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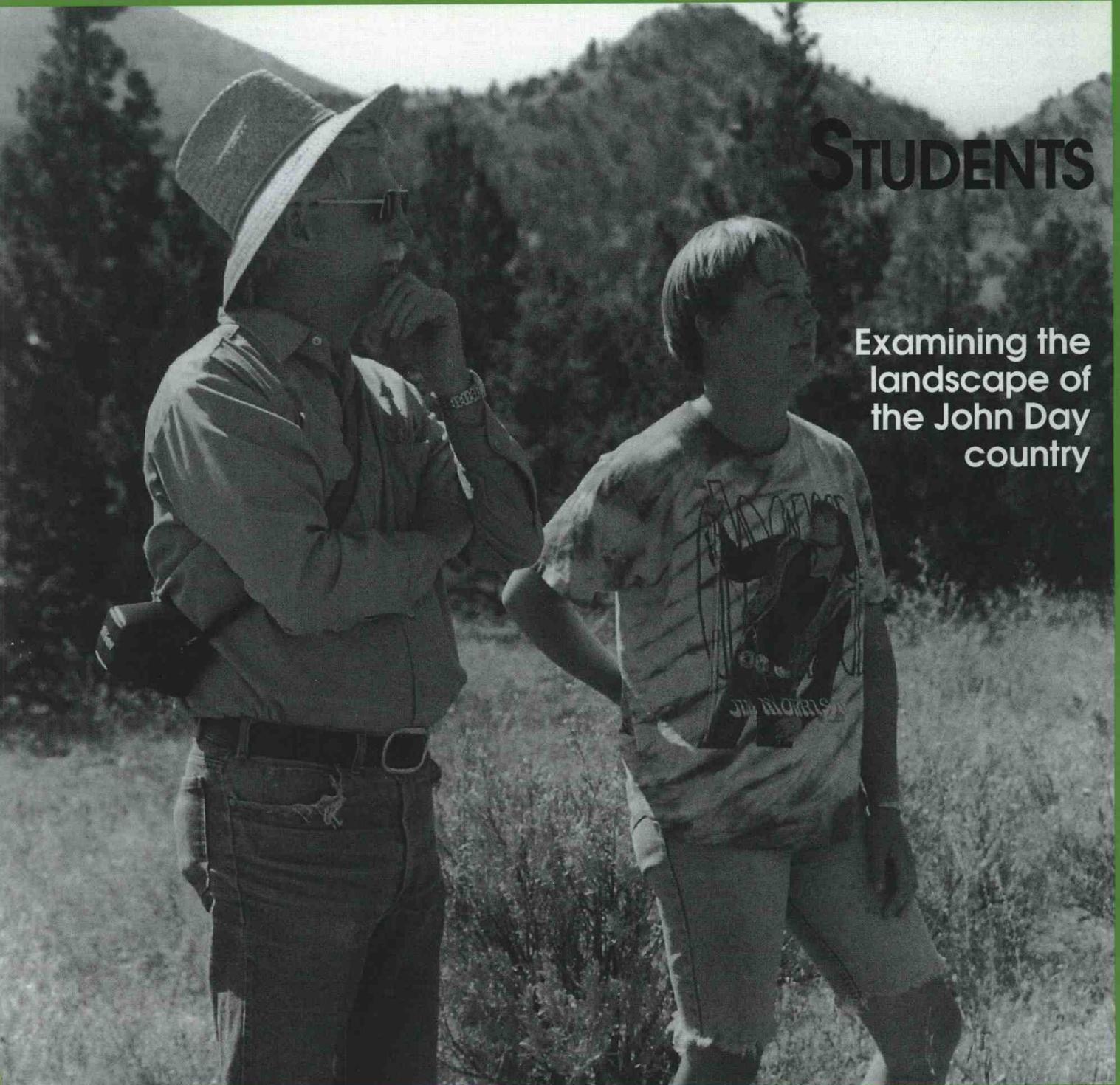
focus on *forestry*

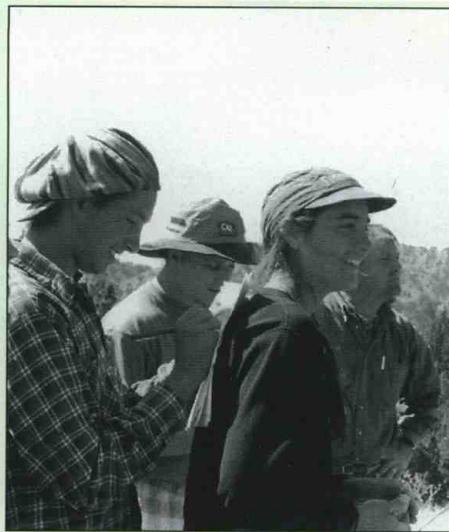
at Oregon State University

Spring 1994

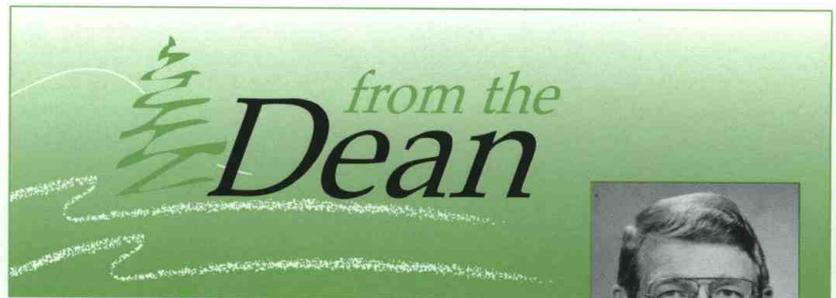
STUDENTS

Examining the
landscape of
the John Day
country





Learning on the job. Kristin Ellis and Jason Sawicki look for wilderness features near the John Day River as a class assignment. See story on page 7.



Spring 1994



Our spring issue of Focus on Forestry is always a special joy for me to read, and I hope it will be for you, too. In this issue, we pay special tribute to several of our students who have distinguished themselves academically and as leaders in our College. We also highlight the accomplishments of young alumni and faculty. All of these people serve as outstanding role models for our student body and those who aspire to be forestry students at Oregon State University.

Our students featured in this issue are a very diverse group. They have wide-ranging educational and professional interests, and they illustrate the many ways in which our curricula are helpful in meeting their life goals. They span a range of ages—many have families to support while attending college. They come to our College by many paths, but they are united in a commitment to natural resource management and a professional's desire to serve people.

Likewise, our alumni and faculty segments highlight the emerging careers of two people who are part of the next generation of leaders in our profession. Bob Wagner and Barbara Gartner have those very special qualities of high energy, scientific competence, and ability to work effectively with people that set them apart from the pack. Like many of the undergraduate students we feature, they have excelled in graduate school and professionally while raising families. They are an example to others considering the same path.

As I read over the stories of students, faculty, and alumni before this issue went to press, I once again was filled with pride in the people who continue to make this College an outstanding place to study and work. They are, after all, who we are and what we are about. I hope you will share in that pride.

George Brown

George Brown
Dean, College of Forestry
Oregon State University



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College of Forestry
Oregon State University

George W. Brown
Dean

Lisa C. Mattes
Director of Development

Gail Wells
Editor

College of Forestry
Oregon State University
Peavy Hall 154
Corvallis, OR 97331-5704

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ANOTHER CROP OF TOP ACHIEVERS

Students at the College of Forestry don't fit into any particular mold. They have a wide diversity of talents, interests, ambitions, and dreams.

They represent both sexes and all ages. They like to have fun in different ways—although many are fond of outdoors pursuits like hiking and skiing. Some are outgoing and vivacious, others are quiet and thoughtful.

Successful students here, however, share some important attributes. They are hardworking and focused. They are socially and politically aware. They set goals for themselves. They hold themselves to high standards. In other words, they're leaders.

In the next few pages you'll meet a few of our top students. We introduce them with pleasure, and we think you'll agree that their leadership potential is obvious. They'll be the kind of graduates who will one day make this College proud.

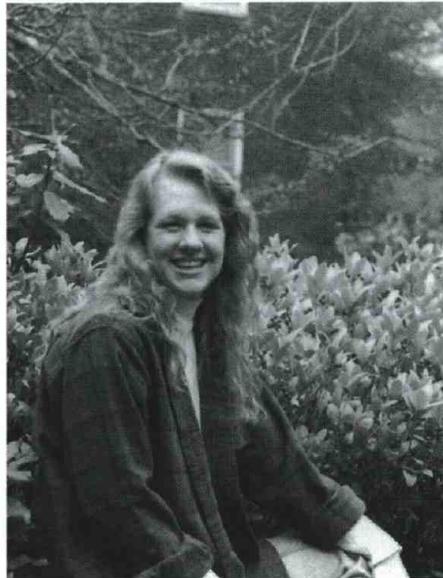
A 20-year-old farmer's daughter from Livingston, Calif., BreeAnna Wells seems disarmingly young. But she's focused and energetic, skilled beyond her years at balancing objectives, defining priorities, and achieving goals.

She's active in several service organizations on campus, including the Forestry Club, the student chapter of Society of American Foresters, and the elite Ambassadors program. She's worked in forestry-related jobs for each of the past four summers, fulfilling her forestry work experience requirement twice over.

To keep herself physically fit, she adheres to a running schedule and practices with the College's Logging

Sports team. To help supplement her scholarships and financial aid, she works part-time taking class notes for the OSU Student Services.

And during the school year she carries between 18 and 21 credit-hours, maintaining a 3.75 grade-point average.



"I set my goals when I got here," she says, "that I would study hard, do well, and finance my own education. It's difficult being from out of state, because the tuition is an extra \$4,000 a year. But so far, with scholarships and financial aid, I've been able to do it. And being able to attend the College of Forestry is well worth the effort."

Scholarship support from the College pays about one-fourth of her expenses, she estimates. "I'm very

fortunate and grateful. Scholarships are competitive, but there are lots of opportunities if you work hard and keep your grades up. The money is there—they want to give it to deserving students."

The Ambassador program also lends financial help. Ten Ambassadors per year, chosen from among students in the Colleges of Forestry and Agricultural Sciences, receive scholarships of \$1,500 for participating in a program of outreach to high school students. (Another forestry student who's an Ambassador, Peter Wakeland, is also featured in this issue of the *Focus*).

Ambassadors speak at career assemblies and fairs and sometimes visit with students one-on-one. The idea is to show high school students the benefits of a natural resource education and

to recruit some of them to agriculture and forestry programs at OSU. Ambassadors work hard, putting in between 10 and 40 hours a week in travel and meetings, on top of their regular studies.

For BreeAnna, the hectic schedule has been worth it, for the Ambassador program is helping her achieve some longer-term goals. "I'm thinking about business or natural resource policy as a career," she says, "and being an Ambassador is a step in the right direction. I see Ambassa-

A farmer's daughter. BreeAnna Wells is meeting her goal of supporting her own education.

dors as a professional organization whose task is to put forward a positive, scientific image—to go out into the world of business and government and let people know what's really going on in these fields."

Besides, Ambassadors helps BreeAnna focus on recruiting more women into natural-resource careers—an issue that's dear to her heart. When she went home for Christmas last year, BreeAnna made an Ambassador visit to her high school. "I think I got several people interested," she says.

BreeAnna has always been drawn to service work, even as a young teen. She's held leadership positions in the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars auxiliaries back home (her father and grandfather are both service veterans).

She was a Girl Scout for 12 years, and in high school she participated in "Wider Opportunities," a Girl Scout program to encourage cross-cultural leadership. BreeAnna was selected as one of five representatives from the United States for visits to Canada, Mexico, and the Philippines. Today she keeps in touch with the program's organizers and acts as an advisor in forthcoming international events.

After graduation, BreeAnna plans to go on for a master's in business administration. The College of Forestry, she believes, is giving her the right preparation. "This program is challenging, academically, compared to lots of others. You have to work to earn your grades, especially when you get to the upper-division classes—they're hard. But you get a good education, not only in forestry applications but in the theory behind them."

She appreciates the warmth and support of the faculty and other students. "Students and professors are on a first-name basis, and the professors and the student services staff really look out for you," she says. "As forestry students, we feel somewhat set apart, because we're located at the other end of campus. That creates a strong feeling of togetherness."

It's tempting to call Kevin LaVerdure one of the "new breed" of educated forest engineers, except that the approach

he exemplifies—scientific, careful, balanced harvesting of trees from well-managed forests—isn't new at all. It's what the College of Forestry has been teaching for years.

Nevertheless, Kevin, who's in his fifth year of a dual degree in Forest Engineering and Civil Engineering, still encounters some persistent misconceptions about the environmental impact of timber harvest and wood use. He hopes his life and work will challenge these attitudes.

"The forest is not a gift any more," says Kevin, "but a responsibility. It's sad to say, but there are some people who historically took advantage of the forest; exploitation was the first impulse. But things have changed. Practices are now heavily regulated, and they're getting more and more so."



It's time now, he says, for Americans to realize how dependent they are on wood products, and how much they need rigorous, scientific management of forests—for their own *and* the environment's sake. "I don't think people realize," he says, "how much wood is a part of their lives."

Wood was a big part of Kevin's life growing up. The son of a forester (Joseph LaVerdure, Forest Management '76), Kevin lived in several timber towns through his childhood. He graduated from high school in Montesano, Wash., in 1989.

When he started checking out

college programs, he was attracted to the dual-degree Forest Engineering-Civil Engineering major at OSU. It's more rigorous than most undergraduate degree programs, but Kevin knew he was up to the challenge. "I felt the dual degree would be a good investment of my time," he says, because it would give him a broad overview of civil engineering practices and allow an in-depth focus on forest harvesting methods and techniques. The breadth of learning he's achieving, he believes, "will allow me to move around and do a lot of different things in my career."

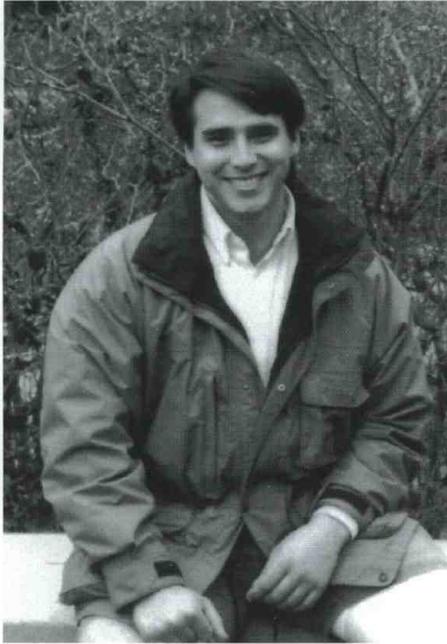
To fulfill his work experience requirement (all College of Forestry students need six months of forestry-related work to graduate) and to earn extra money, Kevin has held some interesting summer jobs. Last year he worked for the College's Forest Engineering department, assisting on a research project involving mechanized harvesting in the Washington Cascades. The summer before, he worked on Boise Cascade's timber crew on company timber lands near LaGrande.

The case for scientific management. It's time, says Kevin LaVerdure, for Americans to admit they're dependent on wood.

Kevin is financing his education partly through generous scholarship help. He's been awarded \$3,500 yearly from the Dorothy D. Hoener Memorial Scholarship, administered through the College of Forestry, for the past four years. Kevin has also

had a \$900 yearly College of Engineering scholarship for the past three years.

He hopes to be finished with his schooling by winter of 1995. He'd like to work for a large forest products company with its own timber lands, or for a consulting firm dealing with forest engineering and civil engineering projects. "I'm getting kind of tired of taking classes," he says with a smile. "I'd like to get out and get some hands-on experience. I'm not picky—I'll take any good job that gives me an opportunity to learn."



Indian Affairs. "I want to be in a position to help this country prescribe good policy toward Indian natural resources," he says.

He's concerned, he says, that policies be ethically as well as practically sound. In addition, "I want them to consider *all* the factors connected with (forest) output, and not get narrowly focused on any one thing—a single endangered species, for example."

The pull of the homelands. Peter Wakeland hopes to work in Indian natural resource policy.

Now that he's actively pursuing his goal, Peter is working harder than ever. He and Bonnie manage a 54-unit apartment complex in

Salem—"and somebody's always needing you for something," he says. He works part-time on the College Research Forests, conducting regeneration surveys for a couple of faculty research projects.

He's also an Ambassador, one of ten representatives of the Colleges of Forestry and Agricultural Sciences who help recruit high school students to OSU. The Ambassador program is rewarding but time-consuming, involving weekly meetings and considerable travel.

Peter does all this while maintaining a family life ("I get up at 3 a.m. to study so I can have evenings with my wife and the boys," he says) and a 19-credit class load.

Peter has won several scholarships to help him through. One is the College of Forestry's C. Wylie Smith Scholarship, worth \$2,600 a year. Others are the Underrepresented Minority Achievement Scholarship, a full tuition waiver offered by the University to qualified students; a \$3,000 scholarship from the Grande Ronde Confederation; and a \$1,500 scholarship Peter receives for being an Ambassador. "These have

really helped relieve the crunch," he says.

Looking ahead to graduate school, Peter is considering several eastern universities. He has the grades to qualify for admission and probably to land enough scholarship money to get him through. As for his undergraduate education—he believes he's getting the best available right here. "Where would you rather go for a forestry degree than Oregon State?" he says. "It's like getting a law degree from Harvard."

Jennifer Walsh, who has an undergraduate degree in economics and an infectious curiosity about many things, didn't exactly set out to study bugs. But they're as good a way as any, she says, to get onto her chosen path—a career dealing with natural resources policy. "I already know policyspeak, because of my economics background," she says. "What I need now is the science."

For her thesis project, Jenny, 26, a Forest Science master's student, is looking at populations of caddisflies and mayflies, which are two orders of benthic macroinvertebrates—insects that spend part of their life cycles in the water.

Her study is part of a comprehensive set of experiments on Cascade and Coast Range streams being conducted by the Forest Science Department and COPE (Coastal



Becoming a translator. Jenny Walsh hopes her work will help scientists and policymakers understand one another better.

Always a hard worker, Peter Wakeland has had some decent jobs in some far-flung places. He's worked in the oilfields of Wyoming and he's maintained swimming pools in the upper-class neighborhoods of southern California. He's driven a beer truck and a bread truck. But nothing kept him satisfied for long.

"I kept feeling that . . . I had these jobs, the money was good, and yet it just wasn't what I wanted. I felt the pull of the homelands."

Peter, a 31-year-old senior in Forest Management, was raised in Cottage Grove. But for him the "homelands" are the community of Native Americans belonging to the Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde, as well as those who have left to seek their fortunes elsewhere.

Peter is of Rogue descent, one of the several Oregon tribes that make up the Grande Ronde confederation. He learned very little about his Native American heritage as a youngster, but now that he has a family of his own (he and his wife, Bonnie, have two boys, Brooks, 9, and Torey, 8), he's become passionately interested in the history of his people and in their future well-being.

A forestry education, he feels, will be his best tribute to his ancestors and his best gift to his descendants. He hopes to go on for a master's in natural resource policy, aiming for a career dealing with Indian natural resources, perhaps with the Bureau of

Oregon Productivity Enhancement), a cooperative research effort headquartered at OSU.

The large study focuses on the effects of harvesting and thinning of trees along streambanks, investigating, among other things, how conifers grow in riparian areas and how stream temperature responds under various harvesting regimes. Jenny is looking at the effects of riparian-zone disturbances on caddisflies and mayflies.

"Aquatic insects spend half their lives in the water as larvae, where they feed voraciously, and the other half as terrestrial insects, where they reproduce," Jenny explains. "Most are quite small, but they're an important link between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. They're critical in nutrient cycling because they process leaves and algae and send the nutrients downstream to other systems."

The study touches on Jenny's larger area of interest, which is riparian ecology. "I've always been fascinated by water," she says. "When I was a little girl, growing up in Canal Winchester, Ohio, I wanted to be a marine biologist."

Her interests, however, have always been broad, and when she went off to the College of William and Mary in Virginia, she didn't have a major picked out. "I started with anthropology and worked my way down through the catalog," she says. "When I came home for Thanksgiving I was down to philosophy. I talked to my dad, and he told me that if he had it to do over again he'd study economics."

To Jenny this sounded like a reasonable way out of her dilemma, so she took her father's advice. "I had more fun in my English minor," she says, "but it turned out to be a good choice—I would never have learned economics on my own."

Economics and forest ecology make a useful background from which to approach the problems of natural resource policy, she says. "My goal is to become a translator

At work in the College of Forestry's biodeterioration laboratory. Mac Bates is double-majoring in microbiology and forest products.

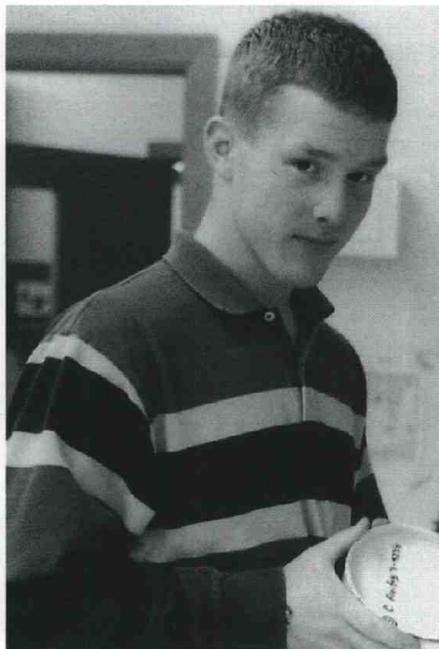
between science and policy—to help build a framework of understanding between scientists and policymakers. Right now the two sides are circling each other, talking past each other. I'd like to help do something about that."

Jenny is already bringing diverse points of view together in a seminar series she's helping to organize, called "Forestry in a Finite World." The seminars, featuring visiting speakers, will be offered this spring to OSU students for graduate credit, but anyone who wants to sit in may do so. Jenny's also active as a graduate student representative to Forest Science Department committee meetings.

Eventually she hopes to get a doctoral degree. "I feel drawn to research. Ideas keep coming to me, even though I have my master's project in place. And I believe there's a need for more women in forest science."

Besides, she wants work that won't chain her to a desk. "With a career at a university," she says, "teaching and doing research—I can get outside more often."

William "Mac" Bates is an Iowa boy lured westward by Oregon's tall trees. A visit to Eugene relatives when he was in the eighth grade—his mother's cousin is the regional



sales manager for a forest products firm—produced in Mac a yearning to work and play in the woods some day. "Iowa isn't renowned for its trees," he says, grinning, "and when I came out here and saw those 200-foot Douglas-firs, I knew this was the place for me."

Mac, 20, had graduated from high school with honors and completed one year at Coe College in Cedar Rapids, majoring in biology, when he decided it was time to make the move. He met Dr. Charles Brunner, associate professor of Forest Products, at his OSU orientation session. Brunner pointed out how well Mac's background in biology prepared him for a forest products major. Mac decided to double-major in forest products and microbiology.

Mac is the first of his family to pursue a university education. His father, a dealer of Cadillac and Oldsmobile cars in Ames, and his mother, who manages the family restaurant there, are very supportive, he says: "Mom's always calling and telling me how proud she is."

Coming from a small high school and college (the entire Coe College student body numbers 1,200) Mac wasn't used to the bigness of OSU. Class sizes for basic courses such as the general science sequences can be large, 200 students or more. He's looking forward to his upper-division classes, which tend to be much smaller. Classes for the Forest Products major are especially intimate—typically the Forest Products department has only about 20 undergraduate majors at any one time.

Still, it didn't take Mac long to adjust to life here. In high school he was one of those students to whom good grades come easily ("I hardly cracked a book") but he knew college was going to be harder, and so he prepared himself for it. "I basically overdid studying my first term," he says. "I became a complete introvert. I guess I was a little scared, but it worked out for the best."

He got some good advice, he says, from his high school guidance counselor, who told him to handle his schooling just the way he'd handle a job. "That means if you spend 15 hours a week in class, then you spend the rest of the 40 hours studying. That's what I've been trying to do, and school is keeping me busy."

In high school, Mac played football, wrestled, and competed on the track

and cross-country teams. Lack of time as well as an old wrestling injury have kept him from competing at OSU, but Mac hopes to go out for wrestling next year.

He's also working part-time in Dr. Jeff Morrell's lab—Morrell heads a large Forest Products research project focused on wood preservation. Mac's laboratory work includes monitoring samples of wood that have been placed into contact with various bacterial wood-decay agents.

After he's finished with school, Mac hopes to go on to a career in forest products, perhaps in the area of biodeterioration of wood.

sound like a fanatic, but it's almost a religious thing with me. I guess all my experiences in the wilderness have been deep. I want to make sure the wilderness is always here, so that others can have experiences like mine."

He's interested in a research career, and that means graduate school after he finishes with his bachelor's degree in another year. "I see myself as being out on the ground, collecting data, doing surveys, getting in touch with where the wilderness is," he says. "I'm thinking of going clear through to a Ph.D. and then doing the kind of research that's done by the professors here. That's my dream—I'd do almost anything to do that."

Stephen spent his early years in Hamilton, Montana, son of a microbiologist and an English teacher. He remembers it as a rural Eden, surrounded by wilderness. "We could fish in the little stream in front of our house, and you didn't even need a line and a pole; you could just reach in and grab the fish."

After finishing school in geology at Brigham Young University in 1985, he found himself working for several construction companies, doing site evaluations as part of the sale

and development of various commercial and industrial properties. He felt increasingly dissatisfied with the day-to-day routine.

He started thinking about forestry. He and his wife, Karie, were living in Arizona. "I talked to the head of the forestry department at Northern Arizona University. He told me, 'There are only two or three schools I would even consider, and OSU is one of them.'"

He appreciates the support he gets here, both the tangible—his tuition is paid by a College of Forestry scholarship—and the intangible. "I have a lot of role models. (Professor) Perry Brown is one of many. He's positive, organized, hardworking, and I admire his 'anything is possible' attitude."

WILDERNESS PLANNING ON THE JOHN DAY

A six-day field study along the banks of the John Day River provided a working wilderness experience last summer for 19 Forest Recreation Resources students and their professor, Dr. Royal Jackson.

The students were on a special assignment from the Bureau of Land Management to inventory a parcel of BLM land, the 65,000-acre Sutton Mountain area, for wilderness characteristics. The agency recently acquired the parcel in a land swap.

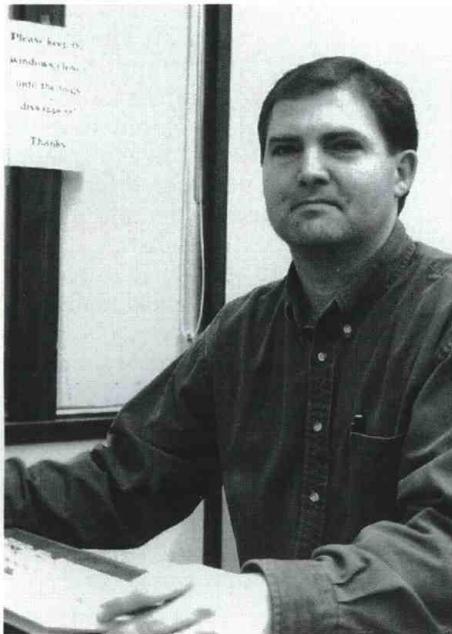
The agency needed to know what wilderness features the landscape might contain so that management plans could take steps to protect them. Such inventory work is time-consuming, and the BLM's Prineville staff, responsible for managing the Sutton Mountain area, needed some volunteers. Dan Wood, outdoor recreation planner for the agency, arranged for Jackson's students to help. Their compensation: college credit plus an opportunity to camp in a beautiful place, in primitive conditions, on their own time and at their own expense, and get some first-hand practice in essential career skills.

The BLM is grateful for the students' help, says Wood. "Like all agencies, we're looking for new and better ways to gather information, and we rely heavily on volunteers. University students are especially valuable because they've received some training."

For their part, the students found the Sutton Mountain field trip a practical test of their classroom studies. "We used a lot of the skills we've been learning in school," says senior Shannon Ford.

It was also an opportunity to practice teamwork and real-life task management, says senior Stephen Peel. "You've got all these personalities, and you've got one objective," he says. "You come at it from five different ways, and you compromise, and you come to a consensus. This is how things get done in the real world."

A deep attachment to the out-of-doors. Stephen Peel would like to conduct research on—and in—wilderness.



Stephen Peel left a good profession that didn't really suit him in search of a vocation that would take him closer to his heart's desire, the wilderness of the West.

It took some courage and much financial sacrifice, but Stephen, 36, knows he made the right choice. Now a student in Forest Recreation Resources, Stephen is asking, and helping answer, important questions about wilderness: what it is, where it is, who should use it and in what way, how it should be protected, how it fits into the American natural and cultural heritage.

"My feelings about wilderness are strong," he says. "I don't mean to

TRANSPLANTING CO-OPS

In 1989, when Bob Wagner landed a good job with Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources, he carried some impressive credentials: a new Forest Science doctorate from OSU and a thorough-going commitment to research. He also had something his competitors probably didn't have—a working knowledge of the research cooperative, a highly effective and practical way to organize a research program.

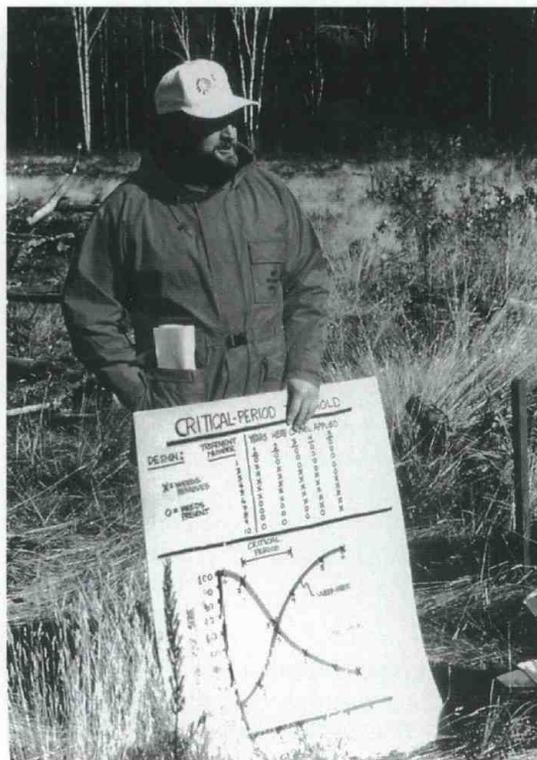
Wagner, 38, is program leader of the Vegetation Management Alternatives Program (VMAP), a \$3-million-a-year research cooperative that is developing alternatives to herbicides for managing Ontario's forests. Like OSU's research cooperatives, VMAP provides the framework for basic and applied research, technology transfer, and education of professionals and the public.

Direct funding for VMAP comes from the Ontario government, but cooperating forest products firms furnish study plots, machine operations, materials, and labor, which can amount to a substantial contribution, says Wagner. In exchange for helping with the research, the companies gain immediate access to practical solutions for weed-control problems.

Wagner learned about co-ops by helping manage one. In his nine-year stint at OSU, Wagner helped build the CRAFTS cooperative, headquartered in the Forest Science Department at OSU. CRAFTS (Coordinated Research on Alternative Forestry Treatments and Systems) was among the first efforts of the Department of Forest Science to organize research in a way that emphasized practical results and participant funding. The co-op is still in place, though now it's called (less colorfully) Vegetation Management Research Cooperative. The cooperative research model has proved very successful at the College of Forestry; 11 co-ops are now at home here.

Wagner has proved that the co-op idea is a hardy competitor by success-

fully transplanting it, with some modifications, into a new environment. "Thanks to my experience with CRAFTS and other co-ops at the College of Forestry," he says, "I was beautifully prepared to pull together a substantial program when I came to Ontario."



He got a lucky break with the provincial elections of 1990, which ushered in a New Democratic Party government to replace the outgoing Progressive Conservatives. The left-of-center New Democrats have a strong environmental-protection platform that opposes chemical herbicides.

Wagner asked for and received \$15 million through a proposal to the provincial cabinet to build a research co-op focused on finding alternatives to herbicides. "I was lucky, in that circumstances were favorable," he says, "but, then, I've heard 'luck' defined as 'when preparation meets

opportunity.' I was prepared because of the experience that I'd brought from OSU. I was given the opportunity and took it."

It took Wagner a while to get used to the scale of things up there. Ontario is a huge province, twice the size of Texas, three times the size of

California. Most of its 10 million people are clustered around Toronto and the so-called "golden horseshoe" of industrial development in the south. The rest live in smaller towns, on scattered farms, or in isolated timber and mining towns farther north.

Some of Ontario's economic and political realities are similar to Oregon's, Wagner says, and some are different. Ontario's economy, like Oregon's, is heavily

When preparation meets opportunity. Bob Wagner introduced the cooperative model of research into a receptive environment.

dependent on forest products, its single largest component; they're worth about \$12 billion a year to the province.

However, forest ownership patterns aren't the same as they are in Oregon. About 84 percent of Ontario's productive forest land belongs to the provincial government, about 1 percent is federally owned, and 15 percent is in private, generally nonindustrial ownership. Large timber companies, which own very little land of their own, lease harvesting rights from the provincial

BUILDING A BRIDGE

Even as a young girl, roaming the alpine meadows of the Sierra Nevada with her wildflower field guides, Barbara Gartner felt that classifying things ought to be the beginning of discovery, not the end. "I always hated mere cataloguing," she says, "identifying something only for the sake of knowing its name."

Linking growers and users. Good science is good for the environment, says Barbara Gartner.



Today, fittingly enough, Gartner is a scientist whose work doesn't occupy any neat academic niche. Officially, she's a wood anatomist and assistant professor with the College of Forestry's Department of Forest Products, even though her education and experience have focused not on trees but on herbs and shrubs.

Her research program emphasizes the relationship of the structural elements of a plant to their various functions, an approach that yields interesting insights not only for a variety of plant species (especially trees) but across a variety of disciplines and at a range of practical levels, from the most theoretical to the most applied.

For example, right now she's comparing the structures of juvenile and mature wood in Douglas-fir trees at the cell level, trying to find out exactly what contribution the juvenile wood makes to the development of the tree—how its physiological function helps the tree grow.

This research promises to be useful not only to plant physiologists studying structure and function in other species, and to ecologists examining the relationship of a plant's form to its environment, but also to silviculturists and commercial

tree growers. Gartner hopes her work will be used by others to devise methods of manipulating the growing tree and its environment to achieve targeted goals in wood quality. Ultimately, the users of the wood—that is, all of us—would benefit from more efficient, less wasteful commercial wood production.

Gartner's work thus links theory and practice in fruitful ways. "Even though I want to stay grounded in science," she says, "I see myself as being a bridge between the scientists and the practitioners, the growers and users." Providing a strong research base for the practical management of natural resources, she believes, makes good environmental sense. "If we're going to use forests for wood—any forests, anywhere in the world—then we need to know the quality of the wood so that we can put it to the best possible use."

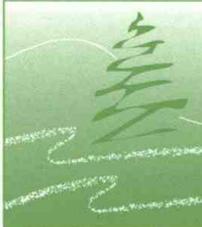
Gartner earned her bachelor's in biology from Swarthmore College in

Pennsylvania and her master's in Arctic biology at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks. After several adventures, including a hitch with the Peace Corps in Guatemala, she enrolled in the doctoral program at Stanford to study physiology and plant ecology. For the subject of her dissertation, she chose poison-oak, a woody plant with widely varying growth habits. What fascinated her was the way poison-oak can assume two extremely different shapes, an upright shrub and a climbing vine.

She was able to show that poison-oak will climb if there's something to climb on, but will stand upright if it has to. In other words, it changes its growth form in response to environmental factors. (She also got an extensive education in poison-oak remedies. "I'm not very susceptible to the allergen," she says, "but I got a lot of it, and I still have scars.")

The Gartners' first child, Nathan, was born four days after Barbara turned in her dissertation. Their second, Elena, came along 16 months later, when she was finishing up a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of California at Berkeley. "I want to mention family," she says, "to let people know it can be done. My husband has been extremely supportive, and we've decided together to hire whatever help we need for both of us to focus on our careers, enjoy the children, and stay sane."

Gartner believes she and the Department of Forest Products are a good fit. "Here I'm free from some of the preconceived notions I might find in a formal ecology department," she says. "Global-change research, for example, is a popular field right now, and a lot of other institutions would have expected that type of research from an ecologist. What I'm doing with plant form and function isn't being talked about quite so much, but it's important. Here I have the freedom to pursue it in the context of the study of wood."



forestry Currents

Kudos for faculty

The 1993 Dean's Awards went to a College administrator who was instrumental in organizing an important symposium held at OSU in October, to the office manager for the COPE research co-op, and to a team of faculty who drew up the College's first Research Forest Plan.



Pam Henderson

Pam Henderson, coordinator of instructional services, was honored for her leadership and hard work in organizing MINFORS II, a national symposium centered around minority participation in natural resource-related education and careers.

Skye Etessami, office coordinator for COPE, was honored for her excellent management skills in a diverse office environment.

Also honored was the group of faculty members from the College and other University departments who spent almost a year devising a long-term management plan for McDonald-Dunn Research Forests. Members of that group were Paul Adams, Terry Brown, Bill Emmingham, Rick Fletcher, Stan Gregory, Everett Hansen, Bill McComb, Charles Meslow, Mike Newton, Steve Sharrow, Bo Shelby, Phil Sollins, John Tappeiner, and Steve Tesch. Norm Johnson and John Sessions were co-chairmen.

The annual Dean's Awards, given in December, recognize faculty and staff at the College who have contributed to their professions or to College life during the preceding year. ■

MINFORS II succeeds, points to further work

MINFORS II was a success—and much more needs to be done to promote a truly multicultural natural resources workforce.

Those were the follow-up conclusions of the steering committee that organized MINFORS II, a national symposium held at OSU in October of 1993. The purpose of the gathering was to encourage more young people from the nation's ethnic minorities to pursue careers in forestry and natural resource professions.

The symposium attracted over 400 students, faculty, counselors, and natural resource professionals, of a variety of ethnic backgrounds, from all over the United States. They came to hear keynote speakers Denise Meridith, deputy director of the Bureau of Land Management, and Charles Jordan, director of the Portland Parks Bureau, and to attend sessions on such topics as research opportunities, social and economic issues, and resource management.

The program succeeded in promoting cross-cultural communication and networking, says the steering committee's report.

MINFORS II also spotlighted some problems to be faced in diversifying the nation's natural resources workforce.

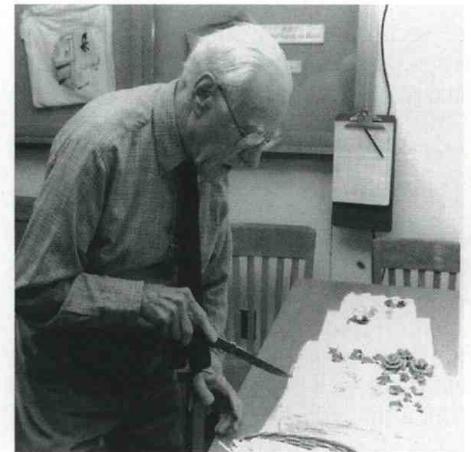
The symposium was judged worthwhile by promoters and participants alike, says the College of Forestry's Pam Henderson, a member of the MINFORS II steering committee. "There was overwhelming support for a third MINFORS, which has already been scheduled at Colorado State University." ■

Ninety and holding

Ted Scheffer has retired twice, but he still comes to work part of each day. When Scheffer turned 90 on February 10, his Forest Products Department colleagues decided to give him something in keeping with his long and productive career.

The T.C. Scheffer Biodeterioration Laboratory, in the College's Forest Research Lab, was dedicated on Scheffer's birthday as about 100 friends and colleagues applauded. The party, like the new name of the laboratory, was a surprise to Scheffer, who smiled as he embraced old friends and chatted with co-workers.

Scheffer retired from the Forest Service in 1969, but he continued to conduct research on wood preservation at OSU until his official retirement in 1986. That research hasn't



Ted Scheffer cuts the cake

stopped, though, and neither has he. Scheffer comes in to his office at the Forest Research Lab almost every day to check on his fungus experiments, work on papers, and visit with co-workers at coffee break.

"I've never wanted to fully retire and take it easy," Scheffer says. "I enjoy my work, and I hope to be here for awhile yet." ■

A tree is a giving thing

Have you ever stopped to think about all the things trees give us?

Houses for us to live in . . .
fiber to make our paper . . .
fuel to keep us warm . . . cool
shade on a hot day . . . a
feeling of peace and content-
ment . . . a sense of joy at a
forest's life and growth.

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that your trees can give you
something else, too: lifelong
income, starting now.

How? Through a charitable
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and estate taxes.

You'll be able to enjoy in-
come from your land right now.
And you'll have the good
feeling that comes from sup-
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Lisa C. Mattes
Director of Development
College of Forestry
Peavy Hall A154
Oregon State University
Corvallis, Oregon 97331-5704
Tel. 503•737•1493

Wagner

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government for a fixed period. The provincial government bears nearly all of the postharvest reforestation cost under current agreements.

Therefore, there's less incentive for private industry to fund reforestation research than there is Oregon, Wagner says. "However, this is changing quickly. Forest industry is being asked to take on a larger role in the long-term maintenance of the forest, and I predict that their interest in research will increase accordingly."

The six VMAP cooperators work closely with research staff, conducting studies on such questions as

whether grazing sheep can effectively reduce competition around seedlings, whether gas-powered brush saws can be as effective as herbicides in clearing vegetation, and whether treatment of sprouting stumps can prevent regrowth.

Wagner spends most of his time leading other people's research, including a number of studies under contract with outside agencies, but he reserves a few hours for his own projects. They include editing a book, *Regenerating Ontario's Forests* (modeled after *Regenerating Oregon's Forests*, published by the OSU Extension Service in 1978). "I find the area

of research leadership to be quite fascinating," he says. "In fact, I'm undergoing an internal career debate at the moment. I could go either way—managing larger research programs or conducting research of my own."

He likes his job, but expects opportunity will beckon him to move on within a few years, perhaps to a university, perhaps to another large research organization. "I came here with a set of career objectives in mind," he says, "and I've achieved most of them. I couldn't have done it without OSU."



College of
Forestry
Oregon State University
Peavy Hall 154
Corvallis, OR 97331-5704

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