **John Adair's** with several other old timers. Thanks Ralph.

Dick Hoyer, '55, retired from the teaching profession in '91 but still activity pursues his hobbies such as fishing the Crooked River and falconry. Dick currently has a pair of Harris hawks to chase the introduced eastern cottontails in the Corvallis area. Also interested in snakes, he has studied the biology of the rubber boa in Oregon and elsewhere for the past 30 years.

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What a nice surprise to have a visit from **Stuart Silver** '53 MS '60 this past August. Stu said it was his first visit to the campus in 39 years so he must have noticed a few changes. I think Stu was probably the first editor of the then published student newsletter called *News and Views*. Students wrote much of the material and it was published for several years but finally stopped for lack of funds and perhaps lack of interest. The present *News and Views* is edited by **Dan Edge** and supported by the Department; it first started with the June 1986 issue edited by **Dan Guthrie**. Today's publication is number 23 in that series.

A great letter from **Dave Narver**, '56 (MS, PhD U of Washington). Dave retired in 1994 as Director of Fisheries for the Province of British Columbia after a 34-year career of professional fisheries work in Alaska and British Columbia but as he says, "...after retiring I hardly changed gears as I was elected to the Board of Directors of the B.C. Wildlife Federation, the umbrella organization of 147 fish and game clubs throughout the Province with a total membership of 35,000." As Chair of the Inland Fisheries Committee he works as a lobby/consultant with both the provincial and federal government fisheries agencies. With their large membership they have considerable attention-getting power with the politicians and senior bureaucrats. Though Dave keeps very busy, he still manages to get in some hunting and fishing. Fly fishing for bonefish at Christmas Island on the Equator, snow goose hunting in Saskatchewan, pheasant hunting in Montana, and of course the local blacktail and blue grouse chasing and the regular salmon fishing on Vancouver Island. As Dave says, "...it's a tough life!" Dave blames me for getting him started in fish and game when in the spring of 1952, I (and probably **Mrs Bond**) helped him get a stream guard job in Alaska. He recalls, "I arrested two native seine boats, lucky not to get killed, took them to Juneau for trial and big fines. Of course, meanwhile, when I was gone from the bay where I was stationed the other dozen seine boats robbed the three creeks blind."

Enjoyed hearing from **David Sandstrom**, '60 again. Dave has been teaching visually impaired students at the Oregon School for the Blind in Salem for the past 32 years. He reports, "...favorite field trips for our students included renewing contacts with friends and graduates of OSC's Dept of Fish and Wildlife."

The photo of the '67 Big Game Field Trip in the last *News and Views* caught the eye of **Cliff Hamilton**, '67, one of the gang on that trip. Cliff responded with a long email to catch us up on his busy life since, as he says he "...disappeared from ODFW nearly 5 years ago." He claims he didn't really retire as several of his classmates were reported to have done. "...I'm way too young for that and couldn't imagine retiring in the traditional sense. Not being involved in some type of profitable and intellectually adventuresome pursuit seems too foreign." Cliff is now consulting and one of his major involvements brought him back to the campus this past summer. "...for the past 3-1/2 years I've been directing workshops for the GLOBE program. It's a Whitehouse project...one of Vice President Gore's initiatives that involves training teachers around the world to work with their students in gathering various types of environmental data following established protocols so it will be useful to scientists studying earth systems (Atmosphere/climate, soils, land cover, hydrology, etc.)." Cliff is one of four people who direct GLOBE workshops throughout the US. The first one in Oregon was on campus this past July. Cliff and wife, Katie still have their home near Hillsboro with a second one in Scottsdale Arizona. Katie's a VP of Motorola and directs their Computer Group operations from Texas west. Beyond GLOBE involvements Cliff says he has a book in the works targeted at the business world mostly. No wonder he says, the '67 BG Field Trip photo really brings home how much things have changed since those much simpler days. "...some days it seems like I'm really a long ways from the times of game birds classes, Fin & Antler BBQs, Watchable Wildlife, Project Wild, fish hatcheries, etc., and yet so much of the learning experiences and so many of the principles involved in these

natural systems, population dynamics stuff apply to everything from Whitehouse programs to the cutting edge of business management. Guess it's really connected after all."

Dr. Robert Carline, 'MS 68, (PhD Wisconsin) sent in his newest address. Bob is Leader of the Pennsylvania Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, The Pennsylvania State University, 113 Merkle Laboratory, University Park, PA 16802-1100.

Dr. Fred Guthery, '70, (PhD Texas A & M) now Professor and Bollenbach Chair at the Oklahoma State University Department of Forestry wrote to say, "I am certainly honored to be placed in the Registry of Distinguished Graduates. My four plus years in Corvallis were some of the best years in my life. So, this recognition is quite important to me. Thanks to all."

Another Oregon Stater returns as **George Buckner**, '75, came from the Missouri Department of Conservation where he was Wildlife Research Supervisor for Missouri to be the new Assistant

Wildlife Division Chief of ODFW. George will oversee division programs and staff and manage budget issues related to habitat, game and wildlife diversity activities. Welcome back to Oregon George.

Lt. Col. Patrick M. O'Donogue, '77, checks in to report that "All is well with the O'Donogue's. Still in the Marine Corps, finished up in April '98 as the Commanding Officer of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 164 at El Toro in California after a six-month shipboard deployment to the Persian Gulf. Definitely a place to miss (hasn't changed at all since DESERT STORM). Presently the Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff G-7, for the I Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Pendleton, which is a fancy title to a high priced training officer. Oldest daughter graduated from high school and attending junior college, youngest daughter entering high school. Look forward to visiting the campus at my earliest opportunity. Keep the publications coming, for me it is a vital link to a wonderful time and hopefully, some future opportunities. Thanks again."

Department Electronic Mailing List

This list was created to coordinate and inform both alumni and the interested public of events, meetings, and discussion topics relevant to the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife. Postings, discussions, and announcements should pertain to issues of fish and wildlife conservation, and the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife. The list manager is **Melani Bonnichsen**. Her address is **Melani.Bonnichsen@orst.edu**

Subscribing

To subscribe to the list, send a message to:
listserv@mail.orst.edu

The body of the message text (not the subject line) should be the following:

subscribe fwalumni your_real_name
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We enjoy hearing from alumni and Department friends. Send your autobiographical notes to Lee Kuhn and your opinions to the Editor, and we will share them with *News and Views* readers.

Please make any needed address corrections below. You might also send us a few bucks to help cover costs of your newsletter, which appears twice yearly. Make checks out to F & W Department, E. R. Jackman Foundation.

What's Happening?