



The TAPROOT

News for Tau Phi Delta Alumni

www.tauphidelta.org

Volume 9

Fall 2012

Say it Ain't So, Joe

I do believe that this is the first editorial to appear in *The Taproot*. In light of recent developments, we thought it might be a good idea. I claim no special perspective, but have used this opportunity to try to understand my own thoughts and feelings on the topic.

I know this title isn't original and has probably been used before in this same context. But it originally was directed at another sports hero who was found to be all too human and it seems to fit our recent experiences at Penn State.

To keep things in perspective, I'm not a jock, and never was. Football Saturdays in the mid-1960s were more likely to find me shooting out at Scotia or scrubbing my dented '58 Ford at the car wash, rather than drinking and cheering on the troops at Beaver Stadium. But Joe Pa has been a part of my entire 47-year Penn State experience, and was a major part of it for 45 of those years. I am not a sports fanatic, am not a season ticket holder, nor do I have my home decorated in blue and white. However, I did closely follow the progress of the football team and university, and proudly display my "We Are Penn State" paw prints at the house.

I have spent quite a bit of the past year in the various stages of grief regarding the unfolding information about the hideous crimes of Jerry Sandusky, and our university's woeful initial responses.

At first, I found it convenient to deny that the crimes happened, even though there have been so many news reports of similar crimes in other trusted institutions. But even if they were committed, I found it difficult to believe that my dear Penn State engaged in a conspiracy to cover it up.

When it became clear that there was fire behind all that smoke, I felt angry and disgusted that something like that could go on without anyone in power really doing anything to stop it or expose it. But that anger was directed at the administration.

But even then, I could not really accept the fact that the coach was culpable. I constructed a worldview where a real gentleman (of a certain era) just did not fully appreciate the enormity and brutality of what was happening. Or maybe one in which his subordinates did not want to lay out the sordid facts, so he didn't really comprehend the disgusting details. Or maybe it was a world in which Joe did understand the allegations, and did the right thing by reporting it up the chain of command, but then stepped back to let the system work, for better or worse, without his interference.

As time passed, and the results of the University's Freeh investigation came out, that worldview changed. It now looks to me like Joe knew what was going on at some level, but was more concerned about protecting the image of the University, which he and his family

Awards `R Us

Two Tau Phi Delta Brothers — both are pledge brothers from the Fall 1977 pledge class — were recently recognized by the University.



Alumni Fellow John Norwig

In the fall of 2011, **John A. Norwig** was recognized with the one of the highest honors that Penn State bestows upon an alumnus — the Alumni Fellow Award. For his outstanding professional accomplishments he was given the lifelong title of Alumni Fellow, as presented by the Penn State Alumni Association.

Established in 1973, there were 24 recipients honored in 2011 and just 689 alumni all-time since the award's inception. Only one other Tau Phi Delta Brother has been so recognized. In 2005, the **Edward F. Kocjancic, Sr.** (PSU '54) was honored.

For the past 20 years, Br. Norwig has been the head trainer for the Pittsburgh Steelers and renowned in his sports management profession and lectured across the country on sports-related injuries, particularly on detecting head trauma and concussions.

Originally from York, Pa. he and his family reside in western Penna. in Wexford.

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so loved, and its football program than making the problems public or really calling out the perpetrator. On top of that, the draconian punishment doled out by the usually toothless NCAA seemed cruel and unusual.

Now a bit more time has passed, and I guess that I am at some level of acceptance. I was recently talking with a group of friends, and mentioned that I had really failed in dealing with a tough issue, even though I knew it was coming and had very good intentions of handling it differently. But as you know, the road to Hell is paved in good intentions, so I was bummed out by my failure to live up to my expectations. However, someone pointed out that we don't have to be perfect. I don't have to be perfect, you don't have to be perfect, Penn State doesn't have to be perfect, and Joe did not have to be perfect either. His imperfections just played out on a larger stage with higher stakes.

Yes, the punishment was harsh, and the innocent are punished as much if not more than the guilty, but that too shall pass and punishment can lead to redemption. Our University will come out of these dark times and happiness will be returned to the Valley.

Joe, I wish you could tell the world and me it didn't happen, and I would probably believe you, but that is now out of your control.

But in my heart I know who won those games, in my heart I know where the image of that statue belongs, and in my heart I know that even with your imperfections, you leave a legacy that even a monumental error of judgment cannot erase. Rest in peace, Coach.

And yes, we still are Penn State!

**Our New Editor**

I would like to introduce myself as the new editor of *The Taproot*. My name is Bill Herb and I pledged in Fall of 1965 and graduated in 1968 with a BS degree in Forest Science. I also received an MS degree from Penn State in Forest Hydrology in 1978. My wife, our chocolate lab, and I reside in the "Land of Pleasant Living" — for you Natty Boh (beer) fans that's on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

Last year, I was asked to take over as our alumni newsletter editor for Br. Tom Yorke. Tom and I go way back. One of my earliest memories of Tom was during Hell Week, when he and several other grad students who lived in the old Grad House, burst into the kitchen at 238 East Fairmount where we pledges were deeply involved in repainting the kitchen, and, yes, while trying to stay awake. After hearing the dreaded cry of "Pledges!", we expected the worst, but, as I recall, we were allowed to go about our business without any further harassment. A situation for which I am eternally grateful.

Fast forward to 1972. I am alone in the grad student offices in the old Ferguson Building, probably re-reading the rejection notices that were my only tangible results from various U.S. Forest Service applications. Heck, even 84 Lumber didn't want me! The phone rang, and since I was the only one in the area, I picked it up. It was Tom Yorke.

He was working as a hydrologist for the U.S. Geological Survey. At the time, I recall wondering, "Now what the hell is that?" He told me they were looking to hire another hydrologist to help him on a project. Of course, his first thought on a hiring pool was the forest hydrology students at his Alma Mater... Better yet, a Tau Phi!

So I filled out my application, traveled to College Park, Maryland for an interview, and a short 6 months later (no thanks to a Federal hiring freeze imposed by President Nixon), found myself working on an urban hydrology project in the less-than-pristine waters in the suburbs near our Nation's capital.

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The Taproot

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The Taproot is published by the Tau Phi Delta Foundation with the support of the Board of Directors of the Penn State Alpha Chapter of the Tau Phi Delta Fraternity.

Recent Reunion Another Tau Phi Success!

A reunion of Tau Phi Delts from the late 50s, 60s, and early 70s was recently held in Happy Valley.

About 70 Brothers and their spouses and 20 Actives attended an old-fashioned cocktail party at the House on Tuesday, September the 4th. (A complete list of Alumni attendees is found on page 7). The bartenders were wearing white shirts and ties, which was reminiscent of post-game cocktail parties in the 60s, when everyone wore coats and ties and dresses. The Actives later dined on pizza while the Alums split up into smaller groups to sample the cuisine of the downtown restaurants and watering holes.

On Wednesday the 5th, some of the attendees golfed at The Toftrees Resort's course, while others toured the Penn State Arboretum and some of the newer buildings on campus, including the Forest Resources Building. The campus tour ended for many with lunch at the Nittany Lion Inn. Others went shopping in downtown State College, and a few guys used the time to revisit some of their favorite fishing holes in local trout streams.

The main event of the reunion was a reception and dinner at Toftrees on Wednesday evening. They all enjoyed a reception on the veranda overlooking their golf course. The banquet featured a well-received,

continuous showing of photos of Brothers and spouses at Penn State in the 50s and 60s, photos of fishing and hunting trips, photos of other gatherings of Tau Phi Delts, and family photos of attendees.

Barry Stauffer put together the photo show. Mike Prinkey and Kory Enck gave updates on the Penn State Alpha Chapter and the Tau Phi Delta Foundation. After dinner, a Brother from each pledge year in attendance gave an update, including photos, on their classmates and families. Some of the guys and spouses had more than 40 years to catch up on so the fishing and hunting tales and bragging about kids and grandkids continued in the "Down Under" lounge late into the evening.

A group of 28 Brothers and spouses went on a post-reunion cruise. They departed Baltimore on Thursday 6th for a 10-day cruise of New England and the Canadian Maritime Provinces. The cruise featured stops in Portland and Bar Harbor, Maine, and St John and Halifax, Nova Scotia. They had private Tau Phi Delta tours of St. John and Halifax, which featured visits to the Bay of Fundy's reversing falls and rapids, Peggy's Cove, and the Canadian Maritime Museum. A few onboard get-togethers occurred with drinks before dinner, and late-night dancing and Karaoke sessions.

See Reunion on page 5



The Evening Gathering At Toftrees

Awards continued from page 1

Later in April 2012, **Earl W. Hower** was honored by the Penn State University School of Forest Resources Alumni Group's Outstanding Alumni Award. Established in 2001, this award is granted to up to four Outstanding Alumni annually.



Earl Hower (right) with Dr. Michael Messina, SFR Director.

Br. Hower joins a long line of Tau Phis who previously received this same recognition: 2010 – **David J. Gustafson** (as Outstanding Recent Alumnus) and **Thomas H. Yorke**, 2008 – **Charles H. Strauss**, 2007 – **John A. "Jack" Byerly**, 2006 – **Robert C. McColly**, 2005 – **Robert H. Bommer**, 2003 – **Gregory M. Schrum** and **Mark R. Webb**, and 2002 – **Edward F. Kocjancic, Sr.**

Earl is currently director of chapter relations for the Izaak Walton League of America — a national conservation organization located in the Washington, DC area and before that worked in hunter and wildlife conservation education with the National Rifle Association. He served for nearly 20 years on his community's Tree Commission, and as chair he helped to establish their long-term Urban Forestry Management Plan.

He has resided in Leesburg, Va. for the past 30 years.

Board Of Director's Report

By Mike Prinkey (Spring '96), Phi

Greetings Brothers and Little Sisters! I hope all of you are doing well. This is where I usually come up with a few anecdotes about fall hunting season, football, etc; followed up with a report of activities at the House. There's nothing much positive going on that I find noteworthy of reporting on, so I'm dedicating this article to something that I really want to grab your attention with: 95/5.

Ninety-five percent of the participation at Tau Phi Delta comes from 5% of the Alumni on average, possibly from up to 10% on a rare occasion. There are over 700 living Alumni Brothers in our Fraternity. Think of how many you saw at the last house event that you attended, be it Spring Homecoming, Fall Homecoming, Golf Tournament, or Bear Drives. Alumni donations of time or money trend the same way. Participation by alumni is the strongest tradition of TΦΔ, and one that sets us apart from other PSU Greek organizations.

Wondering how you can help? Consider this. Like many organizations we are getting by financially, but we certainly are not keeping up or even improving. The condition of our House is continuing to deteriorate, and it will take some major effort and finances to rectify. We have some big fundraising plans with the Tau Phi Delta Foundation (see the letter/brochure enclosed), but this effort is struggling along thru infancy while time marches on.

It's time we turn that 95/5 effort around the other way. For example, if every Alumni Brother donates \$10, and does so not just once, but every year ... the possibilities for TΦΔ would be unimaginable! A very small donation given by a very large number of Brothers.

Can you spare \$10 a year? For a more recent Alumnus, this might mean \$600 over the rest of his lifetime. For more "experienced"

Alumni, maybe a few hundred. Skipping a fast food lunch, a 12-pack, or this year's latest hunting gadget or some new fishing lore is a minimal sacrifice to make this happen. This is starting to sound like a sales pitch, so I'll leave you with this thought.

Maintaining the legacy and traditions of TΦΔ is important and cannot be done by large efforts of a few, but it can be done by small efforts of many.

I look forward to seeing many of you at Homecoming. If you can't make then, but are in the area, stop by the House and see the Actives. Share a memory or some wisdom with them and in doing so you'll help pass along the traditions of our fine organization.

Any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (814)280-7888 or mip103@gmail.com.

The Phi's Message

By Steven Toth (Fall '09), Phi

Summer is winding down, which means it's time for the important things: football, hunting, and this whole education thing. Anyways, I hope this newsletter finds everyone in good health. Tau Phi Delta enters the fall hoping to continue its rampant pace of community service, philanthropy, intramurals, academics, and other extracurricular activities ... some of which involve blaze orange and sitting quietly.

The Alpha Chapter enters Fall '12 with 21 active brothers, with 18 currently living in the house. We will also have a boarder living in the house this fall; he hopes to pledge Tau Phi Delta this semester and has already shown great interest in the fraternity and its history. As always, please let us know if you know any incoming Penn Staters with a potential interest in Tau Phi Delta.

New additions and new faces continue to make their way into the house. Since the last *Taproot*, we have welcomed 8 new brothers into our historic organization, and, in particular, the Fall 2011 Pledge Class handmade and installed three deer-antler chandeliers, including a

gigantic one in the foyer. So when you make it back, be sure to look these new fixtures over and give them a well-deserved "Atta boy!"

Even with the improvements that have been made, it does not take a rocket scientist to realize that the house at 427 East Fairmount is aging. Many of the windows, both upstairs and downstairs, are drafty, and combined the lack of insulation in the House, I couldn't begin to quantify the amount of heat that is wasted during the winter months. In addition, cracks are developing in the brick and blockwork both inside and out, we recently had to replace the roof over the Phi's Suite (The former housemother's suite), and the asbestos in the house is certainly not getting any safer either.

I don't bring these issues up in order to beg for money, or to deflect blame from the Actives, which would be unfounded. We've worked hard to maintain this house, our home and your home, and will continue to do our best in the future. However, we believe it is necessary that we start to put together a plan to address some of these issues within a specific time frame.

Currently, the Alumni are in the process of replacing the patio, something that desperately needs done, and we can only support so many projects at once. This does not mean we shouldn't continue preparing for future renovations and improvements, so if you have any information or advice, or simply want to get more involved with the Fraternity, please come forward. Please lend us your expertise and help us plan for the future of the house. Time, ideas, or insults — whatever you're comfortable giving, we can use it.

I hope to see each and every one of you at Homecoming, which falls on October 6th. If you have any questions, comments, or just want to say hello, feel free to contact me at 724-322-7477 or stt112@psu.edu.

Editor's Note: Our fraternity needs more pledges; so send names of any known worthy candidates

Advisor's Corner

By **Martin McGann (Fall '73)**
and **John R. Murdock (Fall '06)**,
Co-Advisors

As the fall 2012 semester starts, we feel that one of the main objectives of working with the Actives will be to eliminate some of the negative incidents, such as an underage drinking violation (fall 2011) and borough trash violations (summer 2012) that have occurred. As such, we will be aiming to:

- 1) Improve communications between the Actives and advisors;
- 2) Request that the Actives develop and/or refine procedures to insure the protection of the House against actions by the IFC or the Borough; and
- 3) Make all Actives, Alumni, and guests responsible for their actions while on House property.

As advisors, we have submitted a list of seven goals to the Executive Committee as part of this effort. We have asked them to act on these goals during the coming semester and we intend to report in the spring 2013 newsletter on the progress made. If any Alumnus would like a copy of this proposed action plan, please contact us for an electronic copy.

With the start of this semester, the Actives seem to be looking forward to settling in. There seems to be a desire on their part to improve conditions at the House, both academic and physical.

Discussion at a recent house meeting concerned the fraternity's over-all GPA; ways to improve it; and working closer with the pledge class to oversee their academic performance during pledging.

One of the other areas of concern is the physical condition of the fraternity house. To be frank there are certain conditions that need to be addressed now. The Brothers understand the limitations on available funds for improvements however certain items need to be fixed and the Actives are not always able to provide the necessary manpower or the knowledge to do a job properly. In order to keep track

of needed repairs and renovations, we hope to work with the executive committee to develop an up-to-date list of physical plant issues and submit that to the Board of Directors and alumni at Fall Homecoming.

Should anyone have any questions or comments, please contact us at: Martin – (814)863-7595 or mrm19@psu.edu and J.R. – (570)439-0307 or jmurdock5081@gmail.com.

Reunion

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Tau Phi Delta was well represented during this reunion gathering — both in State College and/or on the cruise. Those folks included the following: Stan/Liz Arner; Joe/Pat Bartnicki; Barry Borgiet; Pete Alexander/Pamela Hubley; Joe/Barbie Armstrong; Jack/Sandi Byerly; Tom/Lucy Breslin; Wayne/Betty Dunlap; Tom Campbell; Bill/Georgette Healy; Jerry/Elaine Cortez; Chuck/Carol Strauss; Jim DeTurek; Rick/Audrey Ulrich; Dan/Sandy Douthitt; Tom/Jeanie Yorke; Lee/Christine Ebling; Don/Margie Young; Dave Dries; Bill/Marian Herb; Rick/Lois Claggett; Bill Hoover; Steve/Linda Gehringer; Bob/Dee McColly; Tom/Deb Kearse; Bill/Susie Smith; Wayne/Judith Kuhn; Mark/Blare Webb; Dave Lepro/Sara Forster; Jack/Kathie McCandless; Mike/Mary McNamara; Richard/Joann Parkinson; Dave Patterson; Dave/Hilda Putnam; Paul/Carol Ripper; Bob Schrum; Barry/Maggie Stauffer; Ron Stroble; Matt/Doretta Thomas; Bonnie Walter; Pat Wilson-Schmid, and Bob/Raye Zielinske.

Yes, an impressive turnout! Hats off to the reunion organizers and Actives for their assistance. ... Rumor has it that a group of Brothers from the 80s is considering organizing the next reunion in the near future

Supporting The Taproot

The Taproot continues to provide news about the Actives and Alumni of Tau Phi Delta because of the support of our alumni. The "Alumni Update" section of this issue includes 30 entries provided to us through emails or the return of the insert from last year's issue. Each year individuals or groups of Brothers and Little Sisters have provided financial contributions so the printing and mailing of *The Taproot* is not a financial burden on the actives or the Alpha Chapter. This year is no exception. The following Brothers and a spouse have donated \$10 to \$150 toward the cost of printing and mailing *The Taproot*.

Phil Arnold	Robert Potter
Dick Ausherman	Bill Smith
Joe Bartnicki	Ron Stroble
Tom Breslin	Charles Thuma
Bill Cherko	Eric Ulrich
Richard Cook	Mike White
Larry Donmoyer	Tom Wolf
Forrest Fenstermaker	
Gregg Horvat	Mike Whyte
Earl Hower	Pat Wilson-Schmid
Wayne Kuhn	Thomas Witmer
Dave Lepro	Howard
Ray Nelling	Wurzbacher
Stan Piorkowski	

We thank you for your continued support of *The Taproot*, but we can use some more help. The average cost of printing and mailing the previous issue of *The Taproot* in 2009 and 2010 was about \$1,000. Since the 2011 issue of *The Taproot* was mailed, we have received \$910.

Please take a few take a few minutes to complete the alumni update sheet (green) insert in this issue and send it back to us. Sending a check to support *The Taproot* would also help.

You also can send an update by emailing Bill Herb, Editor, at m.b.tailfeathers@gmail.com.

Alumni Updates

After 40 years of being “lost”, **Phil Arnold** (Fall '61) reports that his wife and he found religion. With regular attendance for a couple of years, he was elected a Deacon of the Church. In his role on the Finance Committee he uncovered the misuse of thousands of dollars by the associate pastor. Phil quickly found out that the assistant pastor would lie to cover his misdeeds, and half the Elders would lie to protect him. He's getting ready to quit the Church and find a new one.

Phil's blog about Elvis Presley (www.ELVISBLOG.NET) now gets over 3,000 hits a day. philarnold@charter.net

Richard “Dick” Ausherman (Fall '65) is still alive and well and has just retired (thanks to the emerald ash borer quarantines) from 33 years of retail firewood sales into the Baltimore area. Dick recently returned from visiting friends in Nova Scotia for two months. He now has time to enjoy his hobbies of motorcycling, rock collecting, hunting, trapshooting, hiking and traveling. He hopes to visit the Pacific NW again soon and is considering summer jobs in the National Parks. Dick lost his wife of 30 years to cancer in 2003. He is sorry to hear of Betty's passing and notes that he remembers Sarah, her mom, as a cook too. He would like to get information on Mrs. Snow, our Housemother from the sixties.

Little Sister **Annetta (Egley) Ayers** (Fall '95), was recently promoted to Forest Nursery Manager/ Superintendent of the Pennsylvania Game Commission's (PGC) Howard Nursery. She and her husband, Aaron, reside on site in Howard, not far from State College, in northeastern Centre County.

Prior to working for the PGC, she worked in the private forest consulting industry for Forcon, Inc. and at the federal government level for the U.S. Forest Service in their Forest Inventory and Analysis unit. A 1997 graduate with BS Forest Science, she started with the PGC in 2000 in the Southeast Region and later transferred to the Northwest Region, before arriving at the Nursery in summer 2011.

Annetta mentioned, “My hobbies are hunting, fishing, hiking, quilting and gardening ... Though it seems like all I do is work lately!” Little wonder why, as the PGC raises millions of seedlings there for the agency and landowners in the state – for use as wildlife food and cover, watershed protection, soil erosion control, and for reclamation of disturbed areas, such as surface mine site and utility right-of-ways. This state nursery has been producing and distributing 2.7 to 6 million seedlings annually for wildlife since 1954. aayers@pa.gov

Nicole Borgiet, daughter of Helen and **Barry Borgiet** (Fall '61), had a storybook wedding in Vienna, Austria in June 2012. Nicole, who recently completed her medical residency at a hospital in Germany, married Dr. George Broughton, a recently-retired U.S. Army surgeon. The wedding was held in the chapel of the Schonbrunn Palace, the summer palace of the emperors of the Austrian Empire. The bride and groom arrived at the Palace in a horse-drawn carriage, and the wedding party traveled from the palace to the reception in central Vienna on an antique trolley. parents, who were married in Germany while Barry served in the U.S. Air Force. After retiring from the military, Barry stayed in

Germany and worked as a civilian in logistical support for the U.S. Army. Son-in-law George is now a civilian surgeon working for the Army. Barry and Helen maintain their residency in a condo on the Atlantic Ocean in Indiatlantic, Florida, but they also have an apartment in Germany and spend the late spring and summer there. barry.borgiet@hotmail.com

Brother **Chris Campbell** (Spring '98) reports that the 9th Annual Tau Phi Delta Smoke Pole Drive was another success. Shots were fired in vain, lots of grey smoke in the air, but no deer tagged! Tau Phis, have been meeting with their muzzleloader rifles in hand at 427 East Fairmount and hunting local forests and fields each January since 2003 — in search of the elusive whitetail. If you have a Penna. muzzleloader stamp, end up with an unused deer tag, and wish to join in on the fun, drop him an email note later this December. There's a Centre County briar patch just waiting for you! cxc434@yahoo.com



Wannabe Tau Phi Mountain Men: (rear, left to right) **Brs. Yoder, Hartzell, Doran, Duncan, Campbell, Sweeney, McHail, Haffley, and Hegenstaller, (front) Gustafson, Torok, and Hower.**

Editor's Note: Chris also manages the successful annual Tau Phi Delta Fraternity Gun Raffle fundraiser. So you can e-mail him your desire to help purchase and /or sell tickets.

The next drawing will run March 1 though 10, 2013. More details can be found online at www.tauphidelta.org.

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Sometimes it's a matter of being in the right place at the right time. I suppose it is not nepotism to hire a fraternity brother?

After several years, when our project was completed, Tom and I went our separate ways, but reunited in Harrisburg around 1978, where we worked on separate projects. Over the next 20 years or so, we did not work together, but did compete a couple of times for the same job. Tom got them; I didn't. Eventually I retired from government service in 2001. At that time, I was on loan to the Department of Defense's Army Environmental Command, but Tom made it a point to represent the USGS headquarters at my retirement ceremony. I guess he wanted to make absolutely sure that his original bad judgment in hiring me was finally corrected?

Fast forward to 2011. After a second retirement, this time from Booz-Allen, a Washington DC area-based strategic and technology consulting firm, I was sitting at home alone enjoying my leisure.

My phone rang, and it was Tom at the other end of the line. After some small talk he asked me was I interested in replacing him as editor for *The Taproot*. It was another offer from Tom that I couldn't refuse.

Alumni Updates continued from page 5

After more than 40 years, **Tom Campbell** (Fall '61) surfaced in suburban Philadelphia.

[**Editor's Note:** Tom, along with over 4 dozen other Tau Phis, had been on our MIA List.]

Actually, they have been living in the Philadelphia area for many years, but we did not have their address. Tom discovered us online at www.tauphidelta.org and after reading a copy of our achieved newsletters, and he wrote a complimentary note and sent a generous check in support of *The Taproot*. He's now a computer consultant, and he spends most of his

weeks travelling to client's facilities around the country. Lois is an administrator with the Lower Merion School District, and she maintains the testing and achievement database management system for the school district. She received her PhD in education just a few years ago while most of the rest of us from the 1960s were thinking of retiring. Tom and Lois have three daughters, two in Houston, Texas and the third in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Tom Yorke recently met Tom and Lois for lunch in the Philadelphia area. It was noted that Br. Campbell was not wearing a white, button-down shirt, black chinos and black slacks ... Which was his normal garb while at 238 East Fairmount Avenue! camp154@verizon.net



Tom and Jeannie Yorke (left) with Lois and Tom Campbell

When **Thomas J. "TJ" Cheffins** (Fall '74) graduated from Penn State in 1976 with a BS Law Enforcement and Corrections, little did he know that his career would roller coaster to where he is now. He worked as a police officer in Maryland and later as one in Pennsylvania, where he got Master's Degree at Shippensburg State. Later while going part-time and working as court administrator for Cumberland County (Pa.), he earned his Juris Doctorate from Widener University School of Law. Eventually he landed a judicial seat as the Chief Administrative Law Judge for the Commonwealth's Department of Public Welfare Bureau of Hearings and Appeals. In 2010, the "Honorable TJ" was appointed as a Federal Administrative Law Judge at the

Office of Disability Adjudication and Review in Phoenix North, Arizona. tcheffins@comcast.net

Richard C. "Dick" Cook (Fall '45) let us know that he served in the 15th U.S. Air Force in Italy during 1943-45 in WW II. He retired from the pharmaceutical industry after 30 years and now splits his time between Cape May, N.J. and Stuart, Fla. He has been a widower for 17 years and has 3 children and 3 grandchildren. Dick is an avid bridge player and an active archeologist. He says, "It is a thrill to work with Tau Phi Delta again." (772) 283-2731

After 25 years of law enforcement service, **David A. "Skippy" Domin** (Winter '81), retired from the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office in Leesburg, Va. With his Penn State Criminal Law and Justice degree, he started out in 1986 as a rookie field deputy and rose to the rank of Major, serving as commander of the agency's Administration and Technical Services Division. During his career he attended the FBI Academy's in 2007.

Dave continues his community service, as a local fraternal member Moose International. He was recently recognized as Lodge Rookie of the Year Moose International Award for 2011. Now after purchasing a Harley to feed the pains of his mid-life crisis, his retirement was short-lived as he has since started a new job as a Code Enforcement Officer for the nearby Fairfax County (Va.).

Never wishing to lose contact with the House, Dave's a regular duffer at the annual Jim Evans Memorial Golf Tournament. More recently, he was consulted by the Actives to potentially resurrect a time-honored Tau Phi Delta tradition — the infamous Spittoon Committee. jessesailor3@hotmail.com

“**Andrew “Banjo” Duncan** (Spring ’95 Alpha) and wife, Maressa, had a new addition to the family last fall. “Benjamin Andrew Duncan came into our world at almost midnight on September 26th of 2011.” In an e-mail addressed to friends, Brothers, and fellow woodsmen, Andy stated, “At 7 pounds 10½ ounces, and 21 inches long he is nothing short of wonderful. He already has his dad completely melted, and working on his mom. Both of us are a bit tired, and working to get into a new routine, but very good overall and incredibly blessed to have the little fella. We are now home in Perry County, and happy to be back. Benjamin is just pleased to be away from prodding, poking, and sticking with needles. It’s amazing how everything else in life suddenly becomes secondary. While I am spending every ounce of time with him, I am also looking forward to hopefully spending a few hours in the woods on Saturday in pursuit of a white-tailed freezer queen.”

Andy’s currently with the Bureau of Forestry’s statewide Private Forestland Stewardship Coordinator for the Penna. Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) in Harrisburg. acd113@hotmail.com

John Ewell (Fall ’59) wrote us saying thanks for the invite to the Tau Phi Delta reunion. However, “unfortunately we can’t attend as we are celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary that same week. And there is a lot going on with relatives coming in from all over, including Vermont and Iowa. We had a party on the 8th and **Brooke Thomas** and wife, Shirley, are coming and hopefully are **Ray Plotts** and Margie. Both Brothers, Brooke and Ray, were in our wedding party. It looks like the class of ’62 (as pledge from ’59 and ’60) won’t be represented and it is our 50th PSU class reunion. Hopefully sometime in the future we can get together. Keep in touch and give us a call when passing through Harrisburg.” jbewell@verizon.net

Carl Geesaman (Spring ’69), according to **Bob McColly**, currently lives in Hummelstown, Pa. with his wife, Chris. He has three grown children; son, Brian, and his twin daughters are Kristen and Lauren; and four granddaughters. He is currently the principle owner of Bommer-Geesaman Company, a veneer yard and log buying company located near Harrisburg. Carl and Bob still hunt deer and bear together at Bob’s camps in Fulton and Westmoreland counties and Carl’s in Potter County. They have been recently taking January deer hunting trips to Mississippi. [see page 11].

We received some poor health news from **Pete Hallock** (Fall ’61). Pete was diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma, and because his damaged kidneys had shut down, he was given only 2 weeks to live. Fortunately they got his kidneys working again and with medication and pain killers he is still kicking around in central Pennsylvania. There’s no cure for this particular cancer, but it can be treated and go into remission. Two Brothers from the Fall ’60 pledge class have been diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma. **Denny Molli** and **Dave Bauer** have received treatment, and their cancers are in remission.

Pete’s wife, Donnie, also is in poor health, and she is very handicapped. Because of her Dystonia she has trouble walking, and has not been able to eat solid foods for 3 years. Pete says, “fortunately, and with help from our daughter Mandy, I’m still able to do minor chores around the house, and take short shopping excursions as Donnie is unable to drive.”

Pete’s health issues developed quite suddenly and it was a complete surprise. Because of his continued love of the woods, along with his logging and forestry background, a year before his diagnosis, he had purchased a log skidder and at age 69 went back into the logging business. Over the next year he completed 3

logging jobs when, healthwise, the bottom fell out. In fact, almost overnight he went from spending all day in the woods cutting and skidding timber to not being able to get out of bed because of the pain.

He says, “I turned 71 in February. It’s hard to believe how fast the time has gone since those wonderful days back at the old Tau Phi Delta House. God bless you all and thank Him for your good health if you still have it!”

William J. “Bill” Herb (Fall ’65) reports that he is enjoying retirement on Maryland’s Eastern Shore. He and Br. Dave Glaesser get together 4-5 times a year to do some striped bass fishing (and a bit of catching) on the Chesapeake, and some hunting and trout fishing at a friend’s cabin near Wellsboro.

Marian and Bill have been married for 37 years, and she is looking forward to joining him in retirement early next year. They are planning a tour of the Grand Canyon area next fall and hope it is the same great experience they had on their 3 weeks touring the NW National Parks in the spring of 2011 and their week in Charleston and Savannah in the spring of 2012.



Marian and Bill Herb

Their two sons (Jason and Bryan) live about an hour or so from them, so they remain in easy contact. Their 11-year old chocolate lab, Timber, is dealing with hearing loss (some of it is selective) and hears less and sleeps even more than Bill does.

They were invited to a mini-reunion of the Fall ’67 pledge class at Br. **Ed Kadel’s** place in August, and attended as an honorary pledge class member. Perhaps he didn’t harass them enough when they were pledges. m.b.tailfeathers@gmail.com

Gregg “Widget” Horvat (Fall '98 still lives in Chicago and still sells frozen pizzas (seriously). He is taking a trip to fish in the Galapagos this year, but other than that not much is new. Gregg says, “I’m always open to hosting any Tau Phi in Chicago, except **Chris Campbell**, who didn’t work too hard when they were pledges.
gregg.horvat@gmail.com

Wayne Kuhn (Fall '61) and four other divers started a University SCUBA diving club, the Nittany Divers in 1967. Wayne was the first club president and before his wife, Judith, convinced him to get serious about his Master’s degree, the club had about 200 members and 125 certified divers. The club exists to this day.

During the Viet Nam Conflict he was in charge of an 11-man diving unit that did underwater construction, demolition, ship salvage, and body recovery.

Wayne had a 30-year career in the U.S. Depart. of the Interior working in a wide variety of locations (Philadelphia, Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Washington D.C., and Portland and Medford, Ore.) and in a variety of positions (water-quality specialist in tidewater wetlands, range management specialist, land-use planner, budget analyst, budget officer, and associate district manager). His real love has been being a licensed general contractor and building custom homes. He built 8 homes in Oregon and is now doing interior finish carpentry work in semi-retirement.

Judith and he have two daughters (Jill and April) who live in Calif. and Oregon with their husbands and their 3 grandchildren. That is what brought them to Hanford, Calif. Wayne has been very involved in Rotary, and in each of the last four years has traveled to the jungles of Guatemala leading a team of Rotarians who do construction work and provide humanitarian assistance

to Mayan Indian elementary schools. In 2012, he will be leading another team to Guatemala to do similar work plus finance and arrange cleft lip/palate operations for Mayan children. *kuhnwayne@global.net*

Andy Kyle (Fall '78) wrote, “For those of you that knew where the Joe Paterno statue once stood, it’s been totally erased from outside of Beaver Stadium. They landscaped the area, removed the wall and concrete and filled it in with dirt, laid sod and planted four trees. You can still see the area is taped off with yellow flagging in the attached photo. Staci, my youngest daughter [last of his two daughters to graduate Penn State, other is Krista], never had her picture taken with her gown and diploma on the Main Campus. So when we were at the summer football rally on July 31st, we went to the lion shrine and then onto where Joepa’s statue have previously been displayed to get a picture. She posed for a picture to remember Joe. For the glory of Old State, Andy.”

Andy is a career entomologist and a Black Fly/West Nile Virus Program Manager for the Penna. Department of Environmental Protection in Harrisburg.
akyle@pa.gov



Staci Kyle honors Joepa

David “Lep” Lepro (Winter '64) is still working 6 days per week in both landscape design and construction

plus the hearth industry — fireplaces and green space heat alternatives. Lep sold his business of 40 years, but has stayed on to help the new owners with sales, design, and management. He has two children (Rebekah and Isacc) and one granddaughter (Chloe). He lives on a small farm, and his spare-time interests are motorcycles (Indian and Victory), Canadian fishing, wood-burning oven baking, gardening, and family.
david.lepro@gmail.com

Many Tau Phis that lived in the House in the early to mid-1960s have been searching for one of our missing Brothers, **Peter “Pete” Leum** (Fall '63). Actually, he had not been heard from since he left Penn State for aviator training at Pensacola, Florida in 1966.

Unfortunately, we received information about Pete, and it is not good. The official U.S. Navy report states that, “Lieutenant Commander Peter Luem, 37, and Ensign Steven D. Herning, 22, lost their lives when their VX-5 TA-7C Corsair II crashed while simulating close air support for troops in field training at Fort Irwin [California] on November 21, 1979. Pete was a career naval aviator. He was one of only two officers approved by the Navy in 1979 for squadron command, and he was serving with Squadron VX-5 at China Lake at the time of the accident.”

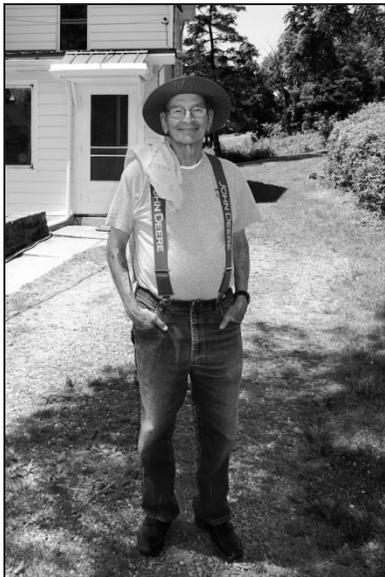


The late Bro. Leum, U.S. Navy

Editor’s Note: Sadly, another MIA Brother mystery has been solved!

Marco Anthony “Toni” Marchetti (Fall '54) passed away September 9, 2011, after a long illness. A native of New York City born in 1937, this city boy enjoyed his time spent in his newly discovered rural countryside near Happy Valley. He worked for thirty-nine years for the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a noted rice and grain disease specialist and retired in Beaumont, Texas. For the last ten years, he volunteered at the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge. Those who knew Toni remember him as a lover of nature and the outdoors. His favorite place was “back north” and on the porch at Willow Ridge Farm in central Pennsylvania — where his family gathered twice a year.

Cherishing his memories his wife, Nancy; their 7 children, along with 19 grandchildren; and 3 great grandchildren, ask that any memorial donations be made in his name to: Friends of Anahuac Refuge, P.O. Box 1348, Anahuac, Texas 77514.



The late Bro. Marchetti at his Snyder County farmstead.

Robert “Bob” McColly (Spring '69) let us know that his wife, Dee, and he make their home in Ligonier, Pa., where Bob works with his son, **Clark McColly** (Fall '04), in running Forest Land Services, Inc., a consulting forestry entity. Clark is a

Penn State Wood Products and Forest Science graduate and Tau Phi Delta brother and has been working with Bob since he graduated in 2006. Their daughter, Jessica, and her husband, Matt just began a two-year teaching stint in Ghana, Africa, after moving from Vermont. Their other son, Edward, works for Youngstown Regional Development Corporation in Youngstown, OH.

Bob urges any Brother who travels through the Ligonier area to look them up. forestls@comcast.net



Brs. McColly on their recent Mississippi deer hunt. Clark gets a helping hand from his dad.

Sad news about the passing of another Brother. **Gary “Merc” Morris** (Winter '74) died of sudden heart attack near his home in Butler in 2011. He'd been working in various forest industry capacities as a forest consultant and harvest-logging manager and raised Christmas trees since his graduated in 1975.

Br. Dave “Goose” Gray (Fall '73) tells us a story worth repeating. “Gary and I roomed together I think my junior and his senior year. A good roomie! My wife, then my steady girlfriend, still has a hard spot in her heart for Gary, but in a good way. It seems that she flew into State College for a weekend visit — in those days we had to fly into the Black Moshannon/Philipsburg airport. Gary had left a stuffed moose

head he had acquired with a local taxidermist somewhere up that way to be repaired. So he said he'd drive in his truck to pick her up, if I would help him get the moose head and load it in the back of the pickup. Yes. It was too big for one guy to handle. So we did get it before we picked up, Barb. When we got her, and came out to the truck to head back to State College, Gary told her that he shot the moose the previous fall in Stone Valley. She believed him and all weekend he let her think he had shot the moose near Penn State. She was not impressed when she found out he had bought it at a garage sale and still remembers the “guy with the moose” to this day.

Fast forward about 4 years later and yet another story about Gary's moose head. Rumor had it that this same stuffed moose head was again suffering from added neglect. However Merc offered it to the House as a permanent display. The Brotherhood accepted and a few pledges from the fall '77 class took a road trip to his family farm near Williamsport. In a collapsed barn, they found a mangy head mount with loose antlers and a missing glass eye. Needless to say they removed the antlers and remounted it on a wooded plague.

Today this “rare” Stone Valley moose's rack can be found on display in the dinning room at Tau Phi Delta.

Ray Nelling (Fall '90 Beta) reports that he recently took a promotion with the U.S. Forest Service, and now serves as a Supervisory Forester in Timber & Roads on the North River Ranger District, George Washington/Jefferson National Forest, Harrisonburg, VA. He is looking for better weather there in the “Valley” compared to Bradford, PA. His wife, Janelle, and Ray spend most of the time chasing their kids around. They're looking forward to lots of recreation opportunities in their new location. jannell@verizon.net

Stan Piorkowski (Fall '69) said that it hardly seems like it has been five years since he retired, let alone 41 years since he graduated. Stan picked up a semi-new hobby this past spring: beekeeping. He had bees back in the early 80s, but the beekeeping world has changed. Wish him luck.

Stan has also stayed busy this past year with Penna.'s Delaware Incident Management Team. The three Type 3 LMTs, developed while he was with the Penna. DCNR's Forest Fire Protection Division of the Penna. Bureau of Forestry, are the Delaware, Susquehanna, and the Allegheny. *spiorkowski@live.com*

Robert V. "Bob" Potter (Fall '45) retired from the U.S. Forest Service in 1982 after 35 years. He then worked with the U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization in Rome, Italy; Peshawar, Pakistan; and Maseru, Lesotho.

Last spring **Charles "Virgil" Thuma** (Fall '75) and his wife's family sponsored the planting of a American chestnut tree at Arlington National Cemetery near Washington DC. The tree was a memorial in honor of his late father-in-law, U.S. Navy Commander Robert William Lancaster, Ret, and all the veterans buried in this sacred grounds. In what is becoming a family tradition, with annual planting of trees at the cemetery. They were motivated by the American Chestnut Foundation's work and the development of a blight-resistant American chestnut and thought Arlington would be a good place for such a important historical and once native tree. The chestnut seedling was planted in Section 31 along Roosevelt Drive in Arlington National Cemetery. Virgil is a Navy veteran himself and resides in the Tidewater area in Hampton Roads, Va. Married for 29 years; and all three kids have completed college; he is still working for the Navy as a civilian employee. *charles5652@cox.net*

Eric S. "Ric" Ulrich (Spring '61) is growing B3F3 hybrid American Chestnuts in his now-abandoned Christmas tree plantation. He harvested his first nuts from a 4-year old tree that have some disease resistance, but not to the extent of the two 2-year old, and two 1-year old backcrossed trees. "The nuts from those trees, when sexually mature, will be sent back to Penn State's Sara Fitzgibbon. She is the regional coordinator for the American Chestnut Foundation. American chestnuts are really neat trees. They are rapid growers; tall and straight with single stem apical dominance. Brothers with time and space should try their hand at helping restore this magnificent tree to Penn's Woods." *ricstree@comcast.net*

Tom Wolf (Fall '66) tells us that Sharon and he have a third grandchild as of December 2011. "Alex was born during deer season. I wonder what he'll get for his birthday?" They plan to travel out west during the reunion/cruise, so they'll miss seeing everyone. *wolfe109@verizon.net*

After 33 years of government service, **Ken "Geek" Wolfe** (Winter '66) retired in July 2011 from the Natural Resources Conservation Services - USDA .He now lives on the family homestead near Carlisle along the Yellow Breeches. *wolfe55@ymail.com*

Probably the oldest known living Tau Phi , **Donald F. Yerkes** (Fall '35) passed away at the age of 95, on July 17, 2011. According to *The Penn Stater* alumni magazine, he was from Seaford, Del. and graduated with the class of 1938. He worked for DuPont, retired and founded Y&M Sporting Goods, while serving as local court magistrate. He lived to hunt and fish, carve decoys, and watch Nittany Lion football ...
`Just a typical Tau Phi!

Tom Yorke (Fall '61) and Jeannie continue to enjoy their home in a 55-plus community in Haymarket, Va., as well as their new condo in Naples, Fla. At home in Va., Tom is a member of the Grounds and Facilities Committee of the Home Owners Association, and he's been very involved in the Men's Golf Association, serving as competition chair, president, and captain of the travelling team. Jeannie is involved in the local Regency Women's Association and several bridge groups. When not partying with friends, they enjoy visiting their 2 daughters and 4 grandkids. He continues to do some consulting on water resources issues. He was recently awarded a 5-year contract so he might not fully retire until he is 75. They both try to keep in touch with PSU classmates. Jeannie attends Arts Fest each year with her sorority sisters. **Barry Borgiet** visited them in Fla. this past February. They recently met **Tom Campbell** and wife, Lois, in Philadelphia [see page 7], and with **Bill Mitchell** and wife, Karen, in Frederick, Md. *waterman2000@comcast.net*

Last October, **Ray Zomok** (Fall '78) began working for the Penna. Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources as Chief of DCNR's Division of Design, he leads a multi-disciplinary engineering/architectural team responsible for designing buildings, dams, roads, bridges, drinking water and wastewater facilities serving the State Parks and State Forests. Prior to that, he'd been the Penna. Dept. of Environmental Protection's Bureau of Waterways Engineering since 1993 and the then-Dept. of Environmental Resources since 1983. He enjoys working with other Tau Phi's in parks and forestry and helping them out with their infrastructure needs. Ray has a BS in environmental engineering and served as Phi when at the House. He and his wife, Chris, live in Enola. *rzomok@pa.gov*

A Field Of Honor Forever!

Over a decade ago, on September 11, 2001 at 10:03 AM, United Airlines Flight 93 crashed into a farm field, shattering the quiet rural countryside of Somerset County, Pennsylvania. Those first responders – volunteer firemen and state police – and neighboring farmers and landowners who rushed to the scene, looked on in total disbelief at the charred hemlock trees and smoldering crater. The folks in nearby Shanksville and in countless other communities across America were all shaken by the crash. More so by the unimaginable violence and destruction that al-Qaeda terrorists had brought onto the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington DC.

The U.S. Department of Interior's National Park Service has since converted these mixed farmlands, forests, wetlands and strip mines into a national memorial site as a final resting place for the 40 passengers and flight crew. And, in a small way, to recognize and further tell the heroic story of the band of crew and passengers' thwarting the hijackers plan to crash into their intended target: the U.S. Capitol building. The memorial park's entrance sign sums it up the best: "A common field one day, a field of honor forever."

On April 28, 2012, a small group of Tau Phi Delta volunteers came out to plant trees on this field of honor. Organized by recent Phi, Caleb Hoffman, and Grand National Chapter president, Dave Obarto, these Brothers represented four assorted decades of our fraternity. In previous days' plantings, other Tau Phi's assisted as team leaders made up of foresters from assorted agencies, such as the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and U.S. Forest Service, and from private practice. DCNR Bureau of Forestry staffers, Jason Albright, Andy Duncan and Gene Odato shared their expertise and directed dozens of volunteers to plant assorted hardwood and conifer seedlings on the barren hillside – the remains of mining that once produced thousands of tons of bituminous coal. On the prior weekend, John Bearer (retired DCNR forester) brought 15 family members and friends to volunteer as well.

Kathy Odato, wife of Br. Odato, who was also present to plant trees on that same day as some Tau Phis did, wrote on her Facebook account, "Cloudy skies, lows 30's to start, and little wind ... We were lucky for the day prior wind was howling. Over 100 volunteers gathered at a tent for a volunteer's Native American blessing, a moment of silence, and then brief remarks about the importance of our tree planting over the old strip mined fields. We worked on a hillside in groups of 10 with team leaders and planted varieties of trees which will serve as windbreak for the soon to be installed 40 Memorial Groves (40 groves of 40 trees for the 40 victims). All plantings will lead in patterns toward the flight path and final resting place of Flight 93."



(Left to right) Actives Caleb Hoffman and Zach St. Laurent, and Alumni Chris Kilbride, Jason Albright, John Hudson, Dave Obarto, Earl Hower and Tom Wolf.

One participating Brother summed it up best, "It was great to see you all this weekend and spend some time in a worthy cause representing Tau Phi Delta!"

Contact Dave Obarto if you'd like to get on the mailing list with details and required Park Service volunteer and pre-registration forms (obarto@comcast.net / (412) 310-3291). Details on the next April planting in 2013 are not available at the time of printing: however, the National Park Service has indicated that it will take years to rehabilitate and landscape the nearly 2,000-acre memorial site. They will have another 40 acres ready for another mass planting in spring of 2013.

We hope you and your family will consider joining other Tau Phi Deltas as they give up their time and talent to help better this final resting place ... a lasting testament to the deeds of 40 extraordinary Americans!

Jim Evans Memorial Golf Tournament By Mark Haffley (Fall '01)

Another successful year at the Jim Evans Memorial Golf Tournament was held on July 14, 2012! Fifteen teams competed this year at the lovely Skytop Mountain Golf Club (Port Matilda off old Rte 322), with every talent level present from duffers to PGA hopefuls. This year's tournament was won by the threesome of Brs. Jim Cowan and Nelson Levens, with guest, Toby Spiegelmire, with a score of 9 under.

If you were unable to attend this year you missed out on a wonderful catered meal by Home Delivery Pizza. A hearty thanks goes out to Phil Brumbaugh for all of his help as well as to all of you that will be able to help us make this event another great success.

Next year's tournament is already tentatively scheduled for the weekend following the Arts Festival week. So mark your calendars now for Saturday, July 20, 2013.

For more details, email Mark or Phil at either: mah400@gmail.com or pwb124@gmail.com.

News and Other Updates

Alumni Group's Leadership — Tau Phis Abound

The School of Forest Resources Alumni Group Board of Directors includes twelve at-large members who are elected to serve a three-year term and who may serve a second consecutive term if re-elected.

At the time of printing, five of the twelve members, actually four Brothers and one Little Sister of Tau Phi Delta are providing leadership. They are:

- **Howard Wurzbacher**, NW Regional Forester ,
Penna. Game Commission
- **James Snyder, Jr.**, Harvest Manager, Kane
Hardwoods
- **Cecile Stelter**, District Forester, Cornplanters State
Forest, Penna. Bureau of Forestry

More recently elected to serve are:

- **Dave Gustafson**, Chief of Forestry, Penna. Game
Commission
- **J. Thomas Kearse, Sr.**, President, Kohl Building
Products & KBP Services



At a recent PSU SFR Alumni Group Board Meeting (left to right) Tau Phis: Kearse, Stelter, Wurzbacher, Gustafson, and Snyder.

Many other Tau Phis who had previously served in similar leadership roles include: **Mark Webb**, **Bob McColly**, **Tom Yorke**, **Jack Byerly**, and **Chuck Strauss** (as school's former director).

This type of participation with the University is certainly something we Tau Phis should all be proud of!

We Are Family Update

At the time of the production of the Fall 2011 edition of *The Taproot*, we actually had a new pledge at the time, and now, Brother **Jason R. Stouffer** (Fall '11) that was not mentioned in the article. "We Are Family Revisited" gave an update of the newest family connections in our Brotherhood. As it turns out that he is the nephew of **Thomas H. "Stouf" Stouffer** (Fall '75).

Yet another name added onto our long list of Brother's sons – sons-in-law – brothers – brothers-in-law – cousins, and now includes – nephews!

TΦΔ On The Information Highway

Recently our Webmaster, **Corbin Rinehart**, received an interesting email from a young lady, Nancy Smay — one that came all the way from the west coast. No, it was not a "Match.com" inquiry for a date! But it was about the defunct Tau Phi Delta Fraternity at the University of Washington.

She came across our fraternity's Website soon after she discovered some of her grandfather's old college photos (circa early 1940s) from the Washington Alpha Chapter.



Life looked a bit different in the fall of 1941? Ms. Smay's grandfather, **Stewart E. Blanchard**, is seen in this photo (center) with two other Tau Phi Delta Brothers looking rather dapper, while lounging in what appears to be their House chapter room.

Keeping in mind the year, as soon after the December 7th Pearl Harbor attack this House, like ours, was closed up as these young men entered military service. Sadly some, six of them, from the Washington Alpha Chapter were later reported missing or killed in action.

The same Brother, the Honorable Brother Blanchard, a U.S. Army Air Corps B-24 pilot, was shot down over France on February 13, 1944.

Editor's Note: This is a continuing feature of The Taproot — a place much like the oaken walls of our fraternity — where Brothers can share their successes and failures, in the great outdoors. Send us your tall tales and any related photos for future publication.

Tau Phis in the Great Outdoors

The forest and fields and fish-filled waters are our playground

The Kinzua Freeze Out

— A tale of the hunt, both bad and good judgment and Brotherhood

By Bill Herb (Fall '65)

Illustrations by Steve Torok (Spring '86).

After our graduation in 1968 and completion of military service, Br. Dave Glaesser and I, both from the same pledge class, began a tradition of a canoe camping and deer hunting trip in the Allegheny National Forest on the Kinzua Reservoir near the New York-Pennsylvania border. We would canoe in, pitch a tent, and camp and hunt for a week at a time. Sometimes it would just be the two of us, and other times the crew included some of Dave's former high-school classmates.

Many times we were the only hunters we saw during the week, with the exception of a few locals who did much the same thing. Only they had a lot better equipment than we did. Our first year they took pity on us, and invited us to their warm, large tent for deer liver and beer.

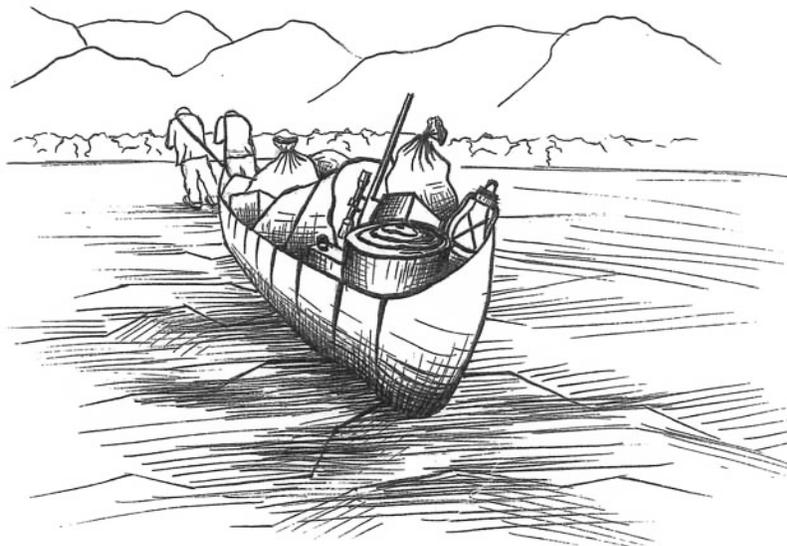
For our earliest attempts, we launched from Willow Bay on the eastern side of the lake and followed the shoreline down to a primitive camp site at Hooks Brook. However, we found that we

could make a much shorter paddle by launching from the western shore and crossing the lake. Later we got smart and used a small outboard. A little more risk too, as sadly someone in another party in a canoe did drown the first year. But what the hey, we were young and invincible!

One year in the early 1970s, we arrived at our western launch site, and found the lake completely frozen over. Cold weather had arrived early, and we had a problem. Or maybe not?

Right near the launch site, someone was ice fishing. We asked him about the ice conditions, and he told us that once you got across the first 5 feet or so from the shore it was pretty solid. We didn't bother to ask him how he found that out.

With that expert knowledge, we deduced that an aluminum canoe would make a fine sled, and we would be able to haul it across the lake like a couple of Arctic explorers.



We proceeded to load the canoe with the necessities for a week in deer camp: sleeping bags, lantern, single-burner Coleman stove, fuel, bale of hay, tent, ground cloth, food, more food, rifles and ammo plus spares, and lots of winter clothing. We had so much stuff, that I am ashamed to admit that we didn't even have room for beer.

We pushed the canoe out on the ice, ran lightly across the 5-foot ledge of thin ice, and attached a couple of ropes to our gear-laden "sledge." We put the ropes over our shoulders, leaned into them, and hauled mightily. Do not believe the stories that an aluminum canoe slides easily on ice. The only result was ominous cracking of the ice in all directions. We quickly came to the conclusion that maybe this was not such a good idea.

We were not total fools. The risk seemed too great even for us, so we turned back onto to solid land, packed all our gear back in Dave's trusty Bronco, and made the long drive around the lake to the other side. There we knew of a commercial camping area, the Red Oak Campground, at the top of the mountain; a long hike from our usual National Forest public campsite. It wasn't too tough to get a campsite; as no one else was there, and certainly not anyone crazy enough to be camping in a tent. But it did have the advantage of a heated outhouse ... More about this later.

The first night, in spite of the previous cold weather, it rained, the tent leaked, and my sleeping bag got soaked. Then it got cold, really cold. Good thing the bag was synthetic and not natural down. The temperature probably dropped into the low double digits the following night.

Our plan was to hike down the mountain to the area near our former lakeside campsite, hunt familiar spots down there, and then return to the top of the mountain and our camp. As was our usual practice, we split up and went our separate ways once we got down near the lake.

It must have been about mid-afternoon, as it started snowing pretty steadily, when I spotted a group of deer crossing in front of me about 75 yards away. There was a buck in the group. I had a good rest on a small sapling, and tried the only intentional neck shot that I have ever attempted. It was a good hold and a good shot, and I picked up a nice, but not large, buck. It was going to be a long solo drag up the mountain, but luckily I ran into Dave and he gave me a hand. When we got to the top, he went to camp, got the Bronco and came and picked up the deer and me, and saved us a bit of the drag.

The following morning, I decided to sleep in as is the privilege of a successful hunter, and Dave headed back down over the mountain. Maybe it was the camp grub, but I suddenly began suffering severe intestinal difficulties. I spent much of the morning in that nice, heated outhouse. After several hours I was so exhausted (picture the Biblical camel with its hump wrapped in barbed wire passing through the eye of a needle), I barely made it back to the tent, crawled in, and fell asleep with my booted feet sticking out the flaps.

That afternoon, Dave managed to also bag a buck, and while I slept off my discomfort, he had to drag his deer back to camp by himself. Even 40 years later, he probably suspects I was malingering to avoid that drag. In spite of that, the bonds of Brotherhood have kept us hunting together all that time.



There are other stories that could be told like the time the lake froze after Dave and a friend arrived in camp and a blizzard dropped hip-deep snow which made the alternate escape route to Red Oak almost impossible, or the re-crossing of the lake in a canoe, in the dark, in a blizzard, with a Mighty Mite motor that ran out of gas, to pick up a late-arriving member of the party. Since we did not have room for 4 in the canoe, I volunteered to man the tent, and sleep in Dave's nice warm down mummy bag instead of my Herter's Catalog special, while others froze in their cars back at the pick-up site.

But those stories will need to wait for another time and another author.





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FALL HOMECOMING

October 6, 2012

9:00 AM	Fraternity Board of Directors & Foundation Trustees Meeting
11:00 AM	Lunch
12:00 Noon	Football Game Kick-Off – Penn State vs. Northwestern
4:30 PM	Beverages and Dinner at the House (\$25 per person or \$45 per couple for lunch and dinner)

For more information, contact:

Travis Cunningham, Alumni Committee Chairman
(814) 706-7474 or (814) 237-2207 or tac5226@psu.edu