

Natural Resource News

UAF School of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences
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School name change now official

THE SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE AND Land Resources Management has a new name: School of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences. After extensive review within the school and UAF, the change was approved by the UA Board of Regents in late February.

"The change reflects our current emphasis on providing knowledge that is important for the successful long-term management of natural resources in Alaska and the circumpolar world," said Dean Carol E. Lewis. "It includes

traditional agricultural and forest management, and with the school's inclusion of the geography department, also covers our mission to discover, describe, and interpret the spatial characteristics of northern regions."

The name of the school's research arm, Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, is unchanged, as is its land-grant mission of research and outreach in the traditional agricultural and forest industries, as well as changing and emerging industries.

Henri accepts CARET delegate post

FORMER UAF REGENT, ATTORNEY, AND Alaska businessman Joseph Henri has agreed to represent Alaska on the Council for Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching (CARET), the national grassroots organization that works to enhance national support and understanding of the research, extension, and teaching effort of the land-grant university system. CARET is part of the Division of Agriculture of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges.

Henri, an Alaska lawyer for 39 years, has had a distinguished career in both public service and business. Currently he is president of South Central Timber Development, Inc., Shelter, Inc., Apex El Nido Gold Mines, Inc., and Builder of Alaska Corp.

While serving as a regent (1991–1999) Henri was chair of the Finance, Facilities, and Land Management Committee for over seven years. He also was a member of the UA Foundation Board of Trustees (1996–1999). He graduated from Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, D.C., and holds a Juris Doctor degree.

CARET was established in 1981 by land-grant institutions in cooperation with individuals and groups who depend on land-grant programs. The aim is to ensure the viability of those programs that contribute to agriculture, food and nutrition, natural resources, individual and family wellbeing, and community development.

On the national level, CARET supports land-grant programs through testimony to congressional committees and executive branches. CARET delegates complement this effort through individual contacts with congressional delegations. The organization and its delegates also work with national agricultural organizations.

On the state level, CARET delegates provide lay leadership and expertise about the federal budget process and national issues affecting agriculture. They work with agricultural advocacy and advisory systems and land-grant campuses to support programs. Henri is chair of the board of directors of World Trade Alaska, and serves on the board of directors for several organizations including the Resource Development Council.



SNRAS logo contest begins this week

AN IN-HOUSE COMPETITION FOR A NEW SNRAS/AFES logo will run March 19 through April 15. The contest is open to students, staff, and faculty of SNRAS, AFES, the Cooperative Extension Service, and members of their immediate families. The winning entrant will be awarded tickets for a Prince William Sound cruise, compliments of SNRAS advisory board member Stan Stephens. The winner will be announced Friday, May 2.

Entries should reflect the work of the organization and should be visually compatible with the UAF logo. After review by graphic artists, the final selection will be made by a small committee representing the school (student, faculty, staff, and the dean/director).

Submit your entry on a standard white 8½ x 11-inch paper, with no name or other identifying mark on the sheet. On a separate sheet of paper, write your name, address, contact phone number or e-mail. Submit a rendering of the design in black and white. If desired, a color version also may be submitted. Submit the entry to SNRAS/AFES Logo Contest, 172 AHRB, P.O. Box 757140, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks, AK, 99775.

The winning entry will become the property of the school for all uses and is subject to modification or revision. Entries will not be returned, but can be claimed immediately after May 2. If no entry is deemed appropriate a winner will not be selected at this time.

Advisory board now recruiting

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW BEING SOUGHT for the advisory board that serves the School of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences and the Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station. Made up of Alaskan volunteers who serve by appointment, the board provides guidance on program direction and priorities from the perspectives of various public constituencies. The board last met at Fairbanks in November and will meet in mid-April.

Four of the board members represent the disciplines of the school's research and degree programs; the remaining represent a broad disciplinary and geographical diversity, with one member who is a student majoring in a SNRAS degree program. Nominations for membership are received and reviewed by the dean and AFES director, who forwards a recommendation for appointment to the Chancellor.

"One of our primary functions is to help provide direction and insight into the needs of the workplaces we represent," said John "Chris" Maisch, board chairman. "The public and private sectors desire employees, research, and continuing education services that



Advisory board members (left to right) Ray Jacobczik, Mike Hoyt (standing), and Nancy Welch chat with professor Ed Packee (standing) and Associate Dean Alan Mitchell (seated at right) during their November meeting.

meet their needs and are responsive to change. If we can help the school meet this challenge, we will profoundly affect our state's wellbeing."

In November the advisory board considered reports from the dean and other faculty and staff on the school's name change, the USDA Agricultural Research Service, staffing, funding, the Palmer Research and Extension Center, enrollment, academic departments, the strategic plan, program review, the UAF master plan, recruitment, and the Resources Management Society.

Currently serving on the board with Maisch are Ray Jakubczak, Nancy

Welch, Paul Dinkins, Stan Stephens, Mike Hoyt, Marcia Ward, and Elaine Williams.

"These people represent a broad spectrum of constituents and are people of action," Maisch said. "The maturing board has developed a proactive role—one that is exciting, but also more demanding. Each member has to shoulder a portion of the task and be willing to work toward a common objective. At a time when complex demands are being placed on the wealth of natural resources in our state, it is critical that our board is comprised of people with perspective, vision, and knowledge born of experience."

Forester certification promotes professional growth

TOM MALONE HAS QUALIFIED FOR THE rating of Certified Forester (CF) by the Society of American Foresters (SAF), joining a group of 1,400 certified foresters nationwide. Malone is a research assistant in the department of forest sciences growth and yield program. The certification program provides a professional benchmark, since state licensing and registration criteria for foresters is inconsistent or nonexistent. Dr. Edmond C. Packee of forest sciences also maintains certification, which means that the forester must complete 60 contact hours of continuing forestry education every three years.

The SAF established the certification program in 1994 to recognize and document professional forestry expertise. The program verifies qualifications and allows participants to measure themselves against the highest professional standards.

A certified forester has a professional degree from an SAF-accredited or SAF-candidate curriculum, or a substantially equivalent degree, and five years of professional forestry-related experience. To further strengthen the program, as of January 2003, applicants also must pass a written examination.

Participants in the CF program agree

to abide by its requirements, to maintain continuing professional development, and to conduct all forestry practices in a responsible, professional manner consistent with state and federal regulations governing environmental quality and forest management practices.

The SAF is a nonprofit organization representing more than 17,000 professional foresters and natural resource professionals, and is the scientific and educational association representing the forestry profession in the United States. For more information about the program, visit the website at www.certifiedforester.org.

Alternative Livestock Producers Conference set for April 10

PRODUCERS, COOPERATIVE EXTENSION Service staff, and others will meet in Anchorage April 10–12 for an educational conference on nontraditional ruminant livestock species. Anyone interested in learning about this type of agriculture in the north is welcome. The meeting includes two days of presentations and discussion and a livestock operation tour of the Mat-Su Valley on April 12.

Session one on Thursday is “Animal Management Concepts of Diversified Livestock Management.” Presenters are Smiley Ford of the Ford Elk Farm in Whitehorse, Yukon



Saving an exotic—When this Sukatshews Larch (larix sukac zewii N. Dyl.) stood in the way of planned West Ridge construction, facilities and planning staff had it moved to a new location near the museum. The tree came from seed germinated in 1964 by Les Viereck. In 1974 it was transplanted to campus from the forestry reserve by David Klein and Don Dinkel.

Territory, Vern Anderson of the Carrington Research Extension Center, North Dakota State University, Janice Rowell, of SNRAS/AFES and Todd Pettit of the Pitchfork Ranch in Palmer, veterinarians Kathy Burek of Alaska Veterinary Pathology Services in Eagle River and Robert Gerlach, acting state veterinarian, Palmer. Presenters for Session two, “Veterinary Medicine Concepts of Diversified Livestock” are Kathy Burek and Robert Gerlach. Session three, “Alaska Diversified Livestock Operations,” is presented by Palmer producers Tom Williams of Reindeer Farm, John Nash of Windy Valley Musk Ox Farm, and Delbert Simineo of Northern Lights Elk Ranch. A banquet will be held Thursday evening. On April 11, session four is “Agro-Tourism Opportunities for Alaska diversified Livestock Ranches and Farms.” Presenters are Andy Seidl of the Colorado State University department of resource economics, Peter Fix of SNRAS/AFES, Kim Williams of the Reindeer Farm, Mike Miller of Big Game Alaska in Portage, and Roy Corral Musk



Ox Farm. Presenters for session five, “Research Updates,” are Vern Anderson, Mingchu Zhang, Greg Finstad, Norman Harris, and Milan Shipka of SNRAS/AFES and Stoney Wright of the DNR Plant Materials Center.

Participants can register by contacting the Mat-Su District Cooperative Extension Service, 533 East Fireweed Ave., Palmer, AK 99645; credit card registration may be done by phone via Mary Jo Pyne: 907-474-5211. March 20 is the deadline for getting the conference rate for hotel accommodations. For more information, contact Dr. Milan Shipka, Extension Livestock Specialist (ffmps@uaf.edu) 907-474-7429; Hunter Michelbrink, Extension Agent (nnhjm@uaf.edu) 907-745-3360; or, Mickie Woodward, Admin. Secretary (fmmjw@uaf.edu) 907-745-3553.

April wolf control forum organized by Resource Management Society students

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR SATURDAY, April 12. The Resource Management Society is organizing a panel discussion on wolf control in Alaska. Five panel members from various professional backgrounds and viewpoints will participate in the event, which is at 3 p.m. in Schaible Auditorium on the UAF campus.

RMS fund raising continues with the sale of travel coffee mugs and t-shirts. Kimberley Maher, Sarah Banks, and Joe Tatar won the RMS logo contest, and the logos adorn the shirts. The mugs are \$5; shirts are \$10 for short sleeve, \$15

for long sleeve. Contact fbrms@uaf.edu for more information. Supplies are limited!

On March 1 the RMS held its biannual faculty, staff, and student bonfire. Professor Susan Todd graciously opened her home for the event, and plenty of scrumptious Italian food was provided by RMS and attending faculty and staff. It was a great evening of food, fire, and fun!

The Resource Management Society is a student club associated with the UAF School of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences.

Notes

MAX STARK, AFES FARM manager in Fairbanks during the 1980s, died in his home state of Montana earlier this month. A memorial gathering was held March 7 in Fairbanks for friends and family. Max came to Alaska after retiring from the school system in Polson, Montana, where he returned after leaving the university. His two sons, Chris and Paul, still live in Fairbanks.

A FIELD TRIP in late January gave students, faculty, and staff a chance to visit the Fairbanks Exploration Co. owned by John Reeves for a behind-the-scenes tour. Highlights included the old library, mammoth tusks and bones, the Davidson Ditch, new permafrost tunnels, tunnel construction, winter operation of an open pit gold mine in Fox, and gold dredge #2 at Fairbanks Creek.

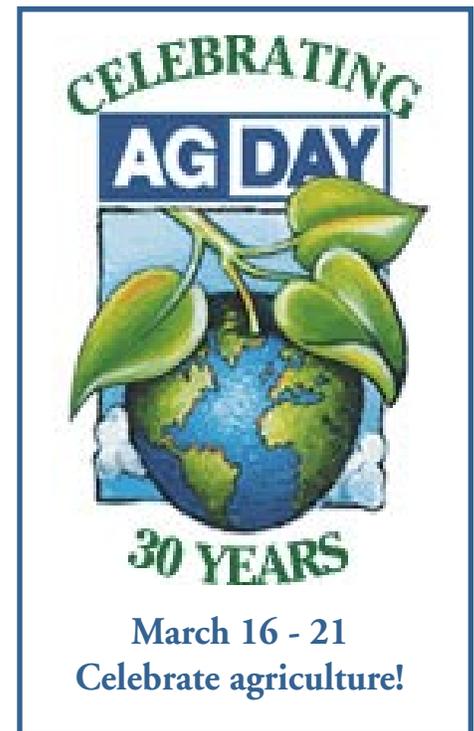
PERENNIALS AND PEST control were featured topics at the 2003 Alaska Statewide Greenhouse and Nursery Conference in Fairbanks in late January. The two-day annual event is sponsored by the Cooperative Extension Service and open to the public. Perennial grower Leonard Perry of the Vermont extension system gave presentations on overwintering and hardiness and on herbaceous perennial production. Mary Alyce Kobler, manager of the Boyce Thompson Institute Research Greenhouses at Cornell University, spoke on greenhouse pest control using biological organisms and no pesticides. Nurseryman Bill Sutton of

Bailey Nurseries in St. Paul, Minnesota, spoke on overwintering containerized nursery stock. Among the Alaskan speakers were SNRAS professor Merriam Karlsson, who discussed her work on greenhouse raspberry production.

VALERIE BARBER, SNRAS Ph.D. grad and forest sciences resource associate, was invited to an intensive week-long symposium in Puerto Rico, "Dissertation Initiative for the Advancement of Climate Change Research." Barber was among the 40 recent graduates from 24 countries who were asked to present their doctoral research at the symposium, which was established in 2001 to foster interdisciplinary understanding across the range of disciplines associated with climate change studies. Symposium goals are to introduce new graduates to the research community, foster early career development, and forge bonds across peer groups. Sponsors are the American Geophysical Union, American Meteorological Society, American Society of Limnology and Oceanography, and the Ecological Society of America. Support from the Geoscience Directorate of the U.S. National Science Foundation and the Office of Earth Sciences of the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration covers participant costs.

DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKER Marie-Helene Cousineau from Nunavut Territory in Canada was on campus for a week in February visiting classes. During her stay she gave two public presentations: a showing of productions from Arnait Ikajurtigiit (Women's Video

Workshop) and "Media Making and Sustainable Economic Development in Nunavut: The Example of Igloolik." Cousineau founded Tarriaksuk Video Centre in 1991, formed the Women's Video Workshop collective, and is its coordinator and trainer. She holds an MFA in communications studies from the University of Iowa and is an active collaborating producer with Mary Kunuk, Madeline Ivalu and Susan Avingaq. Her visit was sponsored by the UAF journalism department, UAF Canadian Studies, and SNRAS.



The University of Alaska Fairbanks is an AA/EEO employer and educational institution.