On Saturday, April 28, three student organizations—the NR Club, the Association of Landscape Architects (ASLA) and Students for Responsible Consumerism (SRC) will sponsor the Second Annual Spring Plant Fundraiser at Christy Woods’ greenhouses. The sale will feature orchids and tropical plants from the orchid and Teaching greenhouses, native Indiana flowers and shrubs, and garden vegetable seedlings such as peppers and tomatoes. Local gardeners are also encouraged to donate any unwanted plants to the sale by April 20th. “I dug several pots of forget-me-nots out of my yard this spring,” says Le Blanc. “They will definitely be appearing at the sale.”

Prices are suggested donation amounts, and for most plants range between three and five dollars. A few other, larger plants will be raffled off to benefit the greenhouses. Each plant will come with a detailed label, including background and instructions for care. Le Blanc hopes to set this sale apart from other similar events by offering such detailed information. She commented that it fits nicely with the educational role of Ball State University.

For more information about this fundraiser, or to donate plants, contact Cheryl Le Blanc at cleblanc@bsu.edu.
On March 15th, NREM faculty and alumni let their hair down at “Cardinal Night After Work.” This social event, sponsored by the NREM Alumni Society and held at Rock Bottom Brewery in downtown Indianapolis, gave professors and alumni from the College of Sciences and Humanities a chance to catch up, reconnect, and enjoy a cold drink together.

The departments of physiology and health, political science, geological sciences, geography, biology, mathematics, and NREM were represented at this event. Over 60 people attended, with the most participation coming from our very own department! NREM faculty who attended included Dr. James Eflin, Dr. Brian Lepore, Dr. Amy Gregg, Dr. Josh Gruver, and Dr. Juan Carlos Ramirez. Dr. Mike Maggiotto, Dean of the College of Sciences and Humanities, was also at the event, along with Charlie Cardinal.

Guests had the opportunity to enjoy hors d’oeuvres, a cash bar, and pool tables in the private billiard room of Rock Bottom. We hope to see you at this event next year!

In graduate school I will be working to obtain my MS in conservation biology and Sustainable Development at University of Maryland College Park. I am hoping to focus on the sociological aspects of climate change and sustainability during my time at UMD.

What do you hope to accomplish professionally?

During graduate school I hope to pursue a PhD in environmental studies and sustainability. Ultimately I would like to teach at the university level.

What will you remember most about NREM?

I remember the classroom discussions I had with my classmates that helped me better understand views on environmental problems that were different than my own (views).

NREM Hits Rock Bottom...After Work!

Catching Up with Carissa Hipsher

NREM alumnus Carissa (Buchholz) Hipsher, BS10, is continuing her education by pursuing a masters degree. During her years with NREM, she received multiple awards and scholarships. We chatted with Carissa about her plans.

**What was the focus of your studies in NREM?**

My focus was on renewable energy and water quality.

**What do you hope to accomplish in graduate school?**

In graduate school I will be working to obtain my MS in conservation biology and Sustainable Development at University of Maryland College Park. I am hoping to focus on the sociological aspects of climate change and sustainability during my time at UMD.

**What do you hope to accomplish professionally?**

During graduate school I hope to gain experience with sustainability as an intern at a Washington D.C. non-profit or government agency. After graduate school I hope to pursue a PhD in environmental studies and sustainability. Ultimately I would like to teach at the university level.

**What will you remember most about NREM?**

I remember the classroom discussions I had with my classmates that helped me better understand views on environmental problems that were different than my own (views).
2012 Alumni Awards Dinner

On Friday, April 20th, 2012, the NREM Alumni Society and the Ball State University Alumni Association will host the 14th Annual Alumni Awards Dinner. This event provides an opportunity for NREM faculty, alumni, and students to socialize, network, and celebrate the accomplishments of the award recipients.

Additionally, the NREM Alumni Society is sponsoring this year’s contest to see which class has the most alumni attending the dinner, and they will award prizes to the class members who win. We hope you’ll be able to join us for this exciting event!

Award Recipients:

Jane E. Hardisty, BS74, will receive the Award of Distinction and deliver the program remarks. The head of Indiana’s State Conservation program since 2000, Hardisty has worked with the Natural Resources Conservation Service for more than 30 years, three of which were as the State Conservationist for Michigan. She served as acting director of the Watersheds and Wetlands Division at national headquarters in Washington, D.C. She is a member of the Soil and Water Conservation Society and American Farmland Trust. In 2000 Hardisty was the first woman to receive the NREM Award of Achievement, and she is the first woman to receive the NREM Award of Distinction.

Michael J. Mettler, B86BS88, will receive the Award of Achievement. Serving as director of the Environmental Public Health Division for the Indiana State Department of Health, Mettler advanced to the position in 2007, following 11 years as chief sanitarian and department manager for Huntington County Health Department. Mettler is vice president of the Indiana Environmental Health Association and president of the State Onsite Regulators Alliance.

Michael R. Womack, MS96, will also receive the Award of Achievement. Owning the Charlotte Creek Nursery, LLC, and Michael R. Womack Environmental Consulting, LLC provides this environmental entrepreneur with “the best of both worlds.” The former owner and president of Lee & Ryan Environmental Consulting, Inc., Womack enjoys the outdoors and seasonal work with his nursery, as well as the assistance he provides through consulting. He holds a bachelor’s degree in biology from Illinois Wesleyan University, and was a member of Ball State’s NREM Alumni Society’s Board of Directors from 2000-2007.

Stephanie (Keevil) Dilk, BS02, will receive the Award of Merit. As Minnetrista Cultural Center’s Education Manager, Dilk was named employee of the year in 2010. She serves on the programs committee for Muncie Young Professionals, and finds time to write about the environment, animals, and plants for Outdoor Indiana Magazine. Earlier in her career she was recreation coordinator for Indy Parks, an interpretive naturalist for IDNR at Mounds State Park, and outdoor education instructor for Nature’s Classroom, Charlton, MA.

Sarah E. Matheny, MS07, will also receive the award of merit. After completing her master’s degree and returning to Ohio, Matheny gained experience by working in several NREM-related areas. Then, in May 2010, she became a seasonal interpretative naturalist with Metro Parks, Summit County, and in January 2011, she was promoted to full-time. The Ohio native has been actively involved as a Level 1 trainer with Ohio’s (EPA) Surface Water Volunteer Monitoring Program and is a Level 2 Macroinvertebrate trainer and QHEI Qualified Data Collector, co-managing projects on site.

For more information contact the NREM Alumni Society:
Phone: (765) 285-1080
Fax: (765) 285-1414
Email: alumni1@bsu.edu
Mail to: Alumni Awards Dinner
Ball State University
Alumni Association
Muncie, IN 47306-0075

Don’t miss the 2012 NREM Alumni Awards Dinner!
Reception, 6pm and Dinner, 7pm.
Ball State University Alumni Center
Friday, April 20th

RESERVATIONS
Save Your Place!
RESERVATION DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 2012

Visit www.regonline.com/NREMAwardsDinner to make reservations online, or mail the completed reservation form and a check to the BSU Alumni Association. Make checks payable to the BALL STATE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (Payment must accompany all reservations)
Graduate Work Underway

My name is **Nicholas Emmons** and I am a doctoral candidate in the department. My dissertation research concerns the importance of the ancestral homelands of Native American communities.

In particular, I have been working with the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians on developing a better understanding of factors that facilitate or impede interest in tribal governance and culture. Beginning this fall, I will be serving as Assistant Professor of Native American and Indigenous Studies and Affiliate Faculty of the Environmental Studies program at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado.

My name is **Elaine Deichmeister** and I am a second year MA candidate in NREM. For my creative project I have been working with a local outdoor education facility called Camp Adventure to create a promotional video and website aimed at increasing awareness of this organization. I chose this avenue of study because I wanted to take concrete actions which would help increase outdoor education in the Muncie community. I hope that more teachers, students, and citizens will be able to know about and experience Camp Adventure as a result of this project.

When I graduate this May, I hope to continue practicing outdoor education in Muncie - I'm not sure where, but the job search is on!

The Camp Adventure website can be viewed at campadventuremuncie.org and the video can be seen at http://vimeo.com/32222635. If you have questions or comments, drop me a line at emdeichmeist@bsu.edu and tell me what you think!

I'm **John Obrycki**, and I am a second year MS student in NREM. My thesis research focuses on soil suitability and citizen interest for gardens within Muncie. I chose this topic because I am interested in soil and how people utilize soil resources. There are three goals I hope to achieve with this project. The first is a better understanding about soil quality within Muncie. The second goal is to assess how people rate soil quality. The third goal is to see what kind of connections might occur between measured soil properties and perceptions of the soil. How do people think about soil and how do they use it? These are some of the goals and questions I’ve been working with over my course of study. I expect to graduate in 2012, and I will pursue a doctorate degree, beginning Fall 2012, in Environment and Natural Resources from The Ohio State University.

My name is **Stephanie Schuck** and I am a second year MS candidate in the Natural Resources & Environmental Management department. My thesis work is being conducted in Ginn Woods, an old-growth forest property owned by Ball State and managed by the Field Station and Environmental Education Center (FSEEC) staff. Many invasive species (plant, animal, insect, & pathogen) threaten the biological integrity of Indiana’s forests. For my thesis, I will create a tree inventory of every tree above 35cm diameter breast height, and record data (species, health, etc.) and a GPS point for each tree. Using GIS technology, I will create a canopy tree inventory and a canopy map of the forest. I will then be able to model the location and size of the canopy gaps that would occur based on loss of ash species due to the very likely possibility of an emerald ash borer invasion. This map will aid in the general management of the forest in the future, and assist the land manager in predicting changes in the forest due to other invasions or occurrences.

Still image of participants on the high ropes course from Elaine Deichmeister’s promotional video for Camp Adventure.

Stephanie Shuck (shown above and below) is working on a tree canopy map to predict potential impact of emerald ash borer infestation.

News from NREM
My name is Melanie Baugh
I’m a second year MS graduate student in NREM with
expected graduation this summer. For my research I will
investigate the feasibility of worms to compost high
protein/fat feedstocks and its ability to control pathogen
loads. This research could have a big impact on municipalities
and public educators who usually advise using only
vegetable/fruit trimmings in home vermicomposting
systems. While there is basis
for caution about using the
vermicomposting process toreak down animal products in
household systems, it does not
mean vermicomposting cannot
be used with food waste, which
my experiment might show.
After graduation I plan to go on and work in the
composting/vermicomposting
industry, and provide
community education and
workshops to encourage a
more widespread adoption of
vermicomposting and
composting. If you are
interested in composting, the
USCC website http://
compostingcouncil.org/ is a
good starting source, or you
may contact me at
baughma@gmail.com.

Alumni Update: news and announcements

Tom Reeve, MS07, and his
wife, Cassie Banning, had their
first child in the past year.
Zachary Reeve is a very happy
baby who loves to play and
point at things and say “Da.”
Tom has just accepted the
position of Outreach
Coordinator and Project
Manager for the Watershed
Planning and Restoration
Section at IDEM. He will be
working to update and develop
new non-point source water
pollution and watershed
education opportunities, as
well as managing watershed
grants throughout Indiana.

Nat Baker, ’04, member of
the NREM Alumni Society
Board of Directors, recently
accepted a promotion and will
be starting as the Eastern
Section Field Director on April
16th, with the Crossroads of
America Council, Boy Scouts
of America.

Indianapolis public television
station WFYI will air an hour-
long special episode of its
Emmy award-winning series
“Indiana Expeditions” titled
“Forests At Work” on
Thursday, April 26, with
additional broadcasts expected
on WFYI and other PBS
affiliates throughout the
summer. Sam Carman,
MS’77, Education Director for
the Indiana Division of
Forestry, worked with WFYI
to develop this special that
examines the social, ecological
and economic importance of
Indiana’s forests.

Kevin York, ’98, is
Principal/Creative Director of
Art4orms Inc. He married his
wife Krysta McLaughlin this
March, and is expecting a son
in August. Krysta owns a bridal
shop in Portland, Oregon,
where they live.

David Mead, ’04, is project
manager for waste
management onsite at Chrysler.
He and his wife Julie are
celebrating the birth of their
son, born Sept. 17, 2011.

Tony Ritenour ’05, is project
manager and lead inspector for
an environmental health and
safety consulting company
(Environmental Health
Management) in Louisville,
Kentucky. As lead inspector
for the company, he assists
clients with indoor air quality,
asbestos, and lead-based paint
issues. Since moving to
Kentucky, he has started a
family with his wife of 5 years,
Crystal (Ashby) Ritenour, a
2005 BSU Alumnus. They
have 2 boys: Khane, 3 years
old, and Corbin, 10 months
old.

Ken Brunswick, ’98, is the
East Central Regional
Ecologist for Indiana DNR-
Division of Nature Preserves,
and received the 2011-2012
Conservationist of the Year
Award from Adams County
Ducks Unlimited. He was also
the recipient of the NREM
Award of Merit in 2004.
For more information about news and upcoming events, contact Ms. Connie Tyner, administrative coordinator. 765-285-5780. nrem@bsu.edu

Please send news about promotions or new positions, recognitions, and changes in your contact information to Ms. Sue Taylor at alumni1@bsu.edu or call 765-285-1080. “Like” NREM Alumni Society on FaceBook, and visit their Web site. Click here to nominate an alumnus for an award.

Visit us on the Web!
www.bsu.edu/nrem

Contact NREM and submit news for consideration in the newsletter!

- For more information about news and upcoming events, contact Ms. Connie Tyner, administrative coordinator. 765-285-5780. nrem@bsu.edu
- Please send news about promotions or new positions, recognitions, and changes in your contact information to Ms. Sue Taylor at alumni1@bsu.edu or call 765-285-1080. “Like” NREM Alumni Society on FaceBook, and visit their Web site. Click here to nominate an alumnus for an award.

Make a Difference: Support NREM

Your contribution is invaluable to the support of this department. The gift you make may benefit one or several of the accounts listed below. Thank you for your support of Ball State University’s Natural Resources and Environmental Management program.

- Funding for the general welfare of the NREM department #6201
- Operation of the Hults Environmental Learning Center #6203
- Activities and awards of the NREM Alumni Society #6204
- Funding for research projects within the department #6216
- Funding for soil research projects within the department #6217
- Funding for soil and water conservation education activities #6218
- Funding for renewable energy and industrial ecology research #6219
- NREM Scholarships #6250
- Clyde Hibbs Scholarship #6253
- Alex and Anna Nicoloff Scholarship #6254
- Charles Mortensen Fellowship #6255

Questions?

- To make a donation, please visit the NREM website and click on the link labeled “Make a Gift.” Or click this link. www.bsu.edu/giving
- For more information about giving to NREM, contact Darleen Lugenburguhl at dmlugenbuhl@bsu.edu.
- To support the creation of a new scholarship, contact Dr. James Eflin, NREM Department Chair at 765-285-7055 or je-flin1@bsu.edu.

NREM would like to thank those individuals who contributed to this issue of the newsletter. Your input is much appreciated! Our gratitude goes to:

- Ms. Sue Taylor
- Ms. Laura Waldron
- Dr. James Eflin
- Ms. Cheryl Leblanc
- Ms. Stephanie Shuck
- Mr. John Obryckie
- Ms. Melanie Baugh
- Mr. Nick Emmons

Thank you!