

FOUNDATIONS

MSU FORESTER



Department of Forestry
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

FALL 2020

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IN MEMORIAM

CARL BASEL | BS '50, MS '51
MAY 1, 2020

PAUL ROCHESTER | BS '61,
JUNE 6, 2020

GLENDON WILLIAM SMALLEY, SR. | BS '47
AUGUST 2, 2020



Dear Forestry Alumni and Donors,

As you probably have heard numerous times, 2020 has been a challenging year for higher education. Fewer out-of-state and international students, dormitory closures, and scaled-back sports decreased revenue. Though state universities in Michigan were spared this year, state universities elsewhere saw deep cuts and future budgets are uncertain in Michigan. At the same time, expenses increased due to the massive switch to online teaching (e.g., training to ensure high quality) and coronavirus safeguards (e.g., additional cleaning) and testing. Universities, including MSU, will undergo fundamental changes during the tight budgets of the next few years, including the merger or elimination of academic programs.

Yet I remain highly optimistic about MSU Forestry's future growth. In addition to outstanding faculty, staff, and students taking on issues of great societal importance, a major reason for my optimism is our robust foundation -- the focus of this issue of the MSU Forester. Our proud history propels a promising future and our alumni occupy a center of this magnificent history. I continue to be amazed by the incredible success -- measured in numerous ways -- of our alumni. And I continue to be impressed by the generosity of our alumni and friends in giving back through service on the Forestry Alumni Association and Forestry Advisory Board and through direct financial support.

To better document and share the history of MSU Forestry, we are embarking on a new project, MSU Forestry Foundations -- our history as seen through the experiences of our students through the decades. I encourage you to go to canr.msu.edu/publications/1960 to see examples and get inspired to submit your own material.

So please share your stories, photos, newspaper clippings, video, and other artifacts about your experience at MSU Forestry. Submit online (for.msu.edu/alumni) or through the mail. Your contributions will be lightly edited and posted for viewing on the Foundations website.

My hope is that documenting our brilliant history will strengthen our network, further develop our shared sense of identity, and illuminate the vigorous foundation on which we continue to build our future. I look forward to reading great stories! Thank you for your support and many contributions.

My best,
Rich

Richard K Lane



INTRODUCING: MSU FORESTRY FOUNDATIONS

MSU Forestry is about community, and we always love to hear from our alumni! Whether it be memories of past instructors, friends, classmates, shindig, or an update of where your forestry education took you in life, we want to hear about it. This new feature on our website can help keep us connected. Please visit for.msu.edu/alumni today to submit your story!



for.msu.edu/alumni

JERRY GILDEMEISTER - BS '55

After serving two years in the 82nd Airborne and 3rd Army Special Services (1957-1959), I returned to the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest as Timber Management Supervisor on the Union Ranger District until 1972 when I resigned. However, my interest in forestry did not end there, but evolved into a photographic, graphic designer, and book publisher career which included extensive involvement in forest and watershed research, documentation, and restoration projects. Over the past 60 years, I compiled an extensive photo archive of my work as well as a collection of historic photography in and around Northeast Oregon.

Looking for a good home for my 50,000+ photo archive to be housed and the land resource-related portion to be used for current and future resource management and rehabilitation projects, I arranged with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation in Pendleton, Oregon to secure the photo archive and research/documentary material to aid in current and future land management and rehabilitation projects. I retained all rights to the photo archive until my death so that I can continue my photographic and multi-media career at my home-based business in La Grande, Oregon.

STEVE PLEVEL | BS '60

Covid has altered our activities, limiting the places we go and the people we see. Our daughter has moved back to Tucson to pursue another Master's degree so both our children and our only grand-daughter live here now. We get to see them very often which helps keep us sane. I'm still doing a little consulting and getting out in the woods to help a local community with stewardship. I do get to the local SAF meetings, on Zoom, which keeps me in touch. We also have become pretty good at using the internet to "see" people and partake in educational activities.

JAMES (JIM) FREDERICK | BS '65

I am a USAF Col. serving nearly 28 years. I did some forestry work at bases in NH, ND, and MI. I served as Chief of Environmental Quality at HQ Strategic Air Command (SAC) in the early 80's, and attended National SAF meetings in Portland, OR and Seattle, WA. I earned an MPA from U of OK in '85. I commanded the 410th Civil Engineering Squadron (CES) at KI Sawyer AFB, MI; 44th CES at Ellsworth AFB, SD; and the 93rd CES at March AFB, CA. I served as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Engineering and Services, HQ, 15AF at March AFB, CA, and as the Deputy Engineer for the ROK/US Combined Forces Command in Seoul, South Korea. After retiring from the AF, I served as the Director of Buildings & Grounds, and VP for Business Administration at Sauk Valley Community College, Dixon, IL. Upon my retirement, my wife Linda and I returned to MI and live near Hastings, MI.

TERRY READ | BS '66, MS '67

After 25 years with Forest Service and now 25 years as a private consultant in Iron River, MI, things are all good. I am still out in

the woods almost every day helping small land owners manage their lands and becoming friends with most clients. We do take the month of June off and travel out west in our small camper to avoid the swarms of various species of bugs in the UP. Stay away from the UP in June if you want to enjoy the woods.

JOHN HART | BS '74, MS '84

Enjoying retirement in WY & MS where I hunt & fish.

GREG KUDRAY | BS '76, MS '79

My youth at MSU transitioned into several years of working for the Michigan DNR as a Park Ranger and Forester in the Upper Peninsula. In my mid-thirties, I returned to school for a Ph.D. in Forestry, specializing in Wetland Ecology. I graduated from Michigan Technological University in 1999, including a few years there as a Research Scientist administrating a large ecosystem mapping and inventory program for the Hiawatha National Forest (NF) based on my dissertation research. Our hardy crew mapped 300,000 acres and created an extensive database of 4,000 plots containing detailed soil, vegetation, and water chemistry data.

I joined the Montana Natural Heritage Program in 2002 as the Senior Ecologist. Projects in Montana's prairie, forest and wetlands followed over the next few years, but agencies badly needed accurate maps of wetlands and riparian areas. With the EPA and other partners, I began the Montana Wetland/Riparian Mapping Center to map wetlands and riparian areas to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service standards. This effort completed the National Wetland Inventory in Montana.

Heading even further west, I moved to Hawaii in 2008 to lead the National Park Service Inventory and Monitoring Program for the eleven parks of the Pacific Island Network in Hawaii, Guam, and American Samoa. Our team of ecologists analyzed the health of ecological indicators of marine and terrestrial resources.

Retirement in 2014 gave me the time to publish two books between snorkeling and hiking trips. I wanted to honor the wonderful man who led me into my outdoor career, based on the 270 WWII letters he sent home to his mother. My field guide to ecosystem types of the Hiawatha NF saw release in 2019. Both are available on Amazon. I continue to live on the Big Island of Hawaii, but enjoy returning to Michigan whenever possible.

TOM FEDEWA | BS '78

In the summer of 2020, while the country was shut down, Tom made plans to bike across the US. He shipped his bike to Spokane, WA and drove his car to his family homestead in Michigan where his 2300-mile, 29-day big summer adventure would commence. Tom's journey took him through gorgeous places like a glacier lake in Idaho and Montana, ascended "going to the sun road" in glacier national park, prairie regions in North Dakota, and beautiful campsites on Lake Superior. Although

he did encounter some challenges on the road, Tom safely completed his journey and arrived to his family's homestead near the Mackinaw Bridge.

KEVIN LAWRENCE | MS '78

After graduation from MSU I went to work with the U.S. Forest Service. The first 12 years of my career was spent as a field-oriented Forester in West Virginia, New Hampshire, and the U.P. The next 15 years was as a Strategic Planner and Environmental Coordinator in Kentucky. And the last 10 years was at the National Headquarters in the shadow of the Washington Monument, working on judicial and administrative reviews and drafting federal regulations. I consider that the full gamut in a 37 year career. And now my wife and I are happily retired in coastal Delaware with fond memories of my time at MSU and all the stops between there and here.

DAVID BOZAAN | BS '81, MS '83

I graduated from MSU with a BS in Forestry (1981) and MS in Forest Products (1983) and loved every minute of my time there. Though I wasn't able to land a job in Forestry, I've had a great career as Director of Environment, Health, Safety & Sustainability for several companies, with the past seven years at Fortive Corporation, a Fortune 500 company based in Seattle. My wife of 36 years, Maria, works as Regional Director of HR Americas with an Icelandic-based company, Marel, that produces meat, poultry and fish processing equipment. In May 2020, Maria returned from an assignment in Copenhagen, Denmark two years early from a three-year role due to COVID-19. Until this year, both of us traveled extensively for work in the U.S. and internationally. After living overseas and a few other places in the U.S., we have settled in Iowa for over 20 of those years. During our marriage, we have been fortunate enough to raise three wonderful daughters who are all grown and out of the house, with careers of their own.

KIMBERLY SUE TOMBLINSON RAMM POTTER | BS '81, MS '83

I received my BS in Forestry in '81 and my MS/MBA in Forest Management and Finance in '83. I have never had the opportunity to work in a forestry related profession. I have however, due to my MBA, had the opportunity to work for General Motors, Electronic Data Systems, the State of Michigan as a Financial Systems Consultant, the MSU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and currently as the Business Operations Director for the Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory at the Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine in Ithaca, New York. Not certain how I drifted from trees to animals but it has all worked out well! Both kids are doing well - Calum as an analyst for the Department of Justice in Dallas and Meg as a comic book illustrator and teacher in San Francisco.

Kellogg Biological Station and timber cruising are just a fond memory now. I don't miss the Deet or the bugs or being teased about the fact that diameter at breast height on me was actually level with my nose. I do spend time every week running on forested trails here in the beautiful Finger Lakes,

and I plant trees everywhere I can. Hello to the rest of the class of '81 and the first MBA graduating class!

GEORGE HOST | PHD '87

I recently retired from the University of Minnesota - Duluth's Natural Resources Research Institute, where I served as Research Director for the Forest and Wildlife Research Group. My primary research focused on conducting spatial analyses using LiDAR, aerial and satellite imagery to characterize Minnesota's native plant communities and wildlife habitat. Our research group addressed many contemporary forest issues such as age-class imbalance, fragmentation, invasive species, and land-water interactions. I also contributed to an internationally-known research team that developed genetically-advanced hybrid poplars for renewable energy. Outside of science, I am an avid curler, geocacher, and gardener and have become marginally to reasonably decent at all of these.

JIM MALLOY | BS '05

After 12 years with the DNR I left state government for a job with private industry. I have been with Weyerhaeuser for the past three years and was recently promoted to the role of Raw Materials Manager for the Grayling OSB Mill. Currently enjoying life in Northern Michigan with my wife and two daughters.

JAMES GRAY | MS '08

James recently founded Natural Capital Forestry, LLC, an East Lansing-based consulting forestry company covering much of the Southern LP. Just before Covid-19, James joined Dr. Runsheng Yin at a conference in Beijing to share Michigan forestry experiences with Chinese students, scholars & policymakers. Before hanging out his shingle, James worked on two international initiatives at MSU: first on Dr. David Skole's USAID-funded REDD+ projects and later on a MasterCard Foundation-funded project in Africa.

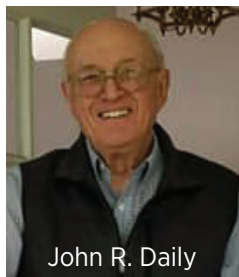
LOUREN ESCAMILLA | BS '19

I am a recent graduate of Michigan State's Department of Forestry. I was hired three weeks after graduation to a full time permanent position with the U.S. Forest Service out on the Black Hills National Forest in South Dakota through the SAF recent graduate program.

I had the privilege of working for the U.S. Forest Service previously in Colorado in 2019 and then in the U.P. in 2017 and 2018, seasonally. My best piece of advice would have to be don't be afraid to try something new and to work at a place outside of your comfort zone. It may just provide a life-changing experience and also most importantly, the field of forestry is changing more and more since the older generation is getting out and younger individuals are moving in to fill the ranks. As a result, the field is slowly becoming more diverse.

Whatever you end up doing after MSU Forestry, make sure you are doing it as your authentic self and you will have a solid foundation moving forward in your career.

ARTHUR T. WILCOX ENDOWED FUND IN COMMUNITY AND URBAN FORESTRY



John R. Daily

Inspired by his professor, John R. Daily is creating the Arthur T. Wilcox Endowed Fund in Community and Urban Forestry in memory of Arthur T. Wilcox. The fund will support student experiential learning. Professor Wilcox provided not only mentorship and education, but also a meaningful friendship to John over the years.

John knew very early on he wanted to study forestry, but when he began forestry classes at MSU in 1947, he did not take to them right away. It wasn't until he discovered the Park Management and Municipal Forestry major and was introduced to professor Arthur Wilcox that things began to take shape.

John served in the Korean War, then returned to MSU to

attend graduate school. Though the Park Management major had been moved from the Department of Forestry to the Land and Water Conservation Department, John was happy to see it remained under Art Wilcox's direction.

In 1964, John was contacted by Dr. Wilcox with a job opportunity. He relayed that he would be leaving his role as the Director of the Akron Metro Park District in Ohio and suggested John apply to be his successor. John was selected to become the new director and credits his appointment to Dr. Wilcox's strong recommendation.

When John's son began his studies at Colorado State University, John was delighted to learn he would be studying under Dr. Wilcox, his professor, mentor and friend. John wishes to create this endowed scholarship in memory of Dr. Wilcox to memorialize his teaching career and the impact he made on John and later, his son.

DECLAN AND ZACHARY GIBBONS MEMORIAL FUND

Chris and Beth Gibbons established the Declan and Zachary Gibbons Memorial Fund to honor the memory of their two sons. The endowment will enhance and support Forestry student experiences not otherwise supported by traditional funding structures. This may include trips to conferences, leadership opportunities, field equipment and studies, retreats, Forestry Club, Conclave, and other opportunities that the chairperson

feels deserving. Extracurricular activities had a significant impact on Chris during his time at MSU. He and Beth want as many students as possible to have the opportunities that Chris had, but that their two sons will not. Chris and Beth have opened the endowment to public contributions, and those can be provided through the online giving portal at givingto.msu.edu/gift.



Chris and Beth Gibbons with their youngest son, Ciarán, in Rocky Mountain National Park, October 2020

Dear Fellow Alums and Donors,

At least for me, it is that time of year again, hunkering down in an old hunting blind waiting with excitement and anticipation for what might come my way. Within the confines of the hunting blind, I cannot help but think about the struggles and uncertainties that exist outside of my little 4-foot by 6-foot hunting blind. So much is happening outside my little space; a global pandemic, closed schools and restaurants, and a presidential race filled with conflict and turmoil. So much doubt and despair seem to infect our worlds every day.

As you might recall, the opening day of firearm hunting season here in Michigan this year was incredibly windy and rainy, not an ideal day for sure. However, with a roof over my head and a heavy wool blanket to keep me warm, I watched the raindrops splatter my window and watched the trees sway in the gusty winds and simply sat quietly and appreciated being warm and dry. Several 8-inch to 14-inch white pine trees surround my hunting blind. I watched all day as those trees swayed back and forth and back and forth. Despite the nearly 45 mile an hour winds, and sideways rains, these trees stood firm.

I travelled home just yesterday, no deer for my freezer, but many lessons learned, and several pages read from a good book. I continue to reflect on my time out in the woods. Those White Pine trees I mentioned earlier are the focus of my reflection. How, despite every attempt by the gusty winds and rain, the trees seemed to simply enjoy flexing their fibers and rocking with the winds. Their roots spread wide, embracing the challenge to stay upright despite all that opposes. I wonder if I am up to the challenges

of today's world. Can I flex, roll with the punches, and remain as confident as my white pine trees? I like to think my foundations are as widespread and firm as the roots of that white pine. I like to think that my beautiful family, my education, and loving friends have helped me grow solid footings to manage through the tough times.

Despite all the chaos that seems to surround us and seep into our comfortable spaces, I hope that you are surrounded by those who can lift you up and stabilize your personal foundations. For me, my surroundings of late have been my wife, kids, and parents. Outside the home, my surroundings have been my close friends and many fine folks from MSU Forestry. For the most part, I work alone. The Zoom meetings and phone calls with my Forestry family have been uplifting and inspirational. Seeing familiar faces and talking about ways to improve the future of the current students and connecting alumni give me hope for better days.

With all my heart I hope all my Forestry friends are doing well. If you ever feel the need to connect with anyone from your class, directly to me, or with anyone from the Forestry Department, I hope you will reach out. It could just be an email to stay in touch, a Zoom call or maybe a phone call; it could be one little thing to help pick you up during these uncertain times. I hope you stay healthy and well rooted.

Your friend,

Jason Darling
BS 2008
President, MSU Forestry Alumni Association
Owner - Darling Forestry, LLC
Jason@DarlingForestry.com



During the summers of 1959 and 1960, Chuck Finan ('62) worked on the Boise National Forest as part of a forest technician position program which the Forest Service supported in the early 1960s. During the first summer, he was doing slash disposal (cutting slash with double bitted axes) as a member of a 20-person fire crew. The second summer, he marked trees for timber sales, ran road center lines, and cruised timber, as well as being part of a fire crew at every opportunity. Those two summers cemented his desire to be a graduate forester. So in the fall of 1963, he applied for full-time work after graduation with the Department of Interior or Department of Agriculture. He had already decided he was going to accept the first job offer he got.

Shortly before graduation, Chuck happily accepted a GS-5 entry-level position on the Yakima Reservation in the state of Washington that paid \$4,500 per year. At the time, he didn't know where the Yakima Reservation was and what they did there, but he was excited to move west and start work.

On the Yakima, he worked in the summer heat and the deep winter snows. He worked in virgin timber that was 500 years old, sometimes marking timber on snowshoes in three feet of snow, when he could get into the woods. While in the woods, he often saw wildlife that was usually hidden from the general public.

Chuck was taught how to scale logs by the check scaler for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). They scaled logs at the landings in the woods, in the log decks, on logging trucks and on railroad cars. The most dangerous was at the "hot" landings where the logs were skidded in by D-7 bulldozer tractors with wheeled arches that were used to lift one end of the big logs off the ground.

In the fall of 1962, Chuck was assigned to work on the Coeur d'Alene Reservation when he and another forester were detailed to go to St. Maries, Idaho, to assist in the establishment of a Continuous Forest Inventory (CFI) on the Coeur d'Alene tribal forest lands. They spent 14 days working in the northeast corner of the reservation setting up quarter-acre fixed area plots in the Eagle Butte area.

They learned that prior to 1958 the Tribe only owned 320 acres of land within the reservation. It was only through an act of congress that the Bureau of Land

Management lands within the Reservation boundary were given back to the Coeur d'Alene Tribe.

In the spring of 1963, back on the Yakima Reservation, he and four other men were assigned the job of marking timber



in the proposed McCrede Creek Timber Sale near the west boundary of the Yakima Reservation. One day, while marking timber, two bear cubs ran past Chuck, about 10 feet away. He knew that their mother was nearby so he did not make any attempt to bother the cubs.

In May of 1964, Chuck headed for work at the Northern Idaho Agency in

Lapwai, Idaho as a GS-7 Forester. He worked with the forest manager and two other foresters as well as a Nez Perce tribal member who was a very astute forest technician. They marked and cruised timber, set up timber sales and checked the timber land for possible timber trespass.

In the summer of 1965, Chuck was sent to the Coeur d'Alene Reservation to locate the property lines around a piece of tribal land on the flanks of Moses Mountain. The purpose was to eventually have a timber sale on the property.

Eventually, Chuck was granted a GS-7 forester position to handle the Coeur d'Alene and Kootenai Reservations. His new position changed his working relationship with the BIA staff. Now, instead of being a part of a forestry team, he was the sole employee working on a reservation

with 36,000 acres of forested lands scattered over parts of Kootenai and Benewah counties, about 30 miles south of Coeur d'Alene. There was no radio system, so when he was in the woods he was generally by himself, except for his dog. Reflecting back on his work on the Coeur d'Alene Reservation, Chuck recalls the only times he was really in danger was when he was alone blazing trees on the tribal lands or stumbling through the large brush patches on Grassy Mountain. If he had gotten hurt nobody would have known where he was.

Chuck was promoted to a GS-9 and then a GS-11 position with increases in responsibility. Finally, he was able to acquire a forest technician, followed by additional staff members. When he retired there were two other foresters, two or three technicians,

and a secretary.

Chuck retired from the BIA in 1992 and spent time traveling with his family. Bored with retirement, he accepted positions with the State of Idaho and later with Kootenai County, where Coeur d'Alene is located. He spent time as a Consultant Forester before accepting a contract with the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho managing all the trust lands owned by the Tribe and its members. He then spent 16 years managing their forest lands and doing realty work involving farm leasing, land purchases and preparing environmental documents. Finally, at the age of 76, he decided to retire completely and spend time with his wife. He now concentrates his time doing genealogy searches and preparing books for family members.

WELCOME RAJU POKHAREL, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF FOREST RESOURCE ECONOMICS

Raju Pokharel is the new Assistant Professor of Forest Resource Economics in the Department of Forestry. He earned his Ph.D. in forest resources from Mississippi State University (2016), MS and BS in Environmental Sciences from Tribhuvan University in Nepal, and an MBA from the University of Sunderland in the UK. Pokharel worked at the Policy Analysis Group at the University of Idaho before joining MSU, conducting research in forest product supply chain and market models, carbon models, wildfires, and bioenergy markets.

Pokharel joined MSU in the fall of 2020. His expertise lies in applied economic and econometric analysis of forest resources, forest sector response to policy changes, forest product market models, wildfire risk and mortality models, carbon accounts, and supply chain analysis. His research area and interests include multiple-use natural resource management, biomass and bioenergy, forest product market modeling, carbon accounting, and climate change mitigation. Welcome to the department, Raju!



In October of this year, the Michigan Society of American Foresters (MSAF) welcomed its 2021-2022 Chair, MSU Forestry alum Ben Schram.

Ben received his BS in Forestry in 2013 and his MS in Forestry in 2019. Reflecting back on his time as an undergraduate, he appreciated how tight knit the students were, and fondly recalls walking around campus with fellow classmates. He enjoyed the lab components of classes and the extensive field work.

As an undergraduate student, Ben was introduced to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) by one of his professors, now retired Karen Potter Witter, in 2013. "It was an interesting start to the whole thing," he said.

MDARD was looking for someone with an agriculture background for a student assistant position. As luck would have it, MDARD needed a lot more than a student assistant, and Ben quickly realized that what they needed was a forester. Beyond the basic duties of a student, he was soon helping with forest systems management and budgets.

"Forestry sets you up for a whole suite of opportunities in the natural resource field," he said. Having never have been exposed to MDARD otherwise, it was not the career trajectory Ben had anticipated.

Ben remained with MDARD after graduation and has been working with them since. His current role is running the Forestry Assistance Program. The program's essential function is to administer grants to local conservation districts and local county governments who then use the funds to hire a professional forester as a no cost resource to private

land owners. The foresters conduct free site visits and walk the property with the owner, assessing their short and long term goals and providing referrals. "My job is to make sure they are pointed in the right direction," said Ben.

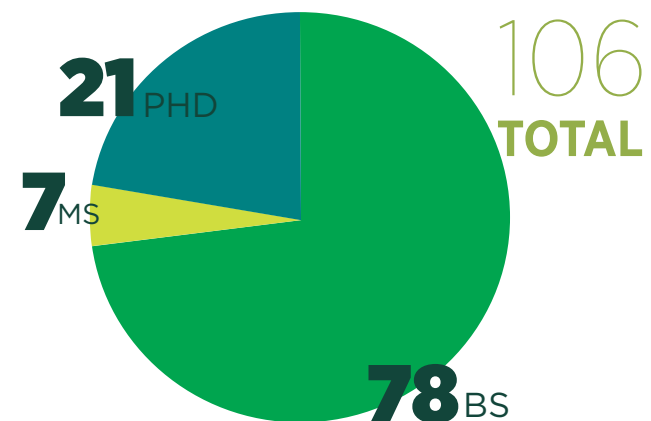
Ben hopes in his role as MSAF chair he can develop ways to boost membership. Current membership is not growing at the rate he'd like to see, and he hopes to appeal to foresters at an earlier stage in their career, encouraging them to become involved in leadership roles. By establishing measurable goals and outcomes, Ben would also like to boost student membership, noting there seems to be a missing link between students and members more established in their careers.

As far as Ben's long-term career goals, he would like to be in a position where he can affect the greatest amount of people and forestland. Specifically, he has an affinity for young forest conservation. "There are parts of the country where forests are aging and are not being replaced by younger more vigorous forests, which is a detriment to a variety of species," he said.

He would also like to remain in public service in some capacity. "There is something about public service that I really connect with. Trying your best to provide unbiased advice and direction to folks that are just looking for help, without implications of financial benefit, I appreciate," he said.

As far as advice to anyone considering forestry as a career path, Ben offers, "forestry is not what you think it is...You can really find something about forests that you care about, and skills within managing forests that you are really good at."

ENROLLMENT



STUDENTS IN MINORS

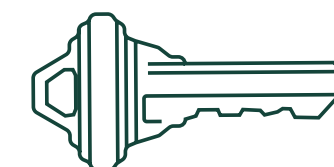


ACCOMPLISHMENTS



FIRST MASS TIMBER BUILDING IN MICHIGAN

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\$2,500,000 RESEARCH FUNDING

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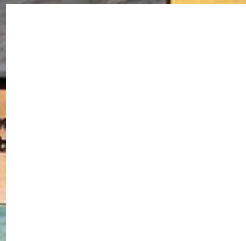
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41 \$100-499	2 \$2,500-4,999
13 \$500-999	6 \$10,000+

TOTAL: **126** GIFTS FROM **73** DONORS



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY
Natural Resources Building
480 Wilson Road, Rm 126
East Lansing, MI 48824-1222



CONNECT

LAUREN NOEL
Manager of Communications
& Alumni Relations
lnoel@msu.edu
(517) 355-8239



for@msu.edu | for.msueu



Department of Forestry
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY